



The Sower

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



May, 2023

Kathleen Keefer, Editor

Moderator's Musings:

Greetings from South Dakota.

We have gone from winter to summer with no spring in between. It was snowing two weeks ago and today it hit 80 degrees.

I want to express my deepest appreciation for the outpouring of sympathy, love and support you all showed me after the sudden death of my son David in March. Being remembered, thought of, and prayed for by so many women that I have only met once or twice was a true blessing. Please continue to be patient with me as I go through this grieving process.

I attended the Synod meeting in Farmington, Minn., and wouldn't you know, the workshop and worship were about trauma, grief and hurt! But it was OK because I was surrounded by this group of believers to lift me up. And I learned a lot about being a trauma-informed congregation and pastoral care provider. If you want to know more, contact me for resources.

I also gave a Synod PW report and am pleased to say the commissioners were impressed with all we do. I am speaking at two Presbytery Spring Gatherings. If your PW is planning a retreat or gathering this year, I would love to be invited. It is a great way for me to meet your members.

The Synod Gathering committee is underway and starting to make plans. Look for updates in the coming months.

May 5 was National Day of Awareness for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, & Two-Spirit People. The 225th General Assembly [2022] passed a resolution on MMIWG2S directing the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate boldly for those who are missing and murdered and to equip Presbyterians to advocate for them as well. This is a huge problem in South Dakota and although law enforcement across the state claims we have very few cold cases, the reality is those missing women are written off as run aways and the cases closed. No one except family is even looking for them. Learn about what is happening in your state, write to your legislators, find out what you can do to work for justice for these people.

God bless each of you.

In Christ,

Louise Van Poll, Moderator

A Mother's Day prayer inspired by womanist theology



Daniel Heath pens a prayer for Mother's Day that names the abuse of women and lifts it up to God.

BY **DANIEL HEATH** PUBLISHED: MAY 1, 2023 | UPDATED: MAY 3, 2023 PRESBYTERIAN OUTLOOK

I invite you to assume a posture of prayer.

Mother God, we give you thanks for another day. We are grateful for a time set aside to honor motherhood. Earth's history has been formed by mothers like Mother Mary and Mother Theresa, surrogate and foster mothers, godmothers and fairy godmothers. We even acknowledge motherhood in nature with mother hens under the care of Mother Earth. Today we ask your acute attention upon all current, trying, and future mothers gathered here, one by one and name by name. You know their stories. You know their needs. Remove all sources of sorrow, scars and fear that they may live more fully into your promises.

For all current mothers, we pray that you surround them with abundant support. We pray for attentive partners and spouses, faithful worshiping communities and prompt support services.

We pray that each one would be equipped to expose the pain they carry, knowing that silent suffering is not a virtue. Help each to know that motherhood is a call and not only a result. Help us to call out abuse for them and with them for the enslavement that it is in all their forms, psychological, verbal, physical and otherwise.

For all trying mothers, we pray that each would embrace agency over their bodies. We pray against any person, situation or thought that would prevent the freedom to make decisions regarding their own bodies. We pray for mothers who have experienced miscarriages and other losses while waiting.

Finally, we pray for future mothers in our midst and everywhere. We pray your protection against violations to their bodies at parks, in churches, schools, homes, and places of work. We pray against any unhealthy notion that abuse is God's will.

We now call out the names of abused women aloud and in our hearts whose healing we seek from you... Amen.



Daniel Heath is the associate chaplain and director of the Davidson Forum at Davidson College as well as the founder and lead consultant of [Church 21](#). He loves God, his wife Katrina and their two sons.

*What's going on in our churches and
presbyteries?*

EXCITING NEWS!! PWSCT is looking for **volunteers to serve on the 2025 Synod Gathering Committee**. If interested, contact PWS Moderator, Louise Van Poll (lcvanpoll@gmail.com) with your ideas, suggestions, site options and willingness to serve.

Luverne, Minnesota: An Ecumenical Coffee was held on Wednesday, May 3, at the First Presbyterian Church in Luverne. There were approximately 100 guests in attendance. The theme was **LET THERE BE PEACE**. Our program included lunch, prayer, scripture, music, a display of items from Ukraine, and our guest speaker, Pastor Jacob Danilko, with his emphasis on People of the Ukraine.



Pastor Jacob Danilko is currently the Administrative Pastor and Director of Sunday School at Light to the World Ukrainian Church of Sioux Falls. Pastor Jacob and his family have been in the United States now 23 years and together they have nine children. His son Kosta Danilko was Pastor Jacob's interpreter. The

topic for the breakfast was **Wounded Healers** and the scripture was **Matthew 11: 28-30**. He spoke of the emotional toll on the soldiers, the widows and the medical personnel in Ukraine since the beginning of the war. His plea was for counselors and pastors to assist with the behavioral health issues. There was a freewill offering that will be sent to the Ukraine people through Pastor Jacob's contacts there.



Bdecan Presbyterian Church News!

Bdecan Presbyterian Church in partnership with the Bdecan Ministry Team has hired Chandra Anderson for the Ministries and Outreach Coordinator position. Chandra shared with the search committee that she felt called by Jesus, her Savior, to apply for this position. Chandra will start this position on May 1st. Rosie and Bob Helland will stay on till May 31st to help with training and transition.

Chandra, her fiancé, and 2 sons presently live in Grand Forks. They will not move to the manse until end of May when her sons finish the school year, but will work remotely and commute as needed to the church.

Chandra grew up in the Devils Lake area, attending Westminster Presbyterian Church. While attending church there she was active in the church, Sunday School, Youth Group, AWANAS, church choir, confirmation and was a junior session member. She has also attended FAHOCHA Bible Camp at Sheyenne, ND and has been involved in Presbytery's Youth Connection in the past. She also been a Preschool Teacher with Tri Valley Opportunity Council. Her skills of fundraising, communications, building and maintaining professional relationships with families as well as her involvement in the church and other programs stood out.

Chandra has helped out at Bdecan Food Pantry over the last 3 years and has occasionally attended Bdecan Church. Her children attended VBS last year at Bdecan. Chandra has developed a relationship with the people at Bdecan so is no stranger.

We are excited to have Chandra in this position and looking forward to her telling the Bdecan story and continuing the ministry and outreach that the Church and Ministry Team have built over the years. Please keep Chandra and her family as well as the Bdecan Church in your prayers. Blessings, Donna Preston – CoModerator Bdecan Ministry Team

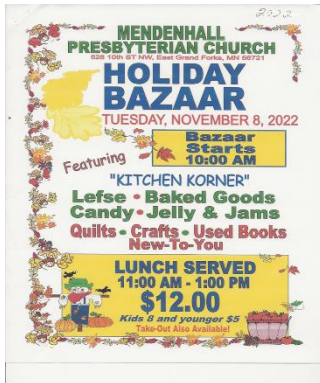
Missouri River Valley Presbytery PW held their first Spring Gathering in many years and it was so great to be together at last. We started with a welcome, some uplifting music (Baba Yetu and Jerusalem) to start our day together. This was followed by a brief business meeting and worship which focused on the Earth that God has given us to care for.

Kathleen Keefer presented updated information about Churchwide, including The Churchwide Gathering coming in August of 2024, Justice & Peace Book Discussion Group, Horizons Magazine and Bible Study. This was followed by three short videos centering on our environment: one from the PC(USA) and two from "The Story of Stuff". Suzie Hollman, the Official Garden Pest of Presbyterian Church of the Master talked about the community garden at the church, how it started and how it serves as a community outreach project and helps feed the hungry through donations when obtaining fresh vegetables at the Garden Mart and through donation of fresh food for shelters.



Susie took the attendees on a tour of the garden and then a delicious lunch was served. It was wonderful to reconnect.

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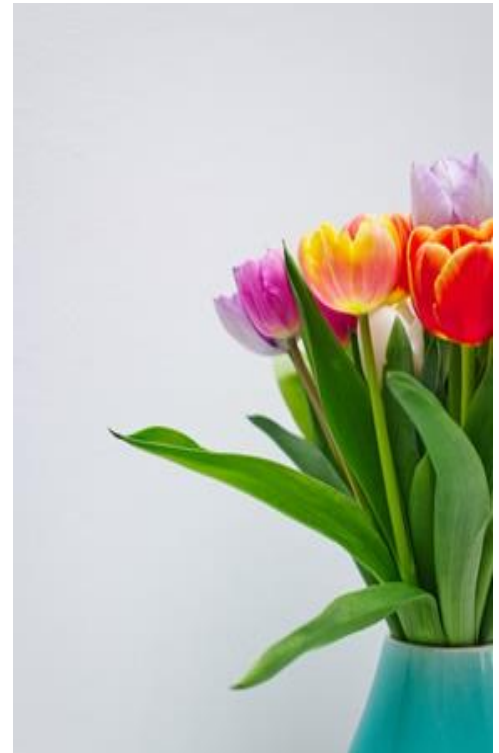
A fundraising idea from a local PW in **Northern Plains Presbytery** is their annual "Holiday Bazaar" held on Election Day. This past year proceeds totaled around \$5,000. The poster lists some of the variety of items for sale including cards, New-to-you (rummage sale), kitchen towels, potholders, playing card holders, dish cloths, table runners, etc. and ... a turkey casserole lunch with all the fixings is served. The key to its success is **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**—donating items, spreading the word and showing support.

Let us pray for Mothers everywhere

Gracious God, We thank you for adopting us into your family through the miracle of your grace, and for calling us to be brothers and sisters to each other.

Today, loving God, we pray for our mothers:
who cared for us when we were helpless,
who comforted us when we were hurt,
whose love and care we often took for granted.

Today we pray for:
those who are grieving the loss of their mother,
those who never knew their biological mother, and now yearn for her,
those who have experienced the wonder of an adopted mother's love,
those whose relationship with their mother's was hard,
the families separated by war or conflict,
those who have lost a child or long to be mothers,
and for mothers everywhere as they seek to keep their children safe in such difficult times,
Lord, give them special blessings.
Keep us united with you and with each other, so that we can become all that we are meant to be, Amen



From Squarespace.com

Photo by Timo C. Dinger via Unsplash.com

TOGETHER IN SERVICE

By Pat McKisson, Committee Chair

'Whether it's by picking up knitting needles to create a blanket for a child or picking up a crowbar to participate in disaster recovery work, Presbyterian Women get to work when there's a need..'

The Together in Service committee put together a final report on the missions your churches have participated in during 2022. The list was quite impressive so we thought it would be a great idea to share it with everyone.

Here is the compiled reports received to date from 6 of the Presbyteries in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies for all participation in Together in Service mission projects, fundraising efforts, and other monetary support.

Monetary Support:

Honorary Life Membership for P.W., Birthday Offering, Thank Offering, Mission Pledge, Global Exchange, and USA Mission Experience.

Projects/Fundraising Efforts:

Hunger Program, One Great Hour of Sharing, PC(USA) Missionary Support, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Peacemaking Programs, Gift of Heart Kits, School Kits, and Clean-up Buckets.

Ecumenical Mission Projects:

Cents-Ability
Fellowship of the Least Coin,
Habitat for Humanity
Little Dresses for Africa
Little Britches for Africa
T-Shirt Diapers for Africa
Church World Service
Heifer Project
Operation Christmas Child
May Friendship Day
Orange Day
Thursday – Black Day
World Community Day
World Day of Prayer
Church Women United
Support for Ukraine

Other Mission Projects:

CHILDREN
Shepherd of the Hills Ministry Christmas Just 4 Kids.
Pillow Drive for organization who builds beds for children.
Student sponsorships local and international.
Food Backpacks for Kids.
Ronald McDonald House.
Boystown.
Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox Project.
Knit baby hats for children for Rural Healthcare Initiative in Sierra Leone.
Toys for Tots collection.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Gas Cards for People with Medical Needs.
Gifts Cards to various local organizations.

Visit Nursing Homes.
Support Mental Health Facilities.
Long Term Care Facility donations.
Supplies, snacks, outerwear, pants, milk money, backpacks for schools.
Summer Dinners for Community Neighborhood.
Chili Supper, Soup & Sandwich Sundays.
Shut-in visits and gifts.
Terminally ill home support.
Veterans support.
Welcome Baskets for Newcomers to town.
Community Center Help.
Thanksgiving Pumpkin Pies made for local organizations.
Good Samaritan Center.
Crisis Center.
Lifescape (learning impaired).
Cemetery Clean-Up.
Camp Rimrock Clean-Up.
Roncalli Nearly New Donations.
Lord's Kitchen.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - Battered Women's Home Support.
Domestic Violence Fill a Purse project.

ENVIRONMENT

Matthew 25 Ministries, collect used RX bottles

FUND RAISING

Card Making
Rummage Sales
Auction
Baked goods sale

HOMELESSNESS - Volunteer at Homeless Shelter

HUNGER - Feed My Starving Children, Work at and/or contribute to Food Pantries -

NATIVE AMERICAN CONCERNS - Bdecan Presbyterian Church
– Clothing and Blankets

SEWING PROJECTS

Sewing Days
Fleece Blanket making,
Quilt making,
Knitting baby hats, scarves, and prayer shawls,
Lap Robes,
Baby Blankets

SPECIAL OCCASION CELEBRATION

Baby Showers for women at a local crisis/residential center
Gift Bags with Birthday Party items given to local organization

Financial Support for Mission:

Disaster Recovery Efforts through Monetary Donations
Northland Rescue-Homeless Shelter
Churches United-Homeless Shelter
Community of Care-Seniors can stay in own home
Salvation Army Angel Tree -Prison Fellowship
University of Jamestown, a Presbyterian college
YWCA

Hospice of Red River Valley
Cavalier County Cancer Crusaders
Sanford Hillsboro Medical Center
New Life Center-Addiction rehab facility/shelter

Radio fund that broadcasts Sunday services
AID, Inc.
Dolly Parton Imagination Library
Food Shelf
Luther Sunset Home
Bdecan Presbyterian Church
Life Skills and Transition Center
Wings as Eagles Ministry
Aid to Local Families
Donations for Postage for Kits of the Heart
Meals on Wheels
All About U Adoptions
Honor Flights Donations
Donations for Camping

Adams Scholarship Fund

Thank you to all Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Lakes and Prairies. Through your generous giving of time, talent and money, you make the world a better place for everyone!



Camp Wyoming: A year-round space for growing faith.

9106 42nd Ave.

Wyoming, IA 52362

<https://campwyoming.net/>

The “mission” I am writing about is Camp Wyoming, a Christian summer camp and year-round retreat center located in Jones County, Iowa. The camp began in 1960 and is a mission of the Presbytery of East Iowa. Its “vision is to offer transformative experiences to equip people of all ages for a journey of faith.”

My congregation’s PW has supported Camp Wyoming with a donation towards new mattresses for the cabins, and the camp is supported in various ways by many of the churches in John Knox Presbytery as well. [One of my sons was a happy Camp Wyoming camper many years ago! ☺] Monetary gifts will be used for camp facilities and cabin updates and maintenance, programming, staff training and development, and scholarships for children wishing to attend camp.

Submitted by Janine Brandt, Moderator for John Knox Presbyterian Women, member of the Together in Service Committee

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NEW OFFICERS ON PW SYNOD COORDINATING TEAM (PWSCT)

The PWSCT installed and welcomed back officers: Maggie Horak as Vice Moderator, Kitch Shatzer as Secretary, and Sue Ingels as CW BOD Rep. Thank you to Maggie, Kitch, and Sue for their willingness to, once again, serve in their respective positions.

Congratulations to our new chair on Search Committee, Susie Amos. PWSCT recognized and thanked our new 2025 Synod Gathering Committee members: Louise Van Poll, Moderator; Maggie Horak, Vice Moderator; Terri Sherman, Treasurer; and the PW Moderator at Gathering site (TBD).

The PWSCT said good bye with gratitude to Stephanie Sinsel who will be stepping down as moderator for Central Nebraska Presbytery and to Lana Schultz who stepped down from the Administrative Team. Thank you both for your contributions and dedication to PWSCT.

OPENINGS ON THE PW SYNOD COORDINATING TEAM

SCT OFFICER POSITIONS OPEN TO ALL PW SLAP

The PWS Search Committee is looking for **two search committee members**: one from the presbyteries of Des Moines, East Iowa, John Knox, Missouri River Valley, North Central Iowa or Prospect Hill and the other from Central Nebraska, Dakota, Homestead, Northern Plains or South Dakota. Other offices open are **Treasurer** and **Historian**. Any Presbyterian Woman within the Synod of Lakes and Prairies is eligible to fill these positions. If



you or someone you know would be interested in any of these open spots, please contact Hope Dougherty at hdougherty2018@gmail.com and Susie Amos at kunshisusie@yahoo.com.

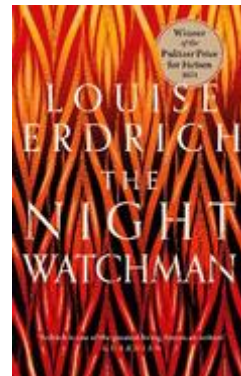
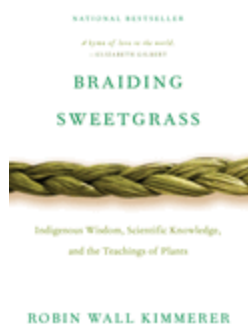
SCT COORDINATOR POSITIONS OPEN TO ALL PWP MODERATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

The PWSCT is looking for a **Facebook Coordinator** and a **Zoom Coordinator** among the PWP moderators/representatives. The Zoom Coordinator maintains the PWS Zoom schedule and sets up its Zoom meetings. The Facebook Coordinator will receive and approve all items to be posted. If you or someone you know would be interested in either or both of these positions, please contact PWS Moderator, Louise Van Poll at lcvanpoll@gmail.com

Thank you to **PWS Together in Service Committee**—Pat McKisson from Twin Cities Presbytery, Audrey Fenton from Prospect Hill Presbytery and Janine Brandt from John Knox Presbytery—for creating and sharing the first **TOGETHER IN SERVICE MISSION BOOKLET**. This is a wonderful mission resource with info on the Matthew 25 pill bottle collection, Gifts of the Heart kits, Hands-on projects, Shelter Care Kits for adults and children and Native American Concerns Partnerships. Updates will be made throughout the year so send any new mission ideas, suggestions, opportunities to your PW Presbytery Moderator and ask her to share them with the Together in Service committee. If you would like a copy of this Mission Booklet, ask your Presbytery Moderator to email or mail you a copy.

A series of **KITCHEN TABLE TALKS** for PW groups is in the works thanks to Kathleen Keefer and Louise Van Poll. To see what this may look like, please read the Kitchen Table Talk article found in the November/December 2022 issue of Horizons Magazine, page 35. We will be sending out more information soon!

More **Book Studies** are on the way sponsored by our PWS Native American Concerns Committee and facilitated by Marilyn Stone. “Braiding Sweetgrass” by Robin Wall Kimmerer, “Black Indians: A Hidden Heritage” by William Loren Katz and “The Night Watchman” by Louise Erdrich are some of the possibilities. Look for a flyer and registration form in May/June announcing the next Book Study selection.



2023 USA MISSION EXPERIENCE—

I am with you and will keep you wherever you go. —Gen. 28:15

Congratulations to Julie Miller from John Knox Presbytery, Louella Vogt from Minnesota Valleys Presbytery and Kathleen Keefer from Missouri River Valley Presbytery! These women will represent our Synod at the U.S.A. Mission Experience from October 13-23, 2023. During this faith-deepening and relationship-building trip, the group will visit partners in Phoenix, Tucson, and the Arizona–Mexico border, focusing on immigration and refugee issues, violence against women and children throughout the immigration process, and challenges facing indigenous people living in Arizona. Keep the group and their journey in your prayers.

HAVE YOU LOOKED AT YOUR PRESBYTERY’S WEBSITE LATELY?? The PWSCT Communications Committee has. They took a quick survey of Presbytery websites around the Synod of Lakes and Prairies looking for PW information, events, invites, announcements to share with PWS. Guess what they found?? Very little. Some Presbytery websites did not mention PW, some posted outdated PW newsletters and outdated PWPCT officers, one shared the link to Churchwide, a couple were hidden under the heading “Committees.” It has been said that “if you don’t toot your own horn, no one else will.” Presbytery websites are an excellent tool to make some noise. ALL PWP COORDINATING TEAMS should contact their Presbytery’s website master right away. If necessary, insist on a PW presence on the Presbytery’s home page, and not as a reference under “committees.” An icon that includes links to your PW newsletter, the PW Purpose, an invitation to join PW, mission partnerships, announcements, meeting dates and times, info on Bible Study, etc. SHINE A LIGHT ON EVERYTHING PW!

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 (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.

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS GIVING

The **Honorary Life Membership** program honors that faithful servant of PW on every level and to the church with the gift of a certificate and pin. The Honorary Life Membership pin symbolizes values held dear by Presbyterian Women. In addition to recognizing those dedicated women among us, the funds derived from Honorary Life Memberships support the PW Leadership Development Grant Program in many forms. Grants from this program enable individuals to engage in leadership development opportunities such as the (1) Churchwide Gathering, (2) Ecumenical Advocacy Days and (3) the UN Commission on the Status of Women. In fact, these funds made it possible to send 20 young women to the UN Commission on the Status of Women. Encourage your PWs to participate in the Honorary Life Membership program.

DELVING INTO JUSTICE

The Justice & Peace Book Discussion Group continues to meet online from 5:30-7:30 p.m. (Central Time). You can register at presbyterianwomen.org/justice to join in the book discussions. During the next **Justice and Peace Book Discussion Group** on July 10th at 6:30 p.m. ET, we will be discussing “Beautiful Country: A Memoir of an Undocumented Childhood” by Qian Julie Wang. In Chinese, the word for America, Mei Guo, translates directly to “beautiful country.” Yet when seven-year-old Qian arrives in New York City in 1994 full of curiosity, she is overwhelmed by crushing fear and scarcity. In China, Qian’s parents were professors; in America, her family is “illegal” and it will require all the determination and small joys they can muster to survive. [To sign up for this and other free discussions, visit \[presbyterianwomen.org/justice\]\(https://presbyterianwomen.org/justice\) for information on specific dates for this year’s J&P book discussions and for a downloadable flier to share.](#)

Coming up: “Violence Against Women: What Everyone Needs to Know” a Global look at Violence Against Women on September 11; and review the movie “Wind River” on November 13, focusing on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit People (Madison McKinney has agreed to help facilitate!!)

2023 Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women recipients are:

Making Miracles Group Home, Tallahassee, Florida received \$150,000 to purchase a second group home to serve an additional five families who are at risk of experiencing homelessness. This one-year, live-in program is designed to support young mothers and help them develop skills to live independently and care for their children.

Berhane Yesus Elementary School, Dembi Dollo, Ethiopia received \$99,400 for the construction of a classroom for kindergarten students. The number of kindergarten students in this rural community has grown and the government requires separate space for these students in order to remain open.

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.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVING

The Churchwide Search Committee is looking for **nominations by May 26, 2023** to fill several offices. Contact PWS Board of Directors Rep. Sue Ingels at syingels6@gmail.com for more information or to submit a nomination.

A TRIENNIUM THEME WORTHY OF COMMITTING TO: 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.



Let us not grow weary in our work toward a world absent of violence and terror perpetrated because of one's gender. Instead, let us be heartened by the courage taken, community of support built, and ceaseless action taken by girls, young women and women - and in our thoughts, words, and deeds join them, not only on this day of international celebration of women, but every day.

MS. CASEY HARDEN, GENERAL SECRETARY, WORLD YWCA



Our generous donations at the Synod PW Gathering was used to provide fresh drinking water to 4 villages in subsaharan Africa. Here are the photos of the wells WE BUILT and the people who will have clean, fresh drinking water.

2023 PWS Native American Partnership Opportunities

The following PW Synod sponsored Native American partnership opportunities are verified by the PWS Native American Concerns Committee (NACC). If you have questions, please contact NACC chair, Marilyn Stone at mmstone52@att.net or 262-763-0918 (home – leave a message).



Child Protective Services and local hospital

Agency Village, SD (Sisseton-Wahpeton Reservation)

Knit and crocheted infant hats are needed for newborns. Newborn baby hat patterns for hospitals can be found online.

Mail to: Emma Grey Bull, 367 Bernard Street, Agency Village, SD 57262

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: baby layettes, twin sheets and mattress pads, twin-sized tied-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

Monetary donations should be sent to: Barbara Dull Knife, PO Box 230, Oglala, SD 57764



College Scholarship for Native Students

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. 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 Check made out to: PWSLAP; note on memo line: "Native American Scholarship Fund".

Red Eagle Memorial Presbyterian Church – Dakota Children's Music Ministry

Fort Kipp, Montana (Fort Peck Reservation)

The children and youth of Red Eagle Memorial Presbyterian Church and the Fort Peck Reservation are eager to learn songs in the Dakota 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 Ireland, PO Box 542, Poplar, MT 59255. Note on the memo line: *Dakota Children's Music Ministry*.



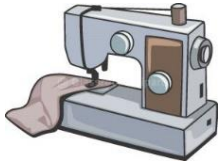
DR. SUSAN
LaFlesche Picotte
CENTER

Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Hospital Renovation Project

Walthill, NE (Omaha Reservation)

The Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Hospital is being restored to accommodate a medical clinic, cultural and educational spaces and historical museum. Also, plans include the development of parking, outdoor amphitheater, community gardens, and other Native American cultural features. Native American community members have had a significant role in this project from the onset.

The roof and windows have been replaced, the exterior siding has been restored, and mold and asbestos have been removed from the interior. Funds are now needed to complete the interior restoration. Mail financial contributions to: Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Center, PO Box 36, Walthill, NE 68067



Presbyterian Women of the Dakota Presbytery

Working sewing machines, fabric, thread, scissors, quilting and sewing supplies can be used by Presbyterian Women at the various Dakota Presbytery churches.

Thus far, 36 sewing machines have been distributed to women interested sewing and quilting. Fabric and sewing supplies have also been shared with women as donations come in. All machines must be in working condition.



in

Bdecan Presbyterian Church – Vacation Bible School
Chandra Anderson, Ministries and Outreach Coordinator
Mailing Address: PO Box 141 Tokio, ND 58379
Phone: (701) 294-2283

Email: bdecanpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com

Bdecan Presbyterian Church, the only Native American Presbyterian Church in North Dakota, is located on the Spirit Lake Reservation. An important way to “keep Christ’s love at our center” for the children is to host 6-12 member mission teams who would lead Vacation Bible School for a week during the summer. The 15-30 children in the community love VBS and never tire of 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 hands-on mission project could be done, as well as participating in a “cultural night”. Updated 4/2023



The CSW is instrumental in promoting women’s rights, documenting the reality of women’s lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The PC(USA) has been engaged with gender justice at the United Nations since the early 1990s. In 2006, PW began mobilizing contingents of women from across the church to participate in CSW as part of a PC(USA) delegation, furthering our shared work for gender justice in the international community. Presbyterian Women received accreditation to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2018, thus strengthening the partnership between PW and the PC(USA) and enhancing Presbyterian visibility at the UN.

As UN Women explains, “The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.” Each annual session of the Commission focuses on a specific priority theme and a review theme. The focus of the 67th session of the Commission was: “Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. The review theme was: “Challenge and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls” (from the UN CSW website <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw67-2023>).

New York City — The 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67)— the UN’s largest annual gathering on gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls and their human rights—successfully closed its two-week long session

today (6 to 17 March) with the acknowledgment of the critical role of technology and innovation in achieving gender equality. The agreed conclusions adopted by Member States provide a blueprint for all stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, civil society and youth to promote the full and equal participation and leadership of women and girls in the design, transformation and integration of digital technologies and innovation processes that fulfill the human rights and needs of women and girls.

At the conclusion of the negotiations, UN Women Executive Director, Sima Bahous, said: "This year's Agreed Conclusions are game-changing and bring forward our vision of a more equal and connected world for women and girls in all their diversity. It is our job, as we leave here today, to translate them into reality. The ultimate success of these Agreed Conclusions lies beyond their finalization today, in how we will collectively take them forward. They bring us a vision of a more equal world. Let us translate them into reality for all women and girls."

CSW67 reaffirmed the importance of women and girls' full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in science, technology and innovation, and expressed concern on the limited progress in closing the gender gap in access to and use of technologies, connectivity, digital literacy and education. It also expressed grave concern about the continuity and interrelation between offline and online violence, harassment and discrimination against women and girls and condemned the increase of such acts.

The Commission called for significantly increased public and private sector investments to bridge the gender digital divide, more inclusive innovation eco-systems, and the promotion of safe and gender-responsive technology and innovation. It also called for inclusive and equitable quality education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, information and communications technology and digital literacy to ensure that all women and girls can thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Initiatives to promote innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality must consider the following:

- **Develop digital tools and services to address the needs of all women and girls**, across sectors and geographies, especially for their education, health, economic empowerment and engagement in public life, and ensure women and girls have access to digital literacy and skills throughout their life course.
- **Mainstream gender in digital policies to remove barriers to equal access** for all women and girls, including those living in poverty, in rural, maritime or remote areas, with disabilities, Indigenous women and girls, migrant women and girls, and older women.
- **Foster a policy of zero tolerance for gender-based violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology** and ensure that public and private sector entities prioritize its prevention and elimination.
- **Mainstream a gender perspective in the design of emerging technologies** and adopt regulations to ensure they are subject to adequate safeguards to combat new risks, gender stereotypes and negative social norms, data privacy breaches and improve transparency and accountability.
- **Promote policies and programmes to achieve gender parity in emerging scientific and technological fields** and create supportive workplaces and education settings, including through gender-responsive education, distance learning solutions and interdisciplinary approaches combining the teaching of social sciences and scientific fields.
- **Develop gender-responsive innovation that challenges gender stereotypes and negative social norms**, including through the development of digital content, awareness campaigns and teaching competencies for positive engagement on digital technologies that engage, educate, encourage and empowers youth, including young men and boys, to become agents of change for gender equality.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/press-release/2023/03/press-release-un-commission-on-the-status-of-women-reaffirms-the-role-of-technology-and-innovation-and-education-in-the-digital-age-in-accelerating-gender-equality>

The above information was obtained through various print and online publications, including the application letter from PW, Inc in the PC(USA) and UN Women.



Members of the SLAP Coordinating Team gathered early to tie quilts for the Luverne Presbyterian Women's group. So much fun!!

To the Moms Who Are

To the Moms who are struggling, to those filled with incandescent joy.

To the Moms who are remembering children who have died, and pregnancies that miscarried.

To the Moms who decided other parents were the best choice for their babies, to the Moms who adopted those kids and loved them fierce.

To those experiencing frustration or desperation in infertility.

To those who knew they never wanted kids, and the ways they have contributed to our shared world.

To those who mothered colleagues, mentees, neighborhood kids, and anyone who needed it.

To those remembering Moms no longer with us.

To those moving forward from Moms who did not show love, or hurt those they should have cared for.

Today is a day to honor the unyielding love and care for others we call 'Motherhood,' wherever we have found it and in whatever ways we have found to cultivate it within ourselves.

- Hannah Kardon, Pastor at Elston Avenue United Methodist Church



**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>



2023 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN JUSTICE & PEACE CALENDAR
May through August

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

MAY

- Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month; asianpacificheritage.gov
- 1 May Day; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Workers%27_Day
- 2 National Teacher Day; nea.org
- 1–7 PW Together in Action Days for Children's Literacy; presbyterianwomen.org/justice
- 4 National Day of Prayer; nationaldayofprayer.org
- 8 J&P Book Discussion Group online, 6:30–8:30 PM (Eastern) on The Cry of Tamar: Violence Against Women and the Church's Response by Pamela Cooper-White (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2012). Register at presbyterianwomen.org/justice
- 13 World Fair Trade Day; wfto.com
- 13 Stamp Out Hunger drive; about.usps.com/corporate-social-responsibility/nalc-food-drive.htm
- 14 Mother's Day; presbyterianmission.org/story/a-prayer-for-mothers-day
- 21 Intercultural Church Sunday; pcusa.org/resource/intercultural-ministries-19226
- 22 International Day for Biological Diversity; cbd.int/idb
- 28 Pentecost; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/pentecost
- 29 Memorial Day; presbyterianmission.org/story/may-30-2022

JUNE

- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ+) Pride Month; archives.gov/news/topics/lgbt-pride-month
- 2 National Gun Violence Awareness Day; wearorange.org or nasponline.org/research-and-policy/policy-matters-blog/national-gun-violence-awareness-day
- 18 Father's Day; Men of the Church Sunday; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/men
- 19 Juneteenth; presbyphl.org/what-is-juneteenth-resources-for-formation-education-and-gospel-witness
- 20 World Refugee Day; un.org/en/observances/refugee-day

JULY

- 2 Immigration Sunday; <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/immigration>
- 4 Independence Day; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/independence-day
- 10 J&P Book Discussion Group online, 6:30–8:30 PM (Eastern) on Beautiful Country: A Memoir of an Undocumented Childhood by Qian Julie Wang (New York: Random House, 2021). Register at presbyterianwomen.org/justice

AUGUST

- 6 Hiroshima Day; pda.pcusa.org/pda/resource/hiroshima-day-prayer
- 9 International Day of the World's Indigenous People; un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day
- 15 Day of Prayer for the Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula; pcusa.org/resource/sunday-prayer-worship-for-peaceful-reunifica-78123
- 19 World Humanitarian Day; worldhumanitarianday.org/ or en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Humanitarian_Day
- 20 Public Education Sunday; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/child




Introducing 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!

 <p><i>As faithful (and friendly) as a daisy!</i></p> <p>Presbyterian Women responds to God's extravagant love by joyfully and lovingly offering our many gifts to ensure wholeness for all.</p> <p>"Above all, dilate yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." —Colossians 3:14</p>	Flower	Amount
	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

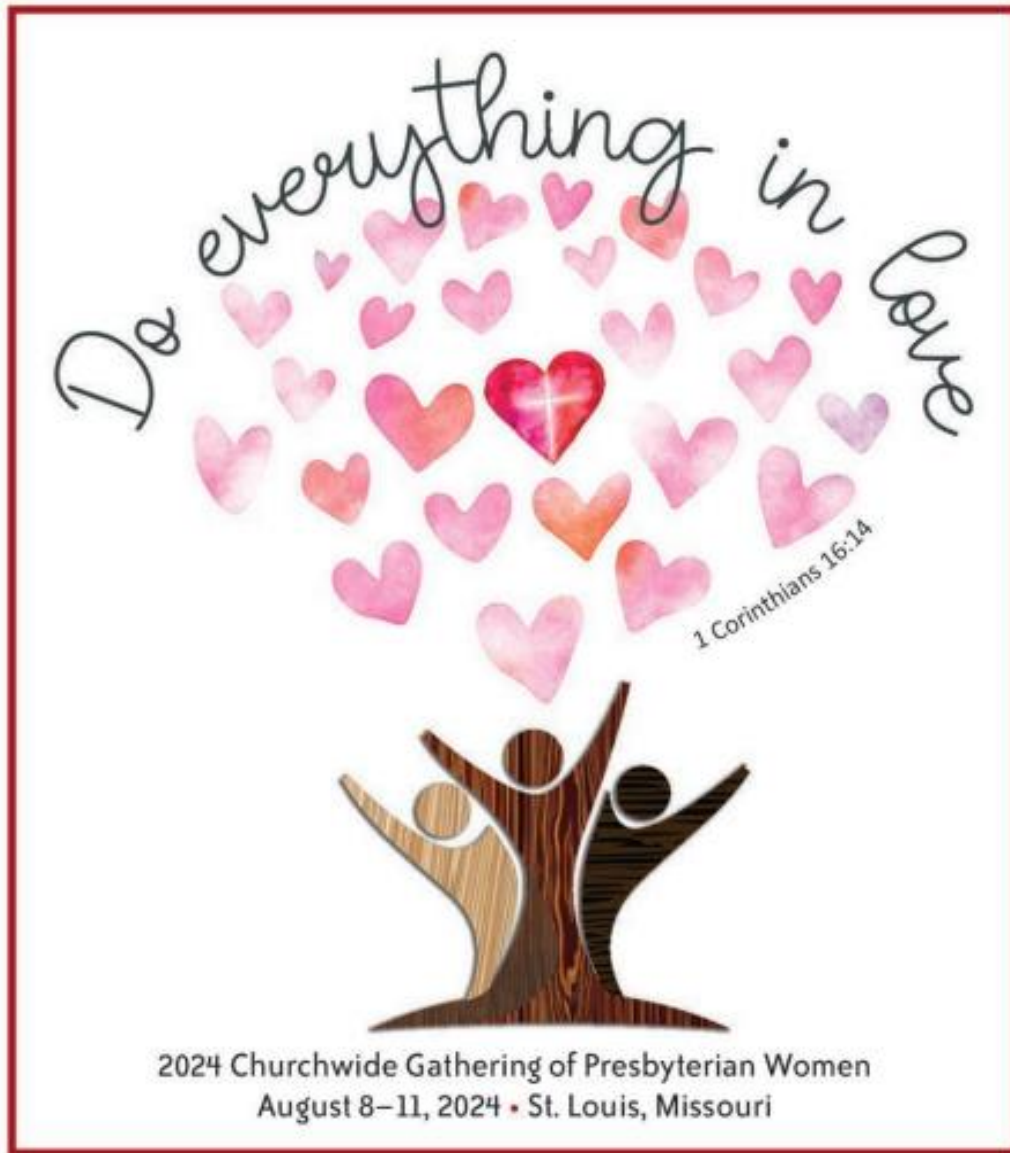
For each gift to the PW *Build a Bouquet* campaign, a card (in honor or in memory of) will be available to print and mail, download and email, or email directly with a personalized message.

Build your bouquet (or learn more) at presbyterianwomen.org/bouquet.

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



Save the date to gather in person and in faithful community
at the 2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women,

August 8-11, 2024

Details to come!

presbyterianwomen.org/gathering



2023 JUSTICE and PEACE Book Discussion Group

FEBRUARY 13

WHAT KIND OF CHRISTIANITY

A HISTORY OF
SLAVERY
AND ANTI-BLACK
RACISM IN THE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

WILLIAM YOO



SPECIAL WEBINAR
WITH AUTHOR



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.

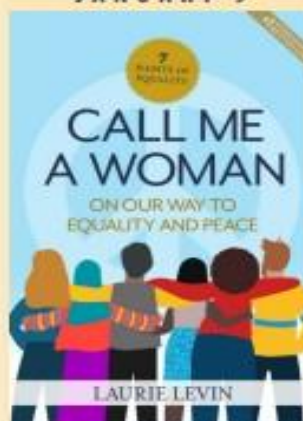


To register, scan the QR code with your smart phone or go to presbyterianwomen.org/justice.

Reading Selections

(6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Eastern Time)

JANUARY 9



JULY 10

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

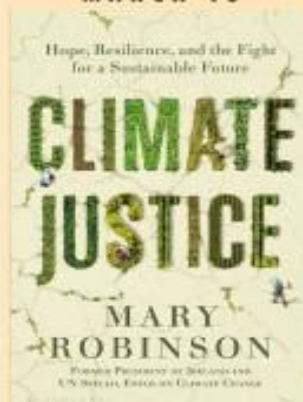
BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY



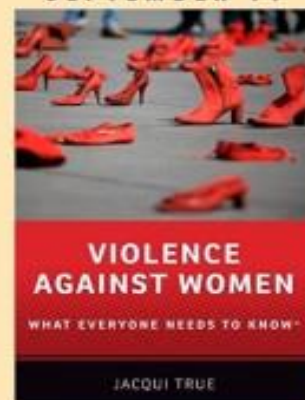
Qian Julie Wang

A Memoir of an Undocumented Childhood

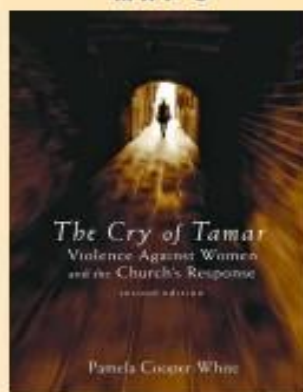
MARCH 13



SEPTEMBER 11



MAY 8



NOVEMBER 13



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

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