



# THE CIRCUIT



**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MISSION STATEMENT:** *Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves: to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring, community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.*

## Moderator's Musings:

I decided to steal our Synod Moderator's musings for this my last moderator's message to you all. They say third times the charm, whatever that means. However, I'm finishing my third term as your Moderator. The first time was back in 2005, nearly 20 years ago. So I do have a lot of musings that I could tell you about.

The thing that I am most pleased about is that Homestead Presbytery is very much alive and well! We see other Presbyteries struggling to find women to continue the work started years and years ago by our mothers, grandmothers and friends. We will be electing a new slate of officers and will have nearly a full slate for 2024. That is wonderful and I thank all those who have willingly said YES to continuing the work of this Presbytery.

We have new plans for mission opportunities and exciting ideas to assist our work in social justice. In our pledge we say "support the mission of the church worldwide and to work for justice and peace". You will be hearing from Christy Abraham who will become our Justice and Peace Coordinator for the next year and Janice Stege from Lincoln Southern Heights who is our new Mission Coordinator.

Jane Holtzclaw is moving up as Vice Moderator. Her term as Coordinator of Literature & Resources, will be completed by another new member to our Coordinating Team, Vena Alesio, from Lincoln First. They are working on something new. Our Synod and Churchwide both offer online book studies so we hope to present one of our own for you to join in. You will be hearing more about this from Jane and Vena.

Lastly, I will be staying on the team as your Cluster Leader (North). I hope to enlist women throughout the Presbytery to assist in making calls to churches in their areas. Hopefully this will keep us better connected and aware of anything that is happening of importance to us.

It has been a great pleasure to be part of the Coordinating Team. I look forward to helping Teresa and Jane as they go forward with our work and mission. We will be meeting by zoom on October 28. Those who would like to join in person, will be meeting at Southern Heights Presbyterian Church. The gathering will begin at 10 AM. See you all then!

Blessings to you all, Joan Berglund, Moderator

## PW Hybrid Fall Gathering

*Theme: "Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very BOLD."  
1 Corinthians 3:12*

**Homestead Presbyterian Women  
Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
10:00 AM to 12:00 NOON**



*PW is uniquely BOLD*

**Plan to get your Presbyterian Women together in a group (or by yourself) and join us via Zoom**

**Or, if you are close to Lincoln, you are welcome to join in person at Southern Heights Presbyterian Church (5750 South 40<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln 68516)**

**There is no charge for this gathering, there will be complimentary coffee and treats available at Southern Heights**

**A zoom invitation will be sent out the week prior to the Gathering**



**PW of Homestead Presbytery Treasurer Report  
3rd Quarter 2023**



**INCOME:**

PWC Mission Pledge	\$462.50
PWS Mission Pledge	\$183.75
PWP Mission Pledge	\$513.75
Birthday Offering	\$1,610.00
Least Coin	\$81.81

**Income, Total** **\$2,851.81**

**EXPENSES:**

Churchwide PW	\$462.50
SLAP PW	\$183.75
Birthday Offering	\$1,610.00
Least Coin	\$81.81

**Expenses, Total** **\$2,338.06**

**Balance on hand 9/25/2023** **\$12,377.73**

**NOTES: January 28, 2023 Coordinating  
Team Meeting: Suggested division of PW  
Mission Pledge:**

**50% Churchwide**

**15% Synod of Lakes & Prairies (SLAP)**

**35% Homestead Presbytery**

**\$1,000 from Columbus Federated held  
(from 2022 \$2,000 donation)**

When making and sending checks to Presbyterian Women of Homestead Presbytery, please write **HPPW** in the **Pay to** line.

Include the PWC Remittance Form with your directions to where/what funds the single payment should be applied. (For example, you can write one check & send funds for Least Coin, Hunger, Birthday, Mission Pledge, etc).

I seem to be getting checks payable to me, personally & that causes issues with our Bank. Do you like the 'PW Thank you post card' that is returned with acknowledgement of funds? Should I continue that practice? I'm finally getting the hang of this PW officer responsibilities!!

*Maggie Horak, PWHP Treasurer  
5601 Barrington Park Dr.  
Lincoln, NE 68516-6201  
Email: [mmhlin@outlook.com](mailto:mmhlin@outlook.com)  
Phone 402-429-0523*

# Presbyterian Women in Congregation Remittance Form

Please remit quarterly payments to Homestead Presbyterian Women Treasurer  
**By March 10, June 10, September 10, December 10**

Name of Church \_\_\_\_\_  
PW Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_  
Address of PW Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Celebration of Mission through Women's Pledges

TOTAL MISSION SUPPORT REMITTED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (OR)  
Support of Mission of the Church Worldwide: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ suggest 50%  
Support of PW in Homestead Presbytery: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ suggest \*35%  
Support of PW in Synod of Lake & Prairies: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ suggest \*15%

### Celebration of Creative Ministries

\_\_\_\_\_ Birthday offering \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Thank offering \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Fellowship of the Least Coin \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Honorary Life Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Recognition / Memorial Gifts \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To honor who? / In memory of? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Other opportunity \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*Clearly specify other opportunity* \_\_\_\_\_

### Together in Service\*

\_\_\_\_\_ Together In Service \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL REMITTANCE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAIL YOUR **CHECK PAYABLE TO PWPH** WITH THIS FORM TO:

Maggie Horak, PWPH Treasurer  
5601 Barrington Park Drive  
Lincoln, NE 68516

Contact information – email [mmhlin@outlook.com](mailto:mmhlin@outlook.com) cell phone (402) 429-0523

\*Suggested split/division changed per PHHW CT 1/23/2023: please note if other split requested

*Thank you for supporting mission opportunities through Presbyterian Women!*

\*Note: Roma Development Project, International Medical Missionary, Congo Palm Development Project will be removed from Churchwide form in 2023.

Rev. 04/25/23



**PW of Homestead Presbytery**  
**Minutes Spring Gathering**  
**May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Homestead Presbyterian Women met for their Spring Gathering at Camp Calvin Crest, near Fremont, NE, starting on Friday evening, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. The theme was **God's Promises**, with the verse from Acts 13: 32-33 "We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus." Moderator Joan Berglund welcomed attendees for Friday evening. Rev. Teresa Bartlett said grace and a light dinner was provided by the Coordinating Team. Discussion followed with "I-stories" from Kathleen Keefer, Louise Van Poll, Rev. Kathleen Splitt, and Rev. Jane Holtzclaw. Ways of energizing PW was also discussed. Rev. Jane Holtzclaw closed the evening with prayer. Some attendees spent the night at the camp.

The Spring Gathering continued on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:30 AM with breakfast treats provided by the Coordinating Team and serving help from the women of Fremont. The Gathering was opened with music provided by Carol Clements. Moderator Joan Berglund welcomed everyone and lit the Christ candle. In keeping with the theme of **God's Promises**, the hymn "Standing on the Promises of God" was sung. Moderator Joan Berglund introduced guests and speakers and Synod Treasurer Terri Sherman introduced our Synod Moderator, Louise Van Poll.

Rev. Teresa Bartlett led us in worship and devotions based on the theme and entitled "The Presence, The Promise, The Power" and then the Rev. Jane Holtzclaw led us in communion.

Secretary Nancy Sloan completed Roll Call and we heard updates from the 15 churches in attendance. There were 38 people in attendance, including our guests and speakers.

Terri Sherman, Synod Treasurer and Rev. Erica Nelson, Stated Clerk Homestead Presbytery gave updates on the Homestead Presbytery. There will now be teams to do the work: Reconciliation and Trust, Congregational Networking, Ministries for Extraordinary Times, Companions for the Journey, Steering the Ship, and Permanent Judicial Commission. The new mission statement will be: The Mission of God calls us to: Empower Congregations, Connect Communities, and Equip the People of God.

Louise Van Poll, PW Synod Moderator shared comments on the future of Presbyterian Women and shared a video on her experiences as a Commissioner to General Assembly.

Stretch break with hymn singing and music provided by Carol Clements.

Nancy Sloan gave a slide program on her recent visit to Israel entitled "Jesus, God's Promises Fulfilled".

Lunch was served for all by Camp Calvin Crest.

After lunch, Maggie Horak showed a video “Presbyterian Women are Uniquely BOLD!” at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssOhLHhGMzk> . Another video is “2024 CWG Logo Reveal/Save the Date trailer” at <https://youtu.be/d83usM8HF4w> .

The business meeting then started with the Rev. Teresa Bartlett reviewing the proposed revisions to the Bylaws and Standing Rules. The revisions passed and will be posted on the Presbytery website.

Christy Abraham, Churchwide Search Committee gave an update on the 2024 Churchwide Gathering that will be held in St. Louis on August 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, with the theme “Do Everything in Love”. She also shared some delightful PW posters from the site [Layout 1 \(presbyterian women.org\)](https://www.layout1presbyterianwomen.org) .

PW Communications Coordinator Cheryl Scott gave an update on communications through The Circuit and email groups.

Treasurer Maggie Horak gave updates on our Mission Projects for the Spring Gathering. First, all of the many donations of personal hygiene products brought by the Gathering attendees will be donated to Poverty Impact Network, a nonprofit hygiene bank providing hygiene and personal care products to Lancaster County. Second, the offering collected will benefit Camp Calvin Crest.

Rev. Jane Holtzclaw gave an overview of the PW next Bible Study entitled **Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts**. It looks like a very interesting study with nine lessons on some of the encounters of Jesus Christ with various people and the miracles and lessons from those encounters.

Rev. Jane Holtzclaw gave an update on the Book List for PW and gave an overview of some key books recommended.

Rev. Kathleen Keefer gave an update on the Church Wide Gathering and talked about the Justice and Peace Book Club and recommended all PW check out the books on the PW website.

Teri Sherman, Synod Treasurer and past PW Moderator, performed the installation of Maggie Horak as Treasurer for the PW of Homestead Presbytery.

Glenna Haller gave an update on the Presbytery support of South Sudan Mission Network.

Moderator Joan Berglund gave the closing remarks and extinguished the Christ Candle and the Spring Gathering was adjourned at 2:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Sloan  
PWPH Secretary

## Mission and Social Justice Projects for the Fall and Winter Season

Do you ever feel overwhelmed about the amount of need in the world? Children are hungry and without winter coats, women are being abused and trafficked, people cannot afford their rent, and families have everything they own destroyed in a natural disaster. PW understands it can feel like it is all too much and we get paralyzed because we don't know where to begin. PW is here to help. We have put together a list of mission and social justice projects for each season, many of which are taken from the Presbyterian Women Justice and Peace Calendar. Of course, your PW group should always follow your heart on what your group wants to do. These are just suggestions to help you get started.

### FALL



**THANK OFFERING:** The Thank Offering began in 1888 when Eliza Clokey urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society. In the 135 years since Eliza first asked women to give a "thank offering to her Lord," more than 1,600 different projects in the United States and around the world have benefitted from grants funded by faithful and generous givers.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH:** October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. For one year, this equates to more than 10 million women and men. These statistics are staggering and heartbreaking. Please consider giving to the domestic violence shelter in your community. Below is the list of domestic violence shelters in Homestead Presbytery. They can always use cash donations, but you may want to call them and see what other specific items they are needing this fall.

## Domestic Violence Shelters

1. Center for Survivors (Columbus) 402-564-2155
2. Bright Horizons (Norfolk) 402-379-2026
3. Haven House (Wayne, South Sioux City) 402-375-5433
4. The Bridge (Fremont, Blair, West Point) 402-721-4340
5. Hope Crisis Center (Fairbury, Crete, Beatrice, Seward, York) 402-729-2570
6. Voices of Hope (Lincoln) 402-475-7273
7. Friendship Home (Lincoln) 402-434-6353
8. Project Response (Auburn, Nebraska City) 402-274-5092
- 9.

**NATIVE AMERICANS:** November is Native American Heritage Month. "Stitchers", a creative group of women from Southern Heights Presbyterian Church Lincoln who are passionate about serving others, have been donating winter hats and mittens to the Crow Creek Reservation in South Dakota. This year Stitchers are providing handmade hats and mittens for 64 Head Start students who attend pre-school on the reservation at Fort Thompson, SD. More details on how PW can be part of this mission outreach opportunity will be available at the PW Fall Gathering or call Janice Stege, 402-570-2192.

## WINTER



**ADVENT:** Around the Christmas season, you will see many opportunities to purchase a bag of groceries for your local food pantry, or to take a ornament off a giving tree to provide a family with needed Christmas gifts, food, or warm clothes. We encourage you to participate in these joyful opportunities to share our bounty with other members of our community.



**RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS:** February 12-18 is Random Acts of Kindness Week. Presbyterian women engage in random acts of kindness virtually every day! Here is a chance to do an act of kindness each day that week, some suggestions might be:

1. Send a handwritten card in the mail. With so many things being virtual, getting an actual paper, handwritten card in the mail means a great deal to people.
2. Surprise them with their favorite coffee or tea. You've all seen the Starbucks commercial, surprising someone with a warm drink is golden.
3. Send a random message asking how you can pray for them. Then follow up later letting them know you've been praying.
4. Send a text to the people in your small group or Bible study with an encouraging verse of Scripture.
5. Drop by your friend's house with a treat and note that it's just for them and to hide it from their kids.
6. Support other people in their small business ventures. Perhaps you know someone who makes bracelets, or candles or quilts as a small business. Offer support and encouragement that they may not find otherwise.
7. Make a random phone call to someone to tell them you're thinking about them and mention several specific things you appreciate about them.
8. Offer the gift of listening, either face-to-face or by phone. Ask an open-ended question like, "So what's going on with you?" Resist the urge to talk. Just listen.





# PW NewsBytes

News you can use from Presbyterian Women

## All the latest from PW Churchwide!

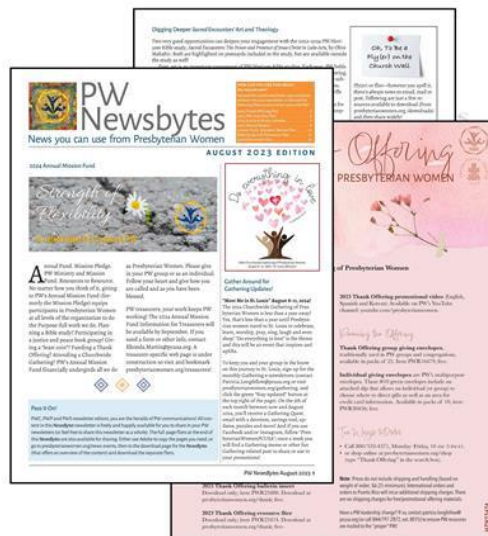
*PW NewsBytes* brims with “news you can use” from Presbyterian Women Churchwide! Just like the name suggests, *PW NewsBytes* is fully digital, which is good stewardship (of both finances and trees) and makes for easy sharing and a more connected PW community.

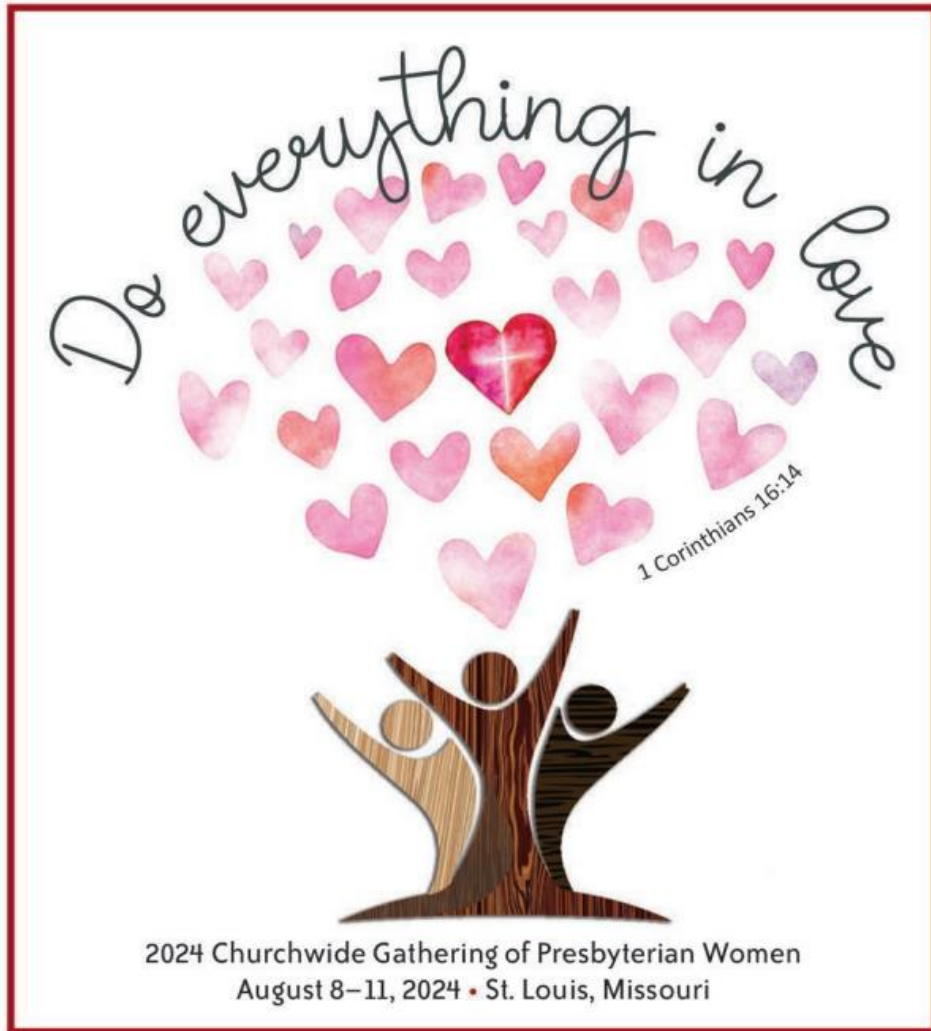
The August 2023 edition includes news you'll want to know and share about PW events, resources, opportunities and much more! (And PW newsletter editors or creators, you're welcome—encouraged, even!—to include any of these items in your newsletter.)

### Learn about

- why financially supporting PW's Annual Mission Fund is important, and how you can make a gift,
- how you can stay in-the-know about the 2024 PW Churchwide Gathering,
- various editions of and supports for the 2023–2024 PW/*Horizons* Bible study, *Sacred Encounters* by Olive Mahabir,
- justice and peace-related celebrations and observations to shape your advocacy,
- and more! [Enjoy \(and share\) the August 2023 PW NewsBytes!](https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/pw-newsbytes)

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/pw-newsbytes>





Save the date to gather in person and in faithful community at the 2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women,

**August 8-11, 2024**

Details to come!

**[presbyterianwomen.org/gathering](https://presbyterianwomen.org/gathering)**



**Cheryl Scott, Circuit Editor**  
**P.O. Box 28**  
**Hickman, NE 68372**

*Please forward this email to  
members of your PW or make copies  
and give to those in your PW group.*

*Looking forward to seeing you on  
Zoom Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at  
10am!*