

The Linkletter



Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery

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Presbyterian Women WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!!!!

Presbyterian Women have historically played a pivotal role in the Presbyterian Church. For over 200 years everything we've done and continue to do is guided by our PW Purpose, which includes ministry, resources and relationships. Interactions throughout our communities help to grow God's Beloved Community. In that spirit of growth, the Coordinating Team of the Presbyterian Women of Giddings Lovejoy would like to lend support to the Barnes Jewish Hospital Spiritual Care Department. During their service, Chaplains at Barnes meet a wide variety of people and are regularly asked for a bible. They are provided King James Bibles and NT/Psalms by the Gideons. However, they have a very limited supply to other translations and are also in a conundrum as to how to obtain other copies in quantity. This is where PW comes in! We're asking you to support this project by dropping off **NEW** Non-King James bibles at the Presbytery Office now through August 31st.

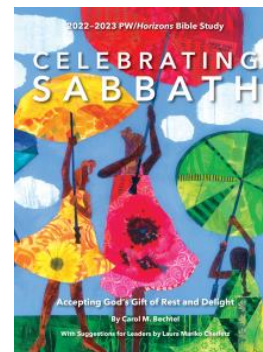
Examples include, (NIV (New International Version), ESV (English Standard Version), NLT (New Living Translation).

Understandably, due to BJH protocols (& Covid)

the bibles must be NEW. A few large print would also be welcome! In addition, PW will have a display table for the upcoming Gathering on August 25th at New Hope Presbyterian Church in St Charles, MO. Please stop by our display table to learn all about things PW and drop off a **NEW** bible. The Gathering begins at 3:00 pm with pre-sessions by the Public Witness and History Teams. At 4:00 pm Rev. Katy Steinberg will bring the worship message. Rev. Steinberg is a new worshipping community pastor in Florida. She will also lead the Education Hour. Her book, "Pink Haired Mermaid Baby Jesus was published in 2020. We look forward to seeing you at the Gathering, but if you can't attend please stop by to drop off your bibles!

YOU'RE INVITED!

By Cheryl Rainey,
West Cluster Coordinator



Hello Presbyterian Women across the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery. How are you ladies doing? We hope you are having a great summer! We are just getting into August, so will be getting ready soon – in early September – to resume our PW Presbytery wide Zoom Bible Study! If you were able to join us last year to study about the Grandmother's in Jesus lineage, we hope you will be able to join us again this year, as we dive into 'Celebrating Sabbath, Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight'. The study will begin on the second Thursday of September, on the 8th, at 12:30 p.m. In last year's study, we had ladies joining us from approximately 7 churches around the Presbytery. It was very interesting getting to know ladies from around the Presbytery! All ladies in the Presbytery are welcome to join us for this monthly Zoom study.

If you would like to join the study, please email Cheryl Rainey at ambroandro@hotmail.com so we can get you added to the Zoom email invitation.

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Characteristics & Lessons Learned

Who is a woman of faith? Faith has two basic meanings in the Bible. One has to do with believing that God exists and the other is trusting Him with your life. A woman of faith knows that God did not create this world and has left it unsupervised. Rather, he is still sitting in heaven and is very much involved in the affairs of earth. She not only believes that He is God of the universe. But she also believes that He is a personal God who knows her every thought and feeling. Her every want, need, and desire. She is a woman who believes that her salvation is as a result of what Jesus did on the cross and that her life is committed to him. She is a woman with a deep abiding, unwavering trust in God during the good and bad times. She knows God is the author and finisher of her life. And in accordance with all this, she lives a life built on the purpose God has called her to fulfill. The way she chooses to live doesn't make sense to everyone. That's because she lives by faith and not by what can be seen by others.

A woman of great faith has many qualities. Every godly woman is unique and her faith is manifested and demonstrated in unique ways. We cannot exhaust a list of what such a woman would look like so consider this a short list.

The characteristics of a faithful woman includes: 1. Anointed – being called for a special, specific task by God 2. Prayerful – women of great faith are usually prayer warriors 3. Discerning – some women of faith have a gift for seeing with unusually sharp spiritual eyes. This discernment allows her to be able to prophecy at times. 4. Spirit-filled – her relationship with God allows the Holy Spirit to be with her always. She glows with the presence of God. 5. Persevering – a woman with strong faith pushes through hard times and keeps going because she believes God will come through for her. 6. Obedient – women of faith follow God's will and instructions and through that, lives are saved.

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Sinking Into Grace

By Cheryl Rainey, West Cluster Coordinator

The Spring PW Gathering in the West Cluster was held at the First Presbyterian Church, in Sullivan, MO, on Saturday, May 21st. Even though a windy and rainy day, we had 23 ladies coming out from 3 counties and 6 churches to celebrate just being together! Our morning began with a presentation from Laurie Osseck, the Scenic Regional Libraries, Adult Outreach Coordinator. Laurie's presentation on "America The Beautiful" was a beautiful slide show from all the states in America, and was enjoyed by all.

Sinking Into Grace was the theme of our morning worship, which was led by Pastor Ron Koppellmann, Jr; he used a quote from the Horizon's article, 'In Praise of the Sloth', "By sinking into each grace-full moment, I felt wrapped in the cocoon of Christ's freely given grace, love without my having earned it". We used the South African Creed to close our time of worship together. In these trying times this is a most meaningful creed, and we all do believe that "Goodness and justice will triumph in the end, and that tyranny and oppression cannot last forever". The offering from our spring event, \$243, will be distributed, with 75% going to the Synod's Medical Debt reduction project, and 25% going to the PW Giddings-Lovejoy Scholarship Fund. More information will be going out to the entire Presbytery regarding the debt reduction project, in the near future. We are hopeful that our Presbytery will be able to raise \$5,000 for this project.

As with all of our PW gatherings, the food was wonderful. First of Union provided pastries; Sullivan provided coffee and tea; Cuba Trinity Chapel prepared a delicious lunch; and Old Argo provided an amazing array of desserts! As always, the music, the food and fellowship, and sharing our common beliefs always lifts the ladies spirits! We are thankful to be able to gather and worship in the West Cluster!

(When planning our Spring event, several of the planning team for the event, had really enjoyed the article, "In Praise of Sloth" by Kathleen Long Bostrom, from the Nov-Dec 2021 issue of Horizon's. Thanks so much to Horizon's and their amazing staff and writers!)



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Women of Faith: Characteristics & Lessons Learned

7. Generous – she is a given, always seeking to help others from her little, even if it means she will have to trust God to provide for her own needs 8. Hospitable – some women of faith possess the gift of hospitality. Receiving others into her home and catering to the needs of visitors is an expression of how much she believes that her possessions are for the blessing of anyone God sends to her home. 9. Imperfect – like any of us who have moments that are not our finest, some women of faith experience their moments of doubt. But they don't stay there. 10. Faith-filled – And most definitely, this woman trusts God. No matter what, she looks to Him and leans on Him for everything.

Mahatma Gandhi was not a Christian but he said something very profound about growing your faith. *"Faith is not something to grasp, it is a state to grow into."* Becoming a woman who trusts God completely is no sprint. It's a marathon. It takes time to run the race of faith. The most important virtue you will need is to be patient. You need patience and grace towards yourself. You need patience for the process. You'll fall and fail. You'll make bad decisions. You will disobey the voice of the Holy Spirit and get into unnecessary trouble. But God knows your weaknesses and His forgiveness runs ahead of your mistakes. With that in mind, here are four simple steps to becoming a woman of faith: 1. Set faith goals 2. Create a plan of action 3. Track your progress 4. Evaluate and revise your goals Start small and work at it each year. While you're at it, keep yourself encouraged with these Bible verses and quotes.

The women of faith in the Bible depended on the priests to access the Scriptures. Thankfully, we do not have to do that today. As a woman on a journey to growing your faith, you absolutely need some Scriptures in your arsenal, especially on the hard days. Here are some women of faith Bible verses to add to start your list if don't yet have one or to add to the one you already have.

And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord. (Luke 1:45)

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, Psalm 45:1-2

Helpful Quotes to add as well: *God is still writing your story. Don't let go of your faith because of what you are yet to see. – Grit and Grace Life*

A woman of faith does not care about the naysayers. She understands that God has the final say. – Gift Gugu Mona,

I am not a woman with great faith – I am a woman with a little faith in the great God! – Kathryn Kuhlman

A strong woman knows she has strength enough for the journey, but a woman of strength knows that it is in the journey where she will become strong. – Luke Easter

Women of faith in the Bible leave some big shoes to fill. I wish I could tell you that living by faith as a woman is easy. I wish I could tell you that it can happen in a year. I was 13 when I gave my life to Christ. It took me another 3 – 4 years before I even had an idea of what it meant to read the Bible. Took me even longer to develop Bible study habits. But thank God for grace. I can get back up and start all over again with God. My point is this: although it's not easy, it's very possible to live a life of faith. God will be with you through every victory and every failure. God expects progress, not perfection. So go ahead. Start your journey of becoming a woman of faith. You can start right here and right now by setting your first faith goal.

Source Cited: <https://thefaithspace.com/>

Apology to African-Americans

On July 6, 2022 as part of the Plenary 7 session the General Assembly overwhelmingly approved [RGJ-07](#): "A Resolution Addressing the Lack of Installed Pastoral Leadership in People of Color Congregations in the PC(USA) — From the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee" and [RGJ-08](#): "On Offering an Apology to African Americans for the Sin of Slavery and Its Legacy." After the plenary ended white Presbyterians read aloud "[A Litany of Repentance](#)" found in [RGJ-08](#), which begins with the words: "As white Christians we repent of our complicity in the belief in white supremacy."

The rationale behind [RGJ-08](#) was provided by the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy Dismantling Racism and White Privilege Team which reviewed the 2016 PC(USA) Curriculum on Racism, they noticed it named the need for repentance and jumped to reconciliation.

However, an African-American member pointed out an apology is necessary before reconciliation is possible. Therefore, in February 2020, the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy approved the overture as the needed missing piece, to make whole a good work already begun. The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) affirmed and commended the overture. However, as COGA, is tasked to work to support the Stated Clerk, asked the Assembly handling this overture to work creatively to find other ways for these apologies to be shared and offered. It was felt that African-Americans (including our Stated Clerk) were asked to personally do this work could result in added trauma. Therefore, it might be appropriate for an equivalent White leader or leaders to offer apologies on behalf of the General Assembly. Next steps are to develop and find ways for persons of color, even those who hold elected office, to not have to engage in public apologies for a white-dominant denomination. For more information go the [PCUSA Website](#) .



Source Cited: <https://www.pcusa.org/>

Gifted Women Prayer



Eternal God, you are the foundation that enables everything we build to stand. You have given gifts to every woman here to bless and serve each other. You provide all your daughters with gifts to carry out the mission you have designed for us. Speak clearly to us as we meet today, so that we may discern your direction for our lives. Remind us that everything we need is found in you. May your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Source Cited: <https://connectusfund.org/11-inspirational-prayers-for-womens-groups>

PW 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.

We welcome your comments and suggestions. If you have an upcoming event that you'd like included in the Linkletter please let us know. Thank-you!

The Linkletter

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