



SUNRISE



Presbyterian Women



Presbyterian Woman Shenandoah <http://shenpres.org/presbyterian-women/>
Connie Wood & Karen Stevens, CO Moderators

May 2023
Pat&Rich Armstrong, Editor

SPRING GATHERING

The Presbyterian Women of Shenandoah Presbytery held their annual Spring Gathering at Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center on Saturday, April 15, 2023. This annual event is an opportunity for all PW throughout our Presbytery to meet and gather in fellowship, mission and worship. We also conducted our annual Business Meeting during this Gathering.

This year's theme, *Clothing Yourself with a Holy Way of Life*, was based on Colossians 3:12. Our PW Synod Moderator, Nancy Long of Delaware, was also present and shared greetings and news from the Synod and Churchwide PW.

During the Business Meeting, a slate of officers for the PW Coordinating Team of Shenandoah Presbytery was presented for consideration, and the slate was unanimously approved. The following were installed for the 2023-2024 term:

Karen Stevens: Co-Moderator and Treasurer

Connie Woods: Co-Moderator

Vickana Norton: Secretary

Pam Snyder: Leadership Coordinator;

Highland-Augusta Mission Community Coordinator; Celebration and *Horizons* representative

Paula Osborne: Spiritual Nurture; Eastern Panhandle, Potomac Highlands Mission Community Coordinator

Ruth Williams: Justice and Peace

Punker Robertson: Together in Service

Pat Armstrong: Sunrise Editor

Donna Parker: Mountain & Central Valley Mission Community Coordinator

Frances Craig: Maury River Mission Community Coordinator

Gratitude was shared with Harriet Kopp who has

faithfully served as Historian and whose term on the Coordinating Team is completed.

A special PW Honorary Life Membership was presented to Karen Steven, of Olivet Presbyterian in Staunton. Karen embodies the PW Purpose and has shared much time and energy in service to her church, community and the Presbytery PW Coordinating Team. Congratulations to Karen!

The Rev. Joel Thornton, who currently serves churches in Lost City and Wardensville, WV, led the worship service and special music was provided by Teresa Whitesell, of Olivet Presbyterian in Staunton. Ruth Williams of Sunnyside Retirement Communities, accompanied on piano. The offering recipient was Martinsburg Union Rescue Mission.



Picture: Connie Wood and Karen Stevens, PW Presbytery CT Co-Moderators

Submitted by Pam Snyder
Leadership Coordinator
Coordinating Team for PW in Shenandoah Presbytery

3rd Presbyterian News

We served two bereavement meals. The congregation came together and cleaned the church and outside areas. We are preparing for a hymn sing to be held during regular church services. We continue to collect non-perishable food items which will be distributed to those in need in our community.

We are still collecting snack items to give to the overnight guests in the homeless shelter.

In Christ's Service
Darlene Mason

COLLIERSTOWN HAS A BUSY SPRING!

March blew into Collierstown in a hurry and with it came much activity! A 4 cents a meal offering was taken by the Collierstown congregation each Sunday of the month during the worship service offertory to begin raising funds for the 2024 RISE AGAINST HUNGER (formerly STOP HUNGER NOW) MEAL PACKING DAY sponsored by the community's six churches. The event is held every other year with funds being raised to purchase food supplies for packing during the alternate year. The PW's Night Circle group joined in the effort and a total of \$745.80 was raised to begin the '24 campaign.

In April under the leadership of PW member Rosalea Potter, an Effinger Community Easter Egg Hunt was held on Saturday, April 8 in the field across from the Effinger Volunteer Fire Department with 70 children hunting eggs and 30 parents and volunteers assisting with the morning's activities. The congregations of the Collierstown Presbyterian, Collierstown United Methodist, Mt. Horeb United Methodist, Oxford Presbyterian, and Union View Advent Christian Church worked together providing games, activities, and treats for the children in attendance. Support from the Effinger Ruritan Club was also received to provide a free photo opportunity for children with the Easter Bunny.

Sunday, April 16 was a day of celebration, thanksgiving, and hospitality as nine children in

the church family were baptized and seven adults were welcomed as members of Collierstown Presbyterian Church. Rev. Bill Klein led the 11:00 a.m. worship service and administered the sacrament of baptism. He also presided over the commitment to church membership made by the seven adults. Following the worship hour, a reception and time of fellowship was held in the Fellowship Hall by the Presbyterian Women for the one hundred and fifty members, family, and friends in attendance. It was a day of joy and thanksgiving as adults professed their faith in Jesus Christ and committed to serve Him as church members. It was also a time of celebration as the members of the congregation joined with the parents of the children baptized committing to encourage and nurture these children as they grow in Christian faith. The children ranged in age from six months to four years and all had the benefit of a faith legacy spanning at least five generations. The heritage of faith is always an asset in bringing others to Christ as was witnessed that day!

The Presbyterian Women held its spring meeting on Thursday, April 20. Plans for the PW's birthday celebration were announced with the annual birthday offering being received on Mother's Day, May 14. Plans were also made to recognize the congregation's four Rockbridge County High School seniors on Sunday, May 21. Each will receive an ESV Study Bible engraved with their name and their achievement will be celebrated with Lemonade on the Lawn at the conclusion of the morning worship service. In addition to other business relating to spring and summer activities the group approved holding its Annual Church Dinner on Saturday, November 4. The Annual Church Dinner is sponsored by the PW but is a total church undertaking. It has been a source of fellowship and outreach for the church family since 1925 when the first Chrysanthemum Show and Dinner was held. We look forward to welcoming our community and friends to enjoy delicious food and hospitality at Collierstown Presbyterian Church. Be sure to save the date!

As we move into May our two PW Circle Bible Study groups are closing an exciting year of study. The C & F Circle had eight women studying "Celebrating Sabbath" by Rev. Dr. Carol Bechtel and the Night Circle has had seventeen women engaged in "Sabbath-The Gift of Rest"

by Rev. Dr. Lynne Baab. Both groups have embraced the Sabbath and have found this gift and the understanding we now have, to be life changing.

“Six days a week we wrestle with the world, wringing profit from the earth; on the Sabbath we especially care for the seed of eternity planted in the soul. The world has our hands, but our soul belongs to Someone Else.” Abraham Heschel

Submitted by:
Debbie McCormick, PW Communications
Coordinator



CONCERTS

Hello everyone! It's time to begin advertising for our concerts. The following is going into our church newsletter for April. Please if possible send this to your home churches, or anywhere there is free advertising. Notice we had quite the meeting electronically and in person and our goal is to draw people into this concert due to the name change etc.

CHORDIALLY YOURS of the Shenandoah Valley – Mark your calendars for a special choral concert Mother's Day weekend. This 20-voice auditioned/invitational choir is directed by Scott Zane Smith and will be celebrating all those individuals in our lives who have been a positive influence with a motherly spirit. The theme of the concerts is SEASON OF LOVE and will be held Saturday, May 13 @ 7:00 P.M. and Sunday, May 14 @ 3:00P.M. here at Linville Creek Church.

This season's concert is FREE OF CHARGE but we are asking for donations to cover expenses. The one-hour concert includes a women's arrangement of The Rose and a men's arrangement of The Lion Sleeps tonight. Enjoy additional selections including John Rutter's For the Beauty of the Earth and settings by composer Mark Miller entitled I Believe and The Day is Coming. The concert is accompanied by Elizabeth Williams on piano and Tyler Ende on percussion.

SHARED BY CONNIE WOOD

PW News Elkton Presbyterian Church

SOMETHING NEW DURING LENT AND EASTER

During the Lenten season I asked the Session if we could do something a little different. Each Sunday during Lent, we had a short reading and then extinguished a candle to commemorate the pathway of our Lord to the cross. There were six candles representing the six weeks of Lent and the white Christ Candle.

During the forty days of Lent the Christian Church prepares to observe the Lord's passion and resurrection. We examine ourselves as we remember the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf. In this season of repentance and fasting, we come to terms with our mortality and need for God's mercy. The candles represent Jesus' life and ministry. Each week we extinguished a candle, remembering how we, the human race, rejected Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

At our combined Maundy Thursday/Good Friday service we extinguished the final candle. The candle that represented the light of Christ in the world. On Easter Sunday, the candles were once again lit for Christ is alive and His light surrounds us.

Lent represents not only Christ's walk to the cross but our presence beside him. Walking that path is not meant to be easy just as being a Christian is not easy. Watching the lights go out reminds us of the sacrifice Christ made for us. But, as we know, the cross was not the end. The exquisite light of Christ returned and continues to light up our broken world. Give thanks for Easter! He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Pastor Judy Hensley

An Easter Egg hunt was enjoyed by the children in attendance on Easter Sunday following the Worship service on the church front lawn.

"Stitches of Love" Group--"Stitches" meets weekly at the Church to knit, crochet, and have fellowship. Members create 7" x 9" squares to join together to make afghans. Some squares are donated by friends of the group. It takes 49 squares to complete one afghan. Directions for creating squares can be found at

www.warmupamerica.org. For 2023, we will continue making afghans and will donate them to First Step Domestic Shelter in Harrisonburg, Virginia. First Step "dedicates services to providing emergency shelter and support to individuals and families in crisis because of domestic violence". Our PW have provided 20 health hygiene kits for Church World Service in disaster stricken areas. We provided these in the month of April. In May, we will give financially to the PW Thank Offering.

Year round our PW provides and packages applesauce (monthly) to the Meals on Wheels program in our community.

Our church provides financial assistance for food, rent, lodging, and electric when individuals or families find themselves in difficult circumstances.

Our church is actively involved with a local senior care facility (Mission House) in Elkton. Different times of the year, we provide bingo with prizes, refreshments, sing alongs, and Christmas Party with gifts. Most important is having close care relationships with the seniors.

Our church houses our local WRE classes in our fellowship hall on Tuesdays during the school year.

We have a member of our church who is director of the "Clothes Closet" at East Rockingham High School.

Sarah Smith,
PW Contact Person
Elkton Pres. Church

GERRARDSTOWN SHARES

Gerrardstown Pres continues for the 11th year serving drive thru meals the last Tuesday of the month. Women's Bible study and the Wednesday morning prayer group are active. The youth of the church enjoyed an exciting Saturday with Easter activities and are currently collecting supplies for a local charity. One of our members provided special music on his cello during the Easter season. The 23rd of April the congregation surprised Pastor Karen and Tom with a card shower and after church reception.

Sent from my iPhone
Harriet Kopp

MASSANUTTEN SHARES

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP WAS BEGUN WITH THOSE WHO CHOSE HAVING PROCESSION AROUND SANCTARY WAVING PALMS TO IMITATE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY OF JESUS INTO JERUSALUM AND WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IN WEEK TO FOLLOW. MAUNDY THURSDAY AND FOOD FRIDAY SERVICES WERE HELD EACH EVENING AT 7 P.M.

EASTER MORNING WAS CELEBRATED WITH DELICIOUS EASTER BREAKFAST AND EASTER EGG HUNT AND A JOYOUS WORSHIP. AS FOLKS ARRIVED THERE WAS OPPORTUNITY TO FLOWER THE CROSS.

PW PROJECT: Flocks of Chicks

We continue to receive gifts for Heifer International to purchase flocks of baby chicks to be given to families in need, along with education on their care. They raise the chicks into hens and use their eggs for nourishment, for income when sold, and for sharing with others by passing on the gift. Pick up an envelope, make a gift online, or mail your gift to the church noting: Flocks of Chicks in the memo line.

Shared by
Pat Armstrong

NEWS FROM SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

On April 2 Presbyterian Women of Second Church co-sponsored a Palm Sunday Luncheon. PW provided drinks, table decorations. set-up and clean up. A tradition started thirty- some years ago, this was the first Palm Sunday Luncheon since Covid. PW was pleased to host 46 attendees.

During April a \$25 donation was made to Western State Hospital to help with patient personal needs.

Our PW Friendship Circle donated \$100 to the "Helping Hands Project" for youngsters kindergarten through fifth grade. This one-week camp is sponsored by several local churches and provides fun, learning and mission activities for students during the week before school opens in August.

Pam Snyder and Betty Landes attended the Shenandoah Presbytery Spring Gathering at Massanetta on April 15.

PW made a \$50 donation to the RAM Free Clinic which will be held May 6 and 7 at the Rockingham Fair Grounds.

Second Church PW makes a monthly donation of \$50 to the church and to Martha's Meals on Wheels which takes meals to Staunton residents. Several of Second's women make deliveries of these meals each month.

Mary Rainey, PW Moderator

NEW EVERY MORNING READ LAMENTATIONS 3:22-24

Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt so that you may know how to answer everyone.
Colossians 4:6

Few people enjoy a “habitual complainer” or a person who seems to dwell on gloom and doom. Neither do we appreciate a constant “Pollyanna” or “pie-in-the-sky type who never seem to be sympathetic or understanding when others attempt to share their tough, challenging and sad experiences. In fact, a glib reply or cliché to a heartfelt expression of concern or sorrow can sometimes feel like a slap in the face or a splash of cold water to that person who needs warm comfort and a listening ear.

It seems we need a balance of emotional responses to others, and a realistic view of our own lives as well as the circumstances of others. In Colossians 4:6 Apostle Paul reminded his readers to always let their conversation be full of grace and seasoned with salt, so they knew how to answer everyone. A friend once reminded our Bible Study group that a homemade cake needs very little salt for flavor, but a ham may need a larger amount for preservation. The same may be said of our responses to others in different situations. Sometimes gentleness is needed and sometimes firmness and strength.

The prophet Jeremiah certainly had a very realistic view of the plight of Israel in the book of Lamentations. His words were seasoned with salt throughout the book. He captured the truth of their situation, yet reminded his readers that we are never without the presence and love of God who gives us His glimmers of light and hope. His compassions fail not and are new every morning.

Prayer: *Dear Lord,
We thank you for the mercy, compassion and faithfulness that you give to us. Help us to remember that every person in our lives is your child and also needs your mercy, compassion and faithfulness from us. Amen.*

Reflection: **Who needs your mercy, compassion and faithfulness in their life?**

Connie Wood, PW Vice-Moderator Shenandoah
Presbytery
Ivanhoe Presbyterian Church



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN in the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic 2023 Summer Gathering

June 8-11, 2023

**SUMMER GATHERING
PDF BROCHURE
IS ATTACHED
TO THE MAY 2023
SUNRISE EMAIL**