

WINTER 2024

Spirit

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF THE SAN FRANCISCO PRESBYTERY

A New Year...

“Welcome” to 2024 and new opportunities for service, friendship and growth. We thank you all for supporting our Fall gathering that dealt with overcoming racism as a goal and daily practice. We thank our speakers who presented literal and idealized practices to confront and eliminate racism in our society (see page 8 for an update). Psalm 133.1 teaches us “how good and pleasant when brothers (sisters) dwell in unity.” It takes strength and determination to make change in society. We have strength as individuals and as a group. “In your hand it is to make great and give strength to all” --Chronicles 29:12. “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” -- Philippians 4:13.

We are the body of Christ. We possess unique gifts from God for strengths that are used to bless and influence other for good. PW groups can affect change through individuals blessing and influencing others and through the combined strength of the group.

Don't miss our Spring Gathering on March 2 at First Presbyterian Church Livermore which will highlight the organization, Love Never Fails, and it's new program to facilitate the transition of 18 to 21 year-old foster youths to adulthood. Can't wait to see you!

Blessings and Peace,

Susan Bond and Rev. Nancy Holve

Co-Moderators

susbond@gmail.com / nancy.holve@yahoo.com

The Presbyterian Women Purpose

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 (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.





Presbyterian Women of the San Francisco Presbytery



Spring Gathering

Saturday • March 2, 2024 • 9:30am-12:30pm

First Presbyterian Church Livermore
2020 Fifth Street, Livermore, CA

*All Presbyterian Women and friends are invited
to a hybrid Gathering of PWP-SF*

Transitional-Aged Youth Into Adulthood

Speaker: Janet Jett, Love Never Fails

Have you ever wondered what happens to foster youth when they “age out” of the foster program?

Come in person or join via zoom to hear from Janet Jett of Love Never Fails. Ms. Jett is a graduate of Bethany University and is a Certified Program Addiction Counselor. She has experience working with addiction prevention and treatment/psychology.

RSVP by FEBRUARY 29

to Phyllis Brewer at pj719brewer@pacbell.net
and indicate your attendance as in-person or zoom.
The zoom link will be emailed prior to the event.

9:30-10 am Fellowship Time and Refreshments

10:00 Welcome - Rev. Nancy Holve, Co-Moderator

Lighting of the Christ Candle / Devotions

10:15 Program

10:45-11:15 Q&A, Discussion, Findings

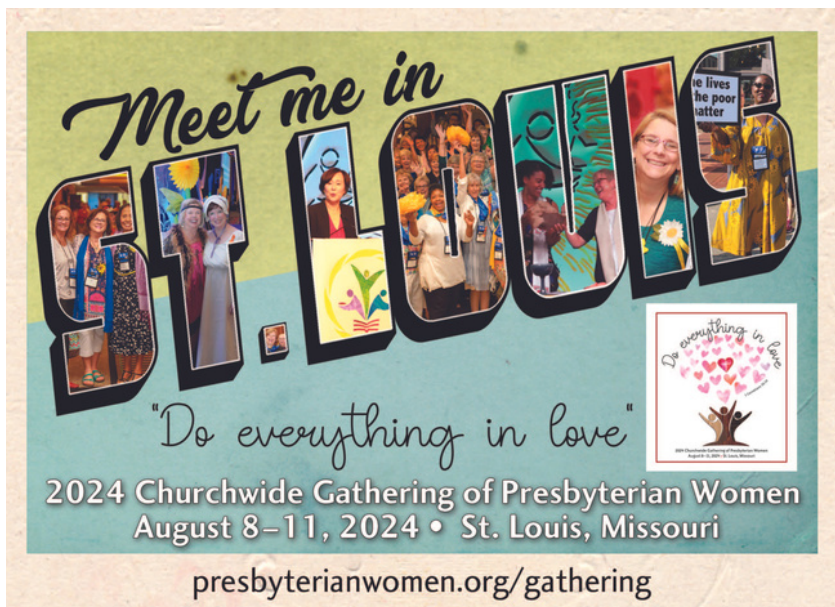
11:15-11:30 PWP Business meeting

11:30-12:30 Lunch

Lunch: \$10 suggested donation.
Please pay at the door.

Street parking available

Questions? Contact Susan Bond, susbond@gmail.com.



**The Gathering [website](https://presbyterianwomen.org/gathering) is up and running!
Check it out for the latest updates.**

**Online REGISTRATION opens
March 1, 2024. Cost: \$450
PWP Scholarships available -
application on page 5.**

Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering will be held in St. Louis, MO August 8-11, 2024 at the Marriott St. Louis Grand and America's Center. A special hotel rate of \$185/night is available for Gathering attendees.

What Is the PW Churchwide Gathering?

Held every three years, Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering is an event that celebrates and can deepen your engagement in all that Presbyterian Women does. Participants enjoy workshops, forums, resource gathering (and shopping!), plenary sessions with inspiring speakers, worship, music and more. You will also find opportunities to connect with other PWs from your synod and throughout the church in a variety of settings.

In 2021 the Gathering was held online due to the pandemic, but 2024 marks a return to an in-person event! Additionally, registrants will have the option to participate in parts of the event online—a first for the Churchwide Gathering!

Attending the Gathering in St. Louis means you will be part of the PW community—hugs and all! You'll connect with PW participants from all over the country and have the opportunity to share the ministries, resources, needs and strengths of your group. You'll be cared for, challenged, inspired and equipped to "Do everything in love," a perfect theme to bring Presbyterian Women back together under one roof again.

Attending the Gathering online means you'll benefit from the insights of bold, faithful plenary and worship leaders who will reflect on what it means to care for ourselves, one another and all of creation. You'll have access to predetermined workshops that highlight PW's commitments to Bible study, mission, justice and peace, leadership and inclusive community.

The 2024 PW Gathering will be an exciting, faith-filled time to renew our connections within and across PW groups from across the country. Join us to be invigorated, equipped for your PW life, welcomed into community by hundreds of other PWs, and empowered to "Do everything in love."

To keep you and your group in the know on this journey to St. Louis, sign up for the monthly Gathering e-newsletters (contact Patricia.Longfellow@pcusa.org or visit presbyterianwomen.org/gathering, and click the green "Stay updated" button at the top right of the page). On the 5th of each month between now and August 2024, you'll receive a Gathering Quest email with a devotion, savings tool, updates, puzzles and more!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF THE SAN FRANCISCO PRESBYTERY
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION - 2024 Churchwide Gathering
The deadline to apply is April 30, 2024.

The Scholarship Committee encourages women to participate in various Presbyterian Women events by providing scholarships to help pay registration fees. We are especially interested in encouraging younger women to promote and sustain growth of their faith and development of new leadership skills. For the Churchwide Gathering, priority will be given to a first-time attendee. If you have any questions, please email or call Phyllis Brewer at pj719brewer@pacbell.net or 925-373-0518.

Applicant's Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address/City: _____

State/Zip _____ Email Address: _____

Age Category: _____ under 35 _____ 35-50 years _____ over 50

Church Membership: _____

Church Address: _____

Conference Title or Event and Date: PW Churchwide Gathering, August 8-11, 2024

Why is this event important to you? _____

Cost of Registration: \$ _____ Amount Requested: \$ _____

Are you requesting funds from your local Presbyterian Women group and church for this event? _____

Have you ever received scholarship funds from Presbyterian Women of the Sf Presbytery? _____

If yes, when? _____ Event: _____

How will this experience assist you in the future of PW?

Would you be willing to share this experience if asked to write for the PWP newsletter? _____

Have you ever attended a PW Churchwide Gathering or PW Synodwide Gathering? _____

By receiving scholarship aid for the registration fees, I understand that it is my responsibility to locate funds for travel and other expenses for this event. Any unused funds shall be refunded to the PWP Treasurer.

Signature _____ Date _____

Send completed application to: Phyllis Brewer, PWP Scholarship Committee
4201 Bellmawr Drive
Livermore, CA 94551

Or email: pj719brewer@pacbell.net

Greetings, Presbyterian Women of the San Francisco Presbytery

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I would like to thank God for the journey of Sojourner Truth (STPC) and New Bridges (NB) Presbyterian Women and Love Never Fails. It has been a wonderful year. We have been in collaboration with Love Never Fails (LNF) in helping to bring awareness to, education and eradication of human trafficking, here in our community and abroad.

We began in 2023 with a \$100,000 grant to LNF to be used as seed monies to open a Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) Home for young women, aged 18-21, who have aged out of foster care. There was a Grand Opening, Dedication and Blessing of the TAY house in April.

In June, STPC and NB hosted the PWP Summer Gathering and reported on LNF and encouraged others to become a part of protecting survivors and victims of human trafficking. From this meeting, members of the Presbytery of San Francisco and other churches are involved with supporting LNF.

In July, 10 members of STPC and New Bridges attended the LNF Mentorship training, and in August, nine members graduated! Elder Connie Bridgewater of STPC was matched with a mentee.

In September, STPC and NB PW participated in the LNF Freedom Walk along the "Blade" in Oakland. It was a glorious event, and many attended. The pictures from this event are below.



PW Moderators Helen Gwanfogbe, New Bridges, and Phyllis Givens, Sojourner Truth PC



PW in their Love Never Fails shirts at the Freedom Walk

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The STPC not only helps with LNF, but we also reach across the waters to Marian Mojoko Orphanage Foundation in Cameroon, Africa. In August we were able to send a container 8 ft long, x 4 ft deep, x 4 ft wide to the orphanage. This container was filled to the brim with toys, clothes, books, food and other items that were donated. It just arrived the other day. Here are pictures of the children at the orphanage and the crate that was delivered.

In January of 2024, STPC PW hosted their 10th Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Worship Service. It was a joy to see Nancy Holve and Susan Bond, Co-Moderators of PWP, along with other members of the Presbytery in attendance.

Our work is just beginning. There is so much more to be done. With God's help and Grace, we will continue on this important mission.

Peace and Love to All,
Min. Phyllis Givens, Moderator STPC PW

Together In Service

Presbyterian women respond to God's love for us by offering our many gifts. Together in Service, PW's hand's-on mission program offers Presbyterian women the chance to be creative, enthusiastic, faithful and generous in serving our sisters and brothers in our communities and beyond. Several of our groups work individually knitting or crocheting hats for babies or the homeless, prayer shawls and quilts. Quilts go to refugee families or programs dealing with trafficked women and youth. Prayer shawls are shared with those that come to our attention that would benefit from a tangible reminder that they being thought of and prayed for during a time of need.

I would love to hear from you about what projects your women are involved in and where they might go as you might give the rest of us an idea of what we could be doing. Thank you, Presbyterian Women, for your extra efforts in showing love and support to our greater communities.



Karen Vied, First Pres Livermore, kvied@comcast.net

PW New Bridges Presbyterian Church Hayward participates in the “Freedom Walk” organized by Love Never Fails on Saturday, September 23, 2023

by CRE Helen Gwanfogbe of PW New Bridges Presbyterian Church, Hayward



The “Freedom Walk” is an annual Event organized by Love Never Fails. It is an empowering and inspiring even that brings together people from all walks of life to sensitize communities and populations on the ills and negative effects of Human Trafficking, which is a form of modern slavery, and Gender-Based Violence, which is on the rise in cities. This is affecting millions of people and families around the world. Everyday men, women and children are forced into labor, sex trafficking and other forms of exploitation. Love Never Fails’ Freedom Walk is an opportunity to stand up against this injustice and show support for survivors.

This was the 2nd annual Freedom Walk event organized by Love Never Fails. Over 15 Churches and 17 Organizations participated in this great event at the Fremont High School in Oakland. It was an exciting march in the city of Oakland as participants, dressed in T-Shirts and holding placards, boards and banners with messages to stop trafficking and Gender Based Violence (GBV) because we all need freedom. Walking alongside survivors, advocates and community members, we raised awareness in the entire neighborhood, standing up for those who have experienced trafficking and GBV. Chanting Slogans of Freedom as we marched around the neighborhood, handing out flyers to passersby, vehicles owners as they drove passed us as we walked along. We met with some homeless victims, whom we talked to, prayed with them and even took one of them, a lady along with us to the rallying ground at the High School premises where she was given some gifts and participated in our lunch.



We joined our Sisters of the PW Sojourner Truth Presbyterian Church and we had a wonderful time together. It was a very successful event, and we hope to participate in more of such activities as part of our outreach activities. We, the PW of New Bridges, took advantage of this event to give our token support to Love Never Fails for the great job they are doing in the “I am Launch House” for the homeless.

T-CARE Update

The Truth Commission Assessing Race Equity (T-CARE) is persistently serving in this challenging work. Please refer to the “PSF Racism Audit Overview” (www.presbyteryofsf.org/antiracism-training/) for an introduction to our work. We launched our first survey to learn more about the racial/ethnic makeup of our Presbytery. We hope that it will be complimentary to the PCUSA annual statistical survey. We want to learn about each worshipping community’s founders and how each community is living into their Matthew 25 charge.

We completed a draft Continuum Analysis, a tool provided by Crossroads Antiracism and Organizing. This tool challenges us to look at multiple functions within Presbytery of San Francisco (PSF) and to rate them on a continuum scale. Our scale ranges between “Stage 2, Club” to Stage 4 “Critically Aware”.

“Club” organizations may see themselves as antiracist but behave in a way that maintains white dominance and culture. “Critically aware” organizations are aware of their proclivity towards white dominance but are actively naming and dismantling this pattern. Despite the best intentions and good will of PSF, our collective institutional behaviors and structures have not yet reached Stage 4 and there are many that are firmly enmeshed in Stage 2.

We are making steady progress with another tool from Crossroads, the Matrix. The Matrix takes the Continuum to a deeper level by asking how our institutional behaviors within the Presbytery work to benefit white people/institutions/cultures and harm people of color/institutions/cultures. What are the ways in which we are conditioned to maintain and perpetuate systemic racism?

Please pray for us as we continue this work. We have taken our time to build a team that trusts each other and is committed to completing our charge. As we continue with this challenging work, we are hopeful for the liberation and transformation of our presbytery. Your support is appreciated!

Note: Linda Spencer, chair of The Truth Commission, was a panelist at PWP’s Fall Gathering.

