



# The Sower

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



May 2022

Kathleen Keefer, Editor

## *Moderator's Musings:*

This will be the last Moderator's Musings that I write. My term as moderator is finishing and I will install a new moderator at the Synod Gathering next month. I hope you will welcome her and give her all the wonderful support that you have given me.

I leave the office with gladness and sadness. I am ready to move on to other things, but I will miss the presence in my life of all the kind, generous, and helpful women that I have met through Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. Each one brought unique skills and abilities to the coordinating team. Each one was a blessing to me and the rest of the team. Each one will be missed as I go on to my next chapter.

I look forward to seeing what the future brings. I already know some of what is coming, but other things will be a surprise. I trust in God to uphold me as I go forth into the unknown. Each of us can lean on the strength and faithfulness of God as we continue our life's journey. Psalm 31:14-15a says "But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in your hand;" Our times are truly in God's hand and we can trust that all will be well.

May all the blessings of God go with you into the future.



Photo by Uljana Maljutina of Unsplash



## DEVOTION

*WHEN JUSTICE PREVAILS*, by Karen Moore in [Wellspring 365 Meditations to Refresh Your Soul](#)

*The Lord—he is our God. His justice is everywhere throughout the whole world. God remembers his covenant forever, the word he commanded to a thousand generations. Psalm 105:7-8.*

Justice may defy real definition. We tend to attach our own view of what justice is, based on where we live or the way we were raised or the faith we express. Most of us struggle with what fairness actually is and can debate our views.

The psalmist got it right though. He says that God has placed his justice “everywhere throughout the whole world.” In other words, we have no excuse. We know what is just and what isn’t. Carl Rowan said, “It is often easier to become outraged by injustice half a world away than by the oppression and discrimination half a block from home.” Perhaps this is why God said it isn’t our place to judge one another.

We think God set boundaries, but nothing has gagged and tied us like our own rules, all in the struggle to figure out what is just. Jesus even

took us further when he explained that the most important rules were about loving God and loving one another. If we just got those two right, we would be in good shape.

As you walk with your neighbors today, offer them the kind of love that desires nothing but a just and joyous day.

*Lord, thank you for being a just God. Thank you that I don’t have to decide what is right and fair for the whole world. Help me stand up for justice when and where I can. Amen.*

## DEVOTION FROM MILWAUKEE PWP GATHERING IN APRIL

If you are like me, these past two years have challenged our ability to remain positive when the world around us has changed the lives we considered to be familiar and normal. Perhaps the familiar and “normal” was not as God had envisioned when he created us. Were we in need of readjustment? For many of us, this has not been an easy adjustment.

If we were not directly impacted by the pandemic, we all know someone who lost someone dear to them (often alone and unable to be with family during their last hours), someone who worked in the medical field or on the ‘front lines’ exposed to the public with or without protection. Perhaps you lost your job, or were forced to work from home, surrounded by others who were forced into the virtual world of education or occupation. Families were unable to gather for holidays. The list goes on.

Has inflation and closings changed your lifestyle? Did you tire of wearing a mask? Remember the empty shelves?

How were you able to remain positive through the pandemic? Why were we faced with such global devastation? Generations before us had similar, or worse conditions to face. Perhaps we

were 'riding high' thinking we 'had it all' and were in control of our own lives living on that proverbial mountain top. Just when things are at their best, God has a way of reminding us that we may not be in control after all. And we find ourselves down in one of those valleys of life.

Remember God????? He created us, - in His image. In his image, He created us. That creation included gifts unique to the human species. One of my favorite scripture passages is Galatians 5:22 "the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." God created us with these attributes to use in our daily lives, and he showers us with these mercies, when we least expect or deserve them. We may not all receive these gifts in equal measure, but God is there when we need Him and will supply what we need.

So how have we been able to remain positive during these past two plus years? It has not been easy. I, for one lack the gifts (skills) of organization, and discipline. You don't know how many hours I spent agonizing on how to organize my thoughts for this devotion. However, God has gifted me with other skills to overcome my weaknesses. To remain positive, I have given thanks for what this pandemic has had to offer. We now have ZOOM to keep us connected and allow businesses to avoid the need to travel; social media has improved; families can now gather around facetime; priorities have changed, perhaps social issues that have been brought forward will be addressed and equity realized.

Though I have felt a great disconnect from my church family with worship being offered

virtually only and no in-person meetings or activities, I have made every effort to remain engaged. There are so many ways to use those God-given gifts to connect with those who are isolated. It just takes a bit of imagination and initiative.

Most of all. I remind myself that God is in control. God has a master plan and a plan for my life, and I need to realize that He has a plan for how He will use me, ordinary and flawed as I am, to fit into His plan in a positive way.

Thanks be to God!!!!



## MISSION PROJECTS



### **#HATNOTHATE is an anti-bullying campaign.**

Do you knit, crochet, or use a loom? If so, check out this opportunity to make a difference by making handmade blue hats for children through teens, ages 5- 18, as part of an anti-bullying campaign! In October, National Bullying Prevention Month, blue hats are distributed to schools across the country for students to wear, empowering them to stand up to bullying. Hats can be dropped off at a site near you or mailed in. Check this link for a location near you: <https://hatnothate.org/drop-off-locations/>

Why blue? The color blue represents awareness, peace, and solidarity. Blue is the color to wear in support of anti-bullying.

What are the requirements? As we are looking to fit a wide range of sizes (for ages 5 to 18),

most hat sizes are appropriate, i.e. ranging from 16 inches to 20 inches in circumference. Close fitting beanie style as well as slouchy style hats are welcome.

- Hats should be handmade using any blue yarn and should be at least 75% blue.

- Blue hats need to be received by August 1, 2022.

For more information, visit this website:

<https://hatnothate.org/>

### **PW Apostle Presbyterian's Hands-on Mission Work Day**

PW at Apostle Presbyterian Church in West Allis, WI, held its first in person gathering of 2022 by sponsoring a Hands-on Mission Work Day on April 2nd. The twenty-five participants enjoyed great fellowship and a delicious light lunch, while accomplishing amazing work on five mission projects. Projects included: assembling 27 baby layette kits for Native Connections' "Welcoming the Child" ceremony; stitching 7 little dresses from pillowcases for children in Pine Ridge, SD; stitching 5 school bags for PDA/CWS "Gift of the Heart" school kits; tying 10 twin-sized fleece blankets for children in emergency foster care at "Gather the Children Home", Porcupine, SD; and cleaning 352 prescription bottles for reuse by Bread of Healing Clinic in Milwaukee and Matthew 25 Ministries in Cincinnati, OH (sent with medical supplies to mission hospitals and clinics overseas). What a great way to kick-off our PW year!

During the months of February and March, PW collected new baby items for our "Celebrate the gifts of new mothers" Baby Project. These baby items were used to assemble baby layette kits during our PW Hands-on Mission Workday. Our congregation was very generous and PW funds were used to purchase the remaining items needed to

complete kit



Assembling baby layette kits for Native Connections, "Welcoming the Child" ceremony, Pine Ridge, SD. New mothers receive support and teachings of Lakota cultural traditions.



Ten twin-sized fleece blankets were tied for Gather the Children Home, an emergency foster care home in Porcupine, SD.



Sewing school bags for PDA/CWS Gift of the Heart School Kits



Labels and adhesive were removed from 362 prescription bottles and then were washed, dried, sorted by color and size for Bread of Healing Clinic, Milwaukee and Matthew 25 Ministries which sends them to hospitals and clinics in places where medications are wrapped in leaves.



Sewing little dresses from pillowcases for little girls in Pine Ridge, SD

We are now planning our churchwide Birthday Celebration to be held following worship on Sunday, May 22nd celebrating the 100th year of the PW Birthday Offering. Each of twelve tables will be seasonally decorated and a table tent containing the names and birthdays of members and friends of the congregation for each month will be placed on the tables. A light lunch and birthday cake will be shared by all and

donations to the PW Birthday Offering will be received!

As we move into June and July, two "PW on the Road" events are being planned, visiting two local mission sites that our PW supports and then having lunch together each month.

**PW Synod Coordinating Team Holds First Hybrid Meeting**

Our PW Synod Coordinating Team held its first hybrid meeting April 8-10 at First Presbyterian Church in Austin, MN. For those gathered in person, it was great to see one another and accomplish our work face-to-face, continuing our team building by getting to know our new CT members over meals and during breaks. It was also wonderful to have those who were unable to attend in person to participate via Zoom! Many thanks to Lana Schultz for doing all the "behind the scenes" work to make this possible. The women of our host church provided delicious meals and graciously accommodated all our needs. Thank you, First Pres of Austin PW!

An opportunity to tie fleece blankets was available on Friday afternoon and during all our breaks throughout the meeting. It is amazing that we were able to complete seven blankets. These blankets will be taken to *Gather the Children Home*, an emergency foster care home in Porcupine, SD, on the Pine Ridge Reservation.





**PW SYNOD PRE-GATHERING MISSION EVENT  
REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

**Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Center and MORE  
Thursday, June 16, 2022 -- 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM**

Join in this pre-gathering mission event on Thursday, June 16, 2022 for a guided tour of the Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Hospital in Walthill, NE. Visits will also be made to the John G. Neihardt Center (tour), the Bancroft Cemetery (tour), Faith Presbyterian Church (possible tour), and Dr. Susan's home in Walthill (no tour). Lunch will be at Honoring-the-Clans Sculpture Garden, weather permitting.

Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte, an Omaha Native woman, was the first Native 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 (aka Faith PC), 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.

Prior to participating in this mission event, you **may consider reading the book, "A Warrior of the People" by Joe Starita**. This book will provide background information; however, it is not required to participate in this event.

**We will leave from the Hilton Garden Inn, Sioux City, NE at 8:30 AM on Thursday, June 16, 2022 and return no later than 3:00 PM.**

**COSTS:** The following expenses may apply for you:

- Lodging, if needed for the evening of June 15<sup>th</sup> (you need to make your own reservation)
- Box lunch information will be provided upon receipt of your registration and payment will be required by May 15<sup>th</sup> (weather permitting, we plan to eat outdoors for lunch)
- Donation to your driver for gas expenses, if you are riding with someone

**LUNCH: Box lunches will be ordered.** Once you register, you will receive an email confirming your registration and providing box lunch options and cost.

**LODGING:** If lodging is needed for the evening of June 15, 2022, you can make lodging reservations at the Hilton Garden Inn, Sioux City or anywhere you choose.



**PW SYNOD PRE-GATHERING MISSION EVENT  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Hospital and MORE  
Thursday, June 16, 2022 -- 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE (if don't use email) \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

PRESBYTERY \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT PERSON \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

=====

Check those that apply:

\_\_\_\_\_ I have a van or church bus and have room for \_\_\_\_\_ passengers

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like transportation provided

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to drive myself and can take \_\_\_\_\_ passengers

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Return completed registration form before May 15, 2022 to:  
Marilyn Stone  
3915 Lake Street  
Burlington, WI 53105  
OR  
[mmstone52@att.net](mailto:mmstone52@att.net)

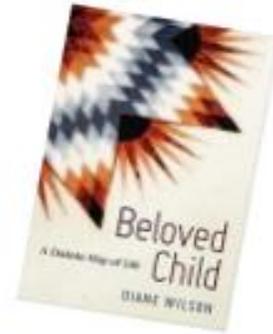
Questions should be directed to Marilyn Stone at 262-492-7921.

Once your registration is received, you will receive an email confirming your registration and box lunch options/costs will be provided, along with directions of where to send your box lunch payment.

Register today to join a book study . . .

## ***Beloved Child: A Dakota Way of Life***

**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: May 16 and 23, June 6**

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

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

Synopsis: "Far greater even than the loss of land, or the relentless coercion to surrender cultural traditions, the deaths of over six hundred children by the spring of 1864 were an unbearable tragedy. Nearly one hundred and fifty years after the U.S.–Dakota War of 1862, Dakota people are still struggling with the effects of this unimaginable loss."

Among the Dakota, the Beloved Child ceremony marked the special, tender affection that parents felt toward a child whose life had been threatened. In this moving book, author Diane Wilson explores the work of several modern Dakota people who are continuing to raise beloved children: Gabrielle Tateyuskanskan, an artist and poet; Clifford Canku, a spiritual leader and language teacher; Alameda Rocha, a boarding school survivor; Harley and Sue Eagle, Canadian activists; and Delores Brunelle, an Ojibwe counselor. Each of these humble but powerful people teaches children to believe in the "genius and brilliance" of Dakota culture as a way of surviving historical trauma.

Crucial to true healing, Wilson has learned, is a willingness to begin with yourself. Each of these people works to transform the effects of genocide, restoring a way of life that regards our beloved children as wakan, sacred.

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

**Provide the following information:**

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



## 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.



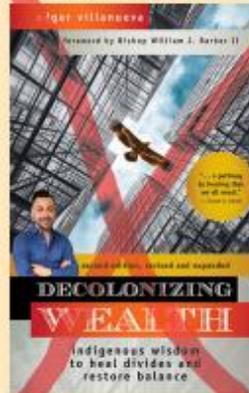
To register, scan the QR code with your smart phone or go to [presbyterianwomen.org/justice](https://presbyterianwomen.org/justice).

## 2022 Reading Selections

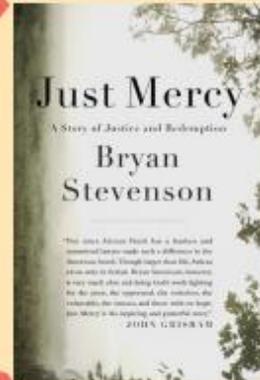
(6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Eastern Time)



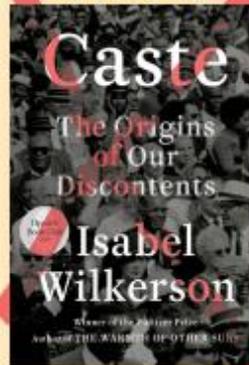
JANUARY 10



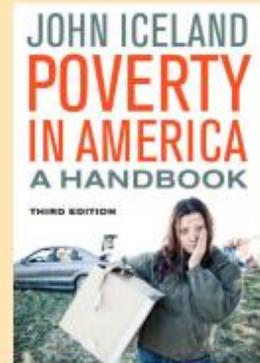
JULY 11



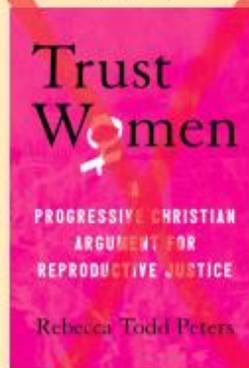
MARCH 14



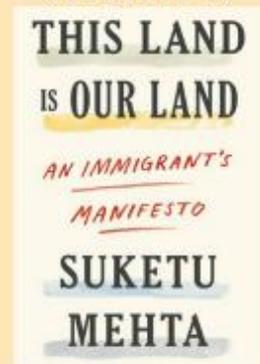
SEPTEMBER 12



MAY 9



NOVEMBER 14



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



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER  
ASSISTANCE**

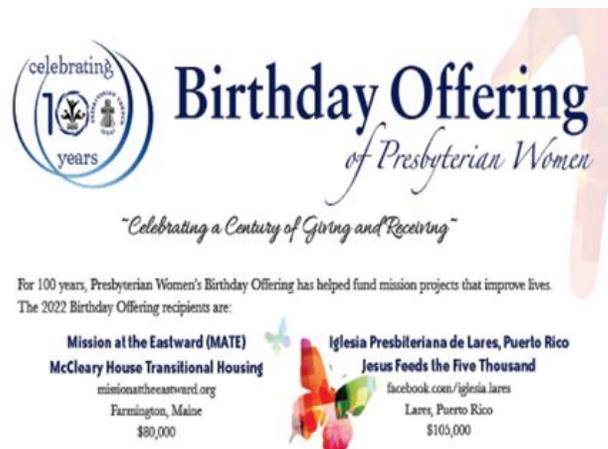
**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**

In April 2021, PDA set aside \$100,000 and awarded four Refugee/Immigrant Faith-Based Advocacy grants to: (1) Movement for Justice, based in East Harlem, New York City which is 90% Latinx; (2) Mutual Aid Brockton, the only major Black city in Massachusetts with residents from Haiti, Cape Verde, and Latin America; (3) National Korean American Service & Education Consortium, based in Chicago, works with Koreans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; and (4) Voces de la Frontera, based in Milwaukee, working with ag workers primarily from Mexico and Central America. For more information on PDA's Advocacy Grant program, visit [PCUSA.org/PDABLOG](http://PCUSA.org/PDABLOG). For more information on PDA's Refugee Ministry, visit [PCUSA.org/PDA/Refugee](http://PCUSA.org/PDA/Refugee). PDA Annual Report 2021.

The 2022 Birthday Offering Recipients are: \$80,000 to Mission at the Eastward to help renovate McCleary House for people experiencing homelessness in Farmington, Maine; and \$105,000 to the Presbyterian Church in Lares, Puerto Rico to enlarge, update and bring to code compliant its church kitchen. "After Hurricane Maria and the January 2020 earthquakes in Puerto Rico, the Presbyterian Church in Lares became the go-to location in the community for food, purified water and personal items. With a high population of elderly and infirmed, they rely on the church for help with necessities." *Horizons Magazine* (Jan./Feb. 2022).

2022 marks 100 years of life-changing grants through the Birthday Offering. Look for

highlights of notable moments in this program's history in the March/April issue of *Horizons Magazine*.



### From the Inclusive Caring Community Committee:

After living with a pandemic for two years and the need to re-imagine, change plans, adapt and make-do, we understand that leaders and tired. All of us have experienced grief and the anxiety that comes with unexpected challenges since the spring of 2020, and as the Inclusive Community Committee, we want to encourage you to take some intentional time to nurture your body and spirit this spring. It is so important to listen to your soul.

Please take advantage of the warmer days by spending a few moments outdoors. If you can't get outside for a walk, even opening a window helps clear the mind and energize the body.

Give yourself permission to say no. As social gatherings gear up again, many people are feeling uneasy about resuming a fuller social life. Go at your own pace and respect your feelings.

Drink some water! Take a nap! Do something you love to re-charge.

Remember that we are all in this together and supporting one another is part of what PW does best, so reach out and share a talk, a laugh or a cry.

May 2022

We're praying for all of you!

PW Synod Inclusive Community Committee  
Hope Dougherty, Chair  
Linda Hora  
Mary Koon



**BETTER TOGETHER, TIED WITH LOVE:** REMEMBER THE SYNOD GATHERING TAKES PLACE JUNE 16 – JUNE 19 AT HILTON GARDEN INN, SIOUX CITY, IOWA. GREAT WORSHIP, PLENARIES AND WORKSHOPS ARE PLANNED.

## SOWER

- 14 World Fair Trade Day; [wfto.com](http://wfto.com)
- 14 Stamp Out Hunger drive; [about.usps.com/corporate-social-responsibility/nalc-food-drive.htm](http://about.usps.com/corporate-social-responsibility/nalc-food-drive.htm)
- 15 Intercultural Church Sunday; [pcusa.org/resource/intercultural-ministries-19226/](http://pcusa.org/resource/intercultural-ministries-19226/)
- 22 International Day for Biological Diversity; [cbd.int/ldb](http://cbd.int/ldb)
- 29 Mission Worker Sunday; [presbyterianmission.org/story/may-26-2019/](http://presbyterianmission.org/story/may-26-2019/)
- 30 Memorial Day

## JUNE

- 3 National Gun Violence Awareness Day; [wearorange.org/nasponline.org/research-and-policy/policy-matters-blog/national-gun-violence-awareness-day](http://wearorange.org/nasponline.org/research-and-policy/policy-matters-blog/national-gun-violence-awareness-day)
- 5 Pentecost; [presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/pentecost/](http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/pentecost/)
- 19 Juneteenth; [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juneteenth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juneteenth)
- 19 Father's Day; Men of the Church Sunday; [presbyterianmission.org/ministries/men](http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/men)
- 20 World Refugee Day; [un.org/en/observances/refugee-day](http://un.org/en/observances/refugee-day)
- 26 PC(USA) World AIDS Sunday; [presbyterianmission.org/ministries/phewa/pan/](http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/phewa/pan/)

## JULY

- 3 Immigration Sunday; <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/immigration>
- 4 Independence Day; [presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/independence-day](http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/independence-day)
- 11 J&P Book Discussion Group online, 6:30–8:30 PM (Eastern) on *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson (OneWorld, 2015). Register at [presbyterianwomen.org/justice](http://presbyterianwomen.org/justice)

## AUGUST

- 6 Hiroshima Day; [pda.pcusa.org/pda/resource/hiroshima-day-prayer/](http://pda.pcusa.org/pda/resource/hiroshima-day-prayer/)
- 9 International Day of the World's Indigenous People; [un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day](http://un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day)
- 14 Day of Prayer for the Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula; [pcusa.org/resource/sunday-prayer-worship-for-peaceful-reunifica-78123/](http://pcusa.org/resource/sunday-prayer-worship-for-peaceful-reunifica-78123/)
- 19 World Humanitarian Day; [worldhumanitarianaday.org/](http://worldhumanitarianaday.org/) and [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World\\_Humanitarian\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Humanitarian_Day)
- 21 Public Education Sunday; [presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/child/](http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/child/)

Click here for links that work:

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2022-JP-Calendar.pdf>



May 2022



NEWS FROM YOUR VICE MODERATOR,  
KATHLEEN KEEFER:

This morning I was able to attend, virtually, an event sponsored by the World Council of Churches and Religions for Peace. It was a tremendous experience, listening to Archbishops, Imams, Rabbis, Buddhist Monks, and Protestant scholars from around the world talk about PEACE. The focus of the discussion was on the refugee crisis and the “statelessness” of some of the world’s people. To learn more, please follow this link to the joint statement release just this morning:

<https://www.oikoumene.org/news/wcc-religions-for-peace-will-release-joint-message-on-statelessness-belonging-affirmations-for-faith-leaders>

## Humans are being trafficked all over the world, including our neighborhoods

**World Mission** May 9, 2022



Photo by Kate Oseen via Unsplash

Mission Co-worker Cathy Chang tells ‘A Matter of Faith’ that people of conscience can help reduce suffering by using both eyes and ears

by Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service

SOWER

LOUISVILLE — In the days before the Rev. Cathy Chang, a mission co-worker serving in the Philippines, was red-tagged having been accused of supporting groups perceived as terrorists through stickers and a tarpaulin affixed at her home in Quezon City, she spoke on the scourge of human trafficking with the hosts of “A Matter of Faith: A Presby Podcast.”

The Rev. Lee Catoe, managing editor of [Unbound: An Interactive Journal of Christian Social Justice](#), and Simon Doong, a mission specialist with the [Presbyterian Peacemaking Program](#), host the weekly podcast, which dropped Thursday. Listen to their conversation with Chang [here](#).

“We recorded this one week before she was red-tagged,” Catoe says just before the conversation with Chang is heard. “We are saying a prayer for Cathy and Cathy’s family.”

A listener question was the impetus for the conversation. “I recently learned that human trafficking is, in fact, still happening,” the listener wrote. “I thought this practice and business died a long time ago, but clearly I was wrong. It’s all over the world! And not only in ‘developing countries!’ As an individual, what can I do to prevent it? In the world context, is there something I can do?”

“I am so grateful for the awareness and the awakening that the question brings,” Chang said, adding there’s “some mythology, superstition and misinformation” in many people’s understanding of the complexity of human trafficking, a broad area that includes online abuse as well as exploitation in the workplace. Three words are key in the latter case, according to Chang: force, fraud and coercion. “On paper, the job asked for someone who’s a janitor, teacher or nurse. But the coercion is asking for something else or demanding something else,” Chang said. “I may be coerced to stay because as an employee I may have surrendered my passport or my identity documents.”

To read more:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/humans-are-being-trafficked-all-over-the-world-including-our-neighborhoods/>

May 2022

## Crafting for a cause

**Presbyterians Today** May 9, 2022

### Church uses art to promote justice

by Beth Waltemath | *Presbyterians Today*



North Decatur Presbyterian Church in Georgia is crafting for a cause, creating “Soul Boxes” — decorated boxes that hold inside them the name of a person who perished by gun violence. Courtesy of the Soul Box Project

What do working for the common good and crafting have in common? They both require the commitment, flexibility and hope to let something new emerge from something old, raw or broken. In 2018, [North Decatur Presbyterian Church](#) in Decatur, Georgia, a congregation with long-held commitments to social justice, created a new ministry that weaves both crafting and activism together. They call it “craftivism.” And its mission is simply to craft for a cause.

Their most visible initiative so far has been a multiyear witness to the victims of gun violence in the church’s

SOWER

home state of Georgia, which has garnered local, statewide and national attention.

In 2017, when the state legislature passed the “campus carry” House Bill 280 prohibiting colleges, universities and churches from banning handguns on their campuses, North Decatur Presbyterian began to witness through public prayer by reading the names of those who died by guns in Georgia each month and hanging a ribbon of the names along a wall outside the church. The death toll then averaged 50 names a month, and the ribbon soon extended to and doubled back along their curb.

Ellen Gadberry, a member of North Decatur Presbyterian’s peace and justice committee and founder of its liturgical arts group, discovered the work of the [Soul Box Project](#), a national nonprofit arts organization that partners with groups to create a “visually stunning call-to-action” for individuals and policymakers to address “the U.S. gunfire epidemic.” In 2019, North Decatur Presbyterian became their first church partner and was the only house of worship to join the Soul Box Project for their culminating witness in Washington, D.C. [https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pt-0522-ms-socialwitness/?utm\\_source=ActiveCampaign&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=PC%28USA%29+Daily+News&utm\\_campaign=Daily+eNews+%7C+May+10%2C2022](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pt-0522-ms-socialwitness/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=PC%28USA%29+Daily+News&utm_campaign=Daily+eNews+%7C+May+10%2C2022)

BETTER TOGETHER, TIED WITH LOVE:  
REMEMBER THE SYNOD GATHERING TAKES  
PLACE JUNE 16 – JUNE 19 AT HILTON  
GARDEN INN, SIOUX CITY, IOWA. GREAT  
WORSHIP, PLENARIES AND WORKSHOPS  
ARE PLANNED.

May 2022

SOWER

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## 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*



### **What to expect at the PW SLAP Gathering/Better Together:**

(Presbyterian Women of the Synod of Lakes & Prairies)

*Experience a time of hope, praise and fellowship. This will be a time to grow your faith. It will be a place where having time to be with God/Creator and other women is a priority. It will be a time to reconnect, renew and grow. The Gathering will explore the PW Purpose in a variety of ways. Plenary (entire group) sessions and keynote speakers will focus on specific points of our purpose. Workshops will provide information about a wide range of topics, including PW missions. A hands-on mission opportunity will be a time to sew school bags. Giving from your hearts and wallets will allow you to support Lila Mae House, All About You Adoptions, Marion Medical Mission and the Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Center.*



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