

2026-2027 PW Moderator: Allison Thornton

Presbyterian Women (PW) is a church-wide organization whose membership is open to all women. Presbyterian Women members are those who choose to participate in or be supportive of Presbyterian Women in any way. PW intentionally seeks the membership of women from all racial and ethnic groups so that the organization may reflect a vision of the whole church as a community of mutual interdependence in which diversity contributes to wholeness.

What's the purpose of Presbyterian Women?

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 (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

Presbyterian Women Circles

Circles are small groups that gather regularly to provide an inclusive, caring community of women. Each circle is an integral part of PW and is encouraged to use PW resources to strengthen this connection.

A circle is where

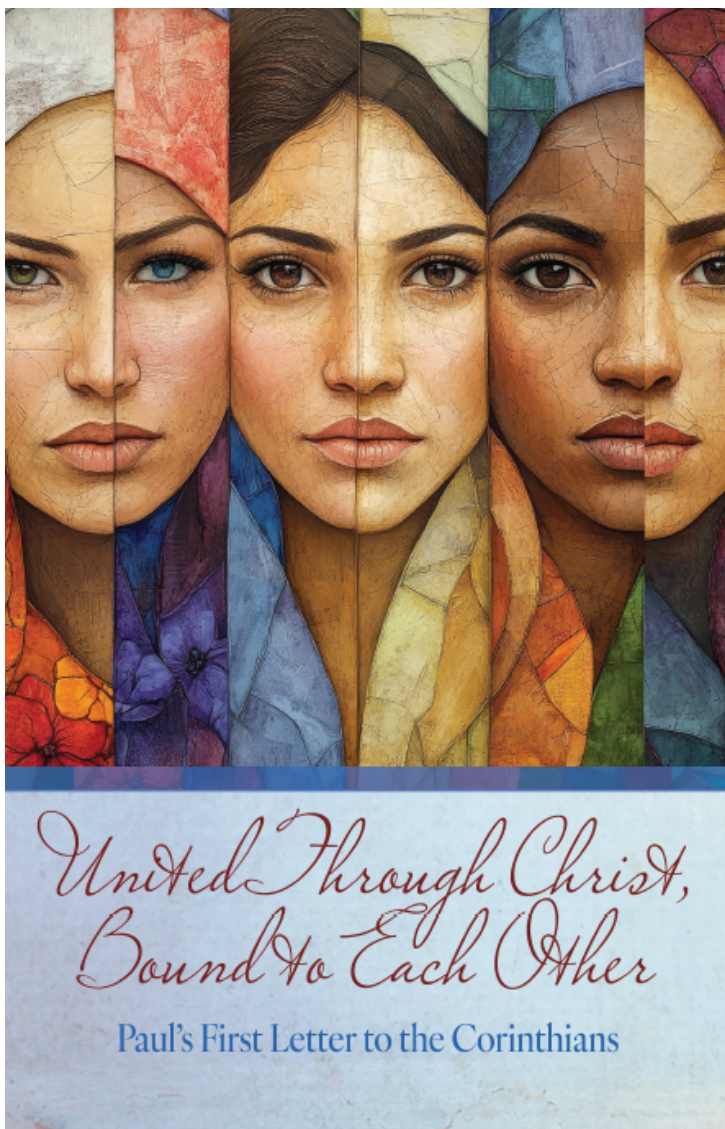
Faith is nurtured and growth takes place through worship, study, fellowship, and outreach

Women are challenged to stretch beyond their limits

Women move beyond the safe places of life, reaching out to others

Christian leadership is born, nurtured, and sent forth into ministry

2026-2027 PW Bible Study Guide



This Bible Study focuses on Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth. The study explores the letter's setting, divisions within the congregation, and ultimately, the gifts given to all through the work of Christ. Readers will be fascinated by this journey to Corinth and will explore how Paul's timeless message of loving unity calls Christ's followers today

Circle Meetings are held monthly in the Session Room on Monday mornings and Monday evenings

Day Circle: 2nd Monday @ 10:00 am

Night Circle: 2nd Monday @ 7:30 pm



Meanings Found in the Symbol

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ,

Forgiven and freed by grace through faith, the central figure stands in praise.

and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves:

Rooted in faith, the trio of women emerges. The outline of the central figure forms a cross. We are Presbyterian women, engrafted in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us.

to support the mission of the church worldwide

The left figure reaches out to care for others, as she shares, nurtures, and heals. The circle represents the church worldwide where women offer their gifts and talents in the midst of the global community.

to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,

The right figure holds a book to guide her reading, studying, praying, or meditating.

to work for justice and peace,

The uplifted arms of the central figure reach out to embrace a just peace for the world. The relationship between the three figures depicts lives of wholeness rather than turmoil.

and to build an inclusive, caring, community of women

The three women have no distinct features and represent all women. The shapes surrounding them express energy, strength, and openness.

that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Our name, Presbyterian Women, ties us to our denomination. The Bible resembles the Bible depicted in the PC (USA) seal.

and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.

Guided by our purpose, we witness to the reality of God's realm.

PW Special Offerings & Projects

Special Offerings

Thank Offering (Collected Each Fall)

The Thank Offering is one of Presbyterian Women's two offerings. Received in the fall of each year, it gives women a tangible way to express their gratitude for the special blessings in their lives. Thank Offering grants range from \$5,000 to \$50,000.

Eight of the projects were awarded nationally and focused on the following areas: home repair ministry; a path to home ownership for tornado survivors; a partnership with Presbyterian Home for Children and the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind to create a supportive housing community; a project designed to help women prepare for and navigate life after incarceration; day & overnight retreats for low income cancer patients and programs for adults with special needs.

Two of the projects awarded were international. One is designed to address chronic and recurrent malnutrition for rural, exceptionally poor families in Mombin Crochu, Haiti. The other grant will equip physically challenged and low-income women in Lebanon with skills to generate income and remain in their own communities.

The Thank Offering began in 1888 when Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio, urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America. A century later, the newly formed Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) adopted the Thank Offering as one of the two grant-making programs of the national organization. Since then, close to \$27 million has been granted to more than

1,600 different projects in the United States and around the world from the PW Thank Offering.

Presbyterian Homes

Presbyterian Homes of Georgia is a Christian ministry providing exceptional services to enhance the quality of life for senior adults since our inception in 1949. Their mission is to offer the opportunity to enjoy a vibrant retirement lifestyle in four outstanding retirement communities in Georgia, with a fifth community in development. All promote active and engaging senior living with programs and services that nurture the mind, body and spirit.

Birthday Offering (Collected Each Spring)

The Birthday Offering is Presbyterian Women's second offering. It awards up to five grants annually ranging in amounts of \$75,000 to \$150,000 each. In 2022, the McCleary House Transitional Housing in Farmington, Maine was awarded a grant to help renovate their facility. The Presbyterian

Church in Puerto Rico received funds to upgrade their kitchen so they could continue their ministry of providing food, purified water and personal items for hurricane and earthquake victims. One of the recipients of the award in 2021 was our very own Memorial Drive Ministries which received funds for improvements to their gymnasium.

In 1922, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Woman's Auxiliary (PCUSA), it was decided that an offering should be made for a definite cause. Hallie Paxson Winsborough visited Miss Dowd's School for Girls in Kochi, Japan, and seeing a need, challenged members of the Women's Auxiliary to give one penny for each year of their life as a birthday gift to the school. Women are now encouraged to give as generously as they can. Presbyterian Women have given more than \$29 million in support of mission projects throughout the world.

Worldwide Community Service Projects

Fellowship of the Least Coin

Fellowship of the Least Coin links prayer and "least coins" in a very significant way, as the least coin becomes the symbol of prayer for peace and reconciliation. It was begun in 1956 by Shanti Solomon of India and continues today as a global ecumenical prayer movement. As the coins (symbolizing prayers) are gathered from around the world, they become a sign of our oneness in the common quest for peace, justice and reconciliation. The least coins become grants for special projects of evangelism, service, ecumenical solidarity, awareness-building among women and relief.

Local Community Service Projects

Thornwell Home for Children

Thornwell is a children's home in Clinton, South Carolina, offering permanent or temporary care for infants through high school youth. Thornwell Home for Children was founded as a Presbyterian ministry in 1875 by Dr. William Plumer Jacobs, who recognized the need to build an orphanage for children who were left fatherless by the war. Today Thornwell Home for Children is a joyful Christian community, offering hope and wholeness to children and families. Its goals are to provide loving homes for abused, abandoned and neglected children, to offer an opportunity for healing by providing proper healthcare and mental health counseling for every Thornwell child, and to offer Thornwell's children hope for a successful future by providing educational support and teaching self-advocacy.

Columbia Friendship Circle

Columbia Friendship Circle (CFC) provides scholarship support for Columbia Theological Seminary students with families. CFC includes PW groups from throughout the southeast who covenant to pray for, encourage, and support men and women who are pursuing a vocation of ordained ministry.

Memorial Drive Ministries

Located in the most diverse square mile in North America, Memorial Drive Ministries (MDM) is a church-based non-profit that fosters diverse worshipping communities, innovative social services, and transformative relationships. Memorial Drive Ministries nurtures a safe, collaborative, and welcoming environment for the vibrant ministries that call the Memorial Drive campus home. Leveraging the community trust, location, and campus of the historic Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church (MDPC), Memorial Drive Ministries convenes critical leadership, organization, and a wide network of loving neighbors to create a new expression of God's Beloved Community.

Saint Luke's Service Projects

Landscaping Project

Presbyterian Women will coordinate a church beautification project in October.

Chrismons

Chrismon is an acronym for "Christ Monogram." Each year Presbyterian Women make over 100 Chrismon ornaments which are presented as gifts to the children of Saint Luke's during the Christmas season.

Valentine Cards

Presbyterian Women assemble a Starbucks gift card and send them to members of Saint Luke's who are college students.

Nourish Your Spirit

The Nourish Your Spirit programs are intended to provide additional opportunities for PW members, congregational women, and friends to spend time learning, laughing, and enjoying our faith in a casual setting. These gatherings are a supplement to our regular Circle meetings. Those who attend will find tasty nourishment for the body as well as uplifting nourishment for the spirit - through fellowship and faith-related activities.

"I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit," (Ephesians 3:16)

Women's Christmas Dinner Worship and Communion Service - First week of December

Opportunities for a Local Retreat Spring Tea after church

Honorary Life Membership

In 2000, Saint Luke's PW Executive Board voted to participate in the Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Membership award. This award honors someone who has made exceptional contributions to Presbyterian Women. The Honorary Lifetime Membership fee is used for PW leadership training costs, support of leadership development events for women, and assistance for training of leaders for mission interpretation and support.

Membership Nomination Process

No more than three memberships can be given each calendar year. The Executive Committee (Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary and Treasurer) will determine the annual recipient(s) from the names submitted by PW members. The award presentation will be made at the Spring Tea on May 3.

All submissions must be sent to the Moderator for consideration that year. Names may be submitted at any time and will be kept on file with the Moderator until the Committee meets to decide on the candidate.

When making a nomination, give the person's name and your rationale for submitting that person for consideration. It is important to mention positions held, extra help

given, willingness to work and help, longevity of service, and whatever else you feel makes that person extraordinary. The nomination must be given in writing.

Once the recipient(s) are chosen, the name will be confidential until the announcement. The recipient will not be notified in advance.

Past Honorary Life Members

2000-2001	Jane Allen, Laura Andrews, Ellie Goodwin
2001 -2002	Myron Johnson, Mary Martin
2002 -2003	Nancy Adams, Lila Jean LaMotte, Sally Shelton
2003-2004	Lela and Tom McIntosh
2004-2005	Debi Elkins, Karleen Buchholz
2005-2006	Claydene Dunlap, Amy Stewart, Catherine Anne Thomas
2006-2007	Jan Slater, Jennie Burroughs, Ellen Massey
2007-2008	Shannon Dill, June Price
2008-2009	Sarah Jones
2009-2010	Susan Edmonson
2010-2011	Jan Billions
2011-2012	Patsy Bradley, Byron Brown
2012-2013	Becky Loftis, Faye Cashwell
2013-2014	Donna Mason, Suzanne Guyton
2014-2015	Beth Dresher, Roby Price
2015-2016	Annie Hardy, Beth Underhill
2016-2017	Lucy Painter
2017-2018	Christy Keohane
2018-2019	Fern Mitropoulos
2019-2020	Steve Cashwell
2020-2021	Ellen Womack
2021-2022	Andrea Price, Jenny Troha
2023-2024	Donna Crutchfield, Jean Cronan
2024-2025	Janis Kilgore and Terri Potter
2025-2026	Sally Joyce and Kimey Reed

Presidents – Women of the Church

Robbie Brunson	1971-72
Eileen Brink	1972-74
Mary Jane McSweeney	1974-76

Jane Allen	1976-78
Diane Mothershed Rooks	1978-80
Sarah Jones	1980-82
Nancy Adams	1982-84
Martha Payne	1984-86
Paula Barbin	1986-88

Moderators – Presbyterian Women

Carolyn Martin	1988-90
Audrey Richardson	1990-91
Lee-Anne Moxley	1991-92
Felicia Downs	1992-93
Amy Hulett	1993-94
Ellen Massey	1994-95
Cheryl Christensen	1995-96
Sally Shelton	1996-97
Mary Martin	1997-98
Dena Hooper	1998-99
Becky Loftis	1999-00
Amy Stewart	2000-01
Beth Drescher	2001-02
Debi Elkins	2002-03
Laura Jester	2003-04
Catherine Anne Thomas	2004-05
Nancy Boyken	2005-06
Jennie Burroughs	2006-07
Kathie Chipman	2007-08
Laura Singley	2008-09

Wendy Moreland	2009-10
Michelle Vail	2010-11
Donna Mason	2011-12
Lindy Farley	2012-13
Ellen Womack	2013-14
Christy Keohane	2014-15
Faye Cashwell	2015-16
Andrea Price	2016-17
Fern Mitropoulos	2017-18
Sandra DuBois	2018-19
Diane Lemaster	2019-20
Jenny Troha	2020-21
Nan Keel	2021-22
Janis Kilgore	2022-23
Terri Potter	2023-24
Marylyn Brown	2024-25
Ginger Williams	2025-26
Allison Thornton	2026-27