



Presbyterian Women in Grace Presbytery

Innovator

Semiannual Issue, March 2025
Jill Bray, Editor
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2025 Spring Workshop

Saturday, May 3
9:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

United Presbyterian Church
5905 Stonewall St.
Greenville, TX 75402

Theme: Audacious Hospitality

“...But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” - Luke 14:13-14a



Registration
Workshops
Mission Projects
2025-2026 Bible Study Preview
Officer Training Class

Mission Table Shopping
(checks/cash accepted for purchases)

\$15 fee includes registration and lunch.

United Presbyterian Church's half of the offering will go to Meals on Wheels; PW Coordinating Team's half will go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

See Registration Form on page 2.

Issue Three
March 2025

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**Presbyterian Women,
What We Do:**

- + Nurture Faith
- + Support Mission
- + Work for Justice & Peace
- + Build Community
- + Develop Leaders



Spring Workshop Registration Form

Grace PW Spring Workshop Registration

Saturday, May 3, 2025 9:30 am-2:00 pm

United Presbyterian Church, 5905 Stonewall St., Greenville, TX 75126

Phone: 903-461-8749

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Home Church Name and City: _____

PW Office held: _____ Registrar: Bettina Zvanut

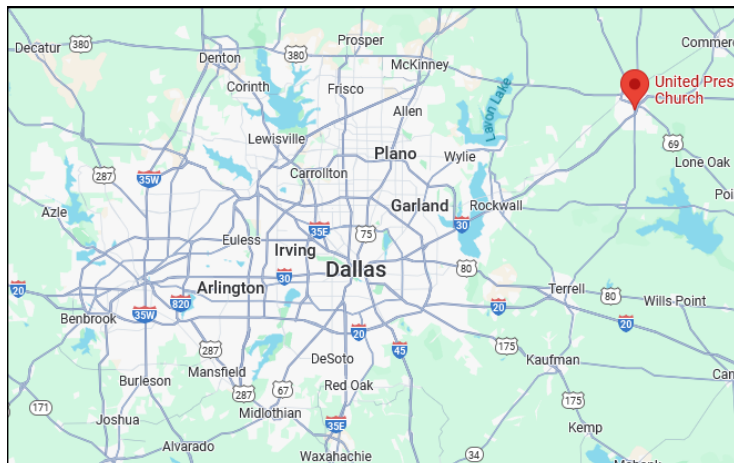
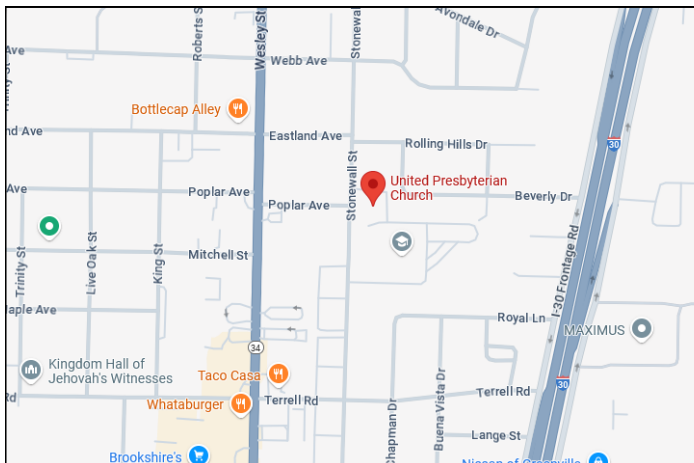
Childcare is needed for _____
(number and age of children)



**Please make your \$15.00 check
(includes registration and lunch) payable to:
United Presbyterian Church**

**Mail check and this form to:
Bettina Zvanut
5292 FM 2874
Commerce, TX 75428**

Bettina's phone—903-461-8749



United Presbyterian Church—5905 Stonewall St., Greenville, TX 75126

Meg's Meanderings



Meg GarverHamilton, Moderator of Grace Presbytery's PW.

My Dear Sister in Christ,

I pray this finds you all well and doing the usual great things for which our PW are known. The Coordinating Team is working on plans for the Spring Workshop on May 3rd at United Presbyterian Church in Greenville. Rev. Dr. Julie Adkins will give an overview of the 2025/2026 Horizons Bible Study and there will be a hands-on workshop putting together hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). The need for these kits is great due to storms and fires that have displaced so many throughout the country. The kits will make their way to Ferncliff Disaster Assistance Center (outside of Little Rock, AR) to be shipped to those in need.

Please mark your calendars with these dates for 2025:

- Spring Workshop—May 3, United Presbyterian, Greenville
- Synod PW Gathering—July 24-26, Fayetteville, Arkansas, Scholarships available.
- Fall Gathering—October 18, First Presbyterian, Grapevine

Watch for further information on our PW Facebook page and the Grace Presbytery website and Grace eNews. Also your Cluster Leader will do her part to keep you up-to-date on what is happening for Presbyterian Women in Grace Presbytery and the world.

Please pray for our Louisville folk as many are being let go because of budget problems. Prayers also for local churches and staffs as declines in membership results in a decline of financial givings. Thank you to all the loyal PW in Grace that continue to support the work we continue to do. Thanks to ALL of you for supporting PW and its work to spread the Word and love for our Lord to our sisters and brothers.

See you in May in Greenville,

Meg GarverHamilton

Grace Presbytery PWCT Officer Contact Info

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**The Coordinating Team
 is here to serve you!**



Highlights from Horizons Bible Study Author Event

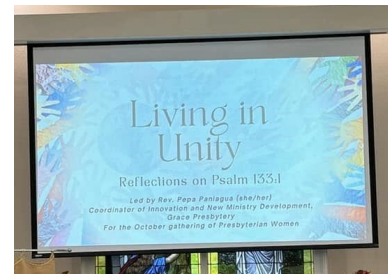


A large gathering of women from across the presbytery gathered at First Presbyterian, Ft. Worth to hear this year's Horizons Bible study author, Patricia K. Tull. Pictures: Patricia Tull; Brian Coulter, Pastor 1st Pres.; various ladies who attended.



Pictures provided by First Presbyterian, Ft. Worth.

Fall Gathering Highlights



Thank you to the PW of First Presbyterian, Forney, Texas for hosting our Fall Gathering!

Pictures left to right: Pam Cooper, installed as Cluster Leader (Meg, Pam, Sherri); Pepa Paniagua, our keynote speaker; Rev. Dr. Julie Adkins led worship; ladies enjoying each other's company.

Cookie Walk in Greenville!

The Presbyterian Women of United Presbyterian Church in Greenville, Texas held their annual Cookie Walk on December 7th. The women made 800 dozen cookies of over 50 different recipes, including sugar free and gluten free. Customers could purchase a box for either \$7 or \$14 and then choose their cookies from the huge selection. After filling their boxes, they enjoyed hot chocolate or coffee and a slice of chocolate bundt cake while enjoying Christmas music. This was their biggest mission of the year and it was enjoyed by many people in the community!

\$2700 was raised on this 30th anniversary Cookie Walk. All proceeds were donated to high school scholarships and the Meals on Wheels Organization in Hunt County. Congress has cut funding for Meals on Wheels by \$8 million, so they were a worthy cause.



2025 Birthday Offering

The Birthday Offering is one of Presbyterian Women's two offerings. Received in the spring each year, it gives women a tangible way to celebrate the blessings in their lives. The Birthday Offering funds up to five projects each year, in amounts of \$75,000 to \$150,000 each.

The 2025 Birthday Offering Recipients are:

Leland Presbyterian Church

Windward Volunteer Housing Facility

Leland, Mississippi

Windward Volunteer Housing will offer safe and comfortable accommodations, including showers, laundry equipment and a kitchen. Members of the community who need a temporary place to stay and volunteer groups who come for disaster recovery will find a warm welcome in Leland.

Red Cloud Renewable

Lakota Thiyuha Dome Home Project

Pine Ridge, South Dakota

The Lakota Thiyuha Project aims to increase housing availability through construction of innovative dome homes that are energy efficient, economical, simple in design and easily teachable. The Birthday Offering grant will construct three dome homes, providing housing as well as creating publicity for this affordable option.

Camp Gilmont (Re)Creation Women's Retreat

May 2-4, 2025



Keynote Speaker: Maddy Aaen is the Director of Children's and Youth Ministry at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Denton, Texas. She is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth.

At the 2025 Women's Retreat, we'll be spending the weekend exploring God's nearness in moments of leisure and recreation. We'll wonder together about God as a Creator, and what God's creativity has to do with who we are. Our hope is that you will leave with a renewed love for slowing down, enjoying the moment, and noticing God's presence in your leisure.

Lodge Rooms: Single Occupancy \$350 per person, Double Occupancy \$250 per person, If you are choosing Double Occupancy this means you are coordinating with your own roommate. Please list your roommate's name on your registration form. Gilmont will not assign random roommates.

Cabin Community Space: \$195 per person, Up to 6 guests share a sleeping space and a restroom. Depending on retreat attendance, cabin guests will be more spread out.

Register before March 15 for a t-shirt with the Women's Retreat logo on it!

The retreat begins Friday, May 2 with registration beginning at 4:00pm. Dinner will be served at 6:00, followed by opening keynote and fellowship together. On Saturday, May 3, participants enjoy a morning and evening keynote session and free time to rest, explore, and recreate. Free time options include contemplative prayer stations, painting and other crafts, yoga, guided hikes, axe throwing, disc golf, and more! The retreat concludes Sunday, May 4 following worship and lunch. Cost is all inclusive and includes room and meals.

Learn more and register at [Gilmont.org/womens-retreat](https://gilmont.org/womens-retreat)

*Gilmont Camp & Conference Center is located at 6075 State Hwy 155 North, Gilmer, Texas, 75644.
(903) 797 - 6400, info@gilmont.org | Gilmer, TX*

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance—OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crises and catastrophic events.

In the light of so many recent events (Southern California Wildfires, Hurricane Milton, Hurricane Helene), PDA provides concrete ways of helping through financial donations, volunteers, assembling disaster kits, and prayers for all involved.

Go to www.pcusa.org/disaster-assistance for more information and find a way to be part of the healing.



2025-2026 Horizons Bible Study

The new 2025-2026 Presbyterian Women/Horizons Bible Study is *Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ* by Rhashell D. Hunter with Suggestions for Leaders by Joyce MacKichan Walker.

In this Bible study, resilience will be explored as modeled by several biblical characters, gospel and epistle writers, as well as Jesus.

Come to the Spring Workshop on May 3 (see details on page 1) and hear Rev. Dr. Julie Adkins give an overview of the study.

FYI—There is a modest price increase for PW's annual Bible study. Beginning with the 2025–2026 study, the price of various editions of the study will increase to reflect higher production costs. This is the first price increase since 2017.

Bible study, English, regular print—\$14

Bible study, English, ecumenical—\$14

Bible study, Spanish—\$14

Bible study, English, large print—\$20

Sharing the Love of Books

From Bettina Zvanut:

A book I have been reading that has made a big impression on me is, *Guns, Germs, and Steel* by Jared Diamond. Dr. Diamond is a professor of geography at the University of California. He uses history, science, geography, and biology to explain why Egypt, the Mideast, and China were able to create empires because of their ability to produce food. Every improvement and invention followed that ability. It is a very interesting and eye-opening book about power, colonization, and chance in world history.

From Jill Bray:

I recently read *The Van Gogh Woman* by Debby Beece. It is a historical fiction novel from the viewpoint of the wife of Vincent Van Gogh's brother. Beece sheds light on the art scene in Paris, of Vincent Van Gogh's struggle with mental illness, and Theo Van Gogh's lifelong commitment of trying to help his brother. The "woman", Johanna Van Gogh (married to Theo), is a great example of a strong and ambitious woman in a prominently male dominated society. After Vincent's and her husband's death, she worked tirelessly to promote the talent of the troubled Vincent. *The Van Gogh Woman* is a captivating story of love, passion, and genius as a woman saves Vincent van Gogh from obscurity and brings his art to the world.

If you would like to share a short blurb about a particular book you've read and/or an article including pictures of special PW events at your church, please email them to Innovator Editor Jill Bray at jmbray51@sbcglobal.net.

Note: Every effort will be made to include anything submitted, but it is dependent upon space available and may be subject to editing. Thank you for your understanding!

Presbyterian Women of Grace Presbytery
c/o Jill Bray, *Innovator* Editor

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Weatherford, TX 76086

Address correction requested

Find us on Facebook:

[Presbyterian Women of
Grace Presbytery](#)

Online newsletter: <http://www.gracepresbytery.org/ministries/presbyterian-women/>

Presbyterian Women Websites

PW of Grace Presbytery
www.gracepresbytery.org

Horizons Magazine, 866-802-3635
www.pcusa.org/horizons

PW in the (PCUSA), Inc.,
888-728-7228, ext. 8014
www.presbyterianwomen.org

PW in the Synod of the Sun
www.sospwconnect.com



Hospitality is the way we
come out of ourselves. It
is the first step toward
dismantling the barriers
of the world. Hospitality
is the way we turn a
prejudiced world around,
one heart at a time.

Rule of Benedictine



Synod of the Sun 2025 PW Gathering

Theme: Our Joy is in Christ
When: July 24 – 26, 2025
Where: First United Presbyterian
Church, Fayetteville, AR

Registration: Coming Soon!

For scholarships, go to website

<http://www.sospwconnect.com/synod-of-the-sun-pw-gathering-july-21-23-2022-in-new-orleans-la/>

Look under **CONFERENCES** at the top of the page, then click on *Application for PW SOS Scholarship* to print an application form.