

The Sower

Newsletter for the Presbyterian Women

in the Synod of Lakes & Prairies

January 2018

Editor: Linda Barnett

Dear Presbyterian Women of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies,

It is a humbling experience, as your moderator, to grace each issue of *The Sower* with a message to you! It is a task that I take seriously and with some trepidation, relying on the Spirit's leading.

There seems to be a lot of "wringing of the hands" in PW circles, church pews, Presbytery and Synod PW Coordinating team meetings these days. "Our numbers are dwindling, both in attendance and giving. What are we going to do?", "Nobody wants to take a PW office. How are we going to find someone?", "Who is going to carry on the leadership of women in the church? I don't see any future..." You can hear the sweat dripping from the wringing, can't you?

There is blessed assurance awaiting us through the power of God who can turn the impossible into new life! Life beyond our imagination. Life beyond our hopelessness. Life where we least expect it. Life comes from those whom we least expect and comes from you and me when we lean on the Spirit. We will encounter challenges that seem overwhelming. John Calvin wrote: "*Although no ordinary way of obtaining deliverance is apparent to us, let us learn to lean on the Lord, who will find a way through impassable places.*"

We often rely on our own self-efforts to support ourselves and be self-sufficient. This is an admirable worldly accomplishment for success. But, it can create a stagnancy; a lack of growth; and a focusing on ourselves rather than God's direction for our PW organizations and the church.

"Faith means letting go of all attempts to manage things ourselves. This is the freedom that God has gifted us with - we do not have to try to accomplish things on our own. Instead, we trust God in Christ. A little acronym for the word "faith" reminds us of faith's basic nature. Faith means **F**-forsaking; **A**-all; **I**-I; **T**-trust; **H**-him, or "Forsaking all, I trust him." *

How about joining hands as a Presbyterian Women "body" and together reposition those hands from a wringing posture to a posture of prayer, and watch this valuable group that we belong to transform before our eyes? Be on the lookout for your part in this new life of PW.

I would be remiss to not mention the work of our PW Churchwide Gathering planning team of women and the evidence of life in our Synod PW found in the following pages of *The Sower*. God is always at work in us. Take advantage of renewal, inspiration and fellowship by registering for the Churchwide Gathering in Louisville in August. God's Spirit is alive and well!

Praying with you for PW's on-going ministry,

Sue Kimball

Moderator of the PW Synod of Lakes and Prairies Coordinating Team



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Mark your calendars:

- January 15, 2018 - Registration opened for Churchwide Gathering - Registration cost is \$425. Room rate is (plus tax) \$144 per room or \$159 per suite. Synod lunch is \$32 - \$16 to be reimbursed by PWSLAP.
- March 2, 2018 - World Day of Prayer - Suriname
- April 13-15, 2018 - PWSCT meets at First Presbyterian Church in St. Cloud, MN
- July 22-27, 2018 - Synod School in Storm Lake, IA
- August 1, 2018 - PDA/PW Disaster Preparedness Training – Louisville, KY
- August 2-5, 2018 - PW Churchwide Gathering at Galt House Hotel in Louisville, KY
- Oct 19-21, 2018 - PWSCT meets at Presbyterian Church of the Master in Omaha, NE
- April 5-7, 2019 - PWSCT meets at Ames, IA
- June 20-23, 2019 - PW Synod Gathering at Gateway Hotel and Conference Center, Ames, IA
- Fall 2019 - USA Mission Experience in the Synod of the Northeast - Cuyuga Syracuse, Geneva and Genesee Valley presbyteries
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PEACE WILL COME

Submitted by Lana Schultz

*Let us then pursue what makes for peace
And for mutual upbuilding. Romans 14:19*

Peace will come when people see
All people as the same,
And no one has to live in fear,
In ignorance, or shame.

Peace will come when people
Who are needy can reach out
For shelter, food, or love,
And no one has to do without.

Peace will come when people
Learn to listen and to care
About the rights and dignity
Of people everywhere.

Peace will come when love and trust
And kindness know rebirth,
And on that day all people
Will rejoice in peace on earth.

--by Amanda Bradley

PASS ON THE BLESSINGS

Submitted by Lana Schultz

*Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit,
sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart,
and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil
or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay
with a blessing. It is for this that you were
called--that you might inherit a blessing. 1
Peter 3:8-9.*

Someone needs what you have to give today.
It may be a small gift of encouragement
through your words or your greetings. It may
be a gentle heart that listens with compassion.
It may be your clever sense of humor and your
ability to chase away the clouds of gloom that
threaten their day. You are God's hands and
feet, his eyes and ears.

Your smile, your thoughts, your helping hands
are just what somebody else needs today.
Bless others and God will immediately bless
you. Show his face and shine his light
everywhere you go today. You are blessed to
be a blessing.

*Lord, you know the needs of each person I will
encounter today. Help me see them as you
see them. Help me offer them the gift of your
blessing. Amen.*

--by Karen Moore, *Wellspring: 365
Meditations to Refresh Your Soul.*

Correction!

In the previous issue I said the video presentation at the PWSCT meeting was on White Supremacy. WRONG! It was on White Privilege. If you are not familiar with the terminology, I recommend reading the book: *Waking Up White* by Debbie Irving. Excellent book to read, discuss, ponder.



Reflecting On Light

This month's reflection is from Judy Persons, Vice Moderator for Mission Relationships, Churchwide Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women!

Light is a traditional and important part of every Presbyterian Women event. We begin our meetings and gatherings by lighting the Christ Candle. This represents Christ's light and we are reminded to allow that light to shine in us and through us. My favorite part of the light is when I get to see it go on in another. Have you ever been around someone when they realize they do have a gift which can be used to make a difference in another's life? The eyes open wider, the

face glows. That is the light of Christ which was always there but was just allowed to shine through.

This light is in all of us who believe and when we let it shine out, not only is it wonderful to see but it helps to illuminate others. Another way of putting it is that when you allow your light to shine for others to see, you also inspire others to discover and let their own light shine.

We light the Christ candle to symbolize the light Christ brought into the world and talk about it shining in us and through us. When you allow fear to stop you, you put the basket over your light. Remember, God is with you and wants you to be successful. Fan the flame of your light and allow it to illuminate others as well. Allow your courage to show others what is possible and your light will guide them to their own light.

"Arise, shine, for your light has come and the glory of the Lord rises upon you."

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And from Annabelle Wells, PWP Moderator of Central Nebraska Presbytery we have a reflection on light from the February 2016 issue of *The Windmill*:

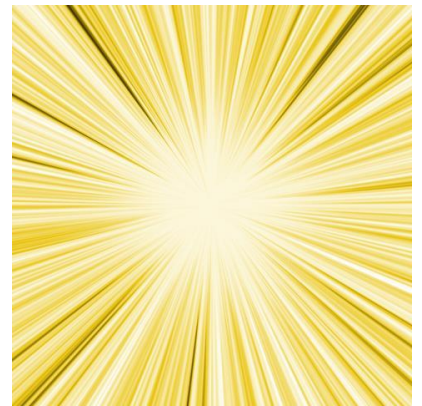
Psalms 27 has long been a favorite psalm for me. Recently I have been thinking again about the opening sentence: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; of whom shall I be afraid?"

There are two definitions of light: light is a phenomenon that enables us to see the physical world around us. It is also a concept dealing with relationships, understanding, and guidance. As Christians, we need both functions of light in our vision of life and mission.

Light is an amazing revelation of God's presence with us.

God's light reveals and encourages all good things in my life and in the lives of those around me. God's light illumines my mind as I read the Bible, observe God's creation and meet family and friends. God's light leads me through difficulties, sorrows, grief, and betrayals and also joys and celebrations.

How can I increase my awareness of God as light? Certainly as I read and meditate on the Bible, both individually and in a group, my sensitivity to God as light increases. As I reflect on the beautiful snowflakes that are driven by strong wind to bring moisture to the ground, I am again reminded of God as light; each morning as I open curtains to allow the sunshine to flood the room, I am reminded that my soul is awaiting God's light shining into the depths of my being, to bring new understanding and refreshment to me.



Churchwide Gathering Information

Synod Luncheon at the Churchwide Gathering:

As you register for the Gathering, you will see the option to attend the Synod Luncheon. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet others from our Synod and enjoy a delicious meal and exchange dialogue about PW. Your Synod Coordinating Team is encouraging that you take advantage of this time by paying for half of that meal (your cost will be \$16 after reimbursement). So, check that you will be participating at the time of registration so that plans can be made for the meal/programming. You will be reimbursed for half of your payment through your Presbytery moderator/treasurer following the event. More details will come later as we get closer to the Gathering. Don't miss out!



Are you planning on going to the Gathering in Louisville and have room for others to go with you in your car, van or bus? It's always fun to travel with others who might appreciate a ride and it makes the trip shorter. Please share this opportunity with your Presbytery PW moderator- the number of women you could take and your contact information. Let's have a good showing of PW from the Synod of Lakes and Prairies in August!

Speaker Spotlights



Amy Poling Sutherland, author of the 2017–2018 PW/*Horizons* Bible study, *God's Promise: I Am with You*, will share her thoughts about the study and her passion in ministry, which is exploring and witnessing the intersection between people's stories and the unfolding story of God's work in the world.

Ruth Santana-Grace, executive presbyter of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, will provide the keynote on the first evening of the Gathering! We are, says Ruth Santana-Grace, in the midst of a reformation that will lead the church to a renewal of identity. Hear more at the Gathering!



Gathering Giving Opportunities:

Churchwide Gathering Silent Auction

You may donate! Donated items should be new (nothing used, please) with a minimum value of \$50. Smaller items can be grouped into a basket. To donate an item to the auction, please contact [Judy Persons](#), [Rhonda Martin](#) or [Carissa Herold](#). Items should be shipped to the PW offices before the Gathering or hand-delivered to the auction area at the Gathering. The donation form may be downloaded at: https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/build-community/churchwide-gathering/before-the-gathering/silent-auction/

Program book to host ads again

The 2018 program book will once again include ads that celebrate faithful women, send prayers and joyfully envision the future. See registration booklet.

Churchwide Gathering Gift Cards

Gift cards collected at the 2018 Churchwide Gathering will be given to the D.I.A.P.E.R. Project (Charlestown, Indiana), Kentucky Refugee Ministries (Louisville, Kentucky), and Lily's Place (Huntington, West Virginia).

Gathering info in a nutshell.....?



- Searching for a registration book to consider your Gathering programming options? **Download a copy** or **order one** (or five!). *Horizons* subscribers (that's all who are reading this newsletter, certainly!), the 2018 Churchwide Gathering registration booklet mailed with the November/December 2017 issue of *Horizons*. To order additional copies (for sharing!), order from the PW Shop (www.presbyterianwomen.org/shop or call 800.533.4371 and ask for item CWG18001. You may also order from the PC(USA)'s online store at www.pcusastore.com.
- Full registration is \$425.
- Synod luncheon cost is \$32 (\$16 reimbursed by PW Synod)
- Rooms at the Galt House, where all programming will take place (except for optional tours), start at \$144 per night for up to four people. Room reservations are separate from Gathering registration. Reserve your hotel **online** or by calling 800/The-Galt ([800/843-4258](tel:8008434258)).
- Early registration incentives include a special-edition Gathering pin (register by May 1); the first 800 registrants receive a copy of *Bound Together in Love: The Creation of Presbyterian Women, 1978–1988*.
- Don't forget to **reserve your personal advertisement** (express thanks, celebrate 30 years of PW!, extend invitations, etc.) for the 2018 Churchwide Gathering program book.
- Support your PW ministry by participating in the **silent auction**. Proceeds benefit the Mission Pledge, PW's annual fund, that makes PW at all levels possible!
- Contact Gathering registrar Theresa Underwood for registration questions—email pwcwg2018@aol.com or call [540/520-2610](tel:5405202610); calls will be answered or returned after 5 pm est.
- For general PW or Churchwide Gathering information, call 844/PWPCUSA ([844/797-2872](tel:8447972872)), ext. 8015.
- To go through PDA disaster preparedness trainer training on August 1 contact Beth Snyder, 888.728.7228, ext. 5806; email beth.snyder@pcusa.org (see more information under Mission)

Your Opinion is Important Too!

In 2018, we, as Presbyterian Women, will celebrate our 30th anniversary. That means 30 years of nurturing faith, supporting mission, working for justice and peace, building inclusive community and witnessing to the promise of God's kingdom. For 30 years, we've been an organization that serves our churches, communities and the world. And in so doing, we find we've been enriched, too—we've learned, laughed, loved and flourished.

Much of what you will see and hear about PW's 30th anniversary will focus on what our beloved organization has made possible in the world. While that will be awe-inspiring, let's not ignore what Presbyterian Women has meant for *you* as an individual!

A short survey invites you to reflect on the highlights of your participation in Presbyterian Women. Whether you've just attended your first circle meeting or remember the excitement of Presbyterian Women forming in 1988, your voice and presence enrich the organization.

survey address: <http://presbyterianwomeninthepecusainc.cmail19.com/t-t-l-ulhidht-drvldhri-r/>

Early results will be reported in the March/April 2018 issue of *Horizons*, but responses will be collected throughout much of 2018. Watch for the survey findings later in 2018, including at the [2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women!](#)



Native American Concerns Corner

The following link is from the Washington Post. This article addresses a lot of the issues Native Americans face in their life so I would like to encourage everyone to read it in its entirety as it gives a good picture of what the young people on the reservation deal with on a daily basis and it's a good educational piece. It tells the story of the struggles of a teen on the Fort Peck Reservation and her hopes and dreams. Reservation basketball stars rarely make it to Division I, but Mya Fourstar has a dream... https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/sports/wp/2018/01/03/feature/american-indian-high-school-basketball-star-mya-fourstar-pursues-dream-of-playing-college-basketball/?hpid=hp_rhp-visual-stories_no-name%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm_term=.d8b03fd45e56

Another article you may find of interest is an article written about the *Dakota 38*. You may have seen the movie at a gathering. This ride takes place each Christmas season to honor the 38 Native Americans hung at Mankato, MN. **Native American Annual Wokiksuye Ride To Remember Largest Mass Execution In US History By President Lincoln**
<http://yeswenative.com/2017/10/10/native-american-annual-wokiksuye-ride-remember-largest-mass-execution-us-history-president-lincoln/>

And there is a news video about a mission project of North Dakota's Colgate Presbyterian Women and Church to Pine Ridge Reservation. Colgate is former Synod CT vice-moderator Sharon Johnson's church.
[http://www.wday.com/video/uwdWIOFh?ct=t\(Enews_October_18_2017_10_3_2017\)](http://www.wday.com/video/uwdWIOFh?ct=t(Enews_October_18_2017_10_3_2017))



Mission - Justice and Peace Corner

The 2018 Mission Project for PW in South Dakota Presbytery is (written by Jeanne Armstrong, Mission Coordinator for PWPSD):

Music & Memory

No one wants to end up alone and isolated in a nursing home. It is hard enough to lose someone you love to Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia. It's terrifying to think you could end up there yourself, someday.

But there's reason to hope for a better life as we age. People in nursing homes and other care organizations who suffer from a wide range of cognitive and physical challenges find renewed meaning and connection in their lives through the gift of personalized music.

The approach is simple, elegant, and effective: Professionals are trained how to set up personalized music playlists, delivered on iPods and other digital devices, for those in their care. These musical favorites tap deep memories not lost to dementia and can bring participants back to life, enabling them to feel like themselves again, to converse, socialize and stay present.

Research and evaluation of the Music & Memory's work in care organizations shows consistent results:

- Participants are happier and more social.
- Relationships among staff, participants, and family deepen.
- Everyone benefits from a calmer, more supportive social environment.
- Staff regain valuable time previously lost to behavior management issues.
- There is growing evidence that a personalized music program gives professionals one more tool in their efforts to reduce reliance on anti-psychotic medications.

To see the results of this type of therapy watch the movie "*Alive Inside*." Please keep this form of ministry in your thoughts and prayers. You may also donate an iPod shuffle or any other small electronic device to any care organization to aid in this type of therapy for our South Dakota citizens.

PDA/PW Disaster assistance training – just before Churchwide Gathering in Louisville

In conjunction with the Gathering, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance will offer Disaster Preparedness Trainer training. PW Disaster Preparedness Trainers are expected to organize and conduct a minimum of three disaster preparedness trainings a year, sharing the basics of disaster preparedness with congregations and presbyteries. The training will be held on August 1, 2018, and is open to all interested PW. PDA will pay for two nights of lodging: July 31 and August 1. All meals on August 1 will be provided. Download the application and reference form from www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/pw-pdaapplication. If you have previously submitted an application for a training that you were unable to attend or for more information, please contact Beth Snyder, 888.728.7228, ext. 5806; email beth.snyder@pcusa.org.

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OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE - Homestead Presbytery assists PDA

Submitted by Maggie Horak



Maggie Horak

Presbytery Disaster Assistance Gift of the Heart kits will travel to Ferncliff Camp in Arkansas the end of January to help others “Out of Chaos, into Hope”.

Earlier this year when Hurricane Harvey hit Texas, the *Faith In Action Team* from Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, decided to help. Out of those first few ideas to help, GSPC FIAT, with the support of the Session, has been a collection site for PDA kits. Pastor Jeff Warrick challenged the congregation and the giving, caring people met the first goal: 50 Clean Up Buckets. Through Homestead Presbytery, the word is slowly getting out and several churches have donated completed buckets and kits. The room set aside for the project has been slowly filling up and God has opened the eyes, hearts, and hands of folks to give, act, and support this mission opportunity.



Tammy Rikli

If you or your congregation would like to participate, check out www.pda.pcusa.org There’s information about how PDA helps people on the ground and offers those that want to help---a tangible and useful resource for those lives touched by disaster.

UPDATE: Here it is January 2018 and GSPC’s FAIT group is heading to PDA’s regional depot at Ferncliff Camp near Little Rock, Arkansas: our little room is getting FULL! Two elders, two deacons and a youth director will be making the trip to get those supplies into the hands of those that dispatch them to needed areas. We’re at about 65 buckets, 350 hygiene kits and 65 school kits---creative packing, prayers for good weather and we’ll be on our way! Praise God for the support of Homestead Presbyterian Women for financially supporting this project to make the trip possible. Answered prayer!

Watch Homestead Presbytery FB for updates and photos.

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Birthday Offering grant recipient from our Synod of Lakes and Prairies

Submitted by Marilyn Stone

The Dwelling Place, located in Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN, is a Christian ministry providing healing and hope to victims of domestic abuse. It provides 12-18 months of transitional housing for women and their children in need. During their stay, the residents will have a safe place to live while being provided mentoring services that will enable them to move toward independent, abuse free lives.

This Birthday Offering grant will help the Dwelling Place purchase a vacant lot where they will construct a multi-use building. The new space will be suitable for large and small group programming, one-on-one case management, safe living space and staff offices. With the additional building, Dwelling Place will be able to serve even more women and children who are seeking safety.

Remember, your generous contributions to the Birthday Offering will continue to fund mission projects like the ones selected for 2018. Your gifts make a difference! Thank you for all the ways you support PW!

2019 Birthday Offering grant applications are due May 15th

Birthday Offering primarily funds capital improvement projects \$75,000 - \$150,000. Check out the criteria for Birthday Offering grants at the following site and consider encouraging mission projects to apply who can benefit. 2019 Birthday Offering applications are due May 15th.

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/giving-funding/grants/birthday-thank-offering-criteria/>

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Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA), Inc. and the PC(USA) Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns have released a joint statement on sexual injustice. <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/2018/01/24/pw-acwc-joint-statement-on-sexual-injustice/>

An excerpt from the statement:

As courageous women, children, and youth from across the United States share their #MeToo and #ChurchToo stories, we reflect on the PW mission which says, in part, that Presbyterian Women will build an inclusive caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), works for justice and peace, and witnesses to the promise of God's realm. As a committee called by the church to be a prophetic voice to and for the church on issues of gender justice, ACWC is a partner to PW in this mission.

Together, we respond with empathy for the experiences of injustice due to sexual violence, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and other violence and discrimination against women. Together, we issue a call for repentance and justice-seeking. We offer this statement in hope of continuing conversations and healing actions within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) at both the local and national levels.

God has created all people equally and directed us to love others as we love ourselves. Our Creator's teachings must be demonstrated in our actions as well as in our conversations. Jesus models for us how to live out the gospel of justice and peace.

The energy surrounding sexual assault issues has created an opportunity for our denomination to take the next step toward healing. How do we correct the culture that allows sexual abuse? How do we empower women to help themselves? How do we neutralize the harmful ripple effects of sexual violence and other forms of abuse? Presbyterian Women, in covenant with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns, encourage women to speak up and speak out when they experience abuse, whether it occurs at home, in the work place, or in our churches.



World Day of Prayer 2018 is Friday, March 2nd

World Day of Prayer takes place internationally on the first Friday of March every year. In 2018 that will be March 2nd. If you can't celebrate World Day of Prayer on the first Friday in March, choose another date that works for your community and you can celebrate in symbolic solidarity with women around the world!

The host country for WDP 2018 is Suriname. The focus is on Genesis 1, the story of Creation, with the theme "All God's Creation Is Very Good!". Universal issues of climate change, natural disasters, pollution, and human abuse of the environment—all affecting God's good Creation and God's people—will be explored.

Together in Action Days for Women's Empowerment in March

Submitted by Marilyn Stone

While Presbyterian Women work for justice and peace on many issues in many ways, Together in Action Days are opportunities for Presbyterian Women across the country to address specific justice issues in their local contexts. In January, the special focus is human trafficking. In May, children's literacy becomes the focus. New in March 2018, Together in Action Days related to CEDAW/women's rights will be launched.

PW urges individuals and groups to join in action for women's advocacy at all times but especially during the two weeks of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), March 12-23.



What is the UN Commission on the Status of Women, you may ask? Presbyterian Women advocates for justice for women and girls at the international level through the [UN Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\)](#). CSW is instrumental in shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Representatives of Presbyterian Women have been participating in the annual Commission since 2005.

The 62nd session will meet March 12-23, 2018, at UN headquarters in New York. The priority theme is "Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls." The Commission will also look at "Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women".

Here are some suggested actions you can take:

- Pray for those attending the Commission.
- Learn more about the theme "Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls". (See [unwomen.org](#))
- Follow CSW on Facebook (PW's page, Ecumenical Women's page, the Presbyterian Ministry at the UN's page)
- Support women's empowerment with a mini-workshop on inclusive language, a fundraiser for an abuse shelter, or a dialogue with a girls' group about healthy choices.
- Learn about the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (See [unwomen.org](#))

Let us know what you do at your church or presbytery to celebrate this new Together in Action Days. . . and send your photos too!

Why We Wear Orange

Orange Day, held on the 25th of every month, is part of a campaign initiated by the UN Secretary General in 2012 to raise awareness of and help end violence against women. Remember to wear orange (orange shirts with the PW logo are available from Church Store) every 25th of the month to raise awareness on the issue of violence against women and girls.

Give to Fellowship of the Least Coin

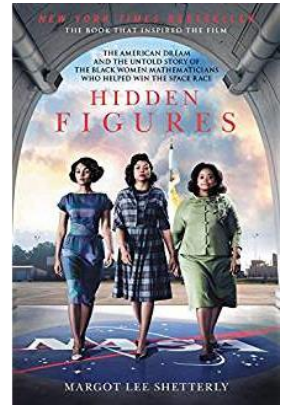
Fellowship of the Least Coin links prayer and "least coins" in a very significant way, as the least coin becomes the symbol of prayer for peace and reconciliation. It was begun in 1956 by Shanti Solomon of India and continues today as a global ecumenical prayer movement. As the coins, symbolizing prayers, are gathered from around the world, they become a sign of our oneness in the common quest for peace, justice and reconciliation. The least coins become grants for special projects of evangelism, service, ecumenical solidarity, awareness-building among women and relief throughout the world.

Book Reviews

”Hidden Figures” by Margot Lee Shetterly

Submitted by Betty Thorson

This is about three African American women mathematicians who left their homes and families to go to Hampton Virginia to find jobs in NACA/NASA. The impact that they made on space age was amazing but they were always the “Colored Computers”. They fought against segregation in the work place and in the cafeteria. This was an interesting and moving book about our fellow Americans who had to fight for recognition in a white community. I highly recommend it.



Don't Hide your Light Under a Laundry Basket (150 Bright Ideas for Wannabe World Changers) by Jenny Rae Armstrong

Submitted by Janice Letsos

This book is a collection of 150 essays that go through the life of a woman from dealing with toddlers during church services, dealing with in-laws, instilling an awareness in school age children, encouraging young women into being active in church and humorous warnings about becoming the “Church Lady” as we mature.

The majority of the essays were written by Armstrong, a teaching elder at Darrow Road Wesleyan Church, Superior, Wisconsin. Yes, there are 150 essays, but they are only 2-3 pages and can be read in small doses and put into action. She stresses that local actions can change conditions throughout the world.

My favorite section is on the empowerment of women. As I read it, slowly the theme became very familiar. The main causes and actions of PW! Empowering women around the world, girl's education (including maxi pads), domestic abuse, maternal health, freedom from slavery, and elevating the status of women.

A book that I will keep on hand to use in organizing priorities in the local church level.



Coordinating Team Tries Something New

Synod of Lakes and Prairies PW Coordinating Team will be trying something new to accommodate women who work during the week to attend the important meetings on your behalf without taking time off work. Meetings which typically meet Thursday evening through Saturday morning will now begin on Friday night and end after worship with the hosting congregation. We appreciate the sacrifices women in the workforce have made and want to honor their time off and the financial/vacation time losses.

Our next PW Synod Coordinating Team meeting will be held in St. Cloud, MN, and we are grateful to First Presbyterian Church for hosting this meeting for us. If you live in the area, stop in and see what goes on and how your Mission Pledge money to the Synod PW is put to good use. Dates are April 13-15, 2018.

PW Working for Justice and Peace 2018 Calendar

January

National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month—www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign

11 National Human Trafficking Awareness Day; <https://traffickingresourcecenter.org>; www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/human-trafficking;
7–13 PW Together in Action Days to End Human Trafficking; www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice
14 Race Relations Sunday; www.pcusa.org/resource/race-relations-sunday-liturgy
15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day; www.thekingcenter.org/meaning-king-holiday
16 National Religious Freedom Day; <http://religiousfreedomday.com>
18–24 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity; www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/week-of-prayer
21 Criminal Justice Sunday; www.pcusa.org/resource/criminal-justice-sunday-resources
25 **Orange Day**; <http://endviolence.un.org>
27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Holocaust_Remembrance_Day

February

Black History Month; www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov

National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month; www.teendvmonth.org and www.cdc.gov/features/datingviolence

1 National Freedom Day; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Freedom_Day
4 Souper Bowl of Caring; www.souperbowl.org
12 International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers; www.child-soldiers.org
11–17 National Random Acts of Kindness Week; <https://www.randomactsofkindness.org>
14 One Billion Rising for Justice; www.onebillionrising.org
25 **Orange Day**; <http://endviolence.un.org>

March

Women's History Month;

<http://womenshistorymonth.gov>

Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women;

www.presbyterianwomen.org/birthday

2 World Day of Prayer; www.worlddayofprayer.net and www.wdp-usa.org

4 Celebrate the Gifts of Women; www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/all-women; www.presbyterianwomen.org

8 International Women's Day; <https://www.internationalwomensday.com>; www.un.org/en/events/womensday

12–23 UN Commission on the Status of Women; www.unwomen.org/en/csw

12–23 PW Together in Action for Women's Empowerment; www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice

22 World Water Day; <http://waterday.org> and www.unwater.org/worldwaterday

23–30 National Farmworker Awareness Week; <http://saf-unite.org/farmworkerawareness>

25 **Orange Day**; <http://endviolence.un.org>

29–A.7 Ten Days of Prayer and Thanksgiving for the Roma;

www.pcusa.org/search/?criteria=prayer+and+thanksgiving+roma&collection=resources

April

Sexual Assault Awareness Month;

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual_Assault_Awareness_Month

1 Easter

7 World Health Day 2017; www.who.int/campaigns/world-health-day/2017/en

8 International Roma Day; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Romani_Day

8 Self-development of People Sunday; <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/sdop>

12 International Holocaust Remembrance Day; www.ushmm.org; also see www.presbyterianmission.org/swords-plowshares/2016/03/30/holocaustremembrance-day/

20–23 Ecumenical Advocacy Days;

<http://advocacydays.org>

22 Earth Day; www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earth-day-sunday

24 Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armenian_Genocide_Remembrance_Day

25 **Orange Day**; <http://endviolence.un.org>

29–M.7 Children's Book Week;

www.bookweekonline.com

May

1 May Day; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Workers%27_Day

1–7 PW Together in Action Days for Children's Literacy; www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice

7–11 Teacher Appreciation Week;

www.nea.org/grants/teacherday.html

12 World Fair Trade Day; <http://wfto.com/events/corporate-social-responsibility/nalc-food-drive.htm>

13 Mother's Day; www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/mothers-day-cards-information-sheet

22 International Day for Biological Diversity; www.cbd.int/idb

25 **Orange Day**; <http://endviolence.un.org>

27 Disability Inclusion Sunday; <https://www.pcusa.org/resource/living-body-christ/>

27 Intercultural Church Sunday; www.presbyterianmission.org/story/may-22/

28 Memorial Day; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial_Day

PW Working for Justice and Peace 2018 Calendar

June

17 Father's Day; Men of the Church Sunday; www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/men
19 Juneteenth; <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juneteenth>
20 World Refugee Day; www.un.org/en/events/refugeeday/
25 **Orange Day**; <http://endviolence.un.org>

July

1 Immigration Sunday; <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/midcouncil-ministries/immigration>
4 Independence Day; www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/independence-day
25 **Orange Day**; <http://endviolence.un.org>

August

6 Hiroshima Day; www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/peacemaking-through-prayerand-worship
12 Day of Prayer for the Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula; www.pcusa.org/news/2017/6/22/season-prayer-peace-korean-peninsula/
19 World Humanitarian Day; www.worldhumanitarian.org/about/en
25 **Orange Day**; <http://endviolence.un.org>
26 Public Education Sunday; www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/child/

September

Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women; www.presbyterianwomen.org/thank
1–3 Labor Day Weekend: Labor in the Pulpits; www.iwj.org/resources/plan-labor-day-service
3 Labor Day; blog.thethoughtfulchristian.com/2014/09/the-fruits-of-their-labor-a-labor-day-reflection.html
21 International Day of Peace; <http://presbyterian.typepad.com/peacemaking/2010/08/celebrate-the-international-day-of-peace.html>
21–27 Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence; www.presbyterianmission.org/gunviolence
25 **Orange Day**; <http://endviolence.un.org>
28 Native American Day; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_American_Day (**Note**: Tennessee observes it on the 24th)

October

Domestic Violence Awareness Month; www.ncadv.org/takeastand; www.nomore.org
Fair Trade Month; www.befair.org
National Bullying Prevention Month; www.pacer.org/bullying/nbpm; www.thethoughtfulchristian.com
7 World Communion Sunday; www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/world-communion-sunday
7 Domestic Violence Awareness Sunday; www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice; <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/phewa/>

8 Indigenous Peoples' Day; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous_People's_Day
11 International Day of the Girl Child; <http://dayofthegirl.org>; www.un.org/en/events/girlchild
11 National Coming Out Day; www.hrc.org/resources/entry/national-coming-out-day
16 World Food Day; www.worldfooddayusa.org; www.fao.org/world-food-day/home/en
21 Children's Sabbath: Educate a Child, Transform the World; www.pcusa.org/news/2015/8/14/educatechild-transform-world
24 United Nations Day; <http://www.un.org/en/events/unday>; www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/peacemaking-through-prayer-and-worship/#worldcommunion
25 **Orange Day**; <http://endviolence.un.org>

November

American Indian Heritage Month; http://smithsonianeducation.org/heritage_month/aihm/
Native American Heritage Month; <http://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov>
2 World Community Day; www.churchwomen.org/index.php/celebrate/2017-celebrations/
9–14 International Fair Trade Week; <http://wfto.com/events/2017-world-fair-trade-week-9-14-november-2017>
12 Caregiver Sunday; www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/phewa/presbyterian-health-network
13 World Kindness Day; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Kindness_Day
18 Hunger and Homelessness Sunday; <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassionpeace-justice/hunger/>
20 Universal Children's Day; www.un.org/en/events/childrenday
22 Thanksgiving—For the Native perspective, see http://nmai.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/thanksgiving_poster.pdf
25 **Orange Day**; <http://endviolence.un.org>
25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women; www.un.org/en/events/endviolenceday
25–D.10 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence; <http://16dayscwgj.rutgers.edu>

December

5 International Volunteer Day; www.un.org/en/events/volunteerday
10 International Human Rights Day; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Rights_Day
18 International Migrants Day; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Migrants_Day
25 Christmas; **Orange Day**; <http://endviolence.un.org>

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Care to Share Corner

This section will be provided by any Presbyterian Woman who would like to offer ideas 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

PRESBYTERIAN:
When you rearrange the letters:
BEST IN PRAYER

Are you a woman in the PC(USA)?

You are eligible to receive a \$500 grant from PW. Want to strengthen your leadership skills by going to a leadership event? Apply today:

www.presbyterianwomen.org/leadership

Mission Yearbook

Is a good place to find out what's happening in Presbyterian Mission. The daily messages can be found at:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/>

If you are going to the Churchwide Gathering please consider attending the Synod Lunch – sign up when registering. The cost is \$32 but the PWSCT voted to reimburse each attendee half of the cost. \$16 for each attendee will be sent to their presbytery PW treasurer to be disbursed. This will probably occur after the gathering.



Learn about Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women (PW) is the national women's organization of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). With more than 300,000 members and 30 years as an organization, PW is organized at all levels of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Learn more about PW and consider joining your local group. It's a good read at our website.

www.presbyterianwomen.org

Here is a link to the Who-Ya-Gonna-Call? The Who's Who at PW National

<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/>

"Like" Presbyterian Women of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies on Facebook!!!

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