



# KEEPING IN TOUCH

## Presbyterian Women of The Peaks

### March Edition



## You're Invited to a Neighborhood Brunch!

Instead of a Spring Gathering, we will be hosting two Neighborhood Brunches this year. Every church is invited to send at least one representative to one of the events listed below. If you cannot attend your neighborhood brunch, please join us on the other date. There will be time for food and fellowship, time to share with and receive information from the Coordinating Team, and time to discuss your interests and concerns. We are looking forward to this event and hope to see you there. Contact Shelda Wills at [swills@usit.net](mailto:swills@usit.net) if you have any questions.

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*April 18<sup>th</sup> Brunch*

*10 a.m. - 12 p.m.*

*At Northminster Presbyterian Church in Roanoke*

*For Roanoke Valley, Highlands, and New River Valley Neighborhoods*

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*April 25<sup>th</sup> Brunch*

*10 a.m. – 12 p.m.*

*At Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church in Lynchburg*

*For Piedmont, Hill Cities, and Southside Neighborhoods*

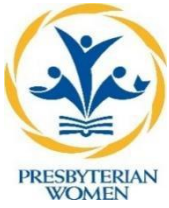
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### **~ Reminder ~**

PW Fall Packet Forms are due.  
Contact Natasha Lowe at  
[nlowe920@gmail.com](mailto:nlowe920@gmail.com) if you have  
questions.

### **~ Mark your calendars ~**

The Presbytery of the Peaks  
38<sup>th</sup> Annual PW Gathering  
will be October 3 at Westminster  
Presbyterian Church in  
Lynchburg.



# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC SUMMER GATHERING



**Thursday, June 11 – Sunday, June 14, 2026**

**Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center, Harrisonburg, Virginia**



*We Belong to Each Other!*

**“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” (1 Corinthians 12:27)**

Presenters and other leaders include, but are not limited to, the following:

Sarah Leer, writer of “Suggestions for Leaders” for the 2026-27 PW/*Horizons* Bible study,  
*United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other: Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians*

Susan Jackson-Dowd, Executive Director, PW, Inc., PC(USA)	Pam Snyder, Moderator, PW, Inc., Board of Directors	Kelsey Law, Vice Moderator, PW, Inc., Board of Directors
Ivy Lopedito, Office of Public Witness, PC(USA)	Teri McDowell Ott, Editor and Publisher, <i>The Presbyterian Outlook</i> (Sunday Worship)	Kate Rascoe, Pastor (Morning Devotions)

To return by mail, cut along dotted line.

### REGISTRATION FORM

2026 PW Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Summer Gathering – Thursday, June 11 – Sunday, June 14

Please print:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name for name tag (only if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL NEEDS (physical, dietary, signing, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church \_\_\_\_\_ Presbytery \_\_\_\_\_

Are you attending the Gathering for the first time? Yes No

**ROOMMATE REQUESTS MUST BE SUBMITTED TOGETHER TO ENSURE ACCOMMODATIONS.**

NAME OF ROOMMATE \_\_\_\_\_

**MEDICAL INFORMATION:** To protect your privacy and yet care for you in case of emergency, we urge you to place the name of your health insurance provider with policy number, a list of your medical conditions, and current medications in a sealed envelope with your name and presbytery on the outside. During the Gathering, let your roommate or a friend know where it is located.

EMERGENCY CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

**WORKSHOP CHOICES** (Choose a number for each blank below from the workshops listed.)

Workshop A Number \_\_\_\_\_ Workshop B Number \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop C Number \_\_\_\_\_ Workshop D Number \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop E Number \_\_\_\_\_

**WORKSHOPS**

NOTE: IN LIEU OF SATURDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS, ONE GROUP WORKSHOP WILL BE PRESENTED AFTER THE PLENARY IN STEWART HALL.

**Workshop A: Friday, June 12, 10:45 a.m.-12 noon**

- “Connections, Conflicts, and Mutual Care: How Do We Do This Whole ‘Christians in Community Thing’ Anyway?” – Sarah Leer** In this workshop, we will discuss practical, tangible ways to participate in the **2026-27 Bible study**. We will explore ideas of unity and connectedness, which are woven throughout Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians. We’ll examine relationships, how we care for each other, and points of conflict in Christian community.
- “Beyond the Binary: Worshiping an Expansive God” – Sarah Wiles** This workshop will be an exploration of current gender theory and scriptural understandings of gender. We’ll talk about how the Bible is affirming of all people of all genders and how our faith can motivate work for trans rights and inclusion in the church and beyond.
- “Jesus and Justice: Faith and Faithful Action” – Ivy Lopedito and Christina Cosby** What does it mean to follow Jesus in a world hungry for justice? This conversation invites people of all ages to explore how faith can lead to meaningful, sustainable action. Whether you’re hopeful, weary, or simply curious, you are welcome to come listen, learn, and imagine what faithful action can look like today.
- “More Than ‘Just’: PW Resources Support PW Community” – Carissa Herold** A PW/*Horizons* Bible study, a PW note card, or a downloadable installation service is more than “just” a Bible study, a note card, or an installation service. Each is developed and available to support and enhance our ministry as faithful believers, aligned around the PW Purpose. Learn the many resources available and how each resource’s purpose ultimately supports our Purpose! **Offered only once.**

**Workshop B: Friday, June 12, 1:45 p.m.-3 p.m.**

- “Etched in Our Hearts: Sharing Experiences That Build an Inclusive, Caring Community” – Stephanie Patterson** Our lives are shaped by experiences that leave lasting marks on our hearts. Some stories are shared openly; some are deeply personal—but all matter. We’ll explore a process for sharing life experiences. We’ll listen to stories, share differences, and examine how storytelling can strengthen empathy, deepen connection, and help us build a more inclusive, caring community.
- “Because She Was Revolutionary – Reimagining the Space of Presbyterian Women” – Kelsey Law** You are invited to honor the legacy of PW and propel the spaces of PW forward. In a time when we are seeking authentic community, faithful mission engagement, and meaningful justice advocacy, PW is uniquely positioned to respond. Reimagining the space of PW calls for courageous belonging, shared leadership, and fresh imagination. We’ll rethink the room, reshape the story, and reignite what’s possible for PW.
- “Beyond the Binary: Worshiping an Expansive God” – Sarah Wiles** (See Workshop A, #2 for info.)

- “Jesus and Justice: Faith and Faithful Action” – Ivy Lopedito and Christina Cosby** (See Workshop A, #3 for info.)
- “Welcoming the Stranger: What the Data and Our Faith Tell Us About Immigration” – Jordan Kane and Sarah Hyska** Immigration has changed drastically. We’ll examine these changes through data and the lens of biblical teachings, offering concrete steps we can take to live these principles today.

**Workshop C: Friday, June 12, 3:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m.**

- “Hymns: Tunes, Texts, and Meters – How They Fit Together” – Carol Lown** Come to hear two amazing hymn stories. Then learn how to use the hymnal’s metrical index to find new tunes for familiar texts. **Offered only once.**
- “Diamond Painting for Stress and Anxiety Relief” – Tina Branham** Learn about the health benefits of diamond painting. Complete a small diamond art project. Instructions, techniques, as well as tips and tricks will be provided. **Prerequisite:** Reading Glasses, if you need them for small fonts. **All materials provided; limited to 18 attendees per workshop.**
- “Linus Blanket Project” – Jonne Clemmer** In this workshop, we will make blankets/lap robes for children or for adults. This involves cutting fleece and intertwining strips of the cloth; no sewing is required. **Participants should bring their own scissors for cutting cloth. Instructional leadership and all other materials provided; limited to 12 attendees per workshop.**
- “Let’s Talk” – National and Synod Leaders** What’s on your mind? What would you like to know? This is an open “Q & A” session with Susan Jackson-Dowd, Executive Director, PW, Inc., PC(USA); Pam Snyder, Moderator, PW, Inc., Board of Directors; Kelsey Law, Vice Moderator, PW, Inc., Board of Directors; Marlene Butler, Moderator, Synod of the Mid-Atlantic PW; and Debbie Reese, Vice Moderator, Synod of the Mid-Atlantic PC(USA).

**Workshop D: Saturday, June 13, 1:45 p.m.-3 p.m.**

- “Connections, Conflicts, and Mutual Care: How Do We Do This Whole ‘Christians in Community Thing’ Anyway?” – Sarah Leer** (See Workshop A, #1 for info.)
- “Etched in Our Hearts: Sharing Experiences That Build an Inclusive, Caring Community” – Stephanie Patterson** (See Workshop B, #1 for more info.)
- “Because She Was Revolutionary – Reimagining the Space of Presbyterian Women” – Kelsey Law** (See Workshop B, #2 for info.)
- “Welcoming the Stranger: What the Data and Our Faith Tell Us About Immigration” – Jordan Kane and Sarah Hyska** (See Workshop B, #5 for info.)

**Workshop E: Saturday, June 13, 3:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m.**

- “The Beauty of Chimes: Come Learn a Piece to Play in Worship” – Carol Lown** Come learn to accompany three hymns with chimes. Maybe we will play one in worship! You don’t have to be a “musician” to do this! **Offered only once.**
- “Diamond Painting for Stress and Anxiety Relief” – Tina Branham** (See Workshop C, #2 for info.)
- “Linus Blanket Project” – Jonne Clemmer** (See Workshop C, #3 for info.)
- “Let’s Talk” – National and Synod Leaders** (See Workshop C, #4 for info.)

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**PW SYNOD SUMMER GATHERING REGISTRATION FEES**

Circle or highlight all fees that apply. (Double occupancy = two persons per room, sharing a bath with another room with one or two persons.)  
(Single occupancy = one person per room; yet, sharing a bath with another room with one or two persons.)

<b>Full-Time (3 nights/8 meals)</b>	Double Occupancy: Early Bird (before May 1) - \$450.00 Regular - \$500.00 Single Occupancy: Early Bird (before May 1) - \$500.00 Regular - \$550.00										
<b>Part-Time (2 consecutive nights/6 meals)</b>	Double Occupancy: \$375.00 Single Occupancy: \$400.00 Circle or Highlight Nights: Thursday/Friday Friday/Saturday										
<b>Part-Time (1 night/3 meals)</b>	Double Occupancy: \$320.00 Single Occupancy: \$340.00 Circle or Highlight Night: Thursday Friday Saturday										
<b>Commuter</b>	Full Event (no meals): \$250.00 Single Day (no meals): \$170.00										
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Calculate the total for meals below:</td> <td>Circle or highlight days and any meals desired:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Breakfast \$11.50 each X _____ = \$ _____</td> <td>Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lunch \$15.00 each X _____ = \$ _____</td> <td>Dinner Breakfast Breakfast Breakfast</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dinner \$18.00 each X _____ = \$ _____</td> <td>Lunch Lunch</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Dinner Dinner</td> </tr> </table>	Calculate the total for meals below:	Circle or highlight days and any meals desired:	Breakfast \$11.50 each X _____ = \$ _____	Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday	Lunch \$15.00 each X _____ = \$ _____	Dinner Breakfast Breakfast Breakfast	Dinner \$18.00 each X _____ = \$ _____	Lunch Lunch		Dinner Dinner	<p><b>Virtual Option</b> 5 plenaries: \$125.00 Includes: Thursday evening, Friday morning, Friday evening, Saturday morning, and Saturday evening.</p>
Calculate the total for meals below:	Circle or highlight days and any meals desired:										
Breakfast \$11.50 each X _____ = \$ _____	Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday										
Lunch \$15.00 each X _____ = \$ _____	Dinner Breakfast Breakfast Breakfast										
Dinner \$18.00 each X _____ = \$ _____	Lunch Lunch										
	Dinner Dinner										

**TOTAL ENCLOSED (SUM OF CIRCLED OR HIGHLIGHTED FEES): \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

If mailing registration, include check made payable to PW/SMA/SG. If registering by email, mail check only asap.

All registrations will be confirmed by email. Registration forms and/or payment should be mailed to: Shelda Wills, 401 Craig Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073. Emailed registration forms should be sent to: swills@usit.net.

**NO REFUNDS AFTER MAY 25, 2026.**

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MAY 1,**

**Presbyterian Women**  
**Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Summer Gathering**  
**Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center**  
**Harrisonburg, Virginia**  
**June 11-14, 2026**  
**Scholarship Application**

**FOR WOMEN IN THE PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS ONLY**

**ONE SCHOLARSHIP WILL BE AWARDED TO A FULL-TIME ATTENDEE  
IN THE AMOUNT OF \$450**

**OR**

**TWO PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE AWARDED TO TWO FULL-TIME  
ATTENDEES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$225 EACH**

**Recipients will be asked to write a brief paragraph describing their Gathering experience.**

**Fill out and take to the Moderator/Contact Person at your church for completion.**

**Form must be mailed no later than April 10, 2026.**

I am interested in being considered for a scholarship for the 2026 Synod Summer Gathering.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I have held the following PW leadership roles:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I have never attended a PW Synod Summer Gathering.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have attended one PW Synod Summer Gathering.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have attended more than one PW Synod Summer Gathering.

I want to be a part of the 2026 Synod Summer Gathering because

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant: Please have your congregation PW Moderator or Contact Person fill out the remainder of this form.**

**Scholarship Recipients will be notified by April 24, 2026.**

**PW Moderator/Contact Person of Applicant's Church**

After filling out the remainder of this form, you may email it or mail it postmarked no later than **April 10, 2026**, to:

Shelda Wills  
401 Craig Street  
Christiansburg, VA 24073  
**swills@usit.net**

**Applicant's Church PW Moderator or Contact Person:** Please add your comments below.

PW Moderator or Contact Printed Name:

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Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name of Church:

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**PW Moderator or Contact Signature:**

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**Scholarship recipients will be notified by April 24, 2026.**

**Recipients will be asked to write a brief paragraph describing their Summer Gathering experience within four (4) weeks after the Gathering.**

**Moderators/Contact Persons: Please email or mail this form postmarked no later than April 10, 2026, to the addressee listed at the top of this page.**