



# Presbyterian Women Missouri Union Presbytery Spring 2021 Newsletter



## *Do Not Be Afraid*

One year ago, I sent out our Spring 2020 Newsletter and included the text of the hymn *Do Not Be Afraid* by Joy F. Patterson, found in our Glory to God hymnal. We've been through so much since then! There is still some fear and anxiousness. There is still some frustration with how long it is taking to "kick" this pandemic. And there is sadness over the toll the past 12 months have taken on our lives and communities.

But every storm eventually passes and, like rainbows remind us of God's abiding presence, we know that the future still holds much promise. There is reason to hope!

This past weekend Presbyterian Women enjoyed a "virtual" trip to the beach at the PW-MUP Spring Gathering/Retreat. We embraced technology that many of us were blissfully unaware of just a year ago to "zoom" in! It was a successful effort, even if we weren't, literally, gathered! See pages 2 & 3 for photos and details.

And there is more to come! Within this newsletter is also information about the next Second Saturday Synod Circle on April 10<sup>th</sup>, our new PW-MUP leaders, and more updates on PW activities. While some of our groups have been unable to meet regularly over the past year, all are eagerly anticipating resuming Bible study and mission projects, and enjoying fellowship again. There is reason to...

## *Rejoice in Hope!*

-Anne Schneider,  
Newsletter Editor, Presbyterian Women of  
Missouri Union Presbytery

- Looking for some creative programming to "jump start" your church's PW group (or start one)?
- See Page 3 for ideas!



## **5<sup>th</sup> Second Saturday Synod Circle**

All are invited to 'zoom in' for our 5<sup>th</sup> Synod Gathering on **Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am** when we'll hear from Joy Durrant, PW's national Vice-Moderator for Justice & Peace. Joy will update us on the recent Commission on the Status of Women conference and lots of other PW activities promoting justice and peace in our country and world. Even in the midst of this pandemic, much is going on.

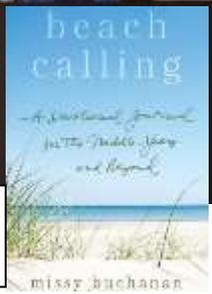
Like prior Synod Circles, this event should last just about 60 minutes – it's a great way to catch up on some PW news while enjoying a long coffee break! To register for this event, please email Anne Schneider at [akrsch@aol.com](mailto:akrsch@aol.com) so we can send you the ZOOM link!



**SAVE THE DATE:**  
*Churchwide PW Plenary and Worship Service,*  
**Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup> 4:00-6:00pm**



**Scenes from A (Virtual) Spring Break**  
 PW-MUP's Spring Gathering & Women's Retreat, March 20 2021



## ***Highlights of our 2021 Spring Gathering: A (Virtual) Spring Break***

This year's gathering was designed by Anne Schneider whose inspiration was Missy Buchanan's devotional book, **Beach Calling: A Devotional Journal for the Middle Years and Beyond**. Our PW-MUP Coordinating Team led us through an opening devotion and then an exercise identifying our own "driftwood", "barnacles" and "storms". We made "Gone to the Beach" signs and (virtual) shell necklaces.

During our brief business meeting we approved the 2021 Budget and amended bylaws and voted on new leaders:

Co-Moderators: Shonda Galloway and Mary Hoskins

Mission Opportunities Coordinator: Marcia Lake

Treasurer: Ruth Thompson

Newsletter/Communications: Anne Schneider

NOTE: Our Secretary position is currently vacant – we'd really welcome a volunteer!

During worship we thought about the "footprints" we make every day, and we celebrated the Lord's Supper with Rev. Angela Madden. We also celebrated God's grace with an offering of \$400 to the PW Mission Pledge/Annual Fund and \$390 for the PW Birthday Offering.

We enjoyed the artwork of Helen Logan in making our Gone to the Beach signs and we complimented all attendees on their resilience and adaptability in participating in our on-line event.

We expressed our appreciation to the many people who made the Gathering possible, including Coordinating Team members Anne Schneider, Kay Metcalf, Mary Hoskins, Shonda Galloway and Ruth Thompson and FPCJC members who helped to lead worship, Mary Kabiri, Jan Haviland, Brenda Waters and Rev. Angela Madden.

We are really looking forward to meeting in person again!



### **Make your own Origami Heart**

Follow the illustrated instructions posted on the PW Page at the Missouri Union Presbytery website. All you need is a 6" x 6" piece of paper! <https://www.mupresbytery.org/presbyterian-women>

### **PW "Jump Start" Ideas**

As we begin moving back into our church buildings and gathering with friends, here are some ways your PW Group could engage more women in your church – or how you could start a new PW Group!

Offer a short term commitment to Bible Study, like participating in the PW Bible Study over 2 months (weekly) rather than over the course of a year.

Visit new(er) members and personally invite them to specific PW events/meetings.

Have a PW-Centric display in any church mission fair – share the broader mission and impacts of PW worldwide!

Offer a "Mystery Trip" for a women's activity.

Invite women to fellowship/fun event, such as a wine tasting or craft demonstration or tour a local garden or home.

Host a Spring Lunch for all women and girls in the church; possibly use as a time to recognize members' mission and other work for the church (as well as PW).

Invite a member of our PW-MUP Coordinating Team members to your PW Circle or other event!



# More PW News

## How to support Presbyterian Women

We encourage the PW groups in our presbytery to use the remittance form on our PW-MUP page at the presbytery's website: (<https://www.mupresbytery.org/presbyterian-women>) when forwarding offerings, mission pledge funds and other gifts to our PW-MUP Treasurer for processing so we can record your contributions. But individuals may donate directly to PW at the national level here: <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/giving-funding/give/>

The PW at FPC-Jefferson City shared aspects of this year's Horizons Bible Study, **Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament**, in their annual Celebrating the Gifts of Women on March 7<sup>th</sup>., despite the sanctuary not yet being open for in person worship, the number of worship leaders was reduced and the congregation attending virtually, through the church's livestream. A recording is available here:

<https://livestream.com/fpcjcmo/events/9560615/videos/218444198>



*Congratulations to our new Co-Moderators!*

Call it a "God Thing" but a favorite memory of mine was delivering the Family Food Boxes to the Festival of Sharing warehouse in September, 2016, after our PW-MUP Fall Gathering ... who knew that my fellow-deliverers, Mary and Shonda, would later serve as the co-moderators for our PW-MUP Coordinating Team? We are so blessed by their enthusiasm and willingness to serve in women's ministries in our presbytery! -Anne Schneider

*Co-Moderator*

**Shonda Galloway**

5160 Audrain Road 247  
Centralia, MO 65240  
Tel: (573)682-0061  
Email: [ChaplainShonda@gmail.com](mailto:ChaplainShonda@gmail.com)



*Co-Moderator*

**Mary Hoskins**

1334 Overhill Road  
Columbia, MO 65203  
Tel: (573) 864-3150  
Email: [llhoskins@mchsi.com](mailto:llhoskins@mchsi.com)



*Secretary*

**VOLUNTEER NEEDED!!**



*Treasurer*

**Ruth Thompson**

3400 W. Hwy 124  
Harrisburg, MO 65256  
Tel: (573) 499-1423  
Email: [rathompson7@socket.net](mailto:rathompson7@socket.net)



*Mission Opportunities Coordinator*

**Marcia Lake**

2410 Spruce Drive  
Columbia, MO 65202  
Tel: (573) 474-3494  
Email: [marcialake@gmail.com](mailto:marcialake@gmail.com)



*Newsletter/Communications*

**Anne Schneider**

5507 Old West Road  
Jefferson City, MO 65109  
Tel: (573) 893-2280  
Email: [akrsch@aol.com](mailto:akrsch@aol.com)

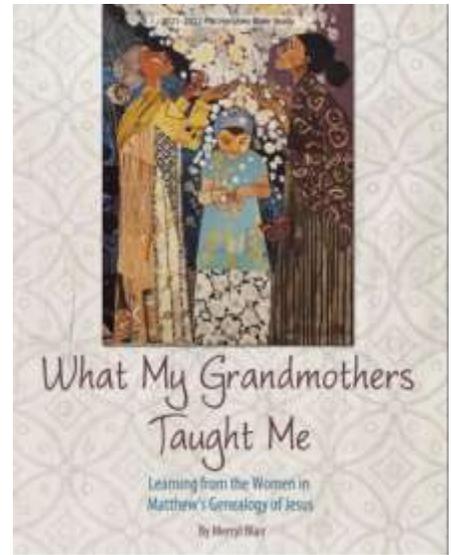


**Bible Study:** Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary—Matthew names these women for a reason. How might Jesus have heard the stories of his grandmothers; how do we? What might the stories of these women have added to his sense of identity, as part of a particular family in a particular time and place?

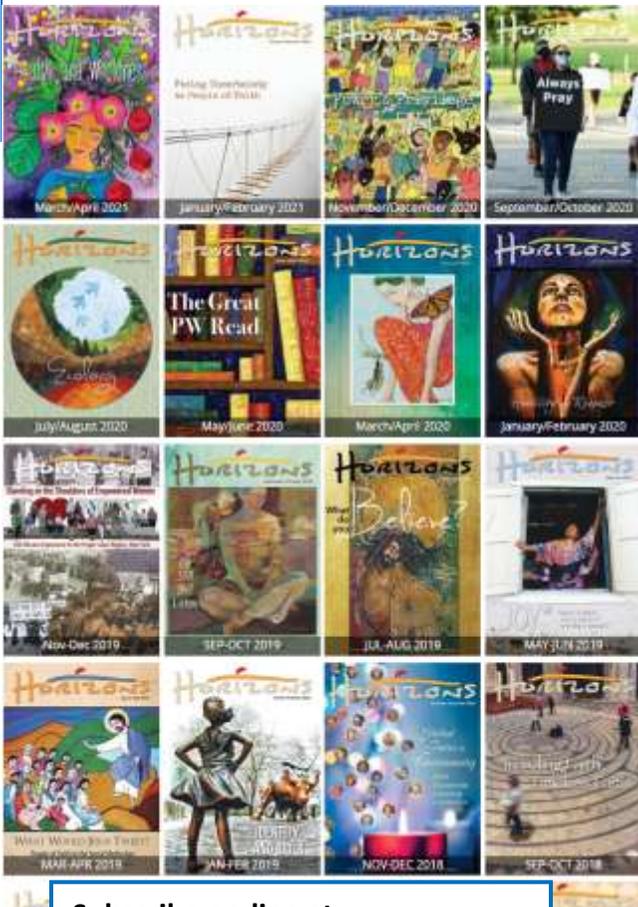
Explore Matthew 1 and this theme with Presbyterian Women in 2021–2022 in our next Horizons Bible Study, **What My Grandmother’s Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew’s Genealogy of Jesus.**

Bible study is the glue that holds Presbyterian Women together. It’s our history—PW celebrates more than 100 years of publishing studies and using them together! PW/Horizons Bible studies are prepared quite literally by and for Presbyterian women. Our Churchwide Coordinating Team selects the theme and author, PW circles and groups field test and provide feedback on first drafts, and then we look forward to studying together.

The PW Purpose calls Presbyterian Women to nurture faith through prayer and Bible study. PW/Horizons studies are written from within the Reformed tradition and strengthen the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).



**Gather a group and study together!**



**Horizons** is the magazine (and Bible study) by and for Presbyterian Women. It’s the resource for helping you explore where faith and life connect. Focusing on issues of faith—from the interplay between literature and theology to violence against women—*Horizons* gives you insights from women around the world and inspiration to live boldly.

Within the pages of *Horizons*, you will find mission stories, ideas for justice and peace work, information about Presbyterian Women and our denomination, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), devotions, Bible study resources (to support the annual PW/*Horizons* Bible study) and a short Bible study on the issue’s theme! *Horizons* is just for you because *Horizons* is about you and your sisters in faith, amazing Presbyterian Women!

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