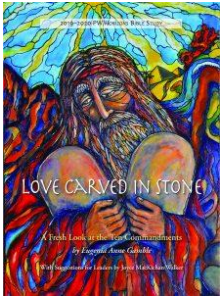


# NORTHERN LIGHTS NEWSLETTER

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF THE NORTHERN PLAINS – FALL 2019

## MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

As we move into a new PW year, we also move into a new **Bible study**, 2019–2020 PW/Horizons Bible study, *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*.



What would it mean to consider the Ten Commandments not as a harsh list of what not to do but, instead, as a letter from a loving God? A fresh embrace of the Ten Commandments, author Eugenia Gamble suggests, may ultimately contribute to the restoration of ourselves and our communities. “Moral behavior matters, not simply because immoral actions can anger or disappoint God, but because principled behavior is how love becomes real, both toward God and in community.” Each lesson begins with an exploration of one of the “Ten Words” in its Biblical context. Why “Ten Words”? The author says, “I’ve chosen to use the term Ten Words because it is the Biblical form and opens us up to looking at the Ten Commandments in fresh ways.” Horizons subscribers receive the Bible study with their subscription (mailed with the March/April issue).

The **Synod Gathering** in Ames, Iowa from June 20-23 was a huge success! Pastor Donna Monteith, Elizabeth Swee, Paula Christensen and I attended the Synod Gathering from Northern Plains. We arrived, as pictured, with boxes and bags of sanipads, scarves, jewelry, Target gift cards, pillowcases and a few pieces of luggage. 166 personal hygiene kits were assembled for Days for Girls, \$950 from the sale of scarves and jewelry supported the Native American Dakota Fund, 65 pillowcases went to Puerto Rico, 171 pillowcases went to Dakota Presbytery, \$181.58 went to the Hunger Program and \$3,030 in Target gift cards were divided between Wings of Refuge and Butterfly Freedom House providing a safe place for girls coming out of trafficking. The \$3,867 offering was divided between two of the several workshops--Marion’s Medical Mission and First Arabic Church in Des Moines. Marion’s Medical Mission builds wells in Malawi and Tanzania bringing clean water to over 4,000,000 people, over half of which are children. The First Arabic Church provides worship services and assistance to Sudanese refugees, as well as a tutoring/literacy program for children.

Other workshops, such as immigration and the refugee crisis, highlighted something we can all do and that is listen to the immigrant/refugee telling his/her story. By hearing the stories, hope follows.

A workshop on leadership insisted that leadership starts with leading yourself first--choose your mindset. Then follow these principles to leading others: (1) model behavior--if you want help, show helping; (2) focus on what’s important--beliefs can change but values do not; (3) equip yourself and others with what needs to be done--desire is your motivator. Most important, when missteps happen, FORGIVE.

Pastor Donna Monteith won a one-year subscription to *Horizons* magazine for traveling the farthest.



*Photos from Synod Gathering*

## UPDATES THIS YEAR

The **new annual reporting form** is in this newsletter. This form replaces the "Together in Service" form, your PW officer list and your annual report. Please complete and submit the annual reporting form to Lana Schultz, PWP Moderator, by **January 31, 2020**.

The Chogoria ministry team is no longer collecting sanipads and bags for girls in Kenya. That mission project has stopped. Other **mission opportunities** with Dakota Presbytery, Little Dresses for Africa, Knitting4Peace, Hugme dolls, and Gifts of the Heart Kits are detailed within this newsletter.

The Safe Motherhood Kits by IMA World Health is a project that has been retired. [IMAworlhealth.org](http://IMAworlhealth.org) welcomes financial donations for other projects they are involved with in Kenya, Haiti, Indonesia, Tanzania.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

August	Thank offering information to be mailed to congregations
Sept. 5	Quarterly pledge due to PW Treasurer, Sharon Johnson
Sept. 15	Application due date for Thank Offering
Sept. 21	North Cluster gathering at Mendenhall Church in E. Grand Forks
Oct. 26	Presbytery meeting at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Devils Lake
Nov. 1	Mission Grant applications due to Sharon Johnson (application form in this newsletter)
Nov. 15	2020 Mission pledge form due to PWP Moderator, Lana Schultz
Dec. 5	Quarterly pledge to PW Treasurer, Sharon Johnson
Jan. 31, 2020	New Annual Reporting Form due to PWP Moderator, Lana Schultz

If any PW group or groups in the South Cluster would like to host a cluster gathering this fall, please let Lana Schultz know. We can work together in planning, if you wish.

The **Expanded Coordinating Team**, officers and moderators, will meet **August 24 at 10 a.m. in Grandin** to plan the 2020 Spring Gathering. We are looking for a gathering site, and if one or two PW groups would like to host the spring gathering next year, please let me or your moderator know as soon as possible. Also share with your moderator the names of speakers you would like us to invite to the gathering.

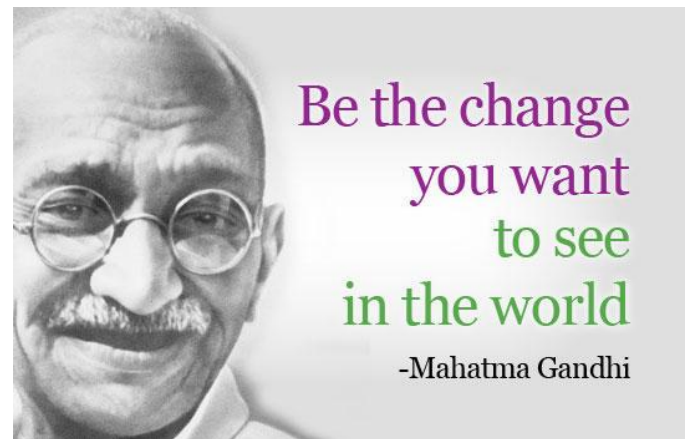
We hope to continue the wonderful attendance and reception our past spring gatherings have had. On April 27, 2019, the **Colgate PW** hosted 40 Presbyterian Women for the **Spring Gathering** filled with worship, education, sharing, and fellowship. Beginning with worship and communion led by Pastor Donna Monteith, Hunter/ Grandin Presbyterian churches, with a message on our theme Isaiah 60:1 "Arise, shine, your Light has come," the offering of \$394.00 was divided between the Global Exchange Program and Wings as Eagles Ministries.

We welcomed Sue Ingels from Fayette, Iowa to share her experiences in Indonesia as part of the Global Exchange Program in 2017. The theme, "Building Bridges of Understanding," fit into the purpose of the Exchange to build church relationships. The Protestant Reformed Church in Indonesia supports ministries like a community center where women receive health and nutrition information and a kindergarten serving impoverished children.

Elizabeth Swee, Moorhead church, presented disaster preparedness training which she received from PDA at Churchwide. Among the items to keep in our evacuation "Bug-out Bag (BOB)" are cash and copies of insurance information, medication list, birth certificate, social security records, family photo and phone numbers in a Ziploc bag. In addition to a personal BOB, congregations are encouraged to put together a church BOB in case

of disaster. Elizabeth can be contacted at [bswee@aol.com](mailto:bswee@aol.com) to present a program for your circle, your cluster, your congregation, Session, Deacons, family or community. The training can be customized for your group and can be whatever length you would like.

Our mission projects included collections of pillowcases for children at Emergency Foster Care Clinic in Dakota Presbytery and Puerto Rico, Target gift cards for girls in safe houses who have come out of trafficking, wrapping paper and gift bags for Wings as Eagles ministry for children at Pine Ridge, jewelry/scarves to sell at Synod Gathering for the Native American Dakota Fund to assist our sisters in Dakota Presbytery, and a monetary donation to Chogoria ministry team for their 2020 trip to Kenya.



Ghandi said, "Be the change you wish for the world." If you want PW to be exciting and relevant, get out there and do big things for God. Attend a gathering or Churchwide. Invite a friend to Bible study. Tell your Why PW story. Get involved with actively reaching out to your community--volunteer at a food pantry, serve at a soup kitchen. Visit somebody in the hospital. You see, PW is more than going to a meeting once a month, PW is a lifestyle. Above all, ask God what amazing and exciting plans He has for you individually and BE THE CHANGE. [Adapted for PW from <https://fervr.net/bible/be-the-change-you-want-to-see-in-your-church>.]

Submitted by Lana Schultz, PWP Moderator

## 2019 Dakota Presbytery Partnership Mission Opportunities

PW can demonstrate love, concern and prayers for the children from Native American reservations who must go to foster care with only the clothes on their backs. Synod and Dakota Presbytery are partnering to create personalized pillowcases and distribute them through Presbyterian churches. How can you help? Create a special pillowcase for a child! They will be used as a bag for the child's possessions. Purchase a "blank" pillowcase and get creative with fabric paints, stamps or stencils. Write or attach an encouraging note on the pillowcase sending love, care to a child with a prayer or bible verse or word of hope. Handmade pillowcases (sewn, quilted, crocheted or knit) in fun colors are welcomed too. Contact Donna Preston (preston@cord.edu or preston@gra.midco.net) for distribution information.

On the Pine Ridge Reservation, 90% of people are living below the poverty line, with the average household annual income around \$4,000. Due to the lack of opportunity and the cycle of poverty, many pregnant women do not have basic items when their baby is born. There are two partnership opportunities to provide baby layette kits. These baby layette kits are given to mothers needing basic baby items to bring their babies home. Please read the details of each project carefully as they have some differences in requests.

### **Children Protective Services - Baby Layette Kits, Pine Ridge Reservation, Oglala, SD**

These baby layette kits contain only **NEW items for newborns**. The items listed below are needed for each baby layette kit. Place items in a large Ziploc storage bag and label *boy* or *girl*. Place kits in shipping boxes and include a self-addressed and stamped postcard. This postcard will be mailed upon arrival of your box to show that it has been received. Layettes can be shipped to: Sonia Weston, PO Box 254, Pine Ridge, SD 57770

Baby layette kits should each contain the following items: 2-onesies, 2-sleepers, 1-outfit, socks, bibs, 2-receiving blankets, disposable diapers (newborn size only), and a little book/toy/rattle.

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### **Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church - Baby Layette Kits, Pine Ridge, SD**

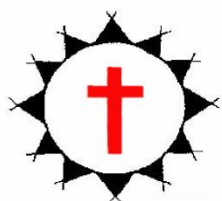
Items for these baby layettes should be **NEW and sized 3 months to 12 months** (with all items the same size within one kit). Place items in a large Ziploc storage bag and label with size. Place kits in shipping boxes and include a self-addressed and stamped postcard. This postcard will be mailed upon arrival of your box to show that it has been received. Please do not ship via Fed-Ex. Layettes can be shipped to: Mrs. Violet Robinson, 006 White Tail Deer Road, PO Box 378, Pine Ridge, SD 57770.

Baby layette kits should each contain the following items: 2-onesies, 2-sleepers, 1-outfit, socks, bibs, 2-receiving blankets, disposable diapers (not newborn size), and a little book/toy/rattle

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### **Red Eagle Memorial Presbyterian Church – Dakota Children's Music Ministry**

**Fort Kipp, Montana** Wakhanyeza Odowanpi meaning "Children Singing", the translation of Wakhanyeza means "they are holy" and Odowanpi means "singing"



The children and youth of Red Eagle Memorial Presbyterian Church, as well as other children and youth on the Fort Peck Reservation are eager to learn songs in the Dakota language. A teacher is being hired to teach the children songs in their native language. Your financial 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 Youpee, PO Box 542, Poplar, MT 59255. Please note on the memo line: *Dakota Children's Music Ministry*.

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### **Gather the Children Home – Children's Clothing Kits Pine Ridge Reservation, Oglala, SD**

*Gather the Children Home* is an emergency foster care home for children ages birth through age 12. It provides a caring and immediate safe environment for children removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect, while a suitable foster or relative home becomes available.

Children Clothing Kits are needed to have on hand when children arrive. Each kit should contain NEW clothing items listed below. All items should be placed in a large Ziploc bag and labeled according to size: sweat pants, sweat shirts, underwear, and socks

These items can be shipped to the following address: Gather Our Children Home, BIA 41 North, Oglala School Housing #944, Oglala, SD 57764. Learn more at [www.gatherourchildrenhome.org](http://www.gatherourchildrenhome.org)

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### **Bdecan Presbyterian Church – Vacation Bible School -- Tokio, ND**

Joe Obermeyer, Youth and Outreach Coordinator

Physical Address: 8194 34TH ST NE Tokio ND 58379

Mailing Address: PO Box 141 Tokio, ND 58379

Phone: (701) 294-2283

E-mail: [bdecanpresbyterianchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:bdecanpresbyterianchurch@yahoo.com)

Bdecan Presbyterian Church, the only Native American Presbyterian Church in North Dakota, is located on the Spirit Lake Reservation in north central North Dakota. An important way to “keep Christ’s love at our center” for the children is to host 10-12 member mission teams who would lead **Vacation Bible School** for a week during the summer. The 20-30 children in the community *love* VBS and never tire of it! VBS is so critical for the children for many reasons, including learning about and experiencing God’s love, as well as participating in positive activities when few other activities exist for the children. In addition to VBS, a hands-on mission project could be done, as well as participating in a “cultural night”.



Bunk trailers are available for lodging for the mission teams, at no cost. If your team would prefer a hotel, there are many options about 20 miles away in Devils Lake. Your mission team would need to cover the cost of the hotel. Won't you consider putting together a team and taking VBS on the road connecting with children and adults? It promises to be a great learning experience for you too.

Complete an application online at <https://www.bdecanpresbyterianchurch.org/mission-teams.html> or contact Joe Obermeyer for additional information at [bdecanpresbyterianchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:bdecanpresbyterianchurch@yahoo.com) or (701) 294-2283.

## 2019 PW Mission Opportunities

### GIFT OF THE HEART KITS

#### HYGIENE KIT (Value \$15)

- 1 — hand towel (approximately 16" x 28", no fingertip or bath towels)
- 1 — washcloth
- 1 — wide-tooth comb (remove from package)
- 1 — nail clipper (remove from package)
- 1 — bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- 1 — toothbrush (in original packaging)
- 10 --Band-Aids® or other adhesive bandage strips

Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure.

<http://pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/>. Do not include any religious symbols or notes.

#### School Kit (Value \$15)

- 1--pair of blunt scissors (rounded tip)
  - 1--30-cm ruler (12")
  - 1--hand-held pencil sharpener
  - 6--new pencils with erasers
  - 1--large eraser
  - 1--box of 24 crayons
  - 3--70-count spiral notebooks or tape-bounded pads of 8" x 10.5" ruled paper or pads with 200-210 sheets of ruled paper.
- Do not include filler paper.

1--cloth bag, 12" x 14" to 14" x 17" finished size cotton cloth bag with cloth handles. (Do not use reusable bags or backpacks). Do not include any religious symbols or notes. Place all items in cloth bag. The pattern for the cloth bag is online at [http://www.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/pda/pdfs/goh-schoolkitbagpattern.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/pda/pdfs/goh-schoolkitbagpattern.pdf)

#### Packing and Sending "Gift of the Heart" Kits

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

Ship all kits prepaid to one of the following:

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

Church World Service  
Brethren Service Center Annex  
601 Main Street  
New Windsor, MD 21776-0188  
(410) 635-8794

#### Gift of the Heart Kits Mailing Form

Please complete the top portion and include inside your shipment of kits:

Congregation/Group: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number/Type of Kits: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Note:** Some groups prefer to take a special offering to support a project. The value for each type of kit is given so you or your group can financially support purchase of kit contents. Checks made out to Presbyterian Church (USA) and marked with "[Gift of the Heart – DR000151](#)" can be mailed to: Presbyterian Church (USA), PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

**Hugme Dolls** is a charitable outreach ministry dedicated to distributing hand-made huggable dolls to children and even adults who are involved in a crisis situation from surgery to domestic violence to large disasters. Dolls are often used as a therapeutic aid to help children that have been or still are victims of traumatic, life-altering crisis. Explore your local police and fire departments, as well as any other first response or social services to distribute dolls. Pattern and detailed directions are free and can be emailed or mailed to you by Moderator Lana Schultz. The only copyright limitation is that no doll made on this pattern is ever to be sold! This doll must always be given away. *Horizons*, May/June 2019 p. 34.

**Knitting4Peace** partnership welcomes handcrafted yarn and quilted items (knit, crochet, woven, etc.) that are specifically requested bringing hope, healing, and peace to people in need in our own neighborhoods and around the world. A list of items, such as hats, mittens, dolls and patterns can be found at <https://www.knitting4peace.org>. Please include your name and e-mail to receive an acknowledgment of your shipment and a receipt. Address all shipments and financial donations to Knitting4Peace, 2600 Leyden St., Denver, CO 80207.

**Pillow Case dresses.** The mission of Little Dresses for Africa is to honor little girls. Its goal is to plant in the hearts of little girls that they are worthy. Through their distribution they impress the need to honor each person as a unique child of God, each as important as the other. Patterns available at [www.littledressesforafrica.org](http://www.littledressesforafrica.org). Send donations/dresses to Little Dresses for Africa, 24614 Curtis Drive, Brownstown, MI 48134.

**Financial donations** to PW Together in Service Opportunities can be made at [www.presbyterianwomen.org/give](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/give). Click on “A Together in Service Project” and select from a list of projects identified by past Global Exchange & USA Mission Experiences. Some of these projects continue through 2023.

## SYNOD NEWS

Everyone is invited to attend the **Fall Gathering** at Camp Calvin Crest, 2870 County Road 13, Fremont, Nebraska from **September 13-14, 2019**, where the keynote speaker will be PW Churchwide Moderator, Jenny Lee. For more information and reservations, contact the camp by email at [calvincrest@calvincrest.org](mailto:calvincrest@calvincrest.org).

When you purchase items from Amazon, you can simultaneously donate to PW. Just use Amazon Smile. Visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and select Presbyterian Women as your favorite charitable organization. Shop as you normally would through “regular” Amazon, and a portion of the purchase of eligible items is donated to PW. In other words: you shop, Amazon gives, PW receives.

## SHARE YOUR PW STORY...

Six randomly selected Presbyterian women who respond to one or both of the following questions will receive a copy of one of these books (*The Night of His Birth*, *The Worst Christmas Ever* and the currently available *Home by Another Way* by Barbara Brown Taylor) sometime in the fall of 2019. Feel free to share this opportunity anywhere that PW gathers—circle meetings, coffee hour, and pillowcase embellishing get-togethers. (Particularly awesome answers will definitely appear in future PW publications or promotions.)

**My most cherished PW memory is . . .?**

**I came to Presbyterian Women because . . .?**

Be sure to include your Name/Street address/City/State/ZIP/Telephone number/Email address. \*Save a stamp and send an email to [info@presbyterianwomen.org](mailto:info@presbyterianwomen.org), “Flyaway Giveaway” in the subject line of the email.

## DEVOTION

*"What Have You Done for Me Lately?" Moore, 365 Meditations to Refresh Your Soul.*

*"I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me." Matthew 25:40*

Some days we are overwhelmed with life and we can barely take care of ourselves. Giving to others doesn't come up on our radar. We don't put ourselves out of the way. If we're lucky, though, God will put someone in our path who is in greater need than we are. He will help us to see that we still have something to give and that we're still in his care and keeping as well. That one person will remind us that we may not be able to take on a whole load of people, but we can take on at least the one who is in need.

Mother Teresa said, "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one." Feeding one person may simply mean offering a kind word or a smile. It may mean helping them get a seat on a crowded bus. It can mean many things, but each time you respond, each time you say yes to helping another person, you say yes to God. He sees what you do and rewards you for it. It's a great day to do something good. What will you do?

"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us."

- Ephesians 3:20

## PW THANK OFFERING

For more information on the 2019 Thank Offering recipients, read the July/August 2019 issue of *Horizons* magazine or go to [www.presbyterianwomen.org/thank](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/thank).

## PEACE AND JUSTICE

### August

- 19 World Humanitarian Day
- 25 Orange Day
- 25 Public Education Sunday

### September

Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women

- 1 Season of Peace begins
- 1 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
- 2 Labor Day
- 21 International Day of Peace
- 25 Orange Day
- 27 Native American Day

### October

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Fair Trade Month

National Bully Prevention Month

- 6 World Communion Sunday
- 6 Domestic Violence Awareness Sunday
- 11 International Day of the Girl Child
- 11 National Coming Out Day
- 14 Indigenous People's Day
- 16 World Food Day
- 20 Children's Sabbath: Educate a Child, Transform the World
- 24 United Nations Day
- 25 Orange Day



## November

Native American Heritage Month

- 10 Caregiver Sunday
- 13 World Kindness Day
- 17 Hunger and Homelessness Sunday
- 20 Universal Children's Day
- 25 Orange Day
- 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- 25 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence
- 28 Thanksgiving

## December

- 2 Gracious Monday (PW's Day of Gratitude)
- 3 Giving Tuesday
- 5 International Volunteer Day
- 10 International Human Rights Day
- 18 International Migrants Day
- 25 Christmas; Orange Day

\*See [presbyterianwomen.org/justice](http://presbyterianwomen.org/justice) for a pdf with links to resources.

## Subscribe to *HORIZONS*

*The Magazine for Presbyterian Women*

It is \$19.95 for six issues of *Horizons* magazine, plus the 2019-2020 PW/*Horizons* Bible study and access to six fully digital issues of the magazine.

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/subscribe/>



## North Cluster News

*Hazel Merdink*

The North Cluster will be meeting on **21 Sept. 2019** at Mendenhall Presbyterian Church in East Grand Forks, MN. Registration starts at 9:30 AM, and the fee is \$12 at the door.

The theme is Following God's Commandments. Marjory Ackerman, Executive Spiritual Leader from the Northern Plains Presbytery; a representative from Feed My Starving Children; and a representative from Sunshine House in Grand Forks. The offering will go to Sunshine House and Bdecan.

Your invitation will arrive in late August. We hope to see you there!

## Arvilla

*Linda Warnke*

Arvilla Presbyterian Church Women have had a slow year so far. We served three funerals and attended a few gatherings in the area. We are Looking forward to the Fall Gathering in September at East Grand Forks, MN.

# Presbyterian Women—Northern Plains Presbytery

## Mission Fund Application

Deadline for Application: November 1, 2019 / Maximum Request per Application: \$2,000.00

Return Application to PWP Treasurer: Sharon Johnson by mail 1280-133<sup>rd</sup> Avenue SE, Hope, ND 58046 or by email [alshare@ictc.com](mailto:alshare@ictc.com) Any questions, please call Sharon at 701-799-7428.

As part of the Presbyterian Women Purpose “we commit ourselves to support the mission of the church worldwide,” Presbyterian Women invite any church group and/or ministry team affiliated with the Northern Plains Presbytery to apply for mission funds (max. \$2,000). Funds will be distributed at the discretion of Presbyterian Women of Northern Plains Presbytery. Project must be underway within 12 months of receiving mission funds. **A project budget is required.**

Group Name and Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person’s Address and Email \_\_\_\_\_

Total cost of mission project \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of mission funds requested \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose of the mission project \_\_\_\_\_

Describe how these mission funds will be used to achieve the purpose of the mission project

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How many people will be served and describe the population served by this mission project

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List other sources applied for or received to achieve your mission project goal

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If mission funds are granted, would you be willing to present a report (written or oral) on your project to local Presbyterian women groups and to Presbyterian Women of the Northern Plains Presbytery Spring Gathering?

\_\_\_\_\_

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Acts 20:35

“So we are ambassadors for Christ, . . . be reconciled to God.” 2 Corinthians 5:20

## Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2019 update

*Kayla Bones*



The Presbytery of Northern Plains brought a group of 30 youth and adults to the Presbyterian Youth Triennium this summer. It was at Purdue University in West Lafayette Indiana. Our bus to the Triennium left late on Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, and got to Purdue early in the afternoon in Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, just in time for lunch before we checked into our dorms.

The theme for the week was based on the hymn “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing.” Tuesday evening’s theme was “Tune my Heart.” The sermon for the night talked about finding our individual song and getting our hearts ready for the week.

Wednesday’s theme was “Jesus sought me”. We talked about the story of Zacchaeus. Way before Zacchaeus climbed that tree to see the Lord, Jesus was seeking him out, just like he seeks us out.

Our theme Thursday was “Prone to wander”. We explored 3 parables, the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son. When we wander away, Jesus is consistently seeking us out.

On Friday, our theme was “Take My Heart”. It was based on the story of Jesus stepping out of the boat. We talked about having the courage to trust in Jesus. We talked about how even in the dark and scary moments of life, we always have hope for something better.

Our week at the Triennium finished on Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. Our theme was “Take and Seal It”. We talked about what we did, now that it was time to go home. We talked about taking everything we’ve learned that week, writing it down, sealing it, and sharing it. We talked about going into the world and making disciples.

Besides learning, we also had a ton of fun! We had great meals prepared for us. We had tons of fun games both inside and outside. Having over 5,000 Presbyterians gathered together, there were plenty of opportunities to meet people from near and from far away.

There were also great evening activities. Wednesday night we had a missions’ fair in the park, where kids could go, visit different missions, and participate in giving back. On Thursday we had a concert in the music hall from Soul Children of Chicago. Before they came on, we had dance performances by Minahasan Tribe of Indonesia and the American Indian Youth Council. Friday night, we had the Festival of Hearts on Memorial

Mall, complete with food trucks where kids could purchase food. It was a night of music, dancing, food, activities, and FUN!

We left early afternoon, after closing worship on Saturday July 20<sup>th</sup>. We had an on-bus pizza party as we departed Purdue and West Lafayette Indiana. With a few stops, and driving through the night, we arrived back at First Presbyterian Church in Fargo at about 1 AM on Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>.

Some of the leaders who had to travel to get home decided to have a sleepover with their youth at the church and leave a few hours later on Sunday morning.

What a great week it was! All of the leaders from the Presbytery of Northern Plains were so happy with how well behaved our group was. We were so happy with how flexible our youth were, especially at the beginning of the week, while we were still figuring things out. It was so encouraging to hear wisdom from our youth during our delegation time. We had such a great time. We can't wait to see some youth come back and see the new youth that come with us to the triennium in 2022! We are ever grateful to PW for covering some of the transportation cost for this experience!



## Fargo PW

*Nancy Lium*

The PW group of Fargo is looking forward to welcoming new women to our group. The three circles meet on the third Tuesday of each month September through May. Our study this year will be "Hearts of Stone ". The circles meet as follows: Naomi/Ruth at 9:30 am at the church; Rachael Circle 9:30 am in member's homes; Esther Circle 1:00 pm at the church. Leah Circle meets on the 3rd Saturday at 10:00 am at the church.

Our General meetings will be as follows: September 10, 12 noon. Lunch from Rachael Circle. Program will be a preview of our lesson book, "Hearts of Stone", by Reverend Mary Holtey.

October 8th 12 noon. Lunch by Esther Circle. Thank offering will be dedicated. Program: Nokomis new day care by Gary Wolsey.

December 3rd, 1 pm. Annual Christmas Tea served by PW Board. North High Jazz Carolers directed by Shelly Zietz.

April 14, 12 noon. Lunch by Leah Circle. Least Coin dedication. Program Don Kinzler, "Forum" garden expert.

May 12, 12 noon. Lunch by Naomi/ Ruth Circle. Birthday offering dedication. Installation of officers. Program Senior Companion Program.



## Bdecan Update Summer 2019

*Joe Obermeyer*

We've had a full summer at Bdecan. We had groups lead 2 VBS programs, and carpeting was layed at our new clothing closet. Many PW groups have been involved, so we would like to share this update.



### **Clothing Closet work is complete!!!**

With a huge amount of help from many people over the past year, our new clothing is close to opening.

Our hope is that we will be able to open it in fall of 2019, after we get the clothes organized.

Thank you to all of you who have helped us raise money, and who have worked hard for this to happen! We appreciate you all SO much!!!





## **Presbyterian Women of East Iowa Presbytery**

Our first VBS group this summer came June 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>. It was a group of Presbyterian women from churches around the East Iowa Presbytery.

It was a week of good food, stories, games, crafts, and tons of fun. Besides this, the group also brought lots of donations for the Bdecan Food Pantry, and helped stock the shelves there.

The team had chances to meet some Bdecan Ministry Team and congregation members after their week of VBS was over, June 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

We had a marvelous time with them, and they had a fantastic first trip to visit us.



## **First Presbyterian Churches VBS**

Our other VBS this summer was June 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>. The team was made up of folks from First Presbyterian Church of Rochester, along with friends from other congregations in Minnesota and California. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row that they have sent a group here. Some of the members have been coming multiple (if not every single) year.

The week started with a Vacation Bible School KICKOFF event at the Woodlake Rec Center on Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. It was a short day with lunch, a bible story, and games and activities. It was a new thing we tried, and the team enjoyed it. It was a chance for the team to advertise they were in town and get kids to come to VBS at our church the rest of that week.

We had VBS at Bdecan June 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>. As always, this team did a fantastic job teaching the kids about what true treasures are. They had great stories, good food, fun crafts and games, and so much fun.

Besides all of this, a few of the men also carpeted and finished working on our new clothing closet (which we hope to open this fall).

We want to thank the folks at First Presbyterian Church in Rochester MN for their year long support of our ministry here at Bdecan.

## Gilby

The Gilby PW women hosted a **Ladies' Summer Salad Luncheon** on Friday, July 19, at the Gilby church. All women of the community were invited, along with many ladies from nearby PW associations.



Women who attended brought a large and varied assortment of delectable salads and desserts to share. Pasta, chicken, tuna, gelatin, broccoli, and bean salads are a few of the dishes.

Afterwards, the women gathered in the sanctuary for a concert presented by Sheri Swen playing the violin, and Yen Lee Loh on the piano. The musicians delighted the audience with popular music from the 1930's and 1940's. For additional information about the musicians, see

<https://sites.google.com/view/heartlandstringquartet/biographies>



## Red Lake Falls

*Pat Purath*

The 17th annual Festival of Tables hosted by the women of First Presbyterian Church in Red Lake Falls was held June 5th at the Lafayette High School cafeteria. Nearly 150 people enjoyed the 18 decorated tables, salad Luncheon and program. This year, approximately \$2000 was donated to Trails to Treatments, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to assist those in need locally of funding during their treatment of cancer.

ONE

One tree can start a forest;  
One smile can begin a friendship;  
One hand can lift a soul;  
One word can frame the goal;  
One candle can wipe out darkness;  
One laugh can conquer gloom;  
One hope can raise your spirits;  
One touch can show you care;  
One life can make the difference,  
Be that one today.  
(from a poster in a classroom)

Many PWs in the Congregation (PWC) have different forms of leadership, a moderator, a facilitator, a different convener for each meeting or bible study. Please give us the information for the Leadership of your PW group.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE CONGREGATION ANNUAL REPORT FORM

Please complete the form with members of your circles/coordinating team.

Moderator/Facilitator/Convener:	Term ends:		
Mailing address:	City:	Zip:	
Best Phone:	Email address:		
Co-Moderator/Vice Moderator (circle one)			
Name:	Term ends:		
Mailing address:	City:	Zip:	
Best Phone:	Email:		
Treasurer:	Term ends:		
Mailing address:	City:		
Best Phone:	Email address:		
Secretary/Clerk:	Term ends:		
Mailing address:	City:		
Best Phone:	Email address:		
If there is no one in your PWC who has an email address, can we use your church email address?    Yes    No Church email:			
Number of women in your congregation:			
Do you have an active, formally organized PWC?   Yes   No	Number of women who attend PWC meetings:		
How many times did your PWC Coordinating Team meet last year?	Number of active circles/groups		
	Number attending:		
How many women in the congregation fit into each of the following age ranges:	30 & below:	31-40:	41-50:    51-60:
	61-70:	70 & above:	
<b>DO YOU:</b>			
Use/Recite the PW Purpose:    Yes    No	At every meeting/event?:    Yes    No		
Use Horizon study books:    Yes    No	If no, list other study books used:		
Use the Mission Yearbook of Prayer & Study?:    Yes    No			

Please list the **LOCAL MISSION PROJECTS** your PWC has been involved with during the past year. These may include: food pantries, homeless shelters, schools, prison ministries, non-profits providing services to those in need, Bdecan Ministry, Northlands Rescue Mission, Chogoria, Youth Connection or projects adopted by the PWP:


Has your **PW** participated in any of the following **PW Mission Projects/Fundraising** efforts: (Please circle all that apply and add any others)

Honorary Life Membership	Birthday Offering	Mission Pledge	Thank Offering
Global Exchange	USA Mission Experience		
Puente Community Resource Center, San Francisco, CA	Ciliwung Community Center, Jakarta, Indonesia		
Bay Area Anti- Trafficking Coalition, Pescadores, CA	Suwung School and Clinic, Bali Indonesia		

Has your **PW** participated in any of the following **PC (USA) Mission Projects/Fundraising** efforts: (Please circle all that apply and add any others)

Hunger Program	One Great Hour of Sharing	PC(USA) Missionaries	Presbyterian Peacemaking Programs
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance			
Gift of the Heart Kits	How many:		
School kits,	How many:		
Clean-up buckets	How many:		
Monetary Donations	\$		

Has your **PW** participated in **Ecumenical Mission Projects**: (Please circle all that apply and add any others)

Fellowship of the Least Coin	Habitat for Humanity	Africa: Little Dresses	How many:
Bread for the World	Reusable Sanitary Products	Little Britches	How Many:
World Community Day	Church World Service	T-shirt diapers	How Many:
Church Women United	Orange Day	Heifer Project International	Centsibility
Thursday – Black Day	World Day of Prayer	May Friendship Day	
Number of women who attended the Churchwide Gathering:		Has anyone ever participated in the Global Exchange: Yes      No	
Number of women who attended the last Synod Gathering:		Has anyone ever participated in the US Mission Experience:    Yes      No	

Has your **PWC** had programs focusing on any of the following **Justice and Peace** issues during the past year: (Please circle all that apply and add any others)

Human Trafficking	Food Justice	Water Issues	Worker's Rights
Prison Reform	Children's Advocacy	Immigration	Race relations
Children's Literacy			

Please list any other **PWC** sponsored **events, service activities or fundraisers** you have participated in during the past year: (These would include: salad luncheons, sewing days, book clubs, church clean up days, etc)


To help us get to know you better we would like to know more personal stories about your women's groups. Please choose one of the following options and share:

1. Tell us about one favorite mission project. Why do you support this project? What makes it special? What relationships have grown out of it? How those served experience the love of Christ through this project?  
Photos always welcome and greatly appreciated!

Or

2. Describe one good thing that has happened with your PW group in the past year.

You may be asking "why do we want this information?" This annual report form takes the place of 3 reports submitted in the past--your annual report, your officers' list and the Together in Service report. You now only need to submit this 1 annual report form to your PWP Moderator. It will allow the PWP to give accurate information to Churchwide.

Please send completed form to:  
PWP Moderator: Lana Schultz  
Address: PO Box 891, Casselton, ND 58012  
Email: [lanaj0@casselton.net](mailto:lanaj0@casselton.net)  
Forms are due: **January 31, 2020**  
[Keep a copy for your records](#)



## PW Moderators 2019

NORTH CLUSTER:	Leader: Hazel Merdink, 1011-18 <sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, East Grand Forks, MN 56721; (218) 773-1832; <a href="mailto:hmerdink@midco.net">hmerdink@midco.net</a>
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SOUTH CLUSTER:	Leader(s): Vacant
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Grandin	Pat Lockhart, (Co-Moderator) PO Box 110, Grandin, ND 58038 (701) 484-5758 <a href="mailto:dplockhart2@yahoo.com">dplockhart2@yahoo.com</a> ; Gloria Porter (Co-moderator) 1089-160 <sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Grandin, ND 58038 (701) 636-4026 <a href="mailto:3pofarm@rrv.net">3pofarm@rrv.net</a>
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#### South Cluster (vacant)