



The Sower

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



February, 2024

Kathleen Keefer, Editor

Moderator's Musings:

Greetings from South Dakota, where things just keep getting weirder by the week. In February, the governor spoke to the combined Legislature claiming we must be prepared to send troops and material aid, such as razor wire, to Texas to fight the war at the border. She said South Dakota is now a border state because the cartels have moved into the reservations and are killing people and trafficking drugs using the rez as a base. Of course, the native tribes took exception to her rhetoric and the Oglala tribe has now banned her from the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Now more than ever we need to hear the words of Luella Voight and Julie Miller about their USAME trip to the border. They spoke and answered questions during the January Sit & Sip and it was the exact opposite of what we hear on the news. These women are willing and excited to share what they learned with as many people as possible. Please contact them to arrange for a visit to a presbytery or church event. There is no speaking fee, but please do help with travel expenses. Louella's email is louvoigt@hotmail.com and Julie Miller's email is jam1150@hotmail.com. Kathleen Keefer was also on that trip and all three are excellent resources.

Registration for Churchwide Gathering opens March 1. The gathering is Aug. 8-11 in St. Louis. I hope many of you will be attending. Scholarships are available through the national PW office and many presbytery PWs also have funds to help with fees and travel expenses. The Synod is hosting a luncheon at the Gathering and we hope all attendees will join us. The cost of the lunch is only \$15 with the Synod paying the balance. You will sign up and pay the full price when you register for the Gathering, however you will be reimbursed when you submit a copy of your paid registration to Treasurer Terri Sherman.

I need to submit the names of all presbytery PW voting representatives as soon as possible. Remember, each presbytery is allowed one representative. Usually it is the moderator, but your PW may appoint anyone who is a member of the PCUSA. The business meeting will be held Aug. 7 and conclude Aug. 8 prior to the start of the Churchwide Gathering. Please email that information to me quickly. I have heard from Judy Bell and Lana Schultz. If you already gave me this info but your name is not Judy or Lana, send it again, please.

The topic for our next Sit & Sip March 30 (Easter weekend, so this might change!) at 11 a.m. Central, is The Connectional Church. As Presbyterians, we claim to be a connectional church. But what does that mean? Register with Kathleen Keefer to be sent advance resources and added to the Zoom link.

Until next time, God bless

Louise Van Poll

Synod Moderator

February/March Devotion

Here is a devotion that spoke to me and I hope will for others as well. It is from February 7 in the Jesus Calling devotional by Sarah Young. Many of us have felt overwhelmed and this was so comforting to me.

Come to Me for rest and refreshment. The journey has been too much for you, and you are bone-weary. Do not be ashamed of your exhaustion. Instead, see it as an opportunity for Me to take charge of your life.

Remember that I can fit everything into a pattern for good, including the things you wish were different. Start with where you are at this point in time and space, accepting that this is where I intend you to be. You will get through today one step, one moment at a time. Your main responsibility is to remain attentive to Me, letting Me guide you through the many choices along your pathway.

This sounds like an easy assignment, but it is not. Your desire to live in My Presence goes against the grain of the world, the flesh, and the devil. Much of your weariness results from your constant battle against these opponents. However, you are on the path of My choosing, so do not give up! Hope in Me, for you will again praise Me for the help of My Presence.

It reminds me that I am in the place that I am intended to be, and that gives me a sense of peace and comfort, and that I know I am not alone! From Gloria Rust

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)

The Together in Service Committee will highlight a mission which is embraced by the women of one of our churches in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies in each edition of the Sower. In this issue, we have chosen ***Nexus Family Healing***, a mission supported by the P.W. of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Austin, MN.

Nexus Family Healing is a nonprofit, 501(C)(3) organization, headquartered in Plymouth, Minnesota.

Their mission is “Changing the course of a child’s life by stabilizing families and strengthening mental health”.

Their vision is “Healing the past. Breaking the cycle. Changing the future. In order to succeed in their mission they apply values which include innovation, compassion, agility, responsiveness, and excellence. These values are executed with synergy and grit.

They believe that “in changing one life it changes everything”. With their innovative, customized approach, they provide outpatient therapy, residential treatment, and foster care to help children, families and individuals struggling with emotional and behavioral health issues. They create a customized plan for each child, family, and individual—and provide the exact combination of support services needed to put that plan into action. This innovative personalized approach helps heal trauma, break cycles of harm, and restore hope to families when all seems lost.

Over the last 50 years, Nexus has helped thousands of children, families, and individuals find individualized paths to emotional, mental, and behavioral health. What began in 1972 as a single program in Minnetonka, MN, has grown into a network of nine agencies in four states, Minnesota, North Dakota, Illinois, and Maryland. They are nationally recognized as a progressive leader in youth and family healing and are more committed than ever to continue their work.

May their good work continue to make positive changes in one life at a time.

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.” (I Peter 4:10)

BY BEING THE HANDS AND FEET OF GOD IN OUR WORLD, WE TOO CAN WELCOME THE CHILDREN!

Our committee is excited to hold a special mission project to be completed at the coordinating team’s April 12th pre-meeting.

How much fun is it to hold a *BABY SHOWER* for a loved one or friend! Lots of fun and a special way to say “I care” about you.

That’s why our committee is having a mission to collect and then assemble baby layette kits for baby showers for the women of Pine Ridge in South Dakota. What a loving way for us to say to our Native American sisters “I care about you”!

Here is the information on the kits.

BABY LAYETTE KITS

For ages 3-6 months

For both boys and girls.

We would like to assemble at least 60 kits or more.

Items needed:

Receiving Blankets,

Baby Blankets (Purchased, knitted, crocheted, quilted),

Sleepers,

Onesies,

Outfits for children,

Baby Hats (bought, knitted, crocheted),

Socks,

Bibs,

Wash Cloths, and

Hooded Baby Bath Towel.

Note: All items need to be new.

Each Moderator from each of the Presbyteries of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies are asked to collect the items from their respective churches and bring them to the coordinating team pre-meeting on April 12th.

If you need any further information or have questions, please contact Pat McKisson.

E-mail: pmac0247@gmail.com – or – Home phone: 651-773-5107.

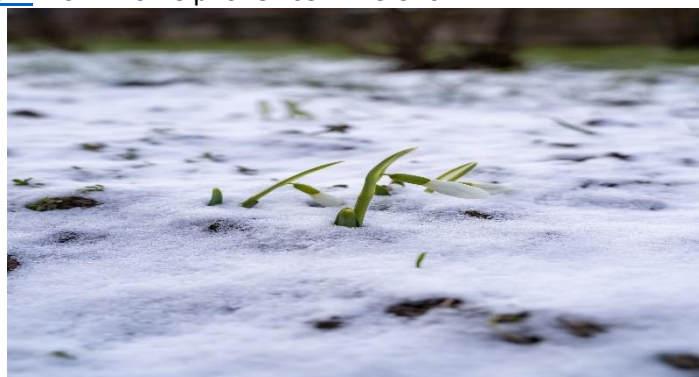


Photo by Roman Datsiuk via Unsplash



LET US PRAY:

Prayer of confession

God of righteousness, we confess that we have not kept your commandments. We bow down before idols, declaring our allegiance to other powers and principalities. We take your name in vain, using it to justify our own prejudices and opinions. We do not make adequate time to rest and remember your goodness, nor to revel in the delight of family and friends. We look the other way in the face of violence and oppression, misogyny and sexual assault, land grabs and unjust economic practices. Our dishonesty and greed get the better of us. Yet you gave us commandments not for condemnation, but so that we might live in justice and joy. Purify us by your righteousness and enfold us in your grace. Sanctify our intentions and actions, that our lives may begin to reflect your Beloved Community. Amen.

Prayer by Ginna Bairby and Presbyterian Outlook

Prayers of the People

Table-turning God, we praise you, for in taking on flesh and dwelling among us, you hallowed all human experience. We thank you for the gift of emotions – from joy to sorrow to anger. Help us to regulate our inclinations and impulses. May we always stay attuned to the guidance you give us through the feelings of our bodies, minds and spirits.

God of holy traditions, we give you thanks for the rituals that shape our lives, give us meaning, and draw us closer to you. Enliven us and keep us from growing rigid in our sacred practices. Shake up our systems so that we may draw closer to you.

God of justice and righteousness, we pray for the healing of the nations. Guide rulers and citizens with your wisdom and compassion. Teach us to care for the poor and vulnerable. Drive out ignorance, hatred and greed from all the earth's peoples.

Lord Jesus Christ, whose body was and is God's own temple, we thank you for the variety of bodies you have made in your image. Keep us always appreciative of the delightful diversity of your people. We pray for bodies that are broken, sick, weary or growing old. Send your loving presence to all who seek healing in body, mind or spirit.

Comfort all who are afflicted, and with the generative fire of your Holy Spirit, lovingly afflict all who are comfortable. All this we pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Prayer by Ginna Bairby and Presbyterian Outlook



DEVOTION from Rev. Dr. Bret Lamsma, "What Are You Giving Up For Lent?"

Familyfire.com (2/15/2018)

I wanted to commit to something in my spiritual life that would lead to growth during the season of Lent. I was also pretty sure that giving up coffee or television wasn't what I needed, either as a commitment or as a way to draw me closer to God. Here are some of the ideas that I came up with.

Give up something distracting

- Giving something up and taking the time that you would have spent on that certain thing and spending it with God instead is more to the point. Instead of watching a certain TV show each day, spend that time reading the Bible. Rely on God through his word and prayer to help you give that certain thing up.

Add something that is missing

- Maybe you have a desire to pray more or read the Bible more or even take one day a week and rest from work. Lent is an opportunity to add those things into your life that might be missing. It could be daily prayer time, or bible reading. It could be family devotions at the table instead of meals in front of the TV. Additions can have a deep impact on your daily walk with God.

Explore a characteristic of God

- I read Genesis 1:1 and realized that the first thing we learn about God in the Bible is that he is creative. I am not a creative person, and felt like I needed to learn more about our creative God. So I committed to doing one act of creativity each day. I learned so much about God and about who he created me to be during those 40 days of creativity.

Maybe you want to explore God's justice.

- Commit to doing an act of service or justice each day throughout Lent and see what God teaches you about his character. Explore God's characteristics as a family and look for ways that you can reflect his image to your community.

Participate together

- Talk together about how your family might give up a distraction or pick up a spiritual practice that helps your family to see Jesus more clearly this year. Maybe your family can spend time together each day to pray for the people in your life. Turn off the TV early and take time to read through one of the gospels during Lent to hear God's story together. There are lots of ways to get intentional about getting close to God.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Psalm 51:10,12

PW of First Presbyterian, Sioux Falls offers Adams Scholarship

The Adams Scholarship at First Presbyterian Church of Sioux Falls originated in 1966 to honor Dr. and Mrs. Clarence Adams. Dr. Adams was senior pastor at First Presbyterian from 1939 to 1966. Presbyterian Women created the scholarship in 1966 and have continued to support it through an annual fundraising event. Memorials, bequests, and individual contributions are also welcomed as an ongoing opportunity to support our future Christian leaders.

PW supports this scholarship to encourage men and women to prepare for roles in Christian service (ministry, mission work, church music, Christian education, etc.). Initial consideration is given to those from our church and thereafter, to outside applicants.

Scholarship forms are available from the church office: 2300 S. West Ave., Sioux Falls, SD, 50175; 605-336-2886; info@fpcsiouxfalls.org or Ruth Metcalf at metcalfruth@gmail.com

Completed applications are due April 30, 2024.

What You Can Do About Mental Illness By Sam Rainer, *Outreach* magazine (April 2022)

The church is well positioned to be a vital part of the solution to the problem of mental illness. The local church is the first place many people turn to when suffering from mental illness. What can you do? How can you lead your church?

1. **Remove the “Taboo” Label**--Silence often creates a perception that something is off-limits. Lead your church with language. The church should become the place where the shame of mental illness crumbles. Those affected by mental illness want their churches to speak more often about it. Mental illness does not signal a lack of faith any more than contracting cancer signals a lack of faith. Speak candidly and with compassion. When you address the issue out loud, many taboo perceptions go away.
2. **Understand the Warning Signs**--Since such a wide variety of mental illnesses exists, a comprehensive list of symptoms does not exist. However, there are [warning signs](#). Take note of extreme mood changes on a regular basis. Any substance abuse is an indicator something is wrong. An inability to complete daily tasks, routines, and work are also warning signs.
3. **Maintain a Trusted Network of Professionals**--No pastor can do it all. No church leader is trained for every potential illness. The church staff should not attempt to handle every case. Some mental illnesses require help from people with proper training. Pastors and church leaders should have a list of professionals they trust for referrals. It's dangerous to believe you can deal with every type of mental illness. It's equally as dangerous to make referrals without knowing the professional.
4. **Create a Clear System of Reporting Procedures**--If someone starts discussing suicide, do your leaders know what to do? Is the staff aware of what hotlines to call if necessary? More than twice as many people die from suicide every year than by homicide. More women attempt suicide, but men are more likely to use deadlier methods. Everyone in your church should know it's judicious to call 911 if they believe someone is at risk.
5. **Recognize the Spiritual Struggle of Mental Illness**--The world is fallen. People are broken. While science has enabled us to understand better and treat mental illness, the suffering is ultimately rooted in a spiritual struggle. Quoting Scripture out of context or offering silly clichés (“It's simply God's will”) does not help anyone. However, Scripture does demonstrate how we are to show compassion: pray, listen, comfort, and be willing to serve. One of the best ways churches can help is by filling in the gaps for hurting families: running errands, babysitting children, and providing meals. The Good Samaritan was willing to take on inconveniences to serve a hurting man. The church should do the same for those suffering from mental illness.
6. **Be Ready to Minister Long Term**--The problem of mental illness will not be solved with quick fixes. People who have mental illness could be in for a long-term battle. The church must be ready to walk with people for months, if not years. Not every church may have the ability to create an ongoing counseling ministry, but every church can do something. Group leaders can be trained on the warning signs of mental illness. Staff can be ready with a network of trusted professionals. And everyone can serve someone walking down the difficult road of mental illness. Unfortunately, too many feel as if they are walking alone. The least the church can do is come alongside someone and walk with them, however long that walk may be.

A Dozen Things Your Congregation Can Do in Mental Health Ministry

From Presbyterian Mission Agency (April 2021)

Don't go it alone—A ministry needs both champions and companions. Recruit two people who can support and encourage each other in initiating this ministry. Have them personally recruit others who may have interest in this area and consider inviting all who are interested to participate. It's often surprising to discover the gifts, perspectives, and experience present in our congregations.

Use the church newsletter—Include articles each month to promote the ministry and provide education on some form of mental illness or aspect of recovery. Articles from the ministry team and reflections on mental illness from the pastor on the front-page article can help raise awareness and dispel stigma.

Bring it into worship Have a 3-5 minute “Moment for Mental Health” in worship each month. Always in a manner that protects confidentiality, pray for those living with mental illness and their families in the pastoral prayer on a regular basis. In preaching, look for opportunities to discover how the scripture speaks to the lives of those living with mental illness and those who care for them.

Use social media—Members can repost these reflections to a broader audience. A weekly “Mental Health Monday” on the church Facebook page can be a good place to start. A dozen or more posts can be written at one time and submitted to the church’s social media administrator to upload on a weekly basis.

Teach Sunday School courses—Annually lead 1-3 Sunday School courses of 4-8 weeks each on some aspect of mental illness. The field is broad, the congregation may well have professionals in the field willing to teach, and the topics will draw different demographics of the church.

Host NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) courses—NAMI will send trained teachers to lead Peer-to-Peer (for adults with a mental illness diagnosis), Family-to-Family (for family members of adults with a diagnosis), and Basics (for family members of a minor with a diagnosis) Courses at your church. Your church simply provides a good space for these 6-12-week courses to take place. www.NAMI.org

Observe May as Mental Health Awareness Month and the first week in October as Mental Illness Awareness Week— Find a variety of ways to educate about mental illness throughout May and October (NAMI is an excellent resource). Use the above means of communication and others for informing the congregation. Invite worshippers to wear a green ribbon or receive a “May-nicure” (painting one fingernail of each willing worshipper green to symbolize the 1 in 5 people living with a diagnosable mental illness in any given year).

Plan and lead a “Service of the Longest Night” on December 21st—The holidays can be a particularly difficult time of the year for those living with mental illness and their families. A solemn service that names their pain and yearning can be a helpful way of showing care during a season where they may feel disconnected from the joy being proclaimed.

Offer a Mental Health First Aid Course—This 8-hour course could be just for the pastor and members of the congregation or open to the larger community. It provides an excellent basic level of instruction in understanding mental illness and recognizing and responding to signs that someone may be considering taking their own life. www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org

Participate in a NAMI Walk—These walks help raise funds for NAMI’s annual budget and raise awareness of mental illness for the larger community. You might also meet people from other churches who are participating in the walk and can share ideas about their mental health ministry.

Create a display of NAMI brochures and information about local mental health services—Whether near the church office, in the narthex, or in a well-travelled hallway, a display with a variety of educational brochures from NAMI can be accessed by members and visitors alike throughout the week.

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. #BeThe1To make a difference. Include information about the National Suicide Prevention 24/7 Lifeline in your display. Excellent resources for awareness and education about suicide are available from the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

The PW of Luverne (Minnesota Valleys Presbytery) held their annual Mission Sunday soup/dessert luncheon on January 21. Designated Proceeds of \$761.00 were given to the local Backpack program. Great food, great fellowship, great cause! We so appreciate our men and their help doing dishes!



HERE'S AN IDEA FOR PRESBYTERY GATHERINGS...

If your PW Presbytery is making plans for a Spring 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: kathleenkeefer20@gmail.com

The PW Synod Coordinating Team is looking for women to serve on the Search Committee and someone to serve as the Zoom Coordinator. For information on these positions and/or to submit names of persons interested, please contact Hope Dougherty (hdougherty2018@gmail.com) or Lana Schultz (lanaj0@casselton.net) current Zoom Coordinator.

Congratulations to Churchwide Board members from SLAP: Terri Sherman, PW Search Moderator and Kitch Shatzer, Search Committee, West Central Region. A huge thank you and our enormous appreciation to outgoing Churchwide Board members from SLAP: Kathleen Keefer, Vice Moderator and Christy Abraham, Search Committee, West Central Region.

This year's recipients of the Birthday offering are: Bethel Hills, Marthasville, MO, for affordable housing that considers specific needs unique to the residents; and Shawnee Presbyterian Church's Café Gingko to serve free dine-in meals in an economically disadvantaged area.

Podcasts, you say?

I am not a podcast person, but....for those of you who are, I have a few recommendations from PC(USA):
<https://amatteroffaith.buzzsprout.com/1648090>

A Presbyterian Podcast where we respond to your questions & comments on issues of Faith, social justice & church life [https://newchurchnewway.org/season 2-1](https://newchurchnewway.org/season-2-1)

1001 New Worshiping Communities Initiative of PC(USA) to spark a movement of innovation & risk, courage & faithfulness in the Church of Jesus Christ & bearing witness to the Reign of God in the world
<https://between2pulpits.buzzsprout.com/2228330>

This podcast aims to connect congregations with work done by PC(USA) Worldwide improve support to those participating in Special Offerings & Presbyterian Giving Catalog <https://feeds.buzzsprout.com/2049438rss>

A Year with Matthew 25 connects reading from the Scripture with Presbyterian Church(USA) Matthew 25 vision of building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism & eradicating systemic poverty
<https://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/mid-council-ministries/podcast-along-the-road/>

Weekly new episodes podcast on faith & leadership for ministry leaders of the PC(USA)
Hope Dougherty, ICC Chair

+++++

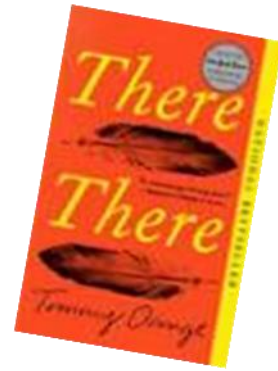
With the Upcoming Churchwide Gathering in August in St. Louis, the CT voted to give each Presbytery \$300 to be used for members attending Churchwide, with the understanding that the \$300 should be returned if no one from the Presbytery attends Churchwide. Each Presbytery will decide how best to use these funds. The checks have been mailed to the Presbytery treasurers.

At the Churchwide Gathering we will be holding a Synod luncheon. The CT voted to defray part of the cost, so your members will only pay \$15 per person.

Register today to join a book study . . .

There There

by Tommy Orange



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 2024: March 18 and 25, April 1
Daytime study begins at 1:30-2:30 PM (CST)
Evening study begins at 6:30-7:30 PM (CST)



Synopsis: Fierce, angry, funny, heartbreaking. . . *There There* is a relentlessly paced multigenerational story about violence and recovery, memory and identity, and the beauty and despair woven into the history of a nation and its people. It tells the story of twelve characters, each of whom have private reasons for traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow. Jacquie Red Feather is newly sober and trying to make it back to the family she left behind in shame. Dene Oxendene is pulling his life back together after his uncle's death and has come to work at the powwow to honor his uncle's memory. Opal Viola Victoria Bear Shield has come to watch her nephew Orvil, who has taught himself traditional Indian dance through YouTube videos and has come to the powwow to dance in public for the very first time. There will be glorious communion, and a spectacle of sacred tradition and pageantry. And there will be sacrifice, and heroism, and unspeakable loss.

Tommy Orange writes of the plight of the urban Native American, the Native American in the city, in a stunning novel that grapples with a complex and painful history, with an inheritance of beauty and profound spirituality, and with a plague of addiction, abuse, and suicide.

Register by contacting Marilyn Stone at mmstone52@att.net
Provide the following information:

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

2024 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.

=====

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.

These items can be shipped to the following address:

Gather Our Children Home, House #32, Porcupine School Road, Porcupine, SD 57772

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

Learn more at: <https://wakanyejaotipi.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



=====

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

PO Box 5005, Pine Ridge, SD 57770

Iglutecha, 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. Iglutecha 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 to support their vital work 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/>

College Scholarship for Native Students

Sisseton Wahpeton College, Sisseton, SD



Financial contributions are being received by PW Synod of Lakes and Prairies to create a sustaining Native student scholarship fund. These funds will make it possible to grant a scholarship each semester to a Native student attending Sisseton Wahpeton College as a second semester freshman or a sophomore. Criteria for selection is in place. Ongoing funds are needed to sustain granting a scholarship each semester. First scholarship was been awarded Fall 2023 and a second scholarship in Spring 2024 .

Contributions can be mailed to: Terri Sherman, PWS Treasurer, 12244 N. 84 th Street, Lincoln, NE 68517
Check made out to: PWSLAP; note on memo line: "Native College Scholarship Fund".



**Red Eagle Memorial Presbyterian Church – Dakota Children’s Music Ministry
Fort Kipp, Montana (Fort Peck Reservation)**

The children and youth of Red Eagle Memorial Presbyterian Church and the Fort Peck Reservation are eager to learn songs in the Dakota language. Your contributions will support the teacher’s fee, as well as cover costs for equipment and supplies.

Contributions can be made to: Red Eagle Memorial Presbyterian Church, % Ernestine Ireland, PO Box 542, Poplar, MT 59255. Note on the memo line: Dakota Children’s Music Ministry.

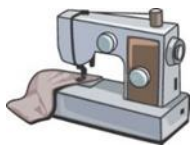
**Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Hospital Renovation Project
PO Box 36, Walthill, NE (Omaha Reservation)**



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

The roof and windows have been replaced, the exterior siding has been restored, and mold and asbestos

have been removed from the interior. Funds are now needed to complete the interior restoration. Mail contributions to: Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Center, PO Box 36, Walthill, NE 68067



**Presbyterian Women
Dakota Presbytery**

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

Thus far, 61 sewing machines, 3 sergers, and one embroidery machine have been distributed to women interested in sewing and quilting. Fabric and sewing supplies have also been shared with women as donations come in. All machines must be in working condition.

**Bdecan Presbyterian Church – Vacation Bible School
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”.



**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>



SYNOD of Lakes & Prairies PW Gathering

**June 12-15, 2025 Watertown Event Center
Watertown, South Dakota**

Pre-Gathering opportunities: Visit Lake Traverse Reservation or Redlin Art Gallery or Coddington County Museum

Watch for details in the next *Sower* newsletter as speakers, workshops and details are available!

If you would like to volunteer to help plan this event, provide a workshop, or help with on-site details—we’d love to have you come on-board the planning team!

Thanks, Maggie Horak (PWSLAP Vice Moderator).





Recently, 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](https://www.youtube.com/presbyterianwomen/videos) (PW's YouTube channel), the video debuted at the 225th General Assembly (2022) and is an excellent tool for showing why Presbyterian Women matters. Share a link for the video in your next personal email, church newsletter or minute for mission. Use it as a tool to raise awareness about and invite others to participate in our life-changing organization.

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS GIVING

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

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.

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

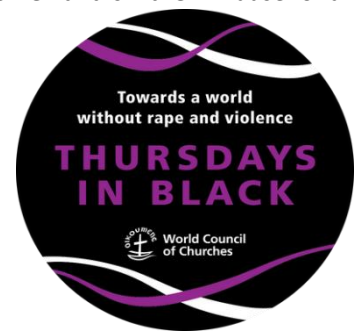
I commit to: **Thursdays in Black.**

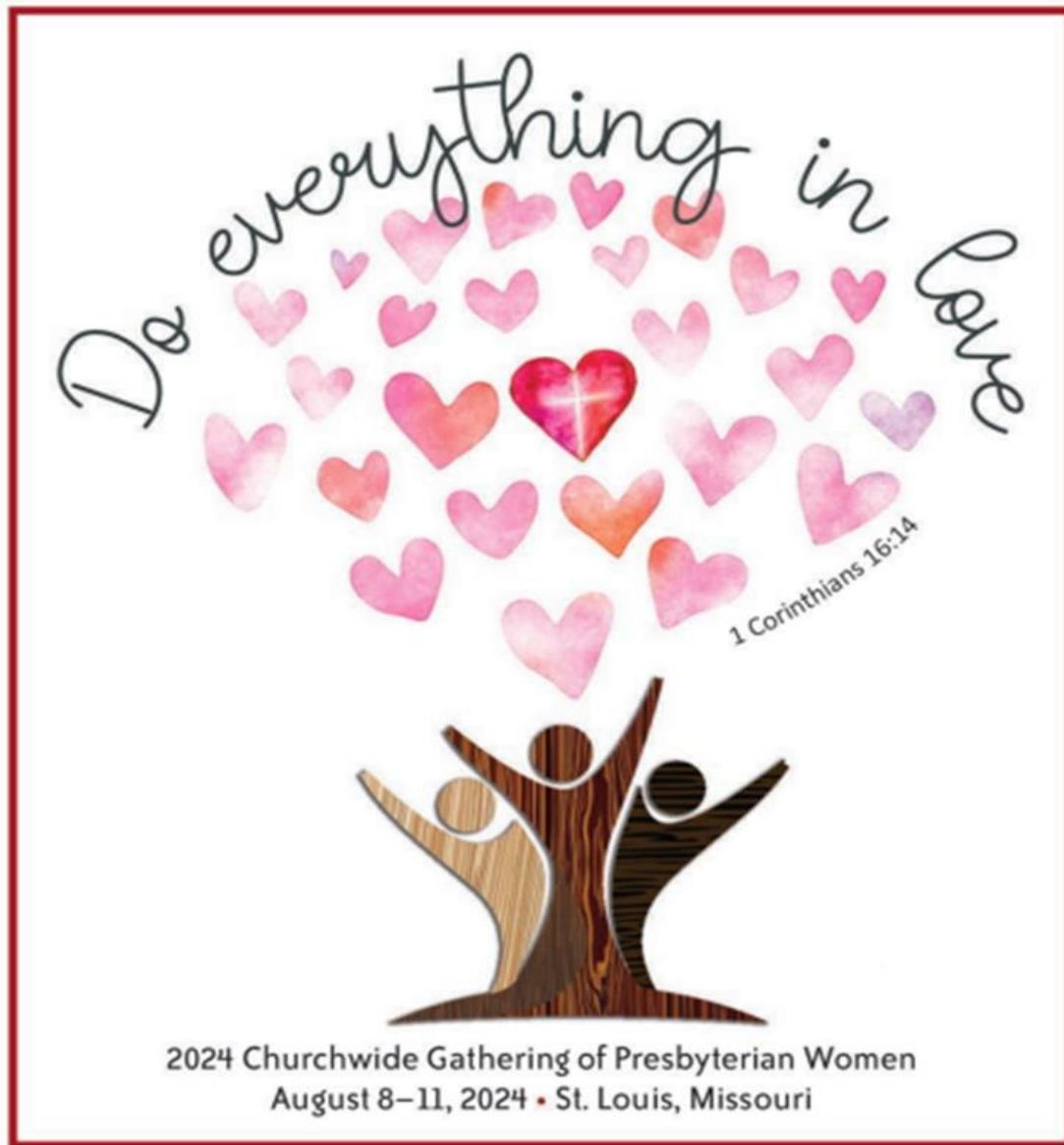
In solidarity. In protest. In mourning. For awareness and In hope.

By supporting to wear black on Thursdays, I stand

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

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





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

August 8-11, 2024

Details to come!

presbyterianwomen.org/gathering

You're invited to

Sit & Sip



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

Sit & Sip events are held via Zoom – the next one is on March 30 at 11 AM Central Time.

Our topic for discussion is: The Connectional Church

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

Register by contacting Kathleen Keefer at kathleenkeefer.pw@gmail.com. A zoom link and resource materials will be sent to you several days before the event.



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

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

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

<https://youtu.be/tBQV9PdoaKY>



2023 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN JUSTICE & PEACE CALENDAR

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

J&P Calendar for March 2024

Women's History Month, womenshistorymonth.gov

1 World Day of Prayer, wdp-usa.org or worlddayofprayer.net

8 International Women's Day, internationalwomensday.com or un.org/en/observances/womens-day

10 Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday, pcusa.org/women

10 Self-Development of People Sunday, presbyterianmission.org/ministries/sdop/

11 J&P Book Discussion Group online, 6:30–8:30 PM (Eastern) Our Missing Hearts by Celeste Ng. Register at presbyterianwomen.org/justice

11–22 UN Commission on the Status of Women, unwomen.org/en/csw/csw68-2024

17–23 National Agriculture Week; iatp.org

20 Mr. Rogers Day, presbyterianmission.org/ministries/theology-formation-and-evangelism/office-of-christian-formation/mr-rogers-day-resources

22 World Water Day, worldwaterday.org

25–31 National Farmworker Awareness Week, saf-unite.org/national-farmworker-awareness-week

29 Good Friday; <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/april-15-2022/>

31 Easter; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/resurrection-lord-easter

31 National Farm Workers Day, nationaltoday.com/national-farm-workers-day



2024
Book Discussion
Group

JUSTICE and PEACE

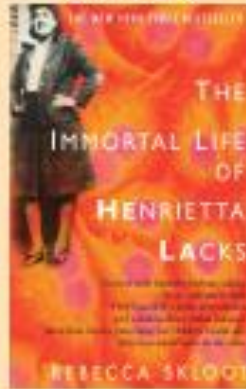
-  **DISCUSS THE BOOKS WITH OTHERS VIA ZOOM**
• The J&P Book Discussion Group is open to all!
-  **DISCUSSION GROUP MEETS EVERY OTHER MONTH**
• Read and discuss any or all books that appeal to you. Registration will be needed to join the discussion on Zoom.
-  **RECEIVE STUDY GUIDES TO INFORM YOUR READING**
• Questions for discussion or reflection will be sent with your registration confirmation.



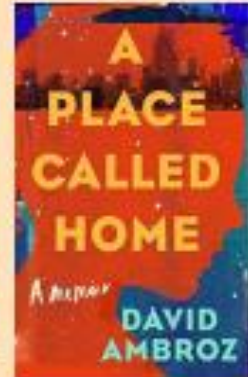
To register, scan the QR code with your smart phone or go to presbyterianwomen.org/justice.

Reading Selections
(6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Eastern Time)

JANUARY 8



JULY 8



MARCH 11



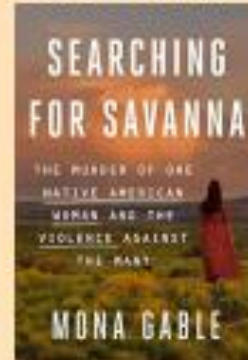
SEPTEMBER 9



MAY 13



NOVEMBER 11



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



Introducing Presbyterian Women's *Build a Bouquet* FUNdraiser

PW's *Build a Bouquet* campaign invites us to celebrate all the individuals and programs that help Presbyterian Women bloom in so many spectacular ways and places. Funds received through this campaign will build PW's Annual Fund, which supports all PW ministries and programs, at all levels of the organization.

Bouquets

Beginning in May 2023 through the Churchwide Gathering in August 2024, gifts to Presbyterian Women's *Build a Bouquet* campaign will be recognized with a virtual bouquet. Bouquets will be digitally displayed at the Churchwide Gathering and via other PW communications.

Seven bouquet options + one community garden are available!

	<p>Flower</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carnations Lillies (memorial) Tulips Daisies Sunflowers Mixed bouquet Roses Community garden 	<p>Amount</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$10.00 \$10.00 \$25.00 \$35.00 \$45.00 \$55.00 \$100.00 \$500.00
--	--	---

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

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

Or, send a check with additional information (the bouquet option you choose, your name and address, email address and telephone number) to: Presbyterian Women, Inc., Remittance Processing—Giving, PO Box 643652, Pittsburgh PA 15264-3652.

Presbyterian Women's Annual Fund (the Mission Pledge) makes possible every mission, program and resource of PW, including the Churchwide Gathering. Give now to support Presbyterian Women's witness in the world.

GIVE TO PW'S ANNUAL FUND

Current PW-SLAP Coordinating Team Officers – changes are highlighted

Moderator

Louise Van Poll (2025)
601 Kansas Ave SE
Huron, SD 57350
605-354-2397
lcvanpoll@gmail.com

Vice-Moderator

Maggie Horak (2026)
5601 Barrington Park Dr.
Lincoln, NE 68516
402-429-0523
mmhlin@outlook.com

Treasurer

Terri Sherman (2027)
12244 N 84th St.
Lincoln, NE 68517
402-441-2823 Work
402-446-0063 Home
402-525-6008 Cell
terri.sherman@zoetis.com
terrisherma@windstream.net

Secretary

Kitch Shatzer (2025)
27 Ash Lane
Washington, IA 52353
319-461-0266 Cell
revkitch@hotmail.com

Historian

Judy Bell (2024)
5217 Roberts Drive
Greendale, WI 53129
414-378-6437 Cell
Jmoinebell@aol.com

Search Committee

Hope Dougherty, **Chair** (2025)
PO Box 223
Manitowish Waters, WI 54545
715-543-2669
hdougherty2018@gmail.com

VACANT

VACANT

Churchwide Board of Directors

Representative
Sue Ingels (2026)
12627 M Ave.
Fayette, IA 52142
563-419-8751
Syngels6@gmail.com

Appointive positions:

Together In Service
Pat McKisson, Coordinator
2532 Sumac Circle
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-773-5107 Home
Pmac0247@gmail.com

Justice and Peace Coordinator

Kathleen Keefer
315 N. 19th Street
Clarinda, IA 51632
712-542-0039
kathleenkeefe20@gmail.com

Inclusive Caring Coordinator

Hope Dougherty
PO Box 223
Manitowish Waters, WI 54545
715-543-2669
hdougherty2018@gmail.com

Sower Editor

Kathleen Keefer
314 N. 19th Street
Clarinda, IA 51632
712-542-0039
Kathleenkeefe20@gmail.com

Communications Coordinator
& **Interim** Zoom Coord. (2024)

Lana Schultz
P O Box 891
Casselton, ND 58012
701-238-4538 Cell
lanaj0@casselton.net

Zoom Coordinator**Vacant**

Facebook Coordinator

Christy Abraham

Christylou71@gmail.com

Native American Concerns

Marilyn Stone, Coordinator
3915 Lake Street
Burlington, WI 53105
262-763-0918 Home
262-492-7921 Cell
mmstone52@att.net

Sharon Falck

809 Turnberry Drive
Grinnell, IA 50112
641-660-7615
Sfalck2009@gmail.com

Donna Preston

P O Box 276
Grandin, ND 58038
701-238-7414 Cell
preston@gra.midco.net

Ernestine Ireland

P O Box 1491
Poplar, MT 59255
406-768-7663 Cell
giveseagle@gmail.com

LaVonne Looking Elk

3729 W. Chicago
Rapid City, SD 57702
605-381-3488 Cell
slooking@rap.midco.net

Kitch Shatzer

27 Ash Lane
Washington, IA 52353
319-461-0266 Cell
revkitch@hotmail.com

Ida Ashes Brown

38630 Hwy 46
Lake Andes, SD 57356
605-469-5623 (cell)
Ida1255@gmail.com

THE SOWER

February 22, 2024

Emma Grey Bull
367 Bernard Street
Agency Village, SD 57262
605-268-3008 (cell)
elgreybull92@gmail.com

2025 Synod Gathering committee
Louise Van Poll
lcvanpoll@gmail.com
Maggie Horak
mmhlin@outlook.com
Terri Sherman
Terri.sherman@zoetis.com
PW Moderator -- Gathering site

As of 2/1/2024

Moderators/Reps. 2023-24 CHANGES ARE HIGHLIGHTED

Central Nebraska-Moderator/Rep
VACANT

Dakota – Moderator/Rep
Ernestine Ireland
PO Box 1491
Poplar, MT 59255
406-768-7663 Cell
giveeagle@gmail.com
Term: 2021-2024

Des Moines - Moderator/Rep
Sharon Falck
809 Turnberry Dr
Grinnell, IA 50112
641-660-7615
sfalck2009@gmail.com

East Iowa –Rep.
Kitch Shatzer
27 Ash Lane
Washington, IA 52353
319-461-0266 Cell
revkitch@hotmail.com

Homestead – Moderator/Rep
Rev. Teresa Bartlett
Wayne, NE

John Knox – Moderator/Rep
Janine Brandt

1362 175th St.
Postville, IA 52162
563-532-9427 Home
563-419-7371 Cell
ripleyJB56@gmail.com

Milwaukee –Co-Moderator/Rep
Judy Bell
5217 Roberts Drive
Greendale, WI 53129
414-378-6437 Cell
jmoinebell@aol.com

Co-Moderator
Helen McMasters
3595 Westshire Cir
Delavan, WI 53115
262-740-1321
mcmasters.helen@gmail.com

Minnesota Valleys – Rep.
Gloria Rust
216 Oak Drive
Luverne, MN 56156

507-283-4975 Home
507-227-7393 Cell
grust49@gmail.com

MO River Valley – Moderator/Rep
Kathleen Keefer
315 N. 19th Street
Clarinda, IA 51632
712-542-0039 Cell
Kathleenkeefe20@gmail.com

North Central Iowa – Rep.
Linda Hora
1210 Southview Ct
Boone, IA 50036
515-230-9275
lindatoindia@gmail.com

Northern Plains – Moderator/Rep
Donna Preston (eff. 4/27/2024)
P O Box 276
Grandin, ND 58038
701-238-7414 Cell
preston@gra.midco.net

Lana Schultz

PO Box 891
Casselton, ND 58012
701-238-4538 Cell
lanaj0@casselton.net

Northern Waters –
Moderator/Rep
Hope Dougherty
PO Box 223.
Manitowish Waters, WI 54545
715-543-2669
hdougherty2018@gmail.com

Prospect Hill – Co-Moderator
Audrey Scholten
557 Central Ave. NW
LeMars, IA 51031
712-546-7608 Home
akscholten@yahoo.com

Audrey Fenton – Co-
Moderator/Rep.
1111 Meadowview Ct #4
Sioux City, IA 51106
712-276-6322
wayneaudrey@aol.com

South Dakota – Moderator/Rep
Mary Jenner
1002 Verendrye Dr.
Ft. Pierre, SD 57532
605-223-3136 Home
605-220-3161 Cell
djenner@pie.midco.net
Term: 2025

Twin Cities – Moderator/Rep
Pat McKisson
2532 Sumac Circle
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-773-5107 Home
Pmac0247@gmail.com

Winnebago – Rep.
Brenda Breitner
5635 Jefferson St.
Stevens Point, WI 54482
715-341-6690 Home
breitnurse@hotmail.com
As of 2/1/2024



Presbyterian Women in Synod
of Lakes & Prairies
Kathleen Keefer, Editor
PO Box 243
Clarinda, IA 51632
kathleenkeefer20@gmail.com