

THE LINKLETTER

Presbyterian Women of Giddings-LoveJoy Presbytery
Quarterly Newsletter, June 2026



Pendo Presbyterian Women Singers at PWGL 2026 Spring Gathering

"Draw the Circle Wide!"
PWGL 2026 Spring Gathering
by Ann Schmid, Linkletter Co-editor

On Saturday, April 25, 2026, 47 women in person from 12 churches all over the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy, gathered at Third Presbyterian Church, St. Louis, Missouri, hosted by the women of the Third Presbyterian Church. The theme of the 2026 Gathering was "Draw the Circle Wide: An Invitation to Engage in Dialogue Which Turns Strangers into Neighbors". The Gathering began with a spirited presentation including a song by soloist Lucy Holliam, lighting of the Christ Candle by Reverend Paula Cooper, and an invitation by Reverend Vicky Michaels to support "Abide in Love St. Louis", an organization that is a wraparound support for families impacted by ICE detention. The organization believes in a community where every person is treated with dignity, compassion, and respect. Reverend Dr. Cedric Portis, Sr. from Third Presbyterian Church, *cont pg 2*

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Draw the Circle Wide!

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warmly welcomed everyone to the Gathering. Toni Spieth, the Synod of Mid-America PW Representative to the Racial Ethnic Dialogue Team, along with PWGL Participants, presented a detailed and moving power-point review entitled, "Reflections on Justice Journey to Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma, Alabama". A slide image read, "The power of history is telling the truth." Then with the additional assistance of Tara Napoleone Clifford, the attendees were able to break into smaller groups to discuss issues related to racial equity. Reverend Janet Riley, Moderator of PWGL, led a business meeting including the installation of new members to the Coordinating Team. Mary Hoskins explained her relationship as PW Representative of the Synod of Mid-America offering the dates of the Synod Summer Gathering, August 9-11, 2026 in Branson, MO. The 2025 Necrology was movingly shown on screen, sharing the names of fellow PW women who passed away last year. A highlight of the morning, was the worship and inspirational devotion on "Survival" by Reverend Paula Cooper, followed by Communion. A free-will offering was collected with \$152.75 going to the PWGL Scholarship Fund and \$458.25 for the mission, "Inn from the Storm: Help During and After Incarceration". Special thanks to the women of the Third Presbyterian Church for hosting such a delicious lunch, uplifting music and hospitality along with the women from the Pendo Presbyterian Women Singers who shared their joyful music at lunch! Stay-tuned for future plans for the PWGL 2026 Fall Gathering. We would like to see everyone join us!



Toni Spieth (center)

"Reflections on Justice Journey to Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma, Alabama"



"THE POWER OF HISTORY IS TELLING THE TRUTH."



Gathering Host: Third Presbyterian Church, St. Louis, Mo

Spotlight on Cynthia E. Jones, 2026 PWGL Treasurer

Cynthia E. Jones was born & raised in Charlotte, NC. She received her undergraduate degree from Wilberforce University, a Historically Black College & University (HBCU), located in Wilberforce, Ohio. She received a BA Sociology. She moved to Queens, NY seeking a job after receiving her degree. After a 10 year stint living in New York, she returned to North Carolina. Back home she began volunteering at the Charlotte Public Library. Within a month of volunteering, the Circulation Manager asked if she was interested in full-time employment. She said yes and this was the beginning of her life in libraries. Encouragement from the Circ Manager to go to Library School was a constant. She began graduate work in Library Science as a distant learning (now Zoom) student taking classes imported via technology transmission from The University of North Carolina @ Chapel Hill. While tiring of holding down the position of Telephone Reference at Charlotte Public Library, she resigned the position and moved to Chapel Hill to attend the University full time. She matriculated as a full time Graduate student in the 48 hour program for the next year and a

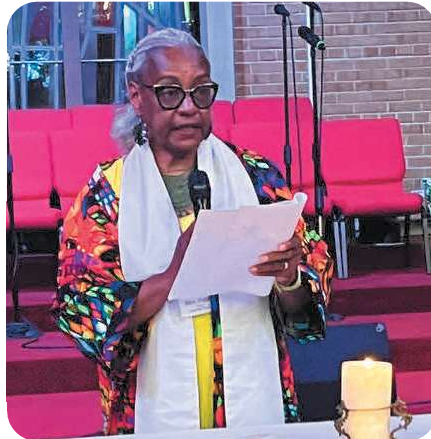
half. While attending the first national conference of African American librarians, Cynthia met a library automation software vendor who hired newly minted librarians and trained them on the job to learn the software and demo it to the needs of libraries all over the country and Canada. She left a copy of her resume. When she returned to the University the company flew her to St. Louis for an interview. She was hired. The move to St. Louis was exciting and scary as she knew nothing about the city and knew no one there. She knew she needed to get to a church for community connections and to learn the Black community and the goings on within that community. A friend who worked at the software company (one of only 3 African Americans on staff) was a member of Cote Brillante Presbyterian Church. cont pg 5



Spring Gathering Highlights



Rev. Dr. Cedric Portis, Sr. ,
Third Presbyterian/Welcomes



Reverend Paula Cooper,
Inspirational devotion on
"Survival"



Reverend Janet Riley and
Bernice Thompson/
flowers for Third Presbyterian
Church helpers



Reverend Vicky Michaels,
"Abide in Love St. Louis"



Installation of new members of the Coordinating Team
Cheryl Rainey, Cynthia Jones, Bernice Thompson,
Reverend Paula Cooper.



Soloist Lucy Halliam



Robin Murphy, Ruth Reilly, Barbara Lynn and Mary Hoskins.
Enjoying fellowship and lunch!

Spotlight on Cynthia E. Jones, 2026 PWGL Treasurer

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Cynthia notes "She invited me to the church and I knew I was "home" on my first visit. Rev. William G. Gillespie had been the pastor for years. He knew librarians from Charlotte. He became my surrogate dad. Being a third generation Presbyterian, I joined Cote Brilliant right away. Several months in attendance when I wasn't traveling to libraries I met a very tall man and began dating him. After marriage counseling from Rev. Gillespie who affirmed this guy was a good guy, Lawson H. Calhoun Jr. became my husband. We married after dating only 6 months!! That was 31 years ago! We were members of Westminster Presbyterian for several years. After the assimilation with Trinity, I am now a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church where Rev. Mel Smith is my pastor. My greatest joy at Trinity is the involvement of assessing, organizing, preserving and managing historical records and documents for the church and its beginnings. We are also 3rd Sunday ushers." Additionally, he is involved in so much work within the Presbytery that she doesn't know what all he does! She Retired May 2019 from the St. Louis Public Library as a Regional Library Manager for the Carpenter Region. She is also a Member of the BBC Book Club and Joint the Venture.



Presbyterian Women in the Congregation Remittance Form

(Use this form for your next remittance.)

Please check if

- New treasurer
- New address

Mail to:

Cynthia E. Jones
Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy
PW Treasurer
5094 Washington Place
St. Louis MO 63108

Make checks payable to Presbyterian Women 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 \$ _____

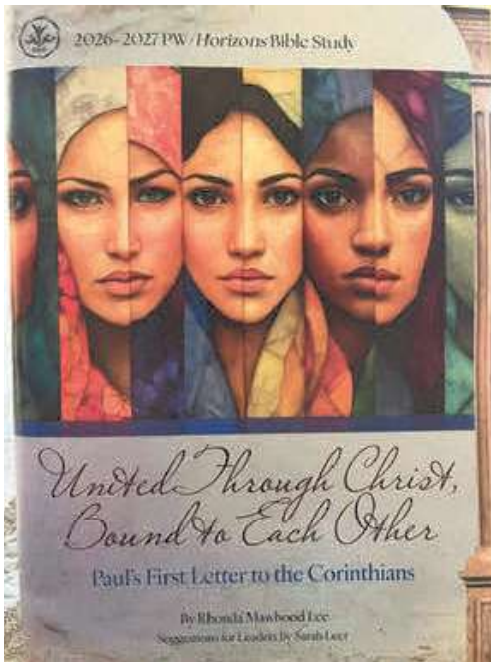
Presbyterian Women

Local/Regional Presbyterian Women 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.

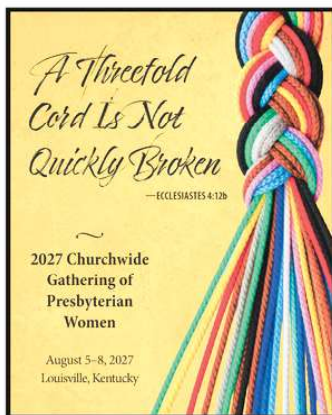
Send to: Cynthia E. Jones 5094 Washington Place St. Louis MO 63108 314-941-1285 cynthiae_jones66@yahoo.com

Horizon's Bible Study to Begin September 11, 2026 by Cheryl Rainey



We will be planning to begin the 2026-2027 Horizon's Bible Study, "United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other; Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians". Paul founded the congregation in Corinth around the year 50. He stayed there about a year and a half before moving on to Ephesus. However, there were problems in the Corinthian church. The congregation was diverse, and there were factions. Paul wrote letters to the church, at a time when Christians expected Jesus' imminent return, challenging them to be ready for Jesus' return. Now, 2000 years later, the church is waiting for Jesus return. Now, 2000 years later, the church is

waiting for Jesus to return. This Bible study will raise many questions as we study our way through the book of Corinthians. The class in September will begin on the 2nd Friday, September 11, at 12:30 pm. If you are interested in joining this PW Zoom Bible study, please contact Cheryl Rainey at ambroandro@hotmail.com, or Janet Riley at janetlriley@yahoo.com, or Aline Russell at aline.russell@gmail.com, so we can help you get a study guide ordered. We would love to have you join this study.



LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

2027 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women

The 2027 Churchwide Gathering will be an exciting faith-filled time for Presbyterian women to gather for worship, education, community building, fun and renewal.

August 5-8, 2027
Save the date and stay tuned!
presbyterianwomen.org/gathering

Saving Challenge!

- Save \$3.75 a day for 14
- months to put toward your
- Gathering expenses. Each
- email in the Gathering quest
- series will include a
- Churchwide Savings
- Calculator based on this
- challenge, so you can see
- where you are or how much
- to save to "catch up"!
- Begin saving today toward
- your Gathering expenses.



Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Mid America Summer Gathering

August 9 - 11

Clarion Hotel** Clarioninnbranson.com
2820 West Hwy 76 Country Blvd.
Branson, MO



Worship- Workshops-Community -and FUN

Sunday, August 9

Dinner on your own

7 pm -Opening Worship with Rev. Shonda Galloway

Hands On Mission Opportunity: CWS Period Packs**

Monday, August 10

Breakfast at Hotel

9:15am-Synod of Mid America Business Meeting

10:30am Workshop 1: Social Justice Journey with Toni Spieth

Toni will share about her recent social justice journey to Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma bringing light as we work together to end injustice.

11:45am Lunch (included with registration)

1:15pm Workshop 2: Laughter's Healing Art with Rev. Tom Willadsen
Using laughter to connect with people all his life, Rev. Willadsen offers a light-hearted approach to the power that laughter and humor have to offer a fresh perspective and build community.

2:30pm Workshop 3: Rooted in Grace with Angel Adams

Offering practical ways to stay steady, present and true to yourself through life's changes. Together, we explore gentle tools for boundaries, calm awareness and self-care—so you leave feeling at peace.

5:00pm Riga-Tony's Murder Mystery Dinner Show

(Included for registered. Additional guests welcome: \$49.66 per guest)

Tuesday, August 11

9:00am Workshop: Horizons' 2026-27 Bible Study Review

Susan Jackson-Dowd comes to us from PW headquarters in Louisville, KY to bring insight into our upcoming Bible Study "United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other".

REGISTRATION DEADLINE JULY 3

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**** PLEASE BRING SANITARY PADS (UNSCENTED) AND TAMPONS (REGULAR AND SUPER) FOR ASSEMBLING PERIOD PACKS FOR CHURCH WORLD SERVICE**

To guarantee lodging room availability, please register by July 3. Rooms remaining in our room block may be released after July 3

If you are bringing a traveling companion who is not attending the gathering, we will provide ideas to keep them entertained. The area has three lakes (bring your boat), lots of shopping in outlet malls or Branson Landing (bring your wallet), multiple top-rated public golf courses (bring your golf clubs) and LOTS of live entertainment (we'll provide a discount show/attraction list). Clarion lodging rate is available three days before and three days after our event, perfect for extending your stay.

A limited number of 2026-2027 Horizon's Bible studies will be available for purchase. If you would like to order multiple copies in advance for your PW group, please contact Mary Jorgenson at mcjorgies@gmail.com or 913-579-4530.

A complete itinerary and other information will be mailed to you approximately July 20. If you have questions, please call Mary Lynne at 417-365-0060 or
E-mail Mary Lynne at
bob-mary@tri-lakes.net.

**SAVE THE DATE:
Churchwide Gathering
August 5-8, 2027
Louisville, KY**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE SYNOD OF MID AMERICA

Registration - Summer Gathering

August 9 – 11, 2026

Clarion Inn Hotel 2820 West Highway 76 Branson MO

clarioninnbranson.com

Attendee's Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Phone #: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Please provide e-mail address to receive receipt

If staying at the Clarion Inn, please provide name(s) of roommates:

LODGING: To make lodging reservations at the Clarion Inn, call 417-334-7666, choose Option 1 for reservations. Ask for the Presbyterian Women's room block.

Balcony Rooms: 2 queen beds or one King bed. \$109 plus tax nightly August 6 – 12 for anyone wanting to extend their stay. Full buffet breakfast included with room reservation.

Gathering Registration fee is \$25. Please include your check made payable to SMA PW with this form. For guests or travel companions who are not attending the gathering but want to attend the Monday evening dinner theater, please include \$49.66 per guest. Submit one check made payable to SMA PW for the total. SMA PW is covering the dinner theater cost for gathering attendees. Guests not attending the gathering do not need to pay the \$25 registration fee.

DEADLINES: Registration deadline Monday July 3.

Cancellation and refund deadline: August 3 for all gathering activities.

Return this completed registration form and check before Friday, July 3 to:

**Mary Lynne Grimes
452 Hillcrest Drive
Ridgedale, MO 65739**