

# Grapevine

*"I am the vine, you are the branches" John 15:5*

August, 2019

## Apostle's PW Birthday Offering Churchwide birthday celebration



Apostle PW hosted a churchwide birthday celebration on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Tables were decorated with each month's theme and a table tent listing all the church family birthdays were placed on each table. A light lunch was provided by PW and birthday cake was enjoyed by all! All donations supported the PW Birthday Offering. A fun activity to support the many grants awarded through the PW Birthday Offering to help fund projects that address significant needs across the U.S. and around the world.



## PILLOWCASES FOR PUERTO RICO

The women of Grace PC, Beaver Dam shared their talents by stitching and decorating beautifully crafted pillowcases with love. These pillowcases are headed to Puerto Rico to be shared with children who remain displaced by Hurricane Maria and also with children there who continue to cope with the trauma they experienced during this devastating event. Many thanks to the women of Grace PC, Beaver Dam for your generosity!



Pillowcases boxed for Puerto Rico!



## .. and PILLOWCASES FOR DAKOTA EMERGENCY FOSTER CARE

Women of Apostle PC, West Allis decorated pillowcases for children on reservations within Dakota Presbytery who are placed in Dakota Emergency Foster Care Facilities in South Dakota and Montana. You all shared your love in decorating these beautiful cases for the children who are displaced and unable to take much, if anything with them. Thank you to the women of Apostle PC for your generous response!

## Presbytery of Milwaukee attendees to the PW Synod Gathering, Ames, IA

Our Presbytery was well represented! From Left to Right here are our attendees:

Ruth Meylink, Pat Lyons, Angela Oglesby, Marilyn Stone, Ann Peck, Helen McMasters, Mary Hayden, Judy Bell





## Plan Ahead.....

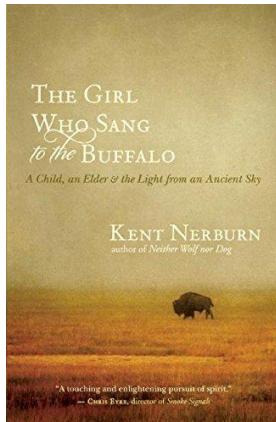
On **September 26<sup>th</sup>, NOON to 2:30 PM**, the PW Presbytery Coordinating Team will be sponsoring a luncheon and program! The Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, an International Peacemaker from Zimbabwe, will be sharing her experiences with healing and wholeness ministries and also her work with orphan children. A simple lunch will be provided. Please be sure to mark your calendars so you won't miss this informative presentation, as well as fellowship during lunch. Join us at Apostle Presbyterian Church, 1509 South 76th Street, West Allis for this interesting program. Details on registration will be out shortly!

## **PW SYNOD SPONSORED BOOK STUDY CONTINUES... .**

PW in our Synod has been sponsoring book studies via Zoom technology for women and men in our synod. This is an opportunity to increase our understanding and knowledge of Native American culture as related by the author, Kent Nerburn, as well as promote dialog on this topic. We have been reading his series, having completed "*Neither Wolf nor Dog*" and most recently completing "*The Wolf at Twilight*".

The next book study will focus on his third book in the series, "*The Girl Who Sang to the Buffalo*" and will begin on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Contact Marilyn Stone, [mmstone52@att.net](mailto:mmstone52@att.net) or (262-763-0918) if you are interested in joining in the discussion or with questions. The study meets every two weeks at 1:30 PM and 6:30 PM (CT) for five sessions – choose which time works best for you. We are hoping for a diverse group of participants, which enriches our discussions. You do not need to have read the first two books to participate.

Please promote this in your church. Spread the word and encourage women and men to participate.



## *Book Review*

### *I've Been Thinking...: Reflections, Prayers and Meditations for a Meaningful Life*

By Maria Shriver

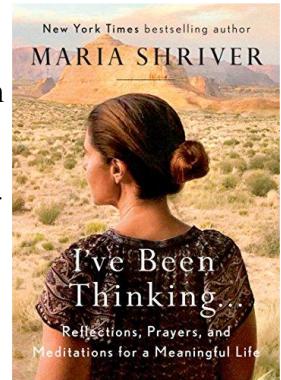
Penguin Publishing

February 27, 2018

A book of reflections for those seeking wisdom, guidance, encouragement, and inspiration on the road to a meaningful life.

As a prominent woman juggling many roles, Maria Shriver knows just how surprising, unpredictable, and stressful everyday life can be.

In this moving and powerful book, she shares inspiring quotes, prayers, and reflections designed to get readers thinking, get them feeling, get them laughing, and help them in their journey to what she calls The Open Field—a place of acceptance, purpose, and passion—a place of joy.



**YES!** We can already be thinking and planning for the next Churchwide Gathering. St Louis is the chosen city and August 5-8, 2021 the dates. Mark your calendars and be watchful for information regarding theme and other details beginning this fall.

**Hello!** I am the new volunteer that is hoping to put out PW news at least four times a year to all of you; on the 15th of August, November, February, and May. I work at Linn Presbyterian Church in Lake Geneva and have been here at Linn for 10 years. I love the work that the PW does locally, nationally and internationally and believe that it should be shared to the masses! Please share what is going on at your church ~ other churches can benefit from your ideas! Any other news is more than welcome too! Please email me anytime at [PWMKEGrapevine@gmail.com](mailto:PWMKEGrapevine@gmail.com). Articles by Nov. 1 would be appreciated! ~Beth Gallagher



## **“Came to the waters”**

*Reviews of the Synod Gathering*

Pat Lyon, Ruth Meylink and Ann Peck are grateful to the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and the Milwaukee Presbyterian Women for the scholarships we received to attend the Synod Gathering at Iowa State University. This was a place to renew our energy for mission and learn new ways to accomplish the work of God's justice. John 7:38 was our scriptural focus. "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water."

We were challenged, informed, taught, and nurtured about the vast mission of the Presbyterian Church USA. We met women from many different communities and churches who are making mission happen because they have believer's hearts. Our faith was challenged by what we heard. We were shocked, inspired, and learned news directly from Presbyterians in action. At times we were emotionally drained. But we were treated like queens with incredible meals served by University students. We were inspired by what other women are doing. So much was learned that we have decided to share one topic each month in our church newsletter and at the Makers group meetings.

Thank you again for our scholarships to attend this outstanding event. Thank you to all those who worked to make this gathering a lesson in mission and justice.

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### **Thank you PWP Milwaukee for the Synod Gathering Scholarship of \$200.00.**

Gateway Hotel was accommodating with the conference and rooms in the same building. The conference/ workshops and eating area located in one hallway on level 2 of hotel, was very convenient for the PW Women to gather. The beautiful grounds and walking trails of the hotel was inviting to explore.

Workshop: Pastor Ekram Kachru: My Story as a Refugee was most interesting. Ekram and her family, refugees from Sudan, explained the secrecy, terror and procedures escaping their homeland and finding refuge in the Des Moines Iowa area. The story of how she started the First Arabic Presbyterian Church with support from local churches was captivating. On the last night of the gathering, Pastor Kachru along with her family entertained our women with a concert of native music.

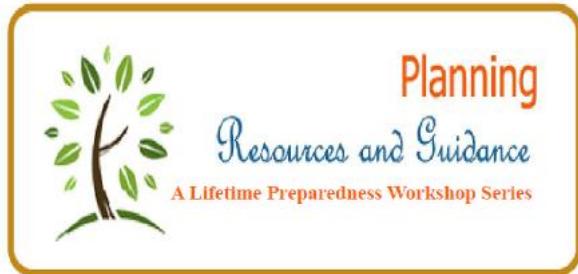
Sincerely,  
*Mary Hayden*

### **Widening the Circle Fund**

To celebrate the 10th anniversary (in 1998) of Presbyterian Women, and to make a commitment to all women in the PC(USA), PW established an endowment fund on behalf of all women in the church. That fund, the Widening of the Circle Fund, is designed to ensure that fund will be available for critical and innovative ministries above and beyond the current funding and will be available for a wider circle of women.

Widening the Circle Funds are primarily used for:

- Innovative programs to equip and enable an increasing number of younger women for leadership roles in the church at every level
- Networking programs to build a community of sisterhood locally and globally, addressing common concerns and advocating for issues unique to women
- Establishing means for the collection of theological insights from a diverse and inclusive community of women



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR PW?

What is happening with the PW in your congregation? Perhaps your programming would be helpful for others within the presbytery. Linn PW sponsored a four-week series of workshops on Aging Preparedness. Sessions were held following worship on Sundays with a light lunch provided for those attending.

As members of aging congregations and aging congregants, many in our pews are faced with the challenges as caregivers

and being prepared for life's final needs, if not now, certainly at some time in the future.

The four sessions offered were: Alternative living arrangements, Hospice, Necessary Documents, and Funeral/Memorial Arrangements.

Experts were brought in for each session, including a representative from the County Dept. on Aging discussion housing alternatives. A member of the local Hospice organization shared the many services they offered. A local lawyer discussed the importance of Power of Attorney, Health Care Directives, Wills, etc. and for the final session, a representative of a local funeral home and a pastor explaining their roles in funerals and/or memorials.

The entire series was well received by a diverse representation of the congregation.



### In Celebration of the Life of Pat Delgado

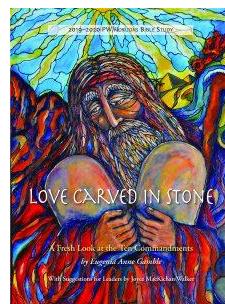
In loving memory of Pat Delgado who was born in 1936 and died on July 7, 2019. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She was a longtime member of Calvary Presbyterian Church, Milwaukee who worked for the Milwaukee County Dept. on Aging. In recent months she faithfully attended the monthly prayer meeting held by the Presbytery of Milwaukee.

In the 1990's Pat served as moderator of PW in the Presbytery of Milwaukee and was a representative of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies on the Global Exchange to China. You may remember her as she attended many of the PW Gatherings held in the Milwaukee Presbytery. Her presence will be missed.

To honor and remember Pat, The PW in the Presbytery of Milwaukee has donated \$100 to the PW Widening the Circle Fund. A description of that fund is found elsewhere in this newsletter.

### PWP Generosity

PW in our presbytery are to be commended for their generosity above and beyond their commitment to the annual mission pledge. In 2019 the women in our presbytery have donated **40 (that's \$400 worth) gift cards** for distribution at the June Synod Gathering held in Ames IA. AND collectively donated **\$1,311 to the PW Birthday Offering**. These funds are greatly appreciated by those whose needs are better met because of your generosity. Your gifts help spread the love of Christ to those beyond our immediate area. Bless you all.



**Bible Study** is the glue that holds Presbyterian Women together. It's our history—we celebrate more than 100 years of publishing studies and using them together. It's our recent past—just finished *God's Promise: I Am with You*; it's our immediate future—

*Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments* is ready to be explored; and early drafts of *To You They Cried: Reclaiming Lament* (working title) and *Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus* (working title) are being developed and field tested now.

# Choosing Joy

BY CECILIA AMOROCHO HICKERSON

Theologian Henri Nouwen urged, "Be surprised by joy, be surprised by the little flower that shows its beauty in the midst of a barren desert and be surprised by the immense healing power that keeps bursting forth like springs of fresh water from the depth of our pain."<sup>1</sup>

What is joy? Is it fleeting, elusive, always sought after but rarely-if-ever obtained? Does it course through us like a subterranean river, ever-present but tapped only occasionally, when conditions are favorable? Is it always right in front of us, undetected, waiting for us to be awakened to its presence? Is it a small thing, or immense?

We may have trouble defining joy, but I'm guessing that, when each of us has experienced joy, we've known it. Joy is not the same as happiness; author C. S. Lewis, declared that real joy seems "almost as unlike security or prosperity as it is unlike agony," suggesting that "one second of joy is worth 12 hours of pleasure."<sup>2</sup>

In reflecting on joy, I kept thinking about a geological inclusion, "a body or particle recognizably distinct from the substance in which it is embedded."<sup>3</sup> An inclusion diminishes the value of a diamond, but adds to the value or beauty of amber, star sapphire and a number of other gems. Joy might have the uniformity of a diamond—like playing with a puppy. Or it might be a feeling made more intense and more precious by the inclusions of grief and loss—a puppy collapsing into a nap in just the spot a beloved old dog always napped. I think it's this latter form of joy that carries us most strongly through our lives.

In his poem "Surprised by Joy," William Wordsworth describes the shock and pain he felt the instant he turned to share an unexpected moment of joy with a loved one who had died.<sup>4</sup> The writer of Psalm 30 praises God for deliverance from a life-threatening illness: "You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.... O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever" (Ps. 30:11, 12b).



Free Girl No. 9, Cynthia Christine

Novelist Isabel Allende, in the aftermath of her daughter's death, learned to find joy in giving: "I am happier when I love than when I am loved. I adore my husband, my son, my grandchildren, my mother, my dog, and frankly I don't know if they even like me. But who cares? Loving them is my joy."<sup>5</sup>

"Joy does not simply happen to us," wrote theologian Henri Nouwen. "We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day. It is a choice based on the knowledge that we belong to God and have found in God our refuge and our safety and that nothing, not even death, can take God away from us."<sup>6</sup>

Cecilia Amorocho Hickerson is a mother, spouse, church musician, artist and writer living in Louisville, Kentucky.

## Notes

1. Henri J.M. Nouwen, *You Are the Beloved: Daily Meditations for Spiritual Living* (New York: Convergent, 2017), 92.

2. From a handwritten letter written by C. S. Lewis, August 19, 1945, summarized in Alison Flood, "Unseen CS Lewis letter defines his notion of joy," December 9, 2014; [www.theguardian.com/books/2014/dec/09/unseen-cs-lewis-letter-defines-joy-surprised-by-joy](http://www.theguardian.com/books/2014/dec/09/unseen-cs-lewis-letter-defines-joy-surprised-by-joy).

3. *New Oxford American Dictionary*, Third Edition (New York: Oxford University, 2010).

4. William Wordsworth, "Surprised by Joy," *Poems* (New York: Knopf, 1995); [www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/50285/surprised-by-joy](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/50285/surprised-by-joy).

5. Isabel Allende, "In Giving I Connect With Others," *All Things Considered*, April 4, 2005; [www.npr.org/2005/04/04/4568464/in-giving-i-connect-with-others](http://www.npr.org/2005/04/04/4568464/in-giving-i-connect-with-others).

6. Nouwen, *Ibid*, 169.

## 2019 PW Mission and Together in Service Opportunities

### 1. ) Disaster Recovery with PW in Puerto Rico

Consider directing your Together in Service gift to support Hurricane María recovery work being led by Presbyterian Women in Puerto Rico. PW in the Synod of Puerto Rico are key leaders of recovery efforts in the aftermath of this devastating storm. From the beginning, women have taken up the task of serving their communities and now they are part of the transition to long term recovery.

Your gift to Together in Service in Puerto Rico will support ongoing recovery efforts in three key areas:

- **Community Centers** -This project will establish after-school support through music, sports, homework help and other child-centered activities. The purpose of these activities is to shift community activity towards the Presbyterian churches across the Synod of Puerto Rico. Establishing a children's community program will provide space for recreational activities to take place, allowing children to develop the resilience and social skills that are needed, particularly in the context of the aftermath of the storm.
- **Clean Water** -This project will help make possible the installation of a clean water system in the First Presbyterian Church in Aguada, Puerto Rico. The well, which will be drilled at the church, and clean water systems will provide access to potable water to thousands in the municipality of Aguada. This project will be installed through the non-profit Fountains of Hope and operated through the Presbyterian Church in Aguada. The estimated cost is set at \$6,000 for an installed water purifying system.
- **Home Reconstruction** -Funds from this project will be used for construction materials and equipment used by churches and mission teams coming into the Northwest Presbytery, the largest presbytery of the Synod of Puerto Rico. Teams will repair and rebuild homes that have not been restored through federal assistance. Such repairs include paint, roof sealers, doors, windows and other home necessities. Homes will be selected based on financial need and the living condition of the home. The maximum amount to be assigned to an individual home will not exceed \$5,000.

### 2.) Hands-on Project for children in Puerto Rico - PW pillowcases!

Presbyterian Women can demonstrate love, concern and prayers for the children affected by Hurricane María in Puerto Rico. PW, Inc is partnering with the three presbyteries on the island of Puerto Rico to create personalized pillowcases and distribute them through Presbyterian churches and schools. PW will send personalized pillowcases to the PW Synod of Boriquen (Puerto Rico) in August of 2019. We are hoping for at least 100.

### 3.) Projects identified during the past Global Exchanges and USA Mission Experiences

The following together in Service Projects, identified during previous Global Exchanges and USA Mission Experiences as opportunities for PW support. The year in Parenthesis indicated the last year PW will support this project. Be sure to identify which project you are financially supporting when submitting funds to PW. Contributions to these projects should be mailed according to quarterly deadlines: March 10, June 10, September 10, December 10)

- **On Eagle's Wings Ministries (through 2020)**-On Eagle's Wings offers free, Christ-centered support to individuals caught in the web of sex trafficking. They also have an online call center and continue to learn how to reach out to those in need.
- **Sunset Gap Community Center (through 2020)**-Sunset Gap is a "Christian-based organization uniting people of all faiths and providing programs that contribute to the physical, social, economic and spiritual growth of the people of Cocke and Sevier counties" in Tennessee. Coordinating home repairs, a thrift shop, food pantry and meal delivery program, Sunset Gap enhances the well-being of people in an impoverished area of Appalachia.
- **Bay Area Anti-Trafficking Coalition (through 2023)**-Ending human trafficking will require building awareness and coordinating efforts in every community. San Francisco's Bay Area Anti-Trafficking Coalition (BAATC) works to achieve a slave-free by coordinating the intervention, aftercare and prevention services in the community.
- **Puente Community Resource Center (through 2023)**-Puente is the only community resource center in south San Mateo County, California. This area's farms employ many immigrant workers who cannot easily access social services. Puente offers programs in health and wellness, adult education, leadership development and employment, in addition to providing emergency resources for rent, utilities, clothing and toiletries.
- **Ciliwung Community Center (through 2024)**-This community center provides women in Jakarta with the opportunity to learn about nutrition, get support for their families and learn skills that will be a source of income. The center also houses a kindergarten and library.

- **The Suwung School and Clinic (through 2024)**-Sorting and recycling items from garbage dumps is a source of income for a number of residents of Bali's capital, Denpasar. The Protestant Reformed Church in Western Indonesia (GPIB) supports these individuals and their children with a school and medical clinic in the garbage dump.
- **Disaster Recovery with PW in Puerto Rico (through 2024)**



#### 4.) Additional mission giving opportunities

##### Birthday Offering

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/giving-funding/give/birthday-offering/>

In 2019, we will offer our prayers and financial support to four projects:

- Disaster Response Tam Presbytery of Charlotte, Charlotte, NC \$100, 000
- Effingham Child Development Center Inclusive Playground, Effingham, IL \$100,000
- Presbyterian Homes and Services of Kentucky, Inc. Good Shepherd Community Nursing Center Phelps, KY \$119,000
- Wings of Refuge Restoration Home, Iowa Falls, IA \$120,000

Birthday Offering Application are due May 15th, \$75,000-\$150,000, primarily for capital improvement projects

##### Thank Offering

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/giving-funding/give/thank-offering/>

In 2019, grants totaling \$391,812 were awarded to twelve domestic projects and six international projects. More than 40% of the total funds awarded were given to health-related projects.

Thank Offering Applications are due Sept. 15, \$5,000-\$50,000 primarily for small/new projects or small capital improvement projects.

##### Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Partnership

- Recruiting and training disaster preparedness trainers who, in turn, train disaster preparedness coordinators in their presbyteries and synods.
- Gift of Heart Kits are assembled in response to disasters domestically and internationally.

##### Knitting 4 Peace partnership

Making handmade items that are specifically requested brings hope, healing, and peace to people in need in our own neighborhoods and around the world. List of items and patterns can be found at:

<https://www.knitting4peace.org/>

##### Presbyterian Hunger Program partnership

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/hunger/>

- Cents-ability
- Advocate for anti-hunger legislation

##### Bread for the World partnership

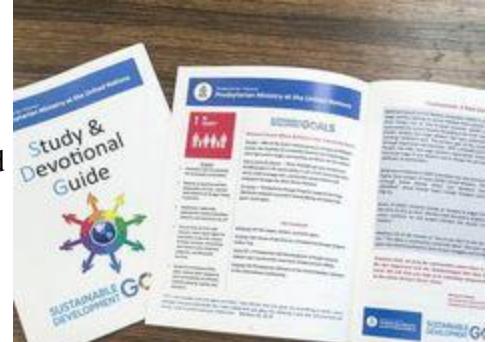
<https://www.bread.org/>

- Adequate maternal/child nutrition

##### Mission Yearbook

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

Since 1892, the Mission yearbook has been the PC(USA)'s mission devotional, featuring inspiring stories of mission and ministry. Originally started by PW as a prayer book for missionaries. A great daily resource for mission opportunities around the world.



## 2019 Dakota Presbytery Partnership Opportunities PW Synod Projects

On the Pine Ridge Reservation, 90% of people are living below the poverty line, with the average household annual income around \$4,000. Due to the lack of opportunity and the cycle of poverty, many pregnant women do not have basic items when their baby is born. There are two partnership opportunities to provide baby layette kits. These baby layette kits are given to mothers needing basic baby items to bring their babies home. Please read the details of each project carefully as they have some differences in requests.

### Children Protective Services - Baby Layette Kits

#### Pine Ridge Reservation, Oglala, SD



These baby layette kits contain only **NEW items for newborns**. The items listed below are needed for each baby layette kit. Place items in a large Ziploc storage bag and label *boy* or *girl*. Place kits in shipping boxes and include a self-addressed and stamped postcard. This postcard will be mailed upon arrival of your box to show that it has been received. Layettes can be shipped to: Sonia Weston, PO Box 254, Pine Ridge, SD 57770

Baby layette kits should each contain the following items: 2-onesies, 2-sleepers, 1-outfit, socks, bibs, 2-receiving blankets, disposable diapers (newborn size only), and a little book/toy/rattle.

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### Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church - Baby Layette Kits

#### Pine Ridge, SD

Items for these baby layettes should be **NEW and sized 3 months to 12 months** (with all items the same size within one kit). Place items in a large Ziploc storage bag and label with size. Place kits in shipping boxes and include a self-addressed and stamped postcard. This postcard will be mailed upon arrival of your box to show that it has been received. Please do not ship via Fed-Ex. Layettes can be shipped to: Mrs. Violet Robinson, 006 White Tail Deer Road, PO Box 378, Pine Ridge, SD 57770.



Baby layette kits should each contain the following items: 2-onesies, 2-sleepers, 1-outfit, socks, bibs, 2-receiving blankets, disposable diapers (not newborn size), and a little book/toy/rattle

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### Red Eagle Memorial Presbyterian Church – Dakota Children’s Music Ministry

Wakhanyeza Odowanpi meaning Children Singing, the translation of Wakhanyeza means "they are holy" and Odowanpi means "singing"

#### Fort Kipp, Montana



The children and youth of Red Eagle Memorial Presbyterian Church, as well as other children and youth on the Fort Peck Reservation are eager to learn songs in the Dakota language. A teacher is being hired to teach the children songs in their native language. Your financial contributions will support the teacher's fee, as well as cover costs for equipment and supplies.

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



## Gather the Children Home - Children's Clothing Kits Pine Ridge Reservation, Ogala, SD

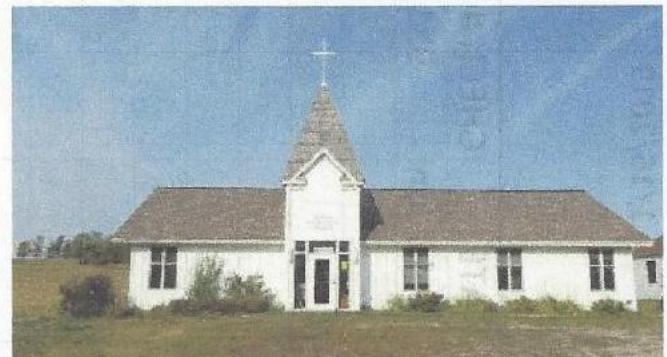
*Gather the Children Home* is an emergency foster care home for children ages birth through age 12. It provides a caring and immediate safe environment for children removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect, while a suitable foster or relative home becomes available.

Children Clothing Kits are needed to have on hand when children arrive. Each kit should contain NEW clothing items listed below. All items should be placed in a large Ziploc bag labeled according to size: sweat pants, sweat shirts, underwear, and socks.

These items can be shipped to the following address:  
Gather Our Children Home  
BIA 41 North  
Ogala School Housing #944  
Oglala, SD 57764

### Bdecan Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School

Joe Obermeyer  
Youth and Outreach Coordinator  
Bdecan Presbyterian Church  
Po Box 141 Tokio ND 58379  
Phone: (701)294-2283  
E-mail: bdecanpresbyterianchurch@yahoo.com



Bdecan Presbyterian Church, the only Native American Presbyterian church in North Dakota, is located on the Spirit Lake Reservation in north central North Dakota. An important way to “Keep Christ’s love at our center” for the children is to host 10-12 member mission teams who would lead Vacation Bible School for a week during the summer. The 20-30 children in the community LOVE VBS and never tire of it! VBS is so critical for the children for many reasons, including learning about and experiencing God’s love, as well as participating in positive activities when few other activities exist for the children. In addition to VBS, a hand-on mission project could be done, as well as participating in a “cultural night”.

Bunk trailers are available for lodging for mission teams, at no cost. If your team would prefer a hotel, there are many options about 20 miles away in Devils Lake. Your mission team would need to cover the cost of the hotel.

Won’t you consider putting together a team and taking VBS on the road connection with children and adults? It promises to be a great learning experience for you too. Complete an application online at: <https://www.bdecanpresbyterianchurch.org/mission-teams.html> or contact Joe Obermeyer for additional information at:



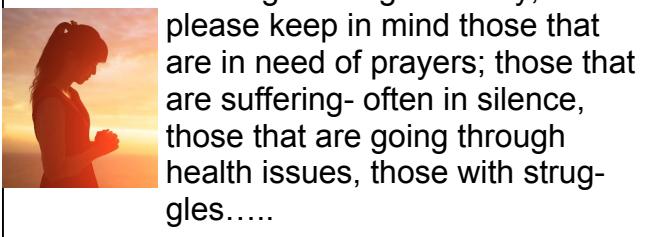


## Action for Women's Empowerment

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Gender bias continues to create barriers for many women. Gender bias, particularly the notion that women are inferior to men, is pervasive and cruel. Women are abused, excluded from decision making, locked out of positions of power, paid less and confined to roles that enforce their subjugation. What can you do to empower women?

- Exercise your rights! Get educated, take leadership roles, teach others, live your life with self-determination, vote.
- Become an advocate! Volunteer at a center for women, an abuse shelter or other agency that serves women suffering violence or discrimination.
- Mentor a young woman who might be at risk. Be there for someone who needs you, and encourage girls and young women to believe in themselves. Make a difference one person at a time.
- Learn about the international bill of rights for women—CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women). See <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw.htm>
- Volunteer at local schools to work with girls and boys, perhaps reading books to them that model gender equality, or leading activities that require cooperation and ensure that everyone's voice is heard.
- Be a Girl Scout leader and encourage girls to learn, grow and challenge themselves physically and mentally.
- Promote education, training and professional development for women.
- Words matter! Use inclusive language rather than language that cedes power to one gender only. Did you know that there is an inclusive language version of the Bible?
- Treat all women and men fairly at work—respect and support human rights and nondiscrimination.
- Engage men and boys in discussions about gender equality and violence so they can become champions of change in the community.
- Spread the message that abuse of women is contrary to the basic premise of every religion, including Christianity.



**The next Grapevine** will be out November 15th - Let's hear from you and your church. What have you been up to? What are your plans for Advent and Christmas? Please email **pwmkegrapevine@gmail.com** by Nov. 1st with news from you and your church!