



Presbyterian Women of Missouri Union Presbytery Christmas, 2021 Newsletter



Dear All Presbyterian Women & Friends,

We hope you experience the joy and promise that Christmas brings, even as you are making lists and checking them off, mailing out the last Christmas cards to family and friends, determining which kids are coming home for Christmas, and wondering if the items ordered on-line will arrive in time!

Are you taking time away from that busyness to prepare your own heart? Are you ready to receive and believe God's promise of a Savior? Have you made room in your heart, and in your life, for something new?

Our traditions of Advent Calendars, the Advent Wreath, the themes of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace, and the candlelight worship service on Christmas Eve, all encourage us to remember God's promise of Messiah, even as we march (or race) through the shortening days of December. What are your family traditions? How do they help you reflect on the reason for this season?

The Coordinating Team for Presbyterian Women of Missouri Union Presbytery wishes a very merry Christmas to everyone in our Presbytery.



Anne Schneider's Advent Calendar was handmade by her mother.

PW Announces Triennial Theme

With the election of new Churchwide leaders at PW's Triennial Business Meeting this past August, our new moderator and vice moderator, Rev. Kathy Reeves and Kathleen Keefer, have announced that, based on a survey of the entire Churchwide Coordinating Team, addressing violence against women and children will be a programming priority over the next three years.

Your Churchwide Team is planning programs and opportunities aligned with this special focus. For example, the Justice & Peace Committee is planning a monthly book group with readings focused on racial justice, criminal justice, climate change, gender justice, immigration, Native American concerns, substance abuse disorders and the UN's Commission on the Status of Women.



To keep abreast of PW activities and opportunities, be sure to "like" the PW Facebook Page! Search for "Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA)" on Facebook to find it.



Margaret Ferrell, Diane Baer, and Jan Hartje of the PW of FPC-Kirkville.

RIGHT: Members of the Rebekah Circle at FPC-Mexico: Seated are Linda Sue Galloway, Sue Chitwood, and Jan Harlow, and standing next to Shonda Galloway are Lois Runnels and Pat Hannah.



Our PW-MUP Co-Moderators Shonda Galloway and Mary Hoskins with Mary Sudbrock, a PW of the Paris Presbyterian Church.

Presbyterian Women

Around Missouri Union Presbytery

RIGHT: Members of the Mary Circle at FPC-Mexico: Nancy Brunner, Jennifer Benne, Tris Myers, Molly Hanley, Elaine Mensching, Barbara Brandt, and Sharon Schnake.



Margi Bowles, left, with First lady Teresa Parson, right, discussing an Easter egg being decorated by a child in the Governor's Mansion. Margi, who died from a fall this past October, was a former moderator for the PW in Jefferson City and the circle moderator for that group's evening circle. Margi was a regular attendee at PW-MUP events. (Photo from the [Jefferson City News Tribune](#))

Greetings from your MUP CO-Moderators

The prayer by Merryl Blair, author of our current Bible study *What My Grandmothers Taught Me*, has the following lines:

Help us to remember that you have always worked through the lives of ordinary women... people like us. We bring our ordinary lives before you today. Transform our expectations...so we may be open to your extraordinary future.

We are ordinary women who have been given the privilege to share our joy in Presbyterian Women throughout our Presbytery. We are excited to be able to visit with Women's Circles and individual faithful Presbyterian Women. We have been encouraged and transformed. We are excited about the extraordinary future that is before us as Presbyterian Women. This year's Bible Study has been well received by those using it for their studies. It's been very interesting and fun learning about some of the lesser-known women who are named in Matthew's gospel. Spoiler alert! These are **not** some of your Sunday School stories!

We look forward to the new year and the opportunities to meet with small groups and share ideas and offer suggestions. Let us know when we can come visit your Church! We'd love to chat about what's going on in Presbyterian Women.

Sisters in Christ, *Shonda Galloway and Mary Hoskins*



Do you have the time and interest in being part of PW’s Delegation to CSW 2022?

PW is looking for a few good women! There’s still time to apply to be part of the Presbyterian Women’s delegation to the United Nations’ Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), March 14-25, 2022. CSW 2022 will be online, with many round-the-clock learning opportunities.

The focus of the 66th session of the Commission is **achieving gender equality** and the **empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies, and programs.**

Throughout the event, participants will have opportunities to engage in advocacy efforts, plan and participate in worship services, attend and lead educational events, and to share these experiences using social media and other communication tools. Delegates are expected to participate in some manner in all four of these—advocacy, worship, education, and communication—while participating in the Commission and the Forum.

Details

- When: March 14-25, 2022
- Location: Online
- Cost: \$0
- Application deadline: **Monday, January 3, 2022**
- How to apply: Complete the application (in fillable pdf or Word format) by visiting <https://bit.ly/3DKpwQG> and return to patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org. **Note:** Preparation and online attendance for the CSW does take a significant amount of time but it is a unique opportunity for deep learning and engagement in important issues.

Thursdays in Black

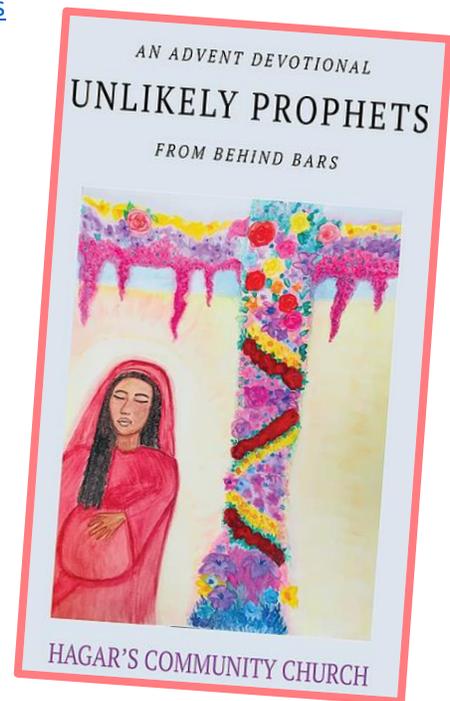
The campaign is simple but profound: Wear black on Thursdays. We all have a responsibility to speak out against violence, to ensure that women and men, boys and girls, are safe from rape and violence in homes, schools, work, streets – in all places in our societies. Learn more: <https://youtube/MgfZVgaAFo>

Creative Resource for Prison Ministry:

A recipient of a PW Thank Offering grant, Hagar’s Community Church is planted inside the Washington Corrections Center for Women in Tacoma, Washington. The Thank Offering grant is helping provide care for incarcerated women through Bible study, worship, healing and prayer groups.

Members of Hagar’s Community Church have now written and created art for a devotional entitled, *Unlikely Prophets: An Advent Devotional from Behind Bars*. Thanks to support from Presbyterian Women, church members produced an amazing spiritual resource that centers and uplifts voices of our incarcerated siblings. Learn more about this advent resource at:

<https://www.hagarscommunitychurch.com/unlikely-prophets>



Addresses for following PW’s Social Media:

- 844/PWPCUSA • (844/797-2872)
- www.presbyterianwomen.org
- www.youtube.com/presbyterianwomen
- www.facebook.com/presbyterianwomenpcusa
- www.flickr.com/presbyterianwomen
- www.pinterest.com/pwpcusa/
- <https://twitter.com/pwpcusa>

Got a question for PW's talented staff? Here is the directory for the women who prepare Horizons Magazine, create all PW fliers and publications, run all social media, administer all the special offerings, provide all the accounting, etc.

Presbyterian Women (PW) Staff



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WOMEN
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PW Staff – Who Ya Gonna Call?

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Presbyterian Women in the Congregation Remittance Form

(Use this Form when forwarding any PW offerings and other donations to the PW-MUP Treasurer)



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

Please make check(s) payable to Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Missouri Union
(or to "PW-MUP")

Enclosed is Check Number _____ Total amount is \$ _____

Congregation _____ Date _____

Treasurer's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zipcode _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Please check if

New Treasurer

New Address

Please indicate any of the below funds your payment covers and the amount. If you are giving to any PC(USA) designated fund or other special funds, please describe and provide the fund's assigned number. If any portion is "undesigned" you may also include it in "other".

PW-MUP Assessment (Dues) \$ _____ Least Coin Fellowship \$ _____

PW World Mission Pledge \$ _____ Honorary Life Membership* \$ _____

Birthday Offering \$ _____ Presbyterian Hunger Fund \$ _____

Thank Offering \$ _____ Other **\$ _____

Notes: _____

*Please include the names of any women being honored with an Honorary Life Membership. **Please provide directions for any designated gifts!

The PW-MUP Assessment (Dues) is used by the PW in the Presbytery to cover programing expenses for bi-annual gatherings and other activities/communications, to support involvement in mission activities and to provide grants for travel expenses for the Churchwide Gathering and similar opportunities. PW-MUP also offers an annual scholarship for theological education from these funds and forwards \$0.17 for each woman in the presbytery to the PW in the Synod. The annual Assessment is calculated as \$1 for a congregation's membership, divided by 2 (\$1.00 x Membership/2). All other designated funds are remitted by PW-MUP to the respective offerings and purposes.

The Assessment should be paid each year in January. Pledges made to the *PW Mission Fund – PW's annual fund for operational expenses* – should be paid quarterly by remitting payment to the PW in the Presbytery Treasurer by March 10th, June 10th, September 10th and December 10th.

Please mail to the PW-MUP Treasurer at the below address. Please call or email with any questions.

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Email: rathompson7@socket.net

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