

Spring issue of the PW/PSV – March 2022

JOIN YOUR PW SISTERS FOR THE
SPRING GATHERING APRIL 23, 2022

♥ IN PERSON ♥



Seeking Shalom as We Build an Inclusive, Caring Community of Women

Focus for the Day: Friendship

Hanover Presbyterian Church
732 North Main St. NE, Newark, Ohio 43055

Registration Sign-in at 9:30 am; Meeting begins at 10 am; Aiming for the day to end at 2:45 pm

Guest Speaker: Carol Winkler from the Presbytery of Cincinnati – She will share some of the many facets of friendship and how PW is fertile ground for developing lifelong friends

History of Friendship: Ruth Cooper (2nd Presbyterian Church, Newark)

Two Workshops:

1. The Dignity Project – Rev. Jade Metz (Outreach Pastor at Community Wesleyan Church, Newark) – She will talk about a project that supplies women in Uganda with a 2-year supply of reusable sanitary products.

2. The Sacredness of Sisterhood – Rev. Jane Johnson (Waverly P.C.) – Utilizing the book *Shalom Sistas: Living Wholeheartedly in a Brokenhearted World* by Osheta Moore, we will explore how women can be agents of healing and peace for each other through sacred friendships

† **Worship will be led by Rev. Dr. Jeannie Harsh (Presbytery Executive) which will include installation of new leaders and dedication of ingathering of backpack items.**

See page 9 for directions and how to register for the gathering. Please note the deadline to register.

This will be the first in-person gathering in two years. We are still most concerned about keeping everyone healthy. We are not going to mandate wearing masks at the gathering. The church policy at the present time is to encourage masks but they are not required. With that said, if you feel a need to wear a mask at the gathering, you are welcome to do that. Likewise, if you don't feel a need to wear a mask, that is also okay. With all that being said, if you have cold symptoms, a fever, or in general aren't feeling well, please do not come to the gathering for your own health concerns as well as others.

"A friend knows the song in my heart and sings it to me when my memory fails."
— Donna Roberts

Moderator's Message - Martha Pool

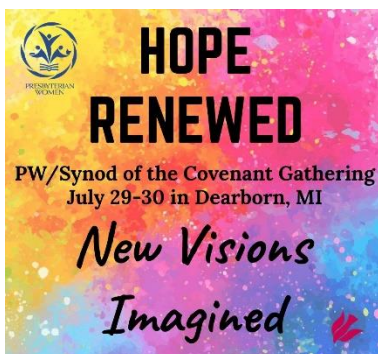
Recently an article crossed my path that made me think of Presbyterian Women. It wasn't a new article. In fact it had been written in 2008. The author is Alexander McCall Smith, author of such books as the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency (series) and 44 Scotland Street (series). And the title of the article was "[And the Band Played Badly](#)." It tells the story of a group of frustrated people in Scotland who decided that "the pleasure of playing in an orchestra should not be limited to those who were good enough to do so, but should be available to the rankest of amateurs." And so they formed the Really Terrible Orchestra. It is an inclusive orchestra for those who want to play, but can't do so very well and some who can't do so at all. They had a great wave of applications to join. He describes some and their lack of abilities, including his own – one clarinet player could go no higher than middle b-flat; a cellist was very hard of hearing and was also hazy on tuning the strings; sometimes players were discovered to be playing different pieces of music, by different composers, at the same time. After they "mastered" a few pieces they even held a public concert but did not charge admission, instead opting to provide free glasses of wine beforehand. And that concert was packed. More concerts ensued over the years and they even made a CD of their works even though they have not gotten better at playing. But no matter, they are having fun!



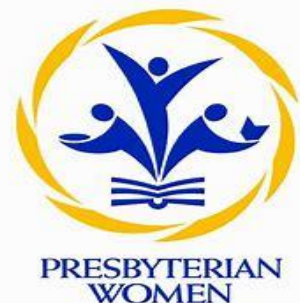
So, you're probably wondering how I relate this to PW. Well, I can tell you that my experience has been that if you want fun, the place to have it is on our Coordinating Team. And actually, you need very little leadership skill, but a whole lot of willingness to learn, to be successful. If you want to grow spiritually, rubbing shoulders with other women will do that. If you are interested in mission or social justice, the opportunity to be more involved is available. Or if you don't think you have any talents, you're welcome, too! Just by serving you'll gain knowledge and gain a bigger picture of PW. For the most part, we work as a team, plan gatherings as teams and rely on multiple voices and perspectives to accomplish our work. And honestly, we work as efficiently as possible, meeting as infrequently as possible (because everyone is busy), yet listening and learning with each other all along the way. And are we perfect? No way. I've found a lot of encouragement for my own meager attempts and forgiveness offered freely when mistakes are made. If you're a Presbyterian Woman, that is a good enough qualification to obtain a seat at the PW/PSV table. Don't let what you don't know keep you from a chance to grow and have fun while doing it.

Shalom,

Martha



Synod Gathering Registration Brochure has been emailed with this newsletter and hard copies will be at the gathering. You may also download it from the PW webpage on psvonline.org.



WINTER GATHERING RECAP

Seeking Shalom through Justice and Peace was the theme of the 2022 PWPSV Winter Gathering held on February 26, 2022. Rev. Dr. Susan K. Williams Smith discussed her book, *With Liberty and Justice for Some: The Bible, the Constitutions and Racism in America*. In the book, Smith demonstrates how these texts that we consider sacred have been used to support and sustain white supremacy. After hearing Rev. Smith's remarks, a number of the participants said they planned to read the book which is available from Judson Press <https://www.judsonpress.com/Products/J281/with-liberty-and-justice-for-some.aspx?bCategory=JPBKS!JPAAR>

In addition to Dr. Smith's talk, the Gathering featured three speakers from PSV churches discussing their justice and peace projects. Jayne Elgin talked about the work of Mifflin Presbyterian Church with two families. Barbara Marshall from Covenant discussed the church's long history working with victims of human trafficking. Finally, Ann B. Marshall described Bethany's Saturday lunch program that has a 16 year history. You can view the entire Gathering through the Presbytery's You Tube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VbTmcoxBpVY>

Two additional books were recommended in one of the small group breakout sessions. They are

- **Why Darkness Matters: The Power of Melanin in the Brain**, edited by Edward B. Bynum, Richard D. King, T. Owens Moore, and Ann C. Brown. This book explores the connection between melanin (the pigment responsible for skin color) and the brain and the role of melanin in the development of the human body and brain.
- **Rising Out of Hatred: The Awakening of a Former White Nationalist** by Eli Saslow. This book describes how Derek Black, the son of a prominent white nationalist, changed his mind about white supremacy over a period of years.

To help with planning future gatherings, the evaluation asked participants to rate the importance in a number of issues/topics related to justice and peace. The top three selected were domestic violence, immigration, and gun safety. The PW website has resources on all of these topics https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/work-for-justice/ and I will write about them in future newsletters.

Finally something not related to the recent gathering is about a book titled **The Whole Language: The Power of Extravagant Tenderness** by Gregory Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries. In this uplifting book Father Boyle quotes part of a talk by one of the "Homies" (which is how he refers to the former gang members who participate in the programs): "The only other place like Homeboy.....is heaven. I see the flowers bloom there. I arrived as a caterpillar and I wrapped myself in the cocoon of all their services, and now I'm a butterfly" (p. 115). The book is filled with hope; you can read more about Homeboy Industries and Father Boyle at <https://homeboyindustries.org>

"Sometimes we need someone to be there. Not to fix anything, but just to let us feel that we are cared and supported." — Unknown

Shalom from your Mission Interpretation Committee to each and every one of you,
Muriel Ballou, Lynn Coons, Ruth Cooper, and Alice Harker

Shalom from your hearts and hands to our forgotten youth...gifts that keep giving....

We've done it! We've provided books, games, and Cheryl's Cookies to all 5 of our Presbytery's Juvenile Detention Centers!!! And all the people who received them on behalf of the centers were thrilled!!! Mr. Randle at Franklin County Juvenile Detention Center, the last of the recipients, was overwhelmed with your generosity, saying that they had only 30 well-thumbed books for the roughly 100 young people in detention. When we delivered about 80 books plus a bunch of comic books (including a boxful of comics they could keep that were donated by the Laughing Ogre), and Steve brought about 50 Bibles, he was ecstatic!!! We also recently heard from Betsy Hauck of the Central Ohio Youth Center in Marysville:



"We can't thank you enough for the kind gifts that the Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Scioto Valley provided for our youth this last year. The books and games were such a wonderful stress reliever for our kids and they continue to bring joy to them during their stay with us. I really appreciate how you were still thinking of our kids in the midst of the pandemic. I will add the final Goosebumps book to our kids' library. Kindest regards, Betsy Hauck"

I can hardly imagine what a difference we may have made for the young people in the five centers. God was certainly in our midst when we chose to take on this blessed Mission Project! And we sent the love of God with our gifts to uplift the young people. May it be so.

And we're still doing it!

The lovely news is we accomplished all this using only a little more than half of the funds we raised. As a result, your Mission Interpretation Committee (MIC) has spent about half of the remainder for 30 backpacks and 40 Recovery Bibles for the teenage boys who spend 6 months to a year at Perry Multi-County Juvenile Facility (PMCJF). Upon their release, they either return home where there may not be enough to support them, or they have to find their own ways in the world. **Thus the importance of these backpacks.**



Now here is the challenge! We need to **FILL** each of those 30 backpacks with the **following items** If you or your PW can provide all of the items for one or more backpacks, please let me, Lynn Coons, know by emailing me at lynn.coons@gmail.com or calling me at 614-783-5302. When I have received notification that the contents for 30 backpacks are being provided, I'll let Lynne McLeish know so that she can send out an email to all saying that the backpacks are taken care of. When you bring the "fillings" for the backpacks to the Spring Gathering at Hanover on April 23rd, please bring all the items for each backpack in one large bag so they can more easily be transported to Lancaster where your Mission Interpretation Committee will fill the backpacks and, with Steve Telfer, deliver the backpacks to PMCJF. (see box next page)

Have no fear if you can't help with filling the backpacks though. PMCJF has a gym where the boys play. Many of them come with inadequate footwear or without sneakers appropriate for playing on a gym floor. The boys need gym shoes! As our Moderator, Martha Pool, was leaving PMCJF after having helped deliver the books, games, and cookies back in December, a member of the staff quietly asked her if PW/PSV could possibly help provide those shoes.

Your Mission Interpretation Committee (and your Moderator) would dearly like to fulfill that wish so we are creating a PMCJF Shoe Fund! If you feel similarly and can't help with backpacks, please consider this additional portion of our Mission Project. As we did last fall for the books and games, please make checks out to PW/PSV and mark the memo line "Mission Project." Please mail the check to Nancy Shuster, PW/PSV Treasurer at 3660 Colonial Dr, Hilliard, OH 43206.

Your Mission Interpretation Committee has been humbled by your generosity for our forgotten young people. We give thanks to God for your willingness to embrace them. May God bless you and keep you as we walk through this Lenten Season together, remembering them with prayers for Shalom in their lives.

- Towel and 3 wash cloths (gray is a good neutral color)*
 - 1 pkg of adult men's socks (black "ankle socks" or "no-show")*
 - Combination 2-in-1 bodywash + shampoo (or 3-in-1 with conditioner too) - Suave, Axe, or Dove**
 - Axe (brand) deodorant**
 - Toothbrush*
 - Toothbrush container*
 - Toothpaste for sensitive teeth* (since most residents have dental issues due to poor dental hygiene and care)*
 - Dove bar soap or any bar soap*
 - Soap travel container*
 - Face wash for acne and/or regular face wash*
 - Lotion*
 - 3 sticks of Chapstick w/moisturizer*
 - 3 spiral bound notebooks, disposable mechanical pencils, pens*
- *All toiletries should be regular size, not travel or jumbo.**

2022 Birthday Offering

Mission at the Eastward (MATE)

McCleary House Transitional Housing, Farmington, Maine

The Birthday Offering grant will help renovate McCleary House for experiencing homelessness. The renovated home will provide a safe for individuals to begin the psycho-social, educational and vocational needed to move forward with their lives.

Iglesia Presbiteriana de Lares, Puerto Rico

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand, Lares, Puerto Rico

Following Hurricane Maria in 2017 and the January 2020 earthquakes in Puerto Rico, the Presbyterian Church in Lares has become the go-to location in the community for food, purified water and personal items. With funding from the Birthday Offering, all appliances, wiring, lighting and plumbing will be replaced and the facility will be made ADA accessible. Solar panels and a heavy-duty generator will be installed to provide uninterrupted electrical service and water availability.

PW Challenge: Give \$100 to celebrate 100 years of the Birthday Offering! (Send your offering to our PW Treasurer, Nancy Shuster, 3660 Colonial Dr., Hilliard, OH 43206)



people
space
work

*"Best friends are the people in your life who make you laugh louder, smile brighter and live better."
— Unknown*

Vice-Moderator for Studies Spiritual Development - Vann Rogers

Psalm 29:3 The voice of the Lord is upon the water. The God of Glory thundereth. The Lord is upon many waters.

One of my favorite things to do when I travel to Jamaica is to look at/stare at the Caribbean Sea. It's clear, blue-green in color. Sometimes when the surf is rough, there are white caps on each wave. Sometimes it's just lapping at the sand under your feet. I love the water. Maybe it's because my horoscope is a water sign-Pisces: the fishes. Maybe it's because I live in land-locked Ohio. Maybe it's because, like David writes in Psalm 29:3, "The voice of the Lord is upon the waters." I wish all people could experience the seas or oceans at least once. This is where they can witness and feel "the God of Glory thundereth."

In the concordance of my Bible, there are 3 books that reference "rivers," 16 books that reference "water," and 10 books that reference "waters." Isaiah 48:18 tells us "(and) thy righteousness (is) as the waves of the sea." The Bible is full of stories that take place in water, on water, with water, near water, flood water, no water, under water-"the Lord is upon many waters." The power of the seas is a perfect example of the power of our savior.

During this visit, I went parasailing. I developed a whole new perspective of the Caribbean Sea. I've seen the sea from the airplane, from the beach and now from a "seat" with buckles, cables, hooks and straps! Once you are strapped into the harness, the boat speeds up and then up you go, above the water. You're now a human kite! That clear, blue-green water is beneath you until the boat slows down and as you come down, your feet dip into the water. Then the boat speeds up and the chute (that looks like Spiderman) fills with wind and up you go again. Once up in the air it is soooooo quiet. It was during this quiet time that I felt the love of God upon the water.

Father, thank you for your perfect love. Help me to praise you for it and share it with others. Amen.

Shalom



You are invited to contribute to a Memorial Recognition Gift in memory of Rev. Charlsie Ramsey to honor Charlsie's work as past Moderator of PW/PSV, Moderator of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley, and as pastor to several congregations. Funds from memorial gifts allow Presbyterian women (individuals and groups at all levels of the church) to receive critical leadership training and attend important leadership development events. Checks made out to PW/PSV with Charlsie in the memo line may be sent to Nancy Shuster, PW Treasurer, 3660 Colonial Dr., Hilliard, OH 43026. Deadline to contribute: April 30. (You may also bring your gift to the Spring Gathering in April.)

A service to Celebrate the Life and Resurrection of Rev. Charlsie Ramsey will be held April 10, 2022, at 3 p.m. at Hanover Presbyterian Church where she served for several years. All are welcome!

PW Coordinating Team 2021-2022

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Have you ever yearned to be part of a group of women who genuinely care about each other and are motivated to work together on activities to make the world just a little bit better? Women that nurture their faith, support mission activities to help others, call for a more cooperative world and enjoy companionship with other women in the process? That's what Presbyterian Women are like in their churches and in their presbyteries.

The Coordinating Team of PW in Scioto Valley is such a group. This team plans events including Bible study, ideas for mission, and programs to raise awareness about justice needs in our communities. And after two years of pandemic, can't wait to meet face to face. The wonderful part is the group is always ready to see new faces!

So this is an invitation to consider joining these women.

- Do you love Bible study and want to talk with others about that? We need a studies and spiritual development woman.
- Are you a Horizons magazine reader who wants to tell others about this great publication of Presbyterian Women. We need a Horizon's Representative.
- Do you like to talk with others about PW and share new ideas for group activities? We need a Resource Liaison to be in touch with women in congregations.
- We also need two people to help us find those leaders.

Please contact Louise Davidson,
lchdavidson011@gmail.com with questions or for more information.



Happy Easter



Mark your calendars for the year 2022-2023 of PW/PSV

(subject to approvals)

Spring – April 23, 10 am – 2:30 pm – Hanover PC (YAY!)

CT Meeting – May 7 – First Pres. Lancaster 9:30 am-2:00 pm, Lunch provided

PW Synod Gathering – July 29-30, Dearborn, MI

Summer Gathering – August 27, possibly First Portsmouth

Fall CT Meeting – Sep 10, Covenant PC

Fall Gathering – Oct 22 - TBD

Winter CT Meeting – Jan 7 or 14

Winter Gathering – Feb 25 by Zoom

Spring CT Meeting – March 11

Spring Gathering – April 22 (Earth Day), TBD



Workshop for PW Treasurers

Two different times available for this Zoom workshop: **March 31 at 7 pm** and **April 2 at 10 am**

- Learn what documents and forms are needed to keep track of funds at the local level of PW
- Learn more about the Mission Pledge
- Ask questions and get answers
- Meet other treasurers and get ideas



Who should attend? Treasurers, Moderators, & anyone interested in knowing more about being a treasurer. **Register by March 29** by emailing Martha Pool (mjpool53@gmail.com) and give your name, phone number, an email address, and which workshop you would like to attend. The day before the class you'll receive a zoom invitation so you can connect. Need help with Zoom? Let Martha know ahead of time and she will work with you.

Thank you for serving as a PW leader!

Completing their terms on the PW/PSV Coordinating Team are the following women:

- **Vann Rogers** who served an unexpired term of one year as Vice Moderator for Studies and Spiritual Development
- **Nancy Shuster** who served two terms (six years) as Treasurer
- **Karen Hypes** and **Jane McKee** who each served two terms (six years) as Resource Liaisons
- **Judy Oeder** who served at least two terms as Communicator and an unknown number of years appointed as Historian

Thank you all for your dedication, enthusiasm and contributions to the leadership of PW/PSV!

"Friendship is not about who you've known the longest. It's about who walked into your life, said "I'm here for you" and proved it." — Unknown

DIRECTIONS TO HANOVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Church phone : 740-763-2619



Hanover is approximately 7 miles east of Newark, Ohio. Take OH-16 east from Newark and go past “the Big Basket” and Wilson’s Garden Center. You will see the big, green and white sign directing you to turn left at the traffic light for Hanover and Licking Valley Schools. In a short distance (.1 mile), turn right onto Licking Valley Road and almost immediately you will cross railroad tracks. Continue for about 2 miles to the village of Hanover. At the traffic light turn left onto Main Street (Hickman Rd.) In a short distance, the church is on the right at 732 N. Main St.

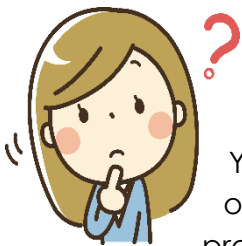
Registration Deadline: April 15 (Good Friday) – This is one week before the gathering!

Cost: \$15 (includes lunch)

Send Name(s), Church, phone number and email address along with your check to:

Nancy Shuster, PW Treasurer, 3660 Colonial Dr., Hilliard, OH 43026

You may also call her at 614-519-9755 and leave her a voicemail with your reservation information and pay at the gathering.



Dear PW sisters,

You will notice that the registration fee has increased to \$15 in an effort to not only create funds for the PW/PSV but also to allow for the increased cost to provide lunch. For 2 years now, by using Zoom, the CT has worked to continue providing Gatherings. Have you thought about how those Gatherings were funded? There were no registration fees received for these, but there were still costs such as honorariums provided to speakers (often we had 2 or 3 per Gathering), individuals providing technical capabilities, workshop leaders, and the cost of the Zoom license itself. If you should find yourself feeling extra generous 😊 and willing to bolster the treasury, please feel free to do so by registering with a \$20 bill at Hanover and telling the registrar to “keep the change for the PWPSV”. It usually takes \$100-\$150 to fund a Gathering so you can easily see why any extra in the checking account has definitely dwindled. THANK YOU AND BLESSINGS TO ALL!