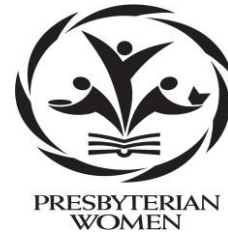


KINDRED SPIRIT

Newsletter for Women of the Presbytery For
Southern New Jersey
WINTER EDITION 2021-2022

Send us your articles for the next edition

PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER



Editor: Jenny Stark wcarboni@aol.com

PWPFSNJ email: pwpfsnj@gmail.com

Message from the Coordinating Team

This is the season of hope and expectation. The women of the PW in the Presbytery For Southern New Jersey (PWPFSNJ) pray you have a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Our Coordinating Team (CT) has had a busy year. Beginning in March of 2021, a group of thirteen women from around the presbytery began to meet monthly and plan for a new PW.

The Presbytery of West Jersey had become the Presbytery For Southern NJ (yes, "For" with an "F") and that meant new churches for us to reach out to, new bylaws to be written, and new officers to be chosen and installed.

Over the summer we met with synod and other NJ PW presbytery leaders. We participated in the Virtual PW Churchwide Gathering and hosted a Zoom watch party of that event. Plans were made for our Fall Gathering.

With the help of Rev. Bisi Shofu, Moderator of PW in the Synod of the N.E. and Rev. Debby Brincivalli, Moderator of our Presbytery Council, we set a goal date of October 23, 2021 to complete our transition. And we did it!

Trinity PC in Cherry Hill hosted our first program since the fall of 2019. A Spring Gathering, which will be a Zoom event, is scheduled for April 23, 2022. ***The Folder of Facts***, has been updated and emailed to churches and PW contacts.

We are always recruiting women to join our team. Duties have been streamlined and responsibilities are shared by the whole group. Now that the reorganization has taken place, meetings will again be quarterly. To encourage women from around the presbytery to participate, we plan to continue to meet on Zoom. Please join us as an at-large member. We need your voice.

God bless,

- PW CT

Woodbury 300 Year Anniversary!

The Presbyterian Church at Woodbury has been celebrating 300 years of worship in Woodbury all year long. This culminated in a celebratory service in October featuring special music, communion, and worship,

followed by a luncheon. A beautiful prayer garden was built at the church with biblical plantings, a water feature and statue. The Women's Association donated a granite bench in memory of our former moderator and longtime church member Muriel (Tooie) Tatham Craven.

- Nancy Webster



Dates to Remember:

ASAP—PW in the Congregation 2022 Pledge form due to PW Presbytery Treasurer

January 15, 2022@ 10:30 a.m. on Zoom—PW Coordinating Team meeting (request link: pwpsnj@gmail.com)

April 23, 2022—PW Presbytery Spring Virtual Gathering

Support Local Church Events/Mission

DEC 3rd at 7:30 pm

Kick off the Christmas season with an upbeat concert hosted by the Trinity Community Concert Series. The Atlantic Brass Band will perform Holiday favorites at this free (free will offering accepted) concert. Get there a bit early to secure a good seat. Address: **Trinity Presbyterian Church of Cherry Hill** 499 East Route 70 in Cherry Hill. MASKS REQUIRED. Visit: www.trinpres.org for more information.

DEC 4th 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

PW of **First Presbyterian in Haddonfield** will be joining **Interfaith Caregivers** as they host their first Haddonfield Outdoor Holiday Market on Dec. 4 from 10: AM to 4 PM at its location, 20 Chestnut Street. Equal Exchange products such as coffee, tea, olive oil, chocolate bars, and cocoa mix will be offered by Presbyterian Women as a mission project. Many other vendors and food trucks will be there, also.

January 31st at 7:00 pm

Join the women of the **First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown** for their Winter Gathering on Monday, 1/31/22, 7:00pm in person and on Zoom. Our speaker will be Kelly Maxted. Kelly and her husband Luke plan to start Urban Promise London in June 2022, with a vision for long term youth development, as well as providing college preparation and workforce skills for those 18-20 years old who are living in London's most under-resourced neighborhoods.

Visit our website:

<https://www.fpcmoorestown.org/ministries/presbyterian-women/>

2021 Thank Offering OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

THANK OFFERING 2021 celebrated at the Fall Gathering of PW Presbytery FOR Southern NJ

At the PW Fall Gathering held at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Cherry Hill on November 13, 2021 women celebrated with a dedication of the annual Thank Offering which is shared and supported by Presbyterian Women Churchwide. Donations totaling more than \$1,800.00 will be forwarded to the Thank Offering committee of PW Churchwide for distribution. If your group was unable to attend, you may still forward any Thank Offerings to Treasurer, Louisa Coffin-Tilsner at 110 Kenwood Dr., Cherry Hill, NJ 8034.

A bit of history of the Thank Offering as printed in the HORIZONS magazine: "Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio, planted the seed for the Thank Offering in 1888 when she urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society of the UPC of NA. Since then, faithful givers have responded to Eliza's call. Over the last 33 years, Presbyterian Women has granted nearly \$27 million to more than 1,600 different projects at home and around the world through the PW Thank Offering."

In 2021 the Creative Ministries Offering Committee reviewed 29 Thank Offering applications and selected 12 projects for funding. Nine of these serve people in the United States and three are international. In keeping with the Thank Offering bylaws, more than 40 percent of the selected projects are related to health ministries. For more details on these exciting projects see HORIZONS magazine Summer 2021 or online at the PW website.

- Carole Leadbeater

Local Presbyterian Women's Church News and Updates

You don't have to be called "PW" or a "Circle" to be included in our news. Tell us about your women's group's mission, fellowship, study, retreats, programs, or anything else. Write it down right after the event, send it to our editor, and we will hold it until our next *Kindred Spirit* publication. Short, two or three sentence blurbs are fine. We ask that you attempt to limit your article to 200 words or less. Don't like to write? Send a photo and a short caption. We can learn a lot from each other. Please contribute.

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHERRY HILL

October IN-PERSON Fall Gathering—Joint Host with PW in the Presbytery For Southern New Jersey

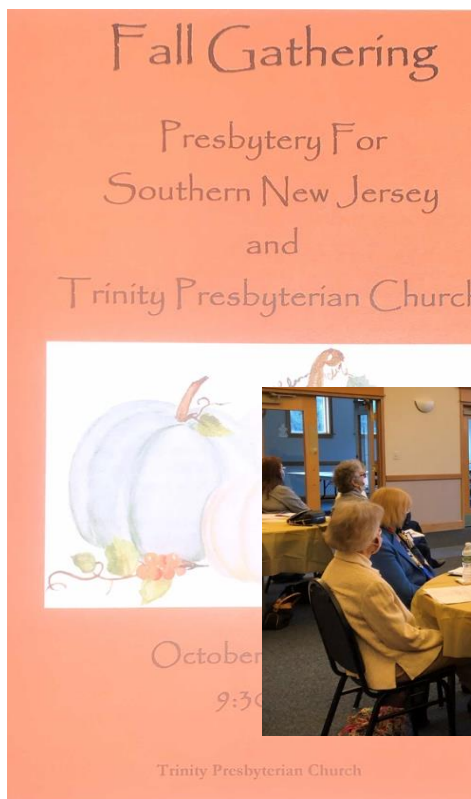
We held our Fall Gathering at Trinity Church in Cherry Hill on Saturday, October 23rd. It was the first PW in-person gathering for both Trinity and the Presbytery PW since 2019. 40 women gathered in support of our mission, The Military Support Group of New Jersey. We had a wonderful morning of fellowship with our sisters from PW groups across the Presbytery For Southern New Jersey.

We learned of the vital mission of the support group and how much it means to our military families and our soldiers, sailors and marines deployed around the world from the founder, Karen Jennings. We collected donations of items to send to our deployed soldiers that included snack, personal care items, socks, and puzzle books. We also collected grocery items for their families here in New Jersey.

We voted on our new presbytery PW by-laws and installed our new board members.

Finally, we enjoyed lunch together with box lunches from Honey Baked Ham. What a special treat to share a meal together after so much time. Praise the Lord.

- Carolyn Kramer



FIRST PREBYTERIAN CHURCH IN HADDONFIELD

PW of First Presbyterian Church in Haddonfield is continuing to support **Kiva** as part of our mission giving since April 2016 by using memorial funding we received. The focus has been to improve educational opportunities for women.

More than 1.7 billion people around the world are unbanked and can't access the financial services they need. Kiva is an international nonprofit, founded in 2005 in San Francisco, with a mission to expand financial access to help underserved communities thrive.

By November 1, 2021, we had lent to people living in 19 out of a possible 77 countries/territories including Albania, Cambodia, Columbia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Palestine, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Samoa, Tajikistan, Uganda, and the United States.,

Since we started this mission, we have loaned money to a total of 63 persons. Thirty-nine (39) have totally repaid their loans and twenty-four (24) are currently paying back. We have loaned money to people for assistance in the following sectors:

Education, Health, Services, Food and Retail, for the following activities: beauty salon, education provider, food production/sales, general store, higher education cost, primary/secondary schooling, cereals, food market, fruits and vegetables, grocery store and medical clinic. The majority of these loans (32) have been made for higher education cost and primary/secondary schooling.

- Linda O'Neill

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MOORESTOWN

Greetings from the PW Coordinating Team at First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown.

Our PWCT met on a monthly basis during the pandemic, either with the help of Zoom or in person. We were determined to keep things as normal as possible for the women of our church. Our five Circles continued to meet—sometimes on zoom, both outside and inside our church and in homes. Three Circles participated in the Horizon studies, one Circle did a separate study and the fifth continued their service to our ministries.

We held Fall, Winter, and Spring Gatherings in 2020 and 2021:

- Winter Gathering 2020—Kelly LePenske (FPC Director of Congregational Ministries) presented "Living the Psalms," her spiritual journey, which was followed by our traditional soup lunch.
- Spring Gathering 2020—Mindy Holman (Chairwoman of Holman Enterprises) shared her professional and spiritual story in "Family First: Keeping the Family in the Family Business."



- Fall Gathering 2020—Pam Burgess-Main (International Ambassador to Urban Promise and author) presented a program in conjunction with the Horizon Study "Into the Light...Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament," entitled "Let It Out !!!"
- Winter Gathering 2021—Linda Jagiela (FPC Director of Outreach) spoke on "The Changing Face of Mission in the World"
- Spring Gathering 2021—Dr. Jenny Legath (Associate Director, Center for the Study of Religion at Princeton University, and author). She presented "Grace and God's 'Will'—Living and Loving in a Special Needs Family".
- Fall Gathering 2021—Ruth Stotsenburg presented a program in conjunction with the Horizon Study "What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy".

We have had over 100 years of Rummage Sales, and were sad to cancel the dates in 2020 and 2021, due to covid protocols. In past years, all proceeds were disbursed to our ministries: The Atlantic City Rescue Mission, The Camden Rescue Mission, The Christian Caring Center, Dawn's Place, Good Counsel Home, Providence House, and Seeds of Hope.

We also have supported the sponsorship of a young woman living in the Philippines through Little Children of the World. We were able to help some through our limited budget and within the Circles. We also continued our support of the Pledge, Thank Offering, Birthday Offering, and Least Coin Offering.



Our Knitting Network worked at home individually to create hats, scarves, gloves, ear warmers, baby blankets, baby sweaters, lap blankets, prayer shawls, chemo hats and bereavement sets. Items are given to FPC members as well as those in need at Cooper Hospital, Urban Promise, Good Counsel, Christian Caring Center, and others. The Knitting Network is just now meeting together again on a monthly basis.

The Coordinating Team and Circle Leaders have worked diligently to maintain a connection with the women of our church through the church website, an annual yearbook, and our Facebook page: **Presbyterian Women of Moorestown NJ** (1st Pres Moorestown PCUSA).

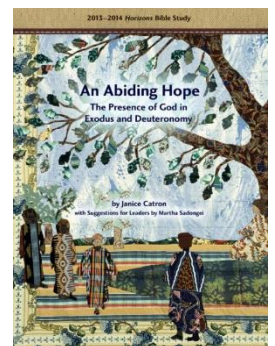
Blessings to our Sisters in the PW of the Presbytery for Southern New Jersey!!!

- Susan Masiko

HADDON HEIGHTS FIRST PRESBYTERIAN - PW in the Fall of 2021.

The Friendship Circle of First Presbyterian Haddon Heights continued to meet at 9:30 the third Tuesdays of September through May on ZOOM during Covid-19-Pandemic. In June 2021 we were able to come together again safely distanced and masked in the Church Parlor and have continued in-person meetings this Fall season 2021.

Our Bible study this year is "An Abiding Hope; Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy" with Circle members taking turns leading the discussion. Mission service is a strong feature of our group with ongoing financial support of PW Pledges, contributions to the PW special offerings including Least Coin, Birthday, and Thank Offerings. Since 2011 we have given 47 micro loans totaling over \$10,000 through KIVA organization to assist women worldwide in their ability to remain in small businesses and to be able to pay for their children's education. It has been extremely rewarding to see those women repaying their loans which reverts to an account in our name so that we can study the list of applicants to find the next person for a loan.



This year we are supporting the Military Support Group of New Jersey led by Karen Jennings. We share in collecting and distributing donations of goods to be sent in monthly care packages to deployed military troops in all branches of service. Additionally, groceries and personal products are delivered to military families at Pomona Air Base and Joint Base McGuire/Ft Dix/Lakehurst.

Closer to home, we collect and deliver food to YOUR FOOD SHELF in Camden, NJ. At Christmas time we provide wrapped gifts for ladies and toys for children at this food shelf. Our Christmas party 2020 was still a fun time via ZOOM with refreshments delivered to everyone along with a few games. On ZOOM we were able to share our Christmas Eve traditions and read a Christmas poem or card that had special meaning. Baptism gifts, hand embroidered by Circle members, are presented to parents at the infant baptism celebrations in our worship services. Our Circle Leader, Mary Jane Lange, has been the creative glue that has kept us together and even growing in numbers as P W in the Presbytery FOR Southern New Jersey.

- Carol Leadbeater

Presbyterian Women Mission and Giving

Tips and Tidbits you might find useful

2021 Fall/Winter Catalog—This listing of PW resources shows the many items available to help you promote, strengthen, and support Presbyterian Women!

This thirteen-page booklet contains information on current and past Horizons Bible Studies, extensive material on PW and Leadership, Racial

Equity, Justice, and Peace programs. Mission and Special Offering booklets are also available. Many resources are available as a free download or can be ordered and delivered to you. Give it a look! [PW Fall Catalog Here](#)



Charity Navigator offers free access to data, tools, and resources to guide philanthropic decision-making. Note that many smaller charities are not represented here. Link: <https://www.charitynavigator.org/>



Two of the five article submitters in this newsletter mentioned they worked **with Kiva**. **Kiva:** Worldwide, women have much less economic opportunity, security, and freedom. Through loans, Kiva supporters sponsor women starting their own businesses, going to school, and investing in the health of their communities and families. Link: <https://www.kiva.org/>

Use Amazon? Go to www.smile.amazon.com and choose Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (USA) as your charity of choice. Amazon donates a percentage of your purchases towards this or whatever charity you designate.



Making a simple choice can make profound change. For example, \$3,870.62 represents the dollars and change given to PW via purchases made through AmazonSmile. Plan to purchase a book cover or bed coverlet through Amazon? If so, go to smile.amazon.com and choose "Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church USA Inc" as your charity of choice. Once you do, jump in and shop as you normally would through Amazon, as most products are part of the AmazonSmile universe. Participating in AmazonSmile is free to you (in other words, you won't pay extra for your tome, tahini, or tea cozy) and is an effortless way to support PW.



PW NewsBytes

News you can use from Presbyterian Women

The churchwide newsletter—fka *PW Quarterly Mailing*—is now called **PW NewsBytes**. It brims with “news you can use” from Presbyterian Women Churchwide. Just like the name suggests, **PW NewsBytes** is fully digital, which is good stewardship (of both finances and trees) and makes for easy sharing and a more connected PW community.

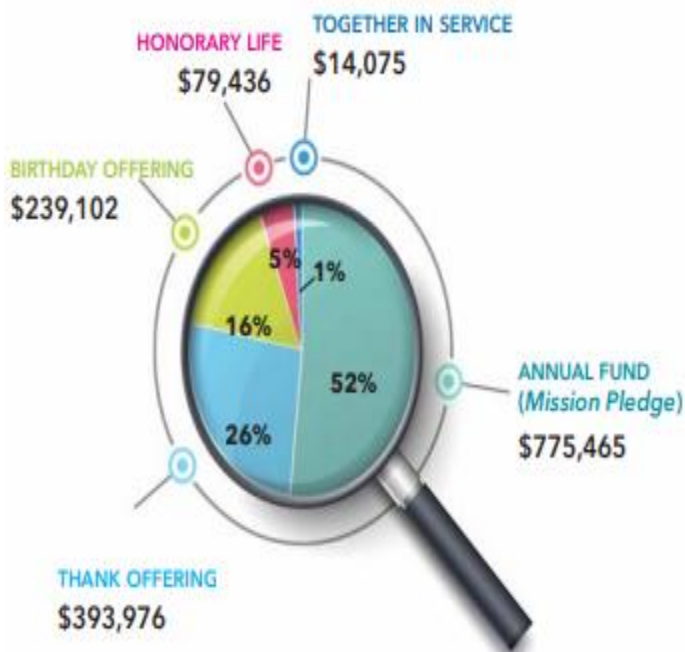
The Fall 2021 edition includes a recap of PW’s Online Churchwide Gathering event and Business meeting, a summary of PW’s Fall 2021 Board meeting, all the ways to contact PW Churchwide, highlights of recently published or coming-soon resources, and much more!

Sign-up to get NewsBytes in your inbox or read it on line: [PW NewsBytes Issue Fall 2021](#)

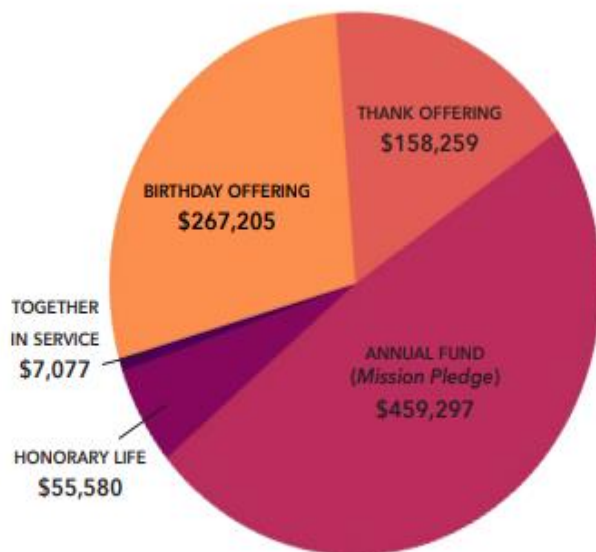
Local Pledges and Offerings Support PW Churchwide and its Mission Work.

For details on where and when to send offerings, refer to the *Folder of Facts*.

Presbyterian Women's Giving Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 2020



Presbyterian Women's Giving Jan. 1–Sept. 30, 2021



Thank you for your faithful giving, even during a tumultuous year! Your support matters to PW, to one another, to the church and the world!

The Virtual Triennium Review

PW's Online Churchwide Gathering Event and Business Meeting



PW Purposefully Pivots: Setting Course in Unsettling Times!

2021 was a season of firsts. One of PW's firsts was holding a virtual triennial Business Meeting. In "ordinary" years, voting representatives from across the nation come together to set course for the new triennium. Because

of Covid-19, PW met virtually, adapting General Assembly's PC-Biz technology to facilitate the triennial business of PW (thus PW-Biz was developed and put to immediate and very good use!). Voting reps had, in the words of Jan Albert, "a few hoops to jump through," to become familiar with the issues before them but also to become comfortable with engaging new technology, which required two screens. That's right! Two screens! (This may be a perfect time to send your voting rep a valentine as she probably spent many hours trying to secure the technology and perhaps even more effort and time in learning and practicing its use.)

PW's Business Meeting was fun, faithful, and rewarding—certainly not what immediately comes to mind when one considers the words "business meeting"! If you didn't have a chance to tune in or wish to watch anew (the Business Meeting is open to all PW observers), go to PW's YouTube channel, youtube.com/presbyterian-women and view when it suits your schedule. (It's worth noting that PW are tuning in. Since the Business Meeting was held, the number of YouTube views have increased by more than a third!) In addition to hearing from denominational and PW leaders, voting delegates elected PW's 2021–2024 moderator team (Kathy Reeves, moderator and Kathleen Keefer, vice moderator), and unanimously adopted the 2022–2024 budget and 2018–2020 audit. Voting representatives also considered a resolution to replace the word "Kingdom" in the PW Purpose with "Kin-dom", but less than the 2/3 majority required for a change voted in favor (119 yes, 64 no). Updated language regarding people of color and authorizing editorial autonomy in correcting the bylaws were approved.

PW's Online Churchwide Gathering Event and Business Meeting continued from p. 1

Online Churchwide Gathering Event

When the Gathering Planning team had to pivot from an in-person event over several days to a shortened online event, it was clear that their choice of theme, Rejoice in Hope, based on Romans 12:12–13, would serve as a powerful reminder of God's care, a beacon of hope, for anxious hearts in anxious times we experienced in 2020 and 2021.



Live-streamed on PW's Facebook page and web site, many tuned in to gather for the inaugural Online Churchwide Gathering event. The live viewing was upwards of 2,715, a number that reflects devices and not souls—many PWs gathered for watch parties so the precise number of viewers is known only to the One who knows the number of hairs on our heads (Matt. 10:30). Since the Online Gathering is available to view on PW's YouTube page, viewings have (at least) doubled since August 5. Every moment of this Gathering was filled with meaning and purpose and hope. Whether you watch as a party of 1 or 51, you'll be restored and recharged in your PW ministry.

Give to the Gathering Offering

During the Online Churchwide Gathering Event, Presbyterian women gave generously to the Gathering Offering, benefitting PW's Annual Fund. To date, \$8,424 has been received. Previously known as the Mission Pledge, the Annual Fund makes possible (in whole or in part) every mission and ministry of Presbyterian Women—from communications like this newsletter to the PW/*Horizons* Bible study, from PW's presence at the Commission on the Status of Women to your Bible study group or regular circle meeting.

It's not too late to make a gift to the Gathering Offering. Visit presbyterianwomen.org/give and select "Online Gathering Event Offering" or mail a check to Presbyterian Women, Inc., Remittance Processing—Giving, PO Box 643652, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3652 (include "Gathering Offering" in the notes line of the check).

A Final Word About Community

Our Online Churchwide Gathering Event underscores the importance of nurturing and living into our faithful community of PW siblings. Emily, initially feeling isolated and blue, shared after the Gathering drew to a close: "Gradually my tears filled with joy and Hope! hearing the message given and feeling the amazing connection with PW women worldwide. Thanks be to God. May we all give and stretch out of our comfort zones to become more Christlike and build the world into a place of reconciliation and renewal. Amen!"

Introducing the 2022–2023 PW/*Horizons* Bible study

Celebrating Sabbath

Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight

By Carol M. Bechtel

In the nine lessons of this Bible study—with passages from Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Matthew, Luke, and Acts—we'll consider Sabbath

- as a celebration, not a day of dreary formality
- as God's intent for all of creation that includes busy women too
- as one day of the week, perhaps a Sunday
- as a time to surrender unhealthy striving and frantic busyness, and instead trust that God will provide
- as a reminder that life is precious and working too much is against God's plans for our precious lives
- as a day devoted to community and justice and not exclusively to self-care

Ultimately, Sabbath reminds us to honor God who honors us by giving us a day each week to reset our pace, our priorities, and our lives.

Bible study, supplemental materials, and other helps!

The following resources will be available in the spring and summer of 2022

- Editions of the Bible study studybook: English, Ecumenical, Spanish, Large Print, and Audio
- Resources to spread the word: Promotional poster/flier, eBlasts, Pendant/Charm
- Resources to learn more about the study: *Workshop for Leaders*, Companion DVD, Blogs
- Bible study resources in *Horizons* magazine begin with the Summer 2022 issue
- And more!

About the Author



The Reverend Dr. Carol Bechtel is Professor of Old Testament at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan, where she has taught since 1994. She also serves as the Executive Director of the American Waldensian Society, an organization that partners with Christians from the Reformed tradition in Italy and South America.

Carol grew up on a farm in Fulton, Illinois. She attended Hope College, Western Theological Seminary, and received her Ph.D. in Old Testament from Yale University. Her publications include a commentary on Esther and several curriculum series and Bible studies. We're sure many of you will remember her PW Bible study from 2007–2008,

Above and Beyond: Hearing God's Call in Jonah and Ruth.

Carol lives in Holland, Michigan, with her husband, Tom Mullens. They have four children and seven grandchildren. Her hobbies include singing, cooking, gardening, and the Celtic harp. We are so excited to welcome back Carol to Presbyterian Women!

***Horizons* isn't just a Bible study, *Horizons* is a magazine too!**

In fact, current *Horizons* magazine subscribers receive the 2022–2023 PW/*Horizons* Bible study in March 2022. Subscribe by April 1, 2022, and you will, too!

Call toll-free 866/802-3635 or visit www.presbyterianwomen.org/horizons!

