



PWJCP

Women's Word

Volume 5 Issue 1

Fall 2023

Calendar of Events

October (*Fair Trade Month*)

- 16 World Food Day
- 24 United Nations Day

November

- 12 Hunger and Homeless Sunday
- 13 World Kindness Day
- 20 Universal Children's Day
- 23 Thanksgiving

December

- 3 Advent begins
- 10 International Human Rights Day
- 18 International Migrants Day.
- 25 Christmas



Page Turners

Solito by Javier Zamora
-a young poet tells the inspiring story of his migration from El Salvador

The Violin Conspiracy

by Brendan Slocumb
The story of growing up Black in rural North Carolina to become a world class violinist against all odds!

Moderator's Moment

Happy Fall, PW Sisters,
During the first lesson of "Sacred Encounters", this following passage impressed me: In speaking of Elizabeth and Mary, the author says "they found safety and solidarity in each other's presence. Like women before them, they were connected through their life experiences and their struggles".

This reminds me--this is what PW is all about! The friendships we have with women in our circles are so very important in our lives. In this beautiful season of changing beauty and cooler weather, let's be thankful for God's love shown through the fellowship of our PW sisters (past, present, and future).

The closing prayer of lesson one has endured through the centuries-- "**Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you. All things pass. God does not change. Patience achieves everything. Whoever has God lacks nothing. God alone suffices. Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ looks out on the world. Yours are the feet with which [God] is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which [God] is to bless [God's] people**". -- Teresa of Avila, 1515-1582

Blessings to you today, Joan



Stay "In the Know" about PW's 2024 Churchwide Gathering

The 2024 PW Churchwide Gathering is a year away! Come to St. Louis for this triennial event that begins with dinner on Thursday, August 8 and ends with morning worship on Sunday, August 11, 2024. "Do Everything in Love" is the theme of the Gathering and plenary speakers, workshop leaders and programming will highlight ways we can share God's love with the world.

Three registration options are available—something for everyone!

Full Registrant—\$450

A full registration is your ticket to community, learning and worship with PW siblings from across the country. It includes plenary sessions, participation in up to six workshops from inspiring leaders, shopping, three provided meals, book groups, opportunities for spiritual development and the incomparable energy of more than 1,000 PWs gathering to "Do everything in love."

One-Day Registrant (Friday or Saturday only)—\$150

Enjoy the day's plenary sessions, provided meal of the day and select from the day's programming options. Attend up to three workshops, visit the exhibit hall, bookstore and join any of the daily programming.

Online Registrant—\$150

Slide up to your computer (or grab your smart phone!) to take in the large-group plenary sessions, worship and select workshops.

Registration will open March 2024.

The Gathering Quest, a monthly email series focused on news, planning tools and promotional resources has already begun! Links to the previous emails are available under the "Opportunities & Resources" tab of presbyterianwomen.org/gathering. Sign up to receive the Gathering Quest by sending an email to patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org with the subject "add me to PW emails."

Horizons Bible Study Sacred Encounters

From her workshop in August at the Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, KS, Rev. Dr. Olive Mahabir shared the mechanics and spiritual wanderings that went into the development of this year's Bible study. Opening with "I am a Woman born of God Born of love," from *Women's Uncommon Prayers*, she looks for the Extraordinary happening in the Ordinary – how God can use a willing heart and spirit.

The study is conceptualized on 4 pillars:

Faith – personal and collective (community)

Biblical history – knowledge of the Bible in how it was written and the message it gives

Theological understanding – the concepts that inform our faith

Tradition – the common beliefs/practices that evolve over centuries (i.e. wearing robes, creeds)

Each month as you read and study, keep in mind the following structure of the lessons:

Introduction – sets up the story with time, place

WHERE

Examining the Characters **WHO**

Sacred Encounter – interaction of characters **WHAT**

Transformation – **HOW** changed each character/ response and how changes us (personally) and the implications for the faith community (collective).

Use the Artwork as another teaching tool. What do you see? How does it inform the story? How is it connecting or not?

Notice the diversity in the opening/closing prayers from ancient to current times and how they are a representation of how we live out our faith.

Within the pages of this study, Olive Mahabir invites you to consider Jesus, "the good shepherd" (Luke 10:15), who shared the Good News through sacred encounters with everyday people.

The Gospel According to Luke and the book of Acts of the Apostles, or Luke-Acts "one story in two parts", demonstrate the unfolding of God's redemptive purposes in human history and present a distinctive perspective on the person and work of Jesus Christ.

**May you be blessed..... and may
you be a blessing!**



PW's Build a Bouquet *FUN*draiser

PW's Build a Bouquet campaign invites us to celebrate all the individuals and programs that help PW's bloom in so many spectacular ways and places. Funds received through this campaign will build PW's Annual Fund, which supports all PW ministries and programs, at all levels of the organization. The bouquets will be digitally displayed at the Churchwide Gathering. Seven Bouquet options and one community garden are available from \$10 to \$500. Build your bouquet and learn more at presbyterianwomen.org/bouquet

Fall Workshop– September 23,2023

Dear Presbyterian Women of John Calvin Presbytery,

We had a wonderful fall workshop in Fort Scott, Kansas. Around 26 were in attendance to enjoy our Presbyterian Women's work as well as a gathering of friends. Matilda Parker, our Peacemaker, spoke about her home in Liberia, Africa, and of the work of the Presbyterian Church in that country, as well as the work of her foundation. Her foundation helps Liberian women feed and clothe their families and work in that capacity to earn money.

The other speaker was Kirk Sharp, director of the Gordon Park's Museum, at Fort Scott Community College. We got to see some of Park's works, learn something of his life, and were invited to see more of Gordon Park's creative photography at the museum that afternoon.

We will all be together again for Spring Gathering 2024 at Ozark Presbyterian Church, April 20, 2024, located in Ozark, Missouri