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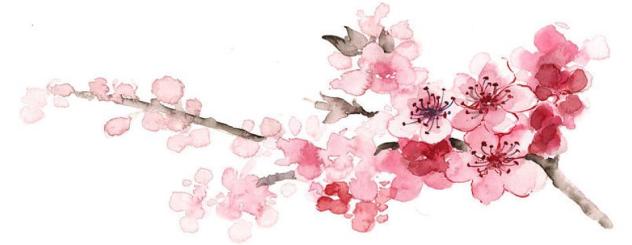
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## PWPP GRAPEVINE

March 2019

Presbyterian Women in the Pittsburgh Presbytery



### 31ST ANNUAL SPRING GATHERING

SATURDAY,  
APRIL 27, 2019

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,  
he is a new creation; the old has passed away,  
Behold the new has come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17*



901 Allegheny Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

8:30 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast  
9:00 a.m. Open Program and Worship  
11:15 a.m. Annual Business Meeting  
Noon Luncheon

### Oakdale United Presbyterian Church

62 Hastings Avenue Oakdale, PA 15107  
(724) 693-8950

Registration Form and Directions on Pages 14 & 15.

## Moderator's Message

Dear Friends,

As I am writing, I notice through my window that eight deer are nibbling through the snow-covered ground to find nuggets that were brought to the ground by the wind. Yes, it is winter, and it is a new year, 2019. Conversations and cards/notes received from family and friends reflect the challenges and joys of 2018, and express a wish for a happy and healthy new year. This I wish for you also. Recently, I read the following thought at the beginning of my church's prayer list. *Our hope is not in the new year, but in the One who makes all things new.*

PWPP's Mission project, "Bears, Blankets, Books and Bucks," is up and running. More than 75 colorful knitted bears were delivered to Jeremiah's Place on December 1, as well as a few of the no-sew blankets and selected books. The "Bucks" are coming in, as we strive to reach \$1500, so we can cover the cost of one 24-hour period of the operation of Jeremiah's Place. I hope each PW has determined the way/ways you can support this crisis nursery project. Thank you, if you have already participated in some way, or if you have plans to gather a few ladies together and make a blanket or two, while the winter weather is keeping us inside.

We are sad that the Presbyterian Women of Fox Chapel determined it necessary to disband their PW as of December 31, 2018. We will miss the fellowship with our fellow sisters and the various ways they have supported the mission of Presbyterian Women. We welcome the Fox Chapel women at future PWPP Gatherings.

On another note, we are delighted to welcome the women of Oakdale United Presbyterian. They recently started the *Horizons Bible study, God's Promise: I Am With You*. Their Presbyterian Women's group will have celebrated their beginning with a brunch, by the time you read this letter. All of us will say "welcome" at the Spring Gathering on April 27, 2019.

As I close, my prayer is for each of us to love our neighbors, enjoy good health, and smile and laugh often! God Bless You!

With Joy,

Sarah Jane Beorn, PWPP Moderator

[sjaneandfred@icloud.com](mailto:sjaneandfred@icloud.com) 412-952-0662 (cell/text)

PAGE 2

## Registration Form

### THE 2019 SPRING GATHERING

**Saturday, April 27, 2019**

Oakdale United Presbyterian Church

**Registration Fee: \$12.00**

**Registration Deadline: April 22**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to PWPP and send to:

**Eva Havlicsek**  
**311 Field Club Ridge Road,**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15238**  
**(412-963-7163)**

**PLEASE REGISTER ON TIME** (earlier than the deadline).  
We cannot guarantee a lunch for last minute or walk-in registrations,  
depending on paid cancellations.

## Program and Directions

Please plan to attend our 31st Annual Spring Gathering and Business Meeting on April 27, 2019, the Saturday after Easter, and welcome our newly organized Presbyterian Women in the Congregation of Oakdale United Presbyterian Church. Under the enthusiastic and energetic support of the Reverend Nancy Stanny, the Oakdale PW ladies are off to a running start. Rev. Stanny will lead us in worship and we look forward with pleasure to a morning of fellowship and gracious hospitality with our good sisters in Christ at Oakdale. We will hear with joy the results of our mission giving and the final tallies of Bears, Blankets Books and Bucks for Jeremiah's Place. Leaders will be elected for 2019-2020. More detailed information about the Synod of the Trinity Regional Gathering June 30—July 1 in Bridgeville, West Virginia, will also be shared.

Directions to Oakdale United Presbyterian Church  
62 Hastings Avenue, Oakdale, PA 15107  
724-693-8950

Take the Parkway West (376) outbound towards the Airport.  
Get off the Parkway at the Weirton-RT 22/30 exit (60 A)  
Then get off at the Oakdale exit.  
Turn left onto McKee Road at the bottom of the exit ramp.  
You will pass PTI on your left, and a little farther along you will pass the Oakdale Ballfield on your right as you enter the town of Oakdale.  
Turn left uphill onto First Street (across the street from the Oakdale Diner).  
On the corner by the STOP Sign at the top of the hill is Oakdale Presbyterian Church.

- If you're using your GPS, type in: Oakdale United Presbyterian Church, 62 Hastings Street, Oakdale

## Mission Update

Praise the Lord and thank you sisters all! We have met our pledged goals for national/international and local mission. Complete details will be reported at the annual business meeting on April 27. The PWPP Coordinating Team has approved the following local agencies to support this year:

East Liberty Family Health Care Center  
Hosanna Industries, Inc.  
Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community  
Lazarus Fund  
Living in Liberty  
North Hills Community Outreach  
North Side Christian Health Center  
South Hills Interfaith Movement  
The Open Door  
Ventures in People Program  
Western PA Diaper Bank  
Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh

If your PW group celebrates a member of your congregation with an Honorary Life Membership, be sure to let our Mission Treasurer, Pam Backstrom know. Whether you submit your application for a pin and certificate through PWPP or directly to National at Louisville, be advised that Louisville requires at least 6 weeks notice to process the application in time to send the pin and official certificate. ( See page 10 in your PWPP Directory. ) This is an excellent way to show appreciation for one's outstanding commitment to your PW and congregation, a significant highlight of any Gifts of Women Sunday celebration.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

February 28	Annual Contingent Dues Due
March 10	1st Quarter Mission Pledge Due
June 10	2nd Quarter Mission Pledge Due
June 30-July 1	Synod Southwest Regional Gathering
July 15	Grapevine Deadline Due
August 15	Grapevine Distribution
September 10	3rd Quarter Mission Pledge Due
	September Fall Gathering To Be Announced

## Synod Mission Project 2018-19

### SYNOD OF THE TRINITY

The Synod of the Trinity PW International Mission Project for 2018-2019 is the Presbyterian Dominican Partnership. The purpose of the ongoing (27 year) mission partnership between the eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania churches with Iglesia Evangelica Dominica is to foster medical, educational, and social assistance among the people of Savaneta de Yasica and the surrounding area of the Dominican Republic to those of both Dominican and Haitian descent. Medical needs are prosthetics, mobility equipment to improve ambulation for disabled children and adults (wheelchairs, adaptive strollers, walkers, crutches, and quad canes) and to establish funds for physician specialists (dentists, ophthalmologists, and therapists.). In addition, a social service focus on helping to fund a mission-school bus is an already established fund that will allow for safe transportation for children, elderly and disabled who are unable to attend school and church activities.

Checks for the Synod Mission Project should be made out to PWPP, marked Synod Mission in the memo line, and mailed to the PWPP Mission Treasurer, Pam Backstrom, 349 Fruitwood Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15102. Pam will forward the PWPP contributions to the Synod PW treasurer. Please make your donations before June 30, 2019. The total Synod Mission goal is \$20,000.

## PWPP Leadership Team

### *Steering Committee*

*Moderator:* Sara Jane Beorn, 412-952-0662, [sjaneandfred@icloud.com](mailto:sjaneandfred@icloud.com)

*Vice Moderator:* Carol MacDonald, 412-833-4590, [cmacdnld@verizon.net](mailto:cmacdnld@verizon.net)

*Vice Moderator of Issues:* Mary Alice Lightle, 412-682-1504, [malightle@hotmail.com](mailto:malightle@hotmail.com)

*Recording/Corresponding Secretary:* Jean Eckert, 724-935-6146,  
[jveckert@consolidated.net](mailto:jveckert@consolidated.net)

*Contingent Treasurer:* Eva Havlicsek, 412-963-7163, [evahavlicsek@gmail.com](mailto:evahavlicsek@gmail.com)

*Mission Treasurer/Vice Moderator of Mission:* Pam Backstrom, 412-854-0974,  
[pbackstrom14@gmail.com](mailto:pbackstrom14@gmail.com)

### *Appointed Positions*

Grapevine Editor: Mary Ellen Kirby, 412-782-6774, [mekirby@speakeasy.net](mailto:mekirby@speakeasy.net)

Grapevine Distribution: Carol MacDonald/Bethel Presbyterian Church, 412-835-0405

\*Directory Editor: Carol MacDonald, 412-833-4590, [cmacdnld@verizon.net](mailto:cmacdnld@verizon.net)

Parliamentarian: Charlesetta McKinney, 412-362-1526, [andcharm@msn.com](mailto:andcharm@msn.com)

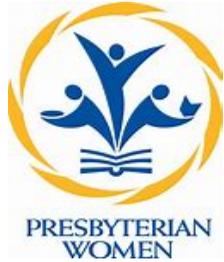
***Please send changes or corrections to information in the Directory promptly to Carol MacDonald, Directory Editor.***

If you no longer wish to receive the Grapevine through U.S. Mail, please contact Kathy at Bethel Presbyterian Church, 412-835-0405

The Grapevine is available on the web at [www.pghpresbytery.org](http://www.pghpresbytery.org)

***Fall Grapevine Deadline  
July 15, 2019, for  
September Issue Distribution***

## Presbyterian Women Stay Connected



Presbyterian Women in Pittsburgh Presbytery  
[www.pghpresbytery.org](http://www.pghpresbytery.org)

Presbyterian Women in Synod of the Trinity  
[www.pwtrinity.org](http://www.pwtrinity.org)

Presbyterian Women on the Web  
[www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org)

Call 844/PWPCUSA (844-797-2872)



PW on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

Search for "Presbyterian Women in the PC (USA)"



PW on Twitter  
[www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)

Sign up, then search for PWPCUSA and "follow"



Horizons on the Web  
[www.presbyterianwomen.org/horizons](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/horizons)

PW on YouTube  
[www.youtube.com/presbyterianwomen](http://www.youtube.com/presbyterianwomen)

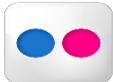


PW on Pinterest  
[www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com)

Sign up, then search for Presbyterian Women



PW on Flickr  
[www.flickr.com/photos/presbyterianwomen](http://www.flickr.com/photos/presbyterianwomen)



PCUSA's Store  
[www.pcusa.org/store](http://www.pcusa.org/store)

Order PW resources through the online stores  
or by calling 800-524-2612



## Synod of the Trinity

2019 Southwest Regional Gathering

June 30 — July 1

Bridgeport, WVA

Presbyterian Women in the Presbyteries of Pittsburgh, Redstone, Upper Ohio Valley, Washington and West Virginia (the Southwest Region) will meet this summer for the triennial Regional Gathering at the Best Western Bridgeport Inn, 100 Lodgeport Road, Bridgeport, WVA, not far from Morgantown.

The cost will be \$120 per person, based on two people per room, and includes lunch and supper Sunday and breakfast Monday, plus any supplies. Single occupancy per room is \$150. The Gathering will start with lunch at 1:00 P.M. on Sunday, June 30, and conclude around noon, Monday, July 1.

The local mission project is The Shack Neighborhood House, which provides after school and summer programs for children, designed around support for the whole family. Gift cards in the amount of \$10 for Target or Walmart will be collected. For gift cards in amounts greater than \$10, please write the amount on the card in magic marker or other indelible ink.

Directions: Take Interstate 79 towards Morgantown. Exit 119, to US 50 East. Go to Lodgeville Road North and get off at Best Western Plus.

**Deadline to Register is June 1, 2019**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$120 (\$150 Single) Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate \_\_\_\_\_

Make check out to: Synod of the Trinity (Gathering in the memo line)

Mail to:

Alcinda James,  
41981 Old Irondale Road,  
Irondale, Ohio 43932

(330) 532-5747

[alcindaj@netzero.net](mailto:alcindaj@netzero.net)

## Get Involved in Justice and Peace

Through action and advocacy, Presbyterian Women groups respond to justice and peace needs. PW Churchwide suggests addressing mass incarceration, poverty, racism, human trafficking, and violence. Here are some upcoming opportunities:

- March** PW Together in Action for **Women's Empowerment**
- April** **Ecumenical Advocacy Days**, "*Troubling the Waters for the Healing of the World*;" <http://advocacydays.org>
- May** PW Together in Action Days for **Children's Literacy**
- October** **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

Learn more about these and other opportunities to participate at <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice>.

## Justice & Peace Links

### Women's Empowerment

The month of March has long been known for its observance of women's history, but PW has declared it Women's Empowerment Month, as well.

Current events demonstrate that even in the so-called 'advanced societies,' women suffer harassment, abuse and discrimination. In recognition of the work PW is doing to empower women, through its mission programs and advocacy work, this issue of *Justice & Peace Links* provides information and resources for your work around women's empowerment at any time of year.

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/justice-peace-links-womens-empowerment/>

*Justice & Peace Links*, an electronic newsletter dedicated to Presbyterian Women's justice and peace concerns, is published a few times a year. Each issue is dedicated to a single topic and deals with the subject comprehensively. In addition to "Women's Empowerment," an issue dedicated to "Human Trafficking" is also available online.

## Fall Gathering Highlights

The 30th Annual Fall Gathering and Thank Offering Launch was held on Saturday, September 15, 2018, at Bidwell United Presbyterian Church. Moderator Sarah Jane Beorn opened the gathering with prayer and the lighting of the Christ Candle. Bidwell PW Moderator Barbara Simpson gave greetings and welcomed everyone to Bidwell.

The Reverend Jane Esterline, Interim Pastor at Plum Creek Presbyterian Church, led us in worship, basing her message "Persistent Grace" on selected readings from the Book of Samuel 1. Using the story of Abigail and King David as an illustration of speaking truth to power, Rev. Esterline reinforced the importance of wise and courageous women who changed the course of events throughout the Bible. It was a powerful and inspiring message for all of us Presbyterian Women to "go and do likewise." Wilberta Pickett, our faithful friend and talented musician, enriched the worship service with beautiful offertory music and postlude, as well as piano accompaniment for the hymns.

The theme for the gathering was from Mark 10:14: "**Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God.**" Appropriately, the 2018-19 PWPP Mission Project was introduced by Eileen Sharbaugh, who has spent most of her professional and volunteer career as an early childhood educator and advocate and is a co-founder of Jeremiah's Place, Pittsburgh's first and only crisis nursery. A display of knit Jere Bears, No-Sew blankets and selected books was provided by PWPP Vice Moderator Carol MacDonald. Written instructions were provided to take back to the congregational PW groups. The mission project, "Bears, Blankets, Books and Bucks" allows opportunities for hands-on as well as financial support for Jeremiah's Place.

The motion was made and approved to pledge \$6,000 for local missions and \$12,000 for National and International Missions for the year 2019. The morning program was closed with prayer by Rev. Esterline. A delicious lunch, provided by our gracious PW sisters in Christ at Bidwell, was enjoyed by all.

## News from the Pews

Presbyterian Women in East Liberty Presbyterian Church

Our Presbyterian Women are enjoying this year's Horizon's Bible Study, "God's Promise: I Am with You." We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 7 PM and the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10 AM. On Tuesday, the Bible study is followed by time for "women-ship" and a potluck lunch.

On Sunday, February 24, we celebrated "Gifts of Women Sunday" and honored women who exhibit grace that knows no boundaries.

Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, President and Executive Director of Presbyterian Mission Agency, preached on "Fruitful Partnerships," based on John 15:1-8. At the combined Adult Education Class before worship, she offered a provocative Bible study on Matthew 25:31-46. On Saturday night, PW in East Liberty Presbyterian Church hosted a small dinner for Dr. Moffett and PW leaders in our Presbytery.

We are looking forward to our spring retreat at Camp Crestfield, "In the Shelter of Each Other." This year, Deacon Susan Spangler, a psychotherapist and meditation teacher, will be our leader.

Many thanks and best wishes to Sherry Anderson, who has completed her term as moderator. We look forward to election of a new moderator.



Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett

## Together in Action for Education

Mary Alice Lightle, Vice Moderator for Issues, PW in Pittsburgh Presbytery

Presbyterian Women Churchwide made children's education a focus for the 2015–2018 triennium. PW has partnered with the PC(USA) in its Educate a Child initiative, to strengthen quality education for a million children in the United States and around the world by 2020.

Supporting education for all children will improve lives in untold ways. Lack of education has many adverse consequences for individuals and society:

In America, 1 in 4 children grow up without learning to read.

30 million American adults read below basic level.

33% of high school graduates will never read a book after high school.

50% of U.S. adults can't read an 8<sup>th</sup> grade book.

2/3 of students who cannot read proficiently by the end of 4<sup>th</sup> grade will end up in jail or on welfare.

46% of adults can't read the labels on their prescriptions.

Low literacy directly costs the healthcare industry \$70 million each year.

May 5 through May 11 have been designated by Presbyterian Women as "Together in Action Days for Education."

Consider these ideas for your PW group's work to support education and literacy programs in your area:

- Community book sale—sell used books at low cost for families with limited budgets.
- Community Story Hour—host it at your church and read aloud to children of the community.
- Book drive—donate books to hospitals, schools, community centers and more.



## More News from the Pews

Northmont Presbyterian Women were busy in late 2018. Nearly 150 tickets were sold for the Harvest Dinner of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, vegetable, and pie, prepared and served by PW and enjoyed by all on November 10.

The Rev. Sarah Robbins, wife of our pastor, preached on Thank Offering Sunday.

Jane Nicola was honored as “Presbyterian Woman of the Year” at our traditional Christmas luncheon December 7, graciously served by some of the handsome men of Northmont. The Rev. Nancy Kay Stanny, Oakdale U.P. Church, presented a program, “Strands of Mercy.”

We have enthusiastically embraced the PWPP mission project of 2018-19 (see photo “An Abundance of Bears”). We have delivered more than 85 bears, several blankets and 14 books for Jeremiah’s Place so far, and we are still going strong! We will continue to support this project up to the Spring Gathering in April.

We are blessed to have Steph Martin, Northmont’s Spiritual Formation Associate, teaching our Sarah Circle each month. We provided a scholarship to a college student from our congregation to attend a college conference in January to Montreat, North Carolina.

Northmont women continue year round with Sarah Bible Study Circle and Dinah’s Book Club and the following service projects: Care Baskets for shut-ins, Northmont Delivers (meals), receptions following Memorial Services for members, Knit-Wits, and Project Linus (blankets.).

Please follow our website, [www.northmontchurch.org](http://www.northmontchurch.org), for other activities.



The Rev. Ben Robbins blessed a wagonload of Jere Bears, blankets and books during Worship on November 18, 2018

## News from the Pews

PW of Third ladies were busy knitting, crocheting, cutting and knotting on a recent Crafts for Charity Night, producing more necklaces for Living Waters and two no-sew blankets and several bears for Jeremiah’s Place. Days for Girls shipped a total of 900 kits for mission trips to Haiti, Tanzania, South Sudan and Ethiopia as of March 1 this year. No idle hands to be seen in this cloud of witnesses.



The PW of Bull Creek ladies meet regularly to crochet and have turned in numerous bears, blankets and books. Betty Bishop very kindly gave a lesson in crocheting to Mary Ellen Kirby to take back to Third, in time for the Crafts Night (above). Mary Ellen was proud to have found her way to Bull Creek, following very convoluted directions from Mapquest, and delighted to follow Betty’s simple easy alternate directions to get back home. A typical Pittsburgh connection was discovered: Betty’s daughter lives just a few streets down from Mary Ellen’s house, which will greatly facilitate the transfer of future finished bears and blankets.