

Presbyterian Women in Grace Presbytery

Innovator

Semiannual Issue, September 2025
Jill Bray, Editor
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2025 Fall Gathering

Saturday, October 18
9:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
1002 Park Blvd.
Grapevine, TX 76051

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



Schedule of the Day

9:30-9:55 a.m.	Registration
10:00-10:50 a.m.	Business Meeting/Officer Installation/ Presentation of Budget/Offering
10:50-11:00 a.m.	Break
11:00-11:45 a.m.	Keynote Speaker, Rev. Kelly Staples
11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00-2:00 p.m.	Communion Service

Browse the Mission Tables during free time.
Checks and cash will be accepted for purchases.

Money collected for the offering goes to: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

The \$15 fee covers registration and lunch.
See Registration Form on page 2.

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Presbyterian Women, What We Do:

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



Fall Gathering Registration Form

Grace PW Fall Gathering Registration

Saturday, October 18, 2025 9:30 am-2:00 pm

1002 Park Blvd., Grapevine, TX 76051

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Home Church Name and City: _____

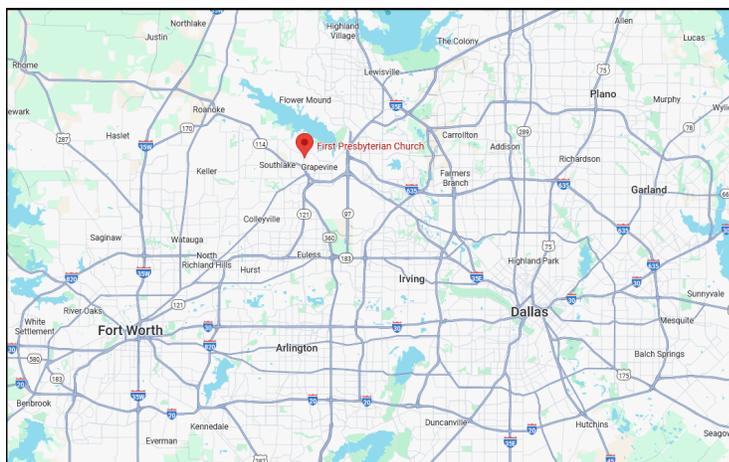
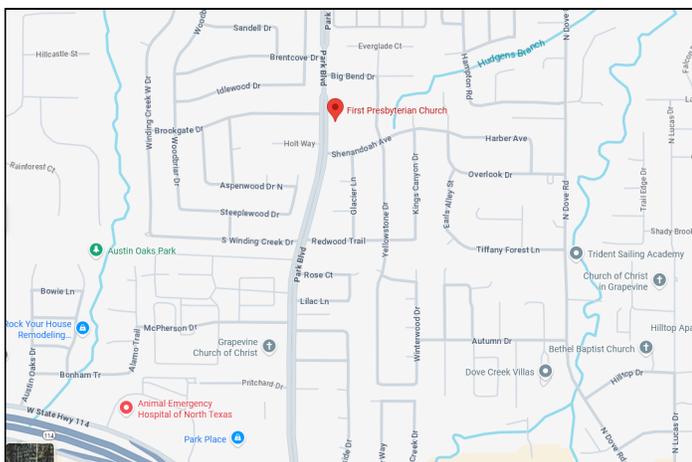
PW Office held, if any: _____

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



**Mail check and this form to:
Presbyterian Women
First Presbyterian Church
PO Box 1449
Grapevine, TX 76099**

**You may contact Leslie Rigoulot
with any questions.
Phone: 817-938-3374**



First Presbyterian Church—1002 Park Blvd., Grapevine, TX 76051

Meg's Meanderings



**Meg GarverHamilton, Moderator
of Grace Presbytery's PW.**

It has been an interesting Summer. When school let out, my husband and his brother drove the brother's motor home to Alaska for some salmon fishing. YUM!

I straightened my office and it is easier to find where things are, but I keep adding stuff. Plus, I came home from the Synod of the Sun PW Gathering in Fayetteville, AR with even more stuff! While at the Synod Gathering, I was installed as the Moderator for PW in the Synod of the Sun, heard a preview of the 2025/2026 Bible Study (which is fantastic), and had a reunion with Rashelle Hunter (Bible study author). I worked with Rashelle's father on a Synod Racial Equality Gathering in 2011. It was wonderful to meet great women who are as passionate about PW as we are.

I do hope you all plan on joining the Coordinating Team for the Fall Gathering at First Presbyterian in Grapevine on October 3rd. The Gathering will include a business meeting to elect and install officers and present the 2026 budget; our Keynote Speaker, Rev. Kelly Staples; food and fellowship during lunch; mission tables (time to do some early Christmas shopping); and a beautiful worship experience with Holy Communion to send us on our way.

Please know you are valued members of Christ's Church and Presbyterian Women in Grace Presbytery. You are in the prayers of many. Fill your car with friends and join us in Grapevine in October.

In His Service,
Meg GarverHamilton

Calling New Coordinating Team Members!!!

Your Grace Presbytery PW Coordinating Team is in need of several willing volunteers to fill vacancies that are going to happen at the end of this year ... as well as a couple of slots left vacant because of resignations due to health and other life issues. Some current CT members are not eligible for re-election because they have served the maximum length of time in the same position (six years) ... so we need you! Here are the open or about-to-be-open slots:

- Moderator / Co-Moderator (we are considering an amendment to the bylaws to make it a co-moderator position in place of the current "moderator-elect" format, which hasn't worked well)
- Vice Moderator for Program
- Vice Moderator of Search
- Mission Coordinator
- Coordinator of Bible Study (we think we have this filled, but if you are interested go ahead and let us know!)
- Cluster Leaders

Interested cluster leaders please contact Dian Cooper, dian.cooper@gmail.com

Interested in any other position, and/or for additional information, please contact Meg GarverHamilton, mgarverhamilton@gmail.com

Spring Workshop and PW Synod of the Sun Gathering Highlights



Thanks to the ladies at United Presbyterian Church in Greenville for hosting our Spring Workshop!

Rev. Dr. Julie Adkins was presented with a PW Honorary Life Membership by Meg.

Good food and good fellowship were had by all.

Congrats to Meg GarverHamilton for being elected as the new Moderator of PW in the Synod of the Sun!

Also attending the Gathering were Patty Heeter, Carol Ferguson, and Rev. Dr. Lucia Kremzar.



PDA Health Kits Donated!

Bettina Zvanut and Meg GarverHamilton loaded up 100 health kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in early June. The health kits had been put together at the Spring PW Workshop held at United Presbyterian Church in Greenville, Texas. 150 health kits had already been delivered to Camp Gilmont by Rev. Jane Els and her husband. Bettina and Meg, moderator of the PW coordinating team at Grace Presbytery, delivered the last 100 to the warehouse at Gilmont. The warehouse is managed by Andy Hackett who helped them unload with some oversight by Jennifer Rigoulot, director of Camp Gilmont. When the warehouse fills up, a truck will come from the hub of distribution for PDA, Ferncliff Disaster Assistance Center, in Peron, Arkansas. The truck will deliver the health kits to Peron, Arkansas, where they will be distributed in the U.S. and around the world.

Submitted by Bettina Zvanut.



Front—Andy Hackett and Jennifer Rigoulot
Back—Meg and Bettina



PDA Warehouse at Camp Gilmont



PW of First, Tyler!

On June 30, Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian Church of Tyler, Texas hosted a luncheon for the Tyler Council of Church Women. TCCW is a diverse group of interfaith women caring for, concerned with, and giving to the community. TCCW started Tyler Day Nursery in 1936 to provide quality childcare and pre-school education for children of low income and poverty level families. Diapers, wipes and other essentials were donated for the nursery. Shawnya West of the Better Business Bureau gave a very informative program highlighting common tactics used by scammers and how to avoid fraud.

Submitted by Rita Poole



PW of St. Philip, Hurst!



These ladies met to eat in July 2025.

New Historian, Take Note

Cheryl Arey will be shifting positions on the Grace Presbytery PW Coordinating Team from Vice Moderator of Programs to Historian.

Local church PW Historians, please send your 2025 History Report to:

Cheryl Arey
817 Misty Glen Dr.
DeSoto, TX 75115

Additional contact info:
ewadiag@gmail.com
214-663-2621

*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. Deadline for the March Innovator is **February 1st**.*

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!

Warming Center in Waxahachie

The Mission Committee at Central Presbyterian Church (CPC), Waxahachie, began to think about a severe weather warming center last summer (2024). A group was formed to study the feasibility of such an undertaking. It became immediately apparent that CPC (a small congregation in an historic church) could not undertake or sustain this mission without help from others. We did not want this to be a hand-out or a hand-up. We simply wanted to extend hospitality to some folks in our community that we might not otherwise know.

We began to look for resources! A non-profit donated money for cots, pillows, pillow cases, and extension cords. A large non-denominational church in town offered breakfast casseroles whenever we needed them. The local Homeless Coalition came along side and committed to help getting the word out to the homeless population on the nights that we were open. We looked for thoughtful and compassionate overnight volunteers with the help of our community contacts. The response was humbling. Members of our church made soup for every night we were open. Another church in a nearby city heard what we were doing and their staff donated new blankets. The local police and fire departments have notified their night patrols and EMS on the nights that we are open in the event they find someone in the cold that they can bring to the church. The local library donated used books and magazines. The local food pantry donated frozen meats for our evening meal preparations and posts our openings on their Facebook page.

We are starting small. We can serve a maximum of 15 guests per night and require 3 volunteers each night. We understand that reaching out to our homeless neighbors and gaining their trust is a process. We are taking baby steps and every night we are open someone that has not been to the church before tells us that they will be back the next time the warming center is open. Socks, coats, and sweaters are given out when supply allows.

We are intentional in our interactions with our guests. We share meals together, we sit around the table and drink coffee together and we get to know one another. We listen to them and we see them. While we try to warm their bodies, they are warming our hearts.

We pray that this ministry will continue and that it is pleasing to our God as we seek to serve Him.

To God be the glory!

Fancy Jezek (Fancy and her husband Eric are members of CPC Waxahachie.)

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 (especially the horrific floods in the Texas Hill Country), 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.



Resource Table—Take OR Bring!

As usual, we will have a resource table of (mostly) books at our Fall Gathering. We know, because you tell us, that many of you are “downsizing” and don’t want to bring home any more books. BUT ... How about taking something to read in the fall, and bringing it back in the spring when you’re done with it? Or maybe even better, bring us some of your downsized books for the resource table. They don’t have to be “churchy” stuff ... you’ll see that there is other nonfiction on the table, and fiction as well, and occasional magazines. Check it out, and let us help you find new homes for what you don’t plan to read again!

Sharing the Love of Books

Submitted by Cheryl Arey:

Grandma Ruth Doesn’t Go To Funerals, author Sharon J. Mondragon. A delightfully funny and lighthearted read about small town southern families. Yes, there is a mystery, but not a murder this time. How unusual. I personally know the author because she was my knitting/crochet teacher a few years ago. I highly recommend this book because it is such a different genre to my other reads which consists of The Great War and WW2 historical fiction.

Submitted by Janice Smith:

The Great Divide by Christina Henriquez is historical fiction that brings different perspectives to the building of the Panama Canal. Characters include the local people, some who protest and refuse to support the canal and some who find jobs in the digging. Also there are those who come from other countries to find work, and the privileged who come to manage the work and to do medical research. The lives of these characters intertwine to make a fascinating story of the massive project.

2025 Thank Offering

Received in the fall each year, the Thank Offering 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. At least 40 percent of the offering funds health ministries. This year, one of the grants was awarded to a project in our own Grace Presbytery—Community Garden Kitchen (CKG) of Collin County, Empowering Futures: Training Program for Foster Care Youth, McKinney, Texas, [CommunityGardenKitchen.org](https://www.communitygardenkitchen.org), \$45,800.

Community Garden Kitchen is a free meal restaurant providing nutritious foods in a community setting. Their new culinary program is tailored to meet the unique needs of youth who are aging out of foster care through paid internships, vocational training and job placement assistance in the restaurant industry. The Thank Offering grant will fund the training for ten youth and will increase the number of hungry individuals served while honoring the dignity of every person.

To see the other grant recipients and for resource materials for the Thank Offering, go to https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/support-mission/thank-offering

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

Grace First Presbyterian Church
606 Mockingbird Lane
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

2025 Justice and Peace Calendar for September

- + National Hispanic Heritage Month [Sep 15–Oct 15];
hispanicheritagemoth.gov
- + 01 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation;
creationjustice.org/world-day-of-prayer-for-the-care-of-creation.html
- + 01 Labor Day; dol.gov/general/laborday/history
- + 08 International Literacy Day; en.unesco.org/commemorations/literacyday
- + 21 International Day of Peace; pcusa.org/worship-with-us/yearbook/september-21-2024
- + 26 Native American Day; pcusa.org/resource/native-american-day

