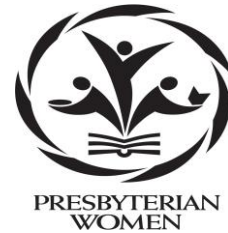


# KINDRED SPIRIT

Newsletter for Women of the Presbytery For  
Southern New Jersey  
SPRING EDITION 2025



Editor: Jenny Stark [jenny.lou.stark@gmail.com](mailto:jenny.lou.stark@gmail.com)

## PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER

### Message from our Moderator

Hello PW Sisters of the Presbytery For Southern New Jersey

Here is something that may be familiar to you all...

*PW Prayer- 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 and inclusive caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church USA and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.*

Your PW of the Presbytery Board meets throughout the year to uphold our commitment to the PW Prayer. We share ideas and activities and support one another in times where it is so vital to be part of a community. We work faithfully to share your financial contribution in the South Jersey Comm Currently unity and beyond.

Our Outreach team is currently contacting all of our churches to invite you to our April PW Gathering on Zoom (details are included in this issue of Kindred Spirit). Join us in April and we can share the inviting community of Presbyterian Women.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Carolyn Kramer

PW Moderator of the PFSJ

[carolynhkramer@comcast.net](mailto:carolynhkramer@comcast.net)

## Upcoming Events

**April 5<sup>th</sup> PWSJ Spring Program 10:00 – 12:00**

Zoom Event (See next page for details)

**March 9<sup>th</sup> 8:00 – 9:00 pm Synod Zoom Discussion: “Caring & Sharing: Justice & Peace**

**May 4<sup>th</sup> 8:00 – 9:00 pm: Synod Zoom Discussion: Horizon Bible Study Preview**

**April 26<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30 on Zoom PWSJ Board Meeting & Mission Discussion**

**This meeting is open to all—please get involved**

**Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm—RED Racial Equity Dialogue**

Zoom Event (See page 3)

**August 31<sup>st</sup> 2025—Deadline for next Kindred Spirit Newsletter!!**

**Get Connected. Stay Connected. Another PW Zoom Event.**

## Empowering Women. Making Hope Out of Clay.

“MudGirls Studios in Atlantic City, NJ transforms the lives of women facing adversity by offering them training, employment, and a pathway out of poverty. Every item sold represents a step toward self-sufficiency.

Clay is more than just art — it is a tool for personal and economic empowerment, helping women reshape their futures.”



MudGirls Studio’s founder, Dorrie Papademetriou, has always been passionate about two things: art and social change.

MudGirls Studio has empowered disadvantaged women through training and employment and helps women transition onto a pathway towards self-sufficiency and out of poverty using clay as our vehicle to change lives through their own creations and sales of functional art and aesthetic utilitarian objects. These women gain a source of long-term supplemental income along the way.

Join women from throughout our presbytery to learn about this local south Jersey program of hope and resiliency.

Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery For Southern NJ (PWPFNSJ)

Spring Gathering—April 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am

on Zoom (conversation starts at 9:45)

[Register For Zoom Meeting Here](#)

Questions or Help w/Zoom Contact Jenny @ [jenny.lou.stark@gmail.com](mailto:jenny.lou.stark@gmail.com)



## RACIAL EQUITY DIALOGUE (RED) TEAM

The intent of the Racial Equity Dialogue (RED) Team is to fulfill the Presbyterian Women purpose by “building an inclusive, caring community” that works for justice & peace using dialogue as a tool for building relationships among & between women from different racial-ethnic groups and backgrounds. The RED representatives for the Synod of the Northeast are Magdalene Lewis from the Presbytery for New York City and Donna Vize Wasik from the Presbytery for Southern New Jersey. Magdalene and Donna are excited and humbled to have the opportunity to gather with our PW siblings in building a RED community.

We held our first Synod wide RED Team meeting on Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. Activities included dialogues identifying cultural similarities & differences that influence our lives. We learned of the challenges faced by Presbyterian Women who are rebuilding and rejuvenating their fellowships after years of limited in person events. Attendees engaged in interactive exercise on the use of restorative communication to build healthy relationships in our families, schools, and community. Multiple resources including PW’s Justice & Peace Calendar, worship prayers, and ideas for promoting racial equity in worship and service activities were shared with attendees for use in their own communities.

**We invite all women in the Presbytery for Southern New Jersey to join us at our next RED team meeting scheduled for Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 2 P.M. via zoom. To register to participate please email Donna Wasik at [dvwasik@gmail.com](mailto:dvwasik@gmail.com) by May 10<sup>th</sup>.**

Magdalene and Donna are also available to attend Spring/Fall Gatherings or retreats and can facilitate interactive learning activities promoting racial-ethnic equity as we endeavor to lift all people up. Interested? Simply email Donna at [dvwasik@gmail.com](mailto:dvwasik@gmail.com)



### A PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE

Dear Lord, we come before you seeking the gifts of understanding  
Help us to embrace our differences and see the beauty in diversity

Grant us the wisdom to listen with open hearts

And grace to accept one another as we are

May your love guide our interactions and conversation  
fostering unity and compassion in our lives.

Amen

## **The Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering**

The Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering was born in 1922 when Hallie Paxson Winsborough challenged members of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church in the United States to give a penny for each year of her life as a "birthday gift." Hallie encouraged the women to offer "a penny for every year you have lived, and if that is a secret, bring a dollar!"

To learn more, visit [presbyterianwomen.org/birthday](http://presbyterianwomen.org/birthday).

## **Fellowship of the Least Coin Offering**

The Fellowship of the Least Coin has flourished as a global ecumenical women's prayer movement. The key to the movement's success is its simplicity. Individuals or groups may join by committing to pray for peace, justice, and reconciliation among families and communities, and worldwide. Each time a woman prays, she sets aside the least coin of her local currency as a symbol of the prayer. Women's national groups collect the coins and send them to the central FLC Fund c/o World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland. The prayers offered and the least coins collected support projects for women and children around the world. Learn more, visit [https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/flc\\_brochure.pdf](https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/flc_brochure.pdf)



### **FLC Prayer**

O loving Creator, we present ourselves in your divine presence to thank you for all the bountiful gifts of life. We are especially grateful for the Fellowship of the Least Coin which binds us together in love and forgiveness around the globe.

Free us from all doubts and prejudices, we pray. Inspire us to live in solidarity with humankind that we may know the joy of giving and receiving.

Dear God, accept this least coin 'symbol of love.' Make us mindful of the miracles of these coins. Let us honor your creation with love, as shown through the life, death and resurrection of your son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

# Church News—Sharing Ideas—Sharing Mission

Have a mission project you'd like to share? A special event or speaker? Send your articles to [pwpsfnj@gmail.com](mailto:pwpsfnj@gmail.com)

We want to hear from you!

## **Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery FOR Southern New Jersey**

If you'd like to learn more about PWPFSNJ mission work or participate in our next presbytery wide women's mission project please contact Michele Strobel, our mission chair. Contact: [kndlkai1@comcast.net](mailto:kndlkai1@comcast.net)

## **First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield**



The PW Quilters at First Presbyterian Church presented a wall hanging quilt to Dr. Marvin Lindsey for accepting our church's call, two years ago, to be our senior Pastor.

--Barb Sewall

## **Haddon Heights First Presbyterian**

The Friendship Circle of Haddon Heights First Presbyterian Church has been supporting the Military Support Group of New Jersey (MSGNJ) for several years. At our monthly meetings we collect requested items and financial donations and one of our members delivers the items for shipment.

The group is a non-profit organization started in 2004 by Karen Jennings, a Marine Mom, when her deployed son wrote to her that many of his fellow marines did not receive packages from home. The Group includes family members of deployed men and women of all branches of the military and veterans from Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf Wars.

They support our deployed troops by collecting small toiletry items, snacks, food, etc. and send care packages to our men and women currently serving overseas.

They also collect new Afghans, blankets and quilts for our injured military in hospitals. People in New Jersey also write letters and send cards.

The MSGNJ participates in local Veterans events, supports local Veterans Hospitals and Homes and attends Military Homecomings. Locally they supply groceries, clothing and school supplies to Military Families at Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst.

--Mary Jane Lange



The Fellowship Circle is selling packs of laundry sheets as a fundraiser on two Sundays. The sheets (made by Earth Breeze) are easy to use, have safe ingredients, and use recyclable cardboard instead of heavy plastic tubs that don't break down in our environment. This fundraiser supports our Bible study on "Let Justice Roll Down" with awareness of taking better care of our earth. The packs are \$20 each (for use in up to 60 loads), and Earth Breeze will donate ten laundry sheets to shelters & charities for each pack sold.

--Carole Leadbeater

## **First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown**

Greetings to our PW Sisters,

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown held its Winter Gathering on January 13th. Linda Jagiela, former Missions and Outreach Director at FPC, presented on her new workplace—Baker Industries. This nonprofit workforce development program serves 200 hard to employ adults each year. The



program partners with companies to provide cost effective outsourced labor solutions. These are real jobs at a warehouse in Malvern, Pa. In Kensington, Pa., Baker Industries partnered with a homeless shelter to provide the same opportunity for adults coming out of prison, battling substance abuse or struggling with house insecurity. The program is compelling and worthwhile for a Gathering. We collected many new cotton socks for the homeless "woods people" serviced by the Christian Caring Center in Pemberton Township.

Our service Circle provided sandwiches for the Christian Caring Center during code blue. Circle members also made dinners for Seeds of Hope-South Jersey Aftercare a program for men who have been released from prison.

Our Knitting Network created scarves, mittens, hats, premie blankets, bereavement sets and prayer shawls and blankets for those in need. They set up a mitten tree in our lobby and made many articles which helped to support our missions through a good will offering.



During 2024, we contributed to Good Counsel Home, Dawn's Place, and Little Children of the World. We fulfilled our commitment to PW of the Presbytery for Southern NJ., and collected for the Thank, Birthday and Least Coin Offerings.

\*\*\*Save the date-June 16th-FPC Spring Gathering. This is an evening meeting. Stay tuned for further information or check the FPC website. We are still in the planning stages but are contemplating a fun party!

We hope to connect with many of you at the PW Presbytery Spring Gathering!

Many blessings, Susan Masiko

## **Trinity Presbyterian Church in Cherry Hill**

To all of our Sisters in Christ the Presbytery,

Trinity's Presbyterian Women have many events coming up this spring.

Gifts of Women Sunday - March 2, 2025. We will be celebrating all the many ways the gifts of women enrich our lives during our regular worship service at 9:30 a.m. on March 2nd.

Sisterhood Across the World - We are Many, We are One - Trinity Women's Retreat - March 8th from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. This is an in-person retreat at Trinity. The speaker will be Rev. Janet Doyle from the Elmer Presbyterian Church. She has done a great deal of mission work in Central Asia, and we expect some interesting perspectives to be shared with us. Please make plans to join us for a day of prayer, fellowship, and food. Tickets cost \$10.00 and will be on sale during coffee hour through 3/8/25 or by contacting Willemijn Don-Goetz, [willemijn.don@gmail.com](mailto:willemijn.don@gmail.com).

Spring Gathering/Installation - May 13, 2023.

PW Mission Update - Did you know that PW is committed to service and mission work? In 2024, our circles and programs donated \$17,578 to mission projects. Additionally, our Mission Interpreters, Jan Caffrey and Michele Strobel, have been tracking our mission work. From 2013-2024, PW has donated \$134,807 to mission projects and charities.

PW Circles continue to meet in person, virtually, and in hybrid formats. We work on Bible studies, enjoy fellowship time together, and support many mission initiatives every month! It is truly amazing what we can do when we put our energy, love, and resources together.

--Barb Clarke & Willemijn Don-Goetz

Help us keep our PW in the Presbytery records up to date by notifying us if you have a new moderator or mission leader at your church. Anyone can subscribe to our newsletter.

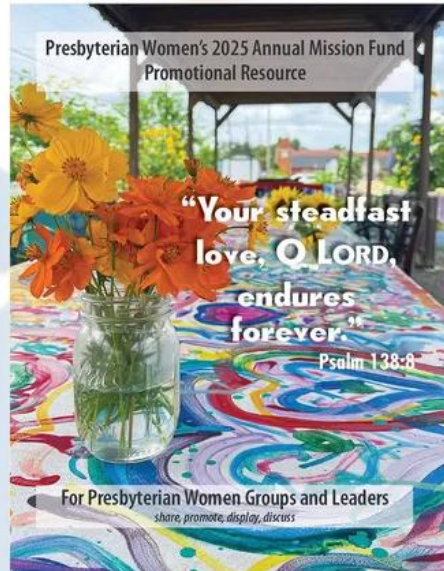
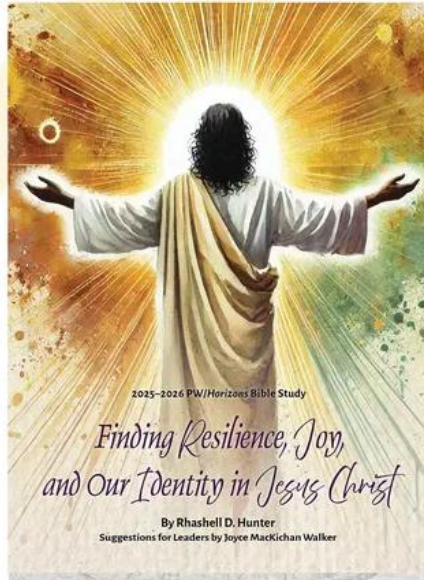
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## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

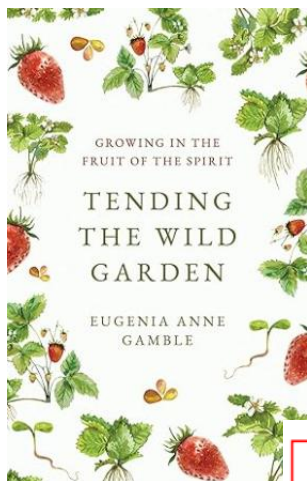






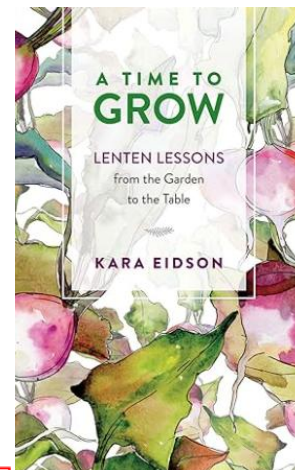
## Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast

PW Synod *Lighthouse Newsletter* [CLICK HERE](#)



**PW Synod Book Groups**—for more information and a Zoom link, contact Lisa [Lisa\\_a\\_gray@outlook.com](mailto:Lisa_a_gray@outlook.com) or Donna [donnarahmann@comcast.net](mailto:donnarahmann@comcast.net)

*A Time to Grow* will be Lenten Zoom Devotion/Study. And *Tending the Wild Garden* will pick up again after Easter.



### SAVE THE DATE! Horizon's Bible Study June 19-21, 2025 Stony Point Center

All attendees will stay in the Gilmor Sloane House and PW in the Presbytery of the Highlands will be offsetting some of the cost. Mark your calendar.

(If you would like to be notified of the specifics of the gathering, e-mail [jkmac3536@gmail.com](mailto:jkmac3536@gmail.com) to be put on the mailing list.)

### Knitting4Peace

**Our Vision:** Everyone lives in hope, comfort, and peace

**Our Mission:** Create and deliver handcrafted items to adults and children worldwide.

The organization, a partnership of Presbyterian Women, collects knitted or crocheted items to go everywhere to bring peace & comfort.

**Most-Needed Items:**

**Winter scarves (42" or longer, 6" or wider, or cowls).** Use a warm, not lacy, stitch pattern.

**Adult Hats (any size)**

**Blankets (Regular or baby)** Most helpful if warm rather than lacy stitch pattern.

**Where To Send:** By mail to 2600 N. Leyden St., Denver, CO 80207.

It is really good to include a donation for the further mailing of items, as well as contact information.

***There must be some knitters & crocheters out there! Youtube has lots of instruction videos. Get together - teach someone, teach a young woman. Don't let the art die!***

Knitting for Peace also now has retail merchandise for sale – tote bags, t-shirts, note cards, etc – just go to their website <https://www.knitting4peace.org>

2025–2026 PW/Horizons Bible Study

# *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*

By Rhashell D. Hunter

Suggestions for Leaders by Joyce MacKichan Walker

*I*n this Bible study, we will explore resilience. This is modeled for us by several biblical characters, gospel and epistle writers, as well as Jesus. So, what exactly is resilience?

*Resilience* is the ability to spring back into shape and to adapt well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, or stress—such as from family, relationships, health, workplace, and financial stressors. People who survive and thrive well in change are resilient.

The Bible study is also about joy. How do we find joy in a chaotic world? Christian joy may be different from how a lot of people define joy.

*Joy* is sometimes confused with happiness. For Christians, joy can occur while we are in the midst of difficult circumstances. Joy is the second fruit of the spirit, preceded by love and followed by peace. [Gal. 5:22-23] Trusting in God when we are in trying times can fill us with glorious joy and peace. We have joy in our suffering, because ultimately our joy is found in Jesus Christ.

We will also seek to rediscover our identity.

*Identity* is more than who we are or who we show ourselves to be. At its core, it points to our humanity. Our core identity is not found in our titles, our positions, our spouses, our partners, or our possessions. For Christians, our identity is found in Jesus Christ.

[From the Introduction to *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*]

Learn more about this  
Bible study by visiting  
[presbyterianwomen.org/bible-study/resilience](https://presbyterianwomen.org/bible-study/resilience)

