



The Sower

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



November, 2023

Kathleen Keefer, Editor

Moderator's Musings:

Greetings from snowy South Dakota:

We've had our first dusting of snow here, although some parts of the state received several inches.

I am very excited to announce the appointment of Christy Abraham as our Facebook Coordinator. Her

contact information is christylou71@gmail.com. She already has a new Facebook page up on the platform.

Here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61552522904776> You should be able to find it by searching PW SLAP. Please "like" and "share" the page and post a message, too. This will be a great tool for us to stay in touch with each other and keep up to date with all the news.

The USAME trip is over. Welcome home to Luella Voight, Julie Miller and Kathleen Keefer. We look forward to hearing your reports. Contact info for Louella is louvoight@hotmail.com and Julie is jam1150@hotmail.com. Your local congregation, PW, Presbytery, or PW in your Presbytery may contact them to visit, speak, and lead a discussion about what they saw, experienced, and learned on the southern border.

I am also thrilled to announce that we have awarded our first Native American Scholarship to a student attending Sisseton-Wahpeton College. You can read more about her in this issue.

The Synod Sit & Sip has had a lot of interest and is off to a good start. Contact Kathleen Keefer to register. We will meet on December 2nd this time around due to holiday travel. Usually, we meet on the last Saturday of the month at 11 a.m. The group selected several topics for discussion using various resources from PC (USA) and PW Churchwide. The next discussion will focus on murdered and missing Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people. Register today so you can receive the resource packet from Kathleen (kathleenkeefer20@gmail.com)

Another exciting announcement is that we have a location for the next Synod Gathering. It will be held in Watertown, S.D., June 12-15, 2025. There will be a pre-gathering event June 11 including a visit to the Sisseton-Wahpeton College and lunch with some of our Dakota Presbytery sisters. Save the date!

Finally, Churchwide Gathering is coming up next Aug. 8-11, 2024. We will be meeting in St. Louis, MO. The Synod will host a luncheon for Synod attendees. There will be a delicious lunch followed by a program. The cost will be only \$15 with the Synod paying the balance. Please let me know who from your Presbytery will be attending as your voting representative. Each Presbytery has one vote.

There is so much going on in our Synod it is an exciting time to be a Presbyterian Woman. I am sure I am forgetting something, but this is quite long enough.

Stay warm, enjoy the autumn colors, and have a lovely Thanksgiving, whether you spend it with family, friends, your community, church, or by yourself. And remember, when Abraham Lincoln first began this tradition, it had nothing to do with pilgrims and Indians; it was during the death and devastation of the Civil War, but he still believed we should thank the creator for our blessings.

And the people all said...Amen.

Louise Van Poll

Synod Moderator

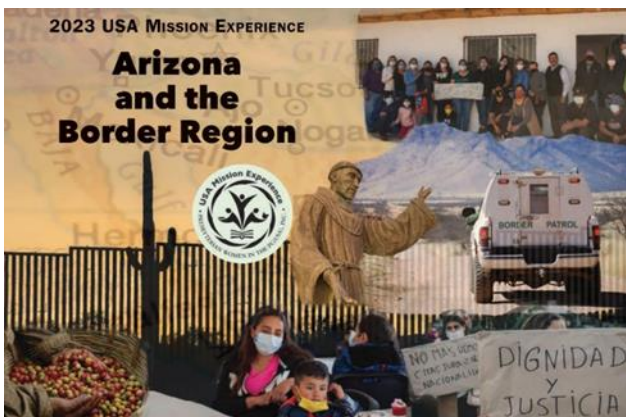


Sometimes GOD will slow you down so that the evil ahead of you will pass before you get there.

Your delay could mean your protection.

Our God is a good God.

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From Julie Miller, member of the First Presbyterian Church in Maynard, Iowa.

I had the opportunity to meet with other PW women across the United States for this amazing chance to learn more about the Indigenous People of the Southwest as well as the immigrants crossing our southern border. When I heard of this USAME, I was very excited to hear about what was really happening at our borders. I received much encouragement from my PW and after prayerful consideration, I decided to apply. I am so glad that I did and would encourage everyone to take the step and apply for a future mission trip.

Eighteen of us met in Phoenix to start our study of the Indigenous People of the area. We started our learning journey by being introduced to the past relationships between the migrant Spaniards, the Conquistadors and Priests, and the Native Americans. We were led in a "blanket exercise" called Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationships with Native Peoples developed by the Indigenous Peoples Concerns

committee of the Quaker Meeting of Boulder, Colorado with advice and encouragement from Native American Educators. The experience was informative, humbling and emotional. To read more about this experience click here: <https://www.movingpresence.com/community-activism>

Monday was spent being introduced to the immigration issues at the Arizona and Mexican border. We heard from Rekha Nair, an immigration attorney; Mimi Johnson, on building a network of supporters; Lutheran Social Services, on church support for alternative entry programs; Holly Herman, on hosting asylum seekers at your church; and Selena and Joe Keesecker, on detention ministry and the Revolving Bond Fund. I learned way too much to include it in this article but did learn that governmental policies of deterrent at the border are doing nothing to slow or stop the migration of people, but it is forcing them to go more dangerous routes and putting more money into the local cartel's pockets because paying them decreased the time by months and danger in applying for asylum.



We learned the two **legal** ways to immigrate:

Refugee – Refugees come in with a legal status received outside of the U.S., must have suffered or would suffer severe harm and must not have their government's protection. These people are usually living in refugee camps for many years before they can move on to a permanent home. They have no choice about which of the 10 countries receiving refugees they are sent to. They are vetted by the United Nations High Commission of Refugees (UNHCR)

Asylee – Those seeking asylum enter through a border and request asylum. This is very arbitrary. Two people with the same history, one person may be allowed to enter detention, and another sent back to their country of origin. Those admitted are detained for no more than 72 hours, although many are retained much longer. They must have a sponsor willing to speak on their behalf. When released from the detention facility, they are able to travel to their sponsors' place of residence. The Asylee becomes a Parolee when released from a Federal Detention facility, has a sponsor, and a court date in the area where they are going to live. They must contact the immigration authorities when they arrive at their sponsor's home, although they do not need to live there. The court date which will determine whether they can stay in the US – permanent resident – occurs up to five years after they initially cross the border. They can apply for a work permit during this time or their employer may apply for them.

We heard sad and humiliating stories of deportations in chains and jumpsuits, back to their country of origin because someone arbitrarily denied them access. We learned that the majority of people were from countries where there was armed conflict, violence caused by cartels or extreme poverty. We visited Casa Alitas where they had language interpreters for over 40 languages and were busy interviewing and providing medical services, clothing, meals and water for the over 500 people released that day before lunch! Previously, they received over 1500 people daily for several days in a row. These are the parolees, released from detention and ready to go on to their sponsors. <https://www.casaalitas.org/>

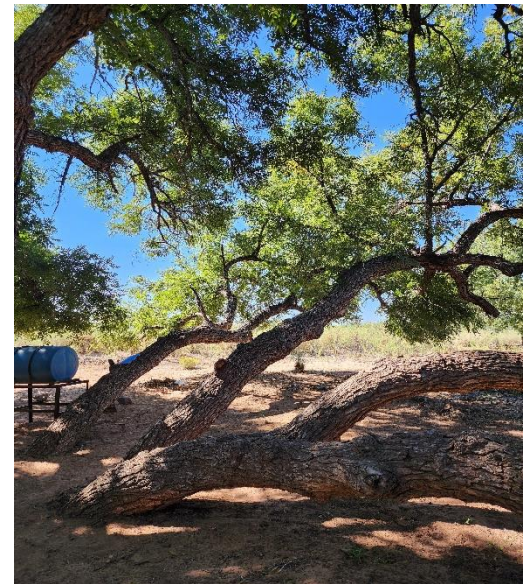


From Louella Voigt, member of the First Presbyterian Church of Luverne, MN. Excerpts from Reflections.

The hike in the desert was most anticipated and anxiety producing. We received many admonishments to hydrate, wear sturdy shoes, long pants, keep our skin protected from the sun and wear a hat. Our first stop was at CATPSIC, a mission supported drug treatment center, whose community service project is to maintain a water barrel in the desert for migrants. Their project is called Water for Life. Three men and three women joined our group as we headed west out of Agua Prieto and into the desert. We arrived at a ranch that stretched north to the border, where we consolidated vehicles as we would be driving through desert areas, where new vehicles should not go. The three men from CATPSIC jumped in the back of a pickup truck, with all the gear.

My first clue about the harshness of the journey ahead came when one of the men pulled out a bandana and put it on under his baseball cap, so that his neck and back were sun protected. The bandana had obviously seen many a day out in the desert. We drove 7 km north on "pasture roads," scraping against mesquite and creosote bushes. Cattle and horses were grazing intermittently along the way, and we even scared a jack rabbit out into the open.

We eventually came to an arroyo the trucks could not traverse, and we disembarked for our adventure. We found ourselves in a clearing, under a large sheltering tree, called "The Tree Of Life" with a large water barrel suspended on a metal frame. The CATPSIC group comes here once a week to fill the barrel. This barrel is one of a series that the mission, along with other partners, keeps filled.



We organized ourselves and set out on our hike, with a CATPSIC volunteer in the lead and at the rear of the group. The CATPSIC women stayed under the tree to prepare a meal for us at the conclusion of our hike. We were also joined on the hike by two male mission partners. At the beginning of the hike, one of our group found walking sticks, which we both used for support as we traversed the shifting sand and uneven topography. Our

CATPSIC guides were ever attentive, helping us up and down steep inclines. The lead guide wore socks and plastic clogs on his feet. All the guides were as comfortable in the desert environment as a child in a sandbox. They easily moved around the scrub brush and even laid down against the walls of the arroyos, waiting for everyone to traverse a difficult spot.

As we walked and neared the wall, we could see the electronic surveillance towers of the border patrol, and the large road built along the US side. Our mission partners told us we could not see the surveillance towers built by the Cartel, which are manned by human lookouts, sending signals to the coyotes leading migrant groups through the desert, reporting when it is safe to cross the border. Our CATPSIC guide told us at one point to be quiet, as there was a group of migrants near us, who were sleeping through the day, to ready themselves for their nighttime hike. He also showed us paraphernalia used in



crossings. These items included two, 30' extension ladders, with hooks at the top to secure the ladder to the wall and rappelling harnesses and ropes, to go down the other side. He showed us knee pads, which people wear, as they must crawl for 1 km after crossing the border to stay under the electronic surveillance cameras. He also showed us shoes worn by desert hikers, which leave no footprints in the sand.

When we arrived at the wall, we noted that at this remote location, the wall no longer contained the concertina wire barrier. I was also astounded to find a large tunnel opening under the wall, which was about 4 feet deep and 8 feet wide. There was considerable desert brush clinging to the sand around the opening, but it did not impede the opening. Four members of our group walked under the wall to the other side and back again!

Our mission partners explained that the topography of the land on the US side is higher than the Mexican side. When the rain comes in torrents, as it does in the desert, the sand is washed away from under the fence, and the openings are created. I asked Mark Adams about the frequency of these openings, and he told me they occur frequently all along the border wall. Our mission partner, Sam Pendergrast, a retired PC(USA) pastor from the state of New York, accompanied us into the desert that day. He reported that the Border Patrol works feverishly to keep the border wall upright and functioning, as they have not figured out the technology of maintaining the wall yet. The wall costs over \$31 million per mile to build. The final insult to the border wall came when our lead guide from CATPSIC kicked off his plastic clogs and shimmied up the 30' wall in about 15 seconds. He was so fast I wasn't able to bring my phone up to my face and open the camera screen before he arrived at the top! Many group members from the southwest reported that this is the method the tree trimmers use to work on palm trees in the desert. The reality and futility of the wall was deeply embedded into our consciousness.



When we returned to The Tree of Life, our CATPSIC sisters had a feast prepared for us. They cooked a full meal on a cement block stove. I have eaten at many fine dining establishments through the years, but none have nourished me as thoroughly, body and soul, as this desert repast. We felt as though we had been fed by angels.

We ended our time in the desert with devotions. My thoughts went to my ancestors, who also fled genocide, in the area that is now Ukraine. We are all one humanity, sojourners through life, trying to find peace.

All three PWs are available to lead presentations on the USAME for your Circle, Presbytery, Synod:
Julie Miller: jam1150@hotmail.com
Louella Voigt: louvoigt@hotmail.com
Kathleen Keefer: kathleenkeefer20@gmail.com



LET US PRAY:

Mighty and merciful God, lover of justice and equity, you call us to support the weak, to help those who suffer, and to honor all people.

Receive our prayers for justice, righteousness, and equity,



That the hungry may be filled with good things...
 That the thirsty may be satisfied...
 That the oppressed may be set free...
 That the homeless may find shelter...
 That the sorrowful may be comforted...
 That enemies may be reconciled...
 That the world may know peace...

Gracious God, keep us working and praying for the day when your justice will roll down like waters, and your righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Replenish our strength and stir up our hope as we look for signs of your coming reign.

And fill us with the peace that passes understanding – the deep peace of Jesus Christ our Savior, in whose holy name we pray. Amen.

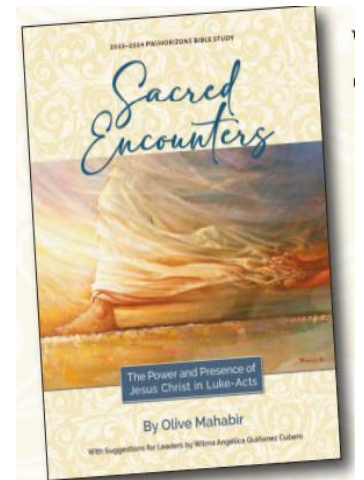


PERIOD JUSTICE - “Touch of Faith” is the title of the artwork by Yongsung Kim used on the cover of this year’s Horizons Bible Study and for Lesson Three. Who has not felt the power in this painting or the power in the story it represents?

In the painting, we see the robe of Jesus and his bare feet. We can sense the urgency with which he is moving, it has been a very busy day, and he is hurrying on to the house of Jairus to save his daughter who is near death. A hand comes out of the crowd, the hand of a woman who has been plague by bleeding for 12 years. The hand touches the bottom of his robe. We can actually see the healing energy leaving Jesus and entering the woman.

And she is made whole. She is cured of this horrible chronic illness that has kept her apart from her family and her community, for 12 long years. Due to the laws of Judaism, she lived in isolation and shame. She could touch no one and no one could touch her, without going through a purifying ritual. What an awesome gift this was, to be relieved of this burden and made well.

Now, more than 2000 years later, people who menstruate continue to be shamed and even set apart because of a natural biological function of their bodies. We often think of young people growing up in Africa who are unable to go to school because they do not have hygiene products, but one in four menstruating people in the US cannot go to school or to work because they lack sanitary products or money to buy them. One-third of people of color with periods living in poverty are more likely to find themselves without the necessary products to go to school or work or even outside their homes. They are also more likely to use products far longer than recommended or use items such as paper towels or newspapers. Infections often result, some severe, (toxic shock syndrome is one) leading to hysterectomy or even death.



Imagine being a person, living in poverty, going to work at a job that pays minimum wage, and your period starts. You have no money until the next time you are paid, and you have no product to use to get you through until pay day. Do you use something other than sanitary products, or do you beg for money to get you through until payday? You go to the local Presbyterian Church (USA) and ask for money – not for gas for your car, not for milk or diapers for the children but for sanitary product. Most would feel shame in doing this – for a normal biological function. “The lack of access to menstrual products can also make people feel humiliated and powerless, resulting in stigmatization and exclusion.”ⁱ Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a little sanitary product house alongside the Little Free Pantry house and the Little Free Library, so people could just take what is needed??

Twenty-one states continue to charge a luxury tax on sanitary products. The tax ranges from 4% to 7%. Five states have no sales tax and the other 24 states have eliminated the state sales tax on these items. The first state to eliminate this was Minnesota in 1981 and the most recent was Texas in 2023. To find out where your state is, go to: <https://www.aclu.org/report/unequal-price-periods>.

Many restrooms in public spaces have stopped using the coin operated vending machines to supply hygiene products, but instead offer products in baskets on the sink counters. These are paper products and should be available for free just as toilet paper and paper towels are offered for free in all restrooms.

Incarcerated menstruating people face a whole other set of obstacles. Although most facilities provide a certain number of hygiene products per cycle, if a menstruating person has a heavier than normal flow, the products have to be purchased at the prison store. Most detained people cannot afford to buy products and so they do without often staining their clothing and sleeping space. Because of rules that restrict the use of laundry facilities, clothing and bedding must be used while stained, adding to the shame and humiliation felt by these people. A detainee expressed her anger and humiliation for having to beg for products and then having the guards laugh at her because she had her period. The ACLU has reported that some are forced to have sex with prison guards in order to have access to the products they need.ⁱⁱ

Most states have created legislation regarding hygiene products available to detainees, but it is up to the warden to abide by these laws. Some do not. Mostly the laws indicate that the detainees should be given adequate supplies for their monthly cycle for free. In some prisons, this is only 5 tampons or 5 pads per cycle when the average number of individual products used is 40.

Period injustice is Violence Against Women and Girls! The goal for this triennium is living in a world free from violence against women and children. There is so much for Presbyterian Women to do, and it is easily achieved.

Here is your TO-DO LIST!

1. Donate, donate, donate. When you give to your local shelter or food pantry, don't forget to include hygiene products. Buy a box of pads or tampons to put in with your Mac n Cheese and peanut butter.
2. If your church has a vending machine selling products, have the session remove it and then have PW take this on as a mission, keeping the baskets full for people to use. Sure, someone might come in and take all the product, fill it up again.
3. Find out if hygiene products are available at all public schools without cost and without request. Should a young person go to the nurse's office to ask for product, it should be available, without comment.
4. Visit public spaces in your community. The library, courthouse, state, local government offices, health departments. Make sure they are offering free products in the restrooms. If they don't, write to the “powers that be” and ask them to consider it. You may also offer PW management skills to keep the baskets full.

5. Build a “Little House” to put on your church property or set aside a plastic tote, in the out of doors and in a protected area where items can be placed for those in need. Advertise it!
6. Find out if your state continues to charge a luxury tax on product. Write to your legislature and ask that they change the law. It is an unfair law that taxes menstruating people for a normal biological function.
7. Contact your local prisons or jails to find out if your group can donate products to be given out to menstruating people for free. You might put 10 pads and 10 tampons in a Ziploc bag with a note of encouragement that expresses God’s love. Ask that these be made available for free and without restriction or request.
8. Check out the ACLU Period Equity Toolkit: <https://www.aclu.org/wp-content/uploads/legal-documents/121119-sj-periodequitytoolkit.pdf>
9. Church World Service is an organization that Presbyterian Women have a long and valued relationship with. They have developed a “Period Pack” and these will be given to people after a disaster. This is a great hands-on mission project for your PW. <https://cwskits.org/assemble-kits/period-packs/>

^{1 1} “The Unequal Price of Periods: Menstrual Equity in the United States, ACLU, 2019

¹ “The Unequal Price of Periods: Menstrual Equity in the United States, ACLU, 2019

Submitted by the Justice and Peace Committee

THE ROAD TO HEALING



BOZEMAN, Mont. — The *Road to Healing* tour that began in July 2022 in Anadarko, Oklahoma came to an end at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana on Sunday, November 5, 2023. The session was the 12th stop of The Road to Healing tour. Sunday's listening session was led by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Wizipan Little Elk Garriott (Rosebud Sioux Tribe).

The final listening session was one more piece of the Interior Department's collaborative efforts to address the intergenerational impact of federal Indian boarding schools and to promote spiritual and emotional healing in tribal communities across Indian Country.

The Interior Department's *Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative Investigative Report* (May 11, 2022), authored by Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Bryan Newland (Bay Mills Indian Community), **reported** there were 16 Indian boarding schools operated in Montana prior to 1969.

To read more, click here: Native News Online https://nativenewsonline.net/currents/final-road-to-healing-listening-session-held-in-bozeman-montana?utm_source=Native+News+Online&utm_campaign=5c9b96572a-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_11_24_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_dfd2540337-5c9b96572a-1431675815



TOGETHER IN SERVICE

By Pat McKisson, Committee Chair

‘Answering the call to be the hands and feet of Christ in the World.’

“Each one should use whatever gift one has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” (1 Peter 4:10)

The Together in Service Committee will highlight a mission which is embraced by the women of one of our churches in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies in each edition of the Sower. In this issue, we have chosen Hawthorne Helps, a mission supported by the **PW of First Presbyterian Church in Rochester, MN.**

The mission of Hawthorne Helps is “to provide support that affirms personal dignity, welcomes newcomers to our community, and encourages all students’ educational success.

They are a partnership between Rochester Public School’s Hawthorne Education Center and First Unitarian Universalist Church. There are numerous churches of all denominations in the Rochester area who help support the organization as well as service and business groups.

Their work provides classes for 500 learners, ages 17 and older, including programs in English as a Second Language, literacy, GED high school diploma, college prep, job training, and citizenship. Many of the people who come for help are immigrants with 85% living at or below the poverty level. Other services include:

1. Staffing a distribution event twice a month offering essential items that cannot be purchased with SNAP.
2. Collecting items for their Blue Barrel packs that include personal care products, cleaning supplies, paper products, school supplies, and seasonal items.
- 3 Collecting gift cards for distribution from Aldi’s, Dollar Tree, Menards and Walgreens.

With the help of so many organizations within the Rochester community, Hawthorne Helps is making a tremendous difference in the lives of immigrants and others who need help when there is no other resource available to them. God bless their work for many years to come.

‘TIS THE SEASON FOR THOUGHTS ON DONATIONS TO LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES:

We’re moving into the holiday season and many people will make donations to food banks. This offers some good insight. I spoke to people getting food at a food bank and here are some things I learned from those in need:

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which they also get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
4. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener in too or buy pop tops.
5. Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice a-Roni which they also get a lot of.
6. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
7. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
8. Sugar and flour are treats.
9. They fawn over fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.
10. Seeds are cool in Spring and Summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. They rarely get fresh meat.
12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
15. Butter or margarine is nice too.
16. Eggs are a real commodity.
17. Cake mix, and frosting makes it possible to make a child’s birthday cake.

18. Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.

19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.

20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

In all the years I have donated food at the holidays, I bought what I thought they wanted, but have never asked. I am glad I did.

2023-24 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). Please include a self-addressed and stamped postcard that can be returned to you as acknowledgement that items or donations were received.



Gather the Children Home - Wakanyeya Gluwitayan Otipi (Emergency Foster Care) Pine Ridge Reservation, Porcupine, South Dakota

Gather the Children Home is a culturally appropriate emergency foster care and safe 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 relative's home becomes available.

Items needed include: baby layettes, twin sheets and mattress pads, twin-sized tied-fleece blankets, crib sheets, towels and wash cloths. Also, ongoing financial support paying for monthly internet and phone expense or some other monthly expense.

These items can be shipped to the following address:

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://wakanyeyaotipi.org/>

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

Knit and crocheted infant hats are needed for newborns. Newborn baby hat patterns for hospitals can be found online.

Mail to: Emma Grey Bull, 367 Bernard Street, Agency Village, SD 57262



Iglutecha (*ee-gloo-teh-chah*) – a Lakota word meaning “to renew yourself”

PO Box 5005, Pine Ridge, SD 57770

Iglutecha, 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. Iglutecha 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 to support their vital work can be sent to:

Iglutecha, % Abram Neumann, PO box 5005, Pine Ridge, SD 57770

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

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 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. First scholarship has 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"*.

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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 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*.

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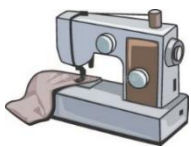
Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Hospital Renovation Project
PO Box 36, Walthill, NE (Omaha Reservation)



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, the exterior siding has been restored, and mold and asbestos have been removed from the interior. Funds are now needed to complete the interior restoration. Mail contributions to: Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Center, PO Box 36, Walthill, NE 68067

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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, 61 sewing machines, 3 sergers, and one embroidery machine 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.

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Bdecan Presbyterian Church – Vacation Bible School
Chandra Anderson, Ministries and Outreach Coordinator

Mailing Address: PO Box 141 Tokio, ND 58379

Phone: (701) 294-2283 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

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".

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Red Cloud Renewable

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

Red Cloud Renewable (RCR) helps address the severe housing crisis on the Pine Ridge Reservation with the construction of affordable, sustainable (cellular concrete), energy efficient, culturally compatible "dome homes" built by Native workers. RCR, through the Lakota Thiyuha Project, provides the workforce development and training of local Native people to construct these energy efficient homes, producing much needed jobs as well. RCR offers scholarships for students enrolling in their training programs as well as a lab environment for hands-on practice. It also incorporates Indigenous language, music, ceremony and culture in its training.

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>

FIRST PW SYNOD NATIVE AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Sonni Redday is our first PW Synod Native American Scholarship recipient! She was selected by the Sisseton Wahpeton College Scholarship Committee following the established criteria, to be awarded this \$500 scholarship. Sonni is a second semester freshman at Sisseton Wahpeton College in Sisseton, SD.

She introduces herself as "Sonni, pronounced like the bright yellow sun in the sky. . . currently a hard working full time student at Sisseton Wahpeton College with a major in behavioral science, and with a determination to receive my bachelors degree. . . I will be the counselor/therapist I've always dreamed of. It brings me so much joy knowing I will be assisting other individuals with their mental health, education, wellness, overcoming fears and trials, taking risks and making new milestones, and that's exactly what I will bring to the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate community. Today's generation needs it like no other. . . My goal is to start my own business, Christian counseling/therapy business, because I know for sure that through my hardest times the only thing that brought me peace and joy, and the only thing that got me through the battle was going to church. . . I want this to be a Christian based counseling center. . . not only for Christians, but the way we do things will be Christian like. . . I believe this could not only help individuals but better the community as a whole." Congratulations, Sonni!



The PW Synod Native American Concerns Committee (NACC) hopes this will be the first of many scholarships awarded to Native students attending Native colleges.

Our plan is to award another \$500 scholarship for spring semester in 2024 at Sisseton Wahpeton College and then expand our scholarship offerings to include a \$500 scholarship for fall 2024 and spring 2025 semesters to a student(s) attending Oglala Lakota College on Pine Ridge Reservation. In order to make this happen, your support of the "College Scholarships for Native Students Fund" is needed. 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".

DAKOTA PRESBYTERY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The women of Dakota Presbytery are meeting on the second Tuesday of each month for a virtual Women's Bible Study. Bible Study begins at 7PM (Central), 6PM (Mountain). All women of Dakota Presbytery are welcome to attend, so please share this information with anyone who might be interested in joining this informal, inspirational time together. It is held via Zoom, so location is not a problem. You can participate using your cell phone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer. Ernestine Ireland facilitates the Bible Study and Marilyn Stone sends out the Zoom link. The scripture passage discussed comes from "The Daily Bread" devotional. Sign up by sending an email or text to Marilyn at: mmstone52@att.net or 262-492-7921.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF DAKOTA PRESBYTERY

Presbyterian Women of Dakota Presbytery lead afternoon devotions under the leadership of Ernestine Ireland, during the Fall Presbytery Meeting on October 7, 2023. The meeting was held at Pejuhutazizi Presbyterian Church located on the Upper Sioux Dakota Community near Granite Falls, MN. (Photo by Ron McKinney)



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) LEADERS APOLOGIZE AND BEGIN REPARATIONS FOR 1962 CLOSURE OF JUNEAU CHURCH

An October 2021 overture for the 225th General Assembly addressed an act of historic injustice in Alaska: the 1963 closing of Memorial Presbyterian Church in Juneau, Alaska. The overture, "On Directing the Office of the General Assembly to Issue Apologies and Reparations for the Racist Closure of the Memorial Presbyterian Church, Juneau, Alaska," describes Memorial Presbyterian Church as "a thriving, multiethnic, intercultural church" that was closed "by the Alaska Presbytery (a predecessor of the Presbytery of the Northwest Coast), with the concurrence of the Presbyterian Church's Board of National Missions." Not only was this church closed, it was merged into what was at the time a majority white congregation, Northern Light Presbyterian Church, without any evidence of considering integrating leadership.

In October 2023, a PC(USA) contingent comprised of both national and mid council officials met in Juneau to issue apologies and reparations for the racist closure of Memorial Presbyterian Church in 1963. The weekend events included the unveiling of a memorial plaque at the site where Memorial Presbyterian Church did ministry in the community for 25 years. Sunday worship service included three public apologies, and in a sanctuary filled by many descendants of those who attended Memorial Church, eyes swelled with emotion during the 13-minute roll call of the 343 names of former members. A check was presented to the president of the Sealaska Heritage Institute and the \$200,000 will go to language revitalization efforts in Southeast Alaska for the Tlingit and Haida tribes. To learn more about the work done in the months leading up to this weekend and the work that remains to be done, check out these articles:

- 1) <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pcusa-delegation-rights-a-historic-wrong-in-juneau-alaska/>
- 2) <https://www.pcusa.org/news/2023/10/5/acting-stated-clerk-of-the-general-assembly-to-del/>

Serving is different from Helping and Fixing

Author: Rachel Naomi Remen

In recent years the question how can I help? has become meaningful to many people. But perhaps there is a deeper question we might consider. Perhaps the real question is not how can I help? but how can I serve?

Serving is different from helping. Helping is based on inequality; it is not a relationship between equals. When you help you use your own strength to help those of lesser strength. If I'm attentive to what's going on inside of me when I'm helping, I find that I'm always helping someone who's not as strong as I am, who is needier than I am. People feel this inequality. When we help we may inadvertently take away from people more than we could ever give them; we may diminish their self-esteem, their sense of worth, integrity and wholeness.

When I help, I am very aware of my own strength. But we don't serve with our strength, we serve with ourselves. We draw from all of our experiences. Our limitations serve, our wounds serve, even our darkness can serve. The wholeness in us serves the wholeness in others and the wholeness in life. The wholeness in you is the same as the wholeness in me. Service is a relationship between equals. Helping incurs debt. When you help someone they owe you one. But serving, like healing, is mutual. There is no debt. I am as served as the person I am serving. When I help I have a feeling of satisfaction. When I serve I have a feeling of gratitude. These are very different things.

Serving is also different from fixing. When I fix a person I perceive them as broken, and their brokenness requires me to act. When I fix I do not see the wholeness in the other person or trust the integrity of the life in them. When I serve I see and trust that wholeness. It is what I am responding to and collaborating with.

There is a distance between ourselves and whomever we are fixing. Fixing is a form of judgment. All judgement creates distance, a disconnection, an experience of difference. In fixing there is an inequality of expertise that can easily become a moral distance. We cannot serve at a distance. We can only serve that to which we are profoundly connected, that which we are willing to touch. This is Mother Teresa's basic message. We serve life not because it is broken but because it is holy.

Thoughts to Ponder From: Life Learned Feelings:

Hate has 4 letters, so does Love.

Enemies has 7 letters, so does Friends.

Lying has 5 letters, so does Truth.

Negative has 8, so does Positive.

Under has 5, so does Above.

Cry has 3 letters, so does Joy.

Anger has 5 letters, so does Happy.

Right has 5 letters, so does Wrong.

Hurt has 4 letters, so does Heal.

It means life is like double edged sword...so

Transform every negative side into an aura of positivity.

We should choose the better side of the life.

JOHN KNOX PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN gathered for their Fall Workshop on September 23, 2023 at First Presbyterian Church, Baraboo, Wisconsin. Our theme was "Carrying Each Other's Burdens," based on Galatians 6:2.



Our speaker, Sarah Campbell from Hope House of South Central Wisconsin, gave a wonderful presentation on "Healthy Aging."



JKPW Moderator Janine Brandt led our meeting and dedication of the Thank Offering.



Generous donations of supplies were collected for Hope House and for The Period Project.

PW SYNOD NEWS

- Rev. Teresa Bartlett of Wayne, NE was welcomed to the PWS Coordinating Team. Teresa is the new PWP Moderator for Homestead Presbytery. She will serve on the Inclusive Caring Committee.
- The First Presbyterian Church, 703 Greene Street, in Boone, Iowa 50036, is now a drop-off location for Church World Service for hygiene kits, period packs, disaster relief buckets, etc.
- The Together in Service Mission Booklet has been recognized by Churchwide and will be posted at presbyterianwomen.org. Updates will be added in January each year. The PW Synod's Together in Service committee is asking local PW groups, through their PWP Moderators, for the name(s) of service organizations they have partnered with in the past or present. The committee may wish to highlight these organizations in their booklet and in the Sower.
- The PWSCT will be sending to each presbytery's PW Treasurer a letter and a check for \$300. The funds are to help with expenses for women attending Churchwide next year. If funds are not used, PWP Treasurers are asked to return the check to the PWSCT Treasurer.

- PWSCT Moderator Louise Van Poll would like to receive the names of Presbyterian Women attending Churchwide as Synod is planning a luncheon at the Churchwide Gathering at a cost of \$15/person.
- A reminder to all PWP Moderators that the Annual Mission Fund (Mission Pledge) Presbytery form is due to PWS Moderator Louise Van Poll by December 3, 2024.
- The PWSCT meets in person, twice a year, and guests are welcome. If you would like to attend a PWSCT meeting, “scholarships are available to any Presbyterian Woman in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies for educational opportunities to be approved by the Administrative Team of the PWSCT, as funds are available” to assist with some of the travel expenses. Ask your PWP Moderator for more information.
- The next PWSCT in-person meeting is scheduled for April 12-14, 2024 in Sioux City, Iowa.
- Plans are moving forward for the 2025 PW Synod Gathering. The dates are June 12-15, 2025 at the Watertown (South Dakota) Event Center, with hotel accommodations at the Ramkota Hotel for \$114.99+tax per night. A pre-gathering trip is also being planned. If you are interested in serving on the planning committee or presenting a workshop, please contact the PWSCT Moderator Louise Van Poll.
The PWSCT has openings on search committee and Zoom Coordinator. If you or someone you know would like to fill those positions and join PWSCT, contact PWS Moderator Louise Van Poll or your PWP Moderator.
- Congratulations to Ernestine Ireland on her commission as CRE. Blessings for her CRE ministry in Dakota Presbytery.

Day of Gratitude (aka Thanksgiving Day)

Author Unknown from Country Living Magazine, 2022

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
Count your gains instead of your losses.
Count your joys instead of your woes;
Count your friends instead of your foes.
Count your smiles instead of your tears;
Count your courage instead of your fears.
Count your full years instead of your lean;
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.
Count your health instead of your wealth;
Count on God instead of yourself.





SYNOD of Lakes & Prairies PW Gathering

June 12-15, 2025 Watertown Event Center
Watertown, South Dakota

Pre-Gathering opportunities: Visit Lake Traverse Reservation or
Redlin Art Gallery or Coddington County Museum

Watch for details in the next *Sower* newsletter as speakers, workshops and details are available!

If you would like to volunteer to help plan this event, provide a workshop, or help with on-site details—we'd love to have you come on-board the planning team!

Thanks, Maggie Horak (PWSLAP Vice Moderator).



Recently, 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

The FPC in Luverne had a Family, Feast, & Fellowship Harvest Party after church, Sunday, October 29. The Sr High group had a delicious Harvest dinner followed by crafts, pumpkin painting, and games. Also in preparation for the Luverne Area Businesses and Organizations Trunk or Treat event on Halloween late afternoon, many treats were prepared. A good time was had by all!



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.

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS GIVING

The **Honorary Life Membership** program honors that faithful servant of PW on every level and to the church with the gift of a certificate and pin. The Honorary Life Membership pin symbolizes values held dear by Presbyterian Women. In addition to recognizing those dedicated women among us, the funds derived from Honorary Life Memberships support the PW Leadership Development Grant Program in many forms. Grants from this program enable individuals to engage in leadership development opportunities such as the (1) Churchwide Gathering, (2) Ecumenical Advocacy Days and (3) the UN Commission on the Status of Women. Encourage your PWs to participate in the Honorary Life Membership program.

Register today to attend a presentation on . . .

***The Pine Ridge Reservation:
It’s people, the land, and building relationships***



This presentation 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.

Date of presentation and discussion: November 20th
Daytime session begins at 1:30-3:00 PM (CST)
Evening session begins at 6:30-8:00 PM (CST)

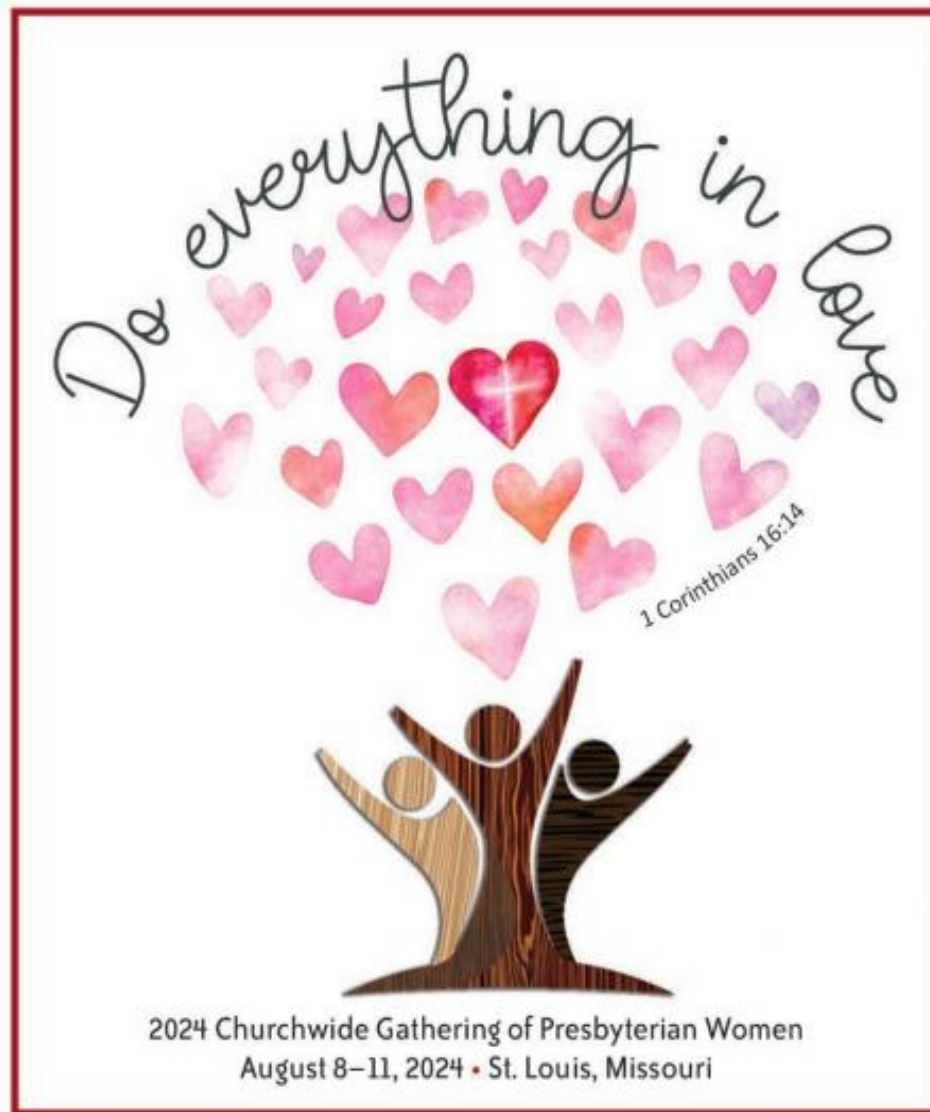
Have you wanted to learn more about the Pine Ridge Reservation. . .

- ⊕ Geography ⊕ Topography ⊕ Climate ⊕
- ⊕ Life on the Pine Ridge Reservation ⊕ The Oglala Lakota People ⊕
- ⊕ Challenges ⊕ Ways some challenges are being met ⊕
- ⊕ The three Presbyterian Church (USA) churches ⊕
- ⊕ Partnership opportunities that have been developed ⊕
- ⊕ Ways to build meaningful relationships ⊕

If so, consider joining in the conversation on Monday, November 20th!

Register by contacting Marilyn Stone at mmstone52@att.net
Provide the following information:

Name	Email address
Phone #	Presbytery
Report session of preference: Afternoon or Evening	



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

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.

A TRIENNIAL THEME WORTHY OF COMMITTING TO: 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 hand 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.



Let us not grow weary in our work toward a world absent of violence and terror perpetrated because of one's gender. Instead, let us be heartened by the courage taken, community of support built, and ceaseless action taken by girls, young women and women - and in our thoughts, words, and deeds join them, not only on this day of international celebration of women, but every day.

MS. CASEY HARDEN, GENERAL SECRETARY,
WORLD YWCA

You're invited to **Sit & Sip**

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

Sit & Sip events are held via Zoom – the next one is on December 2nd at 11 AM Central Time.

Our topic for discussion is: Murdered & Missing Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit People.

So grab your favorite beverage, relax in your favorite chair and join the discussion.

Register by contacting Kathleen Keefer at kathleenkeefe.pw@gmail.com. A zoom link and resource materials will be sent to you several days before the event.



**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>



2023 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN JUSTICE & PEACE CALENDAR

November, 2023 & December, 2023`


We are called to share god's love with the world, by being god's hands in the world. we answer god's call to "do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God" (Micah 6:8). Remember, every Thursday is an opportunity to participate in Thursdays in Black. See oikoumene.org/what-we-do/thursdays-in-black

NOVEMBER - Native American Heritage Month; archives.gov/news/topics/native-american-heritage-month or nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov

- 6–12 Children's Book Week; everychildareader.net/cbw
- 12 Hunger and Homelessness Sunday; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/hunger
- 13 World Kindness Day; randomactsofkindness.org/world-kindness-day
- 13 J&P Book Discussion Group online, 6:30–8:30 PM (Eastern) on Wind River (2017 film featuring Jeremy Renner and Elizabeth Olsen). Register at presbyterianwomen.org/justice
- 20 Universal Children's Day; un.org/en/observances/world-childrens-day
- 23 Thanksgiving; americanindian.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/thanksgiving_poster.pdf or presbyterianmission.org/resource/just-living-alternative-thanksgiving-ideas
- 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women; un.org/en/events/endviolenceday or unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action
- 25 thru Dec 10 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence; unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism


DECEMBER


- 1 World AIDS Day; presbyterianmission.org/resource/presbyterian-aids-awareness-sunday-worship-materia
- 5 International Volunteer Day; un.org/en/observances/volunteer-day
- 10 International Human Rights Day; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Rights_
- 18 International Migrants Day; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Migrants_
- 25 Christmas; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/nativity-lord-christmas





2024 Book Discussion Group

JUSTICE and PEACE

 **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.

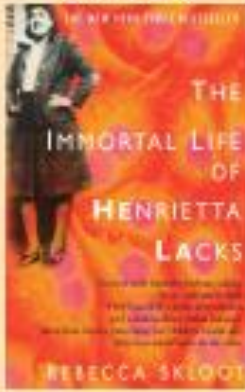


To register, scan the QR code with your smart phone or go to presbyterianwomen.org/justice-peace.

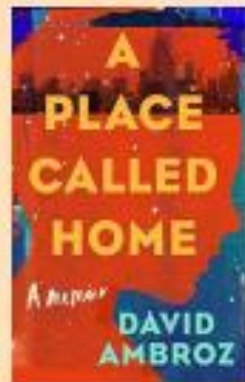
Reading Selections

(6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Eastern Time)


JANUARY 8




JULY 8




MARCH 11




SEPTEMBER 9



MAY 13



NOVEMBER 11



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



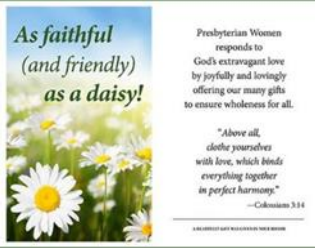
Introducing Presbyterian Women's *Build a Bouquet* FUNdraiser

PW's *Build a Bouquet* campaign invites us to celebrate all the individuals and programs that help Presbyterian Women bloom in so many spectacular ways and places. Funds received through this campaign will build PW's Annual Fund, which supports all PW ministries and programs, at all levels of the organization.

Bouquets

Beginning in May 2023 through the Churchwide Gathering in August 2024, gifts to Presbyterian Women's *Build a Bouquet* campaign will be recognized with a virtual bouquet. Bouquets will be digitally displayed at the Churchwide Gathering and via other PW communications.

Seven bouquet options + one community garden are available!

	Flower	Amount
	Carnations	\$10.00
	Lillies (memorial)	\$10.00
	Tulips	\$25.00
	Daisies	\$35.00
	Sunflowers	\$45.00
	Mixed bouquet	\$55.00
	Roses	\$100.00
	Community garden	\$500.00

For each gift to the PW *Build a Bouquet* campaign, a card (in honor or in memory of) will be available to print and mail, download and email, or email directly with a personalized message.

Build your bouquet (or learn more) at presbyterianwomen.org/bouquet.

Or, send a check with additional information (the bouquet option you choose, your name and address, email address and telephone number) to: Presbyterian Women, Inc., Remittance Processing—Giving, PO Box 643652, Pittsburgh PA 15264-3652.

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

GIVE TO PW's ANNUAL FUND

WE PAUSE TO PRAY...

Eternal God,

We gather as Christians, who love each other and love this world. Our hearts are burdened by the violence we witness in nations far away and in neighborhoods close to home. We grieve when your people suffer, and your peaceable kingdom seems like an impossible dream. It's just too much, at times,

O God. We'd much rather keep our heads down and push on, pretending that all is okay.

And yet, you call. You call us not to close ourselves off from the pain and the suffering of the world. You call us to stay human, to care for the suffering, to seek understanding and not dehumanize enemies as objects, easy to dismiss.

You know our history of complicated conflicts, tense polarization, and situations so politicized that we are afraid to say or pray anything. Yet we know you grieve the violence of war and condemn abhorrent acts of terrorism. As war rages in the Holy Land, we know you grieve the historical suffering of Jews and Palestinians. May our prayers for peace be uttered out loud for all to hear, our prayers for diplomacy, and for difficult, yet faithful conversation to resume.

God, we also groan in grief over the ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia. Pave a path toward peace in this tragic conflict, and all wars happening across the globe. Protect the innocent wherever bombs of destruction fall. God of grace, even as wars rage, there is suffering close to home, as well. We pray for those who worry about loved ones and care for their sick. We pray for the exhausted, the depressed, the grief-stricken who we count among our friends and family. We pray for the poor and marginalized. We pray for the angry and overlooked.

Holy One, in a world so broken and in need of love, you do not leave us without hope. Your scriptures help us glimpse your vision for our future; a vision of our planet redeemed and renewed, a vision of peace and comfort where death, crying and pain will be no more. You are at work in our world making all things new. God our savior, we place our trust in this hopeful promise, even as we live, trying our faithful best to be Christ's body; his hands, his feet — sharing your love with others. Amen.

Teri McDowell Ott and Presbyterian Outlook



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Click here to download this card: https://pcusactr-my.sharepoint.com/personal/stephanie_morris_pcusa_org/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fstephanie%5Fmorris%5Fpcusa%5Forg%2FDocuments%2FPW%20Christmas%20Cards%2F2023%20PW%20Christmas%20Cards%20FA%2Epdf&parent=%2Fpersonal%2Fstephanie%5Fmorris%5Fpcusa%5Forg%2FDocuments%2FPW%20Christmas%20Cards&ga=1

Current PW-SLAP Coordinating Team Officers – changes are highlighted**Moderator**

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Terri Sherman
Terri.sherman@zoetis.com

PWP Moderator -- Gathering site

THE SOWER

As of 4/15/2023

PWSCT Moderators/Reps. 2023-24

CHANGES ARE HIGHLIGHTED

Central Nebraska-Moderator/Rep

VACANT

Dakota – Moderator/Rep

Ernestine Ireland

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The logo for 'The Sower' is presented in a stylized, white serif font against a solid black rectangular background. The text is centered within the rectangle.

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