

Presbyterian Women

*in the Presbytery of Scioto Valley
Published Quarterly, Spring 2018*

Spring Gathering Walking in the Light

*To Build an Inclusive, Caring Community of Women
Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Scioto Valley
Will gather on Saturday, April 28, 2018
at Central College Presbyterian Church, Westerville, OH*

We can expect a great treat on April 28th. Our special guest, keynoter and workshop leader will be Susan Jackson-Dowd, Executive Director of Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA), Inc. Susan began working with the PC(USA)'s national staff in 1988 and, after work in other areas, began to work with PW. She has served PW in various capacities for 22 years. Focusing on our theme of "Walking in the Light", Susan's remarks are titled, "Out of Darkness, Light".

In addition to speaking to the ways in which Presbyterian Women have brought light into darkness for so many around the world, she will give us up-to-date news of PW today. Her doctorate is in leadership development, and she believes all Presbyterian women are leaders. During her workshop, "Presbyterian Women Lead the Way", she asks, "what leadership means for you personally, for Presbyterian Women, and for church in our quickly changing landscape" and will help us think about the skills we have and others we might develop.

Two additional workshops will be offered: "Let's Try Something New!" with Louise Davidson, 50-year member of Presbyterian Women who has served on every level and who often hasn't done it 'that way' before. And Evelyn Walker, Granville PW member and PWPSV secretary extraordinary will share the latest on "PW Offerings".

Other highlights of the day will be presentation of the Honorary Life Membership and the Women of Faith Awards. See page 9 for registration information.



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of Scioto Valley Coordinating Team

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Feel free to contact any of these
women about PW.

From the Moderator, Rebecca Tollefson



Three years ago when I began my journey as your moderator, I was captivated by this woman and her quote. Ms. Gbowee is a Liberian peace campaigner and Nobel Prize Winner.

Over the past three years I've reflected on our footprints. What kind of footprints have we made? Where have we helped

others? When were we doing justice, loving mercy and walking humbly with God? How have we responded to various situations in our country and world?

When I googled 'foot prints' I found the poem, "Footprints in the Sand"; then Footprints café, Footprints with Birkenstock, Dansko, Keen shoes; and there is even a footprints app for finding your kids. What kind of impact have we had the last 3 years?

We've heard from Mission co-workers, a young adult volunteer, a professor from OSU on outreach programs with justice and peace emphasis, our Churchwide Moderator. We engaged in a pivotal exercise in building an inclusive and caring community, were stretched by an overall view of two of the Horizons Bible Studies, were challenged to better understand the opioid crisis in Ohio, and captivated by speakers enlightening us on prison reentry.

How do we engage in civil discussions with one another when we disagree? What's out there for youth and education centers? Disasters in our country call for volunteers and we have had the opportunity to learn how we might better respond. And we have had the privilege of finding out about trips globally by women from our presbytery.

As we go into the rest of today and into next week, I would like to challenge you to be aware of your footprint. Are you making helpful, constructive and compassionate footsteps? Will you continue to be sensitive to those who need your footsteps in advocacy, seeking justice and peace. Go sisters, with courage, renewed faith in a God who is above all, and surrounds us with a never-failing love. It was been a privilege to serve you as moderator. Thanks be to God!

Rebecca

• Birthday Offering • Thank Offering • Ingatherings • Mission Pledge • Quilts for Kids • Mattresses for the Homeless • Beds for Kids • Prayer Shawls • Food Pantries • Chemo Caps • Socks • Coats • Clothing Closets • Meals for Homeless People • Christmas Baskets • Church World Service Blankets • Fellowship of the Least Coin Offerings • Emergency Assistance • Dinners for Homebound • Rides to Appointments for the Elderly • Garage Sales • Support for Mission Co-workers • and much more!

From the Vice Moderator for Studies and Spiritual Development, Juliana Boamah-Acheampong

Brighten the Corner Wherever You Are

The International Day of Women celebrated on March 8th reminded me of an article I read about the 1st African woman Patricia Mawuli Porter, a Ghanaian, who is trained and built Rotax aircraft engines.

Patricia, at 21 years old in 2007, decided to break into the “boy’s club” in Ghana’s flight industry. She was told that women are not permitted to join the flight industry. She was persistent and even offered her services for free. She was given a machete to clear trees and their trunks to get her mind off the yearning to be part of the “boy’s club”. She worked very hard at the task given to her.

Interestingly enough, the person who discouraged her from joining the “boy’s club” finally taught her how to fly planes at the same facility in 2009. Now she is the first woman in West Africa certified to build and maintain Rotax engines.

Patricia has been offered jobs from all over the world, but she decided to stay in Ghana and help train female pilots there. She has launched an academy called AV-Tech which teaches young Ghanaian girls. Patricia is building a hopeful community and encouraging other young girls not to give up on their dreams. Her achievements have given other young Ghanaian girls hope and inspired them to study harder. Women from other parts of the world including the United States go to Ghana to learn from her.

As PW, let us encourage our young women in our congregations to participate in PW quarterly meetings and this year’s upcoming Gathering scheduled from August 2-5 in Louisville, Kentucky. To learn more about Patricia Mawuli click on the link below:

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/10/08/world/africa/women-with-wings-female-pilots-making-history/index.html>

Juliana



From the Vice Moderator for Justice and Peace, Karen Hjelm

The Drug War, Mass Incarceration and Race Overview

With less than 5 percent of the world’s population but nearly 25 percent of its incarcerated population, the United States imprisons more people than any other nation in the world – largely due to the war on drugs. Misguided drug laws and harsh sentencing requirements have produced profoundly unequal outcomes for people of color. Although rates of drug use and sales are similar across racial and ethnic lines, black and Latino people are far more likely to be criminalized than white people.

Key Facts

The Drug War Drives Mass Incarceration and Racial Disparities in U.S. Judicial Systems

There were more than 1.5 million drug arrests in the U.S. in 2016. The vast majority – more than 80% – were for possession only.

People of color experience discrimination at every stage of the judicial system and are more likely to be stopped, searched, arrested, convicted, harshly sentenced and saddled with a lifelong criminal record. This is particularly the case for drug law violations.

Research shows that prosecutors are twice as likely to pursue a mandatory minimum sentence for black people as for white people charged with the same offense. Among people who received a mandatory minimum sentence in 2011, 38% were Latino and 31% were black.

Mass Incarceration Destroys Families

- 2.7 million children are growing up in U.S. households in which one or more parents are incarcerated. Two-thirds of these parents are incarcerated for nonviolent offenses, including a substantial proportion who are incarcerated for drug law violations.
- One in nine black children has an incarcerated parent, compared to one in 28 Latino children and one in 57 white children.

Collateral Consequences of Mass Incarceration

- Punishment for a drug law violation is not only meted out by the criminal justice system, but is also perpetuated by policies denying child custody, voting rights, employment, business loans, licensing, student aid, public housing and other public

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- assistance to people with criminal convictions.
- Such exclusions permanently relegate millions of Americans to second-class status, disproportionately people of color.
- One in 13 black people of voting age are denied the right to vote because of laws that disenfranchise people with felony convictions.
- "Nothing has contributed more to the systematic mass incarceration of people of color in the United States than the War on Drugs." - Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow* (2010)

Recommendations

- Decriminalize drug possession, removing a major cause of arrest and incarceration of primarily people of color, helping more people receive drug treatment and redirecting law enforcement resources to prevent serious and violent crime.
- Eliminate policies that result in disproportionate arrest and incarceration rates by changing police practices, rolling back harsh mandatory minimum sentences, and repealing sentencing disparities.
- End policies that exclude people with a record of arrest or conviction from key rights and opportunities. These include barriers to voting, employment, public housing and other public assistance, loans, financial aid and child custody.

Taken from:

<http://www.drugpolicy.org/resource/drug-war-mass-incarceration-and-race-englishspanish>

KAREN

Editor's note:

ACSWP and the 2018 General Assembly

The PC(USA)'s Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) received a mandate at the 2014 General Assembly to develop social witness policy on drugs. Following up, a statement, "Healing Before Punishment: Why the Presbyterian Church seeks to end the War on Drugs" was developed in a study and hearing process involving experts in Denver, El Paso, Huntington, WVA, and Oakland, CA. Received at the 2016 GA for study, it has been tested in a number of venues during the past 18 months. It will be submitted to General Assembly for consideration this summer.

From the Vice Moderator for Mission, Beth Malchus-Stafa

Why A+ Relationships are Important

Think back to high school or college or your workplace. How did you identify those relationships that are A+ and D-? What makes up an A+ relationship? Respect, Communications, Caring, Listening.....

As a church member, faith leader, Sunday School teacher, youth look to you in how to model these behaviors (SEARCH Institute <http://www.search-institute.org/research/developmental-assets>).

Positive relationships with youth create a safe learning environment; they also reinforce important ingredients for lifelong work and love relationships. Often, adults get stuck in how to begin or feel they don't have the skills to talk about dating violence and feel more comfortable referring to the minister or providing statistics: 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 7 boys will experience dating violence before they're 18; or put up a poster during February acknowledging Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month (<https://www.breakthecycle.org/>).

True, it is important that youth know the policies, the state law, statistics, and definitions; and a poster is great for raising awareness. However, it is more important that youth discuss and learn the skills to maintain healthy relationships that include: mutuality, affection, courage, consent, and accountability. These skills shouldn't be relegated to one class. Skills should be incorporated in: Sunday School, Youth Fellowship, Intergenerational Volunteering, or Sunday Sermon. They can also be incorporated with teachable moments.

A teachable moment is an unplanned opportunity that arises in the classroom or in the hallway where an adult has an ideal chance to offer insight. While adults can't stop youth from making hurtful comments or behavior in general, they can stop youth from making hurtful comments in their presence.

A teachable moment is an easy three step process: See it; Claim it; Stop it. See it means telling the youth and possibly those around that witness what

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the behavior was that you observed. Claim it means stating why it was offensive and possibly against your school's student code of conduct or classroom rules. Stop it means turning the situation around and suggesting different behaviors.

Think back to high school or college or your workplace, how did you learn about an A+ relationships? Maybe you didn't and had to learn through trial and error. Healthy relationships are hard work and like learning how to work the Pythagorean theorem: homework problems over a course of several nights and repeated over several years.

Beth

Contact Beth for some exercises for you to perfect the use of teachable moments.



From the Resource Liaison, Jane McKee

Women of Faith Awards

A highlight of the Spring Gathering each year is when we honor the women of our Presbytery who have been nominated by their respective churches as "Women of Faith".

In considering the nomination choices, we are reminded that we all possess God's gifts: some are called to be leaders and many more are called to be supportive in "a thousand" different ways. Faithful, dedicated and steadfast in their walk with God are terms that describe who we are looking for and we need your help in finding these special women. Because of this dynamic, we must prayerfully consider all the wonderful women that surround us—leaders and supportive individuals alike.

We invite you to send short, heartfelt letters of

recommendations describing the outstanding person you believe is deserving of the Women of Faith Award. Please send your short, but descriptive narrative to Jane McKee by March 30, 2018.

The Spring Gathering will be held at Central College Presbyterian Church on April 28, 2018 this year and we will honor the chosen nominees at that event. We thank you for participating in this program by nominating truly deserving Women of God. There have been over 100 women presented this Award in our Presbytery since 1997 and we would love to add someone from your church.

In Christ,

Jane

Jane McKee, Resource Liaison
189 Sunset Drive NE
Newark, OH 43055



Gatherings in February Focus on Justice and Peace

For the first time in many, many years, the Scioto Valley PW held two winter gatherings. Karen Henderson, Betty Kennedy and Evelyn Baker were the planners for the first one, held in Waverly at First Presbyterian Church. Choosing to address drug addiction, the women invited panelist to discuss the topic, "The Drug Epidemic: Hope Strength and Healing." The purpose of this Gathering was to find ways for our communities to reclaim lives affected by this drug epidemic.



Panelists Pam Johnson, Judge Paul Price, Dr. Terry Johnson



Rev. Allison Bauer

A Panel Presentation/Discussion was presented at the morning Plenary. More than 70 people attended the Gathering—over half of them were from the community. The panel included Pam Johnson

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(Executive Director of the Recovery Council of Pike County); Judge Paul Price (Judge of Pike County Court--which has been certified by the Ohio Supreme Court to provide a Specialized Drug Court Docket) and Dr. Terry Johnson (D.O. and state representative for Ohio's 90th House District in Southern Ohio).

Several churches in the Southern Ohio region joined together in providing refreshments and lunch. We all look forward to meeting together again—possibly for Bible Study.

The Rev. Allison Bauer, Pastor at Portsmouth Second Presbyterian, led us in worship as we finished our time together.

We are all affected by this epidemic. Those of us who attended this Gathering are now praying for discernment as to where God is leading us. We want to be a part of God's solution in both preventing and healing this drug epidemic.

The second gathering was held in Columbus at Brookwood Presbyterian Church. Planners Karen Hjelm, VM for Justice and Peace, Judy Oeder and Nancy Shuster invited Pat McBride, Moderator of PW in the Synod of the Covenant to speak about the latest USA Mission Experience. Pat represented the Synod of the Covenant PW as the women visited San Francisco to learn about immigration, trafficking and domestic violence and discover how social services in that city are addressing these problems.



Pat McBride



Hannah Estabrook

In the afternoon, Hannah Estabrook, who works with Columbus Judge Herbert on a special docket focusing on trafficking, was speaker. While trafficking has been a crime in the US for many years, women arrested for prostitution and related offenses were not recognized as being trafficked. Judge Herbert saw the same despair in the faces of these women as in victims of domestic violence. He created a special two-year program, CATCH Court (Change Attitudes to Change Habits) to help the women recover and even

work toward having records expunged. Hannah explained the program, the fact that women can elect it, the types of counseling offered, and the requirements. The women at Covenant Presbyterian Church take lunch to the courtroom once a month and often stay to observe. They are involved in other ways as needs arise.

Katie Kinnison, Associate Pastor at Covenant, works with the CATCH women in various capacities, and led the afternoon worship.

The day was designed to raise awareness of human trafficking as something that happens here, of the value of this special program and of an opportunity for women to be in mission to other women in Ohio.

The Birthday Offering 2018

Many of us are aware that the Birthday Offering is one of Presbyterian Women's two offerings. Received in the spring each year, it gives women a tangible way to celebrate the blessings in their lives. The Birthday Offering funds up to five projects each year, in amounts of \$100,000 to \$300,000 each. The recipients are selected before the offering is received, so grant amounts depend on the gifts received.

This year, three projects received funding through Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering. Your gift to the Birthday Offering will allow PW to provide funding to:

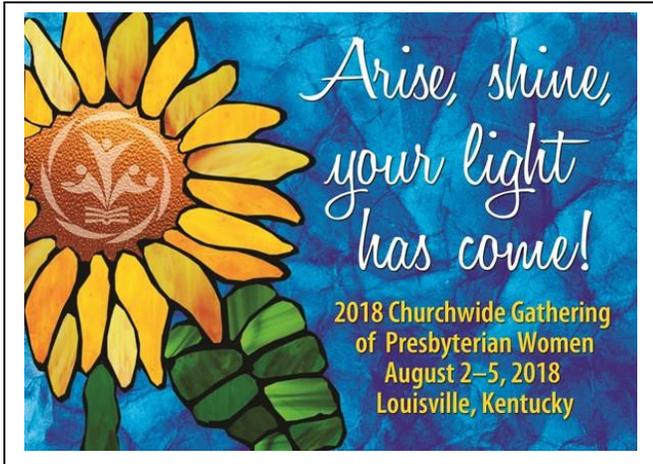
Cottage Village, a Tiny-house Community for Low-income Residents, Cottage Grove, Oregon

Cottage Village will provide quality, affordable housing and a safe, structured social community for individuals and families with low or very low incomes. This Birthday Offering grant will be used to help build 13 tiny houses and a central shared-use area that will serve as a compassionate and protective community for vulnerable rural citizens.

Village of Grace Center for Physical and Spiritual Health, Tegucigalpa, Honduras

This Birthday Offering grant will make it possible for the Presbytery of Honduras to purchase the Village of Grace Center for Physical and Spiritual Health near Tegucigalpa. Originally established by Presbyterian mission co-workers, the retreat center will be managed by Presbyterian women in Honduras. It will offer international hospitality for retreats, workshops

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Are you ready to make a multitude of Louisville memories?? Have you registered for the Churchwide Gathering? This is one amazing conference just for women, even those who do not have an active PW Circle in their churches. Registration is \$425 for four days of plenary sessions, fabulous speakers, music and wonderful worship, workshops (more than 40) and all sorts of opportunities to make new friends even some from around the world. Renew acquaintances with friends you may not have seen for years. Join the choir and sing amazing music. Shop for crafts and items from across the world. Bid on a wide variety of items in the silent auction!

Speaking of the Silent Auction – Did you know there was one?? Presbyterian Women are a very creative and talented group, and at each auction held at the Churchwide Gathering there have been many wonderful items on which to bid, basket of goodies, crafts of all sorts - sewn, knit, painted, hand-made pottery, banners, photography, you name it. Shop for yourself, your friends and your family and at the same time, support the Mission Pledge, PW’s Annual Fund. Our creative Secretary, Evelyn Walker, has contributed one of her beautiful paper bowls, this one made from PW’s 2017 Thank Offering Flyers. Just beautiful! What might you and your PW offer the auction? Items should be new and have a value of \$50. Details are in the registration booklet.



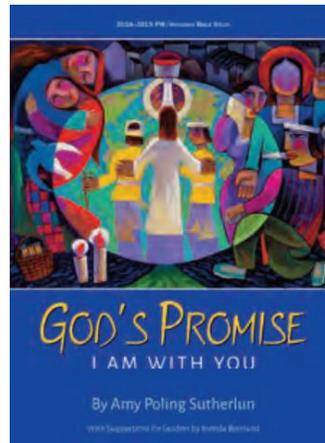
Introducing the 2018-2019 Horizons Bible Study

God’s Promise: I Am with You
By Amy Poling Sutherland
With Suggestions for Leaders by Brenda Bertrand

“I will be with you.”

“I am with you.”

These words—God’s words to God’s people—convey a profound truth for God’s people. God is with us. Throughout scripture, God promises to accompany each of us throughout our lives and the lives of generations before and after us.



“I will be with you.”

“I am with you.”

The 2018–2019 PW/*Horizons* Bible study, *God’s Promise: I Am with You*, takes readers on a journey through scripture to consider circumstances in which God articulated God’s promise of

presence. This study does not delve deeply into manifestations of God’s presence—the tabernacle, the ark of the covenant, manna, the Temple, pillars of cloud and fire—but rather on God’s actual articulation of God’s promise. We will see anew that God offered these words of profound comfort and commitment to individuals and communities from the time of the patriarchs to that of the prophets; from the judges to the kings; before, during, and after the exile; into the New Testament and beyond, to the end of the age. During these nine lessons, we will discover how God’s promise speaks to *our* circumstances, as individuals and as a community. We will be encouraged to know of God’s presence with us wherever we find ourselves on this life’s journey—through uncertainty and discouragement; during trials and times of powerlessness; when we seek God’s guidance and, yes, during our everyday lives. (Article from 2018 first Quarterly Newsletter for Presbyterian Women.)

Note: The author, Amy Poling Sutherland will speak in a plenary session and offer two workshops at the Churchwide Gathering, a great opportunity to meet the author.

TREASURER'S REPORT

March 14, 2018

BEGINNING BANK BALANCE:		\$ 6,097.00
INCOME/DEPOSITS		
4th QUARTER MISSION PLEDGE		4,384.35
4th QUARTER MISSION PLEDGE		7,894.37
WINTER GATHERING LUNCHESES (Waverly)		320.00
WINTER GATHERING LUNCHESES (Brookwood)		370.00
WINTER GATHERING OFFERING (Waverly)		68.00
WINTER GATHERING OFFERING (Brookwood)		239.20
DONATION		400.00
HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP		95.00
PW MATERIALS		23.00
TOTAL INCOME:		\$ 13,793.92
TOTAL ASSETS:		\$ 19,890.92
EXPENSES/CHECKS		
WINTER PACKET POSTAGE		58.50
WINTER NEWSLETTER PRINTING		97.05
WINTER GATHERING (Waverly)		688.00
WINTER GATHERING (Brookwood)		583.00
PW in the PC (USA) (1st Quarter)		
Mission Pledge	6,545.39	
Birthday Offering	250.00	
Thank Offering	297.41	
Least Coin	149.68	
Honorary Life Membership	190.00	
TOTAL PW 1st Quarter		\$ 9,532.48
Presbytery of Scioto Valley (1st Quarter)		818.18
Synod of the Covenant (1 st Quarter)		818.18
TOTAL EXPENSES:		\$ 12,595.39
CHECKBOOK BALANCE March 14, 2018		\$ 7,295.53

Respectfully submitted, *Nancy* Shuster, Treasurer

Please remember that 2nd Quarter Payments are due June 5, 2018

Birthday Offering, Continued from page 6

and mission teams from the PC(USA), Solar Under the Sun and Living Waters for the World.

The Dwelling Place, Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota

The Dwelling Place was established in 1998 to provide for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of women and their children following their escape from a violent partner. Transitional housing, education, food, clothing, trauma-informed support services, programming and mentoring for women are all part of the mission of The Dwelling Place. This Birthday Offering grant will help The Dwelling Place purchase a vacant lot where they will construct a multi-use building with spaces suitable for large and small group programming, one-on-one case management, safe living space and staff offices. With the additional building, The Dwelling Place will be able to serve even more women and children who are seeking safety. For promotional resources, go to:

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/2016-birthday-offering-order-form/>



PWPSV
will meet at
Central College
Presbyterian Church

975 S. Sunbury Road
Westerville, OH 43081-
9345

614-882-2347

Directions:

For a map with directions to Central College Presbyterian Church, please go to <http://www.ccpcc.us/index.php/i-am-new/directions>. The Church is north of Rte. 161 and east of the eastern I270 outerbelt around Columbus. From I270 take the Rte. 161 exit east and follow signs for Sunbury Road going north. The church is on the west side of Sunbury Road as you travel north.

<p>Registration Deadline: Friday, April 20, 2018 Note: Gathering is April 28, 2018 Cost per person is \$10.00</p>	<p>Names of those coming from your church</p>
	PLEASE PRINT
NAME _____	_____
HOME ADDRESS _____	_____
PHONE _____	_____
CHURCH _____	_____
Special dietary needs: ___ Vegetarian ___ Diabetic ___ Low Sodium _____ Allergies	Use other side for additional names
Total # coming _____	Total amount enclosed \$ _____
Please send registration to: Nancy Shuster, Registrar/Treasurer, 3660 Colonial Drive, Hilliard, Ohio 43026 or call her at 614-519-9755 or email her, nandshu@aol.com	(Make check payable to PWPSV)