



The Sower

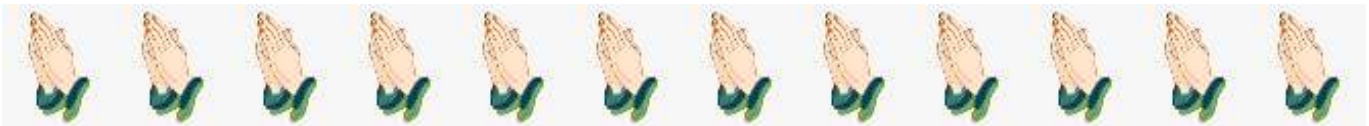
*Newsletter for the Presbyterian Women in the
Synod of Lakes & Prairies*



Good morning!

This Special Edition of The Sower is being sent to include articles that were unintentionally omitted from the previous edition. Additionally, there have been some recent developments that the editor felt were important to share with you.

Prayers & Devotions



A Prayer Before Reading the News

-written by Rabbi Irwin Keller, 2016

Elohai neshamah shenatata bi tehorah hi

My God, the soul you have placed in me is pure and vulnerable. I am afraid that looking at today's news will be painful. Encircle me in a robe of light so that I can witness the wounds of the world without being wounded myself.

Let me learn what I need to know in order to be of my greatest use, without being overwhelmed by despair. I feel your protective light now as I open myself to the world's suffering and the world's joys.

Amen 🙏

PC(USA) JOINS RELIGIOUS FREEDOM LAWSUIT CHALLENGING ICE ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS IN CHURCHES

Plaintiffs hold a press conference to explain their interfaith effort to help protect all God's children

February 12, 2025

Rick Jones and Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service

Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is among more than two dozen plaintiffs in a lawsuit filed Tuesday in response to a recission of the Department of Homeland Security’s “sensitive locations” policy. That policy had restricted Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from conducting immigration raids, arrests and other enforcement actions at houses of worship.



Photo by Chris Linnett via Unsplash

The case, Mennonite Church USA et al. v. United States Department of Homeland Security et al., was filed in federal district court in Washington, D.C., by the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection (ICAP) at Georgetown Law. View the lawsuit [here](#).

A description of the PC(USA)’s ministry and mission is on page 15 of the lawsuit: “Guided by their call to welcome the stranger and belief in the inherent dignity of all people, PC(USA) actively advocates for and works toward more just immigration laws and processes.”

Speaking on behalf of the General Assembly, the Stated Clerk and Executive Director of the Interim Unified Agency of the PC(USA), the Rev. Jihyun Oh, said, “The policy statement ‘God Alone is the Lord of the Conscience’ adopted by the 200th General Assembly (1988) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) sought to ‘articulate the conditions of the civil society necessary to the free and effective conduct of the church’s mission and ministry...’ because these are a ‘vital dimension of Presbyterian witness and responsibility’ both for the free exercise of religion in our country and for the common good.”



The Rev. Jihyun Oh

Click here to read more: <https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/pcusa-joins-religious-freedom-lawsuit-challenging-ice-enforcement-actions-churches>

PRESBYTERIAN ADVOCACY HOUR LAUNCHES FEB. 26 ON ZOOM

Interactive meetings will foster networking and activism



February 13, 2025

Darla Carter | Presbyterian News Service
Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — Presbyterians who are eager to roll up their sleeves and do the important work of advocacy have a new way to get up to speed on key issues and to receive encouragement from other people of faith. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will begin hosting a series of advocacy conversations on the fourth Wednesday of each month, starting Feb. 26 at noon Eastern time on Zoom.

“Presbyterian Advocacy Hour will bring together committed people of faith each month to fuel up with information on the most pressing issues,” said Catherine Gordon, Representative for International Issues for the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness (OPW). “Church members, lay leaders, pastors, mid council staff, all Presbyterians and friends are welcome!”

The Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, PC(USA) advocacy director, will be the featured speaker for the first installment, which will focus on the theology of advocacy and getting to know OPW’s staff and how the office works.

The Rev. Jimmie Hawkins (photo by Rich Copley)

“We saw the need for a space for Presbyterians engaged or wanting to be engaged in advocacy to connect with each other and our office and other programs of the Interim Unified Agency,” Gordon said. “We will offer a time to discuss a spotlighted issue and also to lift up the work of the IUA and Presbyterians across the country. We want to hear from Presbyterians about their advocacy projects and concerns. It will be in a meeting format to better allow for networking.”

Click here for more information: <https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/advocacy-hour-launches-feb-26-zoom>



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UPDATE ON *Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Center*

The restoration of Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte’s historic 1913 hospital is almost completed. The anticipated grand opening is June 7, 2025. You may recall that 3 years ago, the PWS Pre-Gathering Mini-Trip was to visit this site.



The Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Center has been transformed into a space where healing, learning and community come together. It will offer:

- **Health and Wellness** – a medical clinic; social services and counseling for mental health and well-being
- **Education and Youth Development** - enriching activities and resources for young people; a Reading Room, a quiet space to inspire literacy and learning
- **Cultural Preservation and Arts** – Memorial Museum preserving the story of Dr. Susan and the hospital’s legacy; Art and Artifact Exhibit showcasing the creativity and history of the Omaha Tribe; Native American Cultural Space, a venue for tribal celebrations and traditions
- **Community Engagement and Development** – Community Gardens promoting sustainability and local food production; Entrepreneurial and Technology Center empowering individuals with resources and opportunities for economic development

There are two ways that PW can continue to engage in the ongoing work of the Picotte Center:

- 1) The Medicinal Gardens – Funds are needed to establish and maintain the medicinal garden and pollinator plantings. An Omaha tribal member who has expertise in

medicinal, gathering, and ornamental Native gardens will be overseeing these gardens.

2) Signage is needed for the entrance to the town of Walthill.

These opportunities are a great way to honor Dr. Susan, a Presbyterian woman who taught Sunday School and preached at the local Presbyterian Church, as well as provided health care for the Omaha tribe, as the first Native physician who completed medical school. Dr. Susan would be so grateful! Let Marilyn Stone know if you contribute to either of these projects and/or if you are interested in joining Marilyn at the June 7th Grand Opening.

Mail contributions to: The Picotte Center, P.O. Box 36, Walthill, NE 68067

Learn more at: <https://www.facebook.com/picottecenter> OR

<https://picottecenter.org/restoration-project>



CONGRATULATIONS!

2024-25 PwS Native scholarship recipients

The following students received a \$500 scholarship for each, fall and spring semesters.

Lakota Oglala College – Evangeline Bennett

Evangeline is working toward a degree in Early Childhood Education.

Sisseton Wahpeton College – Sharon Abeita

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.



And now, some things are just worth repeating!



Synod Gathering

All About the 2025 Synod Gathering

◆ June 12-15 ◆ Watertown, SD



Plan to Register Early!

Registration is now 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, SD.

Fern Cloud will be our Artistic Director. 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 reception 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 snack breaks; up to eight workshops from inspiring leaders; group presentations; shopping; a program book; book groups; 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 Mini Mission event will occur Thursday when we meet in the lobby at 8 a.m. 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.

Send your request and payment to Synod Treasurer Terri Sherman at 12244 N 84th St.: Lincoln, NE 68517. Ad copy may be emailed to her at terrisheran99@gmail.com.

Gathering committee staff will happily build your ad for you at no additional cost. Just submit the information you want included and a photo, if desired, and we'll do the rest!

Register NOW to reserve your spot!

2025 Synod Triennial Gathering



**Synod of
Lakes & Prairies**

Watertown, S.D.

June 12-15

Registration



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone and email: _____

- \$150.00 Full registration includes five meals and snack breaks.
- \$75.00 One day registration includes two meals. Please circle one: Friday or Saturday.
- \$10.00 Mini-Mission Experience with full registration. Includes lunch and transportation.
- \$35.00 Mini-Mission Experience without full registration. Includes lunch, transportation and evening reception.
- I can drive for the mini-mission trip and take _____ passengers. [Gas money provided.]

Food allergies: _____

Emergency contact name and phone: _____

Book your room reservation with Ramkota Hotel direct using this number: 605-886-8011. Ask for the PW Gathering rate. If you book online or use a different reservation telephone number, you will not be given the discount rate. Rooms must be reserved by May 12 to receive the discount.

Roommate[s]: _____

There are a variety of rooms: Single and double kings and queens to accommodate up to four per room.

Some rooms are on the second floor and there is no elevator. If you are capable of accessing an upstairs room, please book accordingly and save the ground floor rooms for the elderly and infirm. Thank you.

Please return this form to Maggie Horak at 5601 Barrington Park Dr.; Lincoln, NE 68516 by May 12, 2025.

The hotel offers a complimentary breakfast with both hot and cold items. There is a pool and fitness center.

Workshop schedules will be sent upon receipt of your registration.

<i>The Importance of Awe</i>	Awe experiences are self-transcendent. They shift our attention away from ourselves, making us feel like we are part of something greater than ourselves and making us more generous towards others. But what is awe? What are the effects of awe?" (<i>from the Science of Awe</i>). When we focus on feeling awe in our everyday lives, we become the light for others, we show them the awe of life.
<i>Make a Joyful Noise</i>	Please join me in making a noise to the Lord! We will sing our favorite songs and hymns, making music together from the heart. No musical background or experience necessary! Where two or three or more are gathered, Christ is present! We will sing and shout, laugh and cry, and most of all--make a lot of joyful noise together!
<i>Forgive!</i>	We are called to embrace forgiveness. As a community we strive to forgive and support each other. But can we genuinely forgive someone and move forward? What does it mean to truly forgive? What are the transformative effects of forgiveness? Forgiving someone is a complex journey, but the experience of it can be freeing.
<i>Shining our Light in Dark Places</i> <i>Gen 28:15 I am with you and will keep you wherever you go</i>	Listen to stories and recollections from the 3 delegates from our Synod who were able to participate in the 2023 USAME Listen & learn Build relationships Faithfully Serve
<i>Armchair Advocacy</i>	We're called to champion the environment, uplift the vulnerable, support service institutions, and cherish our families. But how does one step into the role of an advocate? What tools do we need? Are our busy lives a barrier to effective advocacy? Are we too old to wave signs and stand on icy street corners? Must we? With today's technology, advocacy is more accessible than ever. The challenge is, with countless pressing issues, how do we decide where to focus our efforts? How do we find reliable information? Where do we start?
<i>Introduction to 2025-26 Horizons Bible Study: Finding Resilience, Joy and Identity in Jesus Christ</i>	Introduction to content of the Bible Study and suggest resources and teach ideas to Bible Study Leaders.
<i>Lap Robes for Seniors to Brighten Their Days</i>	Help create 10 or more lap robes for seniors residing at a local nursing facility. These robes can bring warmth on a chilly day and a little brightness to their lives. No experience necessary.
<i>Celebrate Newborns with the Warmth of Baby Hats</i>	Make pompoms and sew them on knitted baby hats made with loving hands by a longtime member of P. W. Did you know that hospitals put hats on newborn babies to ensure they stay warm. Newborns have very little body fat so it is important to protect them from becoming chilled and getting sick.

<i>Help Children in Disaster Areas go Back to School</i>	We will be putting together School Bags to send to national disaster areas. There is a huge need for these after the hurricanes, floods and fires have devastated communities.
<i>Just for Fun Rock Painting</i>	Join us anytime during the day on Friday & Saturday to explore your creativity through rock painting. This is a fun and easy way to relax and just have fun. All you need will be provided. Let your light shine through creativity.
<i>Soul Collage: Transformation Through Images and Reflection</i>	Spiritual growth can take many forms and images along with creative activity is one of the best ways. Through guided meditation, creation of a soul collage of images and reflection, participants will gain insight into their own faith, spirituality, and the state of their soul.
<i>Shining Light on the Native American Boarding Schools</i>	Native boarding schools were founded to eliminate traditional Native ways of life and replace them with mainstream American culture. The first boarding schools were started in the mid-nineteenth century either by the government or Christian missionaries. This workshop will explore the life-long trauma caused by these boarding schools, the generational impact and the role of the PC(USA).
<i>Processing Enlightenments from the PWS Mini Trip to Lake Traverse Reservation</i>	Many sites were visited during the PWS Pre-Gathering Mini Trip to the Lake Traverse Reservation and many speakers were heard. This workshop provides an opportunity to further discuss the experience and the topics address, including Mission & Murdered Indigenous Women, support services for prevention of domestic violence/abuse, college scholarships for Native students, boarding school experiences at the Tekakwitha Boarding School and more. You do not need to have participated in the mini trip to join this discussion.
<i>Letting your light shine by stepping out of your comfort zone</i>	Churchwide Board of Directors. Challenges, opportunities, expanding new horizons. Hoping to encourage others to take the opportunity to serve.
<i>Place it on a Lampstand: Best Practices for Saving and Sharing PW History</i>	This workshop focuses on best practices for preserving PW history at the congregational level. I will focus on “Saving” and “Sharing”—what you can do to ensure the records and history you want to preserve survive and are accessible well into the future, and what make preserving records and histories worthwhile. Participants will leave with tools for accessing their archival material, ideas for preserving it onsite, and suggestions for leveraging it for storytelling and fundraising.
<i>Provide a Credible Witness for Justice</i>	Restorative Actions is an economic equity initiative born from the intersection of theology, justice, and economics. It allows U.S. Americans who benefit from institutional racism, to provide a credible witness for justice , by acknowledging the unjust advantages produced by racism, and then surrendering the gains of those advantages toward the establishment of just relationships with Afro-American and Indigenous communities.
<i>PW: RED</i>	Anyone interested in the Racial Equity Dialog program through the Churchwide PW is invited to this informational meeting. Our goal is to form a RED team in our Synod to help presbyteries and congregations to begin or continue the dialog on racial equity. We will set program goals and a tentative Zoom schedule for quarterly meetings, as well as practice a conversation technique to build trust in our relationships.
<i>Welcome the Child</i>	This program was a PW Thank Offering recipient. Director Lisa Schrader will tell us about the program and the impact it has on families and children on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Dome Homes	Chief Red Cloud started Red Cloud Renewables on the Pine Ridge Reservation, and it was the recipient of the PW Birthday Offering. The goal is to build affordable, efficient, dome homes while training workers in construction skills. Chief Red Cloud will share insights into this exciting project.
Gaza	Find out what is happening in Gaza from PW sisters who have been there. Learn what the stance is of the PCUSA and how we can help promote peace and equity.
Yoga	Yoga? At my age? Yes! Yoga is for anyone. Grab a mat or grab a chair. You can do yoga without getting on the floor. Yoga is a great way to stay limber, keep flexible and help retain your balance.
Book discussion	Attendees will have the option of reading a book and joining an informal discussion group. A different book will be discussed each day. Read one or read them both. Book titles will be announced in the registration materials.

TOGETHER IN SERVICE

By Pat McKisson, Committee Chair

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

When the P.W. coordinating team of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies started discussing the plans for the upcoming Synod Gathering in June of this year, our committee was tasked with coming up with the hands-on project for the event. Over the months since then, our course has been plotted.

As P.W., our focus for Together in Service is three-fold.

One, we support the work the women of our churches do at the local level in our communities. Second, we support the work you do at the national level, those projects that affect our neighbors in the U.S. Third, we support the work you do at the international level, giving to those beyond our borders where there are so many needs.

At the upcoming Synod Gathering you will have a chance to participate in 2 different projects; each will be as a session. One will benefit the community of Watertown, SD, and one will go to the Native American Concerns committee. For our national needs we are asking each presbytery to bring Kid’s Kit bags (previously known as School Kit bags) to the gathering to support the Gifts of the Heart mission of the PC(USA). The bags will be sent to the Ferncliff location where they will fill them with the school supplies needed.

Your Together in Service team has also planned a Just for You time to come and paint rocks. Stay tuned for more information on the Gathering.



Pre-Gathering Mini-Mission Trip... To Lake Traverse Reservation June 12



Our pre-gathering event will take place on Thursday, June 12. We will tour the Lake Traverse Reservation, visit many sites and hear from guest speakers. Plus enjoy a delicious lunch provided by our PW sisters of Dakota Presbytery.

We will gather in the lobby and carpool to the reservation, which is just a hop, skip and a jump north of Watertown.

We will visit the three Presbyterian churches on the reservation and hear their histories.

Next, we will tour Sisseton Wahpeton College and hear from the dean. We might even be able to visit with some of our scholarship recipients. Our lunch break will be in the District Center in Old Agency.



We will then visit Tekakwitha Memorial Park, the site of the Indian Boarding School and Orphanage. We will hear from Elder Alvina Hayes and others who attended the school. A grove of trees is being planted in memory of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and their relatives.

Our last stop will be at the Wac'ang'a, or Sweetgrass, domestic violence center and hear from the director, Crystal Owen. Attendees are asked to bring a gift to the shelter of personal care items, feminine hygiene products, and baby necessities.



This tour is available to all. Cost is \$10 with your Gathering registration; \$35 for all others and includes the evening reception. Drivers will receive gas money.



NOTE: UPDATED lists for 2025!

Packing and Sending “Gift of the Heart” Kits

- Complete kits should be packed in boxes with only one type of kit in each box. However, if you are shipping a small number of different kinds of kits, they can be combined in one box.
- Clearly mark the outside of the box with the contents.
- Complete the mailing form and place it inside the top of your box before sealing it. This will provide the name and address of your group sending the kits for the CWS receiving site, and it gives information about how to share your story with PDA.
- Secure the boxes with packing tape.

Deliver all kits to:

Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church (CWS Depot)
8300 East Pointe Rd
Lincoln, NE 68516
402-484-8844

If you wish to help with shipping costs: Make check payable and SEND to
CHURCH WORLD SERVICE, P.O. Box 968 Elkhart, IN 46515

OR

Ship all kits prepaid to:

Ferncliff Disaster Assistance Center
1720 Ferncliff Road
Little Rock, AR 72223
501-821-3063 or 866-732-6121

Period Packs (Menstrual Hygiene Kit)

In many parts of the world, people who menstruate live in period poverty — lacking access to necessary period care supplies. During the menstrual cycle, these hygiene materials are especially important to healthy practices. Not having supplies like sanitary napkins, tampons, soap, and disposable plastic bags can create challenges that lead to unsafe and unsanitary conditions.

Now you can help people who menstruate living in period poverty. The Period Pack provides the essentials they need to feel clean, be healthy, and live with dignity during the menstrual cycle.

- One 1-gallon size resealable bag
- Two 2 oz. bottles hand sanitizer
- Three 4-gallon bathroom trash bags
- 5 regular tampons
- 5 super absorbency tampons
- 12 pads (Unscented. Long super ultra-thin.)
- Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger. No Ivory or Jergen’s soap. Do not remove from packaging.)
- One pack of flushable wipes (Unscented. 42 count.)
- Six fragrance-free laundry sheets (placed in small, Ziploc bags. [Example](#))

Assembly Tips

- Place all items in the plastic bag, remove air, and seal.
 - All items must be new.
 - Do not enclose personal notes, money, or extra items in the kits.
-

Emergency Cleanup Bucket

- One 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid (If reused, please scrub clean. Do not use a bucket that has held chemicals of any kind. No screw lid. Brand labels on the outside acceptable.)
- Five scouring pads (No stainless steel or pads with soap in them. Remove from packaging.)
- Seven sponges, including one large
- One scrub brush (With or without handle.)
- 18 reusable, lightweight multipurpose cleaning towels (Not paper towels. Remove from packaging.)
- One 16-34 oz. bottle of liquid dish soap (antibacterial preferred)
- One 12-40 oz. bottle of liquid concentrate household cleaner that can be mixed with water (No spray bottles.)
- One 50-100 ft. clothesline (Cotton or plastic line.)
- Five dust masks (N95 particulate respirator dust masks preferred; No surgical masks.)
- Two pairs of heavy-duty, waterproof dishwashing gloves (Latex-free preferred. Durable for multiple-use. Remove from packaging.)
- One pair of heavy-duty, reusable work gloves (Such as Nitrile, cotton with leather palm, or all leather)
- 20-28 heavy duty or contractor type 30-45 gallon trash bags on a roll (Remove from packaging.)

Value: \$75

Processing Fee: \$3 per bucket

All cleaning items must be new and all liquid items must be capped and securely tightened. Place all items into the bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment. Snap the lid on tight and seal with packing tape. Please do not enclose cash or checks inside of the kits or the boxes.

Kids Kit

What was once the beloved School Kit has now become the Kids Kit—an updated, thoughtfully refreshed package to be used at home or in the classroom.

- One box of 12 colored pencils
- One 2-pocket folder
- One glue stick
- One pair of blunt scissors removed from the package (rounded tip, only)
- One 70-page spiral bound notebook (no loose-leaf or filler paper)
- One 30-centimeter/12" ruler
- One hand-held pencil sharpener removed from the package
- One large eraser (no pencil cap erasers)
- Six new, unsharpened pencils with erasers (removed from packaging and use a rubber band to hold the pencils together)
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)

- One 12"x14" to 14"x17" finished size cotton or lightweight canvas bag with handles (solid color or kid-friendly fabric, no logos, reusable shopping bags or backpacks)
- Optional item: One handmade [Make Your Own Pencil Pouch - Sew Much Moore](#) or store-bought pencil pouch

All items must be packed inside of the bag.

Optional: Loose school kit items may be placed in a large Ziploc type bag to keep them together. Remove the air, seal the bag and place inside of the cotton/canvas bag.

Value: \$15

Processing fee: \$2 per kit

Hygiene Kit

- 1-gallon resealable plastic bag
- One washcloth
- Toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Fingernail or toenail clipper (packaging removed)
- Bath-size bar of soap (in original packaging)
- Travel-size stick deodorant (3.4 oz. or less, non-aerosol)
- Travel-size lotion (3.4 oz. or less, fragrance-free, NEW only)
- Travel-size shampoo (3.4 oz. or less, NEW only)
- Travel-size toothpaste (3.4 oz. or less, expiration date of at least 1 year)
- Sturdy wide-tooth comb (remove from package; 6" minimum teeth; pocket combs or picks not accepted; rattail combs and combs without handles are acceptable. [Example](#))

All items need to fit inside a 1-gallon Ziploc type bag. Remove the excess air from the bag and seal before boxing.

Value: \$15

Processing fee: \$2 per kit

NOTE TO ALL PRESBYTERY MODERATORS/REPS: March 1st is the deadline for your annual report, either in narrative or standard form, to be sent to PWSCT Secretary Kitch Shatzer for distribution.

The PW Synod Coordinating Team is looking to fill the position of Zoom Coordinator. The Zoom Coordinator sets up two hybrid meetings a year and maintains the PW Synod's Zoom schedule. If curiously interested, contact Interim Zoom Coordinator, Lana Schultz at lanaj0@casselton.net or 701-238-4538.

The next Sit 'N Sip is Feb. 22 at 11 a.m. by Zoom. The conversation will focus on the January 21, 2025 sermon by Right Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Washington, D.C. If you would like to be part of the conversation, contact Kathleen Keefer, facilitator, kathleenkeefer20@gmail.com.

The next PWS *Horizons* Bible Studies by Zoom are set for February 10 and March 10 at 6:30 p.m. on Lessons 5 and 6, respectively. Invite others and make it a watch party. Contact Kathleen Keefer, facilitator, kathleenkeefer20@gmail.com.

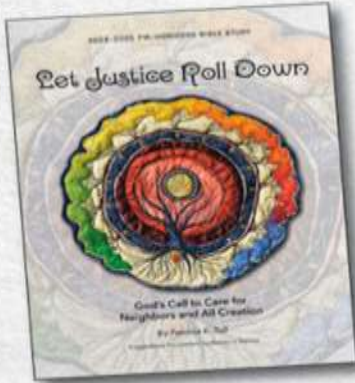
WELCOME Linda Anthony of Lexington, Nebraska to the PW Synod Coordinating Team! Linda joins Hope Dougherty and Teresa Bartlett on the Search Committee. If your home Presbytery is Milwaukee, Northern Waters, Twin Cities Area, Winnebago or John Knox, there is an open spot on the Search Committee for you. Contact Hope (hdougherty2018@gmail.com) or Teresa (tbartlett98@gmail.com) for more info.

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: 3/10; 4/21; 5/12; 6/23 at 6:30 pm Central. Please email: kathleenkeef20@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: kathleenkeef20@gmail.com

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

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>



Find the Justice & Peace Calendar here: https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/work-for-justice/

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>Carnations Lillies (memorial) Tulips Daisies Sunflowers Mixed bouquet Roses Community garden</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Amount</p> <p>\$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](https://www.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



Presbyterian Women in Synod
of Lakes & Prairies

Kathleen Keefer, Editor

210 South 16th Street

Apt #811

Omaha, NE 68102

kathleenkeef20@gmail.com

