



# The Sower

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



May, 2025

Kathleen Keefer, Editor

Greetings from Huron, S.D.

This has been a whirlwind of travelling for me for the last two months. From Stillwater, Minn., to Deadwood, S.D., then to Eau Claire, Wis., and several stops in between. But I love representing you and meeting with you. Please know that I am more than willing to travel to your Presbytery for a gathering or meeting.

The Synod Gathering is really going to be super. Although the hotel has released our block of rooms, it will still honor our discount pricing as long as rooms are available. So there is still time to register! May 28 is the deadline for workshops and June 2 is the deadline for the meal count. Anyone who is not registered for workshops before May 28 will be given a list at the registration table of what is still open.

I am so excited about our committees and their focus on going into the next year. Your Synod CT has so many great ideas. Please consider joining one of the committees. Thank you for electing me for a second term. I appreciate your trust, and I feel like I am just now learning the ropes.

I look forward to serving you, my sister PWs, for the next three years.

Yours in Christ,

*Louise*

Louise Van Poll, PW Synod Moderator

lcvanpoll@gmail.com



## Prayers & Devotions



### When I need to see the beauty before me, by Arianne Braithwaite Lehn, Ashes and Starlight

Creator God,  
You make everything beautiful in its time.

Please open my soul, Awakening One,  
to the surprising beauty  
(and timing!)  
of this season.

I need you to draw me  
in from my distraction.

I want to witness your brightness in  
the greening earth and birds' song  
as well as the neighbor walking past  
or the child's sidewalk chalk.

I want to pause in awe at  
the burning busing in my  
friend's well-timed email  
or the stranger's unexpected kindness...  
The line in my book that awakens my soul  
or the masterful frost pattern  
on my kitchen window.

I want to journey through this day  
with an awareness bringing

gratitude and celebration—  
fresh hope in what you're creating  
and new eyes for the  
treasure buried beneath me.

You promise that birth and death,  
planting and harvest,  
embrace and solitude  
all have their place in  
this world and my life.  
A beautiful faith allows  
things to unfold,  
and grabs onto the  
grace of daily glimpses

Loving god, I rest in you  
and your working to make  
all things beautiful—  
someday, somehow.

You are the One  
who showed true  
beauty in human life.

Amen.

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About prayer and praying, from Coming Home, A Prayer Journal, created with Richard J. Foster

- "Lord, teach us to pray." Luke 11:1
- Begin by inviting God to kindle a fire of love within you.
- We will never have pure enough motives, or be good enough, or know enough in order to pray rightly. We simply must set all these things aside and begin praying.
- Real prayer is life creating and life changing.
- Your prayer must be turned inwards, not towards a God of Heaven nor towards a God far off, but towards a God who is closer to you than you are aware. Anthony Bloom
- We do not have to have everything perfect when we pray. The Spirit reshapes, refines, and reinterprets our feeble, ego-driven prayers. We can rest in the work of the Spirit on our behalf.

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**From South Dakota Presbytery**

We would like to extend a warm South Dakota welcome to those planning to attend the Synod Triennial Gathering June 12-15, 2025. It will be held in Watertown, SD. The theme is Let Your Light Shine. It will also offer a mini-mission day on June 11 (See details in this issue). There will be a worship leader, a music director, an art director, workshops, vendors and PW resources. There will be worshipping and singing and creating and learning. Women will come from North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska. Watertown is the home of the Terry Redlin Center. Opportunities will be available to tour the Center and view the many paintings of Terry Redlin. Take advantage of networking with Presbyterian Women from across the Midwest. See registration details in this paper. You are the light of the world-like a city on a mountain, glowing in the night for all to see. Don't hide your light under a basket! Instead, put it on a stand and let it shine for all to see. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. Matthew 5: 14-16 Judy Rops, Moderator of South Dakota.

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**Are you registered for the Presbyterian Women Synod Gathering  
in Watertown, SD on June 12-15?**

Watertown Event Center 1901 9<sup>th</sup> Ave SW Watertown, SD

**\*\*RENAMED: Crossroads Hotel & Event Center\*\***

*Join us for a gathering of women to worship, learn, fellowship, work, enjoy and relax!*



There's a mini mission trip to Lake Traverse reservation on Thursday, leaving at 8:30 am. There is a separate/additional charge.

You'll be visiting 3 reservation churches, Sisseton Wahpeton college & meet scholarship recipients, Tekakwitha Memorial Park, and Wad'ang'a/Sweetgrass domestic violence shelter (*please bring a personal care item to donate/new*). Make that reservation NOW to assure you have a spot and a lunch for the day. You'll return in time for dinner and an evening plenary.



**ELONA STREET-STEWART** will be our Worship Leader at morning and evening plenaries.

**Rev. KRISTI HOLLER** will be our music leader.

**FERN CLOUD** will be our artistic designer.

**Please consider supporting the following opportunities at the Gathering:**

**OFFERING RECIPIENTS** selected:

- >Hope Church at the South Dakota Women's Prison in Pierre, SD
- >PW Synod Native American Scholarships and Sisseton-Wahpeton College and Oglala Dakota College

**GIFT CARDS** to WalMart, Walgreens or any Rapid City Area vendor for:

Iglutheca (*pronounced ee-gloo-the-cha*) a homeless ministry with a mission to provide a pathway for homeless Lakotas out of addiction and poverty. From a small street ministry in the "skid row of the plains" to a homeless shelter.

**PW SHARE & SWAP:** Bring a PW something from your goodies & swap with someone else. A book, a scarf, jewelry, whatever you might have to share. Bring something, take something 'new'.

**PW HISTORY PHOTO COLLECTION:** Synod PW Historian, Judy Bell, will be collecting photographs and PW information from your congregation or presbytery for the Synod of Lakes & Prairies history! Please remember to include a note (*not in ink on the back of photos*) with the activity name, date, site/church/town/state, and individuals in the photograph. Thank you!

**Consider purchasing an ad in the Gathering booklet to recognize a special PW!**

Full page: \$150    Half page: \$75    Quarter page: \$50

Contact Terri Sherman: [terishermann99@gmail.com](mailto:terishermann99@gmail.com) for more details & place your order.



**\*\*\*Registration for the PW Synod Gathering will CLOSE on May 28\*\*\***

**Please have your registration submitted BEFORE May 28.**

**If late, please call Maggie Horak 402-429-0523**

*Our food reservations at the Event Center is due June 2---so we need those reservations early!*

**What to bring to the Gathering:**

Whatever your comfort needs are for the time together. Dress for comfort & relaxation! Maybe a sweater if you get cool (like in a movie theater). The distance from hotel rooms to event center is not too far---but there's chairs along the way if you need to stop & rest. Relax & enjoy!

The Crossroads (formerly Ramkota) hotel next door will be taking your reservations (at the **group rate until May 13**---that may be extended)

Phone #1-605-886-8011 ask for the PW Gathering Group rate.

You'll be able to **check into your hotel room around 3 pm.**

**Check out after the Gathering is 11 am**--- need a later check out time? see the front desk

**Mission Trip participants**—check with the front desk to see if you may check in early; otherwise, you can check into the hotel after your return from the mission trip or after the evening plenary.

**Lake Traverse Mini Mission Trip** will meet at 8:00 in the hotel lobby and be **departing at 8:15**. Marilyn Stone has arranged a great trip to learn and fellowship. Again, this trip is a separate cost (\$10) and can be made on your Gathering Registration.

Gathering Committee ask that you please provide an EMERGENCY CONTACT (if not completed on your registration).

**Gathering Registration table** will be at the Crossroads (formerly Watertown) **Event Center** next door to the hotel. Please check in with Maggie Horak when you arrive for any last-minute changes. You will be provided a note card with your workshop selections and locations.

**DISPLAY BOARDS:** please see Terri Sherman when you arrive near the Registration table.

**Workshop reminder:** *If you are registered for either listed below, please read carefully.*

**LET YOUR CREATIVITY SHINE workshop participants/leader** Fern Cloud: please pay \$5 fee (for materials) at the registration table when you arrive.

**BE THE LIGHT TO END PERIOD INJUSTICE workshop participants/leaders** Judy Chesley & Judy Rops: *Please bring a small basket* for period products that you will take back to church/area and keep stocked.

**Gathering & Workshop Leaders:** please check in at the Registration table & talk with Terri about your electronic needs for your workshop.

You will also be asked to complete an Expense Voucher and any other items necessary.

## What time do things start?

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Mini Mission Trip to Lake Traverse: Meet in hotel lobby at 8:00 for 8:30 departure

Display boards will come in & put up between 3 & 5 pm. Please take yours home at the end.

Evening meal will be from 5-7 pm in the Display area.

The Cattail Room will be available if you need seating during your meal.

PWP Moderators: line up for procession in the WHITEWOOD ROOM. Don't forget your stoles!

Evening plenary will begin at 7 pm.

After the plenary, if you want to stay in the Common/Display area after plenary, welcome to stay & visit. There will be cocktails for purchase in that area.

There's also lovely greenspace conversation areas in the hotel.

Relax, enjoy, catch up with old friends, make new friends, may God bless our time together!







## What can I expect at the Gathering?

### Hands On Mission Projects in the Swan Room

VENDORS in the WHITEWOOD ROOM --- included will be a local/Watertown bookstore that will have the 2 books that are being discussed, other books of interest, notecards, gifts. Fern Cloud and Native American Sisters will have their art for sale as well. Please feel to browse, buy and enjoy! Thank you to the vendors for participating in the Gathering!

Morning & evening plenary times with devotional/worship time with Elona Street-Stewart. Music with Rev Kristi Holler and Marsha Bullis. Information from our offering & gift card recipients. Information from Sue Ingles, PWS representative to the PW Board of Directors. Skits to make you think & laugh! A time to be together to relax and refresh, learn and look ahead to be PW in the Synod! And a Gathering Choir! Praise the Lord in song!



Workshops! A time to listen & learn, laugh and enjoy, discern and seek God's guidance in a beautiful surrounding without any stairs!!

Please complete & return the evaluation in your booklet.

Special thank you to Marilyn Stone  
for arranging and leading  
the Mini Mission Trip to Lake Traverse!



**NEWSLETTERS TO  
STAY CONNECTED  
TO PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

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**TOGETHER IN SERVICE 2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

By Pat McKisson, Committee Chair

*"How have we addressed the need in our communities, nation, and world to be the hands and feet of Jesus to all of our neighbors?"*

*Let me count the ways!*

Here is the Together in Service committee final yearend report on the missions your churches have participated in during 2024. Data has been received from 5 of the Presbyteries in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies.

**P.W. MISSION PROJECTS/FUNDRAISING EFFORTS::**

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

**PC (USA) MISSION PROJECTS/FUNDRAISING EFFORTS:**

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

**ECUMENICAL MISSION PROJECTS:**

-Cents-Ability, Fellowship of the Least Coin, Habitat for Humanity, Little Dresses and T-Shirts for Africa, Reusable Sanitary Products, Church World Service, Heifer Project, World Day of Prayer, Church Women United, Jinishian Memorial Program Seven Rehab Center in Armenia.

**OTHER MISSION PROJECTS:****Children**

- Student sponsorships local and international, Remember Niger Coalition, Common Hope Guatemala.-School supply drive, Food Backpacks for Kids, Milk fees for children.
- Gift Bags with Birthday Party items given to local organization, Holiday treat bags, Empty Stocking Club/Big Red Sock program, Angel Tree, Knit baby hats for children for Rural Healthcare Initiative in Sierra Leone.
- Special Olympics
- NOROC-support for abused/orphaned children in Romania
- SuCasa de Esperanza-early childhood support for families.
- Kemmerer Village, a Presbyterian childcare program in Illinois.

**Community Involvement**

- Gas Cards for People with Medical Needs, Gifts Cards to various local organizations.
- Mission project for imprisoned women.
- Micah Mission meals.
- Cancer support group.
- Nursing Home/Long Term Care Facility donations.
- Hygiene products for community centers.
- Summer Dinners for Community Neighborhood, Chili Supper, Soup & Sandwich Sundays, Thanksgiving Pumpkin Pies made for local organizations, Meals on Wheels.
- Shut-in visits and gifts, buy poinsettias at Christmas..
- Play bingo at nursing home.
- Support for Veterans.
- Community Center Help.
- Food bank volunteering.

**Domestic Violence**

- Battered Women's Home Support.
- The Dwelling Place.
- Harriet Tubman Center.

**Environment**

- Matthew 25 Ministries, collect used RX bottles

**Fundraising**

- Card Making
- Rummage Sales
- Auctions
- Baked goods sale

**Homelessness**

- Volunteer at Homeless Shelter.

**Hunger**

- Community Food Response
- Feed My Starving Children
- Work at and/or contribute to Food Pantries

**Mental Health Support**

Support for Mental Health Facilities.

**Native American/Indigenous People's Concerns**

- Bdecan Presbyterian Church – Clothing and Blankets
- Pine Ridge Reservation – Baby Layette Kits.
- Wings as Eagles Pine Ridge Reservation.
- Native American Scholarship Fund
- Gather the Children's Home donations of school bags, fleece blankets and Christmas toys
- Donations of sewing machines and supplies for women in the Dakota Presbytery.

**Sewing Projects**

- Sewing Days
- Fleece Blanket making,
- Quilt making,
- Knitting baby hats, scarves, and prayer shawls,
- Receiving/Baby Blankets

**SPECIAL OCCASION CELEBRATION**

Baby Showers for women at a local crisis/residential center, Gift Bags with Birthday Party items given to local organization, Holiday treat bags, Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox Project.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR MISSION:**

- Disaster Recovery Efforts.
- Bdecan Presbyterian Church.
- Rural Healthcare Initiative.
- Remember Niger Coalition to build schools.
- Support for caregivers by paying for geriatric day care for spouse.
- Help with needs of church, remodeling rooms, and purchasing kitchen equipment.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO MISSIONS THAT HELP SO MANY IN OUR COMMUNITIES, IN OUR STATES, IN OUR NATION, AND AROUND THE WORLD.

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## TOGETHER IN SERVICE – Let Your Light Shine

By Pat McKisson, Committee Chair

*“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”* Matthew 5:14-16

Sisters in Christ Jesus. Blessings to all of you for being the hands and feet of Christ in our world! The work you do is so important to your church, your community, the nation, and the world. Your Light shines bright because of your love, your kindness to others, and your willingness to give to those less fortunate than yourselves.

During this time before the P.W. of the Synod Triennial Gathering, your Together in Service team is asking you to extend yourselves once again and help us help those who need love, kindness, and nurturing.

Together in Service is having three hands-on workshops at the Gathering in June and encourage you to attend these workshops to get the work done.

The workshop for tying lap blankets is a mission for the community of Watertown. The lap blankets we complete will be given to the Jenkins Living Center, a skilled nursing facility. They have indicated that this would be a wonderful gift to their community.

The second workshop is sewing on pompoms on baby hats to be distributed to throughout our presbyteries. You can also bring any baby hats you have made, and we can always find a place for these.

The third workshop is putting together the Kids Kit school bags with bags and school supplies that you collect and donate. We are asking for completed bags and supplies from the following list. Please bring all donations to the Swan Room. This project will serve the need in the U.S. through Gift of the Hearts.

### KIDS KIT (FORMERLY SCHOOL BAG KITS)

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 or store-bought pencil pouch. For instructions on how to make a pencil pouch go to Make Your Own Pencil Pouch - Sew Much Moor

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.

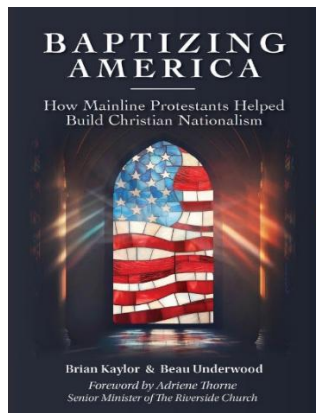
Finally, the Swan Room will be open all day from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. so you can enjoy your creative side with rock painting. If you have never tried this, come and find out how much fun it can be. You do not have to be artistic, just want to have a good time and relax. All supplies you need will be provided.

If you are unable to attend the Gathering, please still consider donating school supplies as these are a much-needed staple for kids. Contact the Moderator of your Presbytery to see how to get these to the Gathering.

God bless you for everything you do!

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Baptizing America is one of the books we will be discussing at the Gathering!!



The Associated Church Press, the oldest interdenominational religious press association in the U.S., recently honored [Baptizing America](#) with its top award for nonfiction books published in 2024. The group also gave four awards to *Word&Way*, including two first place honors for *A Public Witness*.

The ACP emerged at a 1916 meeting of the Federal Council of Churches (the main forerunner to the National Council of Churches) in St. Louis, Missouri, as editors of various denominational publications decided they should start meeting together. Today, its members include the leading publications in mainline Protestant life as well as some Catholic and evangelical publications.

During the ACP annual convention in Chicago, Illinois, Brian Kaylor and Beau Underwood's book [Baptizing America: How Mainline Protestants Helped Build Christian Nationalism](#) won the Award of Excellence (the top honor) in the nonfiction books category. A judge wrote, "This is an important book for our time and the authors help make sense of a growing movement of Christian Nationalism and its effect on democracy." The award follows a [Best in Class in books](#) honor for [Baptizing America](#) from the Religion Communicators Council.

"These awards are encouraging because they show more and more people of faith are recognizing that Christian Nationalism is a rising threat to democracy and to the freedom of religion in the United States," said Brad Lyons, president and publisher of Chalice Press. "[Baptizing America](#) holds a mirror up to the mainline churches that dominated American culture for decades and helps us recognize the error of our ways — and how we need to change our ways and undo the damage that has been done. [Baptizing America](#) is a must-read for Christians who are allies for marginalized communities being hurt by Christian Nationalism." *Word&Way e-newsletter* [A Public Witness](#).

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With "Do Everything in Love" as the theme, we continued our gift basket silent auction with proceeds to Clearwater Forest Camp. Much of the day was spent celebrating the incredible work PW groups in the congregation are doing. Starting the discussion and pictured are Lynn McGauvran, PW moderator at Langdon, and Pastor Sue Kana-McKey who shared how they moved their PW meetings to where many PW in their area reside—an assisted living facility. Those attending received shawls from their shawl ministry. Another PW group spoke of how they partnered with other organizations to support a musical fundraiser for military honor flights. Also pictured is Carrie Lauber, one of PWP's grant recipients, who spoke on two conferences she is planning this year—one on spiritual leadership and one on servant leadership. Truly a good news day! Lana Schultz, PWP Vice Moderator



Our Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Winnebago in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies are trying to rejuvenate our PWP. We have not gotten together for either a Spring or Fall Gathering for some time. We are asking all of our local PW groups and women in the churches without PWs for input. Would they like a Fall Gathering with a guest speaker, a get together with a bag lunch to enjoy the fellowship and share ideas, try a Zoom meeting or something else?

While contacting the PWs or churches via phone, email or paper letters, we have received favorable responses. Some are still collecting offerings, conducting Horizons Bible studies, book and/or knitting groups, mission sewing, organizing weekly family nights and buying school room supplies for a local elementary school. One group holds a bake sale and soup lunch since their church is a voting poll location. The money collected is used for mission purposes. Others offer help in their communities for physical, mental or spiritual needs.

Anti-human trafficking is a problem for our communities. Although people dismiss the concerns, what many do not realize is that this problem goes undetected and appears invisible. Presbyterian Women, volunteers from churches and other community organizations are working together to bring awareness and education to our communities. They are holding workshops and going out to hotels, restaurants, gas stations and other places of business to bring anti-human trafficking awareness materials to them and to educate the owners. Human trafficking affects the mental, physical and spiritual health of anyone involved.

There are a number of available positions on our PWP-CT. We are hoping for volunteers to fill those vacancies. A full roster would help the mental health of our coordinating team.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alice Ackermann, Co-Moderator of the Presbyterian Women in Winnebago Presbytery in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies

**JOHN KNOX PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S SPRING GATHERING**

**SUPPORTS SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE**



John Knox Presbyterian Women gathered Saturday, May 3 at the Portage, Wisconsin Presbyterian Church. 29 women from 7

congregations in southeast Minnesota, northeast Iowa, and southwest Wisconsin were represented. Our program was presented by Sara Shaver representing Portage’s chapter of **Sleep in Heavenly Peace**;

a nonprofit that supplies beds to children who don't have one. We collected bedding and monetary donations to go toward this worthwhile cause. Our day also included a missions update, dedication of the Birthday

Offering, and sharing in a Service of Holy Communion. It was a lovely day of fellowship with PW friends. Janine Brandt, JKPW Moderator



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This is the Manitowish Waters Community Presbyterian PW group. While we are small, we are mighty! Unfortunately, we are standing in front of our projects, but we have included the congregation in sewing, collecting, sharing in all we do! At the moment, that is Little Dresses for Africa, Boy’s Britches, Hygiene Kits and School Bags.

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**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- May 31, 2025 11:00 a.m. Sit 'N Sip Zoom conversation on misinformation and disinformation. Join this informal chat on topics of interest, while sitting in a comfy chair and sipping a beverage of your choice. Contact Lana Schultz for the Zoom link ([lanaj0@casselton.net](mailto:lanaj0@casselton.net))**
- June 12-15, 2025 Synod Gathering at Crossroads (formerly Ramkota) Hotel & Watertown Event Center, Watertown, SD  
Registration forms at [www.lakesandprairies.org](http://www.lakesandprairies.org) - Engaging Leaders — Presbyterian Women
- June 23, 2025 6:30 p.m. Horizons Bible Study by Zoom. Contact Lana Schultz for link ([lanaj0@casselton.net](mailto:lanaj0@casselton.net))
- Oct. 17-19, 2025\* PWS Coordinating Team meeting in Grinnell, Iowa
- April 17-19, 2026\* PWS Coordinating Team meeting tentatively at Calvin Crest Camp, Fremont, NE
- June 23-July 2, 2026 General Assembly meeting in Milwaukee
- Oct. 9-11, 2026\* PWS Coordinating Team meeting tentatively at Clearwater Forest Camp, Deerwood, MN
- August 5-7, 2027 Churchwide Gathering at Gault House in Louisville, KY

\*Any Presbyterian woman can observe the PWS Coordinating Team meetings. Please contact your PWP Moderator for more information. If PWSCT funds are available, some travel expenses may be reimbursed upon approval by PWSCT Administrative Team.

The Search Committee is looking for a couple of volunteers to serve on Search or maybe your interest is as historian or Vice Moderator. Contact Hope ([hdougherty2018@gmail.com](mailto:hdougherty2018@gmail.com)), Teresa Bartlett ([tbartlett98@gmail.com](mailto:tbartlett98@gmail.com)) or Linda Anthony ([lmhanthony72@gmail.com](mailto:lmhanthony72@gmail.com)) for more information on these positions. Churchwide is looking for Presbyterian Women to fill committee positions. Contact Kitch Shatzer ([revkitch@hotmail.com](mailto:revkitch@hotmail.com)) to learn more.

## PW SYNOD NEWS

Thank you Glenna Haller for representing PW Synod of Lakes and Prairies at the UN Commission on Status of Women in Washington, D.C. in March. Glenna will share her D.C. experience at the Synod Gathering in June at Watertown.

PWSCT Officers elected in April are: Louise Van Poll, Moderator, Lana Schultz, Secretary, and Linda Anthony, Search.

Welcome to PWSCT Alice Ackermann and Ruth Wrynski, new Co-Moderators of Winnebago Presbytery, Wisconsin.

Several PWSCT members met April 25 in Stillwater to cut fleece lap robes for tying at Synod Gathering.

## EXTRA ITEMS TO BRING TO PW SYNOD GATHERING:

- Historical photos of your PW activities to Judy Bell, PW Synod Historian. Please include a post-it note with the event name, site, date, and persons pictured. Do not write on the back of the photograph.
- School supplies and school bags for the Kids' Kits to be assembled at the Synod Gathering. A list of school supplies needed and the school bag pattern can be found at <https://cwskits.org/assemble-kits/school-kits/>
- Everyone is encouraged to bring WALMART gift cards for Igutheca.
- Bring PW items for the marketplace.

Every PWP and local PWs are encouraged to provide a a display of some kind.

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Meet Linda Anthony: My name is Linda Anthony. I am a new member of the Search Committee from Central Nebraska. My husband and I farm near Lexington, Nebraska. We grow corn and soybeans and are semi-retired. I have been a member of First Presbyterian in Lexington for 50 years and have enjoyed Presbyterian Women and our circles. We have three grown children in Pennsylvania and Texas along with 5 grandchildren ranging in age from 20 to 10. Suggestions of women from your Presbyteries to search will be greatly appreciated!

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## **THANK YOU'S FROM THE PWS NATIVE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ATTENDING OGLALA LAKOTA COLLEGE**

The following Oglala Lakota College students each received a \$500 scholarship from PW Synod, one for the 2024 fall semester and one for the 2025 spring semester.

### **Lakota Oglala College, Fall 2024 scholarship recipient – Evangeline Bennett**

Evangeline is working toward a degree in Early Childhood Education.

"I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for all the help and support that your program offers to students who are pursuing their goals in life. Some students struggle financially due to hardships within their families. . . Your support and encouragement through the financial support. . . make(s) a great impact not only in their future but to make a difference in the lives of others. Your support is appreciated as you help make dreams come to be for the students."

### **Lakota Oglala College, Spring 2025 scholarship recipient – Daniel Plenty Bull**

Daniel is working toward a degree in Computer Information Technology

"As a recipient of a scholarship, I am filled with gratitude for the generous donors who have made it possible for me to pursue my academic goals. Your support has not only alleviated the financial burden of my education but has also served as a source of motivation and inspiration. . . By supporting Native students, you're empowering them to become future leaders who can positively impact their communities, opening new doors to new possibilities for positive change. . . Thank you once again. . ."

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***Your contributions to the PW Synod Native Scholarship Fund enables these \$500 scholarships to be awarded spring and fall semesters each year to a student at the Sisseton Wahpeton College and the Lakota Oglala College. These colleges serve students on the Lake Traverse Reservation and Pine Ridge Reservations in South Dakota.***

***Send your contributions to PW Synod treasurer,  
Terri Sherman, 12244 N. 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE 68517.***

***Write check to "PWSLAP" and note on memo line: Native College Scholarship Fund***

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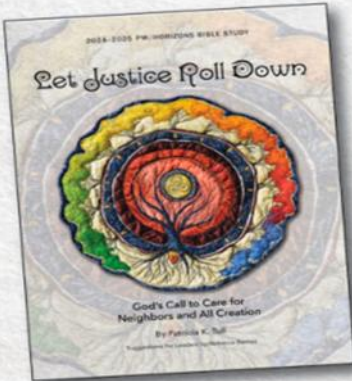


# Let Justice Roll Down

## 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: 6/23 at 6:30 pm Central. Please email: [kathleenkeefer20@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenkeefer20@gmail.com) to receive the zoom link.

## PW SIT & SIP

Join other Presbyterian Women from the Synod of Lakes and Prairies for a monthly round table discussion on issues prominent in today’s world.

Sit & Sip events will be held via Zoom from 11 a.m. to noon Central Time.

So, grab your favorite beverage, relax in your favorite chair, and join in the discussion!

**We will meet on May 31. We will be discussing Misinformation/Disinformation**

Please register by contacting Kathleen Keefer @ [kathleenkeefer20@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenkeefer20@gmail.com), and a Zoom link will be sent to you a few days before the event along with any “study” materials to aid our discussions

**SPRING/FALL 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](mailto:jam1150@hotmail.com)

Louella Voigt: [louvoigt@hotmail.com](mailto:louvoigt@hotmail.com)

Kathleen Keefer: [kathleenkeefer20@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenkeefer20@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](http://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](mailto: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](https://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>



Click here to download the Justice & Peace Calendar with live links:

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/2025-justice-and-peace-calendar/>

### Presbyterian Women's Justice & Peace Calendar -May 22 through September 26, 2025

#### May 22

International Day for Biological Diversity; [cbd.int/idb](http://cbd.int/idb)

26 Memorial Day; [cem.va.gov/history/Memorial-Day-history.asp](http://cem.va.gov/history/Memorial-Day-history.asp)

#### JUNE

• Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQI+) Pride Month; [archives.gov/news/topics/lgbtpride-month](http://archives.gov/news/topics/lgbtpride-month)

06 National Gun Violence Awareness Day; [wearorange.org](http://wearorange.org) or [nasponline.org/research-and-policy/policy-matters-blog/national-gun-violence-awareness-day](http://nasponline.org/research-and-policy/policy-matters-blog/national-gun-violence-awareness-day)

08 Pentecost; [pcusa.org/resource/pentecost-creativity-home](http://pcusa.org/resource/pentecost-creativity-home)

15 Father's Day; Presbyterian Men Sunday; [pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/fathers-day](http://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/fathers-day) 19 Juneteenth;

[pcusa.org/news-storytelling/blogs/historical-society-blog/juneteenth](http://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/blogs/historical-society-blog/juneteenth)

20 World Refugee Day; [un.org/en/observances/refugee-day](http://un.org/en/observances/refugee-day)

29 Immigration Sunday; [pcusa.org/how-we-serve/global-engagement/immigration](http://pcusa.org/how-we-serve/global-engagement/immigration)

#### JULY

04 Independence Day; [pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/american-celebration](http://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/american-celebration)

#### AUGUST

06 Hiroshima Day; [pcusa.org/worship-with-us/yearbook/august-6-2020](http://pcusa.org/worship-with-us/yearbook/august-6-2020)

09 International Day of the World's Indigenous People; [un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day](http://un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day)

10 Day of Prayer for the Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula; [pcusa.org/worship-with-us/yearbook/june-24-2018](http://pcusa.org/worship-with-us/yearbook/june-24-2018)

17 Public Education Sunday; [pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/pcusas-education-roundtable-urgespresbyterians-support-and-protect-public-education](http://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/pcusas-education-roundtable-urgespresbyterians-support-and-protect-public-education)

19 World Humanitarian Day; [un.org/en/observances/humanitarian-day](http://un.org/en/observances/humanitarian-day)

#### SEPTEMBER

• National Hispanic Heritage Month [Sep 15–Oct 15]; [hispanicheritagemoth.gov](http://hispanicheritagemoth.gov)

01 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation; [creationjustice.org/world-day-of-prayer-for-the-care-of-creation.html](https://creationjustice.org/world-day-of-prayer-for-the-care-of-creation.html)

01 Labor Day; [dol.gov/general/laborday/history](https://dol.gov/general/laborday/history)

08 International Literacy Day; [en.unesco.org/commemorations/literacyday](https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/literacyday)

21 International Day of Peace; [pcusa.org/worship-with-us/yearbook/september-21-2024](https://pcusa.org/worship-with-us/yearbook/september-21-2024)

26 Native American Day; [pcusa.org/resource/native-american-day](https://pcusa.org/resource/native-american-day)





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