

Grapevine



NEWSLETTER FOR THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH - PRESBYTERY OF DES MOINES - DEC. 2021



EMBRACE SIMPLICITY

Moderator's Musings:
Sharon Falck, PW Moderator

All of us have been impacted by the changes which occurred in our world during the COVID-19 pandemic and continue now with the onset of the increasing number of mutations of the disease. We have been forced to look at life differently and our personal lives have been affected in ways we could never have anticipated.

January, the beginning of the new year, is the time for us to remember we are survivors, we have been flexible in learning new ways to use our time, talents, and money. We are learning to focus on the simple joys in life.

The 19th century Shaker Hymn “ ‘Tis Simple” speaks volumes to me about simplicity.

‘Tis a gift to be simple,
‘Tis a gift to be free,
‘Tis a gift to come down
Where we ought to be.
And when we find ourselves
In the place that’s right
‘Twill be in the valley
Of love and delight.

When we learn to appreciate what we have, we often feel the urge to get back to the basics and pare things down in our lives. Less can mean more. Consciously choosing simplicity helps us to look at our lives from the inside out. Things and material possessions become less important. Ordinary moments with family and friends, and ordinary household chores become more meaningful because of the joy and happiness we experience. Time is no longer spent taking care of material possessions and other people and now there is time to take care of ourselves.

Taking care of ourselves can begin with looking out the window or walking in the beauty of God’s world. Viewing the trees, flowers, birds, animals or even experiencing the first snowfall can be very calming. Learning to be grateful for everything we already possess will lead to unimaginable blessings for each of us.

Find a few minutes each day to sit quietly, close your eyes, breathe deeply and relax. Then open your Bible and let the words of God guide you as you go about your day. At the close of the day offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God for his guidance in your day.

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” Matthew 6:2



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

PW Synod Gathering, June 16-19, 2022

PW: Better Together Tied Together With Love

Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NIV)

A cord of three strands is not easily broken.

(Presbyterian Women of the Synod of Lakes & Prairies)

Plans for the 2022 Presbytery Women Synod Gathering are under way! The Registration packet will be available on the Synod website or from your PWP Moderator by Dec 1. The theme is "PW Better Together---Tied together with Love/A cord of three strands is not easily broken". We will use PW Purpose statement as the guide for our time together. Rev Danelle Crawford will be our Worship Leader along with presenting a workshop on Native American Storytelling. PW Board of Directors Vice Moderator Kathleen Keefer and PW National Search Committee Member Christy Abraham will be keynote speakers. The Gathering Committee has selected 2 Mission Opportunities for \$10 gift cards & identified 2



recipients for the Gathering Offering. There will be 16 workshops to choose from: Building Blocks of PW, Welcoming Immigrants, Horizon's Bible study overview, Creative Worship/drawing closer to God, Prayer ≠ Monologue, What's happening in Palestine/why should I care?, But What Can I do?, Going on a Road trip, Before and after the S-O-S, ABC's of LBGTQIA+, All About U Adoption, Dakota Presbytery (Rev Dr Clifford Canku), Deep Dive into Matthew 25, Native American Boarding Schools, Beyond Joy And a first time: Gathering Choir led by Music Leader Rev Kristi Holler and musician Pat Penn! Hands-on-Mission project: cutting/sewing Presbytery Disaster Assistance Gift of the Heart School Bags Hope to see you in June on the River in Sioux City! Face-to-face! We hope to see you in June!

If you are reading a digital version of The Grapevine, you can click here for the [registration packet](#).

Or contact your PW Presbytery Moderator.

NEW – 2022 PW SYNOD PRE-GATHERING MISSION EVENT

A PW Synod Pre-Gathering Mission Event will take place on Thursday, June 16, 2022, from approximately 9 AM to 3 PM, with a to-be-determined additional cost for those who choose to participate.

This Pre-Gathering Mission Event will include a guided tour of the Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Hospital in Walthill, NE, an exterior visit to Dr. Susan's home and First Presbyterian Church in Walthill. It also includes a visit to the John G. Neihardt Center which contains many of Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte's personal artifacts, as well as the Bancroft Cemetery, both in Bancroft, NE. Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte, an Omaha Native American woman, was the first Native American medical doctor. In her younger years she attended Presbyterian Mission Schools, and later taught Sunday School and served as an interpreter at the First Presbyterian Church in Walthill, NE, on the Omaha Reservation. This is

where she built a hospital funded in a large part by the Presbyterian Church. This hospital is currently being restored and funds are being raised to complete this restoration. The restored hospital facility will house a medical clinic, cultural and educational spaces to teach/learn Native culture and arts, as well as space on the grounds for community gardens and an outdoor amphitheater. If you are interested in participating in this Pre-Gathering Mission Event, please let Marilyn Stone know of your interest (via email at mmstone52@att.net OR leave a message at 262-763-0918).

Transportation and lunch options are being explored. If you have a van or church bus that could be used for transportation, please let Marilyn know this as well. The cost for this event will be available in January when registration begins.

Presbyterians Today Blog

The Presbyterian Blog is managed by a creative team commissioned by Presbyterians Today to ask questions about who's getting a platform to speak and who's not. "Our opinions are ours alone; they do not represent the policies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) or Presbyterians Today. Our thoughts may sometimes be messy; they may make you feel uncomfortable. They are not meant to be the last word. They are an invitation. So, come, paint with us! And if you feel there's a voice missing here, let us know by emailing us at editor@pcusa.org." Link: [Presbyterians Today Blog One Church, Many Voices \(presbyterianmission.org\)](http://Presbyterians Today Blog One Church, Many Voices (presbyterianmission.org))

Ken Rummer writes about life and faith from the middle of Iowa by the High Trestle Trail. He recently posted this on the blog:

"Apricot bread and gathered worship - Remembering the Taste of Home"

"When people ask about a food that makes the holiday official in my family, the answer I give is apricot bread. I remember one grandmother for her orange bread, and the other grandmother for her yeast rolls, but my mother's baking specialty for Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve was apricot bread.

As a young child, I was appointed Greaser of the Pans. Later, I was promoted to Sifter of the Flour. My favorite role was Taster of the Apricots, but it came with a warning: too many apricots can give you a tummy ache, and besides, we need to leave some for the bread.

Apricot bread is a quick bread like banana bread, but the chewy tang of the dried apricots, the sweetness of the sugar, and the exotic notes of cinnamon, nutmeg, and cloves give it a flavor all its own.

At some point—it might have been around the time I married—my mother wrote out her recipe for apricot bread on a three by five card. I have it in front of me now. It's a little worse for wear, creased and stained from regular use, and turning brown from almost half a century of

baking sessions. But I can still read the faded directions in my mother's cursive hand.

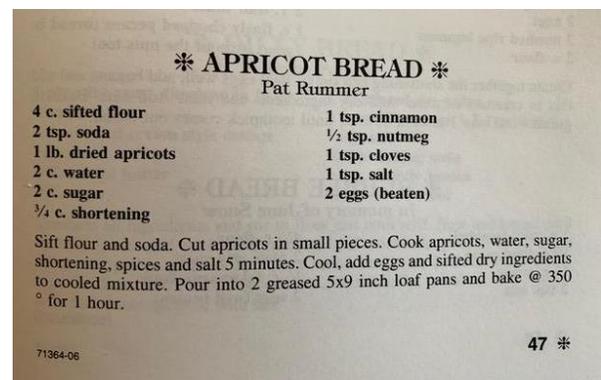
And when I make apricot bread for Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve, the flavor transports me to family gatherings past and present and to my place at those tables. Apricot bread, for me, tastes like home.

I've noticed that gatherings for worship can do that, too. Whether I'm online or in person, the old family recipe of song and prayer and scripture and sermon and sacrament transports me.

Suddenly, I'm a baby being carried forward for baptism. I'm a teen singing hymns to a jazz beat. I'm a nervous newbie preacher on the first Sunday in a new call. I'm a retired pastor no longer standing up front.

The dead appear. My parents are sitting in their usual pew, my grandparents are dressed in their Sunday clothes, and even the great-grandparents, dim in my memory, are part of the gathering.

Somehow I'm connected to Christians meeting in catacombs and cathedrals, as well as to Christians yet to be born.



I hear the voices of the gathered family of faith from the chair beside me and from the online screen, and I sense a deeper presence, like a whiff of perfume, like the hum of a dynamo —

God, as a person you've always known but long to meet.

Gathered worship can do that. Its flavors offer transport. It takes me home. Green-pastures-and-still-waters home. Holy-holy-before-the-throne-of-God home. I-will-be-your-God-and-

you-will-be-my-people home. Wipe-every-tear-from-their-eyes home. In-Christ-a-new-creation home.

And what does home taste like?

Like semi-sweet grape juice from a small cup.

Like tangy bread from an old family recipe.



PW GROUPS AT WORK AND PLAY

Greeting from Windsor Presbyterian

Many years have passed since the last Presbyterian Women group at Windsor. Our Christian Formation team decided it was time to start a new group. We sent a brief survey to all the women to gauge interest and availability. The response was overwhelmingly positive, which was welcome news, indeed. As you know, finding a suitable time is always hard, but we decided on the second Saturday of the month to accommodate our working women and those who may not want to venture out in the evening, especially in the winter. We recently switched to the third Saturday so a couple women with second Saturday conflicts can now attend.

We started in September with sixteen women. We were thrilled. Since this was the day of the Iowa/Iowa State game, we asked everyone to wear their team's colors. Much to everyone's surprise...and delight!...each and every woman sported Iowa State's colors! Our attendance has remained fairly constant. The materials provided for our study are excellent. Everyone is thoroughly enjoying learning about these fascinating women in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus.

One of the many benefits of PW is simply getting to know each other better. Sharing stories and experiences and being able to

express opinions and discuss interesting topics is an exhilarating and rewarding way to grow together as Christian women.

Our church provides mission outreach to Cowles and Windsor Elementary Schools, so our PW group collected gloves and mittens to donate for any kiddos who don't have some to wear when it's time for recess.

A great big thank you goes to Ann McGowan, who is our church secretary, for all her assistance and advice in getting our group up and running. Also, Ann's Covenant PW



leadership issued a warm invitation to join their planning meetings so we would have a better handle on preparing, organizing, and presenting a lesson. Getting the Windsor PW group off the ground has been absolutely wonderful and we're looking forward to a great year and many more!

Angie King, Moderator



The PW ladies from First United Presbyterian Church, Atlantic, Iowa were able to share Christmas coffee and fellowship with some of their members who live at Heritage House in Atlantic. This is the first time they have been able to meet with the Heritage House residents in over a year. Individual visits have been possible, but no group activities.

Bev Schelling 712-249-6875



The Koinonia group at Trinity United in Indianola is one of the groups across the country participating in the field study for Horizons Bible Study for 1923-1924:

Sacred Encounters – The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts



Union Park Presbyterian Women's December meeting, complete with a luncheon and rousing game of Bingo was held at the home of Joanne Mahaffey.

GROWING OUR FAITH

Celebrating Sabbath - Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight - By Carol M. Bechtel 2022-2023 PW/Horizons Bible study

In the nine lessons of this Bible study—with passages from Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Matthew, Luke, and Acts—we'll consider Sabbath

- as a celebration, not a day of dreary formality
- as God's intent for all of creation that includes busy women too
- as one day of the week, perhaps a Sunday

- as a time to surrender unhealthy striving and frantic busyness, and instead trust that God will provide
- as a reminder that life is precious and working too much is against God's plans for our precious lives
- as a day devoted to community and justice and not exclusively to self-care

Ultimately, Sabbath reminds us to honor God who honors us by giving us a day each week to reset our pace, our priorities, and our lives.



Decolonizing Wealth: Indigenous Wisdom To Heal Divides And Restore Balance

by Edgar Villanueva.

The author is a Native American of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, and he is aware of the wounds that colonization has caused his people's relationship to money – and still causes all Indigenous Peoples. Through this book, “we begin to decolonize this relationship in order to imagine a world where we all have enough to thrive.”



In his book, Villanueva teaches us the Seven Steps to Healing: 1.) grieve 2.) apologize 3.) listen 4.) relate 5.) represent 6.) invest 7.) repair. Through following these steps, we can heal and translate the healing into action.

The Co-Moderators of the General Assembly of the PC(USA) has recommended Decolonizing Wealth as their first book study. According to Co-Moderator, Elona Street Stewart offered this: “This is a very important time where the church and our country are trying to shift reality around how we repair and bring equity to our ideas, while resolving concerns that are being raised by our communities,” said Street-Stewart. “This book will help address these issues as a Matthew 25 church.”

Justice and Peace Book Group will be discussing this book on January 10, 2022.



Book Discussion Group

JUSTICE AND PEACE

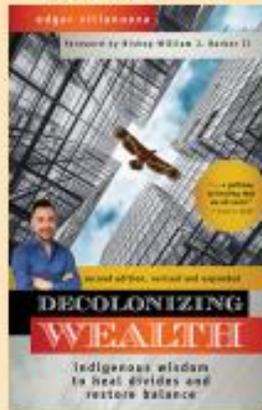
- DISCUSS THE BOOKS WITH OTHERS VIA ZOOM
 - The J&P Book Discussion Group is open to all!
- DISCUSSION GROUP MEETS EVERY OTHER MONTH
 - Read and discuss any or all books that appeal to you. Registration will be needed to join the discussion on Zoom.
- RECEIVE STUDY GUIDES TO INFORM YOUR READING
 - Questions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

2022 Reading Selections (6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Eastern Time)

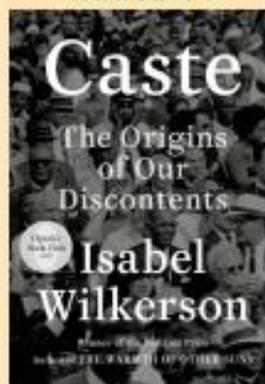
JANUARY 10



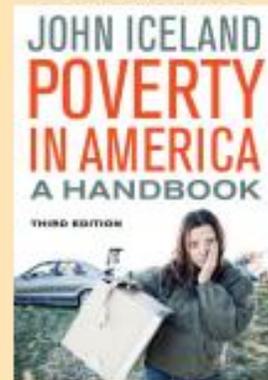
JULY 11



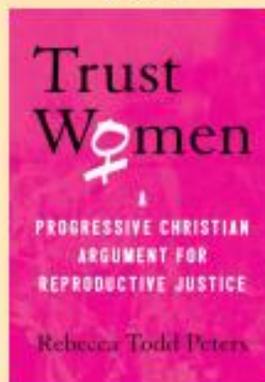
MARCH 14



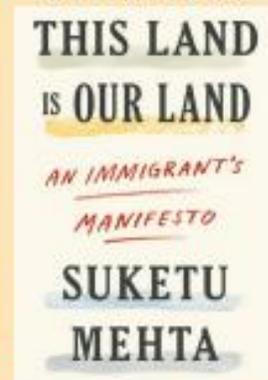
SEPTEMBER 12



MAY 9



NOVEMBER 14

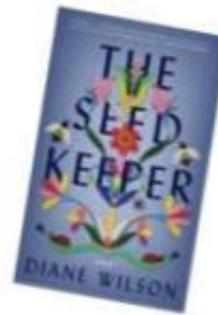


Selections are recommended reading by the Justice & Peace Committee of PW's Board of Directors.

Register today to join a book study . . .

The Seed Keeper

by Diane Wilson



This book study is sponsored by Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and led by members of the PWS Native American Concerns Committee.

It is open to interested women and men across the synod,
via Zoom videoconferencing (using computer or phone)
There is no charge to participate, yet registration is required.

Dates: January 24, February 7 and 21, March 7 and 21
Daytime study begins at 1:30-2:30 PM (CST)
Evening study begins at 6:30-7:30 PM (CST)

Synopsis: A haunting novel spanning several generations, *The Seed Keeper* follows a Dakhóta family's struggle to preserve their way of life, and their sacrifices to protect what matters most.

Rosalie Iron Wing has grown up in the woods with her father, Ray, a former science teacher who tells her stories of plants, of the stars, of the origins of the Dakhóta people. Until, one morning, Ray doesn't return from checking his traps. Told she has no family, Rosalie is sent to live with a foster family in nearby Mankato—where the reserved, bookish teenager meets rebellious Gaby Makespeace, in a friendship that transcends the damaged legacies they've inherited.

On a winter's day many years later, Rosalie returns to her childhood home. A widow and mother, she has spent the previous two decades on her white husband's farm, finding solace in her garden even as the farm is threatened first by drought and then by a predatory chemical company. Now, grieving, Rosalie begins to confront the past, on a search for family, identity, and a community where she can finally belong. In the process, she learns what it means to be descended from women with souls of iron—women who have protected their families, their traditions, and a precious cache of seeds through generations of hardship and loss, through war and the insidious trauma of boarding schools.

Weaving together the voices of four indelible women, *The Seed Keeper* is a beautifully told story of reawakening, of remembering our original relationship to the seeds and, through them, to our ancestors.

Register by contacting Marilyn Stone at mmstone52@att.net

Provide the following information:

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

PRESBYTERY OF DES MOINES PW COORDINATING TEAM

Executive Team

Moderator

Sharon Falck (2021)
809 Turnberry Dr
Grinnell, IA 50112
641-260-8500
sfalck2009@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary

VACANT

Recording Secretary

Ann McGowan (2021)
9549 Foxglove Ln
Johnston, IA 50131
515-252-6195 (H)
515-480-9595 (M)
akmcgowan@msn.com

Treasurer

Beverly Countryman (2021)
1529 19th Place
West Des Moines, IA 50265
515-225-1659
bcountryman1@yahoo.com

PW Synod Rep to Churchwide CT

Kathleen Keefer
kathleenkeefer20@gmail.com



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Coordinating Team

Mission Matters

Denise England (2021)
1013 Spruce Dr
Manning, IA 51455
515-802-1173
deniseengland24@gmail.com

Historian

VACANT

Resources & HORIZONS

Mary Lou Briles
1015 Luster Ln
Des Moines, IA 50315
515-285-1074
marybriles@aol.com

Justice & Peace

Margaret Blair (2021)
PO Box 17
St Charles, IA 50240
515-491-0356
mablair57@gmail.com

Clergywoman Rep

Rev. Barbara Tooker Todd (2021)
5210 Panorama Dr
Panora, IA 50216
712-355-0052
rogerbarbaratodd@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Juanita Ott
1214 W. Euclid
Indianola, IA 50125
515-778-7985
jott396116@aol.com

Search Committee

VACANT

Area Coordinators

Area #1 Coordinator

Linda O'Connell
PO Box 79
Lucas, IA 50151
641-203-3660
rev.linda@mediacombb.net

Area #2 Coordinator

VACANT

Area #3 Coordinator

Barbara Taylor (2021)
2709 1st Ave E
Newton, IA 50208
641-792-6990
barbjohnmim@gmail.com

Area #4 Coordinator

VACANT

The Grapevine is published by the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Des Moines. Please share with the members of your PW and make copies for those in and outside your group. Urge them to share with others. Don't keep it a secret! If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, or if you or someone you know wishes to be added to the mailing list, please contact Juanita Ott, jott396116@aol.com

News about Presbyterian Women:

Presbytery of Des Moines - <https://dmpresbytery.org/committees-task-forces-top/presbyterian-women>

Synod of Lakes and Prairies - <http://www.lakesandprairies.org>

Presbyterian Women - <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org>

Presbyterian Women on Social Media

YouTube—<http://www.youtube.com/presbyterianwomen>

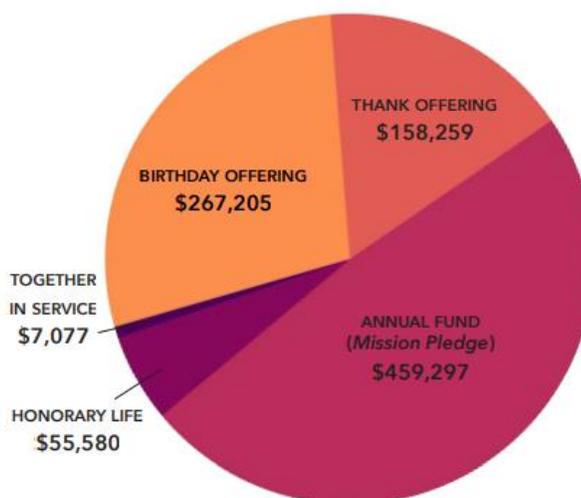
Facebook—<http://www.facebook.com/presbyterianwomenpcusa>

Twitter—<http://www.twitter.com/pwpcusa>

Church Store—<http://www.pcusa.org/store>

Pinterest— www.pinterest.com/pwpcusa/

Presbyterian Women's Giving Jan. 1–Sept. 30, 2021



Thank you for your faithful giving, even during a tumultuous year! Your support matters to PW, to one another, to the church and the world!