



The Sower

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



November, 2024

Kathleen Keefer, Editor

Moderator's Moment

Hello to all of you as we 'fall' into the holiday season.

The Coordinating Team had a great meeting in West Salem, Wisc., in October. The Together in Service committees had us bring items needed for a birthday party. I forget the exact number, but we assembled more than 35 Birthday in a Bag bags for the local food bank. These Birthday Bags, suitable for wrapping a gift, are filled with items such as a cake mix and frosting; party favors; decorations; candles; hats; etc. These are things not normally found at a food pantry or shelter, but every child should be able to have a birthday party with family and friends.

This is such a quick and simple project. I think I will include it in my Sunday School lesson just before Christmas. After all, we are celebrating Jesus' birth.

Or your PW or other church group could take this on for your local organizations. What a wonderful opportunity to give something often considered frivolous or unnecessary to a child who would not deem it either.

I was so excited to go to Church Wide Gathering in August and represent you both at the triennial business meeting and by hosting our Synod luncheon. I served on the new business committee and presented the report to the delegates at the meeting. We had more than 40 in attendance at our lunch. There was a program about the upcoming Synod Gathering and an excellent presentation by Louella Voight and Julie Miller about their USAME trip to the southern border.

Which takes us right into the 2025 Synod Gathering in Watertown, S.D. Louella and Julie will be guest presenters as well as a speaker about the 2025-26 Horizons Bible Study. We are lining up a slate of workshops that will appeal to all interests, including current affairs, PW basics, creative interests, mission opportunities, and book studies.

There will be a marketplace for shopping; a PW Swap where you are invited to bring a PW or other church item and/or take a PW or church item; and a display area for exhibits about what your local and presbytery groups are doing, as well as from your Coordinating Team committees.

The Gathering cost is just \$150. Rooms can be shared by up to four friends! Please plan on attending and getting to know more of your Synod sisters.

The pre-gathering Mini-Mission Experience will be a tour of the Lake Traverse Reservation including the churches, Sisseton Wahpeton College, the memorial park where the Indian Boarding School stood, and a visit to a domestic shelter. We will hear painful and hopeful stories from several elders and leaders. Lunch will be provided by the PW of Dakota Presbytery. The cost is only \$10 plus a gift for the shelter.

Please consider purchasing an ad in the program book. This is one way we can keep costs down. Scholarships are available, so please don't let the expense keep you from attending.

Have a blessed Holiday season. Our triune holidays reflect our triune God. We have so much to be thankful for, be sure God the Father and Parent is at the center of your Thanksgiving. Without Christ we would have no salvation, so keep God the Son in the center of your Christmas festivities. And without hope, what would our lives look like? Embrace and follow God the Holy Spirit as you move into the New Year.

Peace and blessings,

Louise



Happy New Year!

Prayers & Devotions

**From Dancing Faith 2:**

I want to be a fundamentalist
 Oh, don't get me wrong I don't want to be a doctrinal fundamentalist
 I don't to be someone who cannot look beyond the words on paper fundamentalist.
 I want to be a lifestyle fundamentalist
 A person who imitates Jesus
 It is not an original idea. Francis of Assisi, Thomas a' Kempis
 Had it long before me I should have figured it out long ago
 When Jesus said "Come and follow me"
 He really meant it
 When he said "I am the way"
 He really meant it. Be like me This is the way to live.
 But it is so hard I mean all that stuff about
 Selling all I have and giving it to the poor (shouldn't they work harder?)
 Welcoming the stranger (aren't they dangerous, and coming to steal what is mine?)
 Praying for those who persecute me (they aren't praying for me, at least not praying good things for me)
 All that stuff about Turning the other cheek (I need that gun to protect myself)
 Feeding the hungry, clothing the naked (there just isn't enough to go around, right?)
 I have my excuses
 Why following is dangerous, foolish, and ineffective
 I mean sure Jesus said all that stuff
 But that seems too weak and naïve for a world like this!!
 But Sacred Love is not interested in my excuses
 Yes, the cross is an ending for a fool
 Yes, this way is dangerous
 And costly
 And illogical, going against everything my culture has taught me
 About success, winning, safety, and privilege
 But fundamentally It is the way
 And if I ignore it If we all ignore it
 Well, we see how that works. As suffering immigrants are demonized and deported
 And the poor are neglected
 And children are shot at school
 And the rich just get richer
 And candidates appeal to us using hate
 So fundamentally Jesus I want to be yours
 And I want to follow you
 And walk your way
 And I will suck at it!
 And I will stumble, maybe even fall.
 But I pray, Jesus, that I can persist
 And be your person, fundamentally

Submitted by Hope Dougherty, Northern Waters

We are heading into dark times, and you need to be your own light. Do not accept brutality and cruelty as normal even if it is sanctioned. Protect the vulnerable and encourage the afraid. If you are brace, stand up for others. If you cannot be brave – and it is often hard to be brave – be kind.

by Sarah Kendzior

I am the light of the World
Jesus

You are the light of the world... let your light shine.
Jesus

From Dancing Faith 2

We are candles
Carrying the fragile gift of flame
The fierce gift of love

We are lights, shining
In a darkness that wants to overcome
In a world that faces doom

We have that sense of doom
Of problems too big for us to solve
Of dooms (decrees) violated

And here we are
Candles
Flickering, wondering, fearing

But we are light
We carry the energy of the Sacred
The energy of love

And in the deep darkness
Even a little light counts

Pinpoints of love in the midst of hate
Of hope in the midst of despair
Of compassion in the midst of cruelty

We need to shine
We need to let the energy of God
Spirit
Light us up
And we need to find other people who shine

Whomever they are
Whatever they believe
Whatever creed, color, nationality, gender
We will know them by their shining

We need to huddle together
Join together in the midst of the pain and pain

We need to create islands of light

It only takes two or three

It would be too easy to be sucked into the black
And become blamers and shames
Bullies and vigilantes
Hoarders, scammers, thieves

But we have a chance to gather
To share the energy of love
In our homes, our churches
We have the chance to even now
Become heroes, saints, healers, givers, lovers

We are headed into the dark
Many will be lost, afraid, wandering, wondering
But we can be light
And we can create islands of welcome, and hope
Spaces for imagining, and working toward

God's new thing

Breathe deep my friends. Be brave
Be kind
Shine

From Steve Garnaas-Holmes

When news is bad
Take seriously your grief.
It is love, stripped bare.
Let it flow through you.

Trust that you are held.
We all are held by the Beloved,
The Broken-Hearted One,
The One who Suffers most Deeply.

Know you are not alone.
 Millions bear your sorrow.
 Ancestors and even unborn generations
 Walk with you gratefully.
 Seek others who are tenderhearted.
 Receive all the grace you can.
 In the flesh is best, but even in spirit,
 Know we are here.
 Trust the Goodness.
 God has not given up on us.
 Through every disaster grace remains.
 Refuse to despair.
 Choose courage over selfishness,

Trust over fear, love over anger.
 You do not know the end of grace.
 There is much you cannot change,
 But bring healing where you can.
 We are not promised to be given light,
 But to shine with light.
 Don't become an enemy of the world
 And its brokenness. Stay tender,
 Become a source of comfort and joy for others
 Let this purpose bear you through the darkness
 And you yourself will become light.
 Take courage; trust grace;
 Stay connected; practice love.

Stuff

Early Fall I start stirring 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 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 people's stuff has been taken.

Whenever we have company, they always bring bags of stuff. When I visit my son, he always moves his stuff so I will have room for my stuff. My daughter-in-law always clears a drawer of her stuff so I will have room for my stuff. Their stuff and my stuff...it would be so much easier to use their stuff and leave my stuff at home, with the rest of my stuff.

This Fall I had an extra closet built so I would have a place for all the stuff too good to throw away and too bad to keep with my good stuff. You may not have this problem, but I seem to spend a lot of time with stuff...food stuff, cleaning stuff, medicine stuff, clothes stuff, and outside stuff. Whatever would life be like if we didn't have all this stuff?

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. 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 the food stuff.

Well, our lives are filled with stuff...good stuff, bad stuff, little stuff, big stuff, useful stuff, junky stuff, and everyone's stuff. Now when we leave all our stuff and go to heaven, whatever happens to our stuff won't matter. We will still have the good stuff God has prepared for us in heaven!

Author unknown

Judy Rops offered this story of STUFF at our Synod Coordinating Team Meeting. I took it to heart and when changing over from summer to winter clothes, I have one tote to store and a huge leaf and garden bag to take to Goodwill! Thank you, Judy for the encouragement! KKefer.

You can learn more about stuff – more than our stuff – but environmental stuff by going to the website:

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

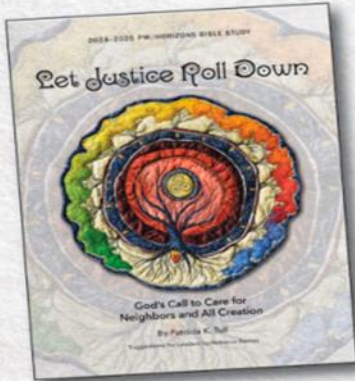


Let Justice Roll Down

God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation

By Patricia K. Tull

With Suggestions for Leaders by Rebecca Barnes



Patricia K. Tull, author of the 2024–2025 PW/*Horizons* Bible study *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*, describes her call for creation justice in this way: "When I first learned of the climate crisis, I wondered how a biblical scholar with few practical skills could help and found my purpose in learning about ecology and teaching people of faith what I could. Such is not everyone's skillset or desire, but each of us has something to do with all our hearts."

We invite you to join Presbyterian Women as we explore, with all our hearts, God's call to care for our neighbors and for creation. Readers will learn about ecological systems, the challenges we face in this time of accelerated climate change, and the possibilities available to address or counter the impact of human-made stress on our environment. Further, readers will explore theological questions that point us to act and engage, in small and large ways.

Many of us no longer have an active PW within our congregation and would still like to participate in the Horizons Bible Study. If you are one of these women, Kathleen Keefer is offering an online Bible Study is being offered by Synod of the Lakes and Prairies Presbyterian Women for anyone (no matter the gender) who would like to join in. The group will meet on the following Monday evenings: 11/18; 1/13; 2/10; 3/10; 4/21; 5/12; 6/23 at 6:30 pm Central. Please email: kathleenkeefe20@gmail.com to receive the zoom link.

SPRING GATHERINGS: If your PW Presbytery is making plans for a Fall Gathering and is looking for a speaker, contact a USAME participant to lead a presentation on the USA Mission Experience to the Arizona-Mexico border:
Julie Miller: jam1150@hotmail.com
Louella Voigt: louvoigt@hotmail.com
Kathleen Keefer: kathleenkeefe20@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

THIRD PW SYNOD NATIVE AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED



Sharon Abeita is our third PW Synod Native American Scholarship recipient! She is an enrolled member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate and has been selected by the Sisseton Wahpeton College Scholarship Committee following the established criteria, to be awarded this \$500 scholarship.

Sharon is a second semester freshman at Sisseton Wahpeton College in Sisseton, SD.

Sharon is a 32-year old single mother of three children, ages eleven, eight, and one. Besides being a fulltime student and mother, she works parttime with FedEx in Fargo, ND, all while maintaining a 4.0 grade point average!

Sharon plans to get her Associates of Arts degree to complete her general studies, before furthering her education to become a counselor for Native youth. A short-term goal of Sharon's is to maintain a GPA of 4.0 while in college. Another short-term goal is to graduate which will make her the first person from her family to get a college degree.

Working as a Home Living Assistant at a boarding school in North Dakota for six years, Sharon has substantial experience working with fourth through eighth grade Native youth. She shares, “. . . over the years I grew a relationship with every single kid. In a way, we all felt like family. Having such a close relationship with these children made it comfortable for them to come talk to me about anything they had going on. . . Knowing I can help brighten a child’s day just by being there for them means a lot.” Sharon also shares that having a degree in counseling “will help with my tribe or community because we are always in need of more counselors for our youth.”

Being a fulltime student and mom, while working part-time can be very challenging to balance all the responsibilities and demands on one’s time. Let’s keep Sharon lifted in prayer for time management, perseverance, quality time with her studies and quality time with her children.

2025 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). Please include a self-addressed and stamped postcard that can be returned to you as acknowledgement that items or donations were received.

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College Scholarships for Native Students

Sisseton Wahpeton College, Sisseton, SD AND Oglala Lakota College, Kyle, SD

Financial contributions are being received by PW Synod of Lakes and Prairies to create a sustaining Native student scholarship fund. These funds will make it possible to grant scholarships each semester to a Native student attending Sisseton Wahpeton College and another student attending Oglala Lakota College as second semester freshmen or sophomores. Criteria for selection is in place. Ongoing funds are needed to sustain granting scholarships each semester for each college. First scholarship was been awarded Fall 2023.



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 College Scholarship Fund”.

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Families Working Together

356 SD Hwy 44, PO Box #321, Wanblee, SD 57577 (Pine Ridge Reservation)

Families Working Together (FWT) is a nonprofit organization focused on empowering Oglala Lakota People to become self-sufficient. The FWT community building offers opportunities for sewing and quilting, canning and dehydration of foods, raised garden space and gardening skills, along with learning to prepare healthier foods. A reading mentor program assists children and youth with increasing reading skills. They have a great area for the children, while adults are working on other skills.

Children’s books that reflect accurate Native culture and characters are needed. Books can be purchased online and shipped directly to Families Working Together, to avoid postage costs. Contact Marilyn for a list of books that meet their specific needs with a focus on culture as well as science.

Monetary donations can be sent to: Mary Grimme Epps, PO Box #321, Wanblee, SD 57577

Books should be shipped to: Families Working Together, 356 SD Hwy 44, Wanblee, SD 57577

Learn more at: <https://www.familiesworkingtogether.org/>

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Iglutecha (ee-gloo-teh-chah) – a Lakota word meaning “to renew yourself”

PO Box 5005, Pine Ridge, SD 57770

Iglutheca, a 501(c)3 organization in Pine Ridge, SD, has as its mission to provide a pathway for homeless Lakota people out of addiction and poverty. Iglutheca offers the basics of meals,



safety, sleep, showers, and community. It also provides case planning and management tailored to each person’s needs, which includes: addressing addiction, mental health, spiritual support, health care, housing, income and assistance obtaining vital documents. Meeting basic needs is a huge advantage as it enables individuals to plan for their next steps.

Items needed are: men’s black or grey crew socks, men’s underwear size med thru XLg, women’s socks and underwear, coffee (not specialty), baking mixes (cookie, cake and brownie), paper/styrofoam bowls/plates, plastic forks/spoons, and 33 gallon trash bags.

Monetary donations can be sent to: Iglutecha, % Abram Neumann, PO box 5005, Pine Ridge, SD 57770

Learn more at: <https://www.facebook.com/iglutecha> or <https://www.iglutecha.org/>



Child Protective Services and local hospital Agency Village, SD (Lake Traverse 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

Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Center PO Box 36, Walthill, NE (Omaha Reservation)



The Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Hospital is being restored to accommodate Walthill community identified needs which include a medical clinic, cultural and educational spaces, and historical museum. The interior restoration is underway, integrating elements of Omaha language and culture, creating a truly unique and meaningful environment. Plans are in place for a “grand opening” in early 2025. Native community members have had a significant role in this project from the onset.

Funding is needed to support the development of an outdoor amphitheater, community gardens, and other Native cultural features.

Mail contributions to: The Picotte Center, PO Box 36, Walthill, NE 68067

Learn more at: <https://www.facebook.com/picottecenter> OR <https://picottecenter.org/restoration-project>



Red Cloud Renewable P.O. Box 1609, Pine Ridge, SD 57770

Red Cloud Renewable (RCR) helps address the severe housing crisis on the Pine Ridge Reservation with the construction of affordable, sustainable (cellular concrete), energy efficient, culturally compatible “dome homes” built by Native workers. RCR, through the Lakota Thiyuha Project, provides the workforce development and training of local Native people to construct these energy efficient homes, producing much needed jobs as well. RCR offers scholarships for students enrolling in their training programs as well as a lab environment for hands-on practice. It also incorporates Indigenous language, music, ceremony and culture in its training.

Contributions can be mailed to: Red Cloud Renewable, PO Box 1609, Pine Ridge, SD 57770

To learn more, visit RCR website at: <https://www.redcloudrenewable.org/>; to see photos, visit RCR Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=red%20cloud%20renewable>

Bdecan Presbyterian Church – Vacation Bible School AND Work Teams Chandra Mendieta, Ministries and Outreach Coordinator

Mailing Address: PO Box 141 Tokio, ND 58379

Phone: (701) 230-1560 Email: bdecanpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com



Bdecan Presbyterian Church, the only Native 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 children 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. In addition to VBS, a hands-on mission project could be done, as well as participation in a “cultural night”.

Work teams are once again needed to accomplish much needed repairs to the food pantry and other areas around the church and grounds. Express your interest by contacting Chandra (see contact info above)



**Gather the Children Home - Wakanyeja Gluwitayan Otipi (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 thru age 12. It provides a caring, immediate safe environment for children removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect, while a suitable foster or relative’s 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.

Items can be sent to: 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

Learn more at: <https://wakanyejaotipi.org/>

Updated 11/2024

TOGETHER IN SERVICE

By Pat McKisson, Committee Chair

‘Answering the call to be the hands and feet of Christ in the World.’



We are the hands and feet of Christ in the world!

Together in Service is one way that Presbyterian Women support mission. We work “Together in Service” through mission initiatives such as health care for women and children, education, reconciliation, and healing between Indigenous people and ourselves, working at and contributing food to local food shelves, and so much more.

We pick up knitting needles to create a blanket or knit cap for a child in need or pick up a paint brush to participate in Women Build.

We offer ongoing support to our church and community through selfless and effortless love.

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

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

We Do Everything in Love!



As published in the August Sower, your P.W. Moderators participated in the hands-on mission on October 18 and 19 for the Community Care and Share Food Pantry which serves small communities in and around West Salem. WI

Through your generous contributions of items and money, we collected non-perishable food items and assembled 39 special birthday bags. It was a fun project and inspired a lot of creativity on the part of your moderators!



Together in Service will be highlighting the following missions for 2025.

Gun Violence

The Guns to Gardens organization will be our focus. More information will be in upcoming issues of the Sower.

Gifts of the Heart kits. Because of the recent devastating storms throughout the U.S. there will be a great need for clean-up buckets and hygiene kits.

We are always looking for current ideas. If you have a mission that you would want to share contact me directly by email: pmac0247@gmail.com or phone - 651-773-5107.

With love and gratitude for your faithful service to mission!

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TOGETHER IN SERVICE

By Pat McKisson, Committee Chair

'Answering the call to be the hands and feet of Christ in the World.'

CWS ('GIFTS of the HEART')

When you share CWS Kits and Blankets, you show a tremendous amount of love and compassion to our most vulnerable neighbors, and you help to transform lives.

How do your efforts transform lives? *Your contribution to CWS Kits and Blankets means Church World Service can respond and help families get the supplies they need when they need them the most.*

Have you been out on the Presbyterian Women's website lately? I decided to check it out to see what has been happening with the CWS kits this year that have lovingly been put together by women of our churches in the USA. The statistics are quite impressive.

Here is what I learned about kits received from January through June 2024.

Period Packs	7,131
School Kits	7,140
Welcome Backpacks	192
Hygiene Kits	16,620
Cleanup Buckets	2,228
Blankets	9,825

Total kits and Blankets Shipped 43,136

Here is just a sampling of where CWS Kits and Blankets have been shared with grateful recipients in the United States and with our neighbors in other countries.

Arkansas	Arizona	California	Colorado	Florida	Illinois
Indiana	Louisiana	Maine	Maryland	Michigan	Mississippi
Nebraska	New Hampshire	New Jersey	New Mexico	New York	
North Carolina	Pennsylvania	Ohio	Rhode Island	Texas	Tennessee
Vermont	Virginia	Washington			
Jordan	Honduras	Moldova	Romania		

Here is a sampling of disaster areas where help was sent.

Arkansas and Louisiana Adventist Community Services

North Little Rock, AR *Fleece blankets, school kits, emergency cleanup buckets, welcome backpacks, and hygiene kits*

City of North Little Rock

North Little Rock, AR *Emergency cleanup buckets and hygiene kits*

Fairview United Methodist Church

Caden, AR *Fleece blankets, wool blankets, school kits, hygiene kits, emergency cleanup buckets and welcome backpacks*

New Hope Baptist Church

Little Rock, AR *Emergency cleanup buckets, hygiene kits and welcome backpacks*

Robenson County Disaster Recovery Coalition

Lumberton, NC *Fleece blankets, school kits, hygiene kits and period packs*

See Well Outreach

Goldsboro, NC *Fleece blankets, wool blankets, school kits, hygiene kits and emergency cleanup buckets*

Catholic Charities

Santa Cruz, CA *School kits and hygiene kits*

Community Bridges

Watsonville, CA *Fleece blankets, wool blankets, emergency cleanup buckets, school kits*

Hoopa Valley Tribe

Hoopa, CA *Emergency cleanup buckets*

Northern Valley Catholic

Oroville, CA *Emergency cleanup buckets, hygiene kits, fleece blankets, school kits*

San Benito County

Hollister, CA *Emergency cleanup buckets*

United Methodist Church of Merced

Merced, CA *Emergency cleanup buckets, hygiene kits, fleece blankets, school kits*

Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network

Starke, FL *Emergency cleanup buckets*

Open Bible Community Church

Fort Meyers, FL *Emergency cleanup buckets, fleece blankets, wool blankets, school kits, hygiene kits and period packs*

Plymouth Harbor

Sarasota, FL *Fleece blankets, hygiene kits and emergency cleanup buckets*

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

Mulberry, FL *Fleece blankets, school kits, hygiene kits and period packs*

Volunteer Florida

Pembroke Pines, FL *Emergency cleanup buckets*

What wonderful examples of how P.W. and all Presbyterians respond to the needs of others!

You are the hands and feet of Christ in our world.

“Each one should use whatever gift one has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” (1 Peter 4:10)

Presbyterian Women of Northern Plains and Dakota Presbyteries held a joint Fall Gathering on Saturday, September 28, at the Bdecan Presbyterian Church, the only Native American Presbyterian Church in North Dakota. Chandra Mendieta, Ministries and Youth Coordinator at Bdecan, led worship. Karen Littlewind, a Bdecan church member, welcomed everyone. The church women served a traditional fry bread taco lunch. Winter outerwear clothing was collected as part of the Spirit Lake Nation’s annual winter wear giveaway held at the community center.

In the afternoon, we heard stories from sisters, Sharon Georgeson and Alberta Red Fox, a retired social worker, (pictured) about their lives in the Spirit Lake Nation and experiences/roles at the church which sits on land donated by their father. Louie Garcia, church member, historian, and brother-in-law to Sharon and Alberta, told us about the history of the reservation, church, and the church’s food pantry. Louie teaches Dacotah culture and language to middle school students and led us in songs in the Dacotah language. Donna Preston, (pictured) PWP Moderator and Bdecan ministry team co-chair, shared some history about Northern Plains Presbytery’s partnership with members of the Bdecan church. A partnership that includes supporting a Ministries and Youth Coordinator, maintaining the manse, working together to build the current church (pictured), adding a clothing closet building, and moving the food pantry into the original church building next door.

Bdecan Presbyterian Church

Alberta Red Fox

Louie Garcia



Bdecan Church Sanctuary



Sharon Georgeson (left) Donna Preston (right)

DATES TO REMEMBER:

November 25, 2024--PW Presbytery Moderators should return the 2025 Annual Fund pledge forms to PW Synod Moderator, Louise Van Poll.

January 31, 2025--PW moderators in congregations should return the annual report form or a narrative report to their PWP Moderator/Rep. This is an opportunity for every PW to celebrate what the women in your congregations are doing in mission, partnership, community and/or globally.

June 12-15, 2025--PW SYNOD GATHERING in Watertown, South Dakota.



STAY CONNECTED TO PW SYNOD:

ON FACEBOOK: link: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61552522904776> or by searching for Synod of Lakes and Prairies Presbyterian Women on Facebook. Send your Facebook messages to Christy Abraham (christylou71@gmail.com) for posting.

ON THE WEB: www.lakesandprairies.org under "Engaging Leaders" & "Presbyterian Women"

ON ZOOM:

BIBLE STUDY: Are you looking for a Bible Study group because your church is without one or you are interested in more than one study? PW Synod is offering, by Zoom, the Horizons Bible Study, *Let Justice Roll Down*. Register with Kathleen Keefer, facilitator (kathleenkeefe20@gmail.com). Lesson 3 starts Monday, Nov. 18, at 6:30 p.m. Bible Study dates for 2025 are: 1/13; 2/10; 3/10; 4/7; 5/12; and 6/23.

BOOK STUDY: How about a Book Study on Zoom hosted by PW Synod's Native American Concerns Committee? The next Book Study will start in January 2025. Please register with Marilyn Stone, facilitator (mmstone52@att.net).

CONVERSATION: Does a casual morning Sit 'N Sip conversation appeal to you? Sit in a comfy place with the sip of your choice for a one-hour hot topic discussion at 11 a.m. by Zoom each month. The next conversation is November 16 on the topic of homelessness. Register with Kathleen Keefer, facilitator.

BOOK DISCUSSION: Are there issues of Justice & Peace you'd like to discuss? Check in with www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice for information about new and exciting programming opportunities.

On October 25, 2024, at the Gila Crossing Community School in Laveen Village, Arizona, President Joe Biden said, in part, "I am here today, not only to fulfil my promise to be the first president to visit Indian Country, but, more importantly, to right a wrong. I formally apologize as President of the United States of America, for what we did. For too long, this nation sought to silence the voices of generations of Native children, but now your voices are being heard. That's the America that we should be. That's the America we can all be proud of. That's who we are. For God's sake, let's make sure we reach out and embrace, because you make us stronger. You are America."

Full speech is online at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2024/10/25/remarks-by-president-biden-on-the-biden-harris-administrations-record-of-delivering-for-tribal-communities-including-keeping-his-promise-to-make-this-historic-visit-to-indian-country-laveen/>

Presbyterians have been giving a Land Acknowledgement for some time now to give honor to the Indigenous peoples who lived on this land before us. PW Synod meetings/events now begin with a land acknowledgement. Your PWP/PWC meetings/gatherings can begin with one too. An example can be found at www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/land-and-history-acknowledgement

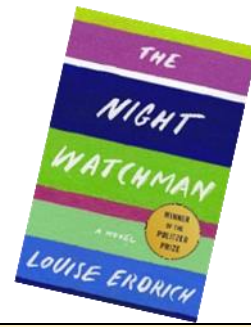


The Presbyterian Women of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies created a new Facebook page to keep you informed on all the exciting things happening with PWSLAP! The page can be found by clicking on this link: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61552522904776> or by searching for Synod of Lakes and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

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

Register today to join a book study . . .

The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich



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

Dates for 2025: January 6 and 20, February 10
Daytime study begins at 1:30-2:30 PM (CST)
Evening study begins at 6:30-7:30 PM (CST)

Synopsis: Based on the extraordinary life of author Louise Erdrich's grandfather who worked as a night watchman and carried the fight against Native dispossession from rural North Dakota all the way to Washington, D.C., this powerful novel explores themes of love and death with lightness and gravity and unfolds with the elegant prose, sly humor, and depth of feeling of a master craftsman.

In addition to the response to the Termination Bill in 1953, the narrative in *The Night Watchman* shifts back and forth from a variety of characters, allowing Erdrich to cover other important topics involving the treatment of Native Americans and to tell stories about personal, interior dramas as well.

Through the character Patrice's search for her sister Vera, Erdrich tells a story about the sex trafficking of Native woman which these communities are often at risk for. And through various characters such as Thomas's sightings of his friend Roderick, Erdrich explores how government-run schools for Native Americans were more often about eradication of their culture and identity, rather than education.

Meanwhile, Patrice's own story is about an ambitious and independently minded woman, who is weighted down by familial obligations, but is also loved and supported by her family.

In *The Night Watchman*, Louise Erdrich creates a fictional world populated with memorable characters who are forced to grapple with the worst and best impulses of human nature. Illuminating the loves and lives, the desires and ambitions of these characters with compassion, wit, and intelligence, *The Night Watchman* is a majestic work of fiction from this revered cultural treasure.

Register by contacting Marilyn Stone at mmstone52@att.net

Provide your name, email address, cell phone, and presbytery.

Also, please indicate your afternoon or evening preference.

SYNOD GATHERING♦ **June 12-15, 2025**♦ **Watertown, SD**♦ **Let your Light Shine****Plan to Register Early!**

Registration will soon be open for PW's 2025 Synod Gathering, which will be held June 12-15 in Watertown, SD. Join Presbyterian women from around our Synod in learning about, rejoicing in and embodying what it means to "Let your Light Shine," as guided by Matt. 5:14-16.

**Leadership Team**

Elona Street Stewart will be our worship leader. She serves as our Synod Executive and has been part of PW for more than 30 years. She was honored as a PW Woman of Faith in 2010 and was co-moderator of the 224th General Assembly in 2020.

Rev. Kristi Holler will be our music director. She is currently the pastor at Emanuel Presbyterian Church in Marion.

Fern Cloud will be our art designer. She is a Native American artist and member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota Tribe who lives in Granite Falls, Minn.

Full Registration, \$150

It's the event you've been waiting three years to attend. It begins with dinner on Thursday and ends with morning worship on Sunday. A full registration is your ticket to community, learning and worship with PW sisters from across the region. It includes all meals, even morning and afternoon snack breaks; up to eight workshops from inspiring leaders; two group presentations; shopping; a program book; book groups and mission opportunities; guest speakers; a Gathering choir; and so much more!

Single-day Registration, \$75

Enjoy the day's plenary sessions, provided meals of the day, and select from the day's programming options, up to four workshops.

Pre-Gathering Event, \$10 with full registration, \$35 for all others includes Thursday evening reception

A pre-gathering event will occur Thursday when we meet in the lobby at 8 am to carpool to the Lake Traverse Reservation. A full day of tours, speakers, and special events are planned, including a lunch hosted by our Dakota Presbytery PW sisters.

Program Book Ads, starting at just \$50

Now is the time to purchase your group/individual ad for the program book. A full-page ad is just \$150. {Think of it as \$50 per year to tell someone how much you appreciate them every triennium.} A half-page ad is half the price at \$75. And a quarter-page ad is only \$50.

Contact Synod PW treasurer Terri Sherman for more information at terrisheran99@gmail.com.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ARE BOLD – AROUND THE WORLD

CELEBRATING A BOLD PW

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

READY FOR DOWNLOADING

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

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

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

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

By supporting to wear black on Thursdays, I stand

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

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



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

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

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

<https://youtu.be/tBQV9PdoaKY>



2024 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN JUSTICE & PEACE CALENDAR

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

NOVEMBER • Native American Heritage Month; archives.gov/news/topics/native-american-heritage-month or nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov

10 Hunger and Homelessness Sunday; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/hunger

11 J&P Book Discussion Group online, 6:30–8:30 PM (Eastern) on Searching for Savanna: The Murder of One Native American Woman and the Violence Against the Many by Mona Gable. Register at presbyterianwomen.org/justice

13 World Kindness Day; randomactsofkindness.org/world-kindness-day

20 Universal Children’s Day; un.org/en/observances/world-childrens-day

20 Transgender Day of Remembrance; glaad.org/tdor

25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women; un.org/en/events/endviolenceday or unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action

25–D10 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence; unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism

28 Thanksgiving; americanindian.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/thanksgiving_poster.pdf or presbyterianmission.org/resource/just-living-alternative-thanksgiving-ideas

DECEMBER 1 World AIDS Day; presbyterianmission.org/resource/presbyterian-aids-awareness-sunday-worship-material

5 International Volunteer Day; un.org/en/observances/volunteer-day

10 International Human Rights Day; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Rights_Day

18 International Migrants Day; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Migrants_Day

25 Christmas; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/nativity-lord-christmas

To use these links, you must highlight, copy and paste into your browser address box.

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

Click here to download the PDF or visit the Justice and Peace webpage at **presbyterianwomen.org/justice**, where you can also find additional details.

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 style="text-align: center;">Flower</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Carnations Lillies (memorial) Tulips Daisies Sunflowers Mixed bouquet Roses Community garden</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Amount</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$10.00 \$10.00 \$25.00 \$35.00 \$45.00 \$55.00 \$100.00 \$500.00</p>
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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

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highlighted 2024

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VACANT

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As of 10/19/2024



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November 11, 2024

