



A weekly news update from the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley in Iowa and Nebraska. Distributed by email only to the churches, Clerks of Session, ministers, Presbytery Officers, committee members, and others who wish to be on the list. Published by the presbytery. ****There is a new address for the office as of October 15, 2025: PO Box 390113, Omaha, NE 68139-0113****

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MM 2026 #6

A place of prayer and reflection

Beloved, in this trying season of temptation, let us accept God's invitation to always be mindful of others' needs, offering our prayers on behalf of God's community in the church and the world:

Gracious God, in Jesus, you came to show us the way to a full life because you so loved the cosmos. Therefore, we are bold to pray in Christ's name, seeking your will in our lives and in the lives of all your children.

God, our ever-present help, we pray for our world. Where there is war, we pray for peace. Move among us through your Spirit. Break down the barriers and borders constructed by fear, paranoia, violence and hatred. Heal the divisions in our human family that diminish and harm your good creation. Unite us in bonds of love and service, that we may pursue what is right and good and just for all.

God, our hope, we pray for our country. We pray specifically for our elected leaders in our cities, states, and nation... May they do what is right, not just what is beneficial. Let us be people who speak the truth, even when it is unpopular; who stand on the side of the oppressed, the downcast, and forgotten, even when it is inconvenient; who love our neighbors and enemies, even when it is costly. Through it all, O God, remind us of our true allegiance to your way. We welcome your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.



God, our healer, we pray for those who suffer: The sick, the lonely, the grieving, the houseless, the overworked, and those without employment. Surround them with your love; Support them with your strength; Console them with your comfort; And give us all hope and courage beyond ourselves.

Finally, O God, our Redeemer, we pray for the church. Keep us true to the gospel, the good news to the poor. Shake and stir us into response-ability in these trying times. Make known your saving power in Jesus Christ, through the witness of our faith, our worship, and our life. Fill us with your strength to resist the seductions of our selfish desires and the tempter's power, that we may walk in your ways, rejoicing in you with all our hearts. We lift these prayers to you. Amen.

Rev Shea Watts for worship on February 22, 2026

NEWS FROM THE PC(USA)

A CORPORATION BOARD HEARS A STRONG FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 2025

Board members also take a handful of actions they'd discussed the previous day

February 6, 2026 Mike Ferguson Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — Strong market performance continues to lead the growth in the financial position of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), according to financial statements for the Interim Unified Agency and Administrative Services Group, the A Corporation Board of Directors learned during its second day of online meetings on Friday.

The PC(USA)'s controller, Denise Hampton, and Ian Hall, the interim president of the A Corporation and its chief operating officer and chief financial officer, took board members through financial reports through Nov. 30, 2025, comparing them to the same period in 2024.



As of Nov. 30, 2025, net assets were \$808 million, an increase of \$48 million compared to the same period last year. Total liabilities amounted to \$23 million, a decrease of about \$200,000 from the previous year. Total net assets increased by \$47.7 million.

For the same period in 2025, income was \$111.9 million, or \$49.4 million over the budgeted amount. Compared to the prior year, income increased by \$10.6 million, primarily due to year-to-date realized and unrealized market gains on investments. Expenses were \$67.5 million, or \$12.7 million below the budgeted amount.

The Rev. Jihyun Oh

Contributions were \$2.8 million over budget. Per capita and shared mission support donations were \$1.5 million lower than the budget. Gifts, bequests and grants were \$1.7 million over budget and included a large unrestricted gift of \$1.85 million from a trust. Special giving was \$2 million over budget due to increased Presbyterian Disaster Assistance receipts (up by \$1.9 million), Hunger Program receipts (up \$200,000) and Directed Mission receipts (up by \$100,000). Those were offset by fewer Extra Commitment Opportunity and Special Missionary Support receipts, down by \$200,000.

Special Offerings receipts are about \$560,000 over budget.

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/2/6/corporation-board-hears-strong-financial-report-first-11-months-2025>

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.), A CORPORATION BOARD NAMES IAN HALL AS A CORP PRESIDENT

Hall has served as interim president and in two other roles for the past 13 months

February 9, 2026 Mike Ferguson Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — On Friday, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation Board of Directors named Ian Hall, [who's been serving as interim president](#), as president of the A Corporation. Hall, who's also the chief operating officer and chief financial officer for the A Corporation, has been interim president for more than a year.



Hall's election is subject to approval by commissioners to the 227th General Assembly, which meets this summer online and in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

He told Presbyterian News Service the announcement brought him "a sense of relief, but also clarity and a kind of excitement. I enjoy what I do, and I couldn't possibly imagine [five years ago when I joined the team](#) this would be the outcome."

The Rev. Noha Khoury-Bailey, the A Corp Board member who chaired the search committee, said that Hall's humility set him apart from "the many qualified candidates the search committee encountered."

The Rev. Noha Khoury-Bailey of Huntington, West Virginia is a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) A Corporation Board of Directors and chaired the presidential search committee. (photo by Sam Cardine | Media Pros Productions)

“Ian graciously stepped into the role of interim president of the A Corporation while remaining committed to his work” as COO and CFO, providing “a seamless transition and strong foundation in uncertain times,” Khoury-Bailey said. “Ian’s knowledge of and respect for our denomination’s polity and structure, his intimate understanding of the current climate within the PC(USA) amid the ongoing work of the Unification Commission — along with his adaptability, the intentionality he employs in building and fostering relationships and the integration of these skills into this niche role will continue to serve him, the A Corp and the denomination well into the future.”

Through the work of the Administrative Services Group, the A Corporation provides services including finance, accounting, legal, human resources, internal audit, Global Language Resources, information technology, distribution, mail and print, research, risk management, Stewardship and Funds Development and property upkeep to clients including the Unified Agency, Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program, Presbyterian Publishing Corporation and Presbyterian Women.

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/2/9/church-usa-corporation-board-names-ian-hall-corp-president>

A CALL TO STAND WITH THE PEOPLE OF CUBA

Faithful solidarity in a time of crisis

February 9, 2026 Office of Public Witness Presbyterian News Service

Communities of faith are being urged to speak out about the suffering of the Cuban people. (photo by Erin Dunigan)

More than a dozen faith-based organizations, including the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Cuba Partners Network of the PC(USA), have signed a letter urging policymakers and leaders to take steps to reduce hardships for ordinary people in Cuba and to reduce barriers that prevent communities from accessing food, medicine and basic necessities. The letter, being delivered to the White House and Congress, also calls on faith groups to speak out about the suffering of the Cuban people. Read the letter in full below.

As communities of faith, we write out of deep concern for the people of Cuba and out of a shared commitment to peace, compassion and the protection of human life. We are alarmed by the growing risk of escalation and by clear signals that regime change is being pursued as a goal of U.S. policy toward Cuba. In this moment, we reject any approach that seeks to impose political outcomes through coercion or treats human suffering as leverage.

The U.S. embargo and related restrictions have long contributed to hardship in Cuba by limiting access to resources and weakening the economic conditions that make daily life possible. Cuba also faces serious internal challenges, including mismanagement and shortages

driven by multiple factors. We hold in our hearts the many layers of hardship the Cuban people are carrying. We know that some of these burdens arise from long-standing difficulties within the island itself — patterns of governance and policies that have, over time, made daily life more fragile for many families. In all circumstances, our deepest concern is that no action, whether at home or abroad, should add to the suffering of those already facing so much.

In recent weeks, the cutoff of Venezuelan oil shipments to Cuba and renewed threats of coercion have raised the risk of dangerous escalation. Communities of faith speak clearly in this moment: Cuba’s political future must be determined by Cubans themselves, free from external pressure, threats or interference.

A prayer

Holy God, draw near to all who suffer, and strengthen all who serve their neighbors in hardship. Provide daily bread where there is scarcity, healing where there is sickness, and hope where there is fear. Sustain those who care for the sick and protect those most at risk. Turn every heart away from hostility and toward the things that make for peace. Give wisdom to those who hold authority, and compassion to all who shape public policy. Amen.

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/2/9/call-stand-with-people-cuba>



PERUVIAN DOCUMENTARY IS HAUNTING AND YET HOPEFUL

'Uyariy,' which means 'listen' in Quechua, will receive international release in late 2026

February 9, 2026 Jed Koball, Global Ecumenical Liaison Presbyterian News Service

Following the death of her brother, Young Adult Volunteer Milagros Samillan has been a spokesperson in the struggle to share the truth of what happened in Peru on Jan. 8, 2023. (photo courtesy Asociacion Educacional de Teologia Evangelica — AETE)



Central to the telling of what happened and the honoring of the lives lost are the families of the 18 victims of Juliaca, an indigenous town located in the Puno region of the southern Andes of Peru. Among the family members who play a prominent role in the documentary is 28-year-old Milagros Samillan, a [Young Adult Volunteer](#) in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) whose brother Marco Antonio was shot in the back and killed by the national police.

"My first reaction upon watching the documentary was pain," Samillan said. "For all of us family members whose loved ones were killed, we were reliving what happened that 8th day of January three years ago."

In the weeks following the impeachment and imprisonment of [Peruvian President Pedro Castillo](#) in December of 2022, who himself is of rural and Andean descent, the more indigenous identifying parts of the country who saw themselves in

Castillo rose up in protest. To squash the protests, the newly installed president, Dina Boluarte, authorized the use of force by national police and military. Over the course of three months, 49 Peruvians would be killed by the state. But it was the killing of 18 people in one single day in Juliaca that brought to light the repressive tactics the government used against its own people.

"My brother Marco was not even there to protest. He was a medical doctor, and he was there to help protestors who may get hurt," Samillan said. "The police actually shot him in the back while he was trying to help someone else."

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/2/9/peruvian-documentary-haunting-and-yet-hopeful>

WOMEN UNITED CAN NEVER BE DEFEATED

Presbyterian Hunger Program joins the Guatemala Partnership of New Castle Presbytery to witness development work

February 10, 2026 Valéry Nodem, Presbyterian Hunger Program Presbyterian News Service

Recently, Valéry Nodem, Associate for International Concerns with the [Presbyterian Hunger Program](#), traveled with Carrie Saathoff, co-chair of the [Guatemala Partnership of New Castle Presbytery](#) to the western highlands of Guatemala to witness the work of the [Association of Mam Christian Women for Development](#) in person.

New Castle Presbytery has worked in formal partnership with the association for more than a decade. Presbyterian Hunger Program has recently begun supporting the association as well.

From left are Carrie Saathoff, Kevin de León, Andrea Ramirez and Valéry Nodem (all photos contributed).

"I was excited to see the projects that I have heard so much about in the last two years," Nodem said. Helping to make their time in Guatemala successful was Andrea Ramirez, an interpreter, and Kevin de León, the driver.

On the first day, the group spent the morning with the board and staff of the association at its office discussing the mission of the organization, the various projects it's implemented and the communities it serves. "The passion and commitment of the team was very contagious," Nodem said.

Over a week, the visitors spoke with four groups in three different communities and had a chance to meet with the women, see their projects and hear their stories.

For the second consecutive year, Presbyterian Hunger Program is partnering with the association, created about 20 years ago with the mission to empower Mam women and support their efforts to build a future in which they have financial, material, spiritual and personal independence. Like in many parts of the world, rural women in Guatemala experience high levels of poverty, limited access to education and health care, high incidence of domestic violence and low employment rates.

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/2/10/women-united-can-never-be-defeated>



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRESBYTERIAN CLERGYWOMEN TO GATHER AT COLUMBIA SEMINARY APRIL 14-17

'Dangerous Times and Still We Rise' will explore themes of 'love, truth and other revolutionary solutions'



February 10, 2026 Elaine Connolly, National Association of Presbyterian Clergywomen
Presbyterian News Service

Churches face many challenges in the current political and economic climate, and congregations are often divided about what they are seeking in church and worship. Some congregants wish to leave the world behind when they enter the sanctuary. Others want help coping with the world. Still others want to feel affirmed in their political leanings. And many are seeking guidance on how to live faithfully in times of upheaval and stress.

It is a difficult maze to navigate, and pastors struggle to meet the very different needs of their congregants while remaining true to the Gospel.

The Rev. Shannon Kershner

The [National Associate of Presbyterian Clergywomen](#) is looking to help clergywomen address these issues together at its triennial conference,

"Dangerous Times and Still We Rise: Love, Truth and Other Revolutionary Solutions." The gathering will take place

at [Columbia Theological Seminary](#) in Decatur Georgia, April 14-17.

The Rev. CeCe Armstrong, NAPC co-moderator, said, "From the earliest biblical days to the present, in times of trial, faithful women arose — clothed with strength and dignity, walking in the light of truth and love. ... Revolutionary solutions flowed from their steadfast hearts as they proclaimed healing, offered prophetic words, and tended the wounded with compassion. They became bearers of hope in perilous days."

The Rev. Dr. Khalia J. Williams

The keynote speakers are the [Rev. Shannon Kershner](#), the senior pastor and head of staff at [Central Presbyterian Church](#) in Atlanta; the [Rev. Dr. Khalia J. Williams](#), Associate Dean of Worship and Formation at the [Candler School of Theology](#); and Armstrong, [Co-Moderator of the 226th General Assembly \(2024\)](#) and the associate pastor at [St. James Presbyterian Church](#) in Charleston, South Carolina. The [Rev. Anna George Traynham](#), senior pastor and head of staff at [Shallowford Presbyterian Church](#) in Atlanta, will lead participants in creative worship services each day.

Workshops will be offered around pertinent themes including "Ministering After Natural and Unnatural Disasters," and such topics as Christian nationalism, exploring the gifts of empathy and compassion through autobiography. Leaders include the [Rev. Dr. Gini Norris-Lane](#), who served a church in Uvalde, Texas during the Robb Elementary School Shooting, who moved to Kerrville, Texas, and ministered during the July 2025 floods; the [Rev. Aisha Brooks-Johnson](#), executive presbyter of the [Presbytery of Greater Atlanta](#); and the [Rev. Karen Fitz La Barge](#), pastor of [North Kent Presbyterian Church](#) in Rockford, Michigan.

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/2/10/national-association-clergywomen-gather-columbia-seminary-april-14-17>



'LIGHT FOR THE WAY'

Betsy Shirley, editor in chief of Sojourners, is a guest on 'A Matter of Faith: A Presby Podcast'

February 10, 2026 Mike Ferguson Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — Last month, [Betsy Shirley](#), the editor in chief of [Sojourners](#), told the hosts of "A Matter of Faith: A Presby Podcast" that resilience in difficult times such as the present can be strengthened by knowing what our forebears went through, and what



helped them to stand.

Betsy Shirley

Shirley joined the podcast, hosted each week by Simon Doong and the Rev. Lee Catoe, to also talk about the Sojourners compendium, "[Light for the Way: Seeking Simplicity, Connection and Repair in a Broken World](#)," published last month. Listen to her 53-minute discussion with the hosts [here](#).

When Shirley hears a reference to "resilience," she said she thinks about "the Christians who have come before us who have been through, maybe not the exact same issues we're facing today, but have lived through issues or timelines ... where people seem to have forgotten how to share, whether that's power or resources."

“We’re not the first people to experience that,” she said. “God has been faithful through those people and those situations, and that gives me a little more confidence to say, ‘This is not the world as we would prefer it to be, and yet God is present, as God has ever been in the past.’”

For months now, “our readers and our staff and I have had this feeling of anxiety,” Shirley said. “Are we doing enough to protect the people being harmed by this onslaught of policies? Are we showing up in the right ways? Change happens slowly, and the gospel has a lot to say about this,” especially [among Jesus’ teachings](#).

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/2/10/light-way>

PHILADELPHIA CONGREGATION LEADS WEEKLY VIGIL FOR IMMIGRANTS

The First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia members take part in their first act of public witness

February 11, 2026 Kristen Gaydos Presbyterian News Service

On Wednesday, Feb. 4, members and clergy from [The First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia](#) gathered in front of Philadelphia’s Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices to lead a vigil. The interfaith vigil, number 12 in a 40-week series organized by the Rev. Christopher Neilson and the [New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia](#), gathers members of the faith community across Philadelphia to engage in faithful public witness for dignity and justice for immigrant and refugee families.

The First Presbyterian Church, or “First Church” as it’s known locally, opened the vigil with remarks from Associate Pastor Rev. Laura Colee. Although clergy led the vigil, the decision to participate originated from the congregation’s Peace and Justice group. The session-recognized group was started organically by First Church members and has since become an approved mission of the congregation.



Presbyterians have a long history and current commitment to welcoming the stranger and loving all God’s children, along with the call to speak out when this is not happening. In this time of not treating immigrants with grace, we as Presbyterians need to speak up. We want to be a presence for our siblings who cannot or may be afraid to represent themselves. This is a way that Presbyterians from our region can put their faith into action. Author Dave Huting, Vice Moderator of the Presbytery of Philadelphia

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/2/11/philadelphia-congregation-leads-weekly-vigil-immigrants>

PC(USA) LEADERS ENGAGE CONGREGATIONS TO RE-IMAGINE HISPANIC, LATINO AND BRAZILIAN MINISTRY

Six regional encounters across the US, including Puerto Rico, mark the first phase of a denomination-wide re-imagining process

As Hispanic, Latino, and Brazilian Presbyterians gather this week in Puerto Rico for the last of six regional re-imagining encounters across the denomination over the past five months, organizers are clear about where the work begins.



Latin American liberation theology famously emphasizes “theology from below” — prioritizing the faith and lived experience of everyday people, particularly those on the margins, over top-down authority within the institutional church. For Hispanic, Latino and Brazilian leaders in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), re-imagining the church has likewise begun with listening to the wisdom of the people in its pews. From 2022 to 2023, more than 70 Hispanic, Latino and Brazilian Presbyterians engaged in a comprehensive discernment process that began with grassroots conversations about the needs, gifts, and available resources of their communities as they looked toward the future of ministry. This deep communal work led to [RSG-05](#), “A Resolution Addressing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and the Realities of Hispanic Latino-a-e Ministry,” which was overwhelmingly approved by the 226th General Assembly in June 2024.

Nearly 300 people have participated in a regional re-imagining gathering. The gatherings culminated with meetings in Puerto Rico in February 2026.

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/2/11/pcusa-leaders-engage-congregations-re-imagine-hispanic-latino-and-brazilian-ministry>

ART IN THE ARCHIVES: DUKE ELLINGTON'S SACRED CONCERTS

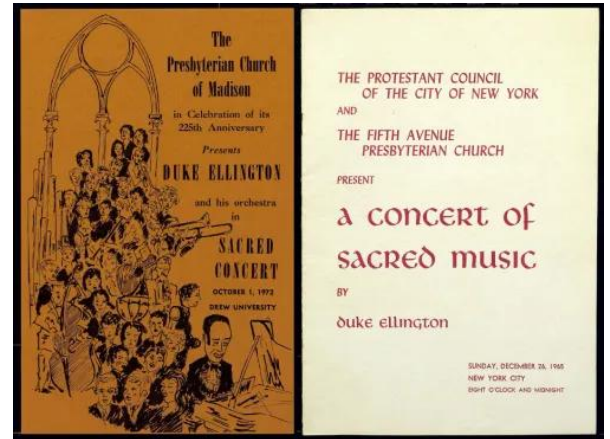
Some background on Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn and the music they made together

February 11, 2026 Olivia Cacchione, Presbyterian Historical Society Outreach Specialist Presbyterian News Service

In honor of Black History Month, Presbyterian Historical Society staff member Olivia Cacchione shares some background on Duke Ellington, his orchestra, and his series of "Sacred Concerts".

It was standing room only at [Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York](#) the night of December 26, 1965. Over the course of two performances, 3,600 people flooded into the sanctuary to hear a performance of Duke Ellington's Sacred Concert. The program did not lack for grandiosity. Duke Ellington and his band took the stage (or chancel, as it were) alongside three church choirs. The legendary [Lena Horne](#) made a surprise appearance. Tap dance hall-of-famer [Bunny Briggs](#) contributed his own beats. The group put on no less than 16 songs and medleys for what Ellington called "the performance of all performances — God willing."

Left: [Presbyterian Church of Madison, NJ, anniversary celebration concert program, 1972](#). Right: [Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, NY, Duke Ellington concert program, 1965](#).



The concert at Fifth Avenue was the second performance in what would become a whole series. When Ellington was first invited to put together a show at [Grace Cathedral, San Francisco](#) earlier in the year, he declared: "Now I can say openly what I have been saying to myself on my knees." For the next eight years, he and his group would travel far and wide "from Cambridge, Massachusetts to Cambridge, England," in the words of Ellington, performing variations of the Sacred Concert.

Born Edward Kennedy Ellington in 1899, the Duke developed a deep faith from a young age through his mother's influence. As a child, he attended both a Baptist and an A.M.E. Church every Sunday. His religious conviction brought him great joy and stability throughout his life. As an adult he was reported to have read the Bible in the bathtub nightly.

His love for music developed right alongside his faith and in 1923 he decided to try his luck in New York as a jazz pianist and bandleader. Luck was on his side. In 1927, the group that would become known as Duke Ellington and His Famous Orchestra headlined at the renowned [Cotton Club in Harlem](#). The reach of the Cotton Club, which included national radio broadcasts, put him on the map as an artist. But as a segregated venue where Black artists performed for white audiences, it could hardly live up to his standards as a self-described "race man," and throughout his career he used music to shift jazz away from the racial stereotypes of what was known as "jungle music." By the end of three years at the Cotton Club, he was the foremost big band leader in the nation — a role he would maintain throughout the 1930s, represented in iconic numbers like "[It Don't Mean a Thing \(if It Ain't Got that Swing\)](#)."

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/2/11/art-archives-duke-ellingtons-sacred-concerts>

THE GOOD IN BAD BUNNY'S HALFTIME PERFORMANCE

Solidarity Hour webinar unwraps some of the history and symbolism behind a memorable moment in Puerto Rican cultural history

February 11, 2026 Mike Ferguson Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — Tuesday's edition of the Solidarity Hour turned its attention mainly to [Bad Bunny's halftime performance during Sunday's Super Bowl LX](#).

Eileen Schuhmann

Those tuned in to the webinar, offered by the [Global Solidarity Collective](#), an initiative of the [Presbyterian Hunger Program](#), shared their insights and answered questions posed by Eileen Schuhmann, PHP's Associate for Global Engagement and Resources.

In recent installments, Solidarity Hour has explored the Doctrine of Discovery — not so much to focus on its history, but as a way of understanding the present. "This gathering reminds us colonization is not just an event, but a worldview," Schuhmann said.



The Doctrine of Discovery, which dates back to the 15th century, set patterns of oppression that have continued to the present. In 2005, it was a factor cited in a U.S. Supreme Court opinion in [City of Sherrill v. Oneida Indian Nation of New York](#), written by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The 224th General Assembly (2020) [directed church agencies](#) to “turn away and walk in the other direction” of the Doctrine of Discovery during the decade that ends in 2030.

The imagery that framed Bad Bunny’s halftime performance were heavily symbolic, Schuhmann noted: the sugar cane fields, the light blue Puerto Rican flag, the downed powerlines, people playing dominos, street parties, a real-life wedding, and Bad Bunny proclaiming that all the Americas are blessed by God and claiming that the only thing more powerful than hate is love.

Bad Bunny (photo via Dreamstime.com)



Schuhmann asked: How does Bad Bunny’s use of symbols reflect the long-term effects of colonialism and economic exploitation?

“We watched it as a family,” one participant said. Not understanding the significance of the power lines [a reference to severe infrastructure challenges following Hurricane Maria in September 2017], the family researched the history. “That was and continues to be humbling to me,” this participant said. “How much do we forget because of our own privilege?”

In the post-Super Bowl interviews Schuhmann watched, “Puerto Rican panelists got it immediately because it’s a lived experience,” she said. “These were symbols of colonization, and the failure to deliver infrastructure.”

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/2/11/good-bad-bunnys-halftime-performance>

HISTORY OF DISCRIMINATORY HOUSING PRACTICES EXPLORED IN FEBRUARY FILM STUDY

Second session features author of ‘The Color of Law’

February 11, 2026 Darla Carter Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — The latest segment of the [“Evicting the American Dream”](#) churchwide film study brought home a stark reminder that the U.S. government was actively involved in the segregation of housing in the mid-20th century and the limiting of opportunities for people of color who are still experiencing repercussions today.



Richard Rothstein, author of “The Color of Law” (Courtesy of the Economic Policy Institute)

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) segment featured a pre-recorded presentation by Richard Rothstein, the author of [“The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America.”](#) He provided historical information on detrimental housing policies and practices in the United States that shaped the development of America’s suburbs, and he urged listeners to organize to fight discrimination that remains today.

“It’s one thing to learn about these crises, both their history and their current implications; it’s quite another thing to do something about it,” Rothstein said. “And you, Presbyterian church members, activists in your churches, around the country, are in a very, very good position to do something about it.”

Spurring discussion and action are among the aims of the film study inspired by “Evicting the American Dream,” a documentary by [PC\(USA\)’s Counter Stories Productions](#). The film was released last year as a resource for communities and faith-based groups that want to create positive change to help people who are falling into homelessness or other problematic living situations because of evictions and unjust policies.

The study, continuing each Monday in February, consists of watching an excerpt from the film prior to each session, then hearing from experts during the study’s evening sessions and

engaging in small-group discussions.

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/2/11/history-discriminatory-housing-practices-explored-february-film-study>

WORKING FOR THE COMMON GOOD

The Rev. Dr. Jermaine McKinley, co-chair of Pittsburgh Presbytery's SDOP Ministry Team, has a good word for Wednesday Chapel

February 12, 2026 Mike Ferguson Presbyterian News Service
LOUISVILLE — The Rev. Dr. Jermaine McKinley, the co-chair of the [Self-Development of People Ministry Team for Pittsburgh Presbytery](#), spoke to PC(USA) staff Wednesday as part of the weekly online Chapel Service about [SDOP Sunday](#), which was celebrated Feb. 8. Learn more about SDOP's "People Investing in People" toolkit [here](#). The "Working for the Common Good" meditation by McKinley is included in the resource.

The Rev. Dr. Jermaine McKinley

McKinley based her Wednesday meditation on [1 Cor. 1:10](#) and [1 Peter 4:10](#). She told those worshipping online, "One should never give a preacher the opportunity to speak" because "they're going to engage in what is referred to as 'the foolishness of preaching,'" which McKinley called "the interconnectedness of humanity."

"God intends for all of us to work for the common good," McKinley said. People "thrive best when we all maintain an environment of respect and love."

The gifts we're given by God enable us to contribute to the common good, McKinley said. "When I look at the world, I believe our beloved world would work a whole lot better if we acknowledged that all we have or ever hope to have is good and that God gave it to us. We should be generously sharing it."

As one committed to working to empower others, "I firmly believe in looking at what we have and working on what we can do to make [things] better," McKinley said. Asked a few years ago to serve on Pittsburgh Presbytery's SDOP team, "I thought, 'That's what God is calling us to do! God calls us to use our skills, grace and talent.'"

McKinley acknowledged her own gifts as a baker and a cook, but not so much as someone who grows the ingredients that bakers and chefs need to work their magic. God gives us gifts "to share equitably," McKinley said. "We each have a need, and we would be better off if we understood we are not to selfishly hoard" our gifts. "We all ought to be doing something to contributed to the common good."

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/2/12/working-common-good>



BLACK MINISTERS COME TOGETHER FOR DESIGNATED CREDO

Week-long event held at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center included visits to legendary civil rights sites

February 12, 2026 Board of Pensions Presbyterian News Service

A Designated CREDO offered by the Board of Pensions in November included visits to significant civil rights sites (photo courtesy of Byron Wade).

PHILADELPHIA — Affirmation was on the menu when participants from a CREDO gathering of Black ministers broke bread in November 2025 with folks at a small African American church in Little Rock, Arkansas. Seated all around were Black Presbyterians from across the country, validating African American membership in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). "That was important for people in my congregation," said the Rev. Marion Humphrey Sr., pastor of [Allison Memorial Presbyterian Church](#) in Little Rock and a CREDO participant.

In a denomination that's nearly 90% white, "it's almost like ... 'oh, there's another brown face,'" said the Rev. Carla Jones Brown, Conference Administrator for this CREDO conference and pastor of [Oxford Presbyterian Church](#) in Philadelphia. Jones Brown, who wasn't born into the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), said even she was surprised to learn there are Black cradle Presbyterians.

This CREDO conference, held Nov. 4-10, 2025, at [Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center](#) in Little Rock, responded to the unique experience of being a Black minister in the PC(USA). It included visits to [Little Rock Central High School](#) and the [Daisy Bates House](#), sites on the [U.S. Civil Rights Trail](#).



Generally, [CREDO conferences](#) connect to a particular phase of ministry — recently ordained, mid-career, and late career. This Designated CREDO, a version of the popular weeklong conference, was designed around the unique vocational characteristics of what it means to be a Black minister in the PC(USA).

Attending CREDO with others who face similar opportunities and challenges can enhance the experience of the conference, which provides an intimate space for participants to examine, in small groups, their lives and ministries, said the Rev. Dr. Michael Wilson, Director, Education for the Arc of Ministry, at [The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#). “Our denomination is rich in diversity of people and ministries,” Wilson said. “Designated CREDOs acknowledge that our lived realities can vary greatly.”

At each CREDO, experienced faculty guide participants in a visioning and discernment process through key areas of well-being: spiritual, vocational, physical and emotional health, and financial. At this CREDO conference, the entire faculty was African American and the programming was designed for Black ministers, unlike the first African American CREDO, in May 2019.

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/2/12/black-ministers-come-together-designated-credo>

THE REV. DR. GENE TURNER IS INTERVIEWED AT 40 YEARS’ DISTANCE

A discussion includes his views of the denomination’s successes and failures during the social upheavals of the 1960s and 1970s

February 12, 2026 David Staniunas, Presbyterian Historical Society Presbyterian News Service

“My father started a business cutting pine trees for paper. He did well with that until racism destroyed it. The banks told him overnight you can't get any more money.”

In 1981, Gene Turner, self-described Presbyterian bureaucrat, former executive of the Synod of the Golden Gate and the Synod of the Northeast, was [interviewed by Charles Quirk](#), part of a series on the UPCUSA and racism. In 2025, [David Staniunas interviewed Turner](#) at his home outside Syracuse, New York. The passage of 40 years in places sharpened and elsewhere completely changed Turner’s responses.



Turner was born in Macon, Georgia in 1934, and was educated at Knoxville College and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. His earliest pastoral work was in [Friendship Community Presbyterian Church](#) in Pittsburgh, an intentionally interracial church in the shadow of the University of Pittsburgh, in a portion of the Hill District recently cleared by urban renewal and rechristened Terrace Village. Turner’s work, alongside future moderator of the UPCUSA [Ganse Little](#), was to develop the church’s youth fellowships.

Gene Turner scrapbook page, 1982, including Synod of the Northeast banner, a portrait of Turner, and Turner with Board of Visitors Syracuse University.

From 1963 to 1968 he was regional coordinator for Philadelphia as part of the UPCUSA Department of the Urban Church. Deployed to the presbytery offices for the first time, as he described it in 1981, “I had no desk, no telephone, no secretary.” His role was to serve as an advocate for the residents of Philadelphia’s [Mill Creek Homes](#), helping to connect residents of Louis Kahn’s public housing “acropolis” with social services, and to shepherd them into the nearby Reeve Memorial Presbyterian Church. He described the dynamic: “The people I was serving had a negative view of Reeve Memorial Church. It was a middle-class church. Reeve was not going to receive those people. Racism created a classism, and Black people, I think sometimes, unconsciously bought into that social system.”

Turner served as executive in the UPCUSA Synod of the Golden Gate in 1970 and 1971 as the Synod, responding to a request from [St. Andrew Presbyterian Church](#) in Marin City, sought support from the national agency offices for the legal defense of Black Power activist [Angela Davis](#).

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/2/12/rev-dr-gene-turner-interviewed-40-years-distance>

1001 APPRENTICESHIP OPENS DOORS FOR NEW WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY LEADERS

Part-time program pairs emerging church planters with coaches, cohorts and community

February 12, 2026 Beth Waltemath Presbyterian News Service

The 1001 New Worshiping Communities movement is inviting leaders to apply for this year's Apprenticeship Program, a nine-month, part-time initiative designed to equip and sustain those called to start new expressions of faith outside the walls of traditional congregations. *The 2025-2026 cohort of the 1001 New Worshiping Communities apprentices gather for a leadership retreat in December. (contributed photo)*



[Applications](#) for the 2026-27 cohort are now being accepted on a rolling basis, with a priority deadline of April 1.

The program, administered through the office of [1001 New Worshiping Communities](#) within the Interim Unified Agency, is built around three core pillars: one-on-one coaching, a weekly cohort, and hands-on guidance for launching or growing a new worshiping community. The goal is not simply to train church planters in isolation but to surround them with ongoing relationships and accountability throughout the journey.

"The trainings, resources, connections, and, most importantly, the community, were very empowering," said the Rev. Rola Al Ashkar, who leads [Iama Embodied Ministries](#), a conscious community rooted in embodied spirituality, trauma-informed practices, and integrative theology in [North Central California Presbytery](#) "It was a weekly reminder that I don't have to do it alone, and I miss it every day."

Each apprentice is matched with a coach drawn from one of the largest and most diverse networks of trained coaches. Coaches meet regularly with participants to help them navigate roadblocks and identify the next steps tailored to their specific ministry context.

Every Thursday for nine months, cohort members gather via Zoom, rotating through spiritual direction, conversations with established new worshiping community leaders and dialogical training. For many participants, that weekly rhythm becomes a lifeline.

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/2/12/1001-apprenticeship-opens-doors-new-worshiping-community-leaders>

UNIFICATION COMMISSION TAKES A BIG STRIDE TOWARD THIS SUMMER'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Ten days before its 120-day deadline, the UC approves 10 recommendations for consideration during GA227

February 13, 2026 Mike Ferguson Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — Ahead of its 120-day deadline, the [Unification Commission](#) on Thursday voted on a slew of recommendations to the [227th General Assembly](#), which meets online and in person in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 22-July 2.



Last fall, the Rev. Jihyun Oh spoke about the upcoming 227th General Assembly and the work of the Unification Commission during the Mid Council Leaders Gathering (photo by Rich Copley).

Among the items the UC will recommend to the General Assembly:

One recommendation is on the sizes of certain bodies. If approved by GA commissioners this summer, the [Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment](#) will have 13 members in two classes. The [Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People](#) will have 10-12 members in three classes. These bodies will have 7-9 members in two classes: [Administrative Commission on Mid Councils](#), [Educator Certification Committee](#), [Presbyterian Historical Society Advisory Council](#), [Presbyterian Hunger Program Advisory Committee](#), [Mission Development Resources Committee](#), and the [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Advisory Committee](#).

UC members approved the remainder of the rewritten the Organization for Mission, the manual of administrative operations for the General Assembly. [Last month, commissioners approved most of the rewritten material](#), then came back Thursday to approve the remainder. They also approved a requirement that any amendments "needed to fully effectuate" the Organization for Mission in other documents, including deliverances, articles of incorporation, bylaws and manuals, must be made within 180 days of the conclusion of this year's Assembly and that the language used in such documents be approved by the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly/Executive Director of the Unified Agency.

Commissioners approved the report of the UC to the General Assembly.

They approved changes to the deliverance for the [Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program](#) and approved PILP's report to the General Assembly.

They approved recommending five people to be associate stated clerks: the Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, Kerry Rice, Dr. Corey Schlosser-Hall, the Rev. Mienda Uriarte and Dr. Dianna Wright. All are members of the Unified Agency's senior management team.

They approved UC comments on two overtures set to come before the commissioners to the 227th General Assembly: [OVT-04](#), On Prohibiting Non-Disclosure in Employee Relations, and [OVT-05](#), Call to Review the Restructuring of the PC(USA) World Mission. In its comment on that second overture, the UC notes that “the call to partner in God’s mission remains. What is shifting is how the church shows up to engage in mission work with deeper listening, broader collaborations, and a renewed emphasis on justice and local context. This is a living process. It is likely that further improvements may present themselves which will help refine [this new model of global engagement](#). The work for Global Ecumenical Partnerships is clear: bring the right people together, tend the relationships, and let local discernment set the next faithful step.”

The UC also approved a motion to forward to the 227th General Assembly the responses to referrals from previous assemblies. It also recommended forwarding to the Assembly the list of schools and colleges related to the PC(USA) for approval as well as the institutional relationship agreement between [Presbyterian Women](#) and the PC(USA).

“Today marks a significant milestone in the Unification Commission’s work. At this meeting, the UC voted to recommend both the new Organization for Mission and the Report of the Unification Commission to the 227th General Assembly for approval,” said the Rev. Dr. Felipe Martínez, the Unification Commission’s co-moderator. “These documents came together through the Spirit’s guidance and reflect nearly four years of faithful discernment and collaboration by the dedicated members of the UC and staff.”

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/2/13/unification-commission-takes-big-stride-toward-summers-general-assembly>

DR. VIVIAN AYERS ALLEN AND THE BRAINERD INSTITUTE

The story of a Pulitzer Prize-nominated poet and her alma mater

February 13, 2026 McKenna Britton, Presbyterian Historical Society Presbyterian News Service

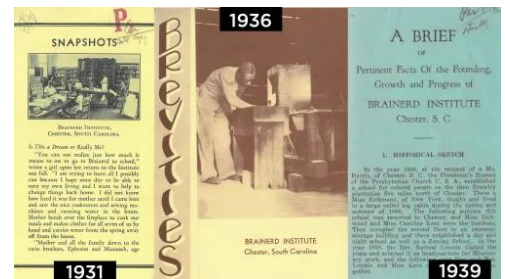
Dr. Vivian Ayers Allen grew up in Chester, South Carolina, where she was born in late July 1923. She would go on to become a Pulitzer Prize-nominated poet, playwright, cultural activist, museum founder, classicist, mother and more. She [passed in the summer of last year](#), on August 18, 2025. In 1939, she was a member of the final graduating class of the Brainerd Institute; upon her death, she was laid to rest on the grounds of the school. Today we remember her life and legacy and share a few glances into the past of the historic school that she, her parents before her, and their parents before them attended.

Pamphlets published by the Board of National Missions regarding the Brainerd Institute in Chester, South Carolina. From RG 301.8.

The Brainerd Institute can trace its roots back to the fall of 1866, when a “Miss Richmond of New York” moved her small class of students from their one-room building to the second floor of a large storage building in Chester, South Carolina.

Two years later, the Rev. Samuel Loomis arrived on the scene, declaring the school as headquarters for the missionary work conducted by the Freedmen’s Bureau.

1869 saw the purchase of an old mansion and 20 acres of land “to meet the need for more space.” That same year, the school was named in honor of [David Brainerd](#), who had served as a missionary to the Native American tribes living along the Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers.



Kumler Hall, the new dormitory building at Brainerd. Picture published in The Home Mission Monthly, April 1917.

When the Rev. and Mrs. Loomis resigned from their positions at the school, they were succeeded by the Rev. and Mrs. John Marquis of Pennsylvania, who served the longest tenure at the school — from 1893 until 1928. During their time at Brainerd, the couple oversaw the addition of new buildings to the campus, including Kumler Hall in 1916. One hundred years later, Kumler Hall is the only remaining building on the Brainerd Institute campus.

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/2/13/dr-vivian-ayers-allen-and-brainerd-institute>

INSPIRING LENTEN RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR ADVOCACY, PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Various ministries and partners are offering materials to enlighten you during this holy season

February 13, 2026 Darla Carter Presbyterian News Service
LOUISVILLE — Presbyterians who are motivated to push back against Christian nationalism and other forms of prejudice have the opportunity to pick up a new Lenten devotional from Unbound, a publishing platform that speaks to the intersections of faith and justice.

[“The Tomb is Empty but the Streets are Full: An Activist Lenten Devotional”](#) is one of multiple resources being offered by ministries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) or their partners for the season of Lent. Featuring activists such as the Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis of the [Kairos Center for Religions, Rights & Social Justice](#) and the Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, who is PC(USA)'s advocacy director, Unbound's devotional provides practical ways to stand in solidarity with marginalized people and groups being targeted in today's society.

“As we are seeing the hate and violence toward our immigrant siblings, the murders of citizens by ICE, and the complete and utter destruction of dignity in this country by this (U.S.) administration — all in the name of God — there was no choice but to put a devotional out like this,” said the Rev. Lee Catoe, editor of Unbound.

Reminding readers to “love the immigrant, feed the hungry, heal the sick, and meet the actual needs of the least of these ... this devotional not only centers scripture and theology, but it gives us all practical next steps to create change in our own ways and in our own communities,” Catoe said.

Hawkins added: “It is our advocacy that puts our faith into action. We begin with prayer and move to acts of engagement with those most impacted by discriminatory policy. Easter reminds (us) that our savior was one who cared for those subjected to injustice as he still challenges us to act in the name of ‘[justice, mercy and faithfulness](#).’”

The Around the Table initiative has released a new devotional for Lent.

Here's more on various free Lenten resources:

- [Beatitudes At Home Lent Family Devotional](#): Featuring a simple Mark, Remember, Listen, Reflect, Act, Pray, Bless format, this devotional from the [Around the Table](#) initiative of the PC(USA) focuses on the Beatitudes from Matthew 5. Though perfect for Lent, it can be used anytime and is available in Spanish, too. The nine devotional cards stand alone, and there are intro and conclusion cards. Download as a side-by-side layout or print as two-sided cards for families and individuals of all ages.
- [Congregational study guide for Kairos Palestine II](#): Three Christian organizations released this guide for the confessional document “A Moment of Truth: Faith in a Time of Genocide,” a Kairos Palestine II statement from Palestinian Christian leaders. Developed by The [Palestine Justice Network](#) (PJM) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), [United Methodists for Kairos Response](#) (UMKR) and [Friends of Sabeel North America](#) (FOSNA), the study guide can be used during Lent and throughout the year. It invites congregations into a dialogue with the Kairos Palestine II document, which has been described as a living confession born from the heart of Palestinian Christian suffering.
- [Earth Care Lenten Devotional 2026](#) was made possible by volunteers who contributed their time to the project, and the input of Spanish language collaboration with PEC partner [Red Presbiteriana para el Cuidado de la Creación](#). You can download the devotional in full or [sign up](#) to receive each devotion on its designated date.

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/2/13/inspiring-lenten-resources-available-advocacy-prayer-and-reflection>

LIVING SANCTUARIES

Youth from Tres Ríos, Mission and Palo Duro presbyteries gather once again for a time-honored event

February 13, 2026 Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri Presbyterian News Service

At the very beginning of the year — Jan. 1-3 — about 40 young people, mostly middle schoolers from the presbyteries of [Tres Ríos](#), [Mission](#), and [Palo Duro](#), gathered at Circle Six Camp in Leonora, Texas. The leadership of the Presbytery of Tres Ríos invited me to serve as the event's keynote speaker and preacher, and I happily said yes.

We called the event Living Sanctuaries, and together we explored [Romans 12](#) through games, songs, energizers, small groups and art. We wondered together what it means to present ourselves before God as living sacrifices, to be God's hands and feet in the world, and what it means to be living sanctuaries for others and for ourselves.





Ruling Elder Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri speaks last month during the Tres Ríos Youth Connection (contributed photo).

I often remind myself that I learn more from young people than they learn from me — and this weekend certainly proved that to be true.

That Saturday, [the U.S. military enacted an attack on Venezuela](#). Our young people were made aware of what was happening, and they understood that because I live in Puerto Rico, in the Caribbean, I might not be able to get home. The island's airspace was closed. No one could enter or leave that weekend except the military.

After worship, two young people came up to me to share their concern about my ability to return home, given what was unfolding in the region. They offered their prayers and words of care, and each handed me a drawing they had created during the Visio Divina sermon we had engaged in earlier that morning.

I was moved — not only by their words and prayers, but by what that gesture revealed. At 12, 13, 15 and 16 years old, they understood that global is local, and local is global.

Our young people take their cues from us. It matters how we teach them that we are all in this together — that the way we do church and the way we are church is deeply connected to how we relate to and care for one another. That same

Saturday afternoon, they spent time assembling [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#)

[hygiene kits](#). They didn't know where those kits would go, but they knew they were going somewhere — to someone — where they would make a difference.

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/2/13/living-sanctuaries>

NEWS FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF MISSOURI RIVER VALLEY

UPCOMING PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

May 7 – 5:30 in person – Location to be determined

August 15 at Calvin Crest

November 7 - 10am-12noon in person - Location to be determined

Please check the Events Calendar on the PMRV website for specific committee meetings and their location.



Come Celebrate with us:

On Sunday, February 22, Murray Presbyterian Church will honor the 25-year ministry and retirement of Reverend William McConnell, Ph.D. Pastor Bill has served at Murray Presbyterian since 2016. He and his wife Stacey will be relocating to Pittsburgh, PA.

A light luncheon—featuring a “taste of Pennsylvania”—will take place following the 10am worship service. Everyone in the Presbytery is welcomed to this celebration as we give thanks for Bill and Stacey's ministry and friendship. The church is located on Highway 1 in the center of the town of Murray.



Presbyterian Church of the Cross

This is the 37th season of free concerts

Vesper Concerts provides the greater Omaha community with unique, memorable and accessible music experiences that engage, educate, and inspire both patrons and performers. We are excited to announce our 2025-26 Season! From jazz to folk and everything in between, there is something for everyone in our 37th year of free concerts.

All performances take place at the Presbyterian Church of the Cross. Call 402.333.7466 or check out their website: www.churchofthecrossomaha.org



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Organist / Pianist

First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue – Bellevue NE

First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue seeks an organist / pianist to provide music and accompaniments for Sunday morning worship services, weddings, funerals and other special events. This is a part-time paid position that includes additional hours for rehearsals, music planning and coordination.

We're looking for someone who is:

- Proficient on the organ, piano and keyboard
- Familiar with selecting and preparing music for Christian worship
- A person who enjoys collaborating with musicians and vocalists
- An individual whose talents can add value to our music ministry
- A dependable self-starter with good communications skills

Responsibilities include:

- Selecting and performing organ and piano music at Sunday morning worship services, weddings, funerals and other special events
- Attending rehearsals with choirs, soloists and musicians one evening a week
- Coordinating instrument maintenance with the Director of Music Ministry

We offer:

- Competitive pay
- Flexible arrangements for vacations and time off
- A music-loving church community

To apply or inquire, please send resume to:

admin@bellevuefpc.org or call (402) 291-1104 for more information

Dear friends of our Presbytery: NICARAGUA PARTNERSHIP

Our partners in Nicaragua have completed and distributed the school uniforms, backpacks, and supplies that the people of our Presbytery have so generously funded! Pictured are the children who received packets this year and the members of the Cooperative who made them.



We are committed to providing support for packets again in 2027, so your contributions will continue to help school children in the city of La Concepción, Nicaragua. Also: we are planning to send a group from Missouri River Valley to be present next January when the uniforms and supplies are distributed!

For more information about our partnership with churches and pastors in Nicaragua, contact Bob Keefer (keefe.robort@gmail.com) or Josh Widman (josh.widman@gmail.com).

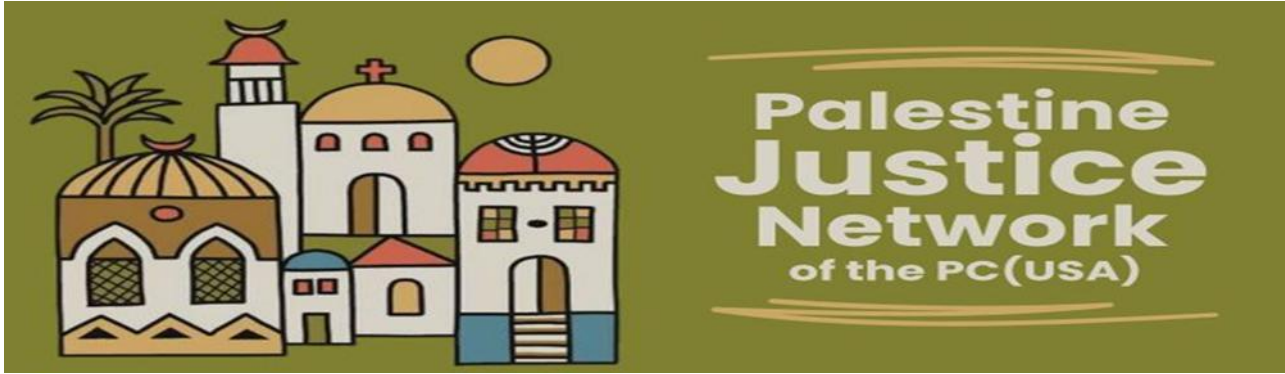


THEOLOGY ON TAP

What's better than talking theology? Talking theology over lunch with the chance for good beer! You are invited to Theology on Tap on Thursday, February 19th, 2026. **THEOLOGY ON TAP MEETS ON THE THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH**, at 11:30 – 1:00 at the Brazen Head Irish Pub (319 N. 78th Street). Join us at our reserved table to have a great lunch and talk theology with colleagues. What theological issue is at the top of your mind just now? Share your thoughts and hear the thoughts of others...just as John Calvin intended! For more information, please contact Bob Keefer @ keefe.robort@gmail.com Sponsored by the Presbytery's Worship and Spirituality Committee.

THE LUNCH BUNCH... Tuesday, February 17th at 11:30am at the Arboretum Village, 8141 Farnum Drive, Omaha. This is open to all active and retired pastors, their spouses and surviving spouses. The Arboretum provides a nice menu to choose from. Please plan to pay with a credit or debit card as they are unable to take cash. If you wish to attend, please make a reservation with Cindy Harvey at 308-224-0476 or crharv@aol.com by Thursday, February 12th. It's always a lively time and we hope you will come and join us.





First Mondays

The Palestine Justice Network of the PC(USA) invites you to First Mondays: Christlike conversations on Palestine and Israel; scripture and theology; and the mission of Jesus in the lands of the Bible today!

First Mondays

The next Gathering: March 2, 2026 - West Hills
6:30-8:30pm

Questions: pjn.pmr@gmail.com or 210-478-7672

Nebraska Presbyterians Foundation

Apply for a Grant

If your church is located in Nebraska and your congregation has an outreach or mission project which demonstrates putting your faith into action or reaching out to your neighbors in need, consider applying for a grant to help fund your idea! The grant application process starts twice each year, and you may apply either June 1 or December 1. For more information on the grant process, please visit their [website](#) or contact Audrey Richert or 402-420-9877.

Emergency Assistance Funds

The Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation offers financial assistance for PCUSA pastors or a surviving spouse who is experiencing an urgent financial crisis. Applicants must be an active or retired installed or commissioned pastor who has, or is currently serving, a Nebraska congregation and currently residing in Nebraska. For more information on the Kessler Fund, please visit their [website](#) or contact Audrey Richert at 402-420-9877.

[Email Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation](#)



Sit & Sip: Women Connecting Over Coffee

A Gathering of Friends



SLAP PW Sit & Sip

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

Our Sit & Sip events will be held via Zoom from 11 a.m. to noon Central Time. So, grab your favorite beverage, get comfortable, and join the conversation!

Our next meeting on February 21st and we continue to discuss: "Minneapolis tragedy; Immigration Policy & Peaceful Protest"

To register, please contact Kathleen Keefer at [kathleenkeefer20@gmail.com] for the Zoom link.

FINDING RESILIENCE, JOY AND OUR IDENTITY IN JESUS CHRIST

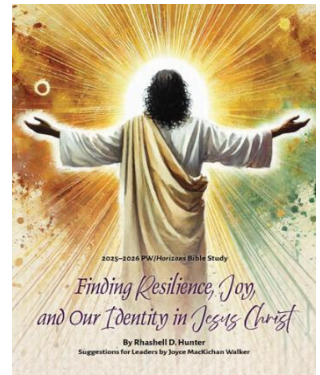
We will meet on the following dates: February 23; March 30; April 27; May 18 at 6:30 pm CT

You must register to receive the Zoom link by sending an email to

kathleenkeefer20@gmail.com

You can purchase the Bible study (cost is \$14.00) through Presbyterian Women -

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/current-bible-study/>



OPSF RETREATS IN 2026

WELLSPRING OF WELL-BEING

TAPPING INTO OUR CREATIVE POWER TO RECLAIM WHOLENESS

DATES: APRIL 26-29

LOCATION: CEDAR VALLEY, WEST BEND, WISCONSIN

LEADER: JOE DAVIS

LEARN MORE: <https://omahapresbyterianseminaryfoundation.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=df47e0b165a2313aae68d581e&id=c8c94be9ec&e=8162e3efab>

REGISTER: <https://omahapresbyterianseminaryfoundation.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=df47e0b165a2313aae68d581e&id=071c8ffd6a&e=8162e3efab>



LIVING VESSELS

MUSIC & LITURGY AS STORYTELLING

DATES: NOVEMBER 9-12

LOCATION: HEARTLAND RETREAT, PARKVILLE, KANSAS

LEADER: KARL HEIMBUCK

LEARN MORE: <https://omahapresbyterianseminaryfoundation.us10.list-anage.com/track/click?u=df47e0b165a2313aae68d581e&id=4d68442436&e=8162e3efab>
REGISTER: <https://omahapresbyterianseminaryfoundation.us10.list-anage.com/track/click?u=df47e0b165a2313aae68d581e&id=039996c90e&e=8162e3efab>



Climate-informed Ministry Cohorts: A Continuing Education Opportunity for Clergy

Ready to inspire your congregation to care for creation and act on climate change...but feel you need to learn a lot more yourself first? Iowa Interfaith Power & Light's new Climate-informed Ministry Cohorts are here to guide you. Our new 1-year program helps clergy and their congregations to become leaders in environmental stewardship. Through mentorship, training, and connections with other faith leaders, Iowa clergy will gain tools to bring climate-conscious practices and resilience to their faith community and its ministries.

Join this network of faith leaders working together to instill hope, take action, and grow sustainable, empowered communities. Learn more and apply at <https://iowaipl.org/cohorts>.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE MASTER

SAVE THE DATE TO SAVE CREATION!!

HOW HILLSIDE SOLUTIONS
**TO RECYCLE
& COMPOST**

**CREATION CARE
WORKSHOP**

We are called to be good stewards of the Earth. Come learn how simple actions like recycling and composting can help protect God's creation. Join us in the Fellowship Hall at noon.

Fellowship Hall
4-19-26 | 12:00 - 1:30 PM

enjoy light refreshments & presentation

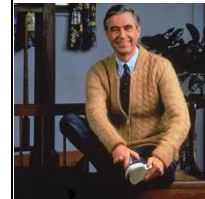


**PCM is an Earth Care Congregation.
This workshop is open to all so invite a friend or two!**

PRESBYTERY EVENT CALENDAR

February 15, 2026 – March 21, 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thurs	Friday	Saturday
15 Transfiguration of the Lord	16 Presidents' Day	17 Lunch Bunch	18 ASH WEDNESDAY Weekly Pastor Gathering via Zoom Stewardship of Resources	19 Thursdays in Black Worship & Spirituality Theology on Tap	20	21
22 First Sunday of Lent PDA Blue T-Shirt Sunday	23	24 FELD COM Mission & Evangelism	25 Weekly Pastor Gathering via Zoom	26 Thursdays in Black	27	28
1 2 nd Sunday of Lent	2 First Monday	3 Social Justice & Peacemaking	4 Weekly Pastor Gathering via Zoom	5 Thursdays in Black	6 World Day of Prayer	7
8 3 rd Sunday of Lent Celebrate the Gifts of Women International Women's Day Daylight Savings time begins	9	10	11 Weekly Pastor Gathering via Zoom	12 Thursdays in Black PMRV Christian Ed Meeting	13	14
15 4 th Sunday of Lent	16	17 Lunch Bunch Leadership Team	18 Weekly Pastor Gathering via Zoom Stewardship of Resources	19 Thursdays in Black Worship & Spirituality Theology on Tap FELD	20 Mr. Rogers' Day	21



Please check with the Presbytery Office for specific meeting information

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.



Presbytery Prayer Calendar

February 16, 2026 – April 3, 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15	16 We pray for the work and ministry of J. Keith Cook, Honorably Retired We pray for the work and ministry of the Northumberland Presbytery	17 We pray for the work and ministry of Doug Darnold, Honorably Retired We pray for the work and ministry of the Philadelphia Presbytery	18 We pray for the work and ministry William Denny, Honorably Retired We pray for the work and ministry of the Pittsburgh Presbytery	19 We pray for the work and ministry of Neal Earley, Honorably Retired We pray for the work and ministry of the Redstone Presbytery	20 We pray for the work and ministry of Gary Eller, Honorably Retired We pray for the work and ministry of the Shenango Presbytery	21
22	23 We pray for the work and ministry of Jody Filipi, Honorably Retired We pray for the work and ministry of the Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery	24 We pray for the work and ministry of Roy Fox, Honorably Retired We pray for the work and ministry of the West Virginia Presbytery	25 We pray for the work and ministry of Dan Graham, Honorably Retired We pray for the work and ministry of the Washington Presbytery	26 We pray for the work and ministry of Mary Hansen, Honorably Retired We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)	27 We pray for the work and ministry of Michael Harvey, Honorably Retired We pray for the work and ministry of the Synod of Alaska-Northwest	28
1	2 We pray for the work and ministry of Brad Hartzler, Member-at-Large We pray for the work and ministry of the Inland Northwest Presbytery	3 We pray for the work and ministry of Rob Hubler, Honorably Retired We pray for the work and ministry of the Northwest Coast Presbytery	4 We pray for the work and ministry of Portia Iverson, Honorably Retired We pray for the work and ministry of the Olympia Presbytery	5 We pray for the work and ministry of Robert Keefer, Honorably Retired We pray for the work and ministry of the Seattle Presbytery	6 We pray for the work and ministry of Lowell Knauss, Honorably Retired We pray for the work and ministry of the Yukon Presbytery	7
8	9 We pray for the work and ministry of David Krueger, Retired We pray for the work and ministry of the Sinodo Presbiteriano Boriquen	10 We pray for the work and ministry of Chet Mason, Honorably Retired We pray for the work and ministry of the Noroeste Presbytery	11 We pray for the work and ministry of Lyle Meester, Honorably Retired We pray for the work and ministry of the San Juan Presbytery	12 We pray for the work and ministry of Richard Meyer, Honorably Retired We pray for the work and ministry of the Suroeste Presbytery	13 We pray for the work and ministry of Stephen Niles, Honorably Retired We pray for the work and ministry of the Synod of the Covenant	14
15	16 We pray for the work and ministry of Sunjin Park, Korean We pray for the work and ministry of the Cincinnati Presbytery	17 We pray for the work and ministry of Caryn Pedersen, Red Oak We pray for the work and ministry of the Detroit Presbytery	18 We pray for the work and ministry of Stephen Pike, Member-at-Large We pray for the work and ministry of the Eastminster Presbytery	19 We pray for the work and ministry of Laura Rasmussen We pray for the work and ministry of the Lake Huron Presbytery	20 We pray for the work and ministry of Lori Robingson, Member-at-Large We pray for the work and ministry of the Lake Michigan Presbytery	21
22	23 We pray for the work and ministry of Robert Rose, Chaplain We pray for the work and ministry of the Lake Michigan Presbytery	24 We pray for the work and ministry of Nancy Ross-Hullinger, Bethany We pray for the work and ministry of the Mackinac Presbytery	25 We pray for the work and ministry of Kirk Ryckman, Honorably Retired We pray for the work and ministry of the Miami Valley Presbytery	26 We pray for the work and ministry of Richard Sleyster, Honorably Retired We pray for the work and ministry of the Muskingum Valley Presbytery	27 We pray for the work and ministry of Martha Slocombe We pray for the work and ministry of the Scioto Valley Presbytery	28
29	30 We pray for the work and ministry of Dean Sparr, Honorable Retired We pray for the work and ministry of the Western Reserve Presbytery	31 We pray for the work and ministry of Ed Steinmetz, Honorable Retired We pray for the work and ministry of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies	1 We pray for the work and ministry of William Switzer, Walnut We pray for the work and ministry of the Central Nebraska Presbytery	2 We pray for the work and ministry of Emad Tawadrous, Arabic Christian Fellowship We pray for the work and ministry of the Dakota Presbytery	3 We pray for the work and ministry of Sandra Wainwright-Rossander, Villisca We pray for the work and ministry of the Des Moines Presbytery	4

