



# *The PWSnews!*



*News from the Presbyterian Women of the Synod of the Trinity*

## ***PW Synod Mission Team Solicits Applications for the 2026 Synod Mission Project***

The PW Synod Mission Teams is soliciting applications for a 2026 PW in the Synod of the Trinity mission project grant.

The Project must demonstrate that it will impact the lives of: women, children, youth, racial ethnic persons and persons with a disability and have a PW connection. The nominated project for 2026 should be an international project as we have historically rotated these projects between national/international and the Synod of the Trinity area.

Please publicize this solicitation within your PW Circles, PW groups, your congregations in your Presbytery and international organizations that you may be aware of that may need funding.

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS SEPTEMBER 1, 2025.**

Applicants must mail one completed copy with all required attachments via U.S. Postal Service to **Suzanne Herger at 142 Commonwealth Drive, Newtown, PA 18940**

**Additionally, send a copy of the completed application via email to [suzanne.herger@verizon.net](mailto:suzanne.herger@verizon.net).**

If you have any questions or concerns about the application and process, you may call Suzanne at (267)471-0832 or email the above email address.

A copy of the Application form is attached to this newsletter, and on the PWS webpage at <https://www.syntrinity.org/synod-pw/>

## ***Welcome Newly Elected Leaders of the PWS Administrative Team***

The PW in the Synod of the Trinity announces the newly elected leaders of the Administrative Team. Their terms will end in 2028:

**Historian** – Alcinda James

**Leadership, Resources & Communications** – Bettie Stammerjohn

**Recording Secretary** – Lorraine Holton

**Synod Representative to the Board of Directors** – Rebecca Kopp

These ladies will be installed at the PWS AT/CT meeting scheduled Oct 6-8 at Antiochian Village.

## ***Summer 2025 In this Issue:***

- 2026 PWS Mission Project Applications
- New PWS AT Leaders
- Reminder: 2025 Mission Project Donations Due
- In Memoriams
- Save the Date - PWS AT/CT Fall Meeting
- Save the Date – Summer Gathering 2026

**NEXT ISSUE: Updates from the 2025 Regional Gatherings**

**PWSnews!** is an electronic of the Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Trinity. To subscribe please, go to <https://mailchi.mp/75cfbd418456/pws-trinity> or email PWS Leadership, Resources Coordinator Bettie Stammerjohn at [bbstammerjohn@gmail.com](mailto:bbstammerjohn@gmail.com)

***2025 PW Synod AT/CT Fall Meeting Set***

**Monday Oct 6 – Wednesday Oct 7** at Antiochian Village near Ligonier PA.

Among other necessary business, will be program for the 2026 Synod Gathering.

**PWP Moderators should keep an eye out for registration information in August.**

***2025 PW Synod Project “The Well” Project Funds Due Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>***

This is a reminder that the 2025 PW Synod Mission Project – “The Well – A Project of the Welcome Church” - is half way through the donation period.

Please remind your PW Presbytery congregation moderators that **donations are due to your PW in the Presbytery Treasurer by December 1, 2025.**

Funds should be collected and forwarded to your PW Presbytery treasurer who will then forward the funds to the *PW in the Synod Treasurer, Doreen Stiffler, 99 Cedar Drive, Kittanning, PA 16201* **before Dec 15, 2025**

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The Well, located in the Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania, currently refers to the whole community of support for women who are experiencing homelessness, which is a part of The Welcome Church.

In 2016, The Welcome Church founded an overnight shelter for women called The Well, when it became apparent that there were few places where women felt safe going inside for the night. Grounded in the relationships that The Welcome Church had with the women, The Well had two amazing successes in the first two winter seasons: the women, who had been labeled “shelter resistant,” were consistently coming in, and after the second season, most moved into permanent housing. The Welcome Church developed a relationship with Bethesda Project, and the City of Philadelphia began paying Bethesda Project to cover staffing for The Well, as a year-round shelter, in November 2017.

Unfortunately, the building and congregation (Christ’s Presbyterian Church) housing The Well had to close in 2024, and the City of Philadelphia, in the midst of budget cuts, stopped funding for this shelter. But The Welcome Church maintains strong relationships with the women! The pastors meet and check in with women who are on the streets with few resources. The Welcome Church holds two women’s group meetings each month. The women keep in touch with one another.

The Welcome Church continues to look for a new location for the shelter, for which the City will provide funding as a winter shelter this year. We have redefined The Well as the whole community of women, which gathers in different places, both inside and outside, offering mutual support.

For more information check out information on The Welcome Church website:  
<https://www.thewelcomechurch.org/getting-to-know-us>

***See attached flyer.***

## **In Memoriam – Melissa Matheson**

*Melissa Matheson passed away late Saturday, June 28, 2025.*

*Melissa was a trusted and loyal member of Presbyterian Women at every level of activity and performed all tasks with grace and ability.*

*Arrangements are pending and Jane DeFord will share more when available.*

## **In Memoriam – Rev. Rebecca Tanner**

**by Suzanne Herger?**

It is with a heavy heart I inform you; the Rev. Rebecca Tanner died of a stroke on Sunday June 8, 2025 which she suffered on June 7 in the afternoon.

Rebecca was currently serving the Ashley and Dunmore churches in Lackawanna Presbytery.

Rebecca earned her BA from Mansfield State College and taught in the Susquehanna School District for 5 years before attending Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. June 2<sup>nd</sup> was the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her graduation from Pittsburgh Seminary ordination in Lackawanna Presbytery.

She also served as Chaplain for the Veteran's Hospital in Wilkes -Barre and Bereavement coordinator for Mercy Hospice. She was a 50-year member of Gill Chapter No 12 Order of Eastern Star, served on several ecumenical boards and committees and many other philanthropic organizations.

Rebecca served as the Moderator of Presbyterian Women in Lackawanna Presbytery for more than 15 years, although the group has been inactive for several years. She served on Synod of the Trinity as Spiritual Coordinator several years ago.

Rebecca will be missed by many family members, congregations and friends.

A graveside service was held at 11:00 am on Saturday, June 28, 2025 at Rose Hill Cemetery, access from the Catherine Street entrance, Hallstead, PA.

Donations in memory of Rebecca may be made to: Touched by Jesus Ministry, Inc., PO Box 55, Stockton, NJ 08559. Touched by Jesus Ministry, Inc dba RHM International is a 501c3 organization mandated to minister emotional healing (Mashah Ministry) and freedom to individuals around the world. In addition, we train and equip pastors and leaders in the United States and abroad, focusing on establishing a Biblical foundation in all aspects of ministry. For more information or to donate in memory of Rebecca on-line visit [ruthhendrickson.com](http://ruthhendrickson.com) OR [Mashahministry.com](http://Mashahministry.com)

To plant trees in memory, please visit the Sympathy Store.

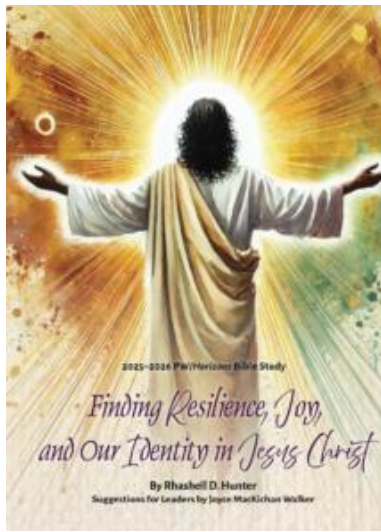
**SAVE THE DATES!**

**PW SYNOD OF THE TRINITY SUMMER GATHERING**

**July 16-18, 2026**

**Antiochian Village Conference Center  
104 Church Camp Trail, Bolivar, PA (near Ligonier PA)**

**MORE INFORMATION TO COME IN 2026**



**PW HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY 2025/2026**

***Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in  
Jesus Christ* by Rhashell D. Hunter**

Order resources (books, posters, DVD, workshops for  
leaders and more) at:

***<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/current-bible-study/>***

*Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Trinity  
Request for Applications  
for the 2026 Synod Mission Project*

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The Project must demonstrate that it will impact the lives of: women, children, youth, racial ethnic persons and persons with a disability and have a PW connection. The nominated project for 2026 should be an international project as we have historically rotated these projects between national/international and the Synod of the Trinity area.

The PW in the Synod will be raising donations from our PW in the Presbyteries and PW Congregations during 2026 to support the chosen project. The chosen project will receive their grant in 2027.

Please publicize this solicitation within your PW Circles, PW groups, your congregations in your Presbytery and international organizations that you may be aware of that may need funding.

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If you have any questions or concerns about the application and process, you may call Suzanne at (267)471-0832 or email the above email address.

A copy of the Application form is attached, and may also be found on the PWS webpage at <https://www.syntrinity.org/synod-pw/>

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN - SYNOD OF THE TRINITY**

**Mission Project Grant Application**

**2025**

**(Application must be typed)**

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

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

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

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Presbyterian Women Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Title or Position \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Presbytery: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Start-up Date for Project: \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions to be Answered**

1. Provide a mission statement from your organization and a purpose statement that directly relates to the proposed project. (A mission statement is defined as a cross between a slogan and an executive summary. It should say who your organization is, what you do, what you stand for and why you do it)

## PW Synod of the Trinity – Mission Grant Application

- Page 3

7. How will the program continue once the received funds are depleted?

8. List other sources of funding being sought for this project:

Funding Source	Amount Requested	Assured to Date	Date Decision Expect
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

9. Describe your process of evaluation and accountability.

10. Identify dates of previous funding request(s) to Presbyterian Women and outcome.

Date	Amount of Grant	Name of Project	Birthday or Thank Offering, etc.
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

11. Attach a project budget, in US currency, that shows specifically how the money will be spent.

12. Attach any available pictures (preferably black & white) of the current circumstances or structures and pictures or drawings of the proposed project.



***PW Synod of the Trinity – Application for the 2026 Synod Mission Project***

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Name of person submitting application

Name of Board chair or other responsible person

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (required)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (required)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Project \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Project \_\_\_\_\_

7/16/2024

## Welcome Church Resources:

- Art Street Coloring Book pdf  
<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aai:d:sc:us:hb1fc717-8251-4279-a964-6b1674b8f29c>
- <https://www.amazon.com/art-street-artist-without-address>
- Healing Chocolate Chip Cookies: an in-production podcast, found wherever you get your podcasts
- Questioning Homelessness 1 page document  
<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:be289b65-bd5b-43eb-bc69-baba06171bd1>
- Questioning Homelessness This is a small printable book. Fold the book into eighths, cut on the middle crease, leaving the sides closest to the edges of the paper untouched. Fold into an X to create a simple 8 page booklet.  
<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:f807e7b9-2492-49a2-acb1-6c7cbaf158f97>

Homelessness can be a complicated conversation, but kindness isn't. Make kindness a way of life.

**Imagine the world as a giant potluck. where everyone has space at the table. where everyone has something to share. where everyone has enough- what are you bringing? what do you feel grateful to receive?**

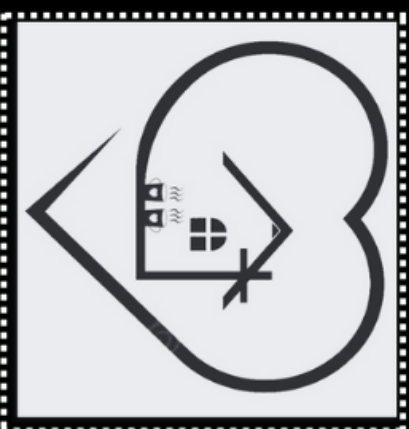
What follows are some suggestions on ways to spread love to people who are unhoused. Yet we encourage you to recognize and share your own gifts- are you a barber?, know how to fix zippers?, love making egg salad sandwiches?, singing opera?, etc. Like all people, you have unique and valuable gifts that the world needs you to share.

**[www.thewelcomechurch.org](http://www.thewelcomechurch.org)**

*Through genuine connections  
& compassionate hospitality,  
the Welcome Church of Philadelphia  
is committed to making the shift  
from feeding people  
to sharing food.*

**Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2**

## The Welcome Church of Philadelphia



The Welcome Church  
is an ELCA congregation

proclaiming the  
hope and love of a gracious  
God to all people and  
especially to people  
experiencing homelessness.  
All are welcomed to join this  
dynamic ministry.

**you are  
welcome here.**

## Blessing Bags:

Reach out to organizations supporting people who are unhoused to see what supplies are needed or in demand. Assemble bags. Little love notes are always a nice touch!

Ideas may include:

- Snacks.....Socks
- Chapstick.....Sunscreen
- Pocket Tissues.....Cough Drops
- Lotion.....Small First Aid Kits
- Hand Warmers.....Gloves
- \$5 gift cards for coffee/food
- Toothbrush.....Toothpaste
- Instant drink mixes.....Teabags
- Mints.....Hand sanitizer
- Small Sewing Kits.....Deodorant
- Gum.....Tide Sticks
- Hats.....Sunglasses
- Body Wipes.....Combs



Snack Ideas:

- Granola bars
- Jerky
- Candy
- Individually packaged treats
- Pocket peanut butters
- Microwaveable foods
- Small cans tuna & crackers
- Instant Oatmeal
- Dried Fruit Bars
- Trail Mix
- Protein Bars
- Drinkable Applesauce



## Street Art Kits:

Reach out to organizations supporting people who are unhoused to see what art activities folks are interested in. Assemble bags. Little love notes are always a nice touch!

Ideas may include:

- A ball of yarn and a pair of knitting needles or a crocheter hook
- A notebook and some pens
- Coloring material and an adult coloring book
- Coloring materials and a sketch pad
- Beads and string
- Several reams of embroidery floss for bracelet making
- Watercolor paint and paper
- An art activity that contains all necessary supplies
- Little sewing kits
- Composer music paper
- Model Magic Sculpting
- A simple embroidery set



## Coffee Hour/Tea Time:

- Coffee.....Asst. Teas.....Instant Decaf
- Hot Chocolate Packets
- Sugar.....Fake Sugar.....Creamer
- Cups.....Lids.....Spoons
- (On hot days, cool drinks would be appreciated)



## Welcome Home Kits:

- Dishes: set of 4-8, including glasses
- Utensils: set of 4-8
- Pots/pans: 2 frying pans, 2 pots, 1 soup pot
- Dish towels/dish cloths
- Bath towels/wash cloths (4 each)
- Bed linens (queen size): 2 sets (fitted & flat) + 1 blanket
- Pillows: 2 (new)
- Toiletries
- Shower curtain/liner
- Bathroom accessories
- Waste baskets: 2 & amp; 1 garbage pail
- Ice cube trays: 2
- Plastic food storage containers"



## Start a Pay It Forward:

- Connect with local restaurants.
- Participating restaurants will offer a tailored menu where patrons can choose to pay a little extra to help someone get something to eat.
- Guests will be able to come in and enjoy delicious food in a respectful and dignified manner.
- This model supports local businesses, helps reduce food insecurity, and is a simple reminder of our commitment in caring for one another.
- Making the shift from feeding people to sharing food is the goal. Our challenge is to find a place at the table for each honored guest.