

FALL 2022

Spirit

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF THE SAN FRANCISCO PRESBYTERY

Calling All Presbyterian Women

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE FALL GATHERING

HOSTED BY PW OF SOJOURNER TRUTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
AND NEW BRIDGES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2022

VIA ZOOM

9:45AM FELLOWSHIP

10:00 PROGRAM - VANESSA RUSSELL

11:00 BUSINESS MEETING

INSTALLATION OF CO-MODERATORS
SUSAN BOND & REV. NANCY HOLVE

VANESSA RUSSELL

Founder and Executive Director of LOVE NEVER FAILS

Vanessa Russell launched Love Never Fails in 2011, a non-profit dedicated to the restoration, education and protection of those involved or at risk of becoming involved in domestic human trafficking. Love Never Fails has educated thousands of children and community members on the issue of human trafficking, opened four homes that provide long-term safe housing and restorative services for over 200+ women, men, youth and children impacted by human trafficking and launched an IT Academy connecting under-served community members with financially sustainable careers. Vanessa believes that the issue of human trafficking can be solved through love expressed in prayer, safe housing, mentoring, job training, outreach, and education. For more information, www.loveneverfailsus.com.

PLEASE **RSVP** TO PHYLLIS GIVENS

BY SEPTEMBER 24, 2022 TO RECEIVE ZOOM LINK

pegivens34@yahoo.com



PW Synod-wide Autumn Gathering via Zoom

November 12, 10 am - 1 pm (save this date!)

**OUR THEME IS “Courageous Conversations”
Or, how to talk about the elephant in the room.**

What elephant?



(you've heard the expression...)

**Your Part:
Our Planners are hoping you will help.**

Pray, think, and then write us a note to tell us your most challenging topics for conversation. As if you are trying a conversation with perhaps a teen, a spouse, a person who disagrees with you, what topic remains that unspoken-about elephant? Maybe it's gun violence, climate change, reproductive justice, immigrants, LGBTQ+ issues, family finances, domestic violence etc.

Send your concerns, challenges, prayers by September 30 to

Linda Lee at lindalee@prodigy.net

Kay Woods at pkwoods3r@gmail.com

or U.S. mail to P K Woods, P.O. Box 28, Three Rivers, CA 93271

Please invite other women of faith.

Covid Sabbath

“The day of rest is not created as a break from our work but as the pinnacle of living. We don’t rest so that we can work, we work so that we can enjoy deep holy rest. The depth of our holy rest experience is created by how we behave on the other six days. God does really good work, but he does better rest. That is what we have been invited to do.”

- Pastor Chuck Hunt - from the message “Red Light Green Light,” Sunday, August 28, 2022.

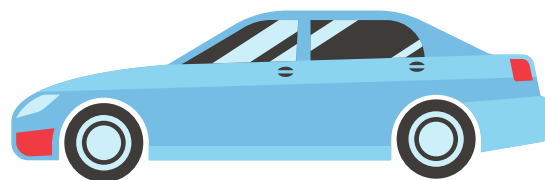
In March 2020 we entered the Covid shutdown when all our busyness and activity halted. My schedule at that time was caring for my three-year-old granddaughter while her mother taught elementary school, serving on committees at church, chaperoning at the homeless shelter and helping Afghan refugee families resettle in the bay area. All these responsibilities were canceled due to the fear of covid 19. I read the public health official rules for acceptable activities and open businesses and found no restrictions on walking and outdoor exercise nor were there restrictions on driving.

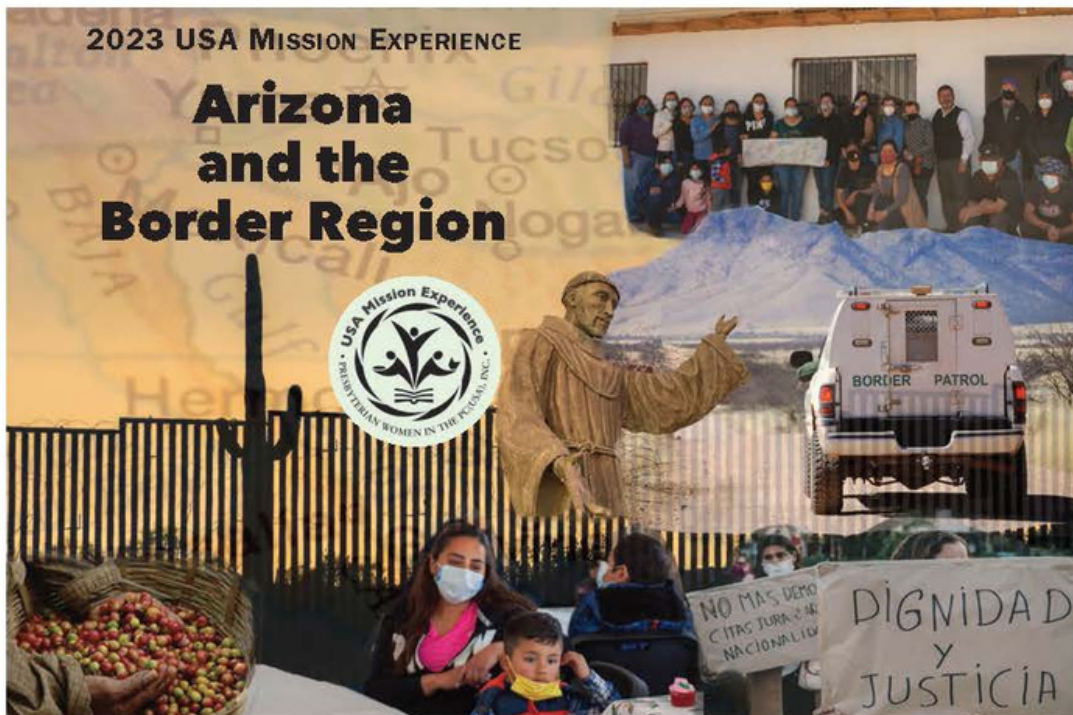
Thus, my Covid Sabbath season began until Sept. 2020 when we ran zoom school for our grandson at our home. The title for our *Horizons* Bible Study “Celebrating Sabbath –Accepting God’s Gift of Rest and Delight, The Sabbath is a day of rest and worship” took hold in my visage as each day I found a place of rest, joy and worship.

My husband and I started small by hiking the local trails in Livermore and Pleasanton. I found a rhythm in the hikes which soon became a time of reflection and song. Next came interesting road trips ending in new trails and scenery. As we got up each morning we said, “Where Now”. We packed lunches as restaurants were closed and we discovered the pleasure of finding a bench or log with a view. Even the beaches were closed as we discovered driving to Santa Cruz with police and yellow tape around the sand. We walked along the bluff trail and found that the parks were closed. We drove to Aptos and found a dirt parking area for our picnic. Those salami and cheese sandwiches tasted great after a three-mile walk. One day we drove out Mines Road with Mt. Hamilton as the destination. After a long scenic windy drive, we made it to the observatory but alas it was roped off with no entry for vehicles allowed. We headed down the San Jose side and found a cow pasture with downed logs for a picnic spot.

Our longest day trip was a drive to San Simeon to watch the elephant seals and their young. A great adventure to see these huge beasts enjoying the sand and rough surf. What a blessing to drive without traffic and view nature in California. The only real bust was the trip to Pinnacles National Park. The web site stated that the campground was open, so we were excited to go to an open park. However, after the 2 hour drive the entrance was posted with a CLOSED sign. Only the campground was open. We backed up our car and drove to a small historic town with a nice picnic area. We are grateful that we had this time of rest and reflection. We are also grateful that we never got sick and were able to use the time to experience God’s presence. The zoom school for the next 9 months is another story.

-- Susan Bond, PWP Co-Moderator





I am with
you and will
keep you
wherever
you go.
—Gen. 28:15

The Presbyterian Women USA Mission Experience will take place October 13-23, 2023.

During this faith-deepening and relationship-building trip, the group will visit partners in Phoenix, Tucson, and the Arizona-Mexico border, focusing on immigration and refugee issues, violence against women and children throughout the immigration process, and challenges facing indigenous people living in Arizona. Participants will experience learning, accompanying, and serving, with significant time set aside for reflection, conversation, and prayer as we encounter deep hurt as well as hope.

The trip will include stays at the Franciscan Renewal Center near Phoenix, the Redemptorist Renewal Center in Tucson, and a local hotel in Agua Prieta, Mexico. The group will worship with local congregations, join a weekly vigil at the Arizona-Mexico border, and visit with mission partners such as Frontera de Cristo (a Presbyterian border ministry and 2021 Thank Offering recipient), and Café Justo (a fair-trade coffee cooperative).

The purpose of the PW USA Mission Experience is to equip participants with an understanding of the history and culture of a particular region as well as the challenges, hopes and ministries of mission partners who serve God's people there. Traditionally, one Presbyterian woman from each synod joins the delegation and spends the following two years sharing the experience with groups within her synod.

To learn more about PW's USA Mission Experience, visit presbyterianwomen.org/mission or email Cheri Harper, PW associate for mission, at cheri.harper@pcusa.org.

Return your completed USAME application to your PW in the Synod moderator by November 1, 2022, and send a copy to your PW in the Presbytery moderator. If you need contact information for your PWS and PWP moderators, email patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org.

PW IN THE SYNOD OF THE PACIFIC MODERATOR:
BARBARA CLARK, BAINBRID@GMAIL.COM

PW IN THE PRESBYTERY OF SF CO-MODERATORS:
SUSAN BOND, SUSBOND@GMAIL.COM
REV. NANCY HOLVE, NANCY.HOLVE@YAHOO.COM

SF-PWP Treasurer's Report

For 2022, PW groups in our Presbytery supported the Annual Fund, special offerings, and Fellowship of the Least Coin. See summary below. The current Per Capita payment is \$4.00/per member. Half the amount collected will be sent to PW in the Synod to fulfill our per capita commitment.

ANNUAL FUND	\$1,610.00	PROGRAM FUND (\$278)
BIRTHDAY OFFERING	\$ 1,159.75	<i>covers program expenses, such as speaker honorariums</i>
THANK OFFERING	\$ 705.00	SCHOLARSHIP FUND (\$2,132)
LEAST COIN	\$ 62.06	<i>to assist women with registration expenses for Churchwide Gathering and other leadership development events.</i>
PER CAPITA	\$ 408.00	

Gifts to the PW's Annual Fund (formally called the Mission Pledge) make possible the ongoing mission and ministry of Presbyterian Women—from your circle meetings to the triennial Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women. Your gift enables Presbyterian Women to strengthen the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in the U.S. and around the world.

The Annual Fund helps support the denomination's evangelism, church planting, education and justice work as well as ministry to children, youth, older adults, new immigrants, rural, urban and suburban populations across the United States and around the world. The Annual Fund also makes possible PW in the Congregation, Presbytery, Synod and Churchwide, as well as PW's programs, resources, and events. The USA Mission Experience, Horizons magazine and Bible study, the Global Exchange, justice work and so much more could not happen without your financial support. Your gift to PW's Annual Fund ensures that this caring community of women can continue its witness to the promise of God's kingdom.

If you have any questions, the PWP Treasurer, Jeanette Huie, can be reached at jeanette_huie@yahoo.com or (510) 482-1389. For Treasurers: please send your group's contributions via check made payable to Presbyterian Women of the SF Presbytery to 5080 Kearney Avenue, Oakland, CA 94602.

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.