



Presbyterian Women Missouri Union Presbytery Summer 2020 Newsletter



Lament...

Have you had occasion to think of Job over these past several weeks? Or the cry of Israelites during the Babylon Captivity? Or of Mary and Martha as their brother Lazarus lay in the tomb? We've watched and, with others, cried over the losses and injustices experienced and further exposed by this Covid-19 virus. Our losses may be both large and small – but we all understand the pain that is widespread and continues. And we've prayed.

How appropriate it is that this coming Fall's PW Bible Study, *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament*, is on lament as a theological response to difficult situations?!? PC(USA) minister and artist Lynn Miller will lead us in exploring lament and re-discovering that lament usually leads to hope: In crying out to God, we remember God. And while that may not fix the injustice or the loss, we are strengthened to face the world and to hope for a better future. And for us as Christians, hope is not just an emotional response. Hope reflects movement: both God's inherent movement toward justice and our movement toward God. In hope, there is reason to rejoice!

Due to social distancing and travel restrictions, Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller is offering **"virtual" Bible Study Workshops** this month! Her workshop will also be available to everyone **after July 1st** on PW's YouTube Channel! So gather a couple friends and "join" Lynn for a cup of coffee where you can find good Internet connectivity, and enjoy her introduction to the Bible study:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/PresbyterianWomen>

If you need extra copies of the Bible Study, it is available for on-line purchase at: www.presbyterianwomen.org/shop

Or you can call 800/533-4371 to purchase copies. One copy is \$10 (\$15 for large print). Please be aware there is a shipping charge of almost \$6 regardless of how many copies you order, so it's more economical to purchase several copies at a time!

More resources for the Bible Study, along with a video of Lynn's 2018 presentation at the Churchwide Gathering about the coming study are available here:

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/bible-study/into-the-light/> Throughout the year, Horizons Magazine will offer still more study "helps" as we explore Lynn's study and our own laments and search for hope. Join the journey!

Fall PW-MUP Mission Ideas?

We would like to plan a PW activity for this Fall. We have usually tried to participate in or support a mission project at our Fall Gathering, so if anyone has any ideas for an activity or location, please share it with our Coordinating Team.

Also, we DO plan to meet in Boonville again next Spring for the Gathering we'd hoped to have this past April, including an optional fieldtrip to Warm Springs Ranch to see the Clydesdale foals. So stay tuned – we'll be announcing dates and details by January, 2021!



SAVE THE DATE:
PW-SYNOD (Virtual) SUMMER GATHERING
AUGUST 14th, 2020

Celebrate Caregivers

In this bewildering time of pandemic, we have all been reminded of the importance of caregivers – those who are our communities' first responders as well as those who attend to our everyday needs: From doctors, EMTs and orderlies, to grocery store check-out clerks and the pizza delivery people, and to teachers still offering on-line classroom experiences and neighbors who ask if they can pick up anything for you when they make their weekly run to the store.

Presbyterian Historical Society, our church's national archives, has pulled materials from its collection to highlight the Presbyterian nursing tradition – a mission-oriented effort to establish and support nurse training around the world. See: <https://www.history.pcusa.org/blog/2020/05/florence-nightingale-and-presbyterian-nursing>.

Please share these stories and pictures with your friends and think about how nursing really has changed our world.

Florence Nightingale and Presbyterian Nursing

May 6, 2020

Author: Gabriela Tags: Nursing, medical missions, Mission History



Left: Florence Nightingale, 1860. Courtesy of Wikicommons. Right: Nurses with child patient, Severance Hospital, Seoul, 1954. (Item ID: 145962)

Read more stories of Presbyterian women who served as nurses in mission around the world at <https://www.history.pcusa.org/blog/2020/05/nursing-missionary-stories-phs-collections>

HOPE



PW's Churchwide Gathering is planned for August 5-8, 2021 in St. Louis and may be the best opportunity for women in our Presbytery to get to attend. There will be preachers and teachers, a choir and artists, Fair Trade boutiques and lots of information about our PC(USA) denominational work and the many activities of Presbyterian Women, along with around 2,000 Presbyterian Women.

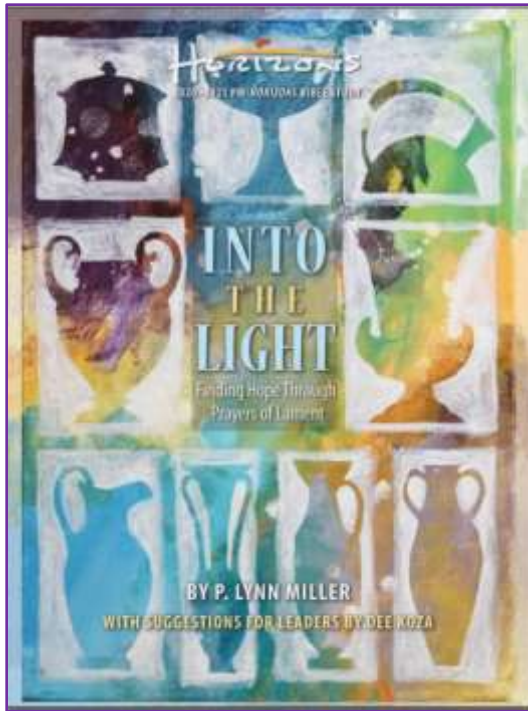
Churchwide Gatherings are faithful, joyful, community building experiences! For many women, attending a PW Churchwide Gathering is transformational.

But these amazing tri-ennial gatherings are not free – and we need to save for ourselves and/or help others attend. Make your own Gathering Bank or save collectively through your PW Circle or other women's group. And look forward to *rejoicing in hope!*

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PW's most recent Quarterly Churchwide Newsletter is available to read on-line – find out more about what's going on nationally! You can also subscribe to have these newsletters emailed to you. <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/newsletter-second-quarter-2020/>



July 31st is PW Gives Day. With all the distractions of the Covid19 Pandemic, we've been missing circle meetings and gatherings, so our support for all the PW programs we love is down – let's all support PW on July 31st! On-Line donations can be made at: <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/giving-funding/give/>

A Prayer for Today (author unknown)

Loving God, your desire is for our wholeness and well-being.

We hold in tenderness and prayer the collective suffering of our world at this time.

We grieve precious lives lost and vulnerable lives threatened.

We ache for ourselves and our neighbors, standing before an uncertain future.

We pray may love, not fear, go viral.

Inspire our leaders to discern and choose wisely, aligned with the common good.

Help us to practice physical distancing and reveal to us new and creative ways to come together in spirit and in solidarity.

Call us to profound trust in your faithful presence, you who do not abandon.

We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

PW 101

Help for those new to PW!

PW 101.14: PW Meets—In Person and Virtually

One of the many strengths of Presbyterian Women (the organization and those who are Presbyterian women) is our connectedness. Just attend a presbytery, synod or church-wide gathering and you will quickly and clearly see that our connectedness links us one to another in ministry and outlook. We are never strangers, even when we have never met! Living out our PW Purpose unites and challenges us, as individuals and as a community. Our denomination relies on our rootedness and our connectedness. PW is a blessing to our church and the wider world.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Presbyterian women are finding ways to stay connected—within our circles and communities as well as regionally and nationally. We support our church and organization through financial support and through participating in online worship services, PW virtual town halls and coffee hours. We telephone and connect with our sisters, supporting one another during trying times. We advocate for our brothers and sisters who need our care. And countless of us are making (and sharing ideas for crafting) masks to share with first responders and others within our communities who are stocking shelves and delivering boxes. Even with busy hands and praying hearts, we support PW's life-giving Birthday Offering (established in 1922), knowing that together, PW's many ministries and programs rely on each of us for steadfastness and connectivity.



From PW's Inclusive Caring Community Committee:

Purposeful posts on social media

If you keep up with friends through Facebook or other social media, consider creating a daily theme and encourage similar contributions of your friends. Here are some ideas:

- **Mission Monday:** Post pictures of mission projects that your group supports.
- **Travel Tuesday:** Share your favorite past travel photos.
- **Selfie Wednesday:** Post a selfie with your *Horizons* magazine.
- **Throwback Thursday:** Put up an old picture with PW friends.
- **Prayer & Positivity Friday:** Offer words of encouragement or prayers.
- **Sharing Saturday:** Post ideas for sharing love with those in need.
- **Sabbath Sunday:** Post a picture of a place where you experience the quiet reassurance of rest in God.

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

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 and to support involvement in mission activities and 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. PW-MUP also forwards \$0.17 for each woman in the presbytery to the PW in the Synod. The 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 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.

Name: Ruth Thompson

Email: rathompson7@socket.net

Address: 3400 W. Hwy 124, Harrisburg, MO 65256

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