



The Sower

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



November, 2022

Kathleen Keefer, Editor

Moderator's Musings:

Hello from chilly South Dakota!

We seem to be rushing into the holidays faster than I can keep up. I hope you are doing better.

A few things I'd like to share with you.

First, we had two great women apply for the USAME trip to the Arizona/Mexico border. I am so *thankful* for their passion and willingness to learn more about this issue. I am also *thankful* that our Synod will be represented on this trip and so all our presbyteries will be able to benefit from this knowledge. The USAME committee will contact the lucky candidate after they make their decision.

Next, there is a wonderful opportunity for a woman from our Synod to attend the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women 67 **March 6-17, 2023**! This year's CSW will be in person and online. The focus of the 67th session of the Commission is "**Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.**" I am very *thankful* that we can make our voices heard at such a world-wide forum. Application deadline is **Saturday, Dec. 10.**

The application can be found on the PW website

here: <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/commission-on-the-status-of-women-application-2/>.

To learn more about CSW: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw67-2023>

Also coming up is the formation of the Synod Gathering Committee. This is another great opportunity for women to get involved. I am looking for volunteers to be the chairman and co-chairman of the committee. What makes this job so appealing is that it is short term. The co-chairs choose a site, recruit a committee to do the work and it is all over after the Gathering! I have already received a couple of suggestions for a location, including cost estimates. Please send me your name or the name of a PW sister you think would enjoy this opportunity. I am *thankful* that we are able to gather every three years to learn, grow, worship, serve, and share our friendships with each other.

I am so *thankful* for all these opportunities for us to be active in the Synod and in the world, being the hands and feet, eyes and mouth of Jesus and sharing the heart of God for all people.

I am also so *thankful* to each of you for supporting and helping me and each other. We are so much stronger together.

Blessings on all of you for this holiday season. Remember all the things for which **you** are *thankful*.

In Christ,

Louise Van Poll, Moderator

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Creator of the universe,
Creator of the heavens and the earth,
Creator of waters, sky, grass and trees,
Creator of creeping things and every animal of every kind,
Creator of every person everywhere,
We give you thanks and we give you praise.

Holy God, for your faithfulness,
For your mercies that are new every morning,
For your grace that finds us along our way,
We give you thanks and we give you praise.

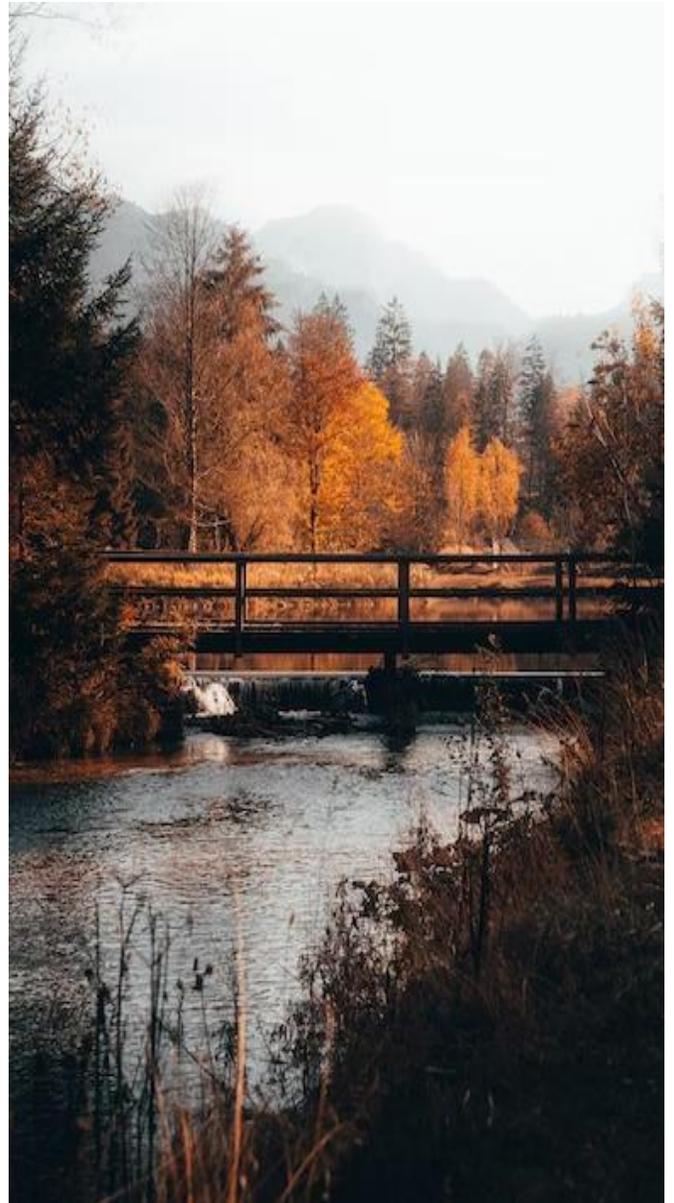
Loving God, who endures with us,
Who rejoices with us,
Who weeps with us,
Who finds us when we are lost,
Who cares for us when we are broken,
Who listens as we pour out our hearts to you,
Photo by Anthony Lee via Unsplash
We give you thanks and we give you praise.

Righteous God, for your Holy Spirit,
Who refreshes our hearts,
Who fills us until we overflow with abundance of joy, love, and
peace,
We give you thanks and we give you praise.

Eternal God, for your Son Jesus the Christ,
In whom you have delivered us,
In whom you have forgiven us,
In whom you have reconciled us and given us life everlasting,
We give you thanks and we give you praise.

Written by Letarshia C. Robinson, Presbyterian Outlook

Photo by Patrick Stadler via Unsplash



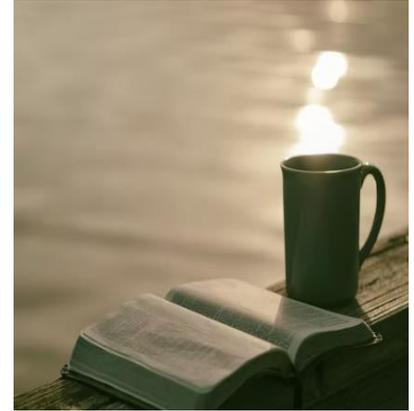
Devotion - Gratitude, an Attitude

From Time Out for Coffee by Jeanette Lockerbie

Photo by Anthony Lee via Unsplash

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord. Psalm 92:1

We are all entitled to our opinion. For myself, I would have to confess that I did not always have a consciousness of what it meant to be truly thankful to God; no one would ever have thought I was overdoing the praise. But in the past few years God has been teaching me, among other valuable lessons, the worth of a thankful spirit. In everything give thanks. I Thessalonians 5:18. Everything? You can't mean it seriously, Paul. Not everything. Yes, everything. I even came across a verse that says we should be thankful for all things. Ephesians 5:20—and that's much more difficult to do consistently. But I'm finding that it pays.



Actually, obedience is often its own reward. God says, "Be thankful," so we can expect to profit more from obeying that injunction than from disregarding it, whatever we might think of it. God would never be guilty of issuing an edict that is impossible for us to obey.

- Be thankful for a stuck elevator that means we walk countless steps?
- Be thankful for a moody colleague, the kind you never know how to take?
- Be thankful for a demanding boss you can never quite satisfy?
- Be thankful for headaches?
- What about a major loss, something that shatters your life?

Little things. Big things. In everything give thanks. We would be less than human if at times we didn't question, How can I be thankful?

I can only share with you what I'm learning in God's school. Saying, "Thank you, God," is our acknowledgment that He is sovereign in our lives. It's saying, in effect, "Lord, I don't know, and I don't understand what You're doing in my life. But I know

You love me, You care, and You know what the future holds for me."

So we can confidently trust Him and thank Him for all things—at all times.

Gradually we will find gratitude to be a fixed attitude. When we cultivate this spirit of thankfulness, we will keep finding things to be thankful for all day long. This habitual attitude lightens and brightens the day.

Thank you, God, for your unconditional love and forever caring of all your children. In this time of Thanksgiving especially, may we remember to give thanks and

and share our gratitude with everyone around us, near or far. May we rejoice in every day and be glad and thankful in it. Amen.

The 225th GA approved the overture **On Declaring the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to Be a Sanctuary and Accompaniment Church.**



While prior overtures affirmed and celebrated the efforts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), this overture seeks to take the next step by declaring our denomination a "Sanctuary and Accompaniment" church. Below is the rationale:

(Photo by Stephen Melkisetian)

We are admonished by scripture to welcome the alien and stranger among us: "When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God" (Lev. 19:33); "I was a stranger and you

welcomed me" (Mt. 25:35c). [There are no less than twenty-two verses enjoining us to welcome the stranger and alien among us.](#)

Romans 12:13 reads, "Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers." The Greek word for "stranger" here is *xenos*, the root word for xenophobia. Similarly, the Greek word for "hospitality" is *philoxenia* or love of the stranger. In other words, there can be no hospitality without love of the stranger, love of the other, love of those who are different from us.

The history of immigration policy in the United States is tainted with the sin of racism and xenophobia. Several administrations have struggled and failed to reform our broken immigration system. Some of their enforcement practices have been harmful to immigrant communities, such as the "Secure Communities" policy that disincentivized immigrants from reporting or cooperating with law enforcement. Yet this administration has exceeded the others with a shocking disregard for the wellbeing of children and the separation of children from their parents, as well as the separation of families in our own communities. Consequently, our undocumented friends live in fear of deportation, separation from their families, and possible impoverishment when the family breadwinner is detained and/or deported.

Many of our churches have declared themselves Matthew 25 churches. Sanctuary and accompaniment are ways of addressing systemic poverty and racism that are fundamental to being a Matthew 25 church. While sanctuary usually refers to a person living within a church or on the church campus, accompaniment refers to all the ways that people are helping immigrants in order to prevent the need for sanctuary. Sanctuary can be a disaster for the person or family that goes into sanctuary. All of their normal connections with their family change; all of their normal connections with the community cease. For these reasons, accompaniment is preferable to sanctuary when possible. Accompaniment may include, among other things, helping them find housing, medical care, a pro bono attorney to navigate the legal system, education, support services, transportation, etc.



Matthew 25:35 says "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." The situation on the border and throughout our country demands that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) speak out with urgency. As we witness our borders being closed to asylum seekers, forcing them to return to the dangerous places they have fled, we remember that Jesus and his parents were themselves refugees from Herod's murderous intentions (Matt 2:13-23).

By declaring the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) a "Sanctuary and Accompaniment Church," we are publicly declaring that we will not be silent and we will not stand by while families continue to be separated and while refugees are turned away. By declaring our denomination as a "Sanctuary and Accompaniment Church," we are heeding our charge as followers of Jesus Christ to act in ways that support the stranger in our midst and to treat our neighbors as ourselves. By declaring our denomination as a "Sanctuary and Accompaniment Church," we create a witness that is public and we become a truly confessing church. Most importantly, we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ by making his body visible in the world. The situation at our border demands that we no longer hide our light under a bushel. It is time to raise our lamps and make clear our intention to stand with Christ who is the very stranger in our midst.

One Community's Dedication by Louise Van Poll: Huron may be in the middle of nowhere, but it has a growing and thriving diverse population.



In the past several decades, Huron saw an increase in Hispanic workers, mostly from Mexico, working in the agriculture and meat processing industries. But the last 10 years has seen an explosion of refugee resettlement and immigrants arriving to work both in the beef jerky plant south of town, but mainly in the turkey processing plant that was built around 2012.

The director of personnel and human resources at the turkey plant went to Minnesota and actively recruited Karen refugees coming to the United States from the refugee camps in Thailand and Myanmar. Lutheran Social Services provides a myriad of programs for these refugees including help finding housing, training in how to use modern appliances, and other sessions to help these folks cope in a very different world than a refugee camp with no running water and no monetary system.

Many children began school with no English and no formal education. Children in middle school gave talks to community organizations explaining that their whole lives had been spent in a refugee camp.

In the last few years, we have seen an increase in people coming from Puerto Rico because of the hurricanes and refugees and immigrants from all over South America, Latin America, and the Pacific Islands.

Huron has always offered English-as-a-second-language classes to both adults and students, but currently more than 30% of students are enrolled in the ESL program. The school district is the most diverse in the state, with an enrollment that is 40% white, 33% Hispanic/Latino, 21% Asian, with the remainder comprised of Pacific Islander, Black and Indigenous pupils.

The community formed a "Connecting Cultures" group which works together to present activities, festivals, sports, and food to bring people together. We have Peruvian, Karen and Micronesian dancers perform in the park. We have several ethnic groups walk and sing in the parades. We have a plethora of foods sold in the park and at different events. When the Hispanic church is selling pupusas, if you haven't preordered on Facebook, expect to wait 30 minutes for your order. And some groups are selling eggrolls. I know this because I pulled to the curb one evening to check my phone and a woman came out of the house asking if I was delivering her eggrolls. We now boast a Peruvian lunch truck, too.

The Karen population began a soccer tournament held in conjunction with their New Year with Karen teams coming from all over the U.S. and Canada. They were also instrumental in getting soccer to be a school sanctioned sport in South Dakota.

I read an article describing the phases a group goes through as they assimilate into the dominant culture. First, the community remains isolated, perhaps attending a church if invited, especially Catholics. Then they will open small stores selling specialty food and items to their group. Then they will purchase or rent space to start their own churches. And finally, they will open restaurants catering to their community, but embracing patrons of all groups.

This is what we have experienced in Huron.

The Hispanic families who have been here the longest have established churches, restaurants, and stores that are long-standing staples in our town.

The newer Karen population have opened stores and have formed their own Baptist churches. They are now beginning to open restaurants, and we finally have an excellent Thai place to dine in or take out.

The newest immigrants and refugees are not very visible yet in the retail scene, except for the Peruvian truck and a Puerto Rican diner. But we do see them at community-wide events selling fried plantains and tapioca concoctions and coconut-based soups.

We now offer translation services in both Spanish and Karen at all banks, medical facilities, pharmacies, and public and government offices.

Although Huronites 'put up' with Hispanic workers coming to town, there was a much stronger push back to the Asian refugees. We have worked hard over the years to convince people that these new populations would enrich us, not destroy us. To debunk the rumors that they flood their basements to raise fish and keep chickens in the kitchen cupboards.

More and more families are becoming homeowners and U.S. citizens. The children are joining after-school activities and being elected Homecoming king and queen. We are sending them off to college with our scholarships and our best wishes.

We are beginning to see acceptance and respect from all sides for everyone grow. It is finally coming to pass: God's kingdom on Earth.

A MEDITATION ON WHAT GRANDMA SAID

Written by Krista Stoller and submitted by Mary Jenner

Grandma said, "to always keep some cookies on the shelf,"
 And "if you're helping others, you won't sit and pout for self."
 Grandma said, "a little work does all of us some good,"
 And "you'll feel better if you know you've done the best you could!"
 Grandma said that "singing makes a job a lot more fun,"
 And that it would not hurt us to "be nice to everyone."
 Grandma said, "you're always learning, even after school,"
 That we should "keep the ten commandments and the golden rule!"
 "What a Friend we have in Jesus", Grandma used to sing,
 Because she knew that Jesus . . . could handle anything."
 Grandma said, "why worry . . . when you can always pray",
 And Grandma trusted even when she did not get her way.
 I wish that everyone could have a grandma like my own,
 To share the love and wisdom that to many she has shown,
 But everyone may not and so I guess it's up to me,
 To live the lessons that she taught, so other folks can see!



Image by valadzionak_volha on Freepik

Additionally, Krista has a blog site <https://chocolatefilledhope.wixsite.com/home> which has more poems, writings, etc. I call your attention to the book in the store tab, [Unwrapping Loss](#). It is a devotional with hope for the grieving.

LECTIO DIVINA

The following was adapted from www.God.tv. I found it interesting, I pray you will also. Please read Psalm 119. But, don't just read it, meditate on it. Ask yourself 'What am I learning?' 'What does God want me to know?' 'How can I grow as a result of it?' If you would like to deepen your personal application of the Word, ask yourself these questions: 'What is happening in my life?' 'What is the Lord saying about what is happening?' and 'What am I going to do about it?' Submitted by Hope Dougherty.

Photo by [Aaron Burden](#) on [Unsplash](#)



NOVEMBER IS NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

November is Native American Heritage Month, a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people. Heritage Month is also an opportune time to raise awareness and to educate people about the unique challenges Native people have faced both historically and, in the present, and the ways in which tribal citizens have worked to conquer these challenges.



A BRIEF WALK-THROUGH HISTORY

- o 1851: Congress passes the Indian Appropriations Act, creating the Indian reservation system. Native Americans aren't allowed to leave their reservations without permission.
- o October 6, 1879: The first students attend Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania, the country's first off-reservation boarding school. The school, created by Civil War veteran Richard Henry Pratt, is designed to assimilate Native American students.
- o February 8, 1887: President Grover Cleveland signs the Dawes Act, giving the president the authority to divide up land allotted to Native Americans in reservations to individuals.
- o January 29, 1907: Charles Curtis becomes the first Native American U.S. Senator.
- o In 1915, the Congress of the American Indian Association (CAIA) advanced an initiative to call upon the American nation to observe a day for 'First Americans'. This came about, in part, due to the act of Dr. Arthur C. Parker (Seneca) persuading the Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for 'First Americans', which was done annually for three years previously.
- o President Calvin Coolidge issued a proclamation on Sept. 28, 1915 containing the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as citizens and declaring the second Saturday of each May as an American Indian Day.
- o June 2, 1924: U.S. Congress passes the Indian Citizenship Act, granting citizenship to all Native Americans born in the territorial limits of the country. Previously, citizenship had been limited, depending on what percentage Native American ancestry a person had, whether they were veterans, or, if they were women, whether they were married to a U.S. citizen.
- o April 11, 1968: The Indian Civil Rights Act is signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson, granting Native American tribes many of the benefits included in the Bill of Rights.

o 1978, The American Indian Religious Freedom Act legalizes traditional spirituality and ceremonies, overturning local and state regulations still on the books banning American Indian spiritual practices.

o President George H. W. Bush, approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 as “National American Indian Heritage Month.” Similar proclamations, under variants on the name (including “Native American Heritage Month” and “National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month”) have been issued each year since 1994.

o In 2009, President Barack Obama signed “The Native American Heritage Day Resolution,” designating the Friday after Thanksgiving as “Native American Heritage Day,” which received unanimous support from the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.

o March 15, 2021: Representative Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) of New Mexico is confirmed as secretary of the Interior, making her the first Native American to lead a cabinet agency.

Sources:

<https://www.history.com/topics/native-american-history/native-american-timeline>

<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/nativevoices/timeline/545.html#:~:text=The%20American%20Indian%20Religious%20Freedom,banning%20American%20Indian%20spiritual%20practices.>

<https://www.nativepride.com/november-is-national-native-american-heritage-month/>

(compiled by James Sizer, Director, Multicultural Student Engagement and Kristin Granderson, Graduate Assistant, Multicultural Student Engagement)



PW SYNOD OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN MORE AND BUILD RELATIONSHIPS:

- 1) Participate in the PWS sponsored Native American Book Studies
- 2) Learn more about the Doctrine of Discovery and PC(USA) affiliated boarding schools utilizing the PC(USA) Resource List included in this newsletter
- 3) Connect with one of our Dakota Presbyterian Churches and build relationships with the women
- 4) Support one of the PWS Native American Partnerships, building relationships as you support their work in specific ways
- 5) Contribute to the PWS sponsored Native American Scholarship for a Native student at Sisseton Wahpeton College
- 6) Attend Dakota Presbytery meetings and/or Mission Meeting/Ptaya Owohdake



PW SYNOD SPONSORED NATIVE AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIP

According to the *National Congress of American Indians* website, across the U.S. over one-third of the Native population is under the age of 18. There is a large bubble in the 15-19 age group, so even more Native young people will likely be headed to college or other advanced education and training pathways in the near future.

PWS has learned that scholarships at Native colleges on reservations are rarer. Native students attending Native colleges on reservations benefit from the support of family and familiar settings, opposed to attending college off the reservation when one is suddenly immersed in a different culture and setting, away from the support of family and friends.

As a result, PWS has established a scholarship fund to award a Native student at Sisseton Wahpeton College located in Agency Village, SD with a \$500 scholarship. An application process with established criteria is in place. The college selects the scholarship recipient and disburses the funds specific to the student’s needs. Scholarship funds can be used for tuition, books, transportation, etc.

PWS needs to build up a financial base in our scholarship fund in order to support our current scholarship and to expand scholarship offerings to Native colleges located on other reservations. Contributions can be mailed to: Terri Sherman, PWS Treasurer, 12244 N. 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68517 Note on memo line: "Native American Scholarship Fund".

2022 - 2023 PWS Native American Partnership Opportunities

The following PW Synod sponsored Native American partnership opportunities are verified by the PWS Native American Concerns Committee. If you have questions, please contact NACC chair, Marilyn Stone at mmstone52@att.net or 262-763-0918 (home).

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**OSLH Native Connections
"Welcoming the Child" Ceremony and Support to new mothers
Pine Ridge, South Dakota**



A "Welcoming the Child" Ceremony is held for newborns teaching the Lakota cultural traditions of protecting the baby's fontanel ("soft spot") from harm or sickness, and the sacred connection to walking in balance. This ceremony offers a way to celebrate the birth and also offer support with cultural teachings, parenting skills (nutrition, nurturing baby care, build/maintain healthy relationships), helping mothers get their GED or high school diploma, develop job skills and/or offer coping skills.

Gift baskets are given to each mother and these items are needed for the baskets: Clothing sizes 3-6 months ONLY – 2-onesies, 2-sleepers, 1-outfit, socks, bibs, 2- receiving blankets, disposable diapers (not newborn), wipes, baby wash, baby toothbrush, baby caps/hats, and baby bottles (small). Items can be mailed to: Lisa Schrader, % OSLH Native Connections, 412 Dakota Street, Pine Ridge, SD 57770

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The goal of Oglala Sioux Lakota Housing (OSLH) Native Connections is to implement prevention, intervention, and postvention activities to combat suicide, substance abuse, and mental health issues among youth between 10-24 on the Pine Ridge Reservation. On the Pine Ridge Reservation, teen suicide is 150% higher than the U.S. as a whole and 85% of Lakota families are affected by alcoholism.

- Working in partnership with the Oglala Lakota College, construction trades students are building a safe house in Pine Ridge for youth who are in danger of harm themselves.
- Native Connections works on substance abuse and suicide prevention with middle school and high school dropouts and young adults who are not working or in college.

Financial contributions to OSLH Native Connections will ensure youth and young adults have needed support with suicide prevention and substance abuse.

**Gather the Children Home (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 through age 12. It provides a caring and immediate safe environment for children removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect, while a suitable foster or relatives home becomes available.

Items needed include: twin sheets and mattress pads, twin-sized fleece blankets, crib sheets, towels and wash cloths. Also, ongoing financial support paying for monthly internet and phone expense or some other monthly expense. Please include a self-addressed and stamped postcard that can be returned to you as acknowledgement that items were received. These items can be shipped to the following address:
Gather Our Children Home, House #32, Porcupine School Road, Porcupine, SD 57772

**Child Protective Services and local hospital
Agency Village, SD (Lake Traverse Reservation)**

Knit and crocheted baby hats are needed for newborns. "Newborn baby hat patterns for hospitals" can be found online. Details of where to send them will be available shortly. Contact Marilyn Stone when you are ready to ship hats.



**College Scholarship for Native Students
Sisseton Wahpeton College, Sisseton, SD**

Financial contributions are being received by PW Synod of Lakes and Prairies to create a sustaining Native American student scholarship fund. These funds will make it possible to grant a scholarship each semester to a Native student attending Sisseton Wahpeton College as a second semester freshman or a sophomore. Criteria for selection is in place. Ongoing funds are needed to sustain granting a scholarship each semester.

Contributions can be mailed to: Terri Sherman, PWS Treasurer, 12244 N. 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68517 Note on memo line: "Native American Scholarship Fund".

Red Eagle Memorial Presbyterian Church – Dakota Children’s Music Ministry Fort Kipp, Montana (Fort Peck Reservation)

The children and youth of Red Eagle Memorial Presbyterian Church and the Fort Peck Reservation are eager to learn songs in the Dakota language. Your financial contributions will support the teacher’s fee, as well as cover costs for equipment and supplies.



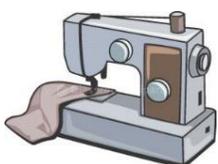
Contributions can be made to: Red Eagle Memorial Presbyterian Church, % Ernestine Ireland, PO Box 542, Poplar, MT 59255. Note on the memo line: *Dakota Children’s Music Ministry*.



**Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Hospital Renovation Project
Walthill, NE (Omaha Reservation)**

The Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Hospital is being restored to accommodate a medical clinic, cultural and educational spaces and historical museum. Also, plans include the development of parking, outdoor amphitheater, community gardens, and other Native American cultural features. Native American community members have had a significant role in this project from the onset.

The roof and windows have been replaced and the exterior siding has been restored. Funds are now needed to complete the interior restoration. Mail financial contributions to: Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Center, PO Box 36, Walthill, NE 68067



**Presbyterian Women
Dakota Presbytery**

Working sewing machines, fabric, thread, scissors, quilting and sewing supplies can be used by Presbyterian Women at the various Dakota Presbytery churches.



Thus far, 36 sewing machines have been distributed to women interested in sewing and quilting. Fabric and sewing supplies have also been shared with women as donations come in. All machines must be in working condition.

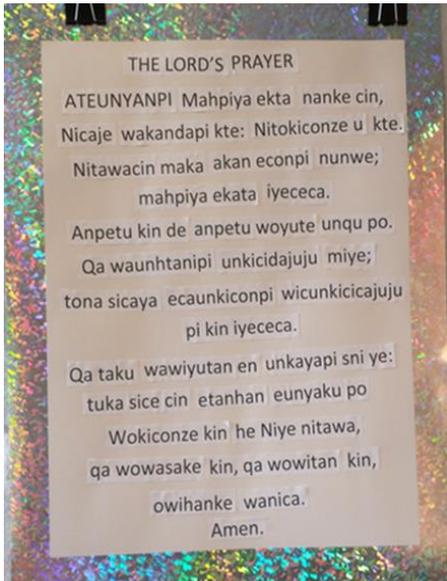
Newly Installed PW Officers in Dakota Presbytery

On Saturday, October 8th, during the Dakota Presbytery meeting held at Bdecan Presbyterian Church in Tokio, North Dakota, the Dakota Presbytery PW officers were installed. These include: Ernestine Ireland, moderator; Darlene Left Hand, vice-moderator; Ida Ashes Brown, treasurer; Fern Cloud, secretary; as well as PW Synod Native American Concerns Committee members, Ernestine, Ida, and Emma Grey Bull. LaVonne Looking Elk has also been appointed to serve on this PW Synod NACC committee, however she was unable to attend the installation.



NEWLY INSTALLED LEADERS FOR THE PW OF THE DAKOTA PRESBYTERY: L to R: Fern Cloud, Darlene Left Hand,

Ernestine Ireland, Ida Ashes Brown and Emma Grey Bull. (Photo by M. Stone)



The Bdecan Presbyterian Church had this enlarged poster of the Lord's Prayer in Dakota, providing the opportunity for this prayer to be prayed in their Native language.



The Bdecan Presbyterian Church also had the Doxology posted in Dakota and English.

JUSTICE & PEACE CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 20 Universal Children’s Day: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-childrens-day>
- 24 Thanksgiving: https://americanindian.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/thanksgiving_poster.pdf
- 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women:
<https://www.un.org/en/observances/ending-violence-against-women-day>
- 25–Dec10 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence; <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism>

DECEMBER

- 5 International Volunteer Day <https://www.un.org/en/observances/volunteer-day>
- 10 International Human Rights Day https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Rights_Day
- 18 International Migrants Day: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Migrants_Day
- 25 Christmas: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/nativity-lord-christmas/>



Image by Malcolm Lightbody via Unsplash



Save the date to gather in person and in faithful community
at the 2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women,

August 8-11, 2024

Details to come!

presbyterianwomen.org/gathering

GREETINGS FROM PROSPECT HILL PRESBYTERY

We used to have a Fall Gathering for the whole Presbytery of PW. Even before COVID, attendance was waning. Then the Pandemic took away our large gatherings and the desire to get a carload of ladies together to drive to our central location. What was our CT to do to spark the interest of what was left of the local PWs?



We came up with morning coffees for cluster churches. Even the number of churches in our clusters has dwindled, so we now have the North Cluster and the South Cluster. We asked a church in each cluster if they would host a morning coffee. They were happy to do this! So, our CT got busy planning a 1½ - 2-hour meeting. We asked that it be a very informal gathering – guests picked up their cup of coffee and goodies as they arrived and found a

place at a table.

Our Moderator, Audrey Scholten, presided. She first welcomed our guests and lit the Christ Candle. Then, she introduced the attending CT members. At one coffee we had only 3 CT members present; at the other, 5 of us came. One gave the devotions, and then we began with the presentation of a mission project, Marion Medical Mission – a group that oversees and provides the pumps for wells in each village with the help of the native villagers. Over 3,000 wells are constructed in 3,000 villages, providing clean water for the villagers in a well season, which is September to December. We viewed a video and handed out brochures to each church represented.

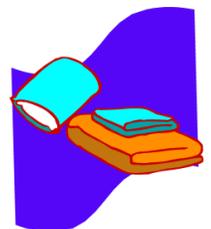
The next big portion of the meeting was an overview of this year's Horizon Bible Study, Celebrate Sabbath. This was given by another of the CT members.

Next came a portion that the ladies really seem to enjoy – the sharing of ideas for programs and projects. Moderator Audrey chaired that part of the program. Then we had a short explanation of the portion of our pledges paid to the Presbytery treasurer called the contingency pledge. Finally, the Christ Candle was extinguished, and our ladies were on their way home.

This is the 2nd year for our coffees, and we had a little larger attendance than last year. We are encouraged. We are always on the look-out for new ideas and new ways of sparking interest. We look forward to hearing how other Presbyteries are making changes.

MISSION “PEACEWORKS PROJECTS LIST” FROM SIOUX FALLS

Glory House: a halfway house is given two sets each month of the following: pillowcases, potholders, microwave bowl holders, bake potato bag, placemats, towels to hang on the oven door, scrubbies, personal care bags, TV remote control holders, kitchen items such as bowls, silverware, drinking glasses, spatula, can opener and a small pan. This is a “Welcome to Your New Apartment” when they complete the program. If we have blankets given to us, we usually pass them on with the kits.



East River Foster Care: 30 pillowcase bags a month for children to carry clothes to a new home, so they do not need to carry their belongings in a garbage bag or a box. Ragtime blankets are made from flannel to be given to the children for security blankets.

Breast Cancer Blankets: Peaceworks provides Sanford Hospital navigators with fleece blankets for new patients receiving chemo. We cut and tie the blankets, making 75 to 100 each year for the hospital.

Laundry with Love/Church on the Street: We make twenty laundry bags each quarter when our church goes to volunteer for the Laundry with Love project. We also made 250 water bottles carriers that we gave out to the Church on the Street members.

Keep Sioux Falls Warm: We are always making loom hats. Last year we provided over two hundred hats to be given to the poor and homeless. We also make many fleece scarves that are given out.



Church projects these are many and include: new antependium for the lectern or pulpit, Easter bags for the Sunday School class, placemats for children to paint for advent, pillows for the kindergarten class. The pastor required a special placket sewn into her robe for her microphone.

Fidget blankets: Blankets for dementia patients and children who have trouble concentrating in school. These are given out a regular basis to those in need. Nursing homes are always requesting them to keep their patients calm. We recently sent 20 fidget blankets to a nursing home in Ames, IA

Blankets: Either fleece or cotton are made up, they are available in the Giving Room for when there is a crisis. These came in handy during a windstorm when a nursing home lost its roof. Eleven of the patients were moved to a center in Sioux Falls and they brought nothing with them. We gave them blankets and also personal care kits.



Teddy Bear Den: Bibs, burp cloths and receiving blankets

Teddy Bear and Blanket: Children who are going through traumatic experiences are given a blanket and a stuffed bear to provide security. We leave several at the local doctor’s office and with police officers who carry them in their squad cars.

Youth sewing: Any child who would like to learn to sew may come in for lessons during the summer months. They have made scrunchies, headbands, pillows, pajama bottoms and tote bags.

Family Connection: Doll clothes are made along with Batman and other capes

Masks: During COVID we produced over three thousand masks for the church and community.

A WORD ABOUT THE ANNUAL FUND – MISSION PLEDGE

A Letter from PW’s 2021–2024 Churchwide Moderator

Jesus said therefore, “What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.”

–Luke 13:18-19

I’m not sure I’ve actually seen a mustard plant. I’ve seen a mustard seed, though, and marveled at how such a tiny seed can grow to be a 7- or 8-foot tall shrub, large enough for birds (attracted to its seeds) to build nests in its branches. What a miracle of nature!

Imagine Presbyterian Women as the plant that grew from the small mustard seed—its branches home to many birds and their nests. The nests are the numerous organizations and projects working to ensure health and growth for all God’s people. PW has long been involved with building hospitals, clinics and schools that provide shelter and care for the people they serve. Presbyterian Women

supports ministries that provide clean water in isolated areas and ministries that help establish businesses for women so they can build their own branches to provide nests for their own families. Your gifts to Presbyterian Women’s Annual Fund make it possible for PW to continue our long-standing tradition of generous giving to improve the lives of millions of people, both here in the United States and throughout the world, in the name of Jesus Christ.



Thank you,

Kathy Reeves

Kathy Reeves, PW Churchwide Moderator, 2021–2024

2021 Annual Fund Giving—\$662,847

Our monetary support and participation in PW at any level is a blessing that, through the working of the Holy Spirit, transforms and empowers both giver and recipient. The PW “garden” is vast—group members, Bible study field testers, Birthday Offering supporters, *Horizons* magazine readers, Churchwide leaders—but is intimately connected and connectional. Together, we serve.

Presbyterian Women supports mission through several giving streams. The largest, PW’s Annual Fund (the Mission Pledge), makes PW possible at all levels of the organization and ensures that the other streams have shape and depth consistent with PW’s Purpose.

Ways to Give

Giving Through Your Group

Traditionally, women make commitments to the Annual Fund in their church groups and their leader informs the presbytery treasurer of the congregation’s commitment. Put another way, women pledge in 2022 for 2023 and their pledges are received throughout 2023. In this established model, Presbyterian women fund all levels of their important organization through gifts received by PW in congregations, which, in turn, provides a portion to presbytery, then synod, and finally churchwide (national). Our blessings, combined and set in motion in this way, provide women with the seeds and soil and sun sufficient to sustain our beloved PW. (Individuals also may give directly to PW’s Annual Fund and other PW ministries and programs; giving in this way has become an important source of funding

for PW, particularly during seasons when meeting in person is challenging or perhaps no longer possible.)

PW leaders at all levels of the organization are called to promote giving to the Annual Fund, which sustains all ministries and programs of Presbyterian Women. Support materials as well as timelines are available online at presbyterianwomen.org/annual-fund.

Giving as an Individual

No matter how you choose to give to Presbyterian Women, your gift will help sustain PW’s work in carrying out God’s call to mission and ministry, locally and globally. Your faithful support is appreciated!

Online

Give securely at presbyterianwomen.org/give.

By Mail

Presbyterian Women, Inc.
PO Box 643652,
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3652 is the address for

- Checks,
- Third Party Gifts
(Gifts from your financial institution or donor-advised fund), or
- Employee Match Donations
Include your name, contact information and designate “PW Annual Fund” with the gift.

Gifts of Stock, Endowments and Estate Planning

Contact the Presbyterian Foundation, 800/858-6127, or client.services@presbyterianfoundation.org.

Questions?

For help (or to have employee match forms completed), please contact Rhonda Martin, 502/569-5596 or rhonda.martin@pcusa.org.



PW’s Annual Fund at Work

“What is the kingdom of God like? ... It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.”

—Luke 13:18–19

Preparing the soil
Every Presbyterian Women mission and ministry grows from the fertile soil of PW’s Annual Fund. The soil holds the PW network—a system of roots stretching deep and wide—and is enriched with the faith, hope, commitment and financial support of PW groups and individuals.

Planting the seeds
Seeds are life. Within every seed is the possibility of a future blossom. Some seeds will bloom quickly; others take time to push through the soil. The seeds we sow today through our Thank and Birthday Offering grants, mission work, advocacy, resources and other PW ministries will thrive for seasons to come.

Watering the seeds
Watering carries nutrients from the soil throughout the plant. Even before we see a ministry growing, we faithfully tend the seeds with steady support from the Annual Fund and the community of PW. We do this believing the seeds will blossom into beautiful, life-giving parts of God’s realm.

Tending the seedlings
We ensure that each ministry has what it needs to continue growing—a bit more attention, a touch more protection. With generosity and true joy, Presbyterian Women serve our church and in so doing, create a community of care who builds the realm of God, sister by sister by sister.

Nurturing the sprout
Presbyterian Women nurture our churches and communities by graciously sharing our resources, including time and effort. We build up the church and PW through our generosity and presence. Depending on the need, we roll up our sleeves and get to work! Our ministries involve meeting immediate needs and advocating for long-term change.

Celebrating the Yield
The flowers and fruits we see thriving today were established by sisters who came before us. Their vision for Presbyterian Women’s garden continues to sustain us. Now is our time to prepare for future harvests. Our church, our world and our organization depend on a strong and vibrant PW (the organization and the women who are PW).

Learn about the many ministries seeded and lives changed by Presbyterian Women; visit presbyterianwomen.org.



Photo © John Miller, Merrimack Bay, CA

Jesus said therefore, “What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.”

—Luke 13:18–19

From the 2023 Annual Fund Promotional Resource. To order more: <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/product/2023-presbyterian-women-annual-fund-promotional-resource/>



Presbyterian Women earned \$193.13 from April 1st through June 30th 2022

GIVING THANKS BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and hold you close,
May the Lord fill your heart with an overwhelming sense of peace and an abundance of gratitude.
May you rest in the assurance that God loves you completely, uniquely, and beyond measure.
May you step into the fullness of God's love for you,
May God's love kindle within you a yearning to reach out to those who need you, whose beloved faces you can picture in your mind's eye, as well as the strangers whom you haven't yet met.
May you work for justice, cling to kindness, and walk humbly with Christ in your midst.
May you live for one another and for God like never before,
With open hands, minds, and hearts,
Not just during the short days of this thanksgiving season,
But for each and every day to come.
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.

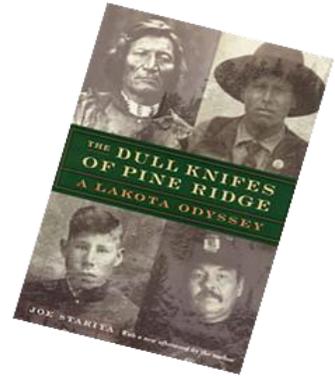
Written By Katy Shevel for Presbyterian Outlook



Photo by Jenny Kalahar via Unsplash

Register today to join a book study . . .

***The Dull Knives of Pine Ridge:
A Lakota Odyssey***
by Joe Starita



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 videoconferencing (using computer or phone)

There is no charge to participate, yet registration is required.

Dates for 2023: January 9 and 23, February 6 and 20

Daytime study begins at 1:30-2:30 PM (CST)

Evening study begins at 6:30-7:30 PM (CST)



Synopsis: Joe Starita tells the triumphant and moving story of a Lakota-Northern Cheyenne family. In 1878, the renowned Chief Dull Knife, who fought alongside Crazy Horse, escaped from forced relocation in Indian Territory and led followers on a desperate six-hundred-mile freedom flight back to their homeland. His son, George Dull Knife survived the Wounded Knee Massacre and later toured in Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show. Guy Dull Knife Sr. fought in World War I and took part in the Siege of Wounded Knee in 1973. Guy Dull Knife Jr. fought in Vietnam and is now an accomplished artist. Starita updates the Dull Knife family history in his new afterword for this Bison Books edition.

Register by contacting Marilyn Stone at mmstone52@att.net

Provide the following information: - Name

- Email address

- Phone #

- Presbytery

- Afternoon or evening study preference



2023 JUSTICE and PEACE Book Discussion Group

FEBRUARY 13

WHAT KIND OF CHRISTIANITY

A HISTORY OF SLAVERY AND ANTI-BLACK RACISM IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WILLIAM YOO



SPECIAL WEBINAR WITH AUTHOR



DISCUSS THE BOOKS WITH OTHERS VIA ZOOM

• The J&P Book Discussion Group is open to all!



DISCUSSION GROUP MEETS EVERY OTHER MONTH

• Read and discuss any or all books that appeal to you. Registration will be needed to join the discussion on Zoom.



RECEIVE STUDY GUIDES TO INFORM YOUR READING

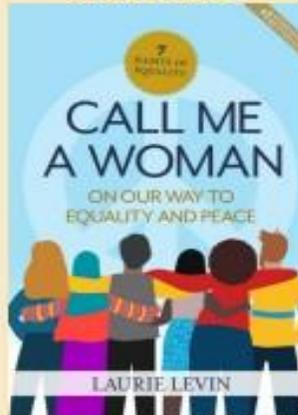
• Questions for discussion or reflection will be sent with your registration confirmation.



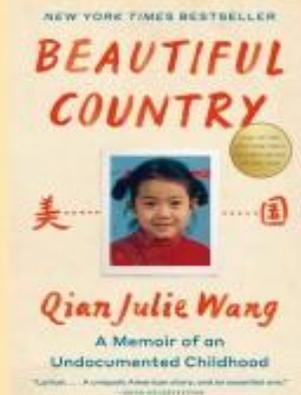
To register, scan the QR code with your smart phone or go to presbyterianwomen.org/justice.

Reading Selections (6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Eastern Time)

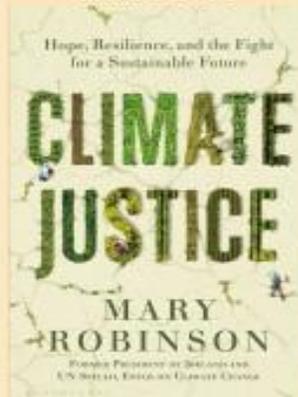
JANUARY 9



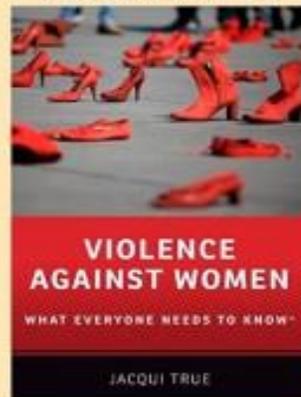
JULY 10



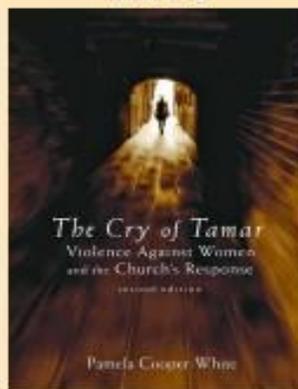
MARCH 13



SEPTEMBER 11



MAY 8



NOVEMBER 13



Selections are recommended by the Justice & Peace Committee of PW's Board of Directors.



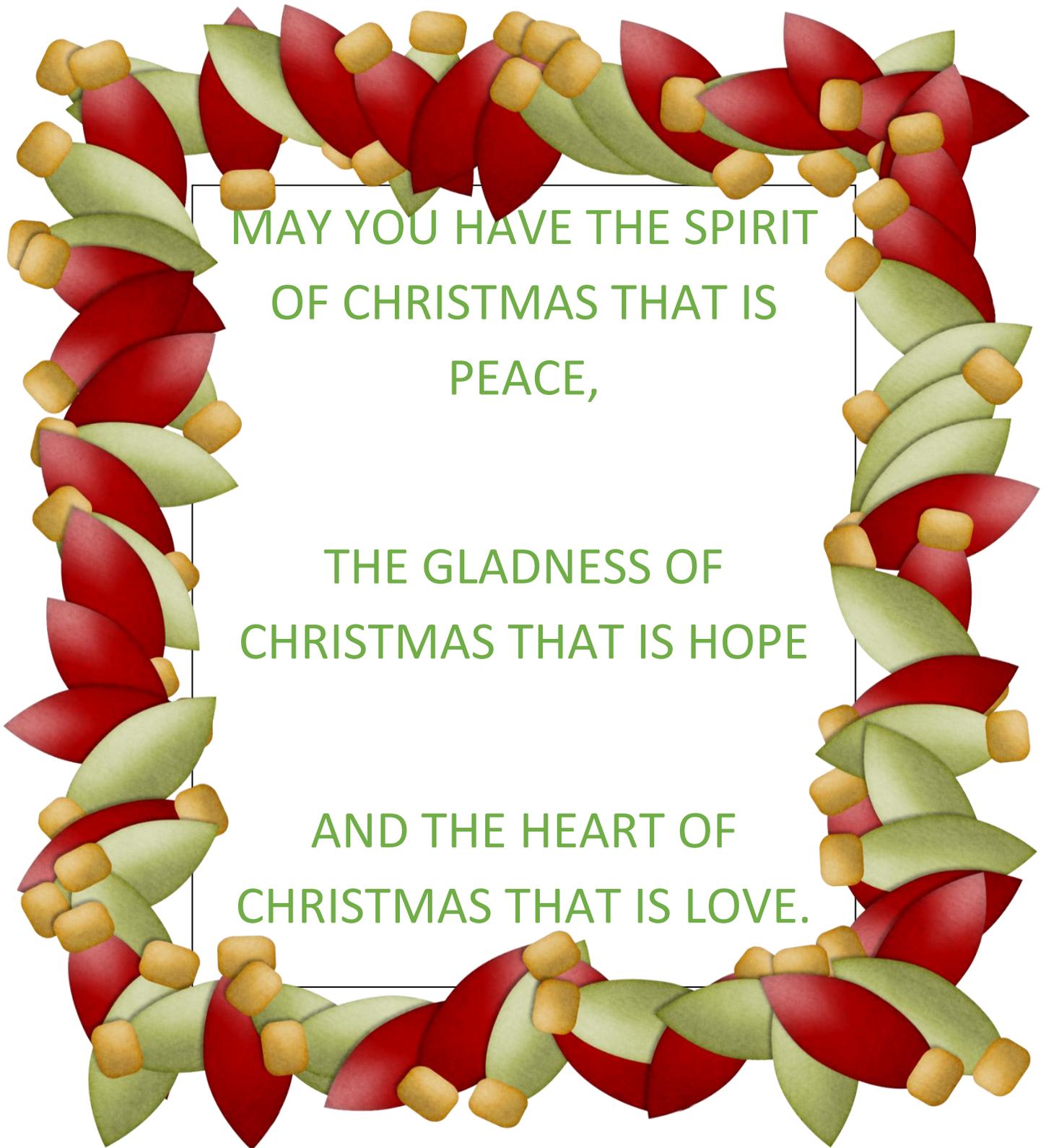
Photo by Mariana B. via Unsplash

A Christmas Prayer

Loving Father, help us remember
the birth of Jesus, that we may
share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds
and the wisdom of the wise men.
Close the door of hate and open
the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings, and teach us to
be merry with clean hearts.
May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be Thy children,
and the Christmas evening bring us
to our beds with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake. Amen.
Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)
Guidepost Foundation



Image by Debbie Hudson via Unsplash



MAY YOU HAVE THE SPIRIT
OF CHRISTMAS THAT IS
PEACE,

THE GLADNESS OF
CHRISTMAS THAT IS HOPE

AND THE HEART OF
CHRISTMAS THAT IS LOVE.

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11/1/2022

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[As of 11/1/2022](#)

The logo for 'The Sower' features the title in a white, elegant serif font centered within a solid black rectangular box. Small, light-colored diamond shapes are positioned at the top and bottom center of the box, pointing towards the text.

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