



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

# NEWS WASH

Winter 2025

News of the Presbyterian Women of the Washington Presbytery

## Moderator's Corner

Greetings Sisters in Christ!

During the past two years, many of you have heard me mention the name of Sarah Foster Hanna and her role in the beginnings of the formal women's organizations of the Presbyterian Church. These organizations have had many names in our congregations over the past 150+ years as denominations of the Presbyterian Church have developed and merged to form what is now The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

I'm sure many of you might wonder why I find Mrs. Hanna and her work so fascinating, much less worthy of celebration. The honest truth is that I realized that Sarah Foster Hanna was from Washington, Pa! She served many years as Principal of the Washington Female Seminary. But what makes Sarah Foster Hanna so important to us as Presbyterian Women is because of what she did in her retirement.

In May 1875, Sarah Foster Hanna spoke before the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of North America, asking that Missionary societies be urged upon congregations and those formed into Presbyterials and eventually establish the Women's General Missionary Society. She was the **FIRST WOMAN** ever permitted to speak before a general assembly!

The General Assembly approved her request and within six months, 70 church societies had been formed; in less than two years (1877) two presbyterials were organized, Washington and Wheeling. The beginnings of a church-wide organization that began here, in Washington County, Pennsylvania because of the vision and work of Sarah Foster Hanna in bringing women together to further the mission of God's Kingdom through the hands of the women of the Presbyterian Church.

Today, we still have much work to do to continue the work of Sarah Foster Hanna and all the women who have gone before us. However, now is the time to celebrate what we have accomplished because of the efforts of one woman who had the courage to stand before a group of men and present a solution to a need. Check out the information on Celebrating 150 Years Legacy of Women's Missions in the Presbyterian Church and share your congregation's achievements with us at the Spring Gathering on May 1<sup>st</sup> and at the Presbytery meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

~Bettie Stammerjohn  
bbstammerjohn@gmail.com 724-747-7076/cell

## Spring Gathering of Women "Nourish Body & Spirit"

Thurs., May 1 Registration: 9AM

Faith UP Church  
(see attached flyer)

Featured Local Mission Project and Speaker is Candace Webster, Executive Director of the Corner Cupboard Foodbank serving Greene County.

Program Speaker will be Linda Reese – Sisters in Mission: Women of the Disciples of Christ Church and Presbyterian Women

Working & Learning Together Program: Nourishing our Bodies and Spirit through scripture and prayer

Celebrating 150 Years Legacy of Women's Missions in the Presbyterian Church Displays  
(see more info below)

Refreshments (to nourish our bodies) and Sharing (to strengthen our spirits)

## Celebrating 150 years: Legacy of Women's Missions in the Presbyterian Church

**Call for History Exhibits!** In honor of Mrs. Sarah Foster Hanna's work to establish the first Women's General Missionary Society 1875-1878 and beyond we invite congregations to share stories of their women's mission activities throughout their church's history. The Women's Missions History Exhibits will be displayed on **May 1st** (Spring Gathering) and **May 13th** (Presbytery Meeting at North Buffalo U.P.).

We suggest using a free standing **tri-fold project board** (like students use for science fairs) available at Wal-Mart, etc. We will not be able to hang or prop a sheet of poster board on the walls.

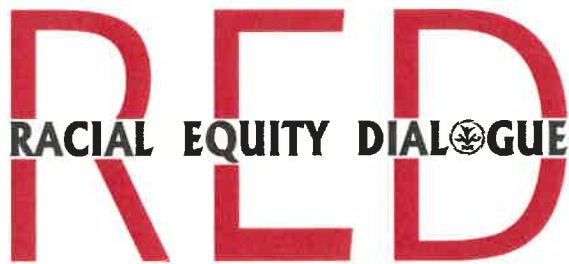
**Please include on your poster:** Congregation Name, Name(s) of your women's group(s) (PW, UPW, Ladies Aid Society, etc.), and dates of any pictures or documents if possible.

Bettie is working to scan a copy of a booklet documenting the first 100 Years 1875-1975 which has information from the congregations of Washington Presbytery and the old Chartiers Presbytery. Many of these congregations no longer exist due to mergers, closures, or departures. It is wonderful to read about how our mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers worked in their churches and communities to serve the least of these and share the Good News of God's love. Please contact Bettie with any questions.

*Save the Date!*  
*Southwest Region Gathering of  
Presbyterian Women in the  
Synod of the Trinity*

*July 21-22, 2025*

*Bridgeport, West Virginia*



**PW- Synod of the Trinity Racial Equity  
Dialogue (RED) Team Update**

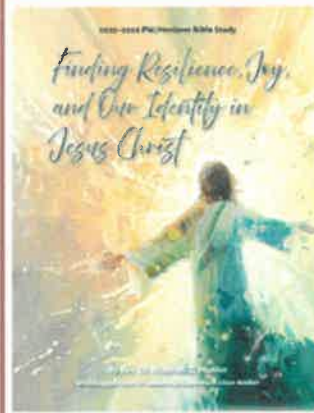
*Thank you, Patricia Cook, Peacemaking Coordinator for  
PWP Washington, for representing the PW of Washington  
Presbytery on the PW Synod of the Trinity RED Team!*

**NEWS from Karen Haas, facilitator of The RED  
Team:**

The PW Synod of the Trinity RED - Racial Equity Dialogue -  
Team had its first meeting via zoom on February 15th at  
10:00am. While there were some technical issues and hic-  
cups, the team will continue to meet. It's not too late to join  
the team! Contact Karen Haas (Lake Erie PW Moderator  
814-397-1619) if you are interested in participating.

February is Black History Month. PW Churchwide sent out  
an email asking "how will you or your PW group observe  
this celebration?". The article suggested that you consider  
taking the 8 - Day Racial Equity Education Chal-  
lenge. [https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/  
uploads/2016/11/8dayREchallenge.pdf](https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/8dayREchallenge.pdf) I encourage you to  
do this. However, if your time is limited, I recommend that  
you do the day three challenge - watch the 17-minute TED  
Talk by Baratunde Thurston on "How to Deconstruct Rac-  
ism, One Headline at a Time." It is from 2019 and a lot has  
happened since then, but I think you will enjoy this talk and  
find it thought provoking. <https://go.ted.com/6WcY>

How ever you choose to commemorate Black History  
Month, let this be a time to celebrate the African Americans  
that enrich our communities, our churches, our country and  
our world.



***Finding Resilience,  
Joy, and Our  
Identity in  
Jesus Christ***  
By Rhashell D. Hunter

The 2025–2026  
PW/*Horizons* Bible study

In 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.

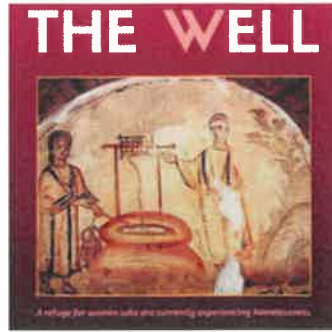
Joy is sometimes confused with happiness. For Christians, joy can occur while we are in the midst of difficult circumstances. Joy is the second fruit of the spirit, preceded by love and followed by peace (Gal 5:22-23). Trusting in God when we are in trying times can fill us with glorious joy and peace. 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*]

You can find resources and promotional materials for this Bible Study at  
<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/bible-study/resilience/>

# ***2025 PW Synod Mission Project***



## ***The Well – a Project of The Welcome Church***

The Well, located in the Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania, currently refers to the whole community of support for women who are experiencing homelessness, which is a part of The Welcome Church.

<https://www.thewelcomechurch.org/getting-to-know-us>

In 2016, The Welcome Church founded an overnight shelter for women called The Well, when it became apparent that there were few places where women felt safe going inside for the night. Grounded in the relationships that The Welcome Church had with the women, The Well had two amazing successes in the first two winter seasons: the women, who had been labeled “shelter resistant,” were consistently coming in, and after the second season, most moved into permanent housing.

Unfortunately, the building and congregation (Christ’s Presbyterian Church) housing The Well had to close in 2024, and the City of Philadelphia, in the midst of budget cuts, stopped funding for this shelter. The Welcome Church continues to look for a new location for the shelter, for which the city will provide funding as a winter shelter this year. We have redefined The Well as the whole community of women, which gathers in different places, both inside and outside, offering mutual support.

Funds given by Presbyterian Women will enable, Bible Study, Knitting Group and an overnight retreat for 12 women as well as some building and pastors expenses.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions regarding this worthy mission. Suzanne Herger, Mission Coordinator Synod of the Trinity PW

Phone: 267-471-0832

Email: [Suzanne.herger@verizon.net](mailto:Suzanne.herger@verizon.net)

2025 Contributions from PWs in the Synod of the Trinity should be sent from PWs in the Congregation to their PW in the Presbytery Treasurer by December 1, 2025. PW in the Presbytery Treasurers should send final contributions to PW in the Synod Treasurer, Doreen Stiffler, 99 Cedar Drive, Kittanning, PA 16201 by December 15th 2025.

PW

Spring

GATHERING

OF WOMEN

THEME: "NOURISH BODY & SPIRIT"

THURSDAY | MAY 1 | 9 AM - NOON  
2025

FAITH U.P. CHURCH

900 E. Beau Street, Washington PA

CELEBRATING 150+ YEARS OF  
WOMEN'S MISSIONS IN  
WASHINGTON PRESBYTERY

For more information  
email: [bbstammerjohn@gmail.com](mailto:bbstammerjohn@gmail.com)  
or call 724-747-7076

# *Celebrating 150 years:*

## *Legacy of Women's Missions in the Presbyterian Church*

### **Call for History Exhibits**

**In honor of Mrs. Sarah Foster Hanna's work to establish the first formal Women's General Missionary Society 1875-1878 and beyond.**

**We invite Washington Presbytery congregations to share the stories of their women's mission activities throughout the history of their church**

**The Women's Missions History Exhibits will be displayed**

**May 1st - Spring Gathering of Women at Faith U.P.  
and**

**May 13th - Presbytery meeting at North Buffalo U.P. Church.**

Contact Bettie Stammerjohn email: [bbstammerjohn@gmail.com](mailto:bbstammerjohn@gmail.com)  
or Judy Scott email [jrushscott@gmail.com](mailto:jrushscott@gmail.com) for more information

We suggest using a **tri-fold project board** (like students use for science fairs) available at Wal-Mart, Hobby Lobby, and other stores because they usually stand on their own. We will not have walls to use to hang or prop a single sheet of poster board.

**Please include on your poster:**

- Congregation Name
- Name(s) of your women's group(s) (e.g. PW, UPW, Ladies Aid Society, Women's Association, Lydia Circle, etc.)
- Dates of any pictures or documents (if you know the dates)

Bettie is working to scan a copy of a booklet documenting the first 100 Years 1875-1975 which has information from the congregations of Washington Presbytery and the old Chartiers Presbytery. Many of these congregations no longer exist due to mergers, closures or departures to new denominations. it is wonderful to read about how our mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers worked in their churches and communities to serve the least of these and share the Good News of God's love. If you have questions about service in your congregation or about the project, email Bettie Stammerjohn at [bbstammerjohn@gmail.com](mailto:bbstammerjohn@gmail.com) or call her at 724-747-7076.



Introducing the 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.

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[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)



## About the Authors



**The Rev. Dr. Rhashell D. Hunter** served as the director of Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries for the Presbyterian Mission Agency for fourteen years. In 2022 she began teaching at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Rhashell has written *Celebrate the Gifts of Women* resources for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and you may recognize her voice on some audio editions of PW/*Horizons* Bible studies.



**Rev. Joyce MacKichen Walker** served Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton, New Jersey, as director of Christian education. Following her ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in 2007, Joyce served Nassau as minister of education and mission until her retirement in July 2018. Joyce is a certified Christian educator. This is her fourth time to write the Suggestions for Leaders for the PW/*Horizons* Bible study.

## Bible study editions, supplemental resources, and other helps\* (Beginning spring 2025)

### Bible study editions

- **English edition**; item HZN25100; \$14
- **Spanish edition**; item HZN25110; \$14
- **Spanish download edition**; item HZN25111; \$14; purchase and download at [presbyterianwomen.org/shop](http://presbyterianwomen.org/shop)
- **Large-print edition** (spiral bound, one-color interior); item HZN25150; \$20
- **Ecumenical edition**; item HZN25102; \$14
- **Audio edition**; download only; item HZN25172; \$15; purchase and download at [presbyterianwomen.org/shop](http://presbyterianwomen.org/shop)

### Supplemental materials

- **Finding Resilience Companion DVD**; Rhashell Hunter's video introduction for each lesson of the study, about 10 minutes per lesson; item HZN25103; \$20
- **Finding Resilience Companion DVD download**; item HZN25104; \$20; purchase and download at [presbyterianwomen.org/shop](http://presbyterianwomen.org/shop)
- **Workshop for Leaders**; item HZN25101; available as a free download
- **Pendant/charm**; features the cover art from the study; item HZN25300; \$10

- **Promotional flier**; item HZN25411; available as a free download
- **Promotional poster**; item HZN25409; also available as a free download
- **Bulletin cover**—8 1/2" x 11"; item HZN25105; available as a free download
- **Author blog**; journey with the author through the study with Rhashell's monthly blog; the first blog will be posted August 2025; visit and bookmark [presbyterianwomen.org/blog](http://presbyterianwomen.org/blog).
- Subscribe to *Horizons* and read the **Anna H. Bedford Bible Study Resource**, available exclusively in the magazine, beginning with the Summer 2025 issue.

Ordering is easy! Shop online at [presbyterianwomen.org/shop](http://presbyterianwomen.org/shop) or call 800/533-4371, Monday through Friday, 10 AM to 5 PM EST.

\* Note that prices do not include shipping and handling (\$6.25 minimum). International orders and orders to Puerto Rico incur additional shipping charges. Prices, availability, and shipping charges are subject to change without notice.



**Horizons isn't just a Bible study, Horizons is a magazine too!**

In fact, current *Horizons* magazine subscribers receive the 2025–2026 PW/*Horizons* Bible study in March 2025 (and Bible study helps begin with the Summer 2025 issue). Subscribe by June 1, 2025, and you will, too!

Call toll-free 866/802-3635 or visit [presbyterianwomen.org/horizons](http://presbyterianwomen.org/horizons).

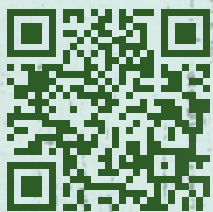
2025 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

# *Birthday Offering*



For the LORD your God  
will bless you  
in all your produce  
and in all your undertakings,  
*and you shall surely celebrate.*

—Deuteronomy 16:15b



Give or learn more about the  
*Birthday Offering*  
by visiting [presbyterianwomen.org/birthday](https://presbyterianwomen.org/birthday).

\* New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission.





# 2025 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN *Birthday Offering*

For the LORD your God will bless you in all your produce and in all your undertakings, *and you shall surely celebrate.*  
—Deuteronomy 16:15b

The Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering helps fund projects that improve lives at home and around the world.  
This year's recipients are:

**LELAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Windward Volunteer Housing Facility  
Leland, Mississippi  
\$150,000

**RED CLOUD RENEWABLE**  
Lakota Thiyuha Dome Home Project  
Pine Ridge, South Dakota  
redcloudrenewable.org  
\$150,000

## Resources to Promote and Receive the 2025 Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering

### *Essentials*

The **2025 Birthday Offering promotional booklet**, which is mailed to PW leaders, includes grant recipient summaries; dedication service; promotional resource flier; instructions for giving. *Available as a download in English, Korean and Spanish as well!* Item PWR25451; free.

The 11" x 17" **2025 Birthday Offering poster/placemat** is versatile: use side one as a poster suitable for bulletin boards and trifold; use side two as a placemat for group meals and tabletops. Available as singles so order as many (or as few) as needed! Item PWR25453; free.

**2025 Birthday Offering promotional flier** (8½" x 11")  
Download only; item PWR25457; free.

### *Receiving the Offering*

**Birthday Offering group giving envelopes**, traditionally used in PW groups and congregations, are available in packs of 25; item PWR12501; free.

**Individual giving envelopes** are PW's multipurpose envelopes. These #10 green envelopes include an attached slip that allows an individual (or group) to choose where to direct gifts as well as an area for credit card information. Available in packs of 10; item PWR20456; free.

**2025 Birthday Offering bulletin insert** Download only; item PWR25450.

**2025 Birthday Offering bulletin cover** (8½" x 11")  
Download only; item PWR25452.

**2025 Birthday Offering promotional video** (English, Spanish and Korean) Available on PW's YouTube channel: [youtube.com/presbyterianwomen](https://youtube.com/presbyterianwomen).

### *More to Explore!*

The **January/February 2025 issue of Horizons magazine** includes the grant recipient list as well as a dedication service. Available to order January 2025; item HZN25200 \$4.00. (Not a *Horizons* magazine subscriber? Call 866/802-3635 or visit [presbyterianwomen.org/subscribe!](https://presbyterianwomen.org/subscribe!))

**Messages of Reconciliation and Hope: 75 Years of Birthday Offerings, 1922–1997**, by Catherine Stewart Vaughn. Item PWR00507, \$12.00 \$3.00 (special sale price).

### *Two Ways to Order*

- Call 800/533-4371, Monday–Friday, 10 AM–5 PM EST.
- Or shop online at [presbyterianwomen.org/shop](https://presbyterianwomen.org/shop) (type "Birthday Offering" in the search box).

**Note:** Prices do not include shipping and handling (based on weight of order; \$6.25 minimum). International orders and orders to Puerto Rico will incur additional shipping charges. There are no shipping charges for free/promotional offering materials.

Help us keep contact information current. When leaders, such as treasurers and moderators in your congregation, presbytery and/or synod change, please let us know. Email changes to [pw\\_pcusa@pcusa.org](mailto:pw_pcusa@pcusa.org).