



Connecting Link Winter 2026

A Lasting Legacy by Elisa a writer for Our Daily Bread

Thomas Edison invented the first practical electric light bulb. Jonas Salk developed an effective polio vaccine. Amy Carmichael penned many of the hymns we sing in worship. But what about you? Why were you put on earth? How will you invest your life?

Genesis 4:4 tells us that Eve “became pregnant and gave birth to Cain.: After holding Cain for the first time, Eve announced, “With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man”, Genesis 4:1. In an effort to explain the surprising experience of the very first birth, Eve uses a phrase dripping with dependency on the sovereign aid of God: “With the help of the Lord. Eventually, through Eve’s seed, God would provide rescue for His people through another Son. What a legacy!

Parenthood is just one of many ways people make lasting contributions to this world. Perhaps your offering will burst forth from a room where you write or knit, or paint. You might be an example for another who is deprived of godly influence. Or your investment might even come after your death in ways you could never imagine. It may be the work you leave behind or your reputation for integrity in business. In any case, will your words echo Eve’s dependency on God? With the help of the Lord, what will you do for His honor?

During the cold months we are currently in, we tend to think we have a little more time to think about what God wants us to do. After all we can’t get outside to work in the gardens, and we cleaned the house good for the holidays. Well you are correct about being able to find some free time. Winter has a way of making us slow down a little, but instead of ‘us’ using this time let’s let ‘GOD’ use this time maybe to speak to us about what He wants us to do, and maybe to prepare us for what His plans are without telling us anything. Use this time for rest and preparation. Amen

Direction to Spring Gathering: Take Rt. 7 and get off at the Rayland exit, follow Rt 150 west into Mt. Pleasant, when you get to the top where there is a T in the street go left and the church will be on your left side, parking is in the rear.

Spring Gathering April 18th at Mt. Pleasant

We will gather at Mt. Pleasant at 9:00am for a light breakfast, and registration. Our meeting will start at 9:30am, for worship with the theme God is in Control, our annual business meeting, and to hear our speaker, and friend Laurie. Questions call 330-532-5747 Cindy



Rev. Laurie Armstrong will be our speaker, and she will share information about Tri-County Help Center, that serves 3 of the counties in Upper Ohio Valley. Let's get together to renew old friendships, worship our Lord, do the business at hand and find out about things in our community and how we can help.

New Mission Projects for 2026

Upper Ohio Valley Presbyterian Women has chosen a new mission project: **Christina**

House/Catholic Charities Regional Agency in Lisbon, OH

Domestic Violence Help in Lisbon, OH, This is mostly for women and children, safety and to get them back on their feet. Send donations to our treasurer Catherine Maxwell.

Synod of the Trinity new project for 2026 is:

Mulanje Mission College of Nursing and Midwifery (MMCNM) a member of the Christian Health Association of Malawi (CHAM), is owned by the Church of Central African Presbyterian (CCAP), Blantyre Synod. It was established in 1930 by Scottish Missionaries. Our one-time giving will provide the resources needed to purchase critical equipment for the current skills laboratory to ensure proper training. It allows students to gain hands – on experience in a simulated clinical environment. The skills laboratory is a replica of the hospital where skills demonstration takes place, and students take time to perfect their nursing and midwifery skills before they are allocated to the hospitals. The current skills laboratory equipment required by standards includes mannequins that students would use for various skills practice, such as wound dressing, bed bathing, feeding, cannulation, oxygenation, resuscitation, pregnant mannequin for antenatal, labor delivery, and postpartum skills. Mannequin for neonate care Mortality rates in Sub – Saharan Africa, with a recent estimated Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of 381 per 100,000 live births. The most common causes of these maternal deaths are preventable and are attributed to inequalities in access to quality health services. According to the World Bank report (2022), 82.02% of people in Malawi live in rural areas where access to quality health care is a challenge. <https://mbf.org/ccap-mulanje-college-of-health-sciences/> Donations should be sent to **your PW treasurer**. Thank you for your support in enhancing the learning experience for the students.

PW Online Resources

To get into the Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery for PW information : www.uovpresby.org at the top of the page you go under Committees to find PW towards the bottom of the page then you click on PW and it will take you to our Mission pledge and officers, keep going down that page to find the Connecting Link. You can print it or copy and paste it from here.

To get into the Synod of the Trinity for PW information: www.syntrinity.org/synod-pw/ at the top of the page you can sign up for the Newsletter, further down you can read the latest Newsletter in a couple of forms, and you can print it if you wish.

Save the date: July 16-18, 2026 At Antiochian Village Retreat and Conference Center to attend Finding Joy in the Journey where you will find. Lively Worship, Special Workshops, Great Food, Inspirational Small-Group Time, Spirituality Walk, Toe-tapping music, Silent Auction, Games, Crafts, Mission Opportunities and More!! Save the Date!! Hosted by The Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Trinity

Feel free to call or email me if you have any questions Cindy

330-532-5747 jamesalcinda@gmail.com

PW Synod of the Trinity Retreat/Gathering

July 16-18, 2026 At Antiochian Village Retreat and Conference Center Registration Form

Finding Joy in the Journey

Galatians 5:22



PLEASE PRINT

Name _____ Preferred name for Badge _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please note any special needs:

Medical Dietary Needs: _____

I Will Volunteer: assist communion ____ usher ____ where needed ____

Home Presbytery _____ Local Church _____

**The Gathering Event is being held at a beautiful facility: Antiochian Village: www.antiochianvillage.org
All are welcome. Bring your friends, family and those you pray for.**

Registrar: Alcinda James, 41981 Old Irondale Road, Irondale, OH 43932

For questions, please e-mail: jamesalcinda@gmail.com or call 330-532-5747

Cost includes; accommodation, materials, five meals (supper on July 16th, three meals on July 17th, and one meal on July 18th), as well as snacks during the Gathering.

_____ Double Room \$270.00 Preferred roommate: _____

_____ Triple Room \$325.00 Preferred roommates: _____

_____ Single Room \$ 350.00

_____ Commuter rate \$160.00 includes: materials, meals, and snacks.

Please make check payable to:

PW in the Synod of the Trinity and send your registration form, medical form, preference on workshops and check to the Registrar.

Do you prefer confirmation of your registration plus added information by: _____ E-mail _____ USPS?

Registration deadline is June 15th. Any registration after June 15th adds \$50.00 to your registration. No refunds after June 30th. On July 16 registration will begin at 3:00 p.m. and the gathering/retreat will start with Supper. On July 18th closing worship will end at noon. Yoga, (self-instructed) can be done on both mornings. Bring your yoga mat or a chair can be used.

Important Information: Items to bring that will be helpful, water/coffee bottle, lawn chair, sweater, money for offerings, and Silent Auction. Book Circle will be offered at Lunch. Also, this facility will give you the opportunity for some exercise, getting from where we will be staying and meeting to the dining room. However, we do have a 'Ride to Dine' option for those that would prefer to shuttle to the dining room.

PW in the Synod of Trinity Medical Form (for emergency situations)

Name _____ Sex _____ Age _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Medications _____

Allergies or Drug reactions _____

Personal Physicain _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Person to reach in case of EMERGENCY _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

(Workshops will be held if enough attendees sign up) Mark your first choice with **A.** in front of the number of the workshop. and your second choice with a **B** for workshops 1 and 2, Each workshop is offered once.

See Page 3&4 for Descriptions of Workshops and Workshop Leaders.

Synod of the Trinity Gathering and Retreat 2026

Workshop Descriptions and Leadership

Workshop I.

1. “Exploring Leadership as a fruit of the Spirit”

Our purpose will be to discover the joy of leadership when a position in leadership is offered. During our time together will lead to the qualities of leadership that parallel our PW Purpose. **Pam Snyder, Moderator of PW Churchwide will be our leader**

2. “UN Commission on the Status of Women”

Hear the first-hand experience of our own **Bettie Stammerjohn** at the 2026 meeting of the United National Commission on the Status of Women. Learn how Presbyterian Women work in partnership and collaboration with Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations to advocate for gender equality and women’s empowerment at the international level and how we carry this advocacy back to our own communities. Bettie is currently serving as our Synod coordinator for Leadership, Resources and Communications.

3. “Radical Welcome: The Key to Communications With the Larger Community”

In this workshop we will explore an in-depth look at how our churches, presbyteries, and gathering spaces have perpetuated harm & oppression for many and how we can help to center the voices, concerns, and interests of those often not fully embraced within the church or society. Participants will discover how radical hospitality blesses our communities, enriching our dialog and creating greater engagement with the larger community. This workshop will be led **by Samantha Davis (Sam)**. Sam is a native of Pittsburgh and grew up in Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church. Samantha is serving as the Associate of Gender, Racial and Intercultural Justice and is an organizer with Free DC and Founder of the Black Swan on national committees within the Presbyterian Church, USA: Black Women and Girls Advocacy Task Force and the Self Development of People.

4. PW Horizons Bible Study 2026-27

“United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other: Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians”

Preparing our local circle leaders to journey on the road with Paul.

Leadership T/B/A

5. “Mulanje Mission College of Nursing and Midwifery in Malawi” – Our Synod Mission Project 2026

Participants will learn how our one time giving will enhance this program for students of the Nursing College, led by **Rev. Paula Cooper**. Paula served eight years as the regional liaison for East Central Africa, facilitating PC(USA) relationships with partner churches and institutions in Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia where the church is growing rapidly and pastoral training and leadership development are of major concern. Paula has provided support for PC(USA) mission personnel and Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs) in the region. She is a lifelong Presbyterian and completed her seminary training (MDiv) at Pittsburgh Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

6. The Joy Workshop

When we offer up what gives us joy inside community, God connects us and multiplies our gifts! We are all multifaceted women with many finely developed gifts that we routinely use in our ministries. But connecting and reconnecting through what brings us joy is unmistakably different. Let's explore together how we're not meant to be just hard workers, but rather workers living in the overflow of God's love and the Holy Spirit's gift of joy. **Rev. Sharon Woome** will lead this workshop, she is a Presbyterian minister and the founding Pastor of Hope Community church, a new worshipping community that has emerged from an outreach ministry with Haitian neighbors in Charleroi, Pennsylvania

7. Joy in the Spirit Walk

A guided walk on the beautiful grounds of Antiochian Village. This walk will be led by **Rev. Betsy McCormick** our PW Synod Chaplain. Walking shoes and a hat!

The Book Circle – gather around a lunch table on Friday to discuss either one of two books. “The House in the Cerulean Sea” by T.J. Klune will be led by Karen Haas. Our second book will be “The Celebrants” by Stephen Rowley and Sue Mummert will lead this group.

