

About the Program

"Blessed Are the Women"

The women's retreat at Westminster Presbyterian Church, led by author and spiritual leader Claire K. McKeever-Burgett, invites participants into a rich and restorative exploration of the women of scripture, drawing from her works, *Blessed Are the Women* and *In the Beginning Were the Women*. Together, we will revisit familiar (and not so familiar) stories with fresh eyes and open hearts, centering the voices, experiences, and leadership of women whose lives have long shaped our faith, even when they have not been fully named or honored in our practices.

Through teaching, reflection, and embodied engagement, the retreat will create space not only to learn but to encounter women's stories in ways that feel personal, communal, and transformative.

Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of the women of our sacred texts, a renewed sense of why women's stories matter, and practical ways to more intentionally center women in their own spiritual lives and communities.

Retreat Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. Arrive, Check in, Coffee/tea
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome, Community Building
- 9:30 a.m. Story as Sacred Practice
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch (provided)
- 1:30 p.m. Listening to Women's Stories
- 2:30 p.m. Creative Integration
- 3:30 p.m. Group photo, Closing worship
- 4:15 p.m. Depart

*Pictured below:
Women at the 2025 retreat*



Would you be interested in planning future women's retreats? If so, please contact Alaina at asmith@westprespdx.org.

2026 Retreat Committee

Linda Buckley	Eliz Roser
Leslie Carver	Martie Tarter*
Bonnie Magura	*Committee leader



Westminster Presbyterian Church of Portland, OR
503-287-1289 * westprespdx.org

Brochure date: 8/3/2026

Westminster Women's Retreat

Saturday, September 26, 2026

Westminster Presbyterian Church

1624 NE Hancock St.
Portland, OR 97212



"Blessed Are the Women"

Speaker: Claire McKeever-Burgett

**Registration deadline:
Sunday, September 20, 2026**

*Westminster Presbyterian Church welcomes
all to our faith community without inquiring
about race, ethnicity, immigration status,
sexual orientation, or gender identity.*

About the Speaker

Claire K. McKeever-Burgett

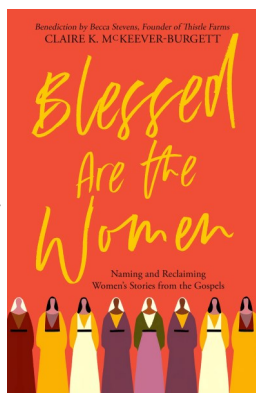
Claire K. McKeever-Burgett is an author, feminist theologian, creative contemplative, and spiritual leader who has devoted her life to bridging spirituality and social justice. She has served as clergy, led congregations, and facilitated transformative writing, movement, and liturgical practices rooted in healing, embodiment, and liberation. A mother, certified birth and postpartum doula, and instructor of yoga, dance, and martial arts, Claire lives with her family in Nashville, Tennessee.

Her debut book, *Blessed Are the Women: Naming and Reclaiming Women's Stories from the Gospels*, reimagines the voices and names of women in scripture while weaving in her own story of growing up as a woman with vision and voice in a conservative, male-dominated world. Through prayer, dance, song, and creative practice, Claire invites readers to center women's wisdom, heal from religious and theological harm, and explore a spacious, woman-led faith.

Her sophomore work, *In the Beginning Were the Women: Matriarchs, Mystics, Wise Women, and Warriors in the Hebrew Bible*, uncovers the matriarchs, prophets, and wisdom-keepers who shaped sacred story—and the Mother God who empowered them.

Claire offers a fresh way of seeing faith, one that heals old wounds, honors women's stories, and opens new paths to justice, liberation, and belonging.

We will provide a copy of Claire's first book, "Blessed Are the Women," to registrants.



Registration: Things to Know

Payment: The price for the Saturday program, including catered lunch and morning coffee, is \$45. Full payment is due at the time of registration.

Scholarships: Don't let money keep you from coming! Need-based scholarships are available. If you're interested in a scholarship, mark the box on the registration form.

Registration deadline: Sunday, September 20 (last day to register).

Cancellations, refunds: Your payment is fully refundable if you have to cancel *before* the registration deadline. After that date, registration funds are nonrefundable, as we will be ordering food in advance. If you need to cancel your registration, contact Alaina at asmith@westprespdx.org.

Lunch: Lunch will be a catered meal with vegetarian, gluten-free, and dairy-free options. You may indicate dietary needs on the registration form.

Retreat location: The Great Hall inside Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1624 NE Hancock St., Portland, OR 97212

Donations: If you would like to contribute to the Cherie Riggs Memorial Scholarship Fund (which benefits those who cannot afford to attend women's retreats), please mail your check to the church and write in the memo line, "Women's Retreat Donation." You may also use this link to donate online; select "Women's Retreat Donation" in the fund drop-down menu: <https://onrealm.org/WestminsterPres74275/give/womensretreat>

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Registration will open on Monday, August 31, and close Sunday, September 20, 2026 (or sooner if the cap is reached).

Enrollment is capped at 75 women, so please register early to ensure a spot! To register:

Step one: Go to our website's community page at <https://westprespdx.org/connect/community-life/> and scroll down to the women's retreat section. Fill out the online registration form.

Step two: Make your payment. You can either pay by check (write "Women's Retreat Registration" in the check memo line), or go to this link to pay online, with "Women's Retreat Registration" showing as the fund choice: <https://onrealm.org/WestminsterPres74275/give/womensretreat>.

Note: You are not registered until you have completed BOTH steps one and two by the September 20th deadline. If you are unable to register online, please call Alaina for help at 503-287-1289.

Questions: If you have questions, contact Alaina in the church office at 503-287-1289 or asmith@westprespdx.org.