



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

The Sower

Newsletter for the Presbyterian Women

in the Synod of Lakes & Prairies

November 2016

Editor: Linda Barnett

Message from our Moderator

Greetings Presbyterian Women of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies!



The mercury in your old outdoor thermometers may be readily dropping and the leaves rapidly falling this time of year, but Presbyterian Women's actions are far from following that pattern of decline! We are hoping you are still reeling from the inspiration of the Synod Gathering in June. It's easy to put away your notes and resources, so now is a good time to dig them out of your bags and try a few ideas with your PWP Coordinating teams or circles. Watch the "temperature" of enthusiasm and renewal rise when you try new things!

How is your PW "temperature?" It doesn't hurt to take a reading once in a while, making sure it stays healthy and enthusiasm remains at a high level. Let's gauge ourselves according to the four commitments in the PW Purpose:

- Am I taking the time to nurture my faith through prayer and Bible study? *Who is Jesus*, our Horizon Bible Study for this year, brings a greater understanding of the one who has forgiven and freed us from our sin. There is great individual and church growth when we come together to learn!
- Am I supporting the mission of the church worldwide? The thing that impresses me the most about this organization is how informed and concerned women are about those beyond their own neighborhoods. Read further in this issue about all types of Mission opportunities through hands on projects; education through a daily reading from the Mission Yearbook online; and explore new ways to serve others through monetary giving to the annual mission pledge.
- Am I working for justice and peace? Being from a Synod in the Midwest USA we have new challenges in which to participate and make a long-lasting difference for those who have been oppressed. See information in this issue about our Native American sisters and find some means to assist in a peaceful manner for change and justice. One person can do so much.
- Am I doing my part to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the PC (USA) and witness to the promise of God's kingdom? Find a way you can construct, not obstruct, and exhibit the hopefulness Christ brings to *all* lives not just those who are at our side.

Our Horizon's magazine beautifully illustrates ways women in the Presbyterian Church are edifying others spiritually, morally, and intellectually!

How was your PW temperature? Have you caught the fever? Are you lukewarm? Below normal? Now that you've taken a reading using the four commitments above, continue reading this ***The Sower*** to find some ways to restore your PW health. It will energize you!



Walking alongside you,
Sue Kimball, PW Synod moderator

Mark your calendars:

March 3, 2017 - World Day of Prayer – “Am I being unfair to you?” by the women of the Philippines – see: www.wpd-usa.org

March 27-31, 2017 - PW mission trip to Presbyterian Home for Children in Talladega, AL Application deadline February 27, 2017 see: <http://www.pcusa.org/resource/pw-home-for-children-tour-application/>

April 20-22, 2017 - PWSCT meeting at First Presbyterian Church, Oskaloosa, IA

October-November, 2017 Women of the Reformation tour

August 2-5, 2018 - PW Churchwide Gathering at Galt House Hotel in Louisville, KY

2019 - USA Mission Experience in the Synod of the Northeast

Ferncliff Mission Trip - Disaster Preparedness Training

Submitted by Linda Barnett, *The Sower* Editor

Ferncliff is a remarkable Presbyterian camp. It is growing rather than struggling. It has a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) warehouse where disaster kits are assembled and distributed; an eco center (a green building) where the Synod of the Sun's Solar Under the Sun training takes place; a nature preschool; as well as a traditional camp and a teen camp. I was impressed ... but what I want to speak about is our PW mission trip.

The last week of October eight PW's stayed in the eco center and participated in a mission trip. The purpose of the mission trip was to assemble disaster kits, be trained in disaster preparedness by PDA, and visit some of Little Rock's sites. These eight women came from Kentucky, Minnesota, Texas, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, and Arkansas. Three joined us for the PDA training from Arkansas and Wisconsin. Maggie Horak from Homestead Presbytery; Marilyn Stone from Milwaukee Presbytery; and Linda Barnett from South Dakota Presbytery were included in the training. But first we worked on the 1222 hygiene kits we brought. We also brought more than 50 school kits and one cleaning bucket. Tuesday we boxed over 1000 hygiene kits – ready for shipment.

Wednesday we experienced PDA training. Marilyn Stone joined us since she was volunteering at Ferncliff at that time. Our trainers were Liz Branch and Kathy Morris. We spent a full eight hours learning about preparing for disasters that may occur within our church communities or in the area surrounding our church communities. At the end we were commissioned as trainers. We are now charged with spreading the word – helping others prepare and plan for disasters. If your PWC, PWP, church, etc. would like to learn more about Disaster Preparedness contact Maggie (mmhlin@msn.com), Marilyn (mmstone52@att.net), or Linda (barnelim@hotmail.com) to arrange a visit. All three are on the PWSCT so their contact information is at the end of the newsletter.



The third day we visited the Heifer Project Office, the Clinton Library, and the Little Rock Central High School National Historical Site. It was another educational day.

We had a wonderful time together, learned a lot, gained friends, and came away as commissioned disaster preparedness trainers ready to speak to people about preparing for disasters. If you would like to hear what we have to say, please contact one of us. And if you're ever near Little Rock, visit Ferncliff.

Word by Word

Submitted by Helen McMasters, PWS Historian

RECEIVE

the gift that is offered
what you need for now
the challenge you didn't choose
teaching where you find it
 like a child
 forgiveness
as graciously as you give

FOLLOW

the rules
before you lead
when it's your turn to bring up the rear
 your nose
 your bliss
leaders you love
the inward path

ENJOY

the moment
the process
the company you encounter
 the body you live in
 other's gifts
those you were given to love
 the long journey

DARE

to face the future
to consider others' judgments
 to admit honest failure
to confront your inner critic
 to protest abuse of power
to speak when it's called for
 to endure what you must

ACCEPT

what you cannot change
 the terms of time
 the body's demands
the open spaces left by loss
 even those you avoid
 your assignment
 the invitation

WELCOME

the day
the stranger
correction
 change
the new season
the thing you fear
 the little ones

Arise, shine your light has come! Isaiah 60:1

2018 PW Churchwide Gathering. August 2-5, 2018 @ Galt House Hotel, Louisville, Ky.

Put on your creative hat! Write a prayer, litany, devotion, skit, puzzle, or something else to promote the Gathering on "light" or the theme "Arise, shine your light has come!"

Submit your idea to: Carissa Herold, PW staff @ 100 Witherspoon Street, Room 3063A, Louisville, KY 40202 or email: Carissa.Herold@pcusa.org



Ask Ms. PW

Dear Ms. PW,

What is the PW Mission Pledge and where do our mission pledge dollars go?

Dear PW Moderator,

In PW's Mission Pledge packet for 2017 the words **PW's Annual Fund** have been added. They "convey the very big truth about the Mission Pledge: **that it is the financial lifeblood of Presbyterian Women**". These words, spoken by Carol Winkler, the 2015-2018 PW Churchwide Moderator, are found on page 1 of the Mission Pledge packet you all have received or can get by visiting www.presbyterianwomen.org/missionpledge for an electronic copy of this packet. Carol states that "the Mission Pledge is second- and third-mile giving-gifts given in circles, online and through estates and bequests." It funds nearly every PW ministry including Churchwide Gathering, Horizons Bible study and magazine, the Churchwide Coordinating Team, presbytery-and synod-level PW programming, ecumenical participation, the Churchwide staff. She continues to talk about the special offerings such as the Thank Offering and the Birthday Offering. Please read the rest of Carol's important message. She concludes with how much your support matters. How your gifts "ensure PW's continued vibrant witness and ministries". **Ms. PW**

Susan Ingles – 2017 Global Exchange to Indonesia

Susan will represent The Synod of Lakes and Prairies in the Global Exchange to Indonesia in 2017. From Fayetteville, Iowa, Susan is a co-moderator and treasurer of her PWC circle and a member of the John Knox Presbytery. She is retired from nursing and 'has felt God's call to branch out in new areas.'

This is a quote from Susan about the trip:

"I am thrilled to be our Synod representative for the Global Exchange trip to Indonesia in 2017. What an opportunity to meet women of another country and culture and learn about their lives, struggles, and how we can make a difference for them."

Susan's trip will cost \$5000 and as members of the Presbyteries and the Synod, we can help her by sending funds to Jan Nelson, the Synod Treasurer. Checks should be written to PW Synod of Lakes and Prairies with Global Exchange written in the memo portion of the check.

The wonderful thing about this exchange is that a woman from Indonesia will be a guest in our Synod one week prior to the Churchwide Gathering in Louisville in 2018. As Presbyterian Women, we have the ability to invite Susan to speak at any Gatherings or church meetings for two years following the Exchange. Plan now to support and learn along with Susan.



Mission - Peace and Justice Corner

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies stand with 'water protectors' of Standing Rock

More than 4,000 Native Americans, Iowa clean water advocates, and now Presbyterian Women of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies are standing in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in their efforts to protect the waters of the Missouri and the Mississippi. To see a copy of the letter our PWSCT approved, go to our website: http://www.lakesandprairies.org/files/274_2016_pw_bakken_oil_protectors.pdf (underscores, not spaces – or just click on the blue to go to the website)

Sue Medske-Nedderman can do a presentation on her trip September 2016 to San Francisco. Contact her at s.medske.nedderman@gmail.com This trip focused on human trafficking, domestic violence, and immigration issues. She stayed at Mercy Center in Burlingame, CA, a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy. She provides this list of websites for our information.

WEBSITES FROM USA Mission Experience

Trafficking:

www.slaveryfootprint.org - put in your purchases and it shows how many slaves it took to make it
www.betterworldshopper.org , www.goodguide.com - look up companies to see how their products use slaves
www.fairtradeusa.com – find fair trade companies

Women's issues:

www.citiesforcedaw.org – help your town or city pass local ordinances to support CEDAW (the UN Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women)

Immigration:

www.detentionwatch.org

November 25 is **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls**. But don't stop there! That day also begins **16 Days of Activism to End Gender-based Violence**. What can you do about violence against women?

- Contact your local women's shelters and respond to their needs.
- Join www.onebillionrising.org, which asks "Why are good men silent?"
- Plan ahead for Courageous Conversations in 2017.
- Observe Orange Days, the 25th of each month, to raise awareness of the global campaign to end VAWG.
- Visit <http://16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu/> to learn more about 16 Days.
- Find more links/ideas at www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice .

Human Trafficking in our own Backyard – Des Moines TV Report

<http://m.kcci.com/news/human-trafficking-sting-hits-close-to-home/42202360>

January 11 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. PW urges action around the issue of human trafficking during the week of January 7–14 and throughout the year.

Justice & Peace are promoting Educate a Child....this email is about Teen Read.

You may find our PW reading list at <http://www.pcusa.org/resource/presbyterian-women-childrens-reading-list/> This is part of an email from our Churchwide Moderator, Carol Winkler.

Friends,

I don't often sign up for email info from businesses, but one that has proved useful is from a local bookstore. It made me aware of **TEEN READ WEEK - October 9-15** <http://teenreadweek.ning.com> is the website where you can find more information. Since our justice and peace committee brought the focus of literacy for the Educate a Child-Transform the World Initiative, I thought this would be a quick reminder this fall about our commitment to help improve children's literacy- not only with younger children, but teens.

One of my favorite books for teens is **STAR GIRL**, by Jerry Spinelli. The story is about a teen who is on the fringes of her classmates and is very observant about the people around her. Secretly she does random acts of kindness to help others. It not only changes their look on life as a teen, but some choose to also offer something to others. Check out other books on the PW list (ATTACHED) that was developed last year. Talk to a teen about taking time for pleasure reading. It is so hard with all the pressures of school work. Developing readers is important at all ages! Maybe you know a teen who would love the gift of a book or a ride to the library to pick up a good read for the school fall breaks (Many schools have a long weekend for a fall break). I hope this will inspire you to also find something new to read or maybe read with a younger child.

Carol Winkler, PW Churchwide Moderator

Native American Concerns Corner

First Presbyterian Church Rochester reaches out to kids going into Foster Care

My name is Joe Obermeyer. I work full time as the Youth and Outreach Coordinator at Bdecan Presbyterian Church, outside of Tokio, ND, on the Spirit Lake Reservation. A big part of my job is being in communication throughout the year with mission teams coming in the summer.

The Rochester Presbyterian Women's group wanted to leave something with the community once they left. After doing some research, we decided that one of the biggest needs was for the kids going into foster care on the Spirit Lake Reservation. Some of these kids go into foster care with very little or sometimes nothing. The group from First Presbyterian Church Rochester wanted to change this. They packed up children's clothes, diapers, toiletries, and about 50 tie blankets for the kids that were in the most need on the Spirit Lake Reservation. They connected with First Presbyterian Church of Ely, and Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in Renville, MN, to do this project together.

Ten ladies from First Presbyterian Church in Rochester, MN, came to Bdecan Presbyterian Church outside of Tokio, ND, on the Spirit Lake Reservation to do a Vacation Bible School Program July 26-31, and deliver all of the supplies.

We at Bdecan want to thank the ladies and PW's from the Synod of Lakes and Prairies who helped with this project. Without the work of many groups, this project would not have been done.



Ashley (foster Care Development Spirit Lake Reservation) With Marylynn and Heide (Rochester MN mission team)

From Marylynn Aalderks, First Presbyterian Church, Rochester, MN:

July 26-31 2016, ten women from First Presbyterian Church in Rochester, Minnesota, made a return trip to the Bdecan Presbyterian Church in Tokio, North Dakota. We first went in 2015 providing Vacation Bible School at the Tokio Activity Center for the children of the Bdecan Presbyterian Church and the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation. Last year, we partnered with Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in Renville, Minnesota. This year our church was able to provide VBS right at the Bdecan Church and we partnered with the Bdecan church. The theme of Bible School was "Jesus is the Light". We utilized Bible stories, music, crafts and games to teach the lessons. The children were very involved in all the activities! Nourishing breakfast treats and fruit were provided in the morning and a nourishing lunch was provided at noon. While at the Bdecan Church, we had activities coordinated with the women of both the Bdecan Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church in Devils Lake. Joe Obermeyer, the youth pastor from the Bdecan Presbyterian Church helped us plan our trip, coordinated our visit and was an important part of our VBS team!



If your church would be interested in providing VBS to the Bdecan Church and starting a relationship with the members of the church, please contact Joe Obermeyer <bdecanpresbyterianchurch@yahoo.com>

From Donna Preston, Native American Concerns: The following is a link to an article written by a young lady for a college paper. Amanda is a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Alexandria, VA, the church that is the key financial supporter for the youth and outreach coordinator at Bdecan Presbyterian Church. Amanda was at Spirit Lake Reservation and Bdecan Presbyterian Church this summer on a mission trip. This article is probably one of the best articles I have read about what is happening at Cannonball with the Dakota Access Pipeline. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. Blessings.

<http://wfuogb.com/2016/09/white-house-dakota-access-intervention-is-commendable/>

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies plus PC(USA) have called us to pray with the Oceti Sakowin for Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and their supporters. Please pray for:

- The earth and all the resources the Creator has provided;
- Wisdom, courage, and strength for Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and for its Chairman David Archambault and his family;
- Strength and courage for the Water Protectors and their families;
- Peace and unity at the camps;
- The provision of food, water, and shelter and the meeting of other needs for the Water Protectors , particularly those remaining to witness in winter;
- Wisdom and vision for those people working on the legal battles being fought to halt and stop this pipeline and to honor the sovereignty of Native peoples;
- Patience and willingness to rely on nonviolence for the government and corporate authorities involved; and
- The leaders of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies as they collect, and discern where to best use funds for the camps and Water Protectors.

For those wishing to support the Water Protectors financially, contributions may be sent to the

Synod of Lakes and Prairies
2115 Cliff Drive
Eagan, MN 55122

Make check payable to Synod of Lakes and Prairies and note on check: Dakota Access Pipeline #2087. The Synod will send a confirmation to the donor that the funds were received and then again with information about where they were distributed. Please make sure to include your name and address on the check unless already printed on it.

Sonia Weston shared she was thankful for the support given to the Sweet Grass project during the Synod Gathering. She thought of another possible project PW could help with. A children's home in Oglala, SD, on the Pine Ridge Reservation is being started as an emergency foster care home for children age 1 to 12. There is a shortage of foster care homes for children. Barbara Dull Knife is the founder and there is a board overseeing it. It is called Wakanyeja Gluwitayan Otipi and the website for it is www.gatherourchildrenhome.org (Side note: several people met to brainstorm about writing Thank Offering grants next year for this place plus listing it on Churchwide and our Synod list as a Together In Service mission project).

Hope

Submitted by Annabelle Wells, Central Nebraska Moderator

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13 The word “hope” is found twice in that one verse—“God of hope” and that you may “abound in hope.”

God is a God of hope! We are created in God’s image. Hope blossoms into faith, belief, and trust. God gives us joy and peace. What amazing gifts: the energizing gift of hope from God, the gift of joy and the gift of peace. We are blessed!

God’s blessing of hope gives us strength and guidance. In Jesus’s resurrection, death was conquered. God’s gift is life. When our hope lessens, we can go to God for its replenishment. God’s purposes for the world will finally succeed.

May our prayer for the coming days be*:

May the God of hope go with us every day,
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way
Bringing light and hope to every land and race
Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;
Working for a world that’s new, faithful when we hear Christ’s call.

*words from #765 Glory to God, 2013 “Song of Hope”



The theme for the Gathering is **“Arise, shine, your light has come,”** based on Isaiah 60:1. The 2018 Gathering logo features these words and a bright yellow sunflower (PW logo as the stamens) against an equally bright sky.

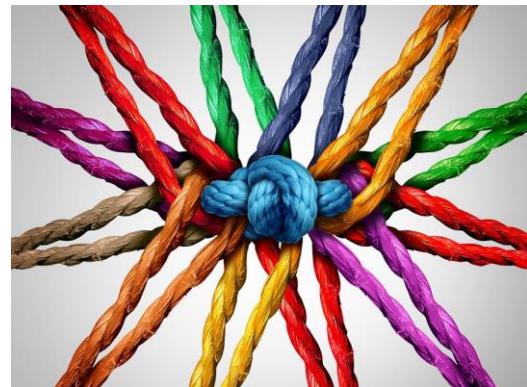
The sunflower is a perfect symbol for Presbyterian Women. Presbyterian Women, like sunflowers, live for the Light. In fact, sunflowers are known to “follow the sun,” turning toward the light, a phenomenon known as heliotropism. Sunflowers are native to North America but can now be found all over the world. There are several types of sunflowers—some tall, others short—but all sunflowers are hardy and serve as a reminder of the light!

Presbyterianmission.org

Have you ever wondered how to get Presbyterian Mission news easily and at your fingertips? You can now subscribe to many different **free** e-newsletters at presbyterianmission.org online. Topics of special interest to our Presbyterian Women are: mission and disaster response; advocacy and social justice; salt and light; path and peace; Daily Mission yearbook devotionals (free); and excerpts from *Presbyterian Today* magazine. Subscribe on the *News and Communication* page and enjoy the convenience of delivery to your personal inbox. A must for leaders!

PW's Mission Pledge: Ripples of Impact

Presbyterian Women's Mission Pledge, the annual fund of PW, begins with a prayer and a gift, in circles and outside of them. Every dollar given supports PW at all levels of the organization—refreshments in your church, guest speakers at Presbytery gatherings, publishing *HORIZONS* magazine and Bible Study, Churchwide participation (including the triennial gatherings and the mission tours, the Global Exchange, and the USA Mission Experience), and so much more.



**2017 Mission Pledge
of Presbyterian Women
PW's ANNUAL FUND**

As "one body, one spirit", Presbyterian women come together every three years at the Churchwide Gathering to celebrate, worship, learn, and guide the organization. Although the participants pay a registration fee, the **Mission Pledge** supports much of the cost of the Gathering.

The ripple effect of a Global Exchange and USA Mission Experience is exemplified by the relationships established. Alexis Presseau Maloof, reflecting on her participation in the 2010 USA Mission Experience to South Dakota says, "Visiting churches in the Dakota Presbytery, and at Pine Ridge and Sisseton-Wahpeton Indian Reservations created bonds that remain strong and opened new paths to understanding our Native PW sisters."

PW's Mission Pledge does so much for so many. As you give and encourage giving, please prayerfully consider the many people, programs and possibilities that are transformed or made possible by and because of the **Mission Pledge**. Your gift can ensure the ripples of impact and passion continue well into the future.

Prayer for Circles and Leaders to say at time of requesting the Mission Pledge:

Our heavenly Father, we are so grateful for the opportunity to give to the PW Mission Pledge. Our gift supports PW and all the wonderful programs here in the US and around the world. With our gifts, the possibilities are endless. We are truly able to become your hands and feet in the world to do your work. The PW Mission Pledge not only helps people directly, but reaches out through generations like the ripples on the surface of a lake. We rejoice in the many people who are touched and transformed by and because of the Mission Pledge. May Presbyterian Women continue to be your good and faithful servants. Praise be to God! Amen.

Editor's Note: Changes in Moderator positions that should receive "The Sower" should be sent to the PWS Secretary: [Kathleen Keefer](mailto:KLKeefer@mail.com)

Please include as copy furnished to:
Patricia Longfellow at Patricia.Longfellow@pcusa.org

Anyone who wants to either stop or start a subscription to "The Sower" may just send a request to the new Editor, Linda, at thesower.slap@yahoo.com

What newsletter would be complete without its advertisements? Here's our advertisement complete with a model thanks to Kay Olson (notice the beautiful quilt in the background – made by our sisters in the Dakota Presbytery):

PW Marketplace

Order from PDS 800-524-2612 or <http://store.pcusa.org> Prices do not include shipping/handling (10% of order total, \$5.25 minimum, \$65 maximum).

PW bandana (22" x 22") in blue (item PWR16424) and orange (item PWR16425), each \$5. Orange is the color for the campaign to end violence against women and girls, so wear your orange bandana on Orange Day (the 25th of each month) in solidarity with women worldwide.



The *PW Manual: A Guide for Groups* is available in both print and electronic editions. Among the advantages of the electronic edition: you pay no shipping.

You may order the print edition (item PWR16120, \$6.00) from Presbyterian Distribution Service by calling toll-free <800/524-2612> or ordering online at www.pcusa.org/store.

To order the electronic edition (item PWR16121, \$6.00), please order online at www.pcusa.org/store. (Upon purchase of the electronic edition from www.pcusa.org/store, you will receive an email with a link to the PDF download. The file may be saved on the purchaser's computer.)

Stay tuned! *PW Manual: A Guide for Treasurers* will be available later this year as a free download from the PW website, www.presbyterianwomen.org!

Legacy Christmas CDs Still Available

Legacy Christmas: Treasured Carols of the Kirk, released in 2013, and *Legacy Christmas: Nativity Carols and Hymns*, released in 2014 are still available for purchase; proceeds benefit PW and Living Waters for the World. *Treasured Carols of the Kirk*, item PWR16200, \$12; *Nativity Carols and Hymns*, item PWR16201, \$12. Order from PDS.

(Editor's note: I really like my set!!)

<https://www.amazon.com/Advent-Color-Sound-Beloved-Carols/dp/1612619142/>

leads you to an Advent Coloring Calendar for the 24 days before Christmas. Includes a CD of carols and readings.

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Our fearless leader,
Sue Kimball

Care to Share Corner

This was submitted by Carol Shaw of Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Indianola, Iowa:

When sending Christmas cards this year, add a recovering American soldier to your list by sending a card to:

A Recovering American Soldier
C.O. Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue
NW Washington D.C. 20307-5001

This section will be provided by any Presbyterian Woman who would like to offer ideas related to mission, service, anything that would be beneficial to others and should be shared, rather than kept to herself. Send these to your Sower editor, Linda Barnett thesower.slap@yahoo.com

Shopping Amazon? Don't forget to support Presbyterian Women each time you shop Amazon. Amazon donates 0.5 % of your purchase to PW!
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<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/pw/> **watch for the new www.presbyterianwomen.org**

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<http://www.pcusa.org/resource/pw-staff-who-ya-gonna-call/>

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies website, find a link to “The Sower” there too.

<http://www.lakesandprairies.org/>

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