



The Sower

*Newsletter for the Presbyterian Women in the
Synod of Lakes & Prairies*



December, 2025

Kathleen Keefer, Editor

Greetings from Huron, S.D.

The PW in the Synod continues to fulfill our PW purpose and be a source of pride for the PC (USA) and our Synod.

The Synod CT met in Grinnell, Iowa, in October. We provide a hands-on project for mission at these meetings. In October team members brought in enough items to complete more than 40 layettes to be taken to Welcome the Child organization on Pine Ridge Reservation. Thank you to all the individual women, groups and churches who donated to this partnership.

We now offer two scholarships for indigenous students attending Sisseton Wahpeton College, one at Oglala Lakota College and are in conversation with the school at Yankton to offer one there.

Our Facebook coordinator, Christy Abraham, is doing a great job. **Please find our page and 'Like' and 'Share.' That will help us gain more visibility.**

We are continuing our Synod Sit & Sip monthly discussion Zoom groups where we explore various and diverse topics relating to justice and peace. **All women from the Synod are invited to join.** We also conduct a Horizon's Bible Study on Zoom. Contact Kathleen Keefer if you wish to join in the conversation at kathleenkeefer20@gmail.com.

And Marilyn Stone will begin a new Native American Concerns Committee book study in January. Email her at mmstone52@att.net to sign up.

We volunteered to help at GA in Milwaukee in 2026. Just waiting for our marching orders. Let me know if you would like to be added to the list.

I am amazed at the generosity of our PW members and their devotion to nurture their faith, support the mission of the church, work for justice and peace, and strive to build inclusive, caring communities as witnesses to God's kingdom.

Yours in Christ,

Louise

Louise Van Poll

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"Live a life that is so saturated by love that no matter how much power someone has or how big their platform might be, they are still incapable of convincing you to hate other human beings," is often attributed to **Sarah Blessing**

You know well that Our Lord does not so much look at the greatness of our actions, or even at their difficulty, as at the love with which we do them.

- St. Thérèse of Lisieux

Prayer of the day

Merciful God, console us in our struggles so that we may, in turn, become a community of hope and compassion.

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GIFT TO BE SIMPLE by Judy Rops

I recently have been thinking of the song *Simple Gifts*. It is a Shaker hymn and dance song written by Elder Joseph Brackett in 1848. It celebrates the principles of simplicity and humility. A song to celebrate the gifts of a simple, free life.

'Tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free
'Tis a gift to come down, where we ought to be.
And when we find ourselves, in the place just right
It will be in the valley, of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained, to bow and bend we shan't be ashamed
To turn, turn, 'twill be our delight, till by turning, turning we come 'round right.
What does *Simple Gifts* celebrate?

That true richness lies in living simply and gratefully.

Presbyterian Women have done that by supporting the work and mission of the church with simple gifts.

The gift of hospitality: helping in the kitchen, serving at funerals, sponsoring dinners and coffee fellowship and welcoming strangers.

The gift of financial support: providing food and volunteering in food pantries, buying gifts for the Angel Tree, providing prizes for Bingo in nursing homes and restocking church kitchens with equipment.

The gift of leadership: serving as church officers, teaching Sunday School, serving communion, leading Bible studies and directing choirs.

I especially like the following verse from *Simple Gifts*:

'Tis the gift to have friends and a true friend to be, 'tis the gift to think of others not to only think of 'me'
And when we hear what others really think and really feel, then we'll all live together with a love that is real.

As the song says, it is our delight when true simplicity is gained. The simple gifts that God has blessed us with include life, breath and the love of others. It encourages us to find contentment in the present, use our own God-given spiritual gifts to serve others and be thankful for both the simple things and the greater gift of Jesus Christ.



The seventieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 9 to 20 March 2026.

- **Priority theme:** Ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, including by promoting inclusive and equitable legal systems, eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, and addressing structural barriers
- **Review theme:** Women's full and effective participation and decision making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls ([agreed conclusions of the sixty-fifth session](#))
- **Learn more here:** https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-of-women/csw70-2026?mc_cid=0f1489fc5e&mc_eid=ba66d87ef7

Presbyterian Women is forming a delegation to attend the 70th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which will be held in person and online March 9–20, 2026.

Minimum participation for delegates is Monday, March 9–Friday, March 13, 2026; ideal participation is between Monday, March 9–Friday, March 20. Delegates are encouraged to attend as many events in person as possible. Attending some events online is also an option. **The deadline for application is December 8, 2025. For more information & application click here.**

The Crisis of Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women and Children

by Chandra Mendieta

CRE and Youth & Outreach Coordinator, Bdecan Presbyterian Church, Spirit Lake Nation, Tokio, ND

When we talk about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Children (MMIWC), we're not talking about "data points." These are mothers, daughters, sisters, children. And for too long, their disappearances or deaths have not stirred the kind of urgency that so many other cases get.

The Scope of the Crisis

The scale is alarming and deeply undercounted. According to a congressional report: as of June 2023, 3.5% of missing persons in NamUs (the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System) were American Indian and Alaska Native — even though Indigenous people make up only about 1.1% of the U.S. population.

Other federal research shows Indigenous women experience violent victimization at extremely high rates. Many of these cases never make it into public databases at all.

And worse, the system miscounts. There's racial misclassification, inadequate law enforcement resources, and no unified data collection method.

Stories That Matter

Savanna Greywind — Fargo, North Dakota

Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind was just 22, and eight months pregnant, when she went to help a neighbor with a sewing project — and never came home. Five days later, her baby was found alive in the neighbor's apartment. Hours later, kayakers found Savanna's body in the Red River wrapped in plastic.

According to investigators, her neighbor Brooke Crews lured her upstairs, carried out a crude C-section, and took the baby. She and her partner, William Hoehn, disposed of Savanna's body in the river. The case was so shocking that it helped lead to Savanna's Act, a federal law improving how Indigenous missing persons cases are tracked and investigated.

Kaysera Stops Pretty Places — Hardin, Montana

Kaysera Stops Pretty Places was only 18 when she disappeared in August 2019 in Hardin, Montana. Five days later, her body was discovered in a residential backyard. Yet authorities did not identify her for nearly two weeks, and her cause of death was listed simply as "undetermined."

Her family says law enforcement acted slowly and dismissed clear warning signs. Their public pressure campaigns — marches, vigils, national interviews — forced the case back into public consciousness, but no homicide charges have ever been filed.

Ashlynn Mike — Shiprock, New Mexico

Not all MMIP cases involve adults. One of the most heartbreaking — and one that changed federal law — is the story of 11-year-old Ashlynn Mike.

In May 2016, Ashlynn and her younger brother Ian were walking home from school near Shiprock, New Mexico, on the Navajo Nation. A man pulled up in a van, lured them inside, then drove them into the desert. Ian managed to escape and was found wandering along the road. Ashlynn wasn't found until the next day — she had been sexually assaulted and killed.

The tragedy exposed major gaps in emergency communication on tribal lands. When Ashlynn went missing, no AMBER Alert was issued for hours, partly because the Navajo Nation did not yet have a fully integrated alert system.

Her death led to the passage of the AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act, ensuring tribal law enforcement can issue alerts quickly and directly — potentially lifesaving minutes that Ashlynn never got.

Ashlynn's story shows how Indigenous children can fall through the cracks of systems that were never designed with tribal communities in mind.

Some of Those Still Missing — Especially in the Midwest & Northern Plains

Because national data on missing Indigenous people remains incomplete and often undercounts the most vulnerable, that means local, tribal, and community-led tracking is essential — especially in places like North Dakota.

- Jemini "Jemini Posey" is a 23-year-old American Indian woman from Fort Totten who was last seen on January 7, 2024, according to North Dakota's Missing Indigenous Persons list. Her family filed a missing-person report after not hearing from her, noting she wouldn't leave without contacting someone.
- Isaac James Hunt, a 28-year-old Native man, also from Fort Totten, was last seen on March 8, 2024. His disappearance has motivated his family and community to demand more consistent attention — a candlelight vigil was held in his honor, calling out the need for recognition of *all* missing Indigenous relatives, not only women.

Looking more broadly in the Northern Plains:

- In Minnesota, 716 Indigenous persons were reported missing in 2024 — even though Indigenous people make up only about 1% of the state's population.
- According to a report, 4,761 Indigenous people were reported missing in Minnesota between 2019 and 2024, based on available public data — underscoring how deeply undercounted the crisis is.

Every missing individual — like Jemini and Isaac — is more than a line on a report. Their disappearance reflects a larger, ongoing crisis: families searching, communities organizing, and people pushing for the urgency and recognition these cases deserve.

Every missing child is a family waiting by the phone, searching fields, calling agencies, and praying someone — anyone — will treat their case as urgently as it deserves.

The Hidden Role of Racism

We cannot tell these stories honestly without talking about racism — not only overt prejudice, but structural racism that shapes everything from media coverage to law enforcement action.

1. **Racial Misclassification**

Indigenous people are frequently mislabeled in missing-person records. This erases them statistically before they are even searched for.

2. **Media Silence**

Missing Indigenous women and children rarely receive the flood of attention that cases involving white victims do — a phenomenon advocates call “missing white woman syndrome.” Media bias shapes who the public feels urgency for, and who remains invisible.

3. **Law Enforcement Gaps**

Overlapping jurisdictions between tribal, local, state, and federal agencies create confusion and delay — and Indigenous families often report being dismissed or not believed. Many communities do not trust that authorities will take their case seriously.

4. **Historical Trauma**

Centuries of forced displacement, boarding schools, family separation, and system-wide discrimination leave deep mistrust in their wake. When an Indigenous person goes missing, families often feel that they are fighting against both time *and* institutional bias.

Racism is not a side issue — it is a core reason these cases continue to be underserved.

What Needs to Change — And How We Can Help

- **Better laws and alerts**, such as fully implementing Savanna’s Act and expanding Indigenous-specific alert systems.
- **Unified, accurate data systems**, including consistent and correct recording of race and tribal affiliation.
- **More funding for tribal-led investigations**, because local tribal police and volunteer groups like Sahnish Scouts often do far more with far fewer resources.
- **Media responsibility**, to treat Indigenous cases with the urgency, dignity, and humanity they deserve.
- **Community-centered healing and justice**, recognizing the deep historical trauma that shapes these crises.

Savanna Greywind. Kaysera Stops Pretty Places. Ashlynn Mike. Patience Brady. Gemini Posey. Isaac Hunt. And so many others whose names never make national headlines.

These are not isolated tragedies — they are part of a pattern rooted in racism, neglect, and a lack of accountability.

When Indigenous women and children go missing, the world should stop and listen. Their lives deserve the same urgency, the same resources, and the same outcry that others receive without question.

Lord Jesus,

We come to You with heavy hearts, carrying the names, faces, and stories of Your children who are missing, and those whose lives were taken too soon. You saw every moment of their lives from the beginning. You know their footsteps, their families, their hopes, and the love they gave to this world. Not one of them is forgotten by You.

Jesus, we ask for Your mercy and Your justice.

For the families of Savanna Greywind, Kaysera Stops Pretty Places, Ashlynn Mike, Isaac Hunt, Gemini Posey, and so many others whose names the world may not know — comfort them with a peace that only You can give. Surround them with Your presence in the long nights of waiting, in the unanswered questions, and in their grief. Give them strength to endure, and people who will walk beside them.

We pray for protection over every Indigenous woman, man, and child who is vulnerable, unseen, or unheard. Guard them from violence, exploitation, racism, and neglect. Place Your angels around those who are still missing, wherever they may be. Bring them home safely, Lord — and when that cannot happen, bring truth, closure, and justice.

We ask for justice that reflects Your heart.

Move in the hearts of investigators, leaders, lawmakers, and communities. Break through every barrier — racism, indifference, bureaucracy, fear — that keeps cases unresolved. Replace apathy with urgency, silence with truth, and confusion with clarity. Let the systems meant to protect become instruments of Your healing and righteousness.

Jesus, heal the wounds that go back generations.

The trauma, the loss, the oppression — You see it all. Pour out Your compassion over Indigenous communities. Restore what has been taken, mend what has been broken, and uplift what has been ignored.

Make us Your hands and feet.

Give us courage to speak, to advocate, to search, to comfort, and to love without growing weary. Let our hearts break for what breaks Yours, and let our hope rise with Your promise to make all things new.

We trust You, Lord.

You are the God who sees.

The God who hears.

The God who finds the lost.

The God who brings light into the deepest darkness.

In Your holy and powerful name, Jesus, we pray.

Amen.

First Nations Version, an Indigenous Translation of the New Testament

By Hope Dougherty

I just purchased “First Nations Version”, An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament.

Check out their website, www.FIRSTNATIONSVERSION.com

Also on Facebook, www.FACEBOOK.com/FIRSTNATIONSVERSION

This translation is a retelling of Creator’s Story from the scriptures, following the Indigenous tradition of the storytellers of oral cultures. First Nations Version takes into consideration contextual word choices, idiomatic expressions, and modifications in paragraph and sentence structure that clarify and facilitate understanding of the Scriptures. It is a thought-for-thought translation.

An example: John 3:16 “The Great Spirit loves this world of human beings so deeply he gave us his son-the only Son who fully represents him. All who trust in him and his way will not come to a bad end, but will have the life of the world to come that never fades away, full of beauty and harmony. Creator did not send his Son to decide against the people of this world, but to set them free from the worthless ways of the world.”

Inspiring and beautiful!

2025-26 PWS Native American Partnership Opportunities

The following PW Synod sponsored Native American partnership opportunities are verified by the PWS Native American Concerns Committee (NACC). If you have questions, please contact NACC chair, Marilyn Stone at mmstone52@att.net or 262-763-0918 (home – leave a message). When mailing items to any of the places listed below, please include a self-addressed and stamped postcard that can be returned to you as acknowledgement that items or donations were received.

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College Scholarships for Native Students**Sisseton Wahpeton College, Sisseton, SD AND Oglala Lakota College, Kyle, SD**

Financial contributions are being received by PW Synod of Lakes and Prairies to create a sustaining Native student scholarship fund. These funds will make it possible to grant \$500 scholarships each semester to a Native student attending Sisseton Wahpeton College and another student attending Oglala Lakota College. Criteria for selection is in place. Ongoing funds are needed to sustain granting scholarships each semester for each college. First scholarship was been awarded Fall 2023.

Contributions can be mailed to: Terri Sherman, PWS Treasurer, 12244 N. 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68517. Check made out to: PWSLAP; note on memo line: "Native College Scholarship Fund".



Iglutheca (*ee-gloo-teh-chah*) – a Lakota word meaning "to renew yourself"

PO Box 5005, Pine Ridge, SD 57770

Iglutheca, a 501(c)3 organization in Pine Ridge, SD, has as its mission to provide a pathway for homeless Lakota people out of addiction and poverty. Iglutheca offers the basics of meals, safety, sleep, showers, and community. It also provides case planning and management tailored to each person's needs, which includes: addressing addiction, mental health, spiritual support, health care, housing, income and assistance obtaining vital documents. Meeting basic needs is a huge advantage as it enables individuals to plan for their next steps. Monetary donations are needed to sustain these critical services.

Monetary donations can be sent to: Iglutheca, % Abram Neumann, PO box 5005, Pine Ridge, SD 57770

Learn more at: <https://www.facebook.com/iglutheca> or <https://www.iglutheca.org/>

Sweetgrass Wačanga**Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Prevention & Shelter Services (Lake Traverse Reservation)**

Sweetgrass Wacanga offers a safe shelter for women and children affected by domestic violence and sexual assault. It provides emergency shelter, counseling, legal advocacy, and support services to help survivors rebuild their lives. Wacanga Community Closet provides clothing for women, children, and infants free of charge.

Items needed are: women's and children's socks, personal care and hygiene items, feminine care products, baby items and baby hats.

Mail monetary donations & items to: Sweetgrass Wacanga, 392 Rehab Street, Agency Village, Sisseton, SD 57262

Learn more at: <https://www.facebook.com/sweetgrass.wacanga/>

**Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Center**

PO Box 36, Walthill, NE (Omaha Reservation)

The Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Hospital has been restored to serve as a medical and behavioral health center, as well as serving as a hub for creativity, skill-building, and entrepreneurship, offering a space for community members to learn and showcase their talents. The Picotte Center further offers a technology center, community and medicinal gardens, as well as activities to engage the youth in opportunities both culturally related and educational, empowering the Native youth through learning, creativity, and community.

Funding is needed to grow their cultural and educational programming, and to provide medicinal and vegetable gardens.

Mail contributions to: The Picotte Center, PO Box 36, Walthill, NE 68067

Learn more at: <https://www.facebook.com/picottecenter> OR <https://picottecenter.org/>

**Red Cloud Renewable**

P.O. Box 1609, Pine Ridge, SD 57770

Red Cloud Renewable (RCR) empowers Native American communities by offering vital education in solar installation, sustainable building practices, and weatherization techniques. Through these initiatives, they equip individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to implement renewable

energy solutions, construct environmentally friendly structures, and improve the resilience of homes against harsh weather conditions. This impactful work directly benefits Native American communities by fostering self-sufficiency, reducing energy costs, and promoting sustainability, thereby enhancing the overall quality of life for Native people.

On Pine Ridge Reservation, the need for safe, sustainable housing has *never* been more urgent. Families face a housing crisis where the number of people needing homes far outweighs the number of homes available. At the same time, the lack of career opportunities continues to hold many back from stability and self-sufficiency.

Through our Sustainable Building Program, Red Cloud Renewable is working to change that — one project, one person, and one home at a time. Thanks to the generous support of both the Maxwell Hanrahan Foundation and **Presbyterian Women**, construction is underway on a new hexagonal home made from cellular concrete — a durable, energy-efficient alternative to traditional materials. This innovative build will provide shelter for a tribal member in need while training an all-Native workforce to lead the future of sustainable construction.

Each trainee is earning their OSHA 30 certification, gaining hands-on experience, and building real skills that lead to long-term careers. When the project is complete, every participant will leave not only with their certification but also with their own tools of the trade — ready to build brighter futures for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Contributions can be mailed to: Red Cloud Renewable, PO Box 1609, Pine Ridge, SD 57770

To learn more, visit RCR website at: <https://www.redcloudrenewable.org/>; to see photos, visit RCR Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=red%20cloud%20renewable>

Bdecan Presbyterian Church – Vacation Bible School AND Work Teams

Chandra Mendieta, Ministries and Outreach Coordinator

Mailing Address: PO Box 141 Tokio, ND 58379

Phone: (701) 230-1560 Email: bdecanpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com



Bdecan Presbyterian Church, the only Native Presbyterian Church in North Dakota, is located on the Spirit Lake Reservation. An important way to “keep Christ’s love at our center” for the children is to host 6-12 member mission teams who would lead **Vacation Bible School** for a week during the summer. The children *love* VBS and never tire of learning about and experiencing God’s love, as well as participating in positive activities when few other activities exist. In addition to VBS, a hands-on mission project could be done, as well as participation in a “cultural night”.

Work teams are once again needed to accomplish much needed repairs to the food pantry and other areas around the church and grounds. Express your interest by contacting Chandra (see contact info above)



Gather the Children Home - Wakanyeja Gluwitayan Otipi (Emergency Foster Care)

Pine Ridge Reservation, Porcupine, South Dakota

Gather the Children Home is a culturally appropriate emergency foster care home for children ages birth thru age 12. It provides a caring, immediate safe environment for children removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect, while a suitable foster or relative’s home becomes available.

Items needed include: baby layettes, twin-sized tied-fleece blankets, twin-sized quilts, birthday kits (contains cake mix, frosting, candles, napkins, small paper plates and small age-appropriate toy). Boys sweatpants, shorts and underwear sizes 6x-12 are needed. Also, ongoing financial support paying for monthly internet and phone expense or some other monthly expense.

Items can be sent to: Gather Our Children Home, House #32, Porcupine School Road, Porcupine, SD 57772

Monetary donations should be sent to: Barbara Dull Knife, PO Box 230, Oglala, SD 57764

Learn more at: <https://wakanyejaotipi.org/>

Updated 11/2025

Partnership in Ministry

by Chandra Mendieta

CRE and Youth & Outreach Coordinator, Bdecan Presbyterian Church, Spirit Lake Nation, Tokio, ND

"For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building."

— 1 Corinthians 3:9

At Bdecan Presbyterian Church, we serve in the name of Jesus Christ—our compassionate Savior whose mercy knows no limits. He calls us to lift up the brokenhearted, feed the hungry, and clothe those in need. Through His Spirit, our small acts of love become part of His great work of healing and hope.

But ministry is never done alone. Across the miles—through prayer, giving, and shared service—we stand together as the body of Christ. Each church, each volunteer, each supporter is a vital partner in this work. When one member serves, the whole body rejoices; when one gives, all are strengthened.

Partnership reminds us that *we are stronger together*. Whether you serve in a congregation in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, here on the Spirit Lake Nation, or anywhere else – you are a part of a living network of faith and compassion that refuses to let hardship have the last word.

Though the government shutdown may be over, its effects linger—especially for those whose lives depend on the social safety net. The bill that ended the shutdown has brought new challenges for programs that serve the elderly, the disabled, children, and low-income families. When vital support systems are weakened, communities like ours feel the impact first.

It is estimated that tens of thousands die each year from lack of access to affordable health care. And yet behind every number is a name—a child, a parent, a neighbor, a friend. These realities call us not to despair, but to *action*. We are reminded that we are the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in a world so desperately in need of His touch.

At Bdecan, this calling takes shape through simple yet powerful ministries:

- The Bdecan Food Pantry, open monthly and throughout the year with emergency boxes, stands as a beacon of hope for families struggling to make ends meet.
- The Clothing Closet and Winter Wear Ministry share coats, blankets, and dignity—each item a reminder that Christ's love provides warmth in both body and spirit.
- Our Backpack and School Supply Giveaway and Vacation Bible School nurture the next generation with faith, joy, and the tools they need to thrive.

Every shared meal, every coat given, every child welcomed—these are sacred moments where Christ's light breaks through the darkness.

"For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home."

— Matthew 25:35

To all who share in this mission—thank you. You are the *heartbeat* of this ministry.

We give thanks to God for:

- Presbytery of Northern Plains, its churches, and Presbyterian Women—for providing funds, food, clothing, blankets, backpacks, school supplies, and Christmas gifts.
- First Presbyterian Church of Rochester, MN—for supporting the food pantry, winter wear giveaway, and leading VBS for over 10 years.
- First Presbyterian Church of Willmar, MN—for helping with VBS and other resources.
- Ebenezer Presbyterian Church of Renville, MN—for sharing VBS, winter wear, and clothing for our families.
- First Presbyterian Church of Hudson, WI—for offering financial support for supplies and Christmas gifts.
- East Iowa Presbyterian Women—for faithfully providing financial assistance for ministry outreach.
- Apostle Presbyterian Women of Allis, WI—for donating hand-made hats to warm little heads during our winter giveaway.
- A couple special women from the Twin Cities Presbytery—who donate clothing, blankets, and winter wear with heartfelt care.

- And the countless individuals who give quietly but faithfully.

Your generosity reflects the love of Christ, who said, *“Freely you have received; freely give.”* (Matthew 10:8)

We also honor our local volunteers—the hands and feet of Jesus in this place. You stock shelves, sort clothes, deliver food, and greet families with compassion. You are living examples of the gospel in action.

“Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

— Galatians 6:9

Even in uncertain times, we hold fast to this truth: Christ has not forgotten His people. His light still shines through every act of love, every moment of service, every partnership formed in His name.

Through Him, brokenness gives way to healing, scarcity gives way to abundance, and despair gives way to hope.

“The Lord is a shelter for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O Lord, do not abandon those who search for you.”

— Psalm 9:9-10

Gracious and Loving God,

We thank You for the blessing of partnership—for every church, every giver, every servant who joins in Your mission of love.

In this time of uncertainty, remind us that You are our provider and strength. Bless all who come seeking help, and all who give of themselves so freely in Your name.

Lord Jesus, You walked among the hungry and the brokenhearted. Help us to also walk in Your footsteps—to serve humbly, love deeply, and shine Your light in every dark place.

Unite us, Father God, across distance and difference, as one body in Christ.

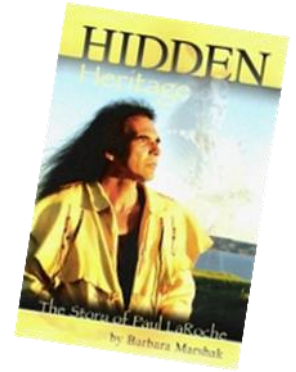
To You be all glory, honor, and praise—now and forever.

Amen.



Register today to join a book study . . .

***Hidden Heritage:
The Story of Paul LaRoche
by Barbara Marshak***



This book study is sponsored by Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and led by members of the PWS Native American Concerns Committee. **It is open to interested women and men across the synod**, via Zoom
There is no charge to participate, yet registration is required.

Dates for 2026: January 5 and 19
Daytime study begins at 1:30-2:30 PM (CST)
Evening study begins at 6:30-7:30 PM (CST)



Synopsis: A spiritual legacy of one man's ordinary Minnesota lifestyle, suddenly fused with a rich, Lakota heritage that enabled him to cross boundaries far beyond his own expectations. Imagine waking up one day to discover you belong to a completely different culture.

Paul Summers, a 38-year-old father of two, has just discovered that his birth mother was a member of the Lakota tribe from South Dakota. Drained physically, emotionally, and financially following his attempts to pursue a career in music, Paul hits rock bottom. How do you prepare to face truths that have been hidden for years? Kathy Summers knows how deeply her husband is hurting and begins steps to trace his roots. As details unravel, the Summers family arranges to meet Paul's Lakota relatives. More than anything, Paul fears rejection by the family and culture he had never known. The trip to the Lower Brule Sioux Reservation in South Dakota is more than a reunion; it's a soulful homecoming that changes Paul's life forever.

Paul finds the answer and walks away from his civil engineering job in the Twin Cities, moving his family to the reservation. Stirred by the rustic landscape of the plains, Paul's musical passions come to life. Honoring his adoptive parents and embracing his newfound family, he creates a unique synthesis of the two cultures. This compelling book addresses the tensions and triumphs of family life, touching on the themes of identity, purpose, and reconciliation while following a dream. Going beyond cultural borders, it invites readers to heal racial, spiritual, and economic divides within themselves and others.

Register by contacting Marilyn Stone at mmstone52@att.net

Provide your name, email address, cell phone, and presbytery.

Also, please indicate your afternoon or evening preference.

TOGETHER IN SERVICE BY PAT MCKISSON, COMMITTEE CHAIR

*Answering the call to be the hands and feet of Christ in
The Community,
Our Church,
Our Nation, and
The World.'*

As I contemplated what to write for the Sower this quarter a question kept popping into my head. Can we as women in the church serve both our church family, our community, and the Presbyterian Women's Organization? What would your answer be today?

To answer this question for myself was easy at this time in my life. It had to be a resounding 'Yes, although in my journey through life, I can see how I fell short in so many ways. At times, I just didn't want to be bothered by society's problems. But as I get older and hopefully wiser, I can say 'Yes' to trying to do small acts to help others.

Here are some ways I think we can help in our church, our community, and P.W. in general.

- Look around your community and see its needs.
- Get involved with one mission your church supports that is important to you.
- Look for opportunities to do random acts of kindness. Say hello to a stranger, share a smile, hold the door open for someone, don't take that quarter from someone at Aldi's, just hand off your cart to them, say 'thank you' to anyone who helps you. There are so many opportunities awaiting you.
- Feed the hungry through community programs or your own church Little Pantry.
- Donate clothing to a local non-profit group.
- Welcome the stranger with love, kindness, and compassion.
- Support homeless shelters.
- Support our Indigenous Native American sisters and brothers through contributions to programs for homelessness, addiction, and scholarships for college.
- Give as you can to the Presbyterian Women's Annual Mission Fund.

And most importantly, stand up for the truth and what is right in the eyes of God!

As women of the church we are all called to be the hands and feet of Christ in our world!

The members of the Together in Service committee are wishing you a Blessed Christmas Season and Happiness, Good Health, and Peace in the New Year!

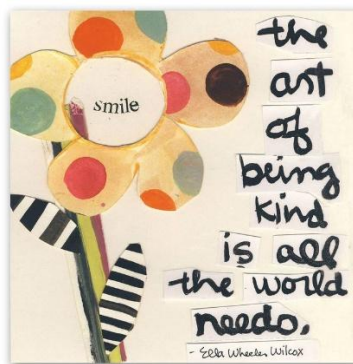


TOGETHER IN SERVICE

By Pat McKisson, Committee Chair

HOW CAN WE HEAL OUR BROKEN WORLD?

BY SHOWING LOVE THROUGH RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS!



Have you ever done something nice for someone else, 'just because. It wasn't to repay them or because you had to—it was simply because you wanted to. Well then, you've done a random act of kindness. Random acts of kindness are acts performed by a person wishing to either help or positively affect another person. It is said simply [being kind](#) has benefits for everyone's [well-being](#).

Colossians 3:15 tells us "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

What exactly is a random act of kindness anyway? Here are a few examples:

- Be kind in all interactions with another person. Don't let anger lead your reactions. Proverbs 15:1 tells us "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger".
- Write a handwritten card to someone to say thanks.
- Text a friend to share your [gratitude](#) for something they did for you.
- Let someone cut in front of you in line, while shopping or driving.
- Address your cashier, waiter, or other service people by their first names and thank them for their service.
- Smile at a stranger and say 'hello'. You never know how this can affect another person's day.
- Hold a door open for someone.

- Spend time with the elderly at a nursing home.

The list could go on and on, but I think you get the idea.

Can we all do random acts of kindness at least once a day?

Can we all make doing random acts of kindness a habit rather than a suggestion?

Kindness goes a long way in helping to heal a broken world!

NEWS, NEWS AND MORE NEWS...

As Presbyterian Women, it is imperative that we share our stories, oral and written, with others. As the end of the year approaches, one way to carry on this tradition is to record those stories in annual histories. To achieve this goal, PW Synod has combined its positions of Secretary and Historian. Your PW might consider doing the same.

As the new PWS Secretary and now Historian too, I searched *Horizons* magazine for guidance and I found the article, "Preserving Our Presbyterian Women Histories," (Summer 2025) p.14, by Caitlin Reeves Greenamyre, archivist at Columbia Theological Seminary. To get started, PWs in the congregation can find a history submission form and other info at www.ctsnet.edu/academics/c-benton-kline-jr-special-collection-archives by scrolling down the page. The completed form can be submitted by email, along with any questions, to archives@ctsnet.edu. It's that easy.

Researchers are looking for: (1) reports of gatherings, special programs, activities and celebrations; (2) information on who received special honors and why; (3) notes on benevolences and giving; (4) biographies on deceased members; and/or (4) photographs. Submissions with photographs from PWs in the congregation should be mailed to Archivist, Columbia Theological Seminary, PO Box 520, Decatur, GA 30031. Attach photographs to letter size paper with acid-free photo corners. Total submissions should not be more than 1" thick. Newsletters and directories should not be included in submissions.

Histories for PWs in the Presbytery and PWs in the Synod should be submitted to the Presbyterian Historical Society, 425 Lombard St., Philadelphia, PA 19147. For guidance, download the Presbyterian Women Historian Brochure at <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/collecting-pw-histories/>

This Is the Time *by Joanna Fuchs*

This is the time to think about our blessings big and small,
To be aware of every one, we're thankful for them all.
On Thanksgiving let's remember the gifts from heaven above;
Then give the gift most valuable, the gift of Christian love.

The recent monthly Sit 'N Sip conversations have focused on the topic of the unhoused crisis in this country. The following is an excerpt on the work to be done on all government levels from www.nlihc.org/housed. "National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) launched the national HoUsed campaign... to ensure that everyone, including renters with the lowest incomes, has an affordable place to call home.

Each day, millions of renters struggle to afford the roof over their head, and more than 770,000 people have no home at all. Because of ongoing structural racism, Black, Indigenous, and Latino households are disproportionately harmed. Proactive policies are needed to correct these long-standing injustices and end America's housing and homelessness crisis once and for all.

To achieve this, we must work at the federal, state, and local levels to:

Bridge the gap between incomes and housing costs

Congress must expand rental assistance to all eligible households. Renters today need to earn \$26.74 an hour to afford a modest, one-bedroom apartment. In comparison, the average renter earns just \$23.18 an hour and 14 of the 20 largest occupations pay median wages below what it takes to afford a modest, one-bedroom home. Despite the clear need, only one in four households eligible for rental assistance receive it. Learn more about how we can ensure rental assistance is universally available.

Expand and preserve the supply of rental homes

Nationally, there is a shortage of 7.3 million homes affordable and available to extremely low-income households. For every 10 of these households, there are fewer than 4 homes affordable and available to them. No state or congressional district in America has enough supply of affordable housing for families with the lowest incomes. Learn more about ways to build and preserve homes affordable and accessible to people with the lowest incomes.

Prevent evictions and housing instability

Create ongoing resources to provide emergency rental assistance to households in crisis. Ten million of America's lowest-income households pay at least half their limited incomes on rent. These families are always one financial shock – a broken-down car, an unexpected medical bill, or a missed day at work – away from economic hardship that could quickly spiral out of control and lead to evictions and, in worst cases, homelessness. [Learn more](#) about how we can stabilize households during a crisis.

Strengthen and enforce robust renter protections

The power imbalance between renters and landlords continues to put renters at greater risk of housing instability, eviction, harassment, and homelessness, fueling racial inequities. Clear, strong, and enforceable renter protections are needed at the local, state, and national level to protect renters from abusive and predatory actions by landlords. [Learn more](#) about how we can build power for renters and enact robust renter protections, such as those included in the [National Tenants Bill of Rights](#)."

PW SYNOD NEWS—

- The PWS Coordinating Team welcomed: Chandra Mendieta, Yvette Bursheim and Gina Bursheim.
- Combining the positions of Secretary and Historian was approved.
- Congratulations to newly elected officers: Vice Moderator: Judy Rops, CW BOD Rep.: Maggie Horak and Search Committee Member: Judy Bell.
- Next PWSCT meeting is April 17-19, 2026 in Lincoln, NE. Let your PWP Moderator know that you would like to attend too.

PW SYNOD ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES:

- *Horizons* monthly Bible Study at 6:30 pm. Contact Lana Schultz for schedule and link. (lanaj0@casselton.net).

- Sit'N Sip conversation on hot topics the 4th Saturday of each month 11 am
- NACC Book Study will continue in the New Year.
- Dakota Presbytery PW Bible Study third Thursday of each month.
- Facebook postings can be sent to Christy Abraham and "liked" when posted
- A possible new Justice & Peace Book Club next year. If interested, contact Kathleen Keefer (Kathleenkeefer20@gmail.com)

PW CHURCHWIDE NEWS—

- A contribution will be sent to Churchwide's Widening the Circle Fund in honor of PWSCT's outgoing faithful officers: LaVonne Looking Elk, Ernestine Ireland, Ida Ashes Brown and Brenda Breitner.
- As part of PWSCT's commitment to a Birthday Offering grant for Welcome the Child, 31 baby layette sets were packaged for delivery to the Pine Ridge Reservation at its last meeting.
- The 2025 edition of "PW Essentials" is available online at presbyterianwomen.org. Please note that beginning in 2026, the *Horizons* magazine will be published 4 times rather than 5 times a year.
- PWSCT is volunteering their time and service to next year's General Assembly in Milwaukee on June 25-July 2, 2026. All PW groups are invited to volunteer as well!
- The next Churchwide Gathering is set for August 5-8, 2027 at the Galt House in Louisville, KY.

PW GROUPS in action around the Synod—

- Visiting an agency your PW supports to see what they do
- Providing an education part to a Presbytery meeting
- Inviting Megan Elmore of "For the Love of Orphans," Mansa, Zambia, Africa as a virtual speaker at your PWP gathering and as a possible workshop presenter at the next Synod Gathering. More information at www.fortheloveoforphans.org
- Receiving a grant, the MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary in Milwaukee will be able to update their kitchen used for unhoused people.
- Raising \$60,000 from the local "Fleazaar," part flea market, part bazaar in Wisconsin, and non-profits received the unsold items.



Understanding Blue Christmas

Finding Comfort During the Holiday Season

The holiday season is often portrayed as a joyful time filled with celebration, family gatherings, and festive cheer. However, for many people, Christmas can also be a season of sadness or loneliness. The term "Blue Christmas" refers to the feelings of melancholy or grief some individuals experience during the holidays, whether due to the loss of loved ones, personal struggles, or the weight of expectations.

Blue Christmas is not just a metaphorical phrase; it is also the name of special services held by churches and community groups, designed to provide solace for those struggling during December. These gatherings offer a space for reflection, remembrance, and emotional support, acknowledging that the holidays can be difficult for many. The services may include candle lighting, music, and readings that focus on hope and healing.

Recognizing the reality of Blue Christmas is important in fostering empathy and understanding. While holiday advertisements and media often emphasize merriment, it's vital to remember that not everyone feels celebratory. Reaching out to friends, family, or neighbors who may be struggling can make a significant difference during this time. Whether through a simple phone call, a shared meal, or an invitation to a Blue Christmas service, offering compassion can help ease the burden of loneliness and grief.

Ultimately, Blue Christmas reminds us that the season is not just about celebration, but also about community and care. By acknowledging the challenges some face, we can make the holidays more inclusive and meaningful for everyone.

How Can We Support Each Other?

- **Acknowledge Feelings:** Let friends, family, and colleagues know it's okay to feel blue. Sometimes, the best support is simply listening without judgment.
- **Share Resources:** Encourage participation in Blue Christmas services or support groups. These events are open to everyone and can be a source of comfort.
- **Promote Self-Care:** Remind loved ones to take care of themselves—rest, eat well, and engage in activities that bring peace or joy.
- **Foster Connection:** Reach out with a call, message, or invitation. Even small gestures can make a big difference.
- **Respect Grief and Memories:** Allow space for remembrance and honor the feelings that come with loss.
- **Offer Help:** Share information about mental health resources or crisis support if someone seems overwhelmed.

Coping Strategies for a Blue Christmas

- Practice self-compassion and accept your emotions.
- Limit social media to avoid comparisons.
- Create new traditions or find small joys in the season.
- Volunteer or help others to foster a sense of purpose and connection.
- You Are Not Alone
- If you or someone you know is experiencing a Blue Christmas, remember that support is available. Reaching out, sharing, and simply being present can help turn a difficult season into one of hope and healing.

Brought to you by Copilot!

A Great Addition to Armchair Advocacy

The Presbyterian Office of Public Witness releases updated citizen action guide for times such as these

The digital booklet is designed to move people from holy restlessness to civic engagement

LOUISVILLE — The Washington-based Presbyterian Office of Public Witness has updated its classic “Holy Discontentment” guide for those who want to engage in public life through advocacy, organizing and witness.

The free digital booklet is [available for download](#) (under "Resources") by Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) members or anyone experiencing holy discontentment, which the publication describes as “a faithful discomfort, rooted in hope for something better.”

Grounded in the Reformed tradition and the social witness policies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the newly released guide offers both theological grounding and practical tools for individuals, congregations and mid councils seeking to respond to injustice, the booklet says. [Read more](#)



IS GOD CALLING YOU INTO LEADERSHIP? OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEADERS ON THE SYNOD COORDINATING TEAM

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies PW Search Team is looking for women who support PW’s purpose and want to engage as Jesus’ hands and feet to the world. If you have skills of organization, technology, love reaching out through mission and enjoy the company of others and working together, there is a place for you on the Synod Coordinating Team. Any woman who is active in her local congregation whether or not there is an active PW in the church can participate in the mission of Presbyterian Women. PW’s connectional structure allows women to participate as deeply or broadly in the organization as desired.

Opportunities to serve Presbyterian Women on the Synod Coordinating Team include Vice Moderator, BOD Representative, and a representative for Area Two Search Committee (John Knox, Northern Waters, Winnebago, Twin Cities). See the PW Essentials Guide at PWR23120-PW-Essentials.pdf (presbyterianwomen.org) (See pages 14-17) for the job description for each position. The slate of officers will be presented at the spring 2026 board meeting. The new officers will serve a three-term, the positions will begin in the spring of 2026.

Presbyterian Women are busy, from local concerns to national engagement, Presbyterian Women, guided by the Holy Spirit, are at work, guided the PW purpose of strengthening the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnessing to the promise of God’s kingdom, join with other women from around the Synod in this work. The Search Committee asks each woman to pray about these opportunities and consider being a part of the Lakes and Prairies Co-ordinating Team.

The Search Committee is Teresa Bartlett, Chair (Area Three) Hope Dougherty, (Area Two), and Linda Anothony (Area One).

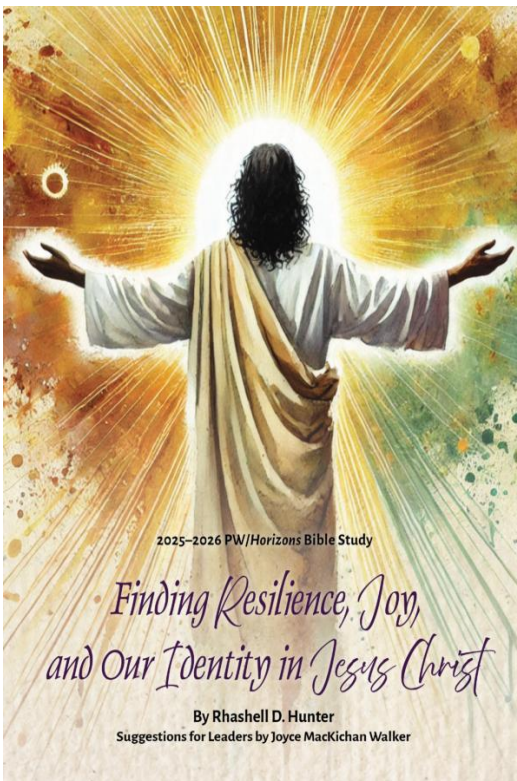
The Search Committee welcomes self-referrals of interested women or if you know of women in your church or Presbytery who would be a great fit for one of these positions, please share their name and or contact information, email or phone number, with one or more members of the Search Committee their emails are below.

Synod of Lakes and Prairies PW Search Committee

Hope Dougherty: Hdougherty2018@gmail.com Teresa Bartlett: teresabartlett98@gmail.com

Linda Anthony: lmhanthoy72@gmail.com

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2025-2026 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY

FINDING RESILIENCE, JOY AND OUR IDENTITY IN JESUS CHRIST

**We will meet on the following dates: January 26;
February 23; March 30; April 27; May 18 at 6:30
pm CT**

You must register to receive the Zoom link by
sending an email to kathleenkeefer20@gmail.com

You can purchase the 2025-2026 Bible study (cost is
\$14.00) through Presbyterian Women -

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/current-bible-study/>. Or better yet, get a subscription
to Horizons Magazine, the magazine for Presbyterian Women, and the next Bible study is included.



Join other Presbyterian Women from the Synod of Lakes and Prairies for a monthly round table discussion on issues prominent in today's world.

Our Sit & Sip events will be held via Zoom from 11 a.m. to noon Central Time. So, grab your favorite beverage, get comfortable, and join the conversation!

Our next meeting is on January 31st. We will be discussing "NO CASH BAIL AND PRISON REFORM"

To register, please contact Kathleen Keefer at [kathleenkeefer20@gmail.com] Zoom link.

SPRING/FALL GATHERINGS: If your PW Presbytery is making plans for a Fall Gathering and is looking for a speaker, contact a USAME participant to lead a presentation on the USA Mission Experience to the Arizona-Mexico border:

Julie Miller: jam1150@hotmail.com

Louella Voigt: louvoigt@hotmail.com

Kathleen Keefer: kathleenkeefe20@gmail.com

Presbyterians have been giving a Land Acknowledgement for some time now to give honor to the Indigenous peoples who lived on this land before us. PW Synod meetings/events now begin with a land acknowledgement. Your PWP/PWC meetings/gatherings can begin with one too. An example can be found at www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/land-and-history-acknowledgement



The Presbyterian Women of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies created a new Facebook page to keep you informed on all the exciting things happening with PWSLAP! The page can be found by clicking on this link: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61552522904776> or by searching for Synod of Lakes and Prairies Presbyterian Women on Facebook. Once you find the page, please "Like" it and updates will appear in your Facebook feed.

If you have any items you would like to add to the PWSLAP Facebook page, please send them to Christy Abraham, PWSLAP Facebook Coordinator at christylou71@gmail.com

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ARE BOLD – AROUND THE WORLD

CELEBRATING A BOLD PW

"PW are uniquely BOLD" is a short yet powerful two-minute video that highlights the unique and important witness that PW brings to the church and world. Available at youtube.com/presbyterianwomen/videos (PW's YouTube channel), the video debuted at the 225th General Assembly (2022) and is an excellent tool for showing why Presbyterian Women matters. Share a link for the video in your next personal email, church newsletter or minute for mission. Use it as a tool to raise awareness about and invite others to participate in our life-changing organization.

READY FOR DOWNLOADING

"PW Essentials" (formerly PW Manual) is available at <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/PWR23120-PW-Essentials.pdf> for downloading. In the future, any changes or new editions will be available in a downloadable format only.

Living in a world without violence against women and children. Pause for a moment of silence on Thursdays at noon your local time to remember and honor those who have died at the hands of sexualized or gender-based violence. Go online at <https://www.ecumenicalwomenun.org/thursdays-in-black> and commit to the pledge below:

I commit to: **Thursdays in Black.**

In solidarity. In protest. In mourning. For awareness and In hope.

By supporting to wear black on Thursdays, I stand

- In solidarity with 1 in 3 women worldwide who face violence in their lives
- In protest against systems and societies that encourage violence in any form
- In mourning for men, women, and children who are harmed and killed in sexual violence
- For awareness and knowledge about the challenges of sexual and gender-based violence.
- In the hope that a different reality is possible.

MAKE THE PLEDGE. #THURSDAYS IN BLACK. STAND AGAINST VIOLENCE.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**
OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center in Little Rock is ready to host church mission trips to help replenish the stock of disaster kits

To watch the video, copy and paste the link below into your browser.

<https://youtu.be/tBQV9PdoaKY>



Click here to download the **Justice & Peace Calendar** with live links:

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/2025-justice-and-peace-calendar/>

DECEMBER

- 01 World AIDS Day; pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/aids-awareness-day-observed-conjunction-with-national-hiv-testing-day-0
- 05 International Volunteer Day; un.org/en/observances/volunteer-day
- 10 International Human Rights Day; un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day
- 18 International Migrants Day; un.org/en/observances/migrants-day
- 25 Christmas; pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/theologyworship/worship/christian-year/christmasnativity-lord

Presbyterian Women in the **Congregation** Mission Pledge Form
Mission Pledge, PW's Annual Fund
January 1, 2026—December 31, 2026

As Presbyterian Women, we make the following pledge to support the mission of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery, Presbyterian Women in the Synod and Presbyterian Women at the churchwide level, as well as the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Please indicate below the amount pledged to PW at each level.

- To support the mission of Presbyterian Women churchwide \$ _____
- To support the work of Presbyterian Women in the Synod \$ _____
- To support the work of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery \$ _____
- Total Annual Mission Fund Pledge** from PW in the Congregation \$ _____

Name of Congregation _____

Signature of the moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Congregation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

This Mission Pledge form should be completed and sent to the moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery (or whoever is responsible for giving) **no later than November 15**. Send all quarterly payments of this pledge to the treasurer of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery by March 10, June 10, September 10, and December 10.

Instructions

1. Enter the pledge amount of support for Presbyterian Women at the churchwide level (including support for the mission of the church worldwide).
2. Enter the pledge amount of support for Presbyterian Women at each level--Presbytery and Synod.
3. Keep a copy of this form for your records and send the original to the person indicated below:

Signature of Moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery or designee: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Presbyterian Women's ANNUAL MISSION FUND (Mission Pledge)

PW in the Presbytery Pledge Form for PWP Moderator

January 1, 2026—December 31, 2026

As Presbyterian Women, we make the following pledge to support the mission of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery, Presbyterian Women in the Synod and Presbyterian Women at the churchwide level, as well as the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery is responsible for reporting the total amount pledged in congregations.

Please indicate below the amount pledged to PW at each level.

- To support the mission of Presbyterian Women churchwide \$ _____
- To support the work of Presbyterian Women in the Synod \$ _____
- To support the work of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery \$ _____
- TOTAL MISSION PLEDGE from PW in the Congregations \$ _____

Name of Presbytery: _____

Signature of the moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery (or whoever is responsible for PW giving in the Presbytery): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Instructions

1. Keep one copy of this form for your files.
2. Mail this Pledge form no later than December 3 to:
 - (a) Treasurer of PW in the Presbytery;
 - (b) Moderator of PW in the Synod; and
 - (c) PW Business Office, 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202-1396

Send all quarterly Churchwide payments to:

Presbyterian Women Remittance Processing, PO Box 643652, Pittsburgh, PA 15264- 3652

Quarterly Churchwide payments should be mailed by March 15, June 15, September 15, and December 15, along with remittance forms supplied to treasurers of PW in the Presbytery.

Current PW-SLAP Coordinating Team Officers – changes are highlighted 2025

Moderator

Louise Van Poll (2028)
601 Kansas Ave SE
Huron, SD 57350
605-354-2397 lcvanpoll@gmail.com

Vice-Moderator

Maggie Horak (end 4/18/2026)
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Judy Rops (start 4/18/2026)

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Maggie Horak (start 7/1/2026)
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Appointive positions:**Together In Service**

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Sower Editor

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Lana Schultz (temp. Zoom Coord)
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Zoom Coordinator

Maggie Horak (after 4/2026)
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Facebook Coordinator

Christy Abraham Christylou71@gmail.com

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2028 Synod Gathering Comm.

Louise Van Poll
Terri Sherman
Maggie Horak
PWP Moderator for gathering site

Effective 11/16/2025

PWSCT Moderators/Reps.**2025-26 CHANGES ARE HIGHLIGHTED****Central Nebraska**

Moderator/Rep
VACANT

Dakota – Mod/Rep

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MO River Valley – Mod/Rep

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Moderator/Rep
VACANT

Northern Plains–Mod/Rep

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Term: 2027

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Winnebago – Co-Reps.

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Ruth Wrynski
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715-842-8410
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As of 11/15/2025

