



The Sower

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



November, 2021

Kathleen Keefer, Editor

Moderator's Musings

Do you look forward to the changing seasons? I do, for the most part. I like this time of year for the beautiful colors of the changing leaves and for the cooler temperatures that bring about those changing colors. But I don't like the shorter days. I love the sunshine. It makes me happy and helps me be in a great mood. But it is inevitable that the days will grow shorter until the winter solstice, when the slow lengthening of days begins all over. When it gets cold and dark, I just want to hibernate, like a bear. I have my little "nest" in the living room, with my books, knitting, beading, and the remote control for the TV. I try to get everything I need before I sit down, so I don't have to get up very often. And that is problematic. I need to move more often than I want to when I'm snuggling down of an evening.

Sometimes when we get to this point in our lives, we just need to tell ourselves that, yes, it's OK to move around and do something that involves more than just sitting there. My smart watch will buzz every hour or so, reminding me to get up and move around for a little while. The movement gets my heart rate up and keeps my feet from swelling. But it also can be a spiritual practice. When you get up to move, say a prayer for someone you thought of that day. Or have a favorite Bible verse where you can read it aloud to hear it in your soul. Or anything else you can think of to nourish your spiritual self.

Enjoy the autumn colors and weather. But don't hibernate too much. God bless you all.





USE OF DRAMA TO HELP US SEE GOD AT WORK IN THE WORLD

Inspired by the 2021- Horizons in-depth study of the women in Jesus' genealogy, **the PW of Linn Presbyterian Church, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin**, put together a dramatization of other, familiar and lesser-known women found in scripture. A talented committee of women was assembled; Helen, chair; Christine, author; Mary, casting and photographer; Vicki, costuming; and Roxane, room set-up and refreshments. The committee worked several months perfecting the program.

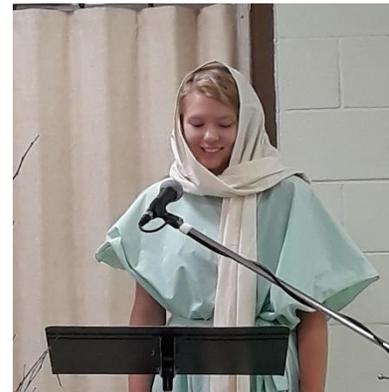
To promote and engage the congregation, the committee chose the Theme of "That's What She Said...But Who Was She?" Each Sunday, for several weeks, a quote would be provided along with a scripture passage. The following week the women who spoke would be revealed.

Author, Christine researched scripture and selected women of strong faith to be represented in the program. Ten women were selected including both a young Miriam, protecting her brother Moses from the pharaoh's wrath and an adult Miriam supporting Moses in the wilderness. Participants of all ages were cast in roles, thus "engaging others in the congregation beyond those active in PW. Women portrayed included Abigail, Hannah (with her son Samuel), Young Miriam, Pharaoh's Daughter and her handmaid, Adult Miriam, Hulda, Esther, Elizabeth, Mary (mother of Jesus), and Mary Magdalene. Narrator, Lisa Lynne, a candidate for ordination, introduced each character with a bit of background, the character then expanding on her role in scripture, revealing much that might not be known to the average person in the pews. Each character

was dressed in a costume appropriate for Biblical times, many of these having been made by Vicki, an enthusiast of musical theater.

To prevent the guests from losing interest, all were invited to join in singing the hymn, "I Danced in the Morning" following Miriam's appearance. Following their presentation, each character was asked to sit at table with guests so guests could interact with them. Guests were also treated to refreshments consisting of finger foods & toothpicks – grapes, olives, wafer crackers, grape juice. There was no charge to attend but guests, were encouraged to contribute to a free-will offering, with proceeds to go to the PW Thank Offering.

Following the program, gifts were given to all participants, and door prizes to guests who had Biblical names. Token gifts were available for all guests when they departed.



The program was a welcome diversion after many months of virtual worship, masking and distancing. Guests expressed enthusiasm and inquired if it would be offered again at a later date. Praise, indeed, and a reward for the witness to God's faithful servants.

HOMESTEAD PRESBYTERY MEETS WITH IMAGINATION

Hello from Homestead Presbytery.

We had a wonderful Spring event. Several members of the board took a road trip and went to the PW's instead of them coming to a gathering.

We visited 6 PW groups and had an additional 3 churches in attendance. Each of the officers gave a presentation on items such as Horizons Magazine and Bible Study, Mission Pledge form, mission ideas, justice/peace-making ideas, and information on PDA (Presbytery Disaster Assistance).

This year we will be focused on supporting our local domestic violence shelters across Homestead.



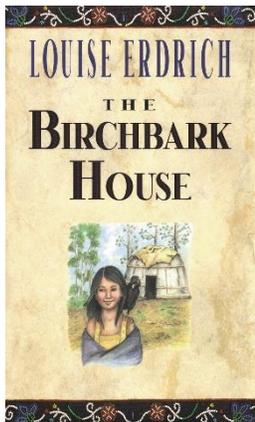
Many groups are excited to be starting the new Horizon's bible study. Sounds like a good one this year.

We are hoping we can meet in person for a Spring Gathering. Until we meet again, we wish everyone well.



BOOKS WORTH READING:

The Birchbark House by Louise Erdrich
Published by Hyperion, 1999
Reading level - age 9 and older



The Birchbark House is the 1st in a series about an Ojibwa family that lives on an island in Lake Superior. In this first book, set in 1847, we meet Omakayas (oh-MAH-kay-ahs), a young girl living with her family. The book follows the family for 1 year and is divided by the seasons. Omakayas helps her family with their work, but also has time to

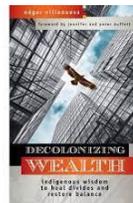
fight with her annoying younger brother, Pinch, and to play with her youngest brother, baby Neewo. We see how the family uses all the things given to them in nature to make and gather what they need for survival. They also trade with white people for needs that they can't make. The men are worried about the encroachment by the white people on their land. There are festivals and feasts, but also hunger when their food runs low in a long, hard

winter. A surprise guest during the winter brings an unwelcome visitor, leading to tragedy for the community.

Erdrich's ancestors were these people who lived on what is now called Madeline Island. She and her mother researched their heritage and found other living descendants of their ancestors. She also did a lot of research at the Madeline Island Historical Society to find out how her ancestors lived and worked.

This book has a wonderful story that will captivate young readers and draw them into Omakayas's life. Erdrich has a gentle style of writing, but her characters spring out from the page. Also included in the book are line drawings by the author to illustrate the story. This is an award-winning book, winning several awards and being named a National Book Award finalist. I'm looking forward to reading the rest of the series.

Decolonizing Wealth: Indigenous Wisdom To Heal Divides And Restore Balance by Edgar Villanueva. The author is a Native American of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, and he is aware of the wounds that colonization has caused his people's relationship to money – and still causes all Indigenous Peoples. Through this book, “we begin to decolonize this relationship in order to imagine a world where we all have enough to thrive.”



In his book, Villanueva teaches us the Seven Steps

to Healing: 1.) grieve 2.) apologize 3.) listen 4.) relate 5.) represent 6.) invest 7.) repair. Through following these steps, we can heal and translate the healing into action.

The Co-Moderators of the General Assembly of the PC(USA) has recommended Decolonizing Wealth as their first book study. According to Co-Moderator, Elona Street Stewart offered this: “This is a very important time where the church and our country are trying to shift reality around how we repair and bring equity to our ideas, while resolving concerns that are being raised by our communities,” said Street-Stewart. “This book will help address these issues as a Matthew 25 church.”

Justice and Peace Book Group will be discussing this book on January 10, 2022. Please look for more announcements to come.



FINDING JOY

Every spring I start stirring in my stuff. There is closet stuff, drawer stuff, attic stuff and basement stuff. I separate the good stuff from the bad stuff then I stuff the good stuff back in drawers, closets, attic and basement, then I stuff the bad stuff anywhere the stuff is not too crowded until I decide if I will need the bad stuff. When the Lord calls me home, my children will want the good stuff but the bad stuff, stuffed wherever there is room among all the other stuff, will be stuffed in bags and taken to the dump where all the other peoples' stuff has been taken.

Now there is all that stuff we use to make us smell better than we do. There is the stuff to make our hair look good. The stuff to cover a bad complexion, stuff to make us look younger, stuff to make us look healthier, stuff to hold us in and stuff to fill us out. There is stuff to read, stuff to play with, stuff to entertain us and stuff to eat... We stuff ourselves with all the food stuff.

If we listen carefully to the advertising, we are sure to find happiness in all those products we purchase, all that STUFF we keep adding to our homes. Don't get me wrong, I, too have too much STUFF. As soon as I clear out some of that stuff, I regret getting rid of some things, and wish I had kept others. So, it is with human nature.

However, as I was preparing to write this devotional, I searched past Horizons magazines and found help from an article on JOY found in the 2019 May/June issue, written by Bruce M. Metzger. He defines happiness as a feeling, a mental response based on an experience. Whereas joy is an emotion; an instinctual, sometimes illogical response to a stimulus.

You may experience happiness as you shop for all that stuff, as you enjoy a good meal or live in a beautifully decorated home. But joy goes much deeper. I found help from an article in Horizons, but did you know that in the Bible, happiness is mentioned 98 times. That seems like a lot, but JOY,

enjoy, rejoice are mentioned 617 times. That we are beloved by God and are an essential part of God's plan for the world is all we need to know – to know that we are wrapped in God's love.

In *The Book of Joy*, a conversation with the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, these two-world renowned spiritual leaders share experiences of living in and with joy. Both have experienced devastating hardships; the Dalai Lama having been exiled from his beloved Tibet and the Archbishop having lived through the apartheid of South Africa. With these experiences in their past, they are still filled with joy and share that joy with all whom they meet.

They share eight pillars of Joy: Perspective, Humility, Humor, Acceptance, Forgiveness, Gratitude, Compassion, and Generosity. The greatest of these being gratitude, compassion, and generosity. When these are shared with others, they return ten-fold. During these distressing, depressing, challenging days, Joy can still be found, if we just reach out with lives filled with the spirit of Christ.

Graciously submitted by Helen McMasters,
Milwaukee Presbytery



Letting Your Leaves Fall
Rachel Wojo (from DaySpring)
September 17, 2021

Little yellow leaves from the front yard tree dance across the porch and driveway. As their bright green color fades, it seems they fall almost as quickly as they change. I love summer affectionately and part of me longs to whisper to the tree "Hold on a little longer. Come on; you got this. Think green!" But graciously the tree listens to its Maker rather than my foolish whispers. In order to flourish in the new season, the tree must let go of its decayed leaves. They have performed well for the term, but their time has drawn to a close.

Autumn is a wonderful time to observe nature. As I watch the swirling leaves stirred by the wind, I am reminded that they display an important lesson for all of us to follow suit in a way. Just as the trees don't stubbornly hold on to their dead leaves, so we

shouldn't hold on to any unnecessary weight in our lives. When we long to enter a new season, the old can easily inhibit the new if we allow it. God's Word reminds us to:

Get rid of all bitterness, rage, and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave *you*. Ephesians 4:31,32 (NIV)

To get rid of negativity in our lives, we must first identify it. How can we do this?

» By reading God's Word.

» By allowing His Spirit to show us the necessary heart changes we need.

» By being willing to shun practices such as bitterness and anger.

» By asking God to help us let go of the guilt from the past.

Oh, how the Lord longs to empower and strengthen us for the new season ahead! If we're not sure of the issues detaining a kind and compassionate spirit, He will show us when we ask. And if guilt from the past is preventing this beautiful new season, we have His promises like this one to remember:

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:18,19 (NIV)

What are you holding on to that is preventing a freshness to the season ahead? Could it be that the decayed leaves are piling up and your heart needs to discard them for good? If so, why not reach out to the Lord in prayer? He longs to hear from you. Ask Him to shine light on any thoughts, circumstances, habits or other "decayed leaves" you might be clinging to. As you watch the leaves fall this season, our prayer is that you are reminded to let go of anything that would hinder a fresh relationship with God.

UPDATES FROM BDECAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:

Exciting things continue to happen at Bdecan. This summer the Presbytery of Northern Plains Bdecan

Ministry Team was a beneficiary of a will from a woman in Georgia. The monies we received will be used to fund the food pantry in 2022. This all started in 2012 with an article I wrote for the Mission Yearbook. The woman saw the article and saw what we want to do to help the people of the Spirit Lake Reservation and she saw how she could eventually help us out. A small seed can yield a huge award. Never underestimate how telling your story may lead to a big reward.

God works in mysterious ways.

Rosie Helland, Youth and Outreach Coordinator has been



dealing with major health issues in the last few months, so we continue to ask for prayers in her healing process. She is still guiding and leading the people at Bdecan. The food pantry is open every 3rd Thursday from 4 pm to 7 pm to support the food insecurities on the Spirit Lake Reservation. We continue to get donations of clothes for the clothing closet, and it is also open the same hours as the food pantry. Food pantry and clothing closet is providing items each month for 50 to 60 families. Rosie gets help from church members each month to unload food from Great Plains food bank plus people to work at the pantry and closet the day of the opening. It is truly a partnership!

We are still looking for groups to come the summer of 2022 to either lead VBS or do work projects. The last 2 summers, due to covid, no VBS was held. The children have really missed this fun and educational times with outside groups. The food pantry is in need of siding as the wood siding is deteriorating and getting holes in it. Bob Helland did minor repairs this summer and caulked up the holes as a temporary fix. We have the money for the supplies to do the siding, we just need a group who has the ability to do the work. The pantry and church are need of shingles also if there is a group who could also do this work.

130 backpacks were given out in August to children of the Wood Lake District of the Reservation, this number was up this year due to covid, people being out of work, or not having working cars to be able to get to work. We will do a winter wear give away in November. We have purchased 100 coats, snow pants, and boots to hand out. This all due to the generous support of people and churches within and outside Presbytery of Northern Plains. God is good and has made sure our

Ministry continues at Bdecan Presbyterian Church and on the Spirit Lake Reservation.

Submitted by: Donna Preston – Co Leader of the Presbytery of Northern Plains Bdecan Ministry Team

**2021-2022 Dakota Presbytery Partnership Opportunities
PW Synod of Lakes and Prairies**

OSLH Native Connections



“Welcoming the Child” Ceremony and Support to new mothers Pine Ridge, South Dakota

A “Welcoming the Child” Ceremony is held for newborns teaching the Lakota cultural traditions of protecting the baby’s fontanel (“soft spot”) from harm or sickness, and the sacred connection to walking in balance. This ceremony offers a way to celebrate the birth and also offer support with cultural teachings, parenting skills (nutrition, nurturing baby care, build/maintain healthy relationships), helping mothers get their GED or high school diploma, develop job skills and/or offer coping skills.



Gift baskets are given to each mother and these items are needed for the baskets: Clothing sizes 3-6 months ONLY – 2-onesies, 2-sleepers, 1-outfit, socks, bibs, 2- receiving blankets, disposable diapers (not newborn), wipes, baby wash, baby toothbrush, baby caps/hats, and baby bottles (small). Items can be mailed to: Lisa Schrader, % OSLH Native Connections, 412 Dakota Street, Pine Ridge, SD 57770



Services for homeless men, women and children Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church,

Pine Ridge, South Dakota

Elder Ruby Schlueter provides three meals each week for 60-70 men, women and children of Pine Ridge who are homeless. She calls these folks her

“family” and the love she shares with them is received and reciprocated.

At Christmas she provides a gift for each person. Items needed include: hats, mittens, gloves, scarves for children and adults; hand towels and washcloths; small shower gel, shampoo, lotion; hair brushes, combs, and elastic hair bands; sturdy backpacks for adults and children; hoodies, sized 1X-2X-3X; pull-over shirts, size 1X-2X-3X; colored pencils and drawing paper; fleece lap robes.

Gift items or financial contributions for meals can be mailed to:

Ms. Ruby Schlueter, PO Box 7002 (592 E. Hwy 18), Pine Ridge, SD 57770

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



Gather the Children Home is a culturally appropriate 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 relatives home becomes available.

Items needed include: twin sheets and mattress pads, twin-sized fleece blankets, crib sheets, towels and wash cloths. Also, ongoing financial support paying for monthly internet and phone expense or some other monthly expense. Please include a self-addressed and stamped postcard that can be returned to you as acknowledgement that items were received. These items can be shipped to the following address: Gather Our Children Home, House #32, Porcupine School Road, Porcupine, SD 57772

Wacinyan Tipi (House of Hope) Homeless Shelter 45657 Veterans Memorial Highway Sisseton, SD



Wacinyan Tipi's (House of Hope's) mission is to restore the basic integrity and dignity of the Dakota values of each individual who is homeless and passes through their shelter doors. Hygiene kits are much needed. All items for each kit should be placed in a

one-gallon Ziploc bag. Each hygiene kit should include: hand towel, wash cloth, toothbrush, toothpaste, bar of soap, shampoo and comb (wide-tooth preferred). Kits should be mailed to: House of Hope, %Dora Arteaga, 45657 Veteran’s Memorial Highway, Sisseton, SD 57262

2021-2022 Dakota Presbytery Partnership Opportunities continued:



Sisseton Wahpeton College
Sisseton, SD
Financial contributions are being received by PW Synod of Lakes

and Prairies to create a sustaining Native American student scholarship fund. These funds will make it possible to grant a scholarship each semester to a Native student attending Sisseton Wahpeton College as a second semester freshman or a sophomore.



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

Criteria for selection is in place. Ongoing funds are needed to sustain granting a scholarship each semester. Contributions can be mailed to: Terri Sherman, PWS Treasurer, 12244 N. 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68517 Note on memo line: “Native American Scholarship Fund”.

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New Church World Service Project – Assemble “Welcome Backpacks”

Church World Service (CWS) has released a new *Welcome Backpacks* kit that can be assembled much in the same way that we have been assembling the Gift of the Heart Kits (hygiene, school, clean-up buckets) for many years. These backpacks are one tangible way to welcome unaccompanied minors or families to the United



States at one of our local resettlement offices. CWS welcomes asylum seekers at the US southern border by partnering with 17 border shelters. Shelters who receive asylum seekers released from Border Patrol or ICE, provide them with food and shelter, and arrange transportation for them to reunite with their families. Most asylum seeker arrive to these shelters with little more than the clothing on their back.

CWS Welcome Backpacks provide unaccompanied minors and families with the essentials for their transition: food and water, children’s activities, a blanket, basic hygiene items, and PPE. You can help extend welcome by assembling backpacks or sponsoring a backpack to be assembled.”

For information about contents of the new Welcome Backpack kit and how to assemble, pack, and ship them, go to <https://cwsglobal.org/donate/welcome-backpacks>.

Please note that at this time, this new kit is not yet being received at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD but must go to CWS at its address in Elkhart, Ind.

(Submitted by Marilyn Stone)

Sewing Machines Fill Need During Pandemic



At the outbreak of the pandemic, Susie Amos, moderator of the PW of Dakota Presbytery, asked for masks; and then said that the women of Dakota Presbytery could make their own if they had sewing machines.

Funds were available to purchase 3 used machines, and a 4th was donated. All were sent to Susie for the PW of Dakota Presbytery. Since that time, 4 more machines were donated and taken to the Mission Meeting in August and distributed to various tribes; and 8 more machines were donated and taken to the Dakota Presbytery meeting in early October, for a total of 16 machines donated and distributed.

In addition to the sewing machines, sewing supplies, fabric, and other items like additional needles for the machines, were donated and given to Dakota Presbytery's PW to help the women with their sewing projects.

All the machines were reconditioned by a man in Ottumwa, Iowa, who was born on a Chippewa Reservation, and whose parents were missionaries of the Christian Alliance on the Pine Ridge and Fort Pierre reservations.

Submitted by Sharon Falck, chair of the Native American Concerns Committee



Senior Life Solutions

Senior Life Solutions is a program that offers emotional support for seniors 65 and older who are struggling. It is nation-wide program in 28 states and has 104 programs and is growing. There are programs in Iowa, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota to name a few.

Aging brings many joys - grandchildren, more free time in retirement, and wisdom gained over the decades. But, at the same time, our older years can also bring the loss of loved ones, stresses of age-related health concerns, isolation, and financial struggles.

No matter what we hear, Depression is Not a part of getting older. If it does occur, having support gives us hope and helps us recover.

The Senior Life Solutions staff include a board-certified psychiatrist, licensed social workers and therapists, and a registered nurse. After an evaluation with a psychiatrist, the patient meets up to 3 times a week in a group therapy led by a licensed therapist. The patient also has individual sessions with the therapist.

The program is a great opportunity for patients to achieve a greater understanding of their depression or anxiety and gain coping skills to improve their depression and anxiety symptoms, thus enhancing their quality of life.

It is a voluntary program. My primary health care provider referred me; you can ask for help yourself. The cost is covered by Medicare and most supplemental insurances.

If you or anyone you know is struggling with mental health issues, help may be available. There is a website to see if there are programs in your area: www.psychmc.com/senior-life-solutions.

Submitted by Susan Ingels, Synod Representative to the PW, Inc Board of Directors

ONGOING DONATIONS OF FABRIC AND SUPPLIES



Quality quilting fabric and sewing supplies such as sewing machine needles, 6-inch rulers and measuring tapes, thread and needles, scissors, and straight pins, may be sent to any of these four

women. Each is located in a different part of Dakota Presbytery:

Susie Amos
P.O. Box 104
New Effington SD 57255

Ida Ashes Brown
38630 SD Hwy 46
Lake Andes SD 57356

Ruby Schlueter
592 E. Hwy 18
Pineridge SD 57770

Ernestine Youpee
P.O. Box 1491
Poplar MT 59255

The pandemic has limited access to resources but has not diminished the desire to do what we can for and with each other. Thank you to the PW of Dakota Presbytery for reaching out, and to the PW of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies for responding in supportive ways.

Submitted by Sharon Falck, chair of the Native American Concerns Committee of the PW of the Synods of Lakes and Prairies



**Suicide Awareness
and Prevention**

Suicide Prevention Comes by Many Paths

It is all too likely that you, personally, know someone who died by their own hand. And it becomes more likely all the time. This season of global pandemic and all the other side effects that have come with it, has also brought a huge mental health challenge to nearly everyone.

And we already had a shortage of mental health care providers in our synod, particularly in the more rural areas. They are now stretched thin. And statistically, someone who has lost someone close to them by suicide is more susceptible to considering it themselves.

I am one who lost a family member to suicide. Nearly sixteen years ago, my son, Jay, aged 25, chose to end his life. As his family, we had been aware of his struggles for quite a long time, and many efforts had been made to safeguard and improve his mental state. That presented many challenges to us. But when he chose to leave us, it was almost overwhelming to deal with all the wide range of emotions that presented themselves to us – pain, anger, fear, shame, guilt, extreme sadness above all (at least for me).

Grief connected to a suicide is complicated, or complex grief. There are additional layers and elements that arise that differ from a death that comes because of advanced age or a long illness. Often a suicide is unexpected or comes out of the blue with no explanation, and no way to get an explanation first-hand.

When Jay died, my first reaction was to go into management mode (my normal reaction to any kind of crisis). Because I knew we would need help dealing with this loss for some time to come, I went online looking for what kinds of support might be available. I was most concerned about my other son, not only Jay's brother, but his best friend as well. Unfortunately, there were no support groups available nearby for him, but I did discover a group meeting not too far from where I live. The American Foundation for the Prevention of Suicide resources groups in many communities across the country. I joined one of those groups quite soon following Jay's death and have been a part of it ever since. I have

now been one of the facilitators of the Coping With Suicide Loss Support Group for about five years. Ours is a peer group that meets monthly. That means that none of us is intentionally a mental health professional, but all of us have suffered a suicide loss. Yes, our meetings can be heavy sometimes, especially when someone with a new loss is attending for the first time. Mostly we try to listen, acknowledge feelings without judging, find points of similarity in our experiences that might provide a basis for understanding and perhaps the sharing of an insight, or a coping mechanism, or the like. There is great comfort in realizing that you are not the only one who has had this horrible experience, even if there may not be concrete answers or solutions to whatever struggle is at the front of the line now. And sometimes we do laugh! At the strangest things sometimes. Group members come and go as the need presents, some attending only a few times and others being part of the group for many years. We have a few rituals to ground us in the same emotional space, or to remember and even celebrate the ones we have loved and lost. We always close by telling something good about the person we lost or setting a specific goal for self-care before we meet again. It was important enough to our group members to keep meeting when the pandemic came that we were able to arrange to meet on Zoom and we only missed one meeting at the very beginning. The American Foundation for the Prevention of Suicide has a website online with many resources for you, or for your friend who has had a loss to suicide. They even have connections to online chat groups whose members are not necessarily close geographically.



SAVE THE DATES

NEW – 2022 PW SYNOD PRE-GATHERING MISSION EVENT



A PW Synod Pre-Gathering Mission Event will take place on Thursday, June 16, 2022, from approximately 9 AM to 3 PM, with a to-be-determined additional cost for those who choose to participate.

This Pre-Gathering Mission Event will include a guided tour of the Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Hospital in Walthill, NE, an exterior visit to Dr. Susan’s home and First Presbyterian Church in Walthill. It also includes a visit to the John G. Neihardt Center which contains many of Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte’s personal artifacts, as well as the Bancroft Cemetery, both in Bancroft, NE.

Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte, an Omaha Native American woman, was the first Native American medical doctor. In her younger years she attended Presbyterian Mission Schools, and later taught Sunday School and served as an interpreter at the First Presbyterian Church in Walthill, NE, on the Omaha Reservation. This is where she built a hospital funded in a large part by the Presbyterian Church. This hospital is currently being restored and funds are being raised to complete this restoration. The restored hospital facility will house a medical clinic, cultural and educational spaces to teach/learn Native culture and arts, as well as space on the grounds for community gardens and an outdoor amphitheater.

If you are interested in participating in this Pre-Gathering Mission Event, please let Marilyn Stone know of your interest (via email at mmstone52@att.net OR leave a message at 262-763-0918).

Transportation and lunch options are being explored. If you have a van or church bus that could be used for transportation, please let Marilyn know this as well.

The cost for this event will be available in January when registration begins.



PW Synod Gathering

June 16-19, 2022

Riverfront Hilton Garden Inn,
Sioux City, IA



Plans for the 2022 Presbytery Women Synod Gathering are under way! The Registration packet will be available on the Synod website or from your PWP Moderator by Dec 1.

The theme is “PW Better Together---Tied together with Love/A cord of three strands is not easily broken”. We will use PW Purpose statement as the guide for our time together.

Rev Danelle Crawford will be our Worship Leader along with presenting a workshop on Native American Storytelling. PW Board of Directors Vice Moderator Kathleen Keefer and PW National Search Committee Member Christy Abraham will be keynote speakers.

The Gathering Committee has selected 2 Mission Opportunities for \$10 gift cards & identified 2 recipients for the Gathering Offering.

There will be 16 workshops to choose from: Building Blocks of PW, Welcoming Immigrants, Horizon’s Bible study overview, Creative Worship/drawing closer to God, Prayer ≠ Monologue, What’s happening in Palestine/why should I care?, But What Can I do?, Going on a Road trip, Before and after the S-O-S, ABC’s of LBGTQIA+, All About U Adoption, Dakota Presbytery (Rev Dr Clifford Canku), Deep Dive into Matthew 25, Native American Boarding Schools, Beyond Joy

And a first time: Gathering Choir led by Music Leader Rev Kristi Holler and musician Pat Penn!

Hands-on-Mission project: cutting/sewing Presbytery Disaster Assistance Gift of the Heart School Bags

Hope to see you in June on the River in Sioux City! Face-to-face!

Please use the flyer on the next page to advertise in your church!



PW Synod Gathering

June 16-19, 2022

Hilton Garden Inn
1132 Larsen Park Rd
Sioux City, Iowa 51106

PW: *Better Together*
Tied Together With Love
Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NIV)

A cord of three strands is not easily broken



<p><u>What to expect:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet and make new friends • Face-to-face fellowship • Learn something • Get ideas to take back to your PW/church/congregation • Sing in the Gathering Choir • Smiles, Laughter, maybe a few tears • Some walking from meeting rooms to hotel rooms/all under one air-conditioned roof • Great food and hotel accommodations • Saturday afternoon free time to adventure out or join some impromptu programming 	<p><u>Items to bring to the Gathering:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 yard of kid-friendly fabric and notions to sew PDA Gift of the Heart School bags • 3-5 gently used books you'd like to donate and shop for other gently used books to support the PWS Native American College Scholarship Fund • \$10 gift cards—that will be donated to All About You Adoption (Sioux Falls, SD) and Lila Mae House (Sioux City, IA) • Offering money for closing Worship to support Marion Medical Mission and Dr. Susan LaFlesch Picotte Center
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Registration cost: \$100 (commuter fees available) **Hotel:** \$125/night + state/local taxes



Worship Leader: Rev. Danelle Crawford McKinney

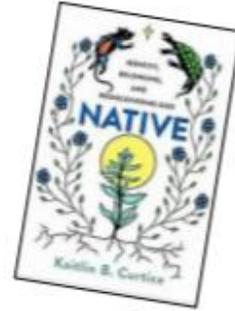
Danelle Crawford McKinney is an enrolled member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate and is a member of the non-geographic Dakota Presbytery. She currently works with students at Haskell Indian Nations University in the Student Rights Office. Danelle lives in Lawrence with her husband Ron and teenage son Ronston. She has 2 adult daughters Alethia Oatman from Idaho and Madison McKinney from Lawrence, KS.

Registration forms will be available from your PW Presbytery Moderator or on the Synod website by December 1st.



Register today to join a book study . . .

Native:
Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God
by Kaitlin B. Curtice



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 videoconferencing (using computer or phone)
There is no charge to participate, yet registration is required.

Dates: November 15 and 29, and December 13
Daytime study begins at 1:30-2:30 PM (CST)
Evening study begins at 6:30-7:30 PM (CST)

Synopsis: *Native* is about identity, soul-searching, and the never-ending journey of finding ourselves and finding God. As both a citizen of the Potawatomi Nation and a Christian, Kaitlin Curtice offers a unique perspective on these topics. In this book, she shows how reconnecting with her Potawatomi identity both informs and challenges her faith.

Curtice draws on her personal journey, poetry, imagery, and stories of the Potawatomi people to address themes at the forefront of today's discussions of faith and culture in a positive and constructive way. She encourages us to embrace our own origins and to share and listen to each other's stories so we can build a more inclusive and diverse future. Each of our stories matters for the church to be truly whole. As Curtice shares what it means to experience her faith through the lens of her Indigenous heritage, she reveals that a vibrant spirituality has its origins in identity, belonging, and a sense of place.

Register by contacting Marilyn Stone at mmstone52@att.net

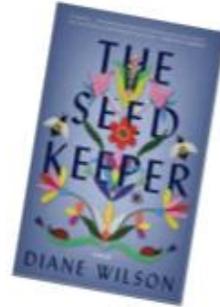
Provide the following information:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| - Email address | - Name |
| - Presbytery | - Phone # |
| | - Afternoon or evening study preference |

Register today to join a book study . . .

The Seed Keeper

by Diane Wilson



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 videoconferencing (using computer or phone) There is no charge to participate, yet registration is required.

Dates: January 24, February 7 and 21, March 7 and 21
Daytime study begins at 1:30-2:30 PM (CST)
Evening study begins at 6:30-7:30 PM (CST)

Synopsis: A haunting novel spanning several generations, *The Seed Keeper* follows a Dakhóta family's struggle to preserve their way of life, and their sacrifices to protect what matters most.

Rosalie Iron Wing has grown up in the woods with her father, Ray, a former science teacher who tells her stories of plants, of the stars, of the origins of the Dakhóta people. Until, one morning, Ray doesn't return from checking his traps. Told she has no family, Rosalie is sent to live with a foster family in nearby Mankato—where the reserved, bookish teenager meets rebellious Gaby Makespace, in a friendship that transcends the damaged legacies they've inherited.

On a winter's day many years later, Rosalie returns to her childhood home. A widow and mother, she has spent the previous two decades on her white husband's farm, finding solace in her garden even as the farm is threatened first by drought and then by a predatory chemical company. Now, grieving, Rosalie begins to confront the past, on a search for family, identity, and a community where she can finally belong. In the process, she learns what it means to be descended from women with souls of iron—women who have protected their families, their traditions, and a precious cache of seeds through generations of hardship and loss, through war and the insidious trauma of boarding schools.

Weaving together the voices of four indelible women, *The Seed Keeper* is a beautifully told story of reawakening, of remembering our original relationship to the seeds and, through them, to our ancestors.

Register by contacting Marilyn Stone at mmstone52@att.net

Provide the following information:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| - Email address | - Name |
| - Presbytery | - Phone # |
| | - Afternoon or evening study preference |

Current PW-SLAP Synod Coordinating Team Officers - changes are highlighted

Moderator Sue Medsker (2022) 314 N. Cedar Ave. Hastings, NE 68901 402-984-3545 suebeemedsker@gmail.com	563-419-7371 C brandtja@luther.edu Susie Rivera Amos (2024) PO Box 105 New Effington, SD 57255 605-467-0040 H kunshisusie@yahoo.com	Lanaj0@casselton.net Zoom Coordinator Lana Schultz PO Box 891 Casselton, ND 58012 701-238-4538 C Lanaj0@casselton.net
Vice-Moderator Lana Schultz (2023) PO Box 891 Casselton, ND 58012 701-238-4538 C Lanaj0@casselton.net	Churchwide Board of Directors Representative Susan Ingels (2023) 12627 M Ave Fayette, IA 52142 563-419-8751 syngels6@gmail.com	Native American Concerns Chair, Sharon Falck (2022) 809 Turnberry Drive Grinnell, IA 50112 641-660-7615 Sfalck2009@gmail.com
Treasurer Terri Sherman (2024) 12244 N 84 th St. Lincoln, NE 68517 402-441-2823 W 402-446-0063 H 402-525-6008 terri.sherman@zoetis.com terrisherman@windstream.net	Appointive positions: Together In Service Belinda Breit (2022) 345 Niagara Lane N Plymouth, MN 55447 612-306-5961 belinda.breit@comcast.net	Donna Preston P O Box 276 Grandin, ND 58038 701-238-7414 preston@gra.midco.net
Secretary Kitch Shatzer (2022) 27 Ash Lane Washington, IA 52353 319-461-0266 revkitch@hotmail.com	Justice and Peace Coordinator Kathleen Keefer (2022) P O Box 243 Clarinda, IA 51632 712-542-0039 kathleenkeef20@gmail.com	Ernestine Youpee P O Box 542 Poplar, MT 59255 406-768-7663 C 406-786-3491 giveseagle@gmail.com
Historian Judy Bell (2024) 5217 Roberts Drive Greendale, WI 53129 414-378-6437 C jmoinebell@aol.com	ICC Coordinator Hope Dougherty PO Box 223. Manitowish Waters, WI 54545 715-543-2669 hdougherty2018@gmail.com	LaVonne Looking Elk 3729 W. Chicago Rapid City, SD 57702 605-716-0888 sllooking@rap.midco.net
Search Committee Gloria Rust (2022) 1657 200th Avenue Luverne, MN 56156 507-283-4975 H 507-227-7393 C grust49@gmail.com	Sower Editor Kathleen Keefer (2022) P O Box 243 Clarinda, IA 51632 712-542-0039 kathleenkeef20@gmail.com	Susie Rivera Amos PO Box 105 New Effington, SD 57255 kunshisusie@yahoo.com 605-467-0040 H
Janine Brandt (2023) 1362 175 th St. Postville, IA 52162 563-532-9427 H	Communications Coordinator Lana Schultz PO Box 891 Casselton, ND 58012 701-238-4538 C	Marilyn Stone 3915 Lake Street Burlington, WI 53105 262-763-0918 H 262-492-7921 C mmstone52@att.net Barbara Todd 5210 Panorama Drive

The Sower-November, 2021

Panora, IA 50216
712-355-0052 C
rogerbarbaratodd@gmail.com

Sonia Weston
P O Box 254
Pine Ridge, SD 57770
605-867-1623
soniaw@gwtc.net

2022 Synod Gathering
committee
Beth Jensen, co-chair, 319-223-
5742
dbjensenfamily@gmail.com

Maggie Horak, co-chair, 402-
429-0523

mmhlim@outlook.com

Terri Sherman 402-525-6008
terri.sherman@zoetis.com

Audrey Fenton 712-276-6322
wayneaudrey@aol.com

10/18/2021



Presbyterian Women in Synod of Lakes &
Prairies
Kathleen Keefer, Editor
PO Box 243
Clarinda, IA 51632