



The Redstone Link Newsletter

Presbyterian Women
of
Redstone Presbytery

August 2026

Dear fellow Presbyterian Women,

As I write this letter to you, I am listening to the sounds of the night, with the crickets chirping that fall is on its way. I don't see those little crickets, but once I hear them, I know I will be journeying toward the next season, and I am not ready. I want summer to continue. One sign I've seen is that summer should get a speeding ticket to slow down.

Thinking about our PW of the Synod of the Trinity "Finding Joy in the Journey" retreat, it made me think of all the journeys we celebrate together. While we might celebrate or mourn the changing of the seasons, we also celebrate, for ourselves or with others, the birth of a child, the first day of school, graduation from kindergarten to university, the first day of work, engagements, marriages, friendships, long-term relationships and the passing of loved ones. While there may be joy in these journeys, they can also come with sadness and pain and regrets and brokenness and so much more. And we wonder, is the journey worthwhile or should we have taken a different path.

Yet, we are to find joy in everything. In Philippians 4:12-13, the Apostle Paul tells us "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength." So, our journey comes with strength from God. We are not alone. While we may have others traveling with us on these journeys, God gives us the strength to survive through our journey, because sometimes it's a survival battle rather than a joyous celebration. Ask yourself, where is God in my journey? You will realize he was with you all the time.

In the Call to Worship for morning worship on July 17th, we were told that through every season of this earthly life, gladness and sorrow and longing and praise move within us. Yet, there is joy amid pain, joy amid change, joy in the work of becoming and joy in the blessed stillness of waiting. The joy bestowed upon us is to love and be loved. Amazing words to live by and to carry us on our journey.

As you continue on your journey, may you be blessed through Christ, with Christ and in Christ. Amen.

Patricia Hart
Moderator Presbyterian Women



THE REDSTONE LINK

The purpose of "The Redstone Link" is to provide information on the activities of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Redstone and the issues that concern them individually and corporately.

If your PW has some creative and/or unique projects, programs or upcoming events, please send them to Linda Blick, Communications Coordinator, 1314 Weber Court, N. Huntingdon, PA 15642 or email: lhblick@gmail.com. Deadline for the next Newsletter is January 31, 2027.

Birthday Offering

Total given by the local churches of Redstone PW in 2026 is \$322 compared to last year's \$727. Your generosity is a blessing.

In order for a local PW or Women's Association to be listed as active on the PW in Redstone rolls, the Contingent Fund of \$1.50/person and the Synod Dues of \$22/group will be paid annually to the Treasurer, Sue Blank.

Web Addresses

www.redstonepresbyter one
Presbytery website. Go to Presbyterian Women's link
www.pwtrinity.org – PW in the Synod of the Trinity
website

www.presbyterianwomen.org - Churchwide
Presbyterian Women's website

**www.pcusa.org/marketplace - to order from
the Presbyterian Distribution Service**

**The Fall Gathering will be held at
West Newton United
Presbyterian Church
on Saturday,
November 7, 2026
9:00 – 1:00 w/lunch**



Officers of the 2026-2027 Coordinating Team of Redstone Presbyterian Women

Moderator: Patricia Hart- North Huntingdon,
New Hope

Vice-Moderator:

Secretary/Historian: Carolee Ackinclose-
Fayette City, Little Redstone

Communications Coordinator: Linda Blick-
West Newton UP

Treasurer: Rev. Sue Blank – N. Alex., Congruity PC

Mission Coordinator: Karol Elmore

Study & Action Co-Coord: Karol Elmore –
Greensburg, First PC

Study & Action Co-Coord: Rev. Sylvia Carlson,
Redstone Presbytery

Search: The Coordinating Team will do this as a
body.

Liaisons:

Phyllis Frye – New Alexandria, Congruity

Linda Blick – West Newton UP

Susan Nesti – Belle Vernon, Harmony

Florence Shearer - New Florence, Bethel

"CALLING WOMEN TO SERVE"

All offices will need to be filled by April 2027 for
the Coordinating Team of PW in Redstone
Presbytery.

Please contact Patricia Hart, Moderator,
at patriciaannhart777@gmail.com or
(724) 309-2456 if you can serve!

SAVE THE DATE





Redstone Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering
Saturday, November 7, 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m., and includes lunch
At the West Newton United Presbyterian Church,
300 E Main St., West Newton, PA



Introduction to the 2026-2027 Horizons Bible Study
United through Christ, Bound to Each Other: Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. By Rhonda Mawhood Lee
with the Rev. Donna Havrisko, Honorably Retired

We will hear from Jennifer Miller, CEO of the Westmoreland County Food Bank and the Mission Focus will be to bring items that will be given out at the Food Pantry at West Newton UPC, particularly **hygiene items or cleaning items**. (Of course, any non-perishable food item is also acceptable!)



Please also bring your contributions for the Synod Mission Project: **The Mulanje Mission College of Nursing and Midwifery (MMCNM)**, a member of the Christian Health Association of Malawi (CHAM), is owned by the Church of Central African Presbyterian (CCAP), Blantyre Synod. It was established in 1930 by Scottish Missionaries. ***Our one-time giving will provide the resources needed to purchase critical equipment for the current skills laboratory to ensure proper training. It allows students to gain hands-on experience in a simulated clinical environment.***

Please use the tear-off registration form below.

Make check payable to: PW of Redstone Presbytery; please mail your registration by Wednesday, October 28 so that the church can plan accordingly for the day.

Mail check and reservation slip to: **Rev. Susan Blank, PW Treasurer**
4068 Bushy Run Road, Jeannette, PA 15644
724-523-640

2026 Redstone PW Fall Gathering at the West Newton United Presbyterian Church

Church Name _____

Number of persons attending: _____ @ \$12.00 each = _____ amount enclosed

Contact Person: _____ Phone No. _____

List of Attendees: _____

Dietary Restrictions (such as gluten-free) _____

Please use the back if necessary

Directions to West Newton United Presbyterian Church
3rd & Main St., West Newton, PA 15089
(724) 872-7414 wnupc.org



From Greensburg and points east:

Take Rt. 30 West to Rt. 119 South to New Stanton. Follow I-70 West to Rt. 31 exit (West Newton). Go West on Rt. 31, approx. 5-7 mi. into West Newton. At bottom of steep hill (Main St.), church is on left, corner of 3rd & Main. Turn left on 3rd St., go to Vine St. Turn left on Vine, left on 4th. Parking lot is halfway up 4th St. Enter church from 3rd St. door.

From points south:

Take Rt. 51 north from Uniontown, passing Perryopolis and I-70/51 intersection, to Rt. 201 exit. Turn left onto Rt. 201 North. When Rt. 201 ends, continue on Rt. 136 east into West Newton, crossing the bridge and railroad tracks. Church is on the corner of 3rd & Main. Turn right onto 3rd street. Follow 3rd St. to Vine St., turn left on Vine, left on 4th St. Parking lot is halfway up 4th St. Enter church from 3rd St. door.

LOVE GIFT OFFERING



This unique offering is only given by PW in Redstone Presbytery to support mission trips of individuals or groups, particularly the youth, from Redstone Presbytery. It also supports a group attending the Youth Triennium.

All women in the local PW groups are asked to give generously once a year. The Love Gift is collected and dedicated at the Spring Retreat. This year's donation total for the Love gift is **\$1516**. Any member of Redstone Presbytery, who is going on a mission trip, individually or with a group, may apply for funding. The application can be downloaded from the PW link on the Redstone Presbytery's website, www.redstonepresbytery.org. Applications are to be submitted to The Moderator of Redstone PW.

**Please encourage groups from your church to apply for funding if
they are planning a trip.**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN - SYNOD OF THE TRINITY
Mission Project Application 2027

The Mission committee of the PW Synod encourages local churches to apply for funding for a mission project they have been supporting. The application is available on the PW link of the Redstone Presbytery website. [**www.redstonepresbytery.org**](http://www.redstonepresbytery.org)





TOGETHER IN SERVICE (MISSION OPPORTUNITIES)

COORDINATOR: Karol Elmore, 529 Perry Ave., Greensburg, PA 15601
724-771-6558; karol.elmore@gmail.com



MISSION FOCUS for FALL GATHERING at WEST NEWTON

The Host Church has selected **The Westmoreland Food Bank** as the Mission Focus. Please donate any items that can be given out at the Food Pantry at West Newton UPC, particularly **hygiene or cleaning items**.



Pine Springs Camp was thrilled with the large donation of S'mores ingredients at the PW Retreat on May 12, 2026. Many thanks to all who made this important part of camp a highlight for the campers!

TO ALL LOCAL MISSION COORDINATORS

The Mission Packet for 2026 is available on the PW link of the Redstone Presbytery website. The Together in Service **Project Report Form** is no longer being used and the report will not appear in the Yearbook Reports. We urge you to continue supporting your local missions as much as possible. **If you have an unusual or interesting mission story, please share it with us and we will print it in the Newsletter.**
WE REALLY WANT TO HEAR ABOUT ALL YOUR GOOD WORKS!!!!

2026 THANK OFFERING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

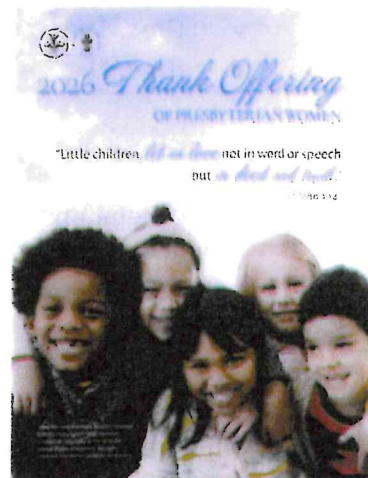
*"Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth."
1 John 3:18*

Resources to promote the Thank Offering

The 2026 Thank Offering Promotional Booklet is mailed to PW leaders and includes grant recipient summaries; a dedication service; a poster/placemat; and a promotional resource flier. Item PWR26475. Also available as a download in English, Korean, and Spanish at presbyterianwomen.org/thank. **Free**

Two ways to order: Call 800-533-4371,
Monday-Friday, 10 am – 5 pm

OR Shop online at presbyterianwomen.org/shop
(type "Thank Offering in the search box or search by item number.)





The 2026–2027 *Horizons* Bible Study
United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other:
Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians



Rhonda Mawhood Lee, author

Paul wrote at a time when Christians expected Jesus' imminent return; he challenged his friends to be ready when that day came. Two thousand years later, the church is still waiting.

*The Rev. Dr. Rhonda Mawhood Lee is an Episcopal priest, writer, and spiritual director. Rhonda has written for Horizons magazine and authored *Seek and You Will Find: Discovering a Practice of Prayer* (Forward Movement, 2021), and *Suicide and the Communion of Saints* (Eerdmans, 2025).*

The Bible Study is available for \$14.00. To place your order for Bible studies and other PW materials, call Presbyterian Distribution Service (PDS), 800/524-2612 or order online at www.pcusa.org/store. Prices do not include shipping and handling (10% of order total; \$5.25 minimum, \$65.00 maximum).



*Horizons is the magazine and Bible study for Presbyterian Women. It's how we stay connected! Your 1year subscription for \$24.95 will include **four** issues a year and an annual Bible study. Subscriptions must be received by April 1 to receive that year's Bible Study. Call 866/802-3635 or visit www.pwpcusahorizons.com*



REMINDERS FOR LEADERS

- ❖ Mission Goal Sheet for 2027. Please give prayerful attention to your commitment to the mission work of Presbyterian Women worldwide and return your Goal Sheet by the due date.
- ❖ Now is the time to plan for the **Thank Offering**. Details of the offering recipients and a Dedication service are in the **July/August Horizon** or at the website – https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/support-mission/thank-offering/
Information for ordering free promotional materials can be found on page 5 of this Newsletter.

❖ Important Dates

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|-------------|--|--|
| • Sept. 10: | 3 rd quarterly payment of Pledge due | |
| • Nov. 7: | Fall Gathering at West Newton UPC | |
| • Nov. 15: | Synod Mission Project Offering due. | (Send all payments and offerings to Sue Blank, |
| • Dec. 10: | Thank Offering due. | 4068 Bushy Run Road, |
| • Dec. 10: | 4 th quarterly payment of Pledge due. | Jeannette, PA 15) |
| • Dec. 10 | Fellowship of the Least Coin due. | |

SPRING RETREAT REVIEW

The Redstone PW Spring Retreat at Pine Springs was held on May 12, 2026. Moderator Patricia Hart welcomed the 41 women attending, representing 13 churches. The morning devotions were presented by Patricia Hart, Rev. Sylvia Carlson and Rev. Susan Blank. Rev. Robyn Weaver, a retired pastor from MN, relocated to Greensburg, as the Retreat Leader, presented a very interesting program on "Reclaiming Who We are During Challenging Times". Working in discussion groups, singing hymns and taking time to walk for introspection gave us moments to reflect on who we are and where we are going. A delicious lunch was served by Ellie and Greg Davis, Camp Managers. The mission focus was the ingredients for S'mores for the campers this summer. Many thanks for the large quantity donated.



Synod of the Trinity PW Mission Project 2026

Mulanje Mission College of Nursing and Midwifery (MMCNM), a member of the Christian Health Association of Malawi (CHAM), is owned by the Church of Central African Presbyterian (CCAP), Blantyre Synod. It was established in 1930 by Scottish Missionaries.



Our one time giving will provide the resources needed to purchase critical equipment for the current skills laboratory to ensure proper training. It allows students to gain hands – on experience in a simulated clinical environment.

The skills laboratory is a replica of the hospital where skills demonstration takes place, and students take time to perfect their nursing and midwifery skills before they are allocated to the hospitals.

The current skills laboratory equipment required by standards includes mannequins that students would use for various skills practice, such as wound dressing, bed bathing, feeding, cannulation, oxygenation, resuscitation, a pregnant mannequin for antenatal, labor delivery, and postpartum skills. A mannequin for neonatal care is also available.

Mortality rates in Sub – Saharan Africa are recently estimated at Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of 381 per 100,000 live births. The most common causes of these maternal deaths are preventable and are attributed to inequalities in access to quality health services. According to the World Bank report (2022), 82.02% of people in Malawi live in rural areas where access to quality health care is a challenge. <https://mbf.org/ccap-mulanje-college-of-health-sciences/>

All local Redstone PW's are encouraged to support this very worthy mission project. Help us to make a generous donation to this organization this fall.

PW Synod's collection deadline for Mission Projects is **December 1, 2026. Redstone PW requests that you bring your donation to the Fall Gathering on Nov.7, 2026 at West Newton UPC** or mail it to Sue Blank, Treasurer, 4068 Bushy Run Rd., Jeannette, PA 15644. Make **checks payable to Redstone PW**, write Synod Mission on memo line.



**Meal Packaging Event at
Community United Presbyterian Church
1640 Keystone Park Road, New Alexandria
October 3, 2026-10AM**

If you are planning to pack meals and/or want to order a t-shirt, we need to know by September 13th. Shirts cost \$15. Make all checks payable to Rise Against Hunger and mail to Judy Koontz, 570 Koontz Road, New Alexandria, PA 15670. You can contact Judy at 724-668-2843 or judykoontz@windstream.net

**You can also register and/or donate at
<https://act.riseagainsthunger.org/event/e796898>**

The PW Synod of the Trinity Gathering/Retreat was held in July at Antiochian Village. Patricia Hart and Rev. Sylvia Carlson attended.

“Finding Joy in the Journey” by Patricia Hart

The theme of the Synod of the Trinity Retreat for 2026 was “Finding Joy in the Journey.” It was a wonderful journey, with over 60 women attending, with many first-time attendees. As we gathered for a relaxing retreat of worship, speakers, and mission projects, it was so much more. We rejoiced that we were together in the name of Jesus Christ.

The retreat was a time of learning, rekindling old friendships, making new friendships, and rejoicing that being a Presbyterian Women is an awesome thing. We had meaningful book discussions, assembled many puzzles, and we learned about what it was like to attend the UN Commission on the Status of Women, and how to advocate for children in need.

We viewed a presentation about our current mission project, The Mulanje Mission College of Nursing and Midwifery. It was jaw dropping to realize this college is unequipped to educate its students with their current old and broken equipment, while they continue to make do so they can educate and train future nurses and midwives.

We laughed and cried with our speakers, Rev. CeCe Armstrong, Rev, Paula Cooper, and Pam Snyder, our PW Churchwide Moderator, plus listened to additional speakers that spoke during lunch and by Zoom. We definitely found joy in this wonderful retreat journey that has only just begun as we continue to bring joy to our lives and the lives of others.

“Finding Joy in the Journey” (Gal. 5:22)





Rev. Sylvia Carlson's reflection.

I attended the 2026 PW in the Synod of the Trinity gathering from July 19-21 at Antiochian Village. The theme was "Finding Joy in the Journey" and was a very well-orchestrated event. The keynote speaker was the Rev. CeCe Armstrong, Moderator of the 227th General Assembly. Her focus was the fruit of the Spirit, based on Galatians 5:22-26. I also appreciated the various opportunities for worship, led by Revs. Betsy McCormick, Paula Cooper, and Sharon Woomer.

I attended 2 workshops.

1. Bettie Stammerjohn attended the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. She spoke of CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, an international treaty promoting gender equality and protecting women's rights worldwide. CEDAW is a United Nations treaty adopted in 1979 and entered into force on 3 September 1981, often described as an international bill of rights for women. Its primary purpose is to eliminate discrimination against women in all areas of life, including political, economic, social, cultural, and civil fields. The convention defines discrimination against women as any distinction, exclusion, or restriction based on sex that impairs or nullifies the recognition, enjoyment, or exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with men. **The United States is just one of 5 nations that refuses to sign this.**

2. The Rev. Paula Cooper presented the Synod PW Mission project for 2026. Up until one year ago, Paula served as one of our PCUSA mission co-workers in Africa. The Mulanje Mission College of Nursing and Midwifery in Malawi is a educational center for people to be trained as nurses and midwives. Your contributions will help to purchase much needed updated equipment to use in their classrooms.

This gathering was a gift of time to enjoy the sisterhood of PW women from across the Synod and joyfully re-center yourself.