



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

THE LINKLETTER

PRESBYTERY GIDDINGS-LOVEJOY

March 2026, Spring Issue



Moderator's Letter

*Reverend Janet Riley, Moderator,
Coordinating Team PWGL*

Dear Presbyterian Women of Giddings-Lovejoy,

I am extremely grateful to Presbyterian Women for the many ways it has expanded my understanding of the issues facing women globally and locally. Through shared experiences of study, fellowship, and advocacy, I have received the gift of deep and abiding friendships. Serving alongside women united by a common purpose, Presbyterian Women come to know our true identities as those rooted and grounded in love through the indwelling power of Christ. Forgiven, loved, and freed by God, we strive to share that love with others as we work for justice and peace.

Presbyterian Women thrive on connections. At the national level, the Churchwide Coordinating Team is responsible for the ongoing life of PW and serves as the administrative body for PW between triennial Churchwide Gatherings. Our next Churchwide Gathering will be in Louisville, Kentucky August 5-8, 2027. This is an experience you will not want to miss as women across the country gather for inspiring worship, education, community-building, fun, and renewal.

[cont. pg 2](#)

At the regional level, our Synod Coordinating Team encourages connections between women from the various presbyteries of the Synod of Mid-America. This summer, we are looking forward to participating in the Synod PW Gathering in Branson, Missouri, at the Clarion Hotel August 9-11th.

At the presbytery level, the Coordinating Team of the Presbyterian Women of Giddings-Lovejoy plans fall and spring gatherings working in conjunction with women in the local church. These gatherings bring boundless joy as Presbyterian Women come together to celebrate our diversity, forge new friendships, and enjoy the gift of hospitality offered by our host church.

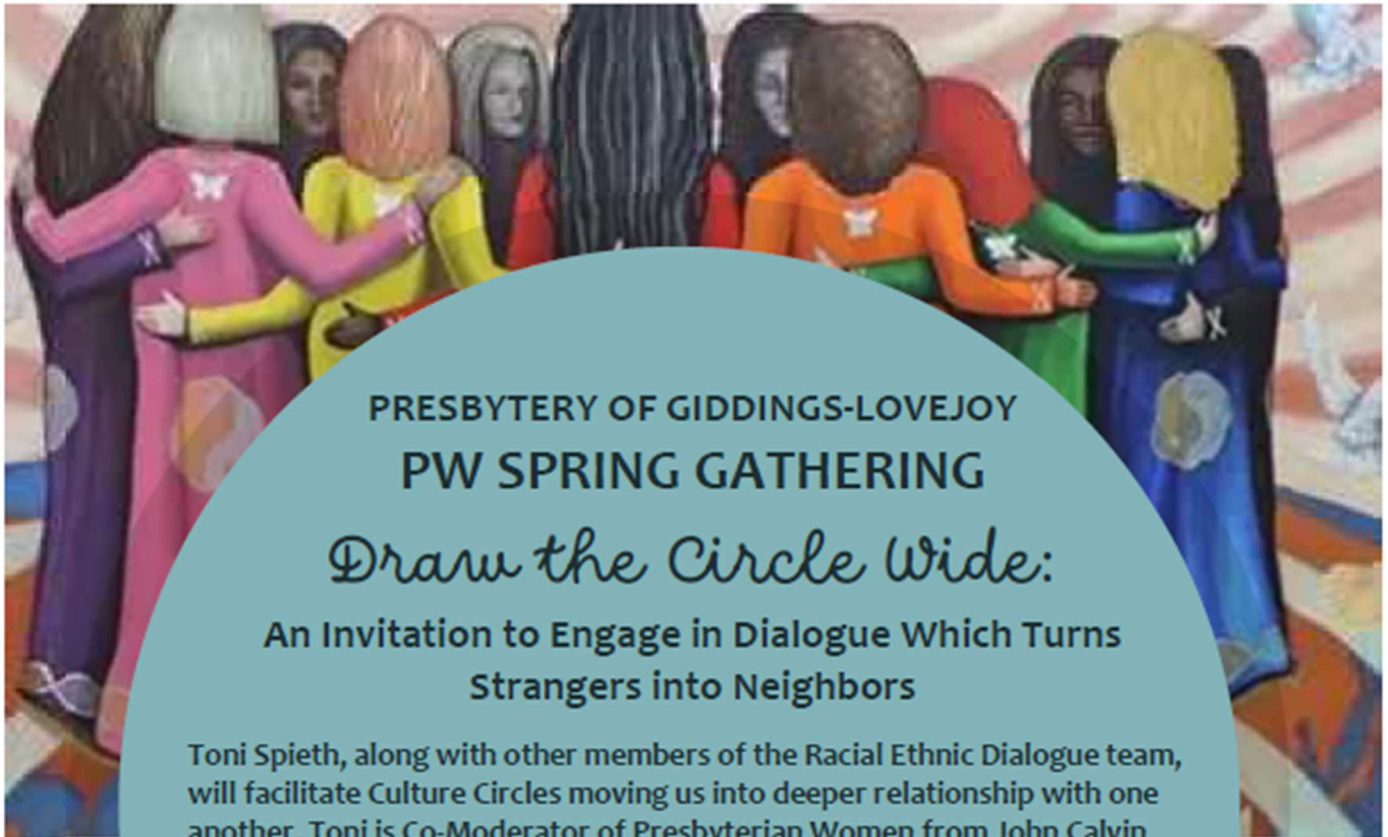
One of the joys of PW connection is the opportunity to engage in Bible Study utilizing the Horizons Bible Study, a study written by Presbyterian Women for Presbyterian Women. With a yearly subscription to Horizons magazine, you receive both the Bible study and the quarterly Horizons magazine which highlights how faith and life work together. For local churches that use the Horizons Bible Study, there is the opportunity to participate in the presbytery-wide study on Zoom. Let me know if you would like your name added to the list of participants.

Each woman who is a member a Presbyterian Church is considered a Presbyterian Woman! When PW women come together to celebrate and affirm one another, we are inspired, enriched, and strengthened to serve and to love both self and neighbor.





PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF GIDDINGS-LOVEJOY



**PRESBYTERY OF GIDDINGS-LOVEJOY
PW SPRING GATHERING**

Draw the Circle Wide:

**An Invitation to Engage in Dialogue Which Turns
Strangers into Neighbors**

Toni Spieth, along with other members of the Racial Ethnic Dialogue team, will facilitate Culture Circles moving us into deeper relationship with one another. Toni is Co-Moderator of Presbyterian Women from John Calvin Presbytery and the Synod of Mid-America PW Representative to the Racial Ethnic Dialogue team.

Saturday, April 25, 2026

9:00 am: Registration and Fellowship

9:30 a.m.-1:30 pm: Program

**Third Presbyterian Church
9990 Lewis and Clark Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63136**

*More details
to follow in
Presbytery
Newsletter*

Hosted by the women of Third Presbyterian Church

REGISTER BY: April 19th, 2026

Cost: \$15.00 for lunch

Paid at door or checks made payable to PWGL, no credit cards (*please note any dietary restrictions*)

RSVP to: rwilliams.thirdchurch@gmail.com; cell: 314-868-9600

From Advent to Lent

Ann Schmid, Linkletter, Co-editor

Most people live by their “To-Do” Lists! I know I do! It is a wonderful feeling to scratch items off, knowing the responsibility has been completed. How often do we look back at a list and reflect on what was accomplished and the impact all those actions might have on the future!

New Hope Presbyterian Church, St. Peters, MO, of which I am a member, sponsors an annual event entitled, Advent by Candlelight. During the first week of December, an evening of scripture, music, fellowship and delicious desserts is hosted for the women of the church, supported by the men of the church. Guests are greeted by beautifully decorated tables with a focus on Advent and a theme which changes yearly. Last year’s theme was “Peace and Joy”.

There was a “Memories Table” where attendees were invited to fill out a card with the name of someone they were remembering and a special memory. Through our memories we find joy, which leads to peace. In Jesus’s words in John 14:27: “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled nor let it be afraid.” NIV.

Also, a free-will offering was collected with \$500 given to the New Hope Presbyterian Women Scholarship Fund for a deserving college bound senior and the New Hope Youth Activities Fund.

How often do we forget that what was on our “To-Do” lists have continuing effects for so many. As we move ahead through this time of Lent, may we reflect and pray for all people who feel loss, for youth all over the world, and

[Cont. next page](#)

for everyone facing new challenges in their lives. What we DO makes a difference! Blessings as we move onward through this time of contemplation! Anyone interested in hosting an Advent by Candlelight event, please contact Ann Schmid, ann_schmid1@yahoo.com and/or



Advent by Candlelight, by Heather Hume Melcher, Concordia Publishing House: St. Louis, MO, 2013.

March is Women's History Month

Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society, and has been observed annually in March in the United States since 1987. Let this be a time to celebrate the women who enrich our communities, our churches, our country, and the world. Some resources for your observance:

- 1. Explore American Women: A Guide to Women's History Resources at the Library of Congress. <https://guides.loc.gov/american-women>*
- 2. In honor of Women's History Month, Social Justice Books will feature a children's book each day. <https://socialjusticebooks.org/womens-history-month-book-every-day/>*
- 3. National Women's History Alliance has its March 2026 Women's History magazine full of women's stories of making sustainable change. <https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/NWHA-2026-WH-Magazine.pdf>*
- 4. If you want to remain Presbyterian-focused, visit Presbyterian Women's website on the history page, <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/who-we-are/history/>*



29th Annual Retreat for St. Mark Women

March 13-14, 2026

*Be the Light
in the Darkness*

*Whoever follows me will
not walk in darkness,
but will have
the light of life.*
John 8:12

We welcome
Rev. Hannah Zyla
House of Figs
Retreat Speaker



Be the Light...

A Retreat for St. Mark Women and Friends
March 13-14, 2026 at St. Mark (PCUSA)

Program Highlights

Friday, March 13—Registration begins at 2:30
Retreat Mission Project and Pretzel Tasting
Celebration of the Gifts of Women
Dinner
Out of Chaos...Light —Hanna Zyla
Let There Be Light in the Darkness

Saturday, March 14—Registration begins at 8:00
My Godlight —Hanna Zyla
Charge Your Flashlight—Prayer stations
Lunch
Out of the Darkness and Into the Light—
Hanna Zyla
Closing Worship with Communion—Hanna Zyla

We welcome Rev. Hanna Zyla to St. Mark as our speaker for the retreat. She studied Religion at Occidental College in Los Angeles before continuing on to receive her Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School. She is the organizing pastor of the new worshipping community House of Figs.



Please note—

Back by popular request, massages will again be available on Saturday morning.. Sharon Cardwell is the woman to see about this.

Anticipated closing time on Friday evening is 8:15. On Saturday, 1:30.

The Pantone Color of the Year 2026 is *Cloud Dancer*..



See page 7 to register

2026 Women's Retreat Registration

Name _____ \$50 Registration for Friday **AND** Saturday

Address _____ \$35 Registration for Friday **OR** Saturday

Phone _____ (Circle the day you will be attending)

E-mail address _____ Food restrictions/preferences (allergies, vegetarian,

etc.): _____

In case of emergency contact _____ To complete the registration process

_____ Complete this form
_____ Place it and **send/give your check in the envelope**
to Sharon Cardwell. Use the envelope provided for your
convenience.

*Registration deadline March 7, 2026 No refunds should
be expected for cancellations after that date.*

Once your registration is received, you will receive a confir-
mation note. Additional information about the retreat will be
sent to you March 8.

Preferred Name for Nametag _____

Getting to Know You

Where did you see a beautiful light display? _____

What is your favorite time of day? _____

To "recharge my batteries" I like to _____

What is your favorite comfort food? _____

How would you caption this picture? _____

You didn't ask but I want you to know that...



For as the soil makes the sprouts come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

Isaiah 61:11



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

Linkletter Editors:

Ann Schmid, ann_schmid1@yahoo.com ; Cindy Mayhew, cindymarie.crss@gmail.com