

THE LINKLETTER

Issue 28, December 2023



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Join us in this devotional practice, as led by Julie Gvillo, Place of Grace.

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Celebrating former GLPBY Stated Clerk Rev. Joy Myers as she retires.

PWGL 2023 Fall Gathering "Women of Faith"

Ann Schmid,
Co-editor, *The Linkletter*

On Saturday, October 21, 2023, women from churches all over the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy gathered at Faith Des Peres Presbyterian Church, Frontenac, Missouri. The theme of the gathering, "Women of Faith", celebrated various paths women follow on their individual journeys of faith. The gathering began with an energetic presentation by "Puppeteers for Jesus" by

Sullivan Presbyterian Church. The puppet play entitled, "Disciples", was based on the teachings of "The Great Commission," Matthew 28:19-20. A panel discussion followed with Rev. Kathleen Henrion, moderating. Participants were: Rev. Larryetta Ellis,

Retired, Rev. Carol DeVaughan, Retired, Sandy Monroe, Inquirer for Ministry, Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy, and Julie Gvillo, Commissioned Pastor and Director of a Place of Grace.

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Presbyterian Women Mission

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



learn more



www.presbyterianwomen.org

A Place of Grace: Junk Journaling

Julie Gvillo, Place of Grace

Junk Journaling is a creation-friendly method of using what would normally be tossed in the trash to create new things. It not only practices good stewardship of creation; it also practices good stewardship of resources.

1. Gather six, same-sized, used envelopes. Cut off the flaps and trim the open tops to the same height. Fold them each firmly in the center. Stack and staple them in the center fold to create a book. Use wrapping paper scraps to decorate the “pages.” Insert index cards (cut to fit) into the pockets. Use these cards to journal about your Advent preparations – physical, mental, and emotional – and tuck them into the pockets created by the open tops of the envelopes. Embellish as desired.

2. Gather your Christmas cards. Write notes on the backs of each to

celebrate your relationship(s) to the sender(s). If photos or letters were included, create pockets for them along the bottom of the back of the card with a strip of paper glued on three sides. Create a template with three holes down a strip of cardstock that will fit inside the crease of each card. Poke holes in each card using your template. Stitch your cards together back to front with a needle and string, ribbon, or embroidery thread through holes in the crease of each card: in through the center, out through the top, in through the bottom, back out through the center, then to the next card until the end. Slide a length of the string or ribbon under the rest and tie a bow. Tie beads on the ends at each end to keep the strings from coming out. This is your Christmas celebration journal. Call each of the card senders during the 12 days of Christmas to thank them for their card and have a conversation with them.

3. Make your Epiphany wonders book out of leftover gift boxes. Cut flat pieces to the same size and paint them black. Use a hole punch to punch the corners and bind them together with an “O” ring. Cut a paper snowflake every day from used paper. Attach the snowflake to the page with Mod Podge or Elmer’s Glue and then sprinkle with glitter. Journal about the wonders you encounter in scripture or in life in the surrounding background with a white gel pen.

4. On Ash Wednesday, assemble two lunch-sized brown bags to make a Lenten reflection journal. Cut and glue from newspapers, magazines, or printed web matter/phone photos to create collages that illustrate the things you are grappling with during this Lenten season. Folded in half, the open ends create natural “pockets” for journaling cards that can be tucked.



Please share photos of your treasure books with the Linkletter editors by sending them to PWLinkletter@gmail.com. These treasure books are made primarily from things you have on hand, so the expense will be minimal, but the impact has the potential to be transformative, wonder-filled, and healing.

A Place of Grace Advent Devotional  <https://bit.ly/APlaceofGrace> or by scanning QR code above

PWGL 2023 Fall Gathering “Women of Faith!”

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With reflective questions and insightful follow-up, panelists shared key elements of their faith development. Communion was offered by Rev. Kathleen Henrion, and Rev. Aline Russell, with a meditation entitled, “If Not for the Midwives”, by Sandy Monroe, Inquirer, based on Scripture: Exodus 1:15-21. A free-will offering was collected with \$108.75 going to the PWGL Scholarship Fund and \$326.25 for the mission, Saint Martha’s, “Safe places for women, for children, for good”. Special thanks to Carla Maley from Saint Martha’s for sharing the goals of this valuable mission to women in need. Thanks, too, to the Faith Des Peres

Presbyterian Church for hosting such a delicious lunch, uplifting music and hospitality. Stay tuned in the

Linkletter for future plans for the PWGL 2024 Spring Gathering. We would like to see everyone join us!



Deanna Vincent
Pacific Presbyterian Church
PWGL Treasurer

Treasurer’s Corner

One item you will see on the PW in the Congregation Remittance Form is Synod Assessment (15 cents for each Presbyterian Woman in our

Presbytery). This is an annual obligation we have to the Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Mid-America. In 2023, our assessment was

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Treasurer's Corner

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\$781.27 based on Giddings Lovejoy Presbytery's membership of 10,417 members. There is no consideration of how many of the churches in our Presbytery actually have active Presbyterian Women groups. And, many of the churches that do have PW groups are unaware of this obligation. If your church wanted to contribute their

"fair share", that amount would total \$.15 times 1/2 the membership of your congregation. As of 11/17/23, \$185 has been received towards this expense from 4 churches which means they have contributed more than their "fair share"! Funds from the line item Presbyterian Women of Giddings-Lovejoy Operating Expenses on the PW in the Congregation Remittance Form are used to cover the gap, and 3 additional churches have

donated to this account which totals \$423. However, there is still a shortfall of \$175.27 for this obligation. Fortunately, there are sufficient funds in our checking account to cover the deficit. However, we are asking each church to please consider doing your part to help us fulfill our Synod Assessment each year!!! Use the PW in the Congregation Remittance Form included in this issue of the Linkletter to send in your contribution. Thank you!



Presbyterian Women in the Congregation Remittance Form

(Use this form for your next remittance.)

Please check if

- New treasurer
- New address

Mail to

Deanna Vincent
Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy
PW Treasurer
1101 West 5th Street
Washington MO 63090

Make checks payable to Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Giddings Lovejoy (PWGL)

Enclosed is check # _____ Total amount \$ _____

Congregation: _____ Date: _____

Treasurer's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime phone: _____ Email: _____

Please fill in the amount of where you want the money to go.

Presbyterian Women	Mission Pledge \$ _____	Honorary Life Membership(s) \$ _____
Churchwide	Thank Offering \$ _____	Memorial/Recognition \$ _____
	Birthday Offering \$ _____	Least Coin \$ _____
Together in Service _____,	\$ _____	Other _____, \$ _____

Presbyterian Women

Local/Regional

Presbyterian Woman of Giddings-Lovejoy Operating Expenses \$ _____
 Synod Assessment (15 cents for each Presbyterian Woman in our Presbytery) \$ _____

Quarterly remittances and summaries should be mailed in time to reach the PW in the Presbytery treasurer not later than March 1 _____, June 1 _____, September 1 _____ and December 1 _____. They may be mailed earlier, if possible.

Send to: Deanna Vincent 1101 West 5th Street Washington MO 63090 Phone: 636-667-0342

A Presbyterian Women Tribute to Rev. Joy Myers

With gratitude for her many years of service, the Coordinating Team of the Presbyterian Women of Giddings Lovejoy celebrates with Joy Myers as she retires. Read below for a few reflections from the coordinating team:

“Joy Myers’ ministry within Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery has been one of quiet presence, compassion, and occasional words of wisdom. One can look at a Stated Clerk of the Presbytery as the primary “rule-enforcer,” but Joy has never come across to me as that. She of course explains various principles within the Book of Order when needed, but it is always with grace and love. Her presence with Presbytery Women, and with various committees of the

Presbytery, has been for me a call to our best selves and our best functioning, whatever the task might be. She will be very much missed in these settings.
Rev. Aline Russell

“Congratulations, Joy, on so many jobs well done. It has been a privilege to work with you on Presbyterian Women! Your insights, compassion and guidance as a CT team member and Treasurer helped me and so many others! Best wishes, and as always, thanks!”
Ann Schmid

“I only got to know Joy when she “gleefully” handed me the checkbook and files for the GLPW Treasurer position. Having only served in that role for 6 months, I can appreciate the time and energy she devoted to the task for 6 years! Thank you, Joy for your assistance as I assumed the role of treasurer and for your



ministry to Presbyterian Women.” Deanna Vincent

“I have deep admiration and respect for Rev. Joy Myers. It has been a delight having our paths intersect in many ways throughout my time in this presbytery. She has a great ability to see and affirm people’s gifts, which also means that when she asks you to do something, it’s because she sees your potential. I am grateful for how she’s gotten me involved with PW and I know that we are all better for having worked with her.”
Rev. Kathleen Henrion

Presbyterian Woman, Alice May Amelung’s 100th Birthday

Members of Pacific Presbyterian Church were delighted to celebrate the 100th birthday of Alice May Amelung, with a celebration at the Tri-County Senior Center on November 12th.

Happy 100th Birthday Alice!



Introducing Our Coordinating Team Secretary for Presbyterian Women of Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy

Carol was already familiar with southeastern Missouri when she and her husband, Myron, moved here from Wisconsin 35 years ago due to a job change for Myron. They had been traveling from Wisconsin with their daughter, Sheryl, and son, Steve, to visit Myron's family in Missouri for many years. Carol, who is from Wisconsin, graduated from the University of Wisconsin with an English major. While in Wisconsin, Carol, Sheryl and Steve were avid downhill skiers, and



Carol Gruber
First Presbyterian, Union, MO
PWGL Secretary

Carol volunteered as a ski patroller. When Sheryl and Steve were no longer young children, Carol worked as a reporter for a community newspaper. Shortly after moving to Missouri, Carol joined the Christian Women's Club and assisted with promoting their monthly luncheons. Her next endeavor was as secretary for the Union Food Pantry and later as committee chairperson. And all the while being an active member of First Presbyterian of Union, MO. She has been the Clerk of Session there for 20 years. Carol takes part in the church's PW group that meets monthly for Bible study, mission work and strengthening their bonds of friendship. Carol also took on leadership offices with Church Women United of Franklin County. For ten years, Carol wrote a Building Community page that appeared in the Presbyterian Women's Horizons magazine. Looking

back on her volunteer work, Carol feels profound gratitude to God and to all the faithful people she has worked with who generously donated their time and talents. Carol's daughter, Sheryl's career is working at International Schools. She is in her third year as Associate Superintendent at the American School of Dubai. Carol and Myron wish she wasn't so far away, but are happy that she is fulfilling her dream of living in countries around the world. Carol and Myron have two granddaughters, Annika, 19, and Lily, 16, who are the daughters of their son, Steve, and his wife, Kristy. Traveling to Vermont to visit them is always a great joy. Carol has felt enriched by being part of the PW Giddings-Lovejoy Coordinating Team. She has gotten to know faithful, Godly women and has always felt supported in her role as Secretary for the Coordinating Team.

Meet me in

GATHERING

"Do everything in love"

2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women
August 8-11, 2024 • St. Louis, Missouri

presbyterianwomen.org/gathering

"Supported, Thankful, Loving"

Barbara Brown of lovely Alaska shares her poem/skit *The Gathering Is Coming!* that puts into words the anticipation of the Churchwide Gathering, a time of community and the deepening of faith and faithful bonds with PWs near and far. Consider Barb's poem/skit for a gathering or perhaps personal reflection—or both! Thank you, Barb, for taking the time to share your amazing gift of putting into words the promise of Gathering. Looking forward to seeing you in St. Louis!!

The Gathering Is Coming!

The gathering is coming! During these special days,

- The **S**pirit **t**akes **l**adies **o**utward, **u**pward, **i**nward, and they will **s**oar to new heights of faith.
- Scripture **t**akes **l**adies **o**n an **u**ltimate **i**nteresting **s**ojourn.
- We will **s**tudy **t**o **l**earn **o**ngoing, **u**plifting, **i**mportant **s**ervice,
- We will **s**hout **t**o **l**et **o**ur **u**niverse **i**n, **s**isters,
- We will **s**ing, **t**ell the good news, **l**earn new ministries, **o**pen new dialogues, and **u**nwrap gifts of the spirit, as we **i**nvestigate new ways to **s**erve.
- **S**isters: **T**ake time over the next few months to **l**et **o**ur **u**nity **i**nspire **s**olidarity.

As you experience the days of the gathering, we hope you will feel **s**upported, **t**hankful, **l**oved, as this **o**utreaching, **u**nfolded, **i**mmersive experience transforms you, you who are **s**pecial in God's eyes.

SAFE SURRENDER EVENT

*They shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.*

— Isaiah 2:4

Blessed are the peacemakers.



Guns to Gardens

What is Guns to Gardens?

After the shooting at the Sandy Hook School in Dec. 2012, Mennonite pastor Mike Martin felt a call to become a blacksmith and forge unwanted guns into garden tools. He founded RAWtools as a network of blacksmiths across the nation. Soon he was joined by theologian Shane Claiborne and by New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence who christened the project "Guns to Gardens." It began to grow.

After a mass shooting in the nearby grocery store in 2021, Community United Church of Christ in Boulder, CO offered a "Gun Safe Surrender" event in their parking lot. Dozens of **firearms were surrendered and turned into garden tools.** The idea of churches offering this **healing, spiritual, and practical service** was born. In March 2022 the Denver Broncos football team hosted a Guns to Gardens event at their stadium in Mile High, CO, transforming 189 guns. That June 11, on a single day, churches and others across the USA dismantled over 1,000 guns.

For more information or to volunteer, contact:

Rev. Travis Winckler
travis.winckler@secondchurch.net

Julie Burchett
burchett.juliekay@gmail.com

12.09.23

10:30AM - 1:30PM

Webster Groves Presbyterian Church
45 W. Lockwood Ave, 63119
(enter parking lot on Lockwood
and follow the signs)

NOTE: Please only bring guns to be surrendered. All guns should be unloaded and in the trunk of the vehicle. Guns will be dismantled on site while you wait.

Putting peace into action!

