



*News of the PW/PSV
published quarterly, Fall 2021*



FALL GATHERING

**Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Scioto Valley
will gather on Saturday, October 23, 2021
via Zoom**

Seeking Shalom for High-Risk Teens on Probation with the Juvenile Court



The Mission Interpretation Committee announces that our program speakers for the day will be:

Rev. Diane Baldwin, Logan First Presbyterian
will lead us in worship and communion

Muriel Ballou
First Presbyterian, Lancaster

Steve Telfer:

Staff Member at Central Ohio Youth for Christ / Juvenile Justice Ministry
Chaplain Director of Spiritual Programming - Multi-County Juvenile Detention Center in
Lancaster, Ohio

How do you join the Zoom Gathering?

Women wishing to attend the Zoom-based Fall Gathering should register by October 20 by submitting their name, the name of their church (including city), phone number, and email address to Martha Pool via email (preferred) mjpool53@gmail.com or by calling and leaving a voicemail message at 740-407-1708.

A Zoom invitation will be emailed no sooner than 24 hours prior to the gathering. If more than one person will be sharing your Zoom broadcast, you may include their names, if you know when you register. The Zoom meeting can be accessed with video and audio using pc, iPad, or smartphone and even by the old-fashioned way (audio only), by calling on a phone (toll charges may apply).

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The PW/PSV Moderator's Message

Dear Presbyterian Women,

I was truly overjoyed with the registration count of 53 for the Summer Gathering and 19 from our presbytery (out of a total of 91) – which is more than any other presbytery – for the PW Synod of the Covenant Gathering. We have now completed the past four gatherings via Zoom and will have at least two more (Fall and Winter) before we possibly get back together in person. Keeping everyone healthy is the bottom line.

From conversations among CT members, we know that not all of you have email or internet connectivity. And this is especially true for many of our older population. So I want to encourage you to seek out younger folks in your church who have the equipment to Zoom and ask them to either help you get Zoom working or to share their equipment with you so you can participate in our gatherings. Maybe your church has those capabilities and someone there could get zoom working for you. Those of you who have internet capabilities but have never zoomed before, please let me help you learn how. I am willing to work with you individually to connect and get comfortable with this technology. Please let me know that you want to learn how to Zoom!

I also want to reiterate the fact that this newsletter goes out to women all across our presbytery and some of your churches have disbanded your PW groups over the past few years. This does NOT mean that you can't be part of our PW/PSV Gatherings and support PW in various ways. You many still make a PW Mission Pledge (see the form on the PW webpage or contact me for a form), work through the Bible study on your own and support our PW Presbytery Mission Project (stay tuned for this forthcoming information). If you are close enough to another church you might inquire as to whether or not they have a PW group and ask to join with them.

I miss seeing you. I miss worshipping with you. I miss having lunch with you. Yet, we can still have meaningful gatherings that bring the needs of the world to our doorsteps. We couldn't have zoomed our gatherings 10 years ago, or even 5 years ago. Thank you, God, for Zoom and how it allows us to keep meeting!

Shalom,
Martha



INVITATION TO FALL GATHERING

It was the last Wednesday in Lent prior to Holy Week just a few years ago. Dr. Julie Faith Parker had been leading classes for three weeks during Lent and this was the only one I was able to attend. She spoke of her work in Sing - Sing Prison in NY, teaching classes and getting the prisoners to write, and how transformative it was for them and her. Then she spoke of her work right here in Orient, OH at Pickaway Correctional Institution. She was teaching her Old Testament Class from Trinity Lutheran Seminary to the prisoners at PCI and asked for volunteers to help with small groups. For much of my adult life, I'd wondered if and how I might do prison ministry. It was a calling that I heard repeatedly from Matthew 25: 36: *I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.* I signed up and I was hooked. The men knew the Bible better than I did. They could quote chapters and verses and recite like I never could. It was truly the Word that sustained them. Here I thought I could help them, but I found them helping me!

When Julie left Trinity, three of us carried on her work spending time with the men, reminding them that they're not forgotten; that people on the outside do care; that God loves them and forgives them no matter what; that no matter what might have happened in their lives, they were and continued to be children of God. We read Scripture together, prayed together, studied together, sang together. All came to a screeching halt due to Covid in March of 2020. We haven't been able to return to our work or communicate with any of our brothers since then lest we be permanently forbidden to return. So, we continue to worry and pray about our brothers – who might have died, how are they carrying on without any of the volunteers from the outside allowed to visit?

Since the gates of PCI are closed to us both literally and figuratively (reaching out to the chaplains proved fruitless), it was a true Godsend to learn through Muriel Ballou of Lancaster First of Steve Telfer's ministry at the Multi-County Juvenile Detention Center in Lancaster. Steve will speak to us at our Fall Gathering of his life's work in juvenile justice in Central Ohio and how we can make a difference in the young people's lives who, like the men in PCI, have been largely thrown away by society. Muriel will also speak on a more personal note.

Muriel Ballou, Ruth Cooper, Alice Harker, and I, the members of the Mission Interpretation Committee, invite you to attend this year's Fall Gathering. May we share Shalom with our young people who have lost their way but are still, most definitely, God's children!

Yours in Christ,
Lynn Coons,
Vice-Moderator of Studies
and Spiritual Development



THE REASONS TO **STAR** THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR

Join us for the Fall Gathering, Saturday, October 23, 9:30-11:30 AM.

Via ZOOM (the resurgence of Covid made that decision for us).

- ★ **Worship** led by Diane Baldwin, pastor of First Presbyterian of Logan.
Communion will be celebrated!
- ★ **Keynote speakers:** Steve Telfer and Muriel Ballou
- ★ **An In-Gathering for Mission** will occur at this Fall Gathering. Recipients will be the Juvenile Detention Centers in Lancaster, New Lexington, and Chillicothe.
- ★ Because we have a limited and specific list of items that can be accepted at these facilities, **donations of money are being requested for this project.**
We ask that you send checks to our PW/PSV Treasurer, Nancy Schuster, at 3660 Colonial Dr, Hilliard, OH 43026. **On the memo line please indicate Mission Project.**
- ★ Gifts will be accepted from PW groups or individuals through the week following the Gathering
- ★ **The Gathering Team will then purchase** the books (*The Case for Christ*, *Goosebumps*, *Holes*, *Diary of Anne Frank*, etc. – a total of over 50 books in very specific quantities for each site), games (Jenga, Yahtze, Rook, Uno, Trouble, etc.), and Cheryl's Cookies requested very specifically and in specific numbers.
Once purchased, **the items will be disseminated with Steve's help** to the three centers during the month of November.
- ★ We'll send photos of all that you've helped to purchase sometime after that!

AND THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING! As part of an on-going all PW/PSV Mission Project, we will have in-gatherings at all three of the Spring Gatherings during this Triennium of Martha Pool's leadership. We will be collecting backpacks and toiletries for the young men and women as they are released. More details as to size of backpack and specific items to be included will follow, but we thought you should know so you can begin to prepare to be part of this special work!

Youth at our Southern Border | Martha Pool, Moderator

Since our Fall Gathering is focused on youth detention centers in our presbytery, it seemed appropriate to also check in with the larger church to see what was happening to unaccompanied youth at U.S./Mexican border. Susan Krehbiel, Associate for Refugees and Asylum for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, has provided the following ways to hear those stories.

I think the best overview of what happens to unaccompanied children at the border is shared through this webinar by Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service. It was done in March 2021, but much of what they describe and address continues. And it gives an excellent overview of what is supposed to happen.

<https://www.lirs.org/event-supporting-unaccompanied-children/>

Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service ([lirs.org](https://www.lirs.org)), US Committee for Refugees & Immigrants (USCRI) and others provide post-release services to unaccompanied children.

USCRI also has a video from May about their work that also describes the types of shelters that serve children after they are released from the Border Patrol stations/border offices.

<https://refugees.org/part-2-of-uscris-series-in-search-of-safety/>

I also wanted to note that for a brief time church in the Dallas, TX area were providing some religious services and support to some of the unaccompanied children who were being housed at the Convention Center there.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/grace-presbytery-shows-grace-to-migrant-teens/>

The CWS affiliate in Columbus offers a lot of services to refugees and asylum seekers. Community Refugee & Immigration Services (CRIS) are busy preparing for and receiving Afghan families. I know that is outside your focus of this PW event, but want to be sure you are aware of this as well. They have set up a special web page to respond to inquiries and offers of help: <https://www.crisohio.org/support-afghan-refugees>

A Book to support our theme, Keeping Shalom

Shalom Sistas by Osheta Moore

Like a lot of women, blogger Osheta Moore loved the idea of shalom: God's dream for a world that is whole, vibrant, and flourishing. But honestly: who's got the time? So one night she whispered a dangerous prayer: God, show me the things that make for peace... In *Shalom Sistas*, Moore shares what she learned when she challenged herself to study peace in the Bible for forty days. Taking readers through the twelve points of the *Shalom Sistas'* Manifesto, Moore experiments with practices of everyday peacemaking and invites readers to do the same. From dropping "love bombs" on a family vacation, to talking to the coach who called her son the n-word, to spreading shalom with a Swiffer, Moore offers bold steps for crossing lines between black and white, suburban and urban, rich and poor.



Seeking Justice and Peace Projects

The recent issue of the Presbyterian Justice and Peace newsletter began with the following: “Hurricanes. Earthquakes. Wildfires. Refugees. A resurgent pandemic. Political upheaval. The end of Summer of 2021 has dealt the world a plethora of challenges, and as God’s hands and feet in this world, we are called to respond.”

<http://pcusa.activehosted.com/index.php?action=social&chash=7e0a0209b929d097bd3e8ef30567a5c1.3146&s=d07b99356d221ee1502140911f6a4809> The recent challenges listed just added to many existing challenges such as food insecurity, poverty, rising eviction rates, substance abuse/addiction, and poverty.

How is your PW or your church responding to the call to be God’s hands and feet in this world? We’d love to hear what you are doing to bring healing to the world so that we can highlight some of the efforts at the Winter Gathering in February 2022 or in future issues of this newsletter. If you are not sure what you are doing would qualify, click on the link above or this link from the Presbyterian Women’s website:

https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/work-for-justice/

A wide variety of mission efforts are included. For example, does your PW collect food to donate to food banks, help provide community dinners, engage in advocacy to support legislation related to victims of human trafficking, or donate items to local homeless shelters? Call or email Susan Imel to give her information about your particular project: susanimel1@gmail.com or 614-813-7875. Briefly describe your project and Susan will contact you to obtain more information. In other words, you don’t have to write a lengthy description. We look forward to hearing from you.



From **Susan Imel the Vice-Moderator for Justice and Peace**

Presbyterian Women supports the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s work in the areas of advocacy and social justice, education, hunger and poverty, immigration, gender and racial justice and environmental ministries.

WHAT WE DO

- NURTURE FAITH
 - SUPPORT MISSION
 - WORK FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE
-
- Violence
 - Poverty
 - Mass Incarceration
 - Human Trafficking
 - Education
 - Racism
-
- Advocacy
 - BUILD COMMUNITY
 - DEVELOP LEADERS
-

From **Vann Rogers, Vice Moderator for Study and Spiritual Development**

SHALOM!

Thanks to all who participated in the Summer Gathering! Both of our speakers provided us with good information about AND insight into this year's Bible Study, "What My Grandmothers Taught Me". Here are some of my "Seeking Shalom" thoughts.

As I listened to Cody Miller, the artist for the Bible study, he says that he creates a life-like, playfulness in his art, as well as, sadness, letting God guide and direct him. As he spotlights Tamar in Lesson 2, her eyes say "don't judge me"! *She is seeking Shalom!* He told us that he uses string and yarn and birds and butterflies to represent the journey of life. In Lesson 7, his work shows Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus, "happy" in bed, like one of those Saturday mornings, with a butterfly! *Shalom!*

Rev. Katie Kinneson gave us a snapshot of each of the 9 Bible Study lessons, and tips for discussion, reflection and on ways to Seek Shalom right here PW/PSV! In Lesson 1, she told us to study AND use the opening prayer to Seek Shalom. Even a suggestion to play Joni Mitchell's song "Woodstock"! In Lesson2, suggestions included researching "Catch Court", as well as "John's Court", both involving prostitution in the Scioto Valley. *Seeking Shalom!* Prostitute, sex worker, sex slave, trafficked women—What kind of God do we have? Words and a question for Lesson 3, Rahab: Socially Unacceptable Outsider—*Seeking Shalom!*

I'm excited about this year's Bible Study. I want to dig into the tips, the suggestions, the questions for further discussion and what else can I see in the art work! And, as I tabulated the Summer Gathering evaluations, more words in *Seeking Shalom* were revealed:

"Informative, interesting, enjoyable, well-paced, inspiring, well-prepared, fast moving, clear, energizing, happy, well-done, helpful, supportive and cheerful"

Shalom,
Vann

From the Moderator and newsletter editor....

ONLY in the printed version of this newsletter , will you find a postcard in bright yellow addressed to Lynne. In an effort to be good stewards of our funds , we are asking our PW sisters to let us know if they want to continue to receive the newsletter in the PRINTED VERSION. We are doing our best to acquire email addresses for as many as we can to send them information (including the newsletter) by the means that is FREE. Please complete and return the postcards. And remember, if you want to add someone's name to the printed list OR add a name to the email list call, send, or email me PLEASE 😊. My information is on the 2nd page. THANK YOU SO MUCH!!



A logo for PW/PSV was adopted at the PW/PSV Coordinating Team Meeting on September 11. You will begin to see it in various places – newsletter, webpage, Facebook, etc. We will continue to use the PW logo and the colors in the new logo match the colors in the PW logo. The idea came from a discussion by a Women’s Theological Group which meets twice a month. Currently they are reading *Days of Awe and Wonder* by Marcus Borg. When Borg talks about the kingdom of God, he often calls it God’s Dream, which he says is simply a world of compassion, justice and peace. That seemed to fit well with our purpose.

PW/PSV has an email address!

Do you need PW resources but don’t know where to turn? You’d like to have a speaker for your circle? You have a question about PW but don’t know who to ask? Send your questions and requests to the new PW/PSV email address: psvpresbywomen@gmail.com

PW/PSV webpage

Using our internet browser, go to www.psvonline.org. Scroll down and click on Nurture and Outreach. Scroll down again and click on Presbyterian Women. That takes you to our webpage. The direct link is <https://psvonline.org/presbytery-leadership/nurture-outreach-commission/pw-presbyterian-women/>.

Search Committee Seeks Nominees

The Search Committee has looked at the roster and sees there are great leadership opportunities for you! And if you know a talented woman you think would be perfect in a position, please recommend her to us. The following leadership positions are available beginning April 2022:

Vice Moderator for Studies and Spiritual Development

The purpose is to help Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PW/PSV) by recommending resources for study and by nurturing faith through prayer and Bible Study.

Treasurer

The purpose is to keep an accurate, up-to-date record of all monies received and disbursed for the Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PW /PSV).

Communicator

The purpose is to promote the reading and use of the churchwide publication, Horizons, among Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PW/PSV). To publicize news, concerns and issues of PW through the Presbytery newsletter.

Search Committee members 2 women

If you feel called to any of these positions, please contact Louise Davidson, lchdavidson011@gmail.com.

It's Not Your Grandmother's PW Anymore – Louise Davidson

Did you know that Presbyterian Women's groups don't all look the same? Well, of course not, because, well, they never did. But there was a certain structure - coordinating team (board), leaders (officers) in positions such as moderator (president), vice moderators (vice presidents) of studies, mission, and justice and peace, treasurer, secretary, gathering planner, circle leaders, and others. And usually, circles studied the Bible study and helped with mission projects and events in their churches.

But honestly, this is not working for most of us anymore. There is too much structure for most of us with women juggling families, jobs and homes. The Churchwide PW knows this and has an updated manual (\$6, link below) to assure you that about anything is possible for PW today.

What might the women in your church be interested in doing together, especially given the COVID situation? Get together for lunch regularly outside in good weather or indoors when it is safe again? Knit prayer shawls? Read and discuss books? Horizons publishes a book list. Have a girls' night at the movies? Have a retreat when we feel safe again? Exercise together regularly? Choose a mission project to support regularly?

While it is traditional to have the structure and a pattern of what we do together, what we really care about is being together in community. Because we have a loving, ever-present God, it is in community we can experience that love most clearly. Your "coordinating team" might be someone to get everyone together, another to keep a list of activities, and if there are funds involved, another to keep track of that.

It is important, too, to support the Mission Pledge, PW's annual fund. Be sure to connect with your Presbytery PW and the Synod PW. They offer programs to expand our horizons to see our connectional church is making a difference all around us.

[PW Manual: A Guide for PW Groups \(print edition\) – Presbyterian Women](#)

2021 Thank Offering

Since 1988, Presbyterian Women have expressed their deep sense of gratitude for God's blessings in their lives by giving back to people in their communities and around the world.

Through the Thank Offering, we can help fund programs that provide education, relief from disasters, safe housing, cooking instruction, training for justice and advocacy work, and so much more. This fall, please give your Thank Offering gifts to your local PW Treasurer or if you don't have a local PW group, send them directly to the Nancy Shuster, PW/PSV Treasurer.



Quarterly Statement
PW/PSV 2021

Mission Income	First Qtr	Second Qtr	YTD
Mission Pledge	6,804.53	3,428.75	10,233.28
Thank Offering	1,026.00	100.00	1,126.00
Birthday Offering	272.99	1,285.80	1,538.59
Honorary Life Membership	95.00	95.00	190.00
Fellowship of Least Coin	57.24	55.35	112.59
Other Mission Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Mission Income	8,255.76	4,944.70	13,200.46

Mission Disbursements	First Qtr	Second Qtr	YTD
PC/USA Mission	5,443.53	4,183.80	9,607.43
PC/USA Thank Offering	1,026.00	0.00	1,026.00
PC/USA Birthday Offering	272.99	0.00	272.99
PC/USA Least Coin	57.24	0.00	57.24
PC/USA HLM	95.00	95.00	190.00
PC/USA Misc	0.00	0.00	0.00
SOC	680.50	342.90	1,023.40
PSV	680.50	342.90	1,023.40
Total Mission Disbursements	8,255.76	4,944.70	13,200.46

Quarterly Statement
PW/PSV 2021

Balance Forward	3,886.48	4,205.37		
PW/PSV Operating Income	First Qtr	Second Qtr	YTD	Budget
PW/SOC Operating Funds 3%	286.50	0.00	286.50	600
PW/PSV Operating Funds 7%	920.50	28.00	948.50	1,700.00
Gathering Offerings	50.00	150.00	200.00	1,200.00
Registration	0.00	0.00	0.00	750.00
Donations	0.00	425.00	425.00	350.00
Total Operating Income	1,257.00	603.00	1,860.00	
Total Operating Income + Balance	5,143.48	4,808.37		

PW/PSV Operating Expenses	First Qtr	Second Qtr	YTD	Budget
PW/SOC	481.42	0.00	481.42	600.00
Gathering Expenses	75.00	0.00	75.00	1,000.00
HLM from PW/PSV	95.00	0.00	95.00	95.00
Newsletter Printing	226.74	226.74	453.48	300.00
Newsletter Postage	59.95	66.00	125.95	250.00
Yearbook/ Directory	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
CT Mileage	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Audit	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Churchwide Gathering	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
PW Materials (Packets) Postage	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00
Misc Printing (Gathering Program)	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00

Nancy Shuster PW/PSV treasurer