



LOAVES & FISHES

NEWSLETTER FOR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
IN THE SYNOD OF THE SOUTHWEST

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR MODERATOR

Dear PW Sisters around the Synod of the Southwest,

I write this with a very full heart and prayers of thanksgiving for the work of PW across our Synod. Presbyterian Women have been very busy this fall. On September 30, the women in the Presbytery de Cristo held their fall gathering at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Tucson. We took a look at the 2023-24 *Horizons Bible study, Sacred Encounters, The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*. As we contemplated Jesus’ ministry and our call to share the love of Christ with our siblings living on the margins of society, we heard about *Youth on their Own*, a program supporting unsheltered youth to continue their education and move on with success. Then, on October 7 the women from the Presbytery of the Grand Canyon held their fall gathering at First Presbyterian Church in Mesa. International Peacemaker Angie Wuysang shared her vision of living in peace within a diverse community, with an emphasis on food ethics and environmental justice. We celebrated together in worship, completed hands-on mission activities, and shared current mission projects during the church roll call.

Along with the fall gatherings, our PW Synod of the Southwest also hosted the Presbyterian Women’s USA Mission Experience to the Border Region. There were 18 Presbyterian Women from all over the country who gathered for the purpose of learning, experiencing, and accompanying mission partners, who support migrants on their immigration journey. I was honored and blessed to be able to participate in this opportunity. Also representing our Synod was Dodie Weiland, Moderator of PWP Grand Canyon, and Bonnie Thompson, Search Committee Chair for PW Board of Directors. This was a 10-day trip that took us from Phoenix to Agua Prieta, Mexico to Tucson and back to Phoenix. We shared in joyful worship and fellowship at Central Presbyterian Church, Southside Presbyterian Church and with the women from PW of Lirio de los Valles Presbyterian Church in Agua Prieta. We visited both sides of the border wall, spent time at the Children’s Enrichment Program in Agua Prieta (a 2021 Thank Offering Grant recipient), participated in a prayer vigil for those who have perished crossing the desert in Cochise County, and connected with wonderful people and places, including mission partners of Frontera de Cristo and Casa Alitas (a migrant welcome center in Tucson). Each of these opportunities opened my eyes to the needs of our neighbors journeying with hope for a better life and also made me proud to be a Presbyterian Woman.

See MESSAGE on page 8

Presbyterian Women's USA Mission Experience to Arizona and the Border Region

October 13-23, 2023

By Bonnie Thompson, PW USA Mission Experience Participant

I am with you now; I will protect you everywhere you go (Gen. 28:15, CEB) Presbyterian Women in Synods across the US selected sixteen women and two staff members to participate in the mission adventure. Women from Wyoming, Maryland, New York, Illinois, Iowa, Arizona, Washington, Minnesota, Mississippi, Florida, and Kentucky participated. They began in Phoenix with orientations with Rekha Nair, an immigration attorney, several migrant aid groups, a simulation called Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with America's Native Peoples led Joan Fenton, and visits to Heard Museum and the Phoenix Botanical Gardens. On Sunday, we celebrated worship and a delightful lunch with our Indigenous Presbyterian sisters and brothers at Central Presbyterian Church. Orientation continued with hands on mission activities and additional information about different refugee experiences and agencies.

We then began to look forward to our journey to the border, Frontera de Cristo, with insights from Dr. Catherine May. As the delegation arrived at the border, Douglas, Arizona, we were warmly greeted by Reverend Mark Adams, Reverend Jocabed Gallegos, a Presbyterian Mission Co-worker, and at the historic Gadsden Hotel for a lunchtime feast. Observations then began at the border wall with information, discussion, and reflection, followed by a healing prayer vigil to acknowledge migrants who died crossing the stark desert.

Next, we crossed the US/Mexico border easily into Agua Prieta. The following day we visited Cafe Justo, and the Children's Enrichment Site (a Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering Grant recipient). Lastly, we prepared tamales with lessons from the Presbyterian women of Lirios de los Valles and a glorious worship service.

We were now ready to experience the border wall as migrants experience the thirty-foot steel and razor wired wall. Driving miles to a remote area on a ranch within a mile of the border wall, our hosts, Water for Life Ministry, took us to the tree of life, a large hickory tree with a water barrel beneath it. The mile long hot hike through the brutal desert to the wall showed us that the wall was eroded and easily climbed. Upon return to the tree, we celebrated with a delicious lunch provided by our hosts. Our day ended with discussions with migrants and dinner at the CAME Migrant Center. The next day, we concluded with a walk along the mural painted wall on the Agua Prieta, Mexico side of the border.

Crossing the border and driving to Tucson, Arizona, we met Dora Rodriguez to hear her personal story, the beginning of the sanctuary movement. The next day we toured Casa Alitas, a migrant welcoming center hosted by the Catholic Social Services. Following lunch, we met

with two volunteers at Southside Presbyterian Church to learn the history of the sanctuary movement at the church. We worshiped the next day at Southside Presbyterian Church, led by Reverend Alison Harrington. We celebrated lunch

at El Minuto restaurant in Tucson before the drive and departure in Phoenix the next day. ■

I am with you now; I will protect you everywhere you go

-Gen. 28:15, CEB



At the Wall in the Desert



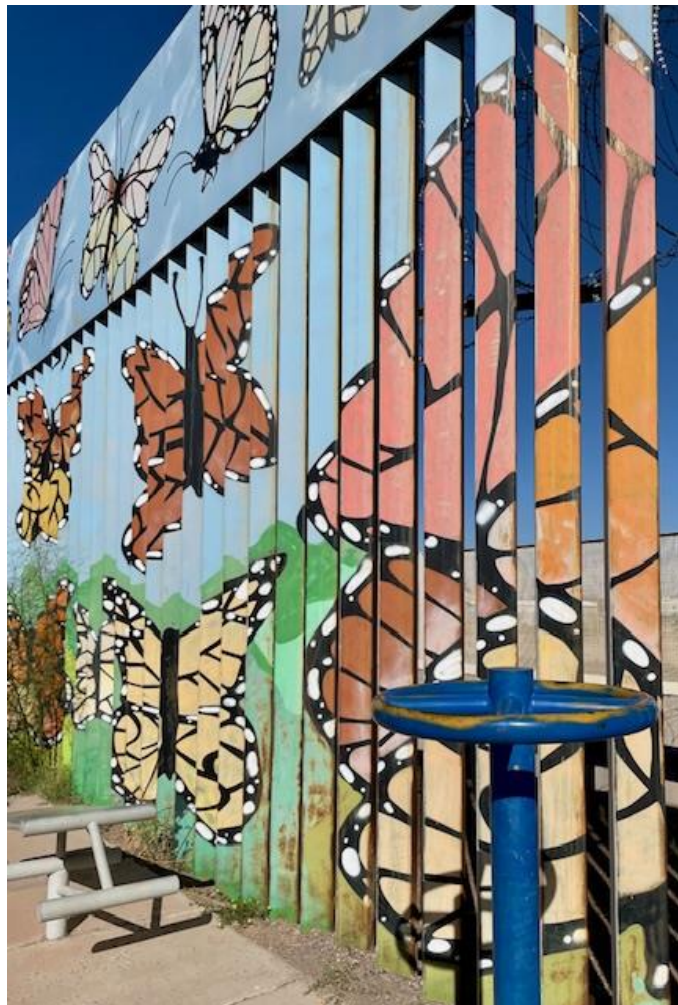
Chris Casanova and Bonnie Thompson at Casa Bonita, Agua Prieta, Mexico



Children's Enrichment Ministry in Agua Prieta



Dodie Weiland making Tamales with Presbyterian Women from Lirios de los Valles Presbyterian Church in Agua Prieta



The Painted Wall in Agua Prieta

Suggested Books:

Infinite Country. Touches on separated families, discrimination, immigration raids, impact on children.

The Death and Life of Aida Hernandez. Biography of a woman born in Agua Prieta, Mexico, and raised in Douglas, AZ.

Solito: A Memoir by Javier Zamora. Memoir of young man who came to the United States unaccompanied from El Salvador.

The God Who Sees: Immigrants, the Bible, and the Journey to Belong. Story of a family's migration from Guatemala to the U.S. with stories of refugees in Scripture.

USAME and What It Meant to Me

By **Dodie Weiland**

PW USA Mission Experience Participant

It was wonderful for our Synod to host this year's PW USA Mission Experience that highlighted Arizona and the Border Region. I was so proud to have played a small part, with the help of others, to welcome PW Synod representatives from around the nation to Phoenix and to learn with them greater detail on the history and status of both Native American and Migration issues. I want to personally thank:

Joan Fenton – for leading the Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change workshop educating and emphasizing working toward right relationship with Native Peoples. If your PW or church group has not completed this exercise, I strongly recommend it!

Rev. Martha Sadongei for graciously inviting this group to share worship and fellowship at Central Presbyterian Church on Sunday, October 15, and

Gina Enos for hosting a wonderful lunch of flat bread tacos and fellowship that everyone loved!



Central Presbyterian Church, Phoenix

Holly Herman and Selena Keesecker for helping me organize expert guest speakers and projects for a busy but impactful day of education and hands on ministry service on Monday, October 16th . We learned more on immigration history and policy (spoiler alert: this is not a political issue but a humanitarian crisis! Both parties have contributed and continue failed policies and procedures.) We met and heard from asylee experiences, and organizations that legally support humanitarian needs like Lutheran Social Services of Phoenix, Centro de Esperanza in Ajo, AZ, and SheltersforHope.com Sonyta, Sonoro MX. They gave us many ideas on how

we can ALL do something to help as God uses each of us in unique ways.

This 10-day Mission Experience was far too impactful for me to go into detail in this short article. What I do know is that Chris Casanova, Bonnie Thompson, and I would love to work with all of you in this Synod to explore your PW interests and questions, customizing presentations to meet your needs and sharing so much more.

With Christmas approaching let me share just one example of something that may interest your PW. We all support children's education and help for those who want to remain in their home country (as most everyone does). In Aqua Prieta we visited the Children's Enrichment Ministry (CEM) who were the recipients of the 2021 PW Birthday Offering. We brought minor gifts, all we could fit in our van, in hopes that we could brighten a child's day. We learned how they serve children and families that live permanently in the Aqua Prieta area. These children go to school only half of the day as the schools are overcrowded and facilities limited. The rest of the day they would be left on their own were it not for CEM that offers both morning and afternoon sessions, feeding each group. CEM offers a Pastor for counseling and spiritual guidance. Volunteers from Frontera de Cristo visit to teach English.



They shared with us stories of the great need they see and how love can change the attitudes and learning capabilities of their children. We can all make a difference, even if it is to brighten just one child's day.

See USAME on page 5

USAME

Continued from page 4

They asked for prayers for health and healing of their children. When I asked for their top 3 wishes they requested more food for the children and families, learning and recreational materials, and a dream of creating scholarships for uniquely talented students to pursue their God given talents like music or art.

My church is sponsoring the Children's Enrichment Ministry "Amazon Wish List" where the center's administrator can post their needs and you can order items that are delivered directly to the Douglas, AZ Frontera de Cristo office.

Here is the link to the Amazon Wish List sponsored by Desert Palms Presbyterian Church in Sun City West. Anyone with this link can view and buy items from their own Amazon account and it will be delivered directly to Mark Adams in Douglas, AZ. He will distribute to the multiple CEM locations.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/34ZJHZATV0YLY?ref=cm_sw_em_r_un_un_Q3dURBGzg9hca

The Amazon Wish List can also be searched as "Public" (under Frontera de Cristo) or use the link to distribute within your churches. If you see the list in Spanish, select your Amazon account flash/option to "Translate Spanish to English".

Please help me spread the word...▪

A Personal Reflection of the Border Wall

By Chris Casanova, PW USA Mission Experience Participant

As I walked along the border wall, on both sides of the border, during our last day in the Douglas, Agua Prieta area, a series of opposing words came to me. I share with you, both a picture from the US side of the border and from the Mexican side of the border. This was a powerful, visual dichotomy.

PERSONAL REFLECTION continued

Douglas, Arizona, USA // Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico



Lonely /*/ Community

Dim /*/ Vibrant

Desolate /*/ Beauty

Destruction /*/ Creation

Ugly /*/ Beautiful

Dirty /*/ Clean

Wasteland /*/ Town

Death /*/ Life

Anger /*/ Joy

Pushing /*/ Reaching

Mean /*/ Kind

Empty /*/ Full

Isolation /*/ Integration

Cruel /*/ Caring

Hate /*/ Welcome

Empty /*/ Full

Us /*/ We

May the God of Hope hear our prayers ▪

Moderator Message from Dodie Weiland, PWP of Grand Canyon

“**Mission Possible**” 2023 Fall Gathering was an enormous success! Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of the Grand Canyon, you really made me proud at our recent Fall Gathering in Mesa on October 7, 2023. It is with great honor that I thank the many people who made this possible.

First Presbyterian Church of Mesa and Church of the Master in Mesa, you did an outstanding job of setting up the arrangements and planning for this major event. The food and fellowship were enjoyed by all!

Workshop Speakers – With 8 unique workshops and only 2 timeslots we may have been spread a little thin, but it was obvious that each presentation was well received by those participating and this variety reflected the diversity of minds, bodies, and hearts of our Presbyterian Women. Each speaker gave us their all with terrific preparation and such relevant topics to our “Mission Possible” theme, so we thank them all for helping to make this day a success.

PWP Coordinating Team - I thank my coordinating team, representing multiple churches in the area, for the organization and getting the word out to people to participate. We had over 110 participants, representing over 16 churches. Special thanks to Gina Enos for the land acknowledgement and arranging for native singers even with her very demanding schedule and to Natalie Horne for our new 2024 PWPGC Directory. Please contact Natalie if your PW did not pick up their Directory or if changes are needed as this document is very important to keep us connected.

YOU – None of this would mean anything if your PW had not participated! We were blessed with 4 generations of Presbyterian Women from one family in Leupp, as well as many of their local friends, Kayenta PW traveled the furthest to see us, our host church First Presbyterian Church of Mesa had the most attending and there were so many more highlights I cannot mention them all here. No one can do this type of work alone and you make me so proud that I can represent what you all do. Here in the Presbytery of the Grand Canyon, Presbyterian Women are strong. They are dedicated. They are caring and

giving, loving the opportunity to get together and to share their ideas and to join in the fellowship that is so important. So again, my great thanks to everyone who made October 7th possible and your gracious welcoming of our International Peacemaker from Indonesia, Rev. Angie Wuysang.

Let me now turn our attention to the future. I am happy to announce that we have a new PWPGC web site where events from past Gatherings and information on future events at the Churchwide, Synod, and Presbytery will be available. You will be able to contribute to this website communication by sharing pictures, videos, and upcoming PW events at your church.



Check the website out at:

[GC Presbyterian Women | GCDC
\(azpresbyteries.org\)](https://www.gcdcc.org/azpresbyteries.org)

OR

www.azpresbyteries.org

- Under Ministries select
- GC Presbyterian Women

Our theme for the PWPGC Spring Gathering—**now scheduled for April 13th, 2024**, at Orangewood Presbyterian Church—is “Staying Connected” so please do just that and stay connected with me, and your PWP Coordinating Team, on any way that we can better serve you!

With God’s good graces and mercy and wonder, I thank you again for all the work you are doing every day.

Your current. PWP Moderator of the Grand Canyon,

Dodie Weiland
dweiland1@gmail.com

PWP Grand Canyon Fall Gathering Photos

October 7, 2023 at Mesa First



From top left: Gila River Indian Community and Vah-ki O'odham Choir members Annette Stewart, Edna DeLowe, Permellia Rhodes, and Andrea Neal singing hymns in their native language; Carol Anderson, PW Moderator of host church Mesa First, International Peacemaker Rev. Angie Wuysang, Teri Conrad of First Light Fellowship, and Dodie Weiland, PWPGC Moderator help Angie celebrate her birthday; Moderator Dodie Weiland, Rev. David Hodgson, Pastor at Mesa First, and Rev. Angie Wuysang during worship; PW enjoying fellowship and lunch; Bridging the Generation Gap workshop lead by Stacia Holmes of Southminster Presbyterian; Stunning stained glass in Mesa First sanctuary; Four generations of Leupp Presbyterian Women: Peggy James, Faith Chatter, Lupita James, and Logan West; Ma Chhuangi Lal from Burma working toward ordination in our Presbytery with Robert Sanders from Lutheran Social Services; Moderator Dodie Weiland with Natalie Horne of University; Southminster women selling their beautiful jewelry crafts; Faith Presbyterian Women Patty Ensley, Judi Ives, and Gerri Crothers enjoying fellowship

Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Santa Fe

While we are small, we are mighty in the northern part of New Mexico. We have 11 churches with PWs participating in the PW Bible Study this year. In addition, women gave over \$10,000 since the beginning of 2022 to further the mission of PW, the Birthday and Thank Offering and Least Coin.

Currently, we have a group meeting together via zoom on the third Mondays of each month at 5:30, studying Sacred Encounters. If anyone would like to join us, please be in touch with Susan Keil Smith at susankeil1246@gmail.com. We would be glad to welcome any new friends. ■

Roots of Injustice—Seeds of Change The USAME Experience in 2023

By Joan Fenton

If you are curious about the blanket workshop, the Doctrine of Discovery, and about its history and the ongoing effects on native people, this gives you a glimpse of what you will experience: When we enter the area, we will hear flute music playing by world-renowned Navajo musician, R. Carlos Nakai. Our meeting space, covered with blankets, will have become Turtle Island, the name given by some native peoples to what is now called the United States. We will begin by meeting our four speakers: the European, the Historian, the Native American and the Narrator. Each speaker has a story to share; a part of our history to relate. We hear them speaking on Turtle Island, as they move us swiftly through 500 years of shared history, leaving us with a greater understanding of what we were and are, and perhaps planting seeds of ideas for improvement and change. At the end of the speakers' section, we will have time to discuss our reactions, and receive a seed of Mandan corn, the same corn that was grown in North Dakota Native communities.

We warmly invite you to Turtle Island, a place we've never been before, and one we will likely never forget. ■

For more information about the Roots of Injustice—Seeds of Change workshop, contact Joan Fenton at rifenton5@gmail.com

MESSAGE

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Bonnie, Dodie, and I would be happy to share our experience with your PW or church community. Please feel free to contact us for more information.

There are so many important mission activities happening around our Synod. I am overwhelmed with the love that is shared, the important work that is accomplished, and the relationships that are developed through the work of Presbyterian Women. The November/December issue of *Horizons Magazine* will highlight the USAME Mission Experience trip. Please take some time to read the reflections from the participants and celebrate in the work that you do in our Synod that supports the PC(USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's kin-dom.

With love and thanksgiving,

Chris Casanova

Moderator of PW in the Synod of the Southwest

A Mission of Love and Necessity: Feminine Hygiene Kits for Haitians

By Helen Griffin



Since 2018, many members and non-members of University Presbyterian Church in Tempe, AZ, have worked together to create feminine hygiene kits for distribution to impoverished girls and women through our mission

partners in Haiti, Harmony Ministries. These kits include reusable feminine hygiene supplies that assist young girls and women to better manage their menstrual periods. There were formerly no sustainable or affordable solutions for feminine hygiene for these girls and women. They had to stay at home during their periods and thus were precluded from going to school or engaging in work outside the home. The kits are distributed through Harmony Ministries along with a program on women's health education and health screenings. Harmony Ministries serves the poorest of the poor at four mission sites in Haiti—one in the poorest slums of Port-au-Prince and three rural communities that have no electricity or running water.

Pinnacle Peak Presbyterian Church in Scottsdale, AZ, offered us our initial introduction to this project and instruction in making the kits. We set a lofty goal of creating ten kits—which we barely met! Our numbers have grown from 10, to 25, to 50, to 80, to 100 twice, and the goal for this coming year is 200 kits.

Each complete kit contains two waterproof shields which hold the flannel pads (8 pads per kit), panties, soap, washcloth, use instruction and cycle tracking card, two Ziploc bags (the world's tiniest washing machine), all packed into a sewn drawstring bag. To meet this year's goal, we will need to supply or make:

- 1600 two-ply flannel pads
- 400 pairs of underwear
- 200 washcloths
- 200 small bars of soap



400-gallon size Ziploc bags

200 drawstring bags

We use donations of yards and yards of cotton fabric, money for flannel, washcloths, soap, serger thread, Ziploc bags, panties, and money for shipping costs. PW puts a portion of its mission budget toward this project. We continue to make wonderful use of a donated serger that has spread miles of thread. People have shared time and talent to prewash and press fabric; measure and cut cloth into various shapes and sizes; basting; sewing; serging; marking bags with exact measurements; assembling and sewing shields, bags, and pads; cutting and burning the ends of ribbons for the drawstring bags; and packing complete kits.

These are expensive to make and a lot of work. Yet, this is a labor of love. We shall continue!

This entire project has been filled with God moments! It takes the time, resources, and talents of so many people. Donated materials come from the most random sources. So many people have been involved. We started bringing sewing machines and sergers on campus to work together on the kits. But COVID-19 took away that option. People staying at home do need something meaningful to occupy their time. Our group organizer devised an assembly line procedure. The total kit making has been broken down into discrete tasks. Each task involves only one or up to ten actions, comes with a complete set of instructions, and is meted out according to the skills of the worker. Once one person completed a job, it was picked up and delivered to the next person in line. Now that COVID restrictions have lifted, we are still using a "work at home" model. The church is now the place to pick up tasks and drop off finished work. Training is joyfully provided as interest is shown.

You would think that just women would be involved. Oh, no! We have had a man use a jigsaw to cut a template for the shield pieces. One gentleman with Alzheimer's has become a loyal helper—as long as instructions are clearly provided. A high school student seeking service hours measured, cut and burned the ends of grosgrain ribbon to be drawstrings for the bags. A seven-year-old

See MISSION OF LOVE on page 10

MISSION OF LOVE

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boy working toward a Cub Scout ranking needed a mission project and connection with the church leader involved. His interview was eye-opening. He did a great job with measuring and cutting flannel and even machine sewed smaller flannel pieces to larger ones. Donations have come from as far away as Buffalo, NY. Our cotton scraps have moved on to become stuffing for dog beds in shelters and to a fabric recycling service that turns them into insulation. Our youth group helped stuff all components into the bags.

Pastor Luc and Ronide Deratus of Harmony Ministries in Haiti spoke with us on Sunday in April. We learned so much! Pastor Luc began sharing the history of how he felt his call, got seminary training, and returned to the poorest ghetto in Port-au-Prince to begin his ministry. What began with knocking on doors and getting two people to respond has grown into a main church that can seat 5000 and three satellite churches in the rural areas. The ministry includes worship as well as a medical clinic, primary schooling at all four sites, food and water assistance, feminine hygiene kit distributions, and much more.

From both, we learned volumes about the situation in Haiti. It is appallingly oppressive. Gangs, kidnappings, and corruption are very real concerns. The lack of safety keeps most people out of work and with very little access to the staples of life. No one has money. Prices are exorbitant. The mood is somber. Pastor Luc has kept the ministry going through hard work, creative and

resourceful thinking, the love of his people and total reliance on God. When asked if he saw any chance of improvement, his response was, “We must wait on God.”



Haitian Women receive feminine hygiene kits

Ronide spoke with humor about the feminine hygiene kits. The women LOVE them! The components are comfortable and do a better job than any other thing they have tried. The panties they receive with the kits have them rapturous with

delight. Traditional supplies for one week would be about \$50. No one can afford this. The kits are a much better option. Distribution day for the feminine hygiene kits bring in more eager women than there are kits. It turns out that only UPC and a group in Scottsdale are making the kits for Harmony Ministries. Our continued participation in this activity is very much needed.

Major Takeaways:

God’s work is truly happening all over the earth.

God’s plan connects us into a kinship with some very extraordinary people.

God’s strength and omnipresence support people in dire situations.

Even in the worst of situations, humor can abound.

We could make 1000 feminine hygiene kits per year and maybe begin to meet the need in Haiti.

Pastor Luc and Ronide are fabulous people—and people of God. ■



Sunday Worship



Ronida Deratus and Pastor Luc of Harmony Ministries in Haiti

Taking on Domestic Violence



You sense there is a problem in someone's relationship, but what can you do?

Ask questions such as these: Do you feel safe at home? Are you ever scared of your partner? Does he/she put you down, call you names, hit or push you? Does he keep you from doing things you want to do? If she is reluctant to answer, tell her you will talk or help when she is ready. These questions are appropriate to ask of teens and elderly persons also.

Now what? Your positive actions will open the door to future opportunities for her.

1. Believe her! She may have few people who do.
2. Reassure her that abuse is not God's will, and that she doesn't deserve it. Encourage her to think about making a safety plan, putting aside documents, money, and other essentials in a safe location.
3. Keep your conversations with her confidential.
4. At all times, respect her decisions, even if you disagree with them. What she does is aimed at keeping her safe.
5. Remind yourself that there is usually a lag between the time a victim receives information and the time she feels ready to act on it. The moment that she leaves is the most dangerous and possible lethal for her, and for children, if any.

DO NOT talk to her partner- Talking with him will endanger her. Don't tell her she must leave him immediately. NEVER recommend couples' counseling. Don't blame her or encourage her to return to her partner.

More Now What?

Do you feel your congregation, session, deacons, and pastor are supportive of victims through worship sermons, education and other actions meant to convey compassion and accountability to abusers? Are teens offered classes in healthy dating relationships? Is your church a resource toward achieving healthy relationships for all ages? Are elderly, home-bound members visited with a plan to discern if elder abuse or neglect is happening?

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 800-799-7233. Arizona Coalition: 602-279-2900. Contact Joan Fenton: email rifenton5@gmail.com to plan workshops.

A Lament for the People of Israel and Palestine

By Rev. Beverly Phillips

Written October 2023

*Oh, God of Love and Mercy and Justice,
You must be crying!
Your beloved children,
Palestinians and Israelis,
Are killing each other.
Continuing to kill and brutalize each other.
It isn't anything new but it is so brutal.
What a word "brutal"
Synonym for brutal may be savage.
Why? Why? Why?
Oh, God of Love and Mercy and Justice,
You must be crying!*





2024 Book Discussion Group

JUSTICE and PEACE

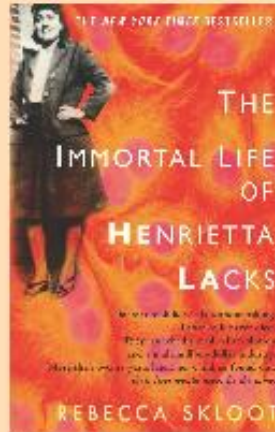
- DISCUSS THE BOOKS WITH OTHERS VIA ZOOM
 - The J&P Book Discussion Group is open to all!
- DISCUSSION GROUP MEETS EVERY OTHER MONTH
 - Read and discuss any or all books that appeal to you. Registration will be needed to join the discussion on Zoom.
- RECEIVE STUDY GUIDES TO INFORM YOUR READING
 - Questions for discussion or reflection will be sent with your registration confirmation.



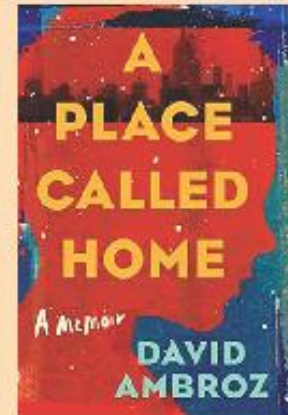
To register, scan the QR code with your smart phone or go to presbyterianwomen.org/justice.

Reading Selections (6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Eastern Time)

JANUARY 8



JULY 8



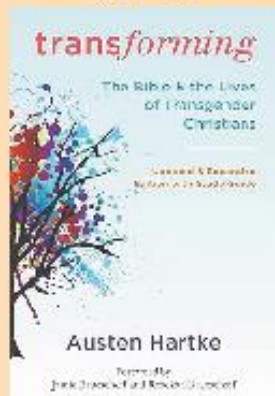
MARCH 11



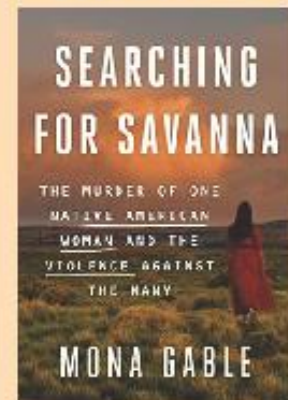
SEPTEMBER 9



MAY 13



NOVEMBER 11



Selections are recommended by the Justice & Peace Committee of PW's Board of Directors.



Presbyterian Women's ***Build a Bouquet FUNdraiser*** celebrates individuals and ministries that help Presbyterian Women bloom in many spectacular ways! Honor that special person (or two or three!) who has played a significant role in your life—through nurture, friendship, support, or care—with a virtual bouquet that will build Presbyterian Women's Annual Mission Fund, the soil from which every PW ministry grows.

After you give online, you'll receive a link to several floral cards that can be downloaded or emailed as a symbol of your gift.

Visit presbyterianwomen.org/bouquet to learn more.

PW Essentials: A Guide for PW Groups (2023 edition)

SKU: PWR23120

There are as many ways to live out the PW Purpose as there are Presbyterian women to live it. *PW Essentials*, PW's newest downloadable resource, provides a framework to help answer the question, "How do you PW?" The world gives us choices for how to live and serve, Presbyterian Women gives women of faith opportunities to explore these choices as we come together for discussion, discernment, and creating bonds of community, compassion, and love.

PW Essentials encourages faithful flexibility with leader support for mission (PW Purpose), structure of PW, relationships, giving, mission, and more! PW in the Congregation will appreciate pages that explore PWC's relationship to the session. (PW treasurers and Celebration Giving representatives, the *PW Manual: A Guide for Treasurers* is also available as a free download.)

Available for free download at <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/product/pw-essentials-2023-edition/presbyterianwomen.org>.

Presbyterian Women ESSENTIALS



A Guide for PW Groups
2023 edition



2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women

August 8-11, 2024 • St. Louis, Missouri

Welcome to the Gathering Quest, a Joyful Journey to PW Community and Celebration

"Do everything in love," based on 1 Cor. 16:13–14 (NIV), is the theme for the 2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women. ("Do everything in love" could be considered the foundation of our PW Purpose!) For the next 9 months, you will receive, in your inbox, a Gathering newsletter like this one! Each newsletter will provide content that matters—updates, a devotional reflection, promotional materials, answers to questions, and lots of fun—all about the CWG!

Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering (CWG) is celebrated every three years! In 2024, the CWG will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, August 8–11. Plenary and large-group sessions will be held at the America's Center Convention Complex. Gathering attendees will receive a special conference rate for hotel rooms at the Marriott St. Louis Grand (across the street from the America's Center), which will house other Gathering programming and opportunities (i.e., shopping and dining!). Save these dates, share these dates, and plan to joyfully join Presbyterian Women in an exciting, faith-filled time of renewal, connection, and fun. An online option will be available, as well, with a select menu of options. Gathering registration opens March 2024.

Visit presbyterianwomen.org/gathering for full details. And don't forget to share your enthusiasm for the Gathering on social media! #PWGathering #2024ChurchwideGathering

Reflections of Love

Carol Winkler, 2024 CWG Registration Group Chair

Our gathering theme from 1 Corinthians reminds us that our daily actions can help make our world a better place. When an opportunity comes along that invites us to open our hearts, get involved, and make a difference we can say, "Yes!" and participate in love. Family, friends and even strangers may try our patience. How we respond to these challenges is important. When we face challenges in our daily lives, God expects us to "Do everything in love."

About 5 years ago a friend shared a message with me:

"The truth is every day we have the opportunity to make a difference! What we do, what we say; the ways we spend our money, how we open our hearts to our new and old neighbors—all this can make a difference in the world. The truth is, we have the responsibility to make a difference! God expects that of us, even as God has expected women to 'make a difference' since time began."

This message has impacted my choices in infinite ways.

I printed this message and posted it where I can read it throughout the day. It might help you to do the same. You could put it on a bathroom mirror, a refrigerator, a door you use when you leave and enter your home, or on the dash of your car or your computer as you log on. Ask yourself at the end of the day, "Did I make a difference today and did I do it in love?"

Come, join your sisters at the Churchwide Gathering, for the opportunity to meet new friends and renew friendships, laugh, pray, sing, learn and be inspired in faith as you continue your journey to make a difference in love and answer God's call for a better world.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE PRESBYTERY OF GRAND CANYON

Staying Connected

SPRING GATHERING

APRIL 13, 2024, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
ORANGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"For just as each of us has one body with many members,
and these members do not all have the same function, so
in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each
member belongs to all the others."

-Romans 12:4-5



Join us in person or on-line at
Orangewood Presbyterian Church
7321 North 10th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85020

Look for registration forms and an information flyer for the
PWPGC Spring Gathering in your e-mail in January! Hope to
see you there!

Presbyterian Women

in the Presbytery de Cristo

Spring Gathering

Saturday, April 27th, 2024

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

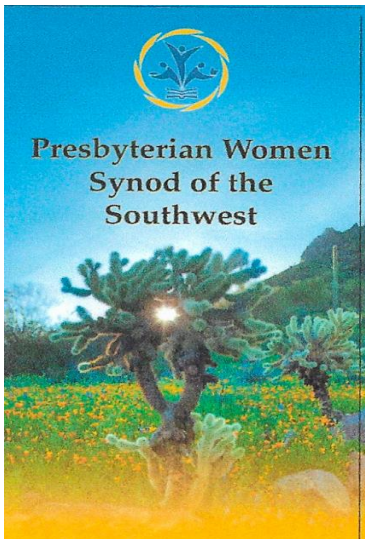
Valley Presbyterian Church

Green Valley, AZ

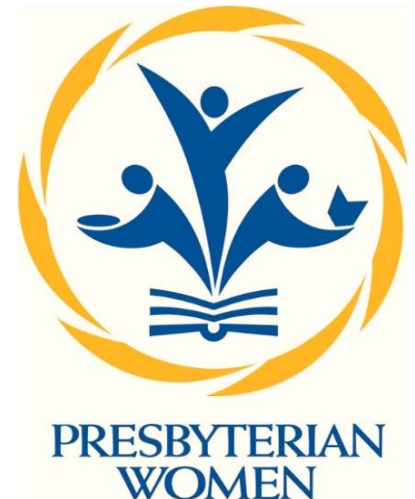
"Reflections on the October USAME
Trip to the Borderlands"

Save the Date!





SAVE THE DATE



Presbyterian Women
in the Synod of the Southwest
2025 Fall Gathering
October 24 – 26, 2025
Friday - Sunday

Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Rhashell Hunter
Author of the 2025-26 Horizons Bible Study
Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

Theme: Telling Our Stories
Sharing our personal stories builds compassion and empathy as we
grow together in faith.

Please mark your calendars now for our PWSSW Gathering
October 24 - 26, 2025 in Phoenix, Arizona
at the Franciscan Renewal Center