

Synod of the Covenant  
Presbyterian Women

WALKING  
in the Light



2017 Gathering

1 John 1:17

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.

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June 23-24, 2017

First Presbyterian Church, 111 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, Michigan 49017

# PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR THE GATHERING

June 23, 2017 Friday

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8:00 am – 5:00 pm Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Training

4:00-6:00 pm Registration

6:00 pm Welcome, Grace, Dinner

6:45 pm Energizer

Erin Fee

7:00 pm Opening Devotion, Lighting the Christ Candle  
Business Meeting

7:45 pm Plenary Address - “Cloud of Witnesses – The Community of Christ in Hebrews” Melissa Bane Sevier

8:15 pm Evening Prayer

June 24, 2017 Saturday

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8:30 am Music

Business Meeting

9:30 am Address – 2016 USA Mission Experience

Pat McBride

*Out of the Darkness...into the Light*

10:30 am Break/Energizer/Music

11:00 am Plenary Address – “Confess God’s Word Out Loud, and Talk Back to Satan” Wanda Beauman

Noon Lunch (choir members eat first)

1:15 pm Workshops: Session 1

2:30 pm Break

2:45 pm Workshops: Session 2

4:00 pm Worship with Communion

Rev. Patricia Weatherwax & Rev. Melissa Lopez

5:00 pm Dinner

## Accommodations:

Women are to arrange for housing for themselves. The Gathering Team has arranged special rates (not including tax) with the motels listed below. By indicating you are with the Presbyterian Women (PWSOC), you will receive the special rate. Only 1 person per room should make the reservation.

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Baymont Inn Downtown (\$99/tax)

182 W Van Buren

296-565-0500 (rsvr. deadline 6/16/17)

15 double & 1 king with wheelchair shower

Quality Inn (\$107/tax)

2590 Capital Ave SW

269-965-3201 (rsvr. deadline  
6/1/17)

15 king

Fairfield Inn by Marriott (\$139/tax)

4665 Beckley Rd

269--979-8000 (rsvr. deadline 5/24/17)

10 double & 5 quad (king)

McCamly Plaza Hotel (\$109/tax)

50 Capital Ave SW

269-696-4728 (rsvr. deadline  
6/1/17)

10 double

# WORKSHOPS

## Session 1

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1. “Cloud of Witnesses – The Community of Christ in Hebrews” - Bible Study Helps Melissa Sevier  
Come for an introduction, by the author, to the 2017-2018 *Horizons* Bible Study and some Bible study helps.
2. A Justice-Filled Life Makes Wrong Things Right Wanda Beauman  
We will use an interactive process to examine everyday scenarios and decide how to take the next step.
3. First-Hand Aid, Rural Clinic Development Initiative Marc Bohland  
The Rural Clinic Development Initiative, one of our 2017 Birthday Offering recipients, is designed to establish six medical clinics in partnership with, and located at, Presbyterian Churches in rural Cuba that will provide medicine and care not available, or difficult to get, from Cuban sources in those communities. Marc Bohland is Executive Director of First-Hand Aid, providing humanitarian Relief to Cubans in need, hand-to-hand.
4. Restore, Refresh, Rejoice Pat Scheid  
A fun-filled, lively discussion on ways to lessen stress and increase your potential for love, joy, gratitude, peace, and hope. Find out how to turn your heart and life toward what you were created to be – a rich and satisfied, Spirit-filled self.

## Session 2

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5. What’s New in Presbyterian Women? Laura Hovland  
This class will highlight new ideas and resources that are available for your PW programming plans. It will be interactive with input and opportunities for group sharing from the participants. You will be pleasantly surprised by the flexibility and wide range of resources available for mission support, spiritual growth, community action, and women’s fellowship.
6. A Justice-Filled Life Makes Wrong Things Right Wanda Beauman  
We will use an interactive process to examine everyday scenarios and decide how to take the next step.
7. “Cloud of Witnesses – The Community of Christ in Hebrews” – Bible Study Helps Melissa Sevier  
Come for an introduction, by the author, to the 207-2018 *Horizons* Bible Study and some Bible study helps.
8. Walking out the Door, Into the Light Renee Roederer  
Religious demographics are changing in the United States. Many 'Nones' and 'Dones' have walked out of the sanctuary doors and are not returning to traditional, institutional churches. Come learn how Michigan Nones and Dones, a new community in Southeast Michigan, is connecting spiritually with people who are disenfranchised from Church.

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*A Spirituality Center* will be available throughout the gathering.

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We have the opportunity again to help supply **Mobile Health Fair Kits** for the Synod. They prefer regular size not travel size. Suggested items for each kit are shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, bar soap, wash cloth, comb and/or brush, toothbrush, and toothpaste. Additional items they can use are dental floss, socks, hand towels, chapstick, razors, and hair ties. You may package the kits or just bring the items and the Mobile Health Care folks will assemble them.

The Synod and the Mobile Health Fair appreciates all the PW does to help make this program a success.



## **PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**



**PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN**

**PW Synod of the Covenant Training**  
**June 23, 2017, 8 am to 5 pm**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Battle Creek, MI**

### **Call to Ministry of Disaster Preparedness**

Presbyterian Women in collaboration with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance equip congregations, presbyteries, families and communities to be prepared for disaster; natural, human-caused or industrial-technical.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance provides instruction and resources for women who have the time and interest for the ministry of disaster preparedness. Presbyterian Women provide the connectedness, leadership and passion for the mission of disaster preparedness.

PDA and PW share a commitment to building an inclusive caring community that witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom. We support the mission of the church by serving those most in need. We work to strengthen and empower the resiliency of our friends, families, neighbors and community.

### **THE PW CHALLENGES:**

- Submit an application and references and partake in an 8-hour disaster preparedness training.
- Commit to organize and provide a minimum of three disaster preparedness trainings a year.
- Learn what resources and partnerships are available to be prepared for a disaster.
- Educate friends and neighbors, men and women, on the need to be prepared.
- Work to overcome reluctance to believe that a disaster could happen.

### **THE PDA COMMITMENT:**

- Train two to six Presbyterian Women within each presbytery
- Provide the tools and resources for Presbyterian Women to train disaster preparedness
- Support the trainers by providing connections, contacts and promoting the program
- Financing the initial Presbyterian Women mid-council training and providing instructors
- Commission Presbyterian Women for this disaster preparedness ministry

### ***You can make a difference...***

Click on "Get involved", "Volunteer" at

[www.pcusa.org/pda](http://www.pcusa.org/pda)

Complete an application – email

[beth.snyder@pcusa.org](mailto:beth.snyder@pcusa.org)

PDA is supported by One Great Hour of Sharing

PW is supported by pledges,

[www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/301](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/301)