



# The Sower

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



September, 2024

Kathleen Keefer, Editor

## Moderator's Musings:

Greetings to all my sisters in Christ:

What a glorious month it has been. I returned from the Churchwide Gathering [CWG] energized and excited for the future.

I attended the Racial Equity Dialog, or RED, team training prior to the start of CWG. A RED team plans and organizes activities that all women are encouraged to participate in, either Synod-wide or within their Presbyteries or local churches.

These activities are two-fold: learning and doing. It could be attending a book study, watching a film, or listening to a speaker. That is the educational part. Then a plan to change our behavior or in some way reach out to others. Becoming the hands and feet of Christ to make a difference.



Terri Sherman and Christy Abraham attended with me. We set some goals for the coming year and beyond. First was to gather a team together with at least one representative from each Presbytery. Holy cow, we passed around a sign-up sheet at the Synod luncheon and had at least 25 women express interest! Awesome. Pdubs are Bold and Beautiful.

Our next goal is to present a workshop at the Synod Gathering next June. I'll be reaching out to the folks who signed up and we'll be meeting by Zoom next fall.

I was honored to be your speaking representative at the business meeting. I gave the new business report during the meeting. It was a great learning experience.



The Synod luncheon was a huge success, after we figured out the confusion with the lunches! I gave a PowerPoint presentation all about the Synod Gathering. Then we heard Luella Voight and Julie Miller speak about their USA Mission Experience to the southern border. It was so wonderful to meet so many of you. Thanks to Terri for the table decorations and favors.

I was also invited to attend the Native American dinner with our sisters from Dakota Presbytery. It was remarkable to see this group of women from all over the country greet each other as old friends. To be able to show my support and be accepted was truly a blessing.

These highlights are from some of my favorite events. I'll let others share about the plenaries, speakers, and workshops.

Oh, but a few more! I wrote for the *Horizons*, <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/?s=Gathering+daily>, sang in the choir, and helped serve communion. All these extra activities are dear to my heart, as they give me an opportunity to serve you, my PW sisters.

Do Everything in Love,  
Louise

PS I finally made it to the top of the Arch!



## Land and History Acknowledgement

### *Preface*

Providing the land acknowledgement at the beginning of public meetings and events first started in Australia in the 1970s to give honor to the Aboriginal peoples and as a way to increase the rights of these Indigenous peoples. It traveled to Canada, where people wanted to raise awareness of the horror of Boarding Schools and the children who were separated from families, language, culture and religion. In the United States, we Presbyterians have been giving a Land Acknowledgement for some time now, to give honor to the peoples who lived on this land before us.

As 2021–2024 Presbyterian Women, Inc. Vice Moderator and Chair of the Justice & Peace Committee, I began to think about the Land Acknowledgement not only to remember and honor Indigenous peoples but also a way to remember our history—a history fraught with white supremacy, racism and violence. It seems that so many of us are looking for ways to forget our past and move beyond the sorrow we caused in the name of Manifest Destiny, but until we confront and embrace our history, we cannot possibly move forward in love!

This Land Acknowledgement is evolving. It recognizes that the land we call the United States was stolen from its traditional Indigenous inhabitants and caretakers. The statement also confesses the injustices perpetrated against people living on this land, based on their race, ethnicity, gender or sexual identity, place of birth, or religion.

The Land Acknowledgement may be read aloud by one or more speakers. The text about a particular group or community should be read by someone not of that social identity. For example, if you are using this Land Acknowledgement as part of a meeting where only women are present, omit the part about gender inequality. If a white male is present, have him read that part. Likewise with other parts.

Visit [presbyterianwomen.org/acknowledgement](https://presbyterianwomen.org/acknowledgement) for a digital/downloadable version. Permission is granted for non-commercial usage. Please include credit to the authors when used.

The following land acknowledgment was written by Andy James (Atlanta, GA); Rev. Beth Richardson and Rev. Shanea Leonard and adapted by Kathleen Keefer; edits by Lucia Kremzar.

Here is a live link for the land acknowledgement. It is much too long to add to The Sower, but feel free to use it during meetings, always giving credit to those who wrote it, listed above.

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Land-Acknowledgement-rev-082224.pdf>



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GATHERING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN ST. LOUIS

The 2024 Churchwide Gathering where the theme was “LOVE” --Loving Ourselves, Our Neighbors, Our Community, Our World and the theme color was “RED”!!

The REDress Project raises awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives. Red dresses hanging in public spaces serves as a reminder of Native women who disappeared or were killed. Similar to Amber Alerts for missing children, a Red Dress Alert would send emergency notifications to the public when an Indigenous woman, girl or two-spirit person goes missing. For more information on the REDress project, see <https://www.sd91indigenouseducation.com/reddressday>.

Racial Equity Dialogue (RED) Training with representatives from every Synod participating for a full day before the Gathering. The purpose of each Synod’s RED team is to build an inclusive caring community between women based on their beliefs and norms through the use of dialogue.



Justice & Peace advocated for Period Justice—making menstrual supplies free in public restrooms, accessible cost-wise and stigma free. LifeWise STL, a St. Louis organization, received donated menstrual supplies for people who need them. This photo represents half of the first delivery made to LifeWise STL. So much outpouring of God’s love!!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW MODERATOR AND VICE MODERATOR AND OTHER CW OFFICERS!!

Our new CW moderator, Pam Snyder, (on left with new CW Vice Moderator Kelsey Law) installed CW officers including Terri Sherman, Kitch Shatzer and Sue Ingels from SLAP during the business meeting, Aug. 7. Congratulations to new officers! Thank you to outgoing CW officers from SLAP, Kathleen Keefer and Christy Abraham, for your dedication to all that is PW.





## MORE GATHERING NEWS:



Homestead Presbytery Women share a smile at the 2024 Church Wide Gathering in St. Louis, August 2024. Left to right – Christy Abraham, Terri Sherman, Glenna Haller, Teresa Bartlett, Maggie Horak, Linda Burchard.

From Hope Dougherty...

If you have never attended a PW Churchwide Gathering, you are missing out on all the love of PW across the world! I returned home with a Spiritual ReConnect!

This year's Gathering was in St. Louis, MO. I carpooled with Jane Wester from UPC, Superior and Diana Mann from Ashland and we enjoyed each other! There are stories.....

The Plenaries, the speakers, the workshops were totally awesome. You come away from the Gathering with a renewed spirit!

I saw old friends, made new ones, established new relationships with other women.

I attended a business meeting prior to the Gathering and the way the PCUSA staff and the Churchwide Board do an outstanding job, helping us move forward in a unified way. Ok...one story....

We arrived at the motel with one hour to spare to get me to the business meeting. I registered, hopped in the shower, left the room and rushed to the meeting...but I didn't take the key card with the room number 🤦 !

Lucky for me, we exchanged phone numbers!

I attended six 75 minute workshops in the course of the gathering portion.

A Song of Love

Love God, Love Yourself

Heart & Treasure

Building an Inclusive, Caring Community

Uncharted Waters

2023 Mission Experience

Besides the workshops, I browsed the Exhibit Hall and the PCUSA store. Yes, I bought a bag...two actually! I received one at Registration and... bought one at The Arch! Didn't take the ride, was too late for a ticket, but watched how it was built! Impressive! Have to buy a bag there!

I learned that we are not alone in our problems, many different churches in different states, different countries, different cultures are experiencing learning how to move forward.  
 But, we can learn together, share together and be unified in keeping our Faith, Blessing God and sharing his love!  
 My roommates are looking forward to going to the Synod Gathering next year!  
 Hope Dougherty, PW Presbytery Moderator, Northern Waters



#### JOHN KNOX PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN AT THE GATHERING!

Eight women represented John Knox PW at the August **Churchwide Gathering in St. Louis, MO.** Janine Brandt and Sue Ingels participated in the Wednesday/Thursday business meetings and were joined for the Thursday through Sunday Gathering by Ruth Hein, Kate Dooley, Joyce Buseman, and Ann Rowley (Madison, WI); Beth Kerr (Oelwein, IA), and Julie Miller (Maynard, IA). We appreciate Sue's service as our Synod's Representative to the PW Board of Directors. The Gathering theme was "Do Everything in Love" and featured wonderfully inspiring plenaries, music, dance, prayer, workshops, learning, shopping, and fun. The plenary speakers were amazing ... breaking out the main theme into "What's Love Got to Do With It?," "Loving Our World," "Loving Our Neighbors," "Loving Ourselves," "Loving Our Community," and "Loving Out Loud." Some workshops I attended included "When They Say Protect Me: Our Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives," "Enough is Enough! Direct Action to End Gun Violence in the U.S.," "Family Disaster Preparedness Training," and "Best Practices for Saving and Sharing PW History." Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies enjoyed lunch and fellowship together and Julie took part in a presentation about USAME. It was truly a blessing to be a part of the Churchwide Gathering, and I thank JKPW for the opportunity to represent you.

\*\*\*\*\*

From Maggie Horak: Reflections of Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gathering:

As I reflect on my time at the St. Louis Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gathering, I'm thankful for my passengers that made the six and a half hour drive a positive experience. With grace and patience, we discussed politics from (almost) opposite ends of the spectrum. That blessing helped each of us learn that the other is not like the extremes often reported in the mainstream media. It was a wonderful way to 'begin' the journey.

This was my fourth Gathering and continue to be so impressed and proud of the leadership and planning by the Gathering Team. Things that were beyond the planers control (i.e. hotel elevator & escalator issues) seem minor on reflection. The physical space of the plenaries, workshops, and (most) meals were adequate and beautiful. Rooms over here and up/down a level or two---I finally got it on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day. Information and helpers along the way made me feel



very cared for during my time. Food was an opportunity to try new things without preparing them myself: who knew eggplant could be so good?!

“Do Everything in Love” was a wonderful theme that was explored at each plenary. Seeing & listening to women from different parts of the country and with different viewpoints was educational and inspiring. ‘What’s Love Got to Do With it?’ was a night to remember.... free to dream and become what God intends instead of putting my own limits on ‘perceived’ abilities. ‘Loving Our Neighbors’ brought me firsthand words from Puerto Rico that helped me understand beyond what I read in the headlines. “Loving Ourselves” was especially important to me in the statement: [we are] “called to ACT in love to help others THRIVE.” The keynote was Laura Cheifetz that powerfully reminded me to ‘love ourselves as courage’ and that, in these times, “loving ourselves is counterculture.” Saturday evening banquet was “Loving Our Communities” that realize that PW has helped me grow as a woman and a person. Meeting with women that I’ve been in contact across the country was so personally heart-warming. The passing of my mother this year, I realize that I have much support from several women far and near that love and support me through this part of life’s journey. It was wonderful to greet, smile & hug them again after the very long COVID hiatus (Facebook friends just don’t cut it for me!) Sunday morning “Loving Out Loud” was the perfect bow on the event. Thank you, CeCe Armstrong, for sharing your message and being that bold, calm, loving voice of the PW and PC(USA).

A unexpected blessing was when former PW Moderator, Carol Winkler, caught me in the moving crowd and thanked me so much for the table favor she received when she visited Homestead Presbytery. What an amazing woman!

In closing, I can’t help but think about the subtext theme from ‘Do Everything in Love’: ***Did you eat yet?***

\*\*\*\*\*

#### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF THE SYNOD OF THE LAKES AND PRAIRIES AT THE CHURCHWIDE GATHERING





ALL THE PLENARIES WERE TERRIFIC!!



Judi Bell and Janine Brandt



Fern Cloud, Marilyn Stone and Ernestine Ireland



ALL MODERATORS GATHER FOR  
THE GRAND PROCESSION...





**TABLE DURING PLENARIES**

## PW Synod News

**FYI** - The Global Exchange program has been tabled. If your presbytery is setting aside funds for the Global Exchange, you can stop collecting and stop sending those funds to Synod. You may also consider setting aside these extra funds to support the USA Mission Experience which will continue. If you know of an area that would be a good place for PWs to see, learn, listen and grow, please contact Cheri Harper at [cheri.harper@pcusa.org](mailto:cheri.harper@pcusa.org).

MODERATOR LOUISE VAN POLL ADDRESSES  
THE SYNOD PW AT THE SYNOD LUNCHEON.

**PWS Moderator**, Louise Van Poll, has co-authored a book with Jennifer Littlefield called "Huron" about her hometown of Huron, South Dakota. Published August 26, 2024, copies will be available soon. With pride, congratulations to Louise on another incredible accomplishment.

**PWs IN THE CONGREGATIONS** are welcome to drop off any of the items mentioned below with their PWP Moderator or Synod Rep. before Oct. 18 for PWSCT's upcoming fall meeting. Food pantry items: cereal, canned goods, peanut butter and personal care items: toilet paper, kleenex, paper towels, full-size hand soap, shampoo, etc. Also, Birthday Bags for the food pantry will be put together. The bags will be provided but items needed to fill the bags are: cake mixes, canned frosting, napkins, dessert plates, candles, plastic silverware, wrapped candies, birthday hat and/or sign. Thank you to PWs in the congregations for pitching in to make our food pantry drive a success.

### To the PWs and churches of Homestead Presbytery:



Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Lincoln will continue to act as a 'depot' for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance/Church World Services. GSPC has been recognized as the depot that provides a significant amount of Gift of the Heart Kits. That acknowledgement is due to area churches & congregations that drop off completed kits for shipment. A shipment just went out the end of August with almost 3 years of collections. If your group, church, congregation, or community want to send completed kits with the next shipment (which won't be until there's enough collections for CWS truck), we'd welcome your donations. Please contact Good Shepherd at 402-484-8844.



**TOGETHER IN SERVICE**

By Pat McKisson, Committee Chair

*'Answering the call to be the hands and feet of Christ in the World.'**"Each one should use whatever gift one has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)*

After attending the churchwide gathering this past month, I was moved by how the theme *"Do Everything in Love"* seemed to touch every topic, discussion, and event we had. As I reflected on Love, I remembered a mission of love that is run by a family I know. Their work is funded in many ways such as volunteering at Twins and Vikings games and



concerts, recycling aluminum cans and ink cartridges, seeking corporate sponsors and grants, and by receiving personal donations.

That organization is **Houses for Haiti**. They are a nonprofit organization in Minnesota. What impresses me the most about the organization is that out of funds raised less than 2% is set aside for overhead. No one takes a 'salary,' and everyone works toward the goal. What a way to *Do Everything in Love*!

**Their mission:** " **They are** dedicated to building houses for homeless families living on the streets of Cite Soleil, the poorest slum in the Western Hemisphere. They also now are paying for 10 children's education. They believe that "by changing one life it changes everything."

**Their goal:** "To raise enough money each year to build one or two homes and sponsor children so they can go to school."

**Their history:** Diane Albright, co-founder and now president, had been volunteering in Haiti on mission trips since 2002 with Arlington Hills Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, Minnesota. In 2008, her sister, Linda Satriano, visited Haiti for the first time and saw the need to help the people they met. With her encouragement, Houses for Haiti, Inc. was founded in April 2008.

**What they do:** With the assistance of Pastor Leon Dorleans in Cite Soleil, they select one or two deserving families each year who have been homeless. The families who are chosen will be the recipient of a new, two-room cement home. Pastor Dorleans contracts with the builders and the "Houses for Haiti team" paints the home(s), and visits the families, bringing them small gifts from the United States.

Each house costs about \$6,000 to build. They have built 41 houses to date. This home below was built in 2023 and is occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Mompremier and their 5 children.

Please visit their website [www.housesforhaiti.org](http://www.housesforhaiti.org) to see additional information.

Let us all pray for their success in years to come, and may *their good work continue to make positive changes, one life at a time.*

**TOGETHER IN SERVICE**

By Pat McKisson, Committee Chair

*'Answering the call to be the hands and feet of Christ in the World.'***'DO EVERYTHING IN LOVE':**

**A MOVING MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCHWIDE GATHERING THAT EXEMPLIFIES ALL OF THE WORK YOU AS P.W. DO THROUGH MISSION.**

Together in Service is one way that Presbyterian Women support mission. We work "Together in Service" through mission initiatives your P.W. groups support such as health care for women and children, education, reconciliation, and healing between Indigenous people and ourselves, working at and contributing food to local food shelves, and so much more. What you accomplish together shows how you *Do Everything in Love!*

You answer the call to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. Whether it is by picking up knitting needles to create a blanket or knit cap for a child in need or picking up a paint brush to participate in Women Build, Presbyterian Women get to work when there is a need. These efforts show how you *Do Everything in Love!*

You offer ongoing support to your church or community through selfless and effortless love.

You support the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) mission work by providing goods, labor, or financial support.

You are tireless in your work to see justice done for everyone no matter the color of their skin, their gender identity, their religious preference, or where they live.

This shows how you *Do Everything in Love!*

Your synod Together in Service Team, Janine Brandt, Audrey Fenton and Pat McKisson, have been overwhelmed by your outpouring of love in response to our requests for hands-on projects that benefit the communities or organizations of the churches our coordinating team meets at. Talk about loving your neighbor.

Since I have been involved with our TIS committee, your generosity helped with the following hands-on missions which your P.W. Moderator participated in with love:

Laverne, MN Tying quilts and collecting supplies for the local crisis center. All items were sorted and packed up for distribution.

Sioux City, IA Collected items needed to assemble baby layette kits for our sisters in the Dakota Presbytery to be used in the ceremony to Welcome the Child. Your P.W. moderators put together 67 layettes over many hours of work.

Rochester, MN Collected RX bottles from your presbyteries and sorted them by bottle #, clean or not cleaned, and those that could not be used by the Matthew 25 Ministries or the free clinic in Milwaukee, WI. We received well over 2000 bottles and got through the majority of them.

For our upcoming October CT meeting in West Salem, WI we are collecting non-perishable food items, as well as items to fill a special birthday bag, for the Community Care and Share Food Pantry which serves several of the small communities in and around West Salem. Your P.W. moderators will assemble birthday bags for the Food pantry at the meeting.

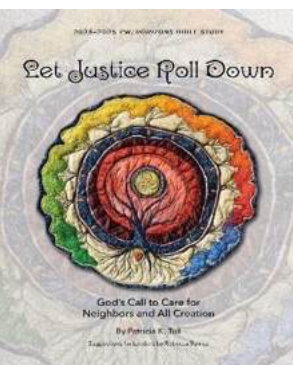
For 2025, we would like to hear from you as to what our main focus for missions should be. A couple of suggestions are:

Gun Violence At the Churchwide Gathering, there was a workshop from the organization Guns to Gardens. Check out their website to see what they do.

Gifts of the Heart kits, especially hygiene and clean-up buckets.

Please share your mission ideas with the Moderator of your presbytery or one of our committee members.. I can be reached at: [pmac0247@gmail.com](mailto:pmac0247@gmail.com) or you can call me at 651-773-5107.

With love and gratitude for your faithful service to mission, we thank you!



**Many of us no longer have an active PW within our congregation and would still like to participate in the Horizons Bible Study. If you are one of these women, Kathleen Keefer is offering to do a monthly Bible Study using the current year's "Let Justice Roll Down" Bible Study via Zoom. If you are interested, please contact her at: [kathleenkeefe20@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenkeefe20@gmail.com). We will meet on Monday evenings at 6:30pm (not the same evening as the NACC book discussion group)**

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF THE SYNOD OFFERING LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies PW Co-ordinating Team is looking for women who support PW's purpose and want to engage as Jesus' hands and feet to the world. If you have skills of organization, technology, love reaching out through mission and enjoy the company of others and working together, there is a place for you on the CT. Any woman who is active in her local congregation whether or not there is an active PW in the church can participate in the mission of Presbyterian Women. PW's connectional structure allows women to participate as deeply or broadly in the organization as desired. The Synod of Lakes and Prairies PW Co-ordinating Team is looking for women who support PW's purpose and want to engage as Jesus' hands and feet to the world. If you have skills of organization, technology, love reaching out through mission and enjoy the company of others and working together, there is a place for you on the CT. Any woman who is active in her local congregation whether or not there is an active PW in the church can participate in the mission of Presbyterian Women. PW's connectional structure allows women to participate as deeply or broadly in the organization as desired.

Opportunities to serve include Synod Moderator, Synod Secretary, Synod Historian and a representative for Area One Search Committee (Northern Plains, South Dakota, Central Nebraska, Dakota and Minnesota Valley Presbyteries) all but the Search Committee positions will begin in June of 2025. The search position is open immediately. See the PW Essentials Guide at [PWR23120-PW-Essentials.pdf \(presbyterianwomen.org\)](https://www.pw23120.org/PWR23120-PW-Essentials.pdf) (See pages 14-17) for the job description for each position. The slate of officers will be presented at the April 2025 board meeting. The new officers will be installed at the Synod Gathering June 12-15<sup>th</sup> in Waterdown, S.D. for a three-term.

The Search Committee is currently comprised of Hope Dougherty, (Area Two, [hdougherty2018@gmail.com](mailto:hdougherty2018@gmail.com)) and Teresa Bartlett, (Area Three-[tbartlett98@gmail.com](mailto:tbartlett98@gmail.com)). The Search Committee welcomes self-referrals of interested women or if you know of women in your church or Presbytery who would be a great fit for one of these positions, please share their name with the Search Committee.

Presbyterian Women are busy, from local concerns to national engagement, Presbyterian Women, guided by the Holy Spirit, are at work, guided the PW purpose of strengthening the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnessing to the promise of God's kingdom, join with other women from around the Synod in this work. The Search Committee asks each woman to pray about these opportunities and consider being a part of the Lakes and Prairies Co-ordinating Team.

### Synod of Lakes and Prairies PW Search Committee

Hope Dougherty

Teresa Bartlett

[Hdougherty2018@gmail.com](mailto:Hdougherty2018@gmail.com)

[teresabartlett98@gmail.com](mailto:teresabartlett98@gmail.com)

**Prospect Hill Presbytery Coordinating Team** will be hosting a Fall Gathering on Saturday, September 28th at Lakeside Presbyterian Church, Storm Lake, Iowa. Louella Voigt from Luverne, Minnesota, one of the USA Mission Experience participants, will share what she learned about faithfully responding to the realities of migration. A freewill offering will be held for Louella's USA Mission experience.

Gladys Schmidt will be recognized for her long-term relationship with Prospect Hill Presbytery, PWPHP Coordinating Team and her local church.

PW's will be invited to bring non-perishable and paper products for the Storm Lake local Food Bank.

+++++

**SPRING GATHERINGS:** If your PW Presbytery is making plans for a Fall Gathering and is looking for a speaker, contact a USAME participant to lead a presentation on the USA Mission Experience to the Arizona-Mexico border:

Julie Miller: [jam1150@hotmail.com](mailto:jam1150@hotmail.com)

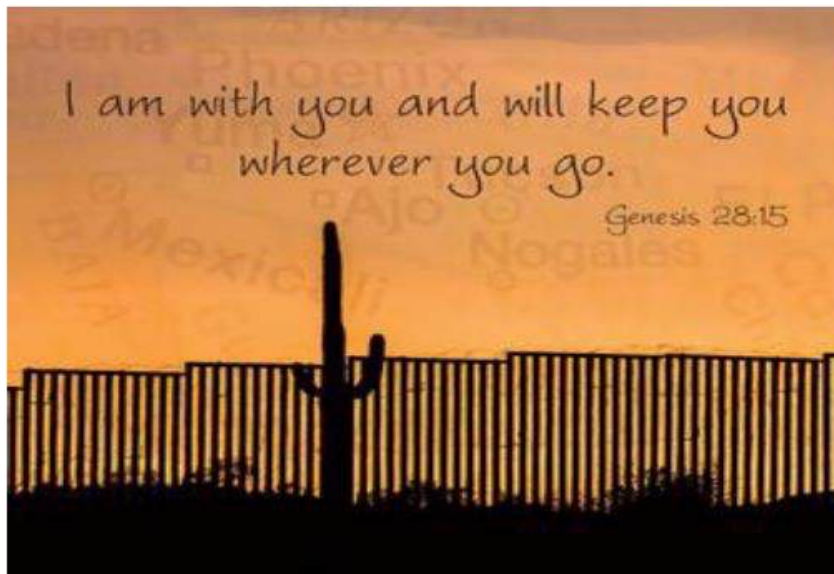
Louella Voigt: [louvoigt@hotmail.com](mailto:louvoigt@hotmail.com)

Kathleen Keefer: [kathleenkeefe20@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenkeefe20@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*



## JOHN KNOX PRESBYTERY PW FALL GATHERING



***Please join us for the  
John Knox Presbyterian Women Fall Workshop  
Saturday, September 21, 2024  
Hosted by the PW of Pioneer Presbyterian Church  
206 Fillmore St SE, Chatfield, MN***

Coffee and registration will be from 9:30-10:00 a.m., followed by the meeting and program on the theme "You Are Not Alone." Our speaker will be Julie Miller from Maynard, Iowa, who represented John Knox Presbyterian Women and the Synod of Lakes and Prairies on the USA Mission Experience to Arizona and the Border Region.

For our mission project we will be making cards to be given to detainees. We will provide materials but if you have blank notecards, envelopes, embellishments, stamps, etc. you would like to contribute, please bring them! We will also collect a Special Offering for Frontera de Cristo, a Presbyterian border ministry that "seeks to build relationships that demonstrate God's will, and build bridges rather than walls."

<https://fronteradecristo.org/>

Lunch cost is \$8. Please RSVP by September 13<sup>th</sup> to Janine Brandt, email [ripleyjb56@gmail.com](mailto:ripleyjb56@gmail.com) or call or text 563-419-7371. We are looking forward to this time together!

Register today to join a book study . . .

## *Wandering Stars*

by Tommy Orange



This book study is sponsored by Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and led by members of the PWS Native American Concerns Committee. **It is open to interested women and men across the synod**, via Zoom  
There is no charge to participate, yet registration is required.

**Dates for 2024: October 14 and 28, November 4**

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

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



**NOTE: It will be helpful if you read the book, “There There” by Tommy Orange prior to this book.**

Synopsis: Tommy Orange’s *Wandering Stars* is an ambitious family saga that is both a prequel and sequel to his brilliant debut novel, *There There*. It follows a family for over 150 years, from Jude Star escaping the Sand Creek Massacre in 1864 to the Bear Shield/Red Feather family in present day Oakland. In the family’s struggles against institutionalized violence, genocide was only the beginning. Each generation inherits the trauma of their ancestors while facing fresh injustices. The government-sponsored erasure of Native American identity, cultures, languages and beliefs doesn’t completely strip them of their heritage, but what survives is fragmented and incomplete. Star and his descendants try to rebuild their shattered identity, either by reconstructing the pieces or by replacing them with other things: sometimes art, sometimes addiction, often both.

**Register by contacting Marilyn Stone at [mmstone52@att.net](mailto:mmstone52@att.net)**

**Provide the following information:**

**Name**

**Email address**

**Phone #**

**Presbytery**

**Afternoon or evening session preference**

-

## SIT 'N SIP



The next Sit 'N Sip conversation will happen on October 5 at 11:00 a.m. discussing poverty. This follows the Justice & Peace Book Discussion group's reading of Matthew Desmond's book "Poverty by America" on September 9. If you would like to be included in the Sit 'N Sip conversation on Oct. 5, please contact PWS Zoom Coordinator, Lana Schultz at [lanaj0@casselton.net](mailto:lanaj0@casselton.net), to be added to the invitee list.



### SYNOD of Lakes & Prairies PW Gathering

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

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

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

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

Thanks, Maggie Horak (PWSLAP Vice Moderator).



The Presbyterian Women of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies created a new Facebook page to keep you informed on all the exciting things happening with PWSLAP! The page can be found by clicking on this link: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61552522904776> or by searching for Synod of Lakes and Prairies Presbyterian Women on Facebook. Once you find the page, please "Like" it and updates will appear in your Facebook feed.

If you have any items you would like to add to the PWSLAP Facebook page, please send them to Christy Abraham, PWSLAP Facebook Coordinator at [christylou71@gmail.com](mailto:christylou71@gmail.com)



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ARE BOLD – AROUND THE WORLD

### CELEBRATING A BOLD PW

“PW are uniquely BOLD” is a short yet powerful two-minute video that highlights the unique and important witness that PW brings to the church and world. Available at [youtube.com/presbyterianwomen/videos](https://youtube.com/presbyterianwomen/videos) (PW’s YouTube channel), the video debuted at the 225th General Assembly (2022) and is an excellent tool for showing why Presbyterian Women matters. Share a link for the video in your next personal email, church newsletter or minute for mission. Use it as a tool to raise awareness about and invite others to participate in our life-changing organization.

### READY FOR DOWNLOADING

“PW Essentials” (formerly PW Manual) is available at <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/PWR23120-PW-Essentials.pdf> for downloading. In the future, any changes or new editions will be available in a downloadable format only.

**Living in a world without violence against women and children.** Pause for a moment of silence on Thursdays at noon your local time to remember and honor those who have died at the hand of sexualized or gender-based violence. Go online at <https://www.ecumenicalwomenun.org/thursdays-in-black> and commit to the pledge below:

I commit to: **Thursdays in Black.**

In solidarity. In protest. In mourning. For awareness and In hope.

By supporting to wear black on Thursdays, I stand

- In solidarity with 1 in 3 women worldwide who face violence in their lives
- In protest against systems and societies that encourage violence in any form
- In mourning for men, women and children who are harmed and killed in sexual violence
- For awareness and knowledge about the challenges of sexual and gender-based violence.
- In the hope that a different reality is possible.

MAKE THE PLEDGE. #THURSDAYS IN BLACK. STAND AGAINST VIOLENCE.



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**  
**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**

Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center in Little Rock is ready to host church mission trips to help replenish the stock of disaster kits

To watch the video, copy and paste the link below into your browser.

<https://youtu.be/tBQV9PdoaKY>



## 2024 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN JUSTICE & PEACE CALENDAR

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

### J&P Calendar for October 2024

- **Domestic Violence Awareness Month;** [ncadv.org/take-action](http://ncadv.org/take-action); [nomore.org](http://nomore.org); [presbyterianwomen.org/justice](http://presbyterianwomen.org/justice) or [presbyterianmission.org/ministries/phewa](http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/phewa)
- **Fair Trade Month;** [fairtradefederation.org/celebrate-fair-trade-month](http://fairtradefederation.org/celebrate-fair-trade-month)
- **National Disability Employment Awareness Month;** [dol.gov/agencies/odep/initiatives/ndeam](http://dol.gov/agencies/odep/initiatives/ndeam)

**6** World Communion Sunday; [presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/world-communion-sunday](http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/world-communion-sunday)

**11** International Day of the Girl Child; [unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/girl-child](http://unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/girl-child)

**11** National Coming Out Day; [hrc.org/resources/national-coming-out-day](http://hrc.org/resources/national-coming-out-day)


**13** Children's Sabbath: Educate a Child, Transform the World; [pcusa.org/news/2015/8/14/educate-child-transform-world](http://pcusa.org/news/2015/8/14/educate-child-transform-world)

**16** World Food Day; [fao.org/world-food-day/home/en](http://fao.org/world-food-day/home/en)

**24** United Nations Day; [un.org/en/observances/un-day](http://un.org/en/observances/un-day)


**Want the J&P calendar for the entire year, WITH LIVE LINKS?**


[Click here](#) to download the PDF or visit the Justice and Peace webpage at [presbyterianwomen.org/justice](http://presbyterianwomen.org/justice), where you can also find additional details.





# 2024 Book Discussion *Group*

# JUSTICE and PEACE

 **DISCUSS THE BOOKS WITH OTHERS VIA ZOOM**  
• The J&P Book Discussion Group is open to all!

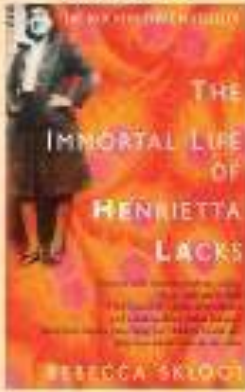


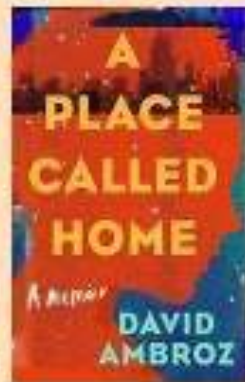

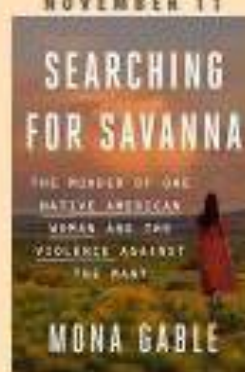
 **DISCUSSION GROUP MEETS EVERY OTHER MONTH**  
• Read and discuss any or all books that appeal to you. Registration will be needed to join the discussion on Zoom.

 **RECEIVE STUDY GUIDES TO INFORM YOUR READING**  
• Questions for discussion or reflection will be sent with your registration confirmation.



To register, scan the QR code with your smart phone or go to [presbyterianwomen.org/justice](https://presbyterianwomen.org/justice).

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

<p><b>JANUARY 8</b></p>  <p><b>MARCH 11</b></p>  <p><b>MAY 13</b></p> 	<p><b>JULY 8</b></p>  <p><b>SEPTEMBER 9</b></p>  <p><b>NOVEMBER 11</b></p> 
---	---

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





**Presbyterian Women's *Build a Bouquet* FUNdraiser**

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

**Bouquets**

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

Seven bouquet options + one community garden are available!

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

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

Build your bouquet (or learn more) at [presbyterianwomen.org/bouquet](http://presbyterianwomen.org/bouquet). Or, send a check with additional information (the bouquet option you choose, your name and address, email address and telephone number) to: Presbyterian Women, Inc., Remittance Processing—Giving, PO Box 643652, Pittsburgh PA 15264-3652.

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

**GIVE TO PW's ANNUAL FUND**

## Current PW-SLAP Coordinating Team

### Moderator

Louise Van Poll (2025)  
601 Kansas Ave SE  
Huron, SD 57350  
605-354-2397 [lcvanpoll@gmail.com](mailto:lcvanpoll@gmail.com)

### Vice-Moderator

Maggie Horak (2026)  
5601 Barrington Park Dr.  
Lincoln, NE 68516  
402-429-0523  
[mmhlin@outlook.com](mailto:mmhlin@outlook.com)

### Treasurer

Terri Sherman (2027)  
12244 N 84th St.  
Lincoln, NE 68517  
402-441-2823 Work  
402-446-0063 Home  
402-525-6008 Cell  
[terri.sherman@zoetis.com](mailto:terri.sherman@zoetis.com)  
[terrisherman@windstream.net](mailto:terrisherman@windstream.net)

### Secretary

Kitch Shatzer (2025)  
27 Ash Lane  
Washington, IA 52353  
319-461-0266 Cell  
[revkitch@hotmail.com](mailto:revkitch@hotmail.com)

### Historian

Judy Bell (2024)  
5217 Roberts Drive  
Greendale, WI 53129  
414-378-6437 Cell  
[jmoinebell@aol.com](mailto:jmoinebell@aol.com)

### Search Committee

Hope Dougherty, Chair (2025)  
PO Box 223  
Manitowish Waters, WI 54545  
715-543-2669  
[hdougherty2018@gmail.com](mailto:hdougherty2018@gmail.com)

Teresa Bartlett  
404 W. 11<sup>th</sup> St

## Officers – changes are highlighted 2024

Wayne, NE 68787  
319-795-2911  
[tbartlett98@gmail.com](mailto:tbartlett98@gmail.com)

### VACANT

### Churchwide Board of Directors

#### Representative

Sue Ingels (2027)  
12627 M Ave.  
Fayette, IA 52142  
563-419-8751 [syngels6@gmail.com](mailto:syngels6@gmail.com)

#### Appointive positions:

#### Together In Service

Pat McKisson, Coordinator  
2532 Sumac Circle  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110  
651-773-5107 Home  
[pmac0247@gmail.com](mailto:pmac0247@gmail.com)

#### Justice and Peace Coordinator

Kathleen Keefer  
210 S, 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Apt 811  
Omaha, NE 68102  
712-542-0039  
[kathleenkeefer20@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenkeefer20@gmail.com)

#### Inclusive Caring Coordinator

Hope Dougherty  
PO Box 223  
Manitowish Waters, WI 54545  
715-543-2669  
[hdougherty2018@gmail.com](mailto:hdougherty2018@gmail.com)

#### Sower Editor

Kathleen Keefer (see above)

#### Communications Coordinator & Interim Zoom Coord. (2024)

Lana Schultz  
P O Box 891  
Casselton, ND 58012  
701-238-4538 Cell  
[lanaj0@casselton.net](mailto:lanaj0@casselton.net)

#### Zoom Coordinator Vacant

### Facebook Coordinator

Christy Abraham  
[Christylou71@gmail.com](mailto:Christylou71@gmail.com)

### Native American Concerns Marilyn

Stone, Coordinator  
3915 Lake Street  
Burlington, WI 53105  
262-763-0918 Home  
262-492-7921 Cell  
[mmstone52@att.net](mailto:mmstone52@att.net)

Sharon Falck  
809 Turnberry Drive  
Grinnell, IA 50112  
641-660-7615  
[Sfalck2009@gmail.com](mailto:Sfalck2009@gmail.com)

Donna Preston  
P O Box 276  
Grandin, ND 58038  
701-238-7414 Cell  
[preston@gra.midco.net](mailto:preston@gra.midco.net)

Ernestine Ireland  
P O Box 1491  
Poplar, MT 59255  
406-768-7663 Cell  
[giv3s3ag13@gmail.com](mailto:giv3s3ag13@gmail.com)

LaVonne Looking Elk  
3729 W. Chicago  
Rapid City, SD 57702  
605-381-3488 Cell  
[sllooking@rap.midco.net](mailto:sllooking@rap.midco.net)

Kitch Shatzer  
27 Ash Lane  
Washington, IA 52353  
319-461-0266 Cell  
[revkitch@hotmail.com](mailto:revkitch@hotmail.com)

Ida Ashes Brown  
38630 Hwy 46  
Lake Andes, SD 57356

## THE SOWER

605-469-5623 (cell)  
[Ida1255@gmail.com](mailto:Ida1255@gmail.com)

Emma Grey Bull

367 Bernard Street  
Agency Village, SD 57262  
605-268-3008 (cell)  
[elgreybull92@gmail.com](mailto:elgreybull92@gmail.com)

September 10, 2024

Judy Rops  
[Judyrops25@gmail.com](mailto:Judyrops25@gmail.com)  
As of 4/14/2024

**2025 Synod Gathering Comm.** Louise Van Poll [lcvanpoll@gmail.com](mailto:lcvanpoll@gmail.com)  
Maggie Horak [mmhlin@outlook.com](mailto:mmhlin@outlook.com)

Terri Sherman [Terri.sherman@zoetis.com](mailto:Terri.sherman@zoetis.com)

### PWSCT Moderators/Reps.

### 2024-25 CHANGES ARE HIGHLIGHTED

**Central Nebraska** Moderator/Rep  
VACANT

**John Knox** –Moderator/Rep

Janine Brandt

1362 175th St.

Postville, IA 52162

563-532-9427 Home

563-419-7371 Cell

[ripleyJB56@gmail.com](mailto:ripleyJB56@gmail.com)

**Dakota** – Moderator/Rep

Ernestine Ireland

PO Box 1491

Poplar, MT 59255

406-768-7663 Cell

[Giv3s3ag13@gmail.com](mailto:Giv3s3ag13@gmail.com)

Term: 2021-2024

**Milwaukee** Co-Mod/Reps

Judy Bell

521 Roberts Drive

Greendale, WI 53129

414-378-6437 Cell

[jmoinebell@aol.com](mailto:jmoinebell@aol.com)

**Des Moines** Moderator/Rep

Sharon Falck

809 Turnberry Dr

Grinnell, IA 50112

641-660-7615 cell

641-260-8500 home

[sfalck2009@gmail.com](mailto:sfalck2009@gmail.com)

Helen McMasters

3595 Westshire Cir

Delavan, WI 53115

262-740-1321

[mcmasters.helen@gmail.com](mailto:mcmasters.helen@gmail.com)

**East Iowa** –Rep.

Kitch Shatzer

27 Ash Lane

Washington, IA 52353

319-461-0266 Cell

[revkitch@hotmail.com](mailto:revkitch@hotmail.com)

**Minnesota Valleys** – Rep.

Gloria Rust

1657 200th Ave.

Luverne, MN 56156

507-283-4975 Home

507-227-7393 Cell

[grust49@gmail.com](mailto:grust49@gmail.com)

**Homestead** Moderator/Rep

Rev. Teresa Bartlett

404 W. 11<sup>th</sup>

Wayne, NE 68787

319-795-2911

[tbartlett98@gmail.com](mailto:tbartlett98@gmail.com)

**MO River Valley** – Mod/Rep

Kathleen Keefer

210 S. 16th Street, Apt 811,

Omaha, NE 68102

712-542-0039 Cell

[Kathleenkeefer20@gmail.com](mailto:Kathleenkeefer20@gmail.com)

**North Central Iowa** – Rep.

Linda Hora

1210 Southview Ct

Boone, IA 50036

515-230-9275

[lindatoindia@gmail.com](mailto:lindatoindia@gmail.com)

**Northern Plains**–Moderator/Rep

Donna Preston

P O Box 276

Grandin, ND 58038

701-238-7414 Cell

[preston@gra.midco.net](mailto:preston@gra.midco.net)

Term: 2027

**Northern Waters** - Mod/Rep

Hope Dougherty

PO Box 223

Manitowish Waters, WI 54545

715-543-2669

[hdougherty2018@gmail.com](mailto:hdougherty2018@gmail.com)

605-469-5623 (cell)

[Ida1255@gmail.com](mailto:Ida1255@gmail.com)

Emma Grey Bull

367 Bernard Street

Agency Village, SD 57262



THE SOWER

605-268-3008 (cell)

[elgreybull92@gmail.com](mailto:elgreybull92@gmail.com)

September 10, 2024

**2025 Synod Gathering Comm.**

Louise Van Poll

[lcvanpoll@gmail.com](mailto:lcvanpoll@gmail.com)

Maggie Horak

[mmhlin@outlook.com](mailto:mmhlin@outlook.com)

Terri Sherman

[Terri.sherman@zoetis.com](mailto:Terri.sherman@zoetis.com)

Judy Rops

[Judyrops25@gmail.com](mailto:Judyrops25@gmail.com)

As of 4/14/2024



Presbyterian Women in Synod  
of Lakes & Prairies

Kathleen Keefer, Editor

210 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street

Apt #811

Omaha, NE 68102

[kathleenkeefer20@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenkeefer20@gmail.com)