

The Gathering Quest has begun!



Save the date for the 2021 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women!

- The 2021 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women will be held August 5–8, 2021, in St. Louis, Missouri. #PWGathering #2021ChurchwideGathering
- This email lands in your inbox 21 months from opening plenary (give or take a few days!)
- Each month for 21 months, you will receive an email like this one to help you prepare, promote and plan for the 2021 Gathering!

Things to Note

“Rejoice in Hope” is the theme of the Gathering, based on Romans 12:12–13, “Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.”



Worship, plenaries, workshops and other programs will interpret this theme at the Gathering, but as we prepare for the Gathering, we'll explore this theme through reflections, programming highlights and resources to help you share the joy of the Gathering with others! If you'd like to suggest a workshop leader for the Gathering, **[submit your suggestion online.](#)**

The PW Share Challenge makes it easy for you to share these emails with others (perhaps add your own sentence or two about the Gathering because, let's face it, not every PW knows about the Gathering). Simply use the Forward button, located at the bottom of the page, to share this email with a friend or friends. One randomly chosen person who forwards the email will receive a small token of appreciation and perhaps a bit of celebrity on the next email. There will be 21 opportunities to share and be chosen!

Reflecting on "Rejoice in Hope"

This first reflection is from Mary McKee Martin, 2021 Churchwide Gathering chair. Mary is serving for a second time in this role! Thank you, Mary!



Our focus scripture for the 2021 Gathering is from Romans 12, “Rejoice in hope . . .” Lately, I have been thinking about each individual word. *Rejoice . . . in . . . hope.*

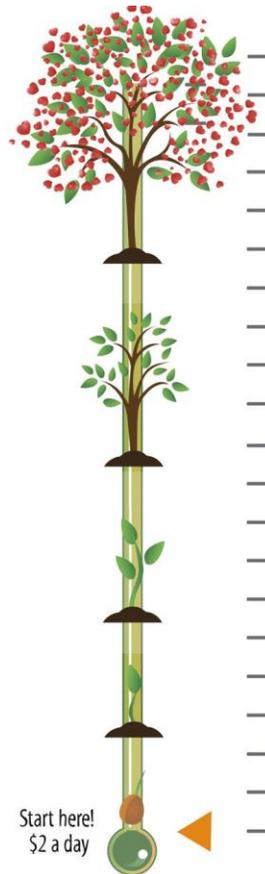
Rejoice—That’s more than “be happy” or “be glad.” What am I simply happy about and what do I rejoice in? With our busy schedules, the frequency of visits with our four precious grandchildren varies a lot. When I see them several times in a week, I am happy to see them. When it has been several weeks, or even months, seeing them makes me **rejoice!** We are happy when our team wins, as they are expected to do; but when they are the underdog and beat the favored team, we **rejoice!** These examples might lead us to conclude that we are happy about what we take for granted, and rejoice in the unexpected, the special gifts, the surprises. Do we still rejoice in the grace, joy, peace and hope we experience because of our faith in Jesus Christ? Hopefully this Gathering theme will bring us to frequent (dare we say constant?) rejoicing.

Hope—I spent most of my professional career in telecommunications. One executive often said, “Hope is not a strategy!” pressing us to provide more detailed plans and say what we were doing to deliver results. Recently on a new television program, I heard a similar statement: “Hope isn’t the same as a plan.” But, as I reflect on our theme, I conclude that hope is, indeed, a strategy. Hope in Jesus Christ, that is. Not hope in potential events, not hope in human efforts, not hope in wishing it were so. Hope in Jesus Christ, is, in fact, a strategy.

In our three-word theme, I don’t want to leave out “in.” Prepositions are just connectors, but this “in” seems important. Romans could just as easily have read “Rejoice *with* hope” or “Rejoice *about* hope.” This “in” tells us that hope and rejoicing are part of us; they are “in” us. They don’t get infused from an external source; they are already there in us, a congenital condition.

These three simple words—“Rejoice in hope”—abound with inspiration. In the coming months, I pray you rejoice in considering scripture and all that the Gathering has to offer!

Savings Strategy



Save a bit to rejoice a lot (at the 2021 Churchwide Gathering)!

The seed money for Gathering attendance is being planted today! As this seed begins her journey, set aside \$2 a day for 21 months so that you can make a faith journey to St. Louis! We'll check in with this seedling in December. TLC!

Save-the-Date Cards

Share and enjoy these downloadable save-the-date cards as you prepare for the 2021 Churchwide Gathering! Feeling festive and crafty? Transform them into Christmas ornaments or bookmarks!

SAVE THE DATE!

Rejoice
in
HOPE

2021 Churchwide Gathering of
Presbyterian Women



August 5–8, 2021
St. Louis, Missouri

Presbyterian Women's annual fund (the Mission Pledge) makes possible every mission, program and resource of PW, including the Churchwide Gathering. Give now to support Presbyterian Women's witness in the world.

[GIVE TO PW's ANNUAL FUND](#)