

# Grapevine



---

NEWSLETTER FOR THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH - PRESBYTERY OF DES MOINES - SEPT. 2022

---



## Waiting and Hoping

Moderator's Musings:  
**Sharon Falck, PW Moderator**

In his letter to the Romans, Chapter 8, verse 25 Paul says, "But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait patiently for it."

This also applies to the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Des Moines. The waiting to meet together which occurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic seemed endless. The Coordinating Team planned gatherings but then had to scrap those plans and keep on waiting. We hoped for the day we could say, "**WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A FALL GATHERING**" and it has finally arrived! It will be at Covenant Presbyterian Church, in West Des Moines on October 1.

We are hoping for what we do not yet have - women who will step forward and be willing to

serve Presbyterian Women in leadership roles. My term as Moderator actually ended last year, however, because we had not had a meeting to elect new members to the Coordinating Team, the whole team has continued this year.

The positions which are open because terms have expired are: MODERATOR, SECRETARY, TREASURER, HISTORIAN, RESOURCES, and MISSION MATTERS. Without women who will step forward to fill these positions and assume leadership, the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Des Moines will no longer exist. We cannot let this happen!

My hope is you will prayerfully consider helping PW continue and thoughtfully consider the skills you have and how you can be a leader. You will not be alone, God and all the wonderful PW's will stand beside you as you step up to serve.

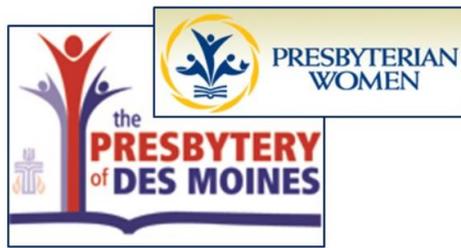
I will be waiting to hear that you are willing to answer God's call to become a leader so the PW can continue to be a vital part of the ministry of our churches in the world.

---

***Plan to move ahead with enthusiasm along with other women of the Des Moines Presbytery.***

***Join us for the PW Fall Gathering. Spread the word. Join the fun. Post the flyer on the next page. Share the following information.***

---



# Moving Ahead with Enthusiasm!

## Women of the Des Moines Presbytery Fall Gathering

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,  
1025 28<sup>TH</sup> ST, WEST DES MOINES, IA 50265

**9:00 – 9:30 ☺ Coffee and Registration (Luncheon cost-\$10)**

**9:30 – 10:00 ☺ PW Presbytery Business meeting**

**10:00 – 11:00 ☺ Speaker – Kathleen Keefer - "Sankofa"**

**11:15 – 11:45 ☺ "Not the Usual Bible Study"**

A discussion of selecting Bible Studies for this new time. Bring a copy of a Bible study underway in your PW or your church to share.

**12:00 – 1:00 ☺ Salad Lunch prepared by Covenant PW**

and presentation of Purpose Awards

**1:00 – 2:00 ☺ Diaper Ministry**

Make T-Shirt diapers to donate to the diaper ministry of Covenant Presbyterian Church. Bring gently used T-shirts if you have them, size L or XL and at least 50% cotton.

**2:00 – 2:30 ☺ Closing Worship**

Please register for the Gathering by September 27:

Diane Johnson – 515-225-2755 or [dianejohnson47@msn.com](mailto:dianejohnson47@msn.com)

---

## OCTOBER 1 - GATHERING ACTIVITIES *(IT'S GONNA' BE FUN!)*

---

### Keynote Speaker - Kathleen Keefer

#### Church involvement:

Vice Moderator for Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA); chair of the Peace & Justice Committee and Horizons Magazine for Churchwide, serves on the Racial Equity Committee, the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns; (and others) editor of the Synod newsletter - the Sower, editor of the Presbytery weekly newsletter, Monday Morning in the Presbytery, Choir member, facilitated the last three Horizons Bible Study.



Community involvement: Board of Directors for the Corner County Early Childhood Area - provides funding and oversight to non-profits providing early childhood services to families in my area.

Professional life: Twenty-five years as a Social Worker in the field of Child Abuse and Neglect, Child Protective Services and fifteen years as a Program Manager and Peer Reviewer with

Healthy Families America - a family support program for families who are at risk and overburdened. Retired in 2016.

Education: Received a BA from Rowan University (Glassboro State College, Glassboro, NJ) in Communication/Advertising with a minor in Art; Teaching certification in Secondary Education English; MA in Counseling/Psych (Student Personnel Services)-Rowan University; began an MA degree program in Pastoral Ministries from the University of Dayton and received certification in Spiritual Direction from the Athenaeum of Cincinnati, Ohio. Reiki Master/Teacher from Oldenburg Franciscan Seminary.

Personal life: Kathleen has been blessed with a 32 year marriage - so far - to Robert Keefer, a Presbyterian pastor and has shared in his ministry for longer than that. We live among the rolling farmlands of Southwest Iowa with two big dogs - Reggie and Shiloh. We love to travel, drink good wine and read good books!! We are just back from a 14-day Mediterranean Cruise where I learned that I could be happy cruising with only 2 pairs of underwear, 1 shirt, 1 pair of long pants and 1 bra and one pair of sandals!! Luggage was finally returned a week after we got home!!

---

### Not the Usual Bible Study Workshop

At a PW Gathering it is usual to take a look at the current Horizons Bible study, and this workshop will do that. But because not all the PW groups and churches of Des Moines Presbytery are using Celebrating Sabbath by Carol M. Bechtel, the workshop will also be **a discussion about choosing a Bible study for the present reality.**

Please bring a copy of a Bible study underway in your PW or your church. And, be prepared to share something about why it was selected and how it is going.

***Sharing this kind of information makes it easier to face the future with excitement and enthusiasm, and helps everyone understand the many ways God works in all things for good.***

## Diaper Ministry

Formed in response to an idea that re-usable cloth diapers were needed after the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, a small group at Covenant Presbyterian takes cotton knit t-shirts, new and old, and sew them into diapers for families in need. Members of the group who don't sew help by cutting out fabric or other

duties to help with this ministry. Preemie, small, medium and large size diaper sizes are made along with an occasional pair of toddler shorts! These diapers have gone to Haiti, El Salvador, and Lutheran Services of Iowa. One of the sessions at the Fall Gathering will give us a chance to help with this project.

### 2024 PW CHURCHWIDE GATHERING

Save the date for the 2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women!  
Presbyterian Women from near and far will gather August 8–11, 2024  
at the Marriott St. Louis Grand in St. Louis, Missouri.  
Watch [presbyterianwomen.org/gathering](http://presbyterianwomen.org/gathering) for updates!

---

## ANOTHER KIND OF MEDITATION

---

### Do you know our hymns?

*From the Desk of Nita Womack:*

*Give me a sense of humor, Lord. Give me the grace to see a joke, to get some humor out of life, and pass it on to other folk.*

Dentist's Hymn – **Crown Him with Many Crowns**  
Weatherman's Hymn – **There Shall be Showers of Blessings**  
Contractor's Hymn – **The Church's One Foundation**  
Tailor's Hymn – **Holy, Holy, Holy**  
Golfer's Hymn – **There's a Green Hill Far Away**  
Politician's Hymn – **Standing on the Promises!**  
Optometrist's Hymn – **Open My Eyes That I Might See**  
IRS Agent's Hymn – **I Surrender All**  
Gossip's Hymn – **Pass it On**  
Electrician's Hymn – **Send the Light**  
Shopper's Hymn – **Sweet Bye and Bye**  
Realtor's Hymn – **I've Got a Mansion Just Over the Hilltop**  
Massage Therapist's Hymn – **He Touched Me**

### **AND DRIVERS:**

55 mph – **God Will Take Care of You**  
75 mph – **Nearer My God to Thee**  
85 mph – **This World is Not my Home**

95 mph – **Lord, I'm Coming Home**  
100 mph – **Precious Memories**

---

## PW MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

---

### Together in Service

*(Handout from Synod Gathering, June 2022)*

#### ☞ “Gift of the Heart” Kits (PDA/CWS)

<https://pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/>

Hygiene and school kits, as well as clean-up buckets are always in high demand following natural disasters. Be sure to follow specific directions on the website, using only the supplies requested. These kits assist persons impacted by disasters across the U.S. and around the world.

#### ☞ Sew school bags for “Gift of the Heart” School Kit Pattern can be found at this link:

[https://www.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/pda/pdfs/goh-schoolkitbagpattern.pdf](https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/pda/pdfs/goh-schoolkitbagpattern.pdf)

#### ☞ Welcome Backpacks (CWS)

<https://cwsglobal.org/donate/welcome-backpacks/>

These backpacks provide the basic items that will assist asylum seekers and refugees as they transition to meet families and communities in the United States.

#### ☞ Clean Prescription Bottles

<https://m25m.org/pillbottles/>

Remove labels and adhesive on prescription bottles, then wash and dry bottles and caps. Package them in plastic zip bags according to size and color. Mail them to Matthew 25 Ministries, 11060 Kenwood Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242.

Prescription bottles are included in shipments of medical supplies for hospital and clinics overseas where medications are wrapped in tree leaves.

#### ☞ Crocheted Plastic Mats and Pillows Use this link to locate the pattern:

<https://oasc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/plarn-mats-how-to.pdf>

Using plarn (plastic yarn made from plastic bags), crocheted sleeping mats and pillows are

stitched. Matthew 25 Ministries accepts these to be shipped to areas of need. (See shipping address above)

#### ☞ Knit4Peace

<https://www.knitting4peace.org/>

“Crafting hope, healing and peace one stitch at a time.” Knit4Peace engages volunteers to knit and crochet requested hand-crafted items that offer hope, healing, comfort, and support. These items include hats, mittens, small dolls (Peace Pals), baby blankets, bibs and booties, quilted mats, etc. The recipients are marginalized or vulnerable people in U.S. neighborhoods, as well as individuals in global areas of conflict or suffering.

#### ☞ Hats Not Hate (Anti-bullying campaign)

<https://hatnothate.org/get-involved/>

Hats Not Hate mission is to rally communities to raise awareness and stand up to bullying. #HATNOTHATE is an anti-bullying campaign where people are encouraged to make, wear, and post handmade blue hats, adding #HATNOTHATE when sharing on social platforms. Hats are distributed to schools nationwide, educating students about the message of kindness. Hats can be distributed to local schools in October for anti-bullying awareness month. Check this link to see drop-off sites in your state.

#### ☞ Little Dresses for Africa Patterns for Little Dresses, Britches for Boys and Sani Panis can be found at this link:

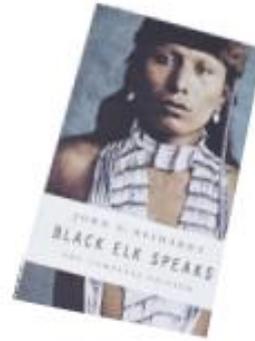
<http://www.ldfaconnect.com/patterns>

The mission of Little Dresses for Africa is to plant in the hearts of little girls that they are worthy. Through these little dresses we establish relationships where other needs can be met through clean water, education and community. Boys’ needs are addressed through “Britches for Boys”. Through their distributions we impress the need to honor each person as a unique child of God, each as important as the other. The Sani Pani sanitary pads are distributed to girls who without them would be unable to attend school.

Register today to join a book study . . .

## ***Black Elk Speaks***

**by John G. Neihardt**



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: September 26, October 17 and 31**  
**Daytime study begins at 1:30-2:30 PM (CST)**  
**Evening study begins at 6:30-7:30 PM (CST)**

Synopsis: "*Black Elk Speaks*, the story of the Oglala Lakota visionary and healer Nicholas Black Elk (1863–1950) and his people during momentous twilight years of the nineteenth century, offers readers much more than a precious glimpse of a vanished time. Black Elk's searing visions of the unity of humanity and Earth, conveyed by John G. Neihardt, have made this book a classic that crosses multiple genres. Whether appreciated as the poignant tale of a Lakota life, as a history of a Native nation, or as an enduring spiritual testament, *Black Elk Speaks* is unforgettable.

Black Elk met the distinguished poet, writer, and critic John G. Neihardt in 1930 on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota and asked Neihardt to share his story with the world. Neihardt understood and conveyed Black Elk's experiences in this powerful and inspirational message for all humankind.

Register by contacting Marilyn Stone at [mmstone52@att.net](mailto:mmstone52@att.net)

Provide the following information: -

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

---

## JUSTICE/PEACE BOOK DISCUSSION

---

The discussion will be about the book by John Iceland,  
Poverty in America, A Handbook  
September 12, 2022.

[https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what\\_we\\_do/work-for-justice](https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/work-for-justice)  
and click the blue banner!

Here is what Google Books has to say about Poverty in America, A Handbook: The United States is among the most affluent nations in the world and has its largest economy; nevertheless, it has more poverty than most countries with similar standards of living. Growing income inequality and the Great Recession have made the problem worse.

In this thoroughly revised edition of Poverty in America, Iceland takes a new look at this issue by examining why poverty remains pervasive, what it means to be poor in America today, which groups are most likely to be poor, the root causes of poverty, and the effects of policy on poverty.

This new edition also includes completely updated data and extended discussions of poverty in the context of the Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street movements as well as new chapters on the Great Recession and global poverty.

In doing so this book provides the most recent information available on patterns and trends in poverty and engages in an open and accessible manner in current critical debates



---

## PRESBYTERY OPPORTUNITY

---

### Re-Formation of the Congregation

Presbyterians across Iowa are halfway through a four-part seminar on revitalizing and reforming our congregations. Ministers and members are invited, although the program is

directed at the ministry of the laity. The four sessions include intentional study, worship, and fellowship. The sessions are being taped and are available for viewing at [Re-Formation of the Congregation | Presbytery of Des Moines \(dmpresbytery.org\)](https://dmpresbytery.org)

### Our Sister Parish

Our Sister Parish, Inc. (OSP) is a 501(c)(3) mission of the Presbytery of Des Moines, Iowa. OSP exists to work in solidarity with the people living in the rural communities of the Municipality of

Berlín, Usulután, El Salvador. OSP is comprised of people in the United States and El Salvador. For more information: [El Salvador | Our Sister Parish](https://dmpresbytery.org)

---

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:akmcgowan@msn.com)

#### Treasurer

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

#### PW Synod Rep to Churchwide CT

Kathleen Keefer  
[kathleenkeefe20@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenkeefe20@gmail.com)



### Coordinating Team

#### Mission Matters

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

#### Historian

VACANT

#### Resources & HORIZONS

Mary Lou Briles  
1015 Luster Ln  
Des Moines, IA 50315  
515-285-1074  
[marybriles@aol.com](mailto:marybriles@aol.com)

#### Justice & Peace

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

#### Clergywoman Rep

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

#### Newsletter Editor

Juanita Ott  
1214 W. Euclid  
Indianola, IA 50125  
515-778-7985  
[jott396116@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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/](http://www.pinterest.com/pwpcusa/)