



MONDAY MORNING IN THE PRESBYTERY

A weekly news update from the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley in Iowa and Nebraska. Distributed by e-mail 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, the offices of which are located at: 302 S. 74th Street, Omaha, NE 68114-4617

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A Place for Prayer and Reflection

Holy God, Good Shepherd, we turn to you in prayer because we need a leader, someone we can trust, someone who can show us the way in complicated and confusing times.

Guide us, Good Shepherd.

The world's problems overwhelm. The burden of suffering is great. We bear witness to tragedy after tragedy on the evening news as wolves circle your innocent sheep, threatening our hope for a just world, a path to peace and a beloved kin-dom. What can we do, God? How can we be of help? What power do we have to transform evil to good?

Guide us, Good Shepherd.

When we doubt our worth and our belovedness, remind us that we are yours, that we belong, that we have place within your flock. Remind us and comfort us with the knowledge that in body and in soul, in life and in death we belong to you, our Savior and Shepherd. Unite your flock with your love and help us be as welcoming of others as you are to us.

Guide us, Good Shepherd.

Just as the shepherd knows each of his sheep, help us to know and care for the individuals that are in particular need of your merciful grace.

Hear our prayers for:

- The innocent caught in the cross hairs of war...
- Soldiers suffering from moral injury and PTSD...
- The sick and those who care for them...
- The grieving, the exhausted, the depressed...
- Those in need of resurrection hope...

[In Christ's name we pray.]

Prayer written by Teri McDowell Ott and Presbyterian Outlook for 4rd Sunday of Easter – April 21st

NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

MORE THAN 130 PEOPLE GATHER ONLINE AND AT THE PRESBYTERIAN CENTER FOR THE THREE-DAY GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEADERSHIP BRIEFING

Committee leaders build community and learn more about the roles they'll fill during the 226th General Assembly

Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service - April 8, 2024

LOUISVILLE - The General Assembly Leadership Briefing is being offered online and in person at the Presbyterian Center in Louisville, Kentucky. *Photo by Randy Hobson.* Those called to lead online committees and the many people supporting their work are both online and at the Presbyterian Center Monday through Wednesday for the General Assembly Leadership Briefing in advance of the [226th General Assembly](#), set for June 25 through July 4.



"I know at the last General Assembly I didn't feel quite as connected as I had hoped to be. We can make that happen this time," said the Rev. Bronwen Boswell, Acting Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). "Thank you for saying yes to being a part of what's going on here."

"Our work," Boswell said, "is to make sure the committees work really, really well."

Boswell, a longtime General Assembly parliamentarian and [presbytery leader](#) before [being named Acting Stated Clerk](#) of the General Assembly in June 2023, recalled the first Assembly she served as a committee parliamentarian. "I was nervous beyond belief. At one point I found myself in the [Office of the General Assembly] office, crying," she said. Not only was she advised and comforted, "They asked me back!" Boswell said. With each successive call to return, "I've said, 'Really? You want me?'"

"There is help, there is growth, and there is knowledge," she told leaders gathered both in person and online, which including staff members numbered more than 130. "We want you to be part of it and to be excited about it."

Kate Trigger Duffert, director of General Assembly Planning in the Office of the General Assembly, noted at least five things General Assembly is to the nation's 1.1 million Presbyterians: It's:

- A council of the church during which business decisions are made.
- A community gathered in one worshiping body.
- An event during which people are brought together.
- A reflection of the realities of the church, and
- A witness to what the church is called to be.

"You will be holding all these realities for the work that you do. It's a big, big thing," Trigger Duffert said. Committee leaders are among the first people with whom commissioners and advisory delegates engage. "You are the faces that will encounter commissioners and advisory delegates to help them feel comfortable and prepare them to do business," she said.

<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2024/4/8/more-than-130-people-gather-online-and-at-the-pres/>

YOUNG PEOPLE VOICE THEIR HOPES FOR WHAT THEY WANT THE CHURCH TO BECOME

'A Matter of Faith' podcast also features Dr. Sarah Leer, a practical theologian and youth worker

by Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service



Dr. Sara Leer, a practical theologian and youth worker, was the most recent guest on "A Matter of Faith: A Presby Podcast." (Contributed photo)

LOUISVILLE — The Rev. Lee Catoe and Simon Doong, the hosts of "A Matter of Faith: A Presby Podcast," opened their most recent installment with the voices of youth who'd attended a conference at [Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center](#) in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Catoe asked youth about what they want to see happening in the church today. Among their answers, which can be heard [here](#), were:

"There's a lot in the world that needs to be changed. I think we need to start small and just keep going."

"I want to see people going out and talking face-to-face and not have everything be social media related. I think the church should be going out and connecting with other people."

"I think the church can support members to run for office and take part in the government and be part of policy development and implementation."

"I want the world to be a peaceful, loving place, and for everyone to have what they need. I want churches to be loving and accepting."

"I'd like to see more positivity and see the church as a whole take a bigger part in everyone's life."

"I want to see the church show up by advocating for LGBTQ+ and marriage rights. They should include those issues in sermons or in bulletins and be open to conversations."

"I'd like to see the church be more involved in the local community and see if they can hold town halls to discuss the issues. The church can take those recommendations to community leaders."

"I would like the church to learn to be better allies to the people of color in our community."

"I want the church to talk more about reality."

"I'd like to see the church become a place where people can not only go to learn about Scripture, but also go to learn about topics that need to be spoken more of."

"It would be nice to see diversity throughout the church."

"I just wish the church would practice radical inclusivity like they say they do."

"I would like my church to do more community service by cleaning up pollution."

"I think the church would be better if we focused more on correcting sin than condemning sin and welcoming those who are different or living a different life than we know. Jesus came to heal the sick."

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/young-people-voice-their-hopes-for-what-they-want-the-church-to-become/>

SINGING AND CREATING TO PREPARE FOR TOTALITY

Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center hosts an intergenerational event around Monday's eclipse

by Beth Waltemath | Presbyterian News Service



Dr. Sarah Leer, Transitional Youth and Young Adult Developer for the Presbytery of Arkansas, is enraptured by the eclipse along with Janet Hayes and Paul Vasile. (Photo courtesy of Janet Hayes)

From April 6-9, [Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center](#) in Little Rock, Arkansas, in partnership with the [Office of Christian Formation](#) of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, hosted an intergenerational Creation care event culminating in three and a half minutes of the total solar eclipse on Monday.

"People came from all over, driving from Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Missouri, Louisiana, Alabama and, of course, Arkansas," said Janet Hayes, mission specialist for the Office of Christian Formation. Hayes

described "a fabulous intergenerational event with participation from all ages," centered in singing, inspiring worship and participation, including a nature and singing hike and evening song circles. Attendees chose from workshops to learn more about Creation care as well as camp activities like canoeing, fishing and archery, as well as eclipse crafts and cookie decorating.

"We wanted to have an event that aligns with our mission," said Joel Gill, Ferncliff director. "So, we thought that having an intergenerational Creation care-focused event culminating with the total solar eclipse and marketing the event primarily to Presbyterians and Presbyterian congregations around the country would be a great way to share our space and welcome people to this once-in-a-lifetime event."



The weather in Little Rock, Arkansas, couldn't have been better for viewing Monday's solar eclipse at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center. (Photo by Janet Hayes)

Guests were treated to the amazing spring weather and the beauty of Ferncliff. "The weather is amazing and clear skies today!" said one participant as he prepared to take his seat on the vast grassy knoll with the other eclipse viewers.

"This is a cool way to see the eclipse," said Jane Ann McGee from Dallas, who noted that experiencing Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center drew her to the event. "I really enjoyed it all, but one thing I particularly enjoyed was the worship experience," she said, noting how skilled Paul Vasile was "in leading us and bringing us together."

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/singing-and-creating-to-prepare-for-totality/>

THE PC(USA)'S 'AROUND THE TABLE' PODCAST LOOKS AT FAITHFULLY PARENTING CHILDREN THROUGH DIFFERENT LIFE STAGES

The six-part podcast is an initiative of the Office of Christian Formation

by Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — The fourth episode of the “Around the Table” podcast series features Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) pastors talking about how parents can have faith conversations with their children throughout different stages of the child’s life. Listen to the 32-minute edition [here](#).

The six “Around the Table” installments, created by the [Office of Christian Formation](#), are hosted by the Rev. Michelle Thomas-Bush and the Rev. Cliff Haddox. This episode features the Rev. Bill Buchanan, a Christian educator, pastor and the executive director of [Youth Mission Co.](#) in Asheville, North Carolina, and the Rev. Melanie Marsh, the transitional pastor at [Riviera Presbyterian Church](#) in Miami, [who spoke during APCE’s Annual Event](#) in January.



Marsh has “youngish” children, while Buchanan’s are in their 20s.

Marsh said faith conversations often occur around the table. But they’re just as likely to happen in another spot in the home she shares with her three children.



The Rev. Melanie Marsh

“A funny thing happens in our house,” Marsh said. “I’ll get home in the afternoon and have meetings at night. Between afternoon and meetings, we congregate on my giant bed in my bedroom. That’s often where congregations happen,” because “the bed is the largest congregating spot in the house.”

Holding faith conversations becomes harder “as the kids have gotten older and they have all these different influences in their lives, including family members who are telling them their ideas about the world and faith and God. It’s a lot of competition for viewpoints,” Marsh said. “I’m lucky to have close people in my life from around the faith community who are also part of the conversation. Other adults who are similarly minded spiritually will join in the conversation from time to time, which is helpful.” One day, Marsh’s daughter, a seventh grader, was having “interesting conversations with classmates about women in ministry, oddly enough,” she said with a laugh. “She overheard a kid saying, ‘Women can’t be leaders in church.’ My daughter said, ‘My mom’s a pastor, and at my church, we have always had women pastors.’”

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/the-pcusas-around-the-table-podcast-looks-at-faithfully-parenting-children-through-different-life-stages/>

BETTER LEADING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

How General Assembly committees will use MyGA, PC Biz and GA Preparation

Fred Tangeman | Office of the General Assembly - April 9, 2024

LOUISVILLE - Tuesday morning at Leader Briefing, committee leaders and committee support staff for this summer’s 226th General Assembly learned ways that technology, including the expanded MyGA website, will help them manage their committee business. They also learned how trainings and resources on the GA Preparation site will acquaint them with wider assembly processes and members of their committees.

Committees will gather virtually [June 25-27](#) prior to in-person plenaries in Salt Lake City.

Ken Tolley, Manager of GA Business, started the morning sessions with a reading from [Psalm 24](#), adding, “This is work to which we are indeed called ... In the midst of so much technology, we do this out of love for our God.”

Before Tolley showed examples of business items committee leaders and resource staff began reviewing the night before during their first

team meetings (including [overture recommendations](#), rationales and concurrences), Vicente Guna with the Administrative Services Group gave a walkthrough of [MyGA](#).

“In 2024, we have moved MyGA from a container to a dashboard,” Guna said, “allowing users to do most of their work in MyGA.” In the past, leaders needed to have open a separate [PC-Biz](#) screen, where items of business show up in real time. By this summer’s

MyGA	PC-Biz	GA Preparation
Main gateway to interact with General Assembly	The core application that powers everything else	Access to commissioner training materials
Container for all the tools and information for participants and observers	Provides access to manage all functions and contents in MyGA	“Community Building” supports for committees
		Commissioners' resolution submission tools

assembly, items of business will be entirely trackable inside MyGA, although committee support staff will continue to input changes in PC-Biz.

Guna demonstrated some MyGA features, including where to find announcements, calendars and special links; accessing business and resources; experiencing pages in Korean and Spanish; and using real-time meeting tools. A parliamentary toolbox includes a feature that allows leaders and resource staff to see demographic information about those requesting speaking time, which will help to encourage equity and access.

Guna thanked leaders and resource staff for their patience as the tech team continues to integrate MyGA with PC Biz. “We will also be with you in Salt Lake City,” he added, “to help you with these tools.”

Ian Hall, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation, discussed the church’s per capita system, explaining how it “makes it possible for every congregation no matter its size to participate in church governance” and “provides access to support and resources.”

<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2024/4/9/better-leading-through-technology/>

THE FUTURE OF BLACK FAITH AND RESISTANCE

Union Theological Seminary honors the legacy of Dr. James H. Cone with a new fellowship and an annual lecture

by Beth Waltemath | Presbyterian News Service

Photo of Dr. Terrence L. Johnson

“This annual lecture continues Dr. Cone’s dynamic legacy of prophetic Black theological and religious thought that pushes hard against the conscience of America,” said the Rev. Dr. Serene Jones, president of [Union Theological Seminary in New York City](#), who held a moment of reverent pause as she asked the audience to consider the legacy of the Rev. Dr. James H. Cone, who had been a professor at Union for 50 years. Cone died in 2018. [The event on April 3](#), held at the seminary’s James Chapel and streamed online, was the fourth annual lecture to be held in his honor.



That evening, Jones announced a new gift of \$1.2 million in Cone’s honor. The James Cone Fellowship was established by a Union alumna and student of Cone’s, the Rev. Amy Morrison Heinrich, and her husband, Rob. Morrison Heinrich has served [First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville, Illinois](#), and [First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor, Michigan](#), as well as college ministries at [Colorado College](#), [Austin College](#) and the [University of Wisconsin](#).

The Rev. Amy Morrison Heinrich

“Thanks to Amy and Rob,” said Jones, “each year the James Cone Fellowship will support the recipients’ spiritual, academic and vocational aspirations as they follow in the prophetic footsteps of James Cone.”

This year’s Cone lecture, titled “[Between Black Liberation Theology and Democratic Womanism: Black Faith and the Spirit of Freedom in a Time of War and Moral Decadence](#),” began with speaker Dr. Terrence L. Johnson saying, “In a strange and stinging irony, we face times equally as turbulent, as when Cone in the late 1960s first grappled with Black powers, fierce demands of Black elites, the Christian church and a nation bursting at the seams from internal anti-war protests and ongoing racial animus and oppression.” Johnson, who is the [Charles G. Adams Professor of African American Religious Studies at Harvard University](#), called Cone “a riveting voice filled with the unacknowledged laughing cries of a damned people” as he delivered a lecture calling for more authentic connection from academics, liberals and Black elites to the working class people of color, particularly Black women, whose contributions to the struggle for civil rights have been both essential and unacknowledged.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/the-future-of-black-faith-and-resistance/>

THE PSALMIST AND THE SOLAR ECLIPSE

Like many others, Dr. William P. Brown experienced something holy on Monday

by Dr. William P. Brown | Special to Presbyterian News Service

Photo by Jordon Conner via Unsplash

Seeing the “diamond ring” is the holy grail of amateur astronomers: that moment in a total solar eclipse when the edge of the sun’s corona bursts forth with a sparkling burst of light at one point while the rest of the rim is illuminated like a ring. I had no chance of seeing that where I was, located many miles away from the path of totality. All I saw was a solar “croissant.” But I did consider the experience holy.

Whether you were privileged to be in the path or not, millions of Mexicans, Americans, and Canadians were looking up with their protective eyewear to witness something awfully special:

a cosmic convergence of the sun and moon that elicited great awe, a moment that took us briefly outside of ourselves in breathless



excitement to consider larger cosmic forces at work, such as gravity and motion, the stuff of celestial mechanics. It was a moment lasting a little over four minutes that would last a lifetime in memory.

Such moments invite a sense of awe of science, with its power to predict such events, let alone explain them, as well as appreciative wonder for ancient stories, such as the one from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, a story that can be traced back to a survivor of the Trail of Tears. At every eclipse, Fvni Lusa, a hungry black squirrel, tries to devour the sun but [is always thwarted by the Choctaw people by banging pots and pans](#). The sun's survival from being swallowed up meant another year of agricultural success.

The Bible, too, has some fascinating things to say about the sun, but sadly no explanation is given for a solar eclipse. Still, one can imagine. Take [Psalm 19](#), which likens the sun to a "bridegroom" setting forth from "his wedding canopy" to begin the diurnal journey from east to west (v. 5). Such metaphorical language might suggest that if the sun and the moon were to ever cross paths, it would mark a moment of cosmic consummation. Now that would give new meaning to the "diamond ring!"

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/the-psalmist-and-the-solar-eclipse/>

GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEADERSHIP BRIEFING CONCLUDES WITH A MOCK COMMITTEE MEETING THAT VEERS HILARIOUSLY OFF THE RAILS

Before that, committee leaders learn plenty about the work they must complete during the GA's June 25-27 online committee meetings

Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service - April 10, 2024



LOUISVILLE - Leaders of committees for the 226th General Assembly continued to learn their roles during the GA Leadership Briefing. *Photo by Randy Hobson.*

The more than 130 people attending the General Assembly Leadership Briefing both online and at the Presbyterian Center in Louisville, Kentucky, put in a full day on Tuesday, learning more about their roles as committee leaders and even witnessing a skit depicting a mock committee meeting that nearly went off the rails before righting itself at the end.

The [226th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#) is set for June 25 through July 4. Committees are meeting online June 25-27. Plenaries are in person

at the [Salt Palace Convention Center](#) in Salt Lake City, Utah, June 29-July 4.

Tuesday afternoon's talks at the GA Leadership Briefing included creating community and worshiping during online committee meetings, practicing parliamentary procedure, learning about the roles of groups of people who will be addressing committees, implementing tools including Choice Points and Equity Primes, and reporting to plenary. The mock committee meeting provided comic relief to committee leaders who'd put in substantial efforts to learn more about what they're about to experience over the next 10 weeks or so.

valerie izumi, manager for [General Assembly Nominations](#), discussed creating online communities, "something you're used to" after years of pandemic, izumi said. Committee members can learn about one another by briefly answering questions like "My life fundamentally changed when ..." or "How can I pray for you this week?" Committee leaders often ask committee members to make a brief video explaining who they are, izumi noted.

The Rev. Dr. David Gambrell, associate for Worship in the [Office of Theology & Worship](#), offered leaders three things to keep in mind when planning committee worship: start with Scripture, remember the body, and glorify and enjoy God.

<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2024/4/10/general-assembly-leadership-briefing-concludes-wit/>

WINNER OF THE 2024 GRAWEMEYER AWARD IN RELIGION SPEAKS TO AN APPRECIATIVE CROWD AT LOUISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The Rev. Dr. Charles Halton, who wrote 'A Human-Shaped God,' delivers an inspiring talk

by Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service

On Tuesday, the winner of the 2024 Grawemeyer Award in Religion, the Rev. Dr. Charles Halton, delivered a lecture at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. (Contributed photo)

LOUISVILLE — The Rev. Dr. Charles Halton, winner of the [2024 Grawemeyer Award in Religion](#) for his book "A Human-Shaped God: Theology of an Embodied God," [published in 2021 by Westminster John Knox Press](#), delivered an insightful and inspiring talk Tuesday in Caldwell Chapel at [Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary](#). Watch Halton's talk [here](#).

Each year the seminary joins with the [University of Louisville](#) to award the prestigious prize.



In his book, Halton, associate rector at [Christ Church Cathedral](#) in Lexington, Kentucky, argues that embracing God as a deity with human qualities can bring us closer to God and inspire us to become better people.

During his Tuesday lecture, Halton used stories — about [Zeno of Elea](#), a Greek mathematician and philosopher; about [Ernst Mach](#), the Austrian physicist and philosopher; and the [Genesis 1 account](#) of God creating human beings — to conclude that the creation of humanity “may be the most foundational passage for theology, and yet it’s been difficult for people to understand,” Halton said. “Interpreters are nowhere close to consensus about what it means for humans to be created in God’s image.”

Why has that been so difficult? The Hebrew phrase for “in the image of” God is [seen again in Genesis 5](#), this time describing Adam’s son, Seth, whom Halton calls “a chip off the old block.” Put that reference back in Genesis 1, “and we’re done,” he said. “But theologians have looked at this and said, ‘Man, it’s a mystery. I don’t know what’s going on.’” Theologians are stuck in the same rut physicists were stuck in before Einstein and other came along with their Nobel Prize-winning work early in the 20th century. “They believe the heavy lifting of theology is done. It’s over. All we’re doing is fixing some things on the margins,” Halton said.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/winner-of-the-2024-grawemeyer-award-in-religion-speaks-to-an-appreciative-crowd-at-louisville-presbyterian-theological-seminary/>

PRESBYTERIAN WRITERS GUILD’S LEGACY COMES HOME TO AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE

Gift of 35-year-old organization’s endowment is dedicated at the PC(USA)-related school’s Center for Writing and Speaking

by *Emily Enders Odom, Mission Communications | Special to Presbyterian News Service*



Former members of the Presbyterian Writers Guild and friends. From left are Bill Lancaster, Betty Scott Noble, John Odom, Emily Enders Odom, Jerry Van Marter, Eva Stimson, Ron Jameson and Leslee Jameson. (Photo by Lee Davis)

DECATUR, Georgia — As a new generation of young writers looked on with gratitude toward the veteran members of the Presbyterian Writers Guild, who had gathered at [Agnes Scott College’s Center for Writing and Speaking](#) on April 5 to share in dedicating the Guild’s gift of its entire organizational endowment, emotions ran unexpectedly high.

“I didn’t think I’d tear up,” said the Rev. Jerry Van Marter, the Guild’s outgoing secretary and a member of the organization since its 1989 founding.

The Presbyterian Writers Guild, which was formed nearly 35 years ago to encourage and support Presbyterians who were called to write as a form of ministry, voted on Oct. 5, 2023, to dissolve as an organization and [selected Agnes Scott College](#) as the recipient of the Guild’s total assets.



Leocadia I. Zak is president of Agnes Scott College. (Photo by Emily Enders Odom)

“It is a profound honor to receive this gift from the Presbyterian Writers Guild,” said Leocadia I. Zak, president of Agnes Scott College. “As a community that not only embraces diversity of thought and expression, but encourages all voices to be heard, Agnes Scott College will continue to advance the Guild’s mission.”

Agnes Scott’s historic roots in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the similarity of purpose between the Guild and the College’s Center for Writing and Speaking were key factors in the Presbyterian Writers Guild’s decision.

“It is now God’s time for the Presbyterian Writers Guild to gracefully close, but not without a plan to allow our legacy to live on and to continue to be salt and light to future generations of writers,” said the Rev. Emily Enders Odom, the Guild’s outgoing president. “You are that plan.”

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/presbyterian-writers-guilds-legacy-comes-home-to-agnes-scott-college/>

AUTHOR AND ACTIVIST BRIAN McLAREN WEAVES STORIES AND PRESCRIPTIONS DURING AN ONLINE CONVERSATION OFFERED BY NEW YORK AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The author of more than 20 books, McLaren will return for a May 8 webinar

by *Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service*

Brian McLaren, the author of more than 20 books, is part of New York Avenue Presbyterian Church’s McClendon Scholar Program. (Photo by Wendy Davis/Wild Artist Photography)

LOUISVILLE — [Brian McLaren](#), an in-demand speaker who’s written more than 20 books with one more, “[Life After Doom](#),” coming out next month, spent 90 minutes on Wednesday participating in a webinar with the people who run [New York Avenue Presbyterian Church’s](#) McClendon Scholar Program. View McLaren’s conversation with the Washington, D.C., church’s Theo Brown, titled “A New Kind of Christianity,” by going [here](#).



McLaren told Brown he grew up in the same Plymouth Brethren tradition that produced humorist and writer [Garrison Keillor](#), environmental scientist [Katharine Hayhoe](#) and [Jim Wallis](#), the theologian and writer. “My parents kept a little fun in fundamentalism,” McLaren said, adding, “The rapture was invented and promulgated by the Plymouth Brethren, one of the less helpful ideas ever to enter Christian thought.”

Brown pointed out that in his book “Faith After Doubt,” McLaren talks about four stages of faith, which McLaren labels Simplicity, Complexity, Perplexity, and Harmony/Solidarity. Along the way, “I remember having this thought ping into my mind: Maybe my problem isn’t with the essence of the Christian faith, but with the modern version of the Christian faith and its link with colonialism and white male dominance. That was liberating for me,” McLaren said.

A “ground-breaking” moment of discovery was when he learned that throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, there’s no “firm belief in heaven and hell.”

“If it isn’t about heaven and hell, what is it about? Maybe the story going on in the Bible is different than what I was taught,” said McLaren, who previously served as an English professor and then a pastor. “That’s a better plotline than we were taught.”

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/author-and-activist-brian-mclaren-weaves-stories-and-prescriptions-during-an-online-conversation-offered-by-new-york-avenue-presbyterian-church/>

PHS HOSTS EXHIBIT AND TALKS ON MISSIONARIES TO PERSIA

Connected events explore the legacies of Presbyterian missionaries in the early 20th century

Kristen Gaydos | Presbyterian Historical Society - April 11, 2024



PHILADELPHIA - (left to right) Nancy Taylor, “The Life of John Haskell Shedd” book cover, Hooman Estelami. *Image courtesy of PHS.*

Through April 30, the Presbyterian Historical Society (PHS) is hosting a traveling exhibit, “Assyrians from Persia (Iran) to the United States, 1887-1923: Assyrian Education, American Missionaries, and the Search for a Home.” In conjunction with the exhibit, PHS welcomed Dr. Hooman Estelami of Fordham University for an event and talk on March 21.

Using archival correspondence, diaries, biographies and photographs — many from the PHS collections — Estelami discussed the impact Presbyterian missionaries had on education, medicine and evangelism in the city of Urmia in northwestern Persia

during the Qajar era. During his talk, Estelami also discussed how this community of missionaries helped protect the Assyrian population of the region in the years leading up to and including World War I.

[Watch the recording of Estelami’s talk.](#)

Following the exhibit talk, PHS welcomed Estelami and descendants of John Haskell Shedd for a PHS LIVE webinar on April 4. John Haskell Shedd served as a missionary in Urmia beginning in 1859.

In 2023, Shedd descendants and Estelami worked together to publish a newly discovered manuscript, “The Life of John Haskell Shedd.” Uncovered in family papers in 2020, the newly published book, [available through Mazda Publishers](#), shows how Shedd methodically recorded his observations and experiences as he conducted missionary work among Christian populations in the Turco-Persian border region. Born in Mt. Gilead, Ohio, Shedd and his wife, Sarah Jane Dawes Shedd, helped establish the Assyrian Evangelical Church, strengthened diplomatic relations between Persia and America and constructed one of Persia’s first modern medical colleges.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VmFKlqtj8do>

<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2024/4/11/phs-hosts-exhibit-and-talks-on-missionaries-to-per/>

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, A CORPORATION BOARD SHINES A LIGHT ON SOME OF THE DENOMINATION’S BACK-OFFICE SERVICES

Human Resources, Relationship and Development Operations teams discuss how their work is making a difference

by Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service Photo by LinkedIn Sales Solutions via Unsplash

LOUISVILLE — The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation Board heard from people who provide important back-office services in the Administrative Services Group on Thursday. Specifically, members of the Relationship and Development Operations team in Ministry Engagement & Support followed by Human Resources discussed their work with board members, meeting online and at the Presbyterian Center in Louisville, Kentucky, Thursday and Friday.

Lindy Ebbs, database administrator for the RDO since 2000; Theresa Goodlin, who joined the team the same year and specializes in Raiser’s Edge, the denomination’s fundraising software



that processes online donations; and Roger Spalding, who has more than a decade of experience as a prospect research analyst, described their work after being introduced by the Rev. Dr. John Wilkinson, director of MES.

The trio and their three colleagues perform a variety of services for the denomination: updating addresses; researching duplicate records; answering calls and emails from individual donors, mid councils and program areas; gift-processing and reporting for Presbyterian Women; identifying major donors; completing travel reports for Ministry Engagement Advisors and other staff; tracking giving statistics and trends; reporting to leadership and program areas; letting mission co-workers know when donations have been given in honor of their work; completing a quarterly report to mid councils on the giving received from their congregations; and many other duties.

“We work well together, and we have great support,” in Wilkinson as MES leader and Kathy Lueckert as A Corp president, Goodlin said.

“People in the building are very supportive of our team,” Ebbs said. “We talk to a lot of churches, pastors and donors, and it’s enjoyable.”

“You’re helping us to have a deeper understanding of what you’re doing, and we appreciate it,” said Bridget-Anne Hampden, the A Corp Board’s co-moderator. “It’s been very helpful.”

Human Resources Director Ruth Gardner introduced three of the dozen members of the Human Resources staff: Anisha Hackney, Human Resources manager; Tonia Trice, Human Resources generalist; and Maha Kolko, project manager for Community Outreach and Volunteerism.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/presbyterian-church-a-corporation-board-shines-a-light-on-some-of-the-denominations-back-office-services/>

PC(USA) WEBINAR FOCUSES ON CHALLENGES FACED BY ROMA POPULATION

Church partners present work inherent in the Matthew 25 vision



by Scott O’Neill | Presbyterian News Service

Márton Juhász leads a Protestant-based charity service and aid organization doing work in Hungary. (Contributed photo)

LOUISVILLE — In the aftermath of Monday’s International Roma Day, which commemorates Europe’s largest ethnic minority and Romani culture, nearly 50 participants joined a Zoom webinar Thursday afternoon to learn more about the Roma community, including facing challenges such as widespread discrimination in housing, education, employment, and health outcomes —particularly for its children. Watch the 80-minute webinar [here](#).

The webinar, presented by PC(USA)’s Middle East and Europe Office, part of its [World Mission](#) ministry, aligns with two of the PC(USA)’s [Mathew](#)

[25](#) priorities, eradicating systemic poverty and dismantling structural racism. Featured speakers represented a cross section of advocates across eastern and central Europe working in varying capacities, including youth and education development, faith-based reconciliation work, human rights and charity work. Luciano Kovacs, PC(USA)’s area coordinator, Middle East and Europe, greeted participants, introduced speakers and moderated the 75-minute presentation, which included a brief Q&A session from the registrants.



Photo of Elena Sirbu

First to speak was Elena Sirbu, a journalist with 16 years’ experience as a human rights activist who heads the Roma Women Platform in Moldova (ROMNI). [ROMNI](#) is a non-governmental organization that supports and promotes the rights of Roma girls and women. Sirbu gave an overview of the Roma community, noting there are 12 million Roma in Europe who speak multiple languages, making efforts to promote Roma rights more difficult. In 2016, she found an opportunity as the host on a national TV show to speak out on the Roma people and educate viewers to what Roma face as a minority as well as voicing support for Roma women’s rights both nationally and internationally.

ROMNI’s tagline — “I am like you. I have the same rights as you” — promotes integrity and education. In Moldova, they have expanded “Roma Day” to be “Roma Week.”

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pcusa-webinar-focuses-on-challenges-faced-by-roma-population/>

UPCOMING PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

April 13, 2024 - 10am, Gethsemane Presbyterian in Council Bluffs

August 17, 2024 - 9:30am at Calvin Crest

November 7, 2024 - 5:30pm via Zoom

Please check the Events Calendar for specific committee meetings.

Job Opportunities



On a journey with the living Christ; connecting with God, others and the world.

Position title: Administrative Assistant

Status: Temporary / Part Time: 9 weeks; 25 hours/week

Reports to: Senior Pastor or designee

Salary: Hourly wage commensurate with experience/skills

Contact: **René Padilla, Elder for Personnel (rene.l.padilla@gmail.com) with questions, and specific job responsibilities**

Position Summary: The Administrative Assistant manages email correspondence, coordinates designated staff calendars, events and communications, provides essential support on event days, and coordinates the seamless execution of weekly announcements to facilitate the smooth functioning of the life of the church.



Presbyterian Church of the Cross

1517 South 114 Street • Omaha, NE 68144-1799

Phone: (402) 333-7466 • Fax: (402) 697-9084

churchofthecross@pcoc.us • www.churchofthecrossomaha.org

Announcement of Open Position for Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

Please share this announcement with anyone you know who is in the ministry (whether they are seeking a new call or not) as well as with anyone who knows people in the ministry.

Presbyterian Church of the Cross (PCOC), in Omaha, Nebraska is currently seeking an Associate Pastor for Congregational Care. PCOC is the largest PCUSA church in Nebraska with a specific vision to be mission-oriented, inclusive and welcoming, and open to new ideas. We are a generous congregation that commits 20% of the annual budget to mission, prioritizing missions that encourage member involvement. Our traditional worship is warm and personal and we have an outstanding music program that consistently attracts new members. PCOC is financially strong and just completed a \$5 million renovation, debt-free.

PCOC has a talented, close-knit staff who directs worship, mission, music, education, and the business of the church. With this in mind, we are searching for an Associate Pastor who will:

- Lead the church's successful pastoral care programs
- collaborate with staff/congregation to nurture new ideas/programs that respond to emerging caregiving needs across all age groups
- challenge the church, and be challenged by the church, to discern how we will spread God's love through our community

To locate our Mission Discernment Profile (MDP) and read about our church and the position we are seeking to fill, visit the Church of the Cross homepage (<https://churchofthecrossomaha.org/>) or search by the church name (Church of the Cross) at the PCUSA Church Leadership Connection (<https://clc.pcusa.org/>)

Please send questions about the position or send applications to APNC Co-Moderator, Keith Allen at kdallen@unmc.edu.

Sincerely,

Keith Allen, Co-Moderator
Associate Pastor Nominating Committee
Presbyterian Church of the Cross
Website: <https://churchofthecrossomaha.org/>

First Presbyterian Church, Omaha

Staff Position: Director of Next Generation

Location: First Presbyterian Church Omaha, 216 S.34th St, Omaha, NE 68131.

Staff Hours: Part time- 20 hours per week.

If interested please contact: Rebecca Nichol, Personnel Chair. nichol.rebecca@gmail.com

OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE IS HIRING:

Protestant Worship Leader: Service at 10AM, Sundays at SAC Memorial Chapel, Children's ministry 10AM, Sundays at Bldg 53 (next door to SAC Memorial Chapel)

Qualifications:

- Must possess a general understanding of the basic concepts of Christian doctrine;
- Must possess a minimum of three (3) years' experience as a Praise and Worship Leader in a worship service setting to include:
 - Leading a band, praise team, and congregation in songs vocally and instrumentally (e.g. while playing a guitar or keyboard)

- Recruiting, assembling, and maintaining a band and praise team, and leading them in rehearsals;
- Possessing a current repertoire of Contemporary Christian music and songs;
- Possessing the ability to play a diversity of songs relevant to the service's needs;
- Possessing training in music with the ability to read music and/or to effectively play by "ear;"
- Must undergo and pass a background check
- Must complete all training necessary to perform duties

Responsibilities:

- Recruit, assemble, rehearse with and lead a band and praise team, to include instrumentalists and a vocalist for worship services
- Assist to implement a program to qualify volunteers, train volunteers, track volunteer hours
- Assist in ensuring volunteers complete a Child Care Criminal History Background Check and comply with line-of-sight supervision requirements
- Lead rehearsals/worship services for the chapel through a relevant contemporary Christian musical program
- Compile music list to be used in the services for approval
- Attend meetings as required

Protestant Religious Education Coordinator: Location – Offutt Air Force Base; Schedule and Workload – 20 hours per week

Qualifications:

- Must be able to clearly express the concepts of the Christian doctrine
- Must possess a minimum of three (3) years' experience in religious education coordination in a Protestant church or military chapel setting to include:
 - Recruiting, training and coordination of volunteers
 - Establishing appropriate religious education curricula in coordination with a pastor, minister, denomination, and/or other church authorities'
 - Coordinating and administering multiple small and large programs in a dynamic environment;
 - Planning programming, budgeting and executing Protestant religious education programs
- Must possess a working knowledge of cross-service military rank structure and military customs, courtesies and protocol
- Must undergo and pass a background check
- Must complete all training necessary to perform duties

Responsibilities:

- Coordinate Protestant religious education programs for the Offutt Chapel Protestant community, to include recruiting, training, and placing volunteers into service to the Offutt Protestant community
- Assist in the planning, budgeting, scheduling and execution of a comprehensive program of religious education events and activities
- Coordinate and/or execute all Offutt Protestant religious education programs with the guidelines set
- Produce a weekly Offutt Protestant religious education programs bulletin for distribution
- Produce and distribute an annual Protestant religious education program planning and event calendar
- Maintain records of enrollment and attendance at all Protestant religious education programs and classes
- Maintain a current roster of volunteer Protestant religious education teachers and staff
- Project the required amount of religious education, to include Vacation Bible School, curriculum materials required for each fiscal year
- Attend all meetings as required

Protestant Youth Ministry Coordinator: Location-Offutt AFB; Schedule and Workload-14-15 hours per week

Qualifications:

- Must be able to clearly express the concepts of the Christian doctrine
- Must possess a minimum of three (3) years' experience in religious youth program coordination in a Protestant church or military chapel setting to include:
 - Recruiting, training and coordination of volunteers;
 - Establishing appropriate religious youth program curricula, events and activities in coordination with a pastor, minister, denomination and/or church authorities;
 - Coordinating and administering multiple small and large programs in a dynamic environment'

- Planning, programming, budgeting and executing religious youth programs
- Must possess a working knowledge of cross-service military rank structure and military customs, courtesies and protocol
- Must undergo and pass a background check
- Must complete all training necessary to perform duties

Responsibilities:

- Coordinate Protestant youth religious programs for sixth through twelfth (6th – 12th) grade youth of the Offutt Chapel Protestant community, to include recruiting, training, scheduling and placing volunteers into service to the Offutt Protestant youth community
- Assist in the planning, budgeting, scheduling and execution of a comprehensive program of Protestant youth events and activities
- Coordinate and/or execute all Offutt Protestant youth religious programs with the guidelines set
- Produce a weekly Offutt Protestant youth programs bulleting for distribution
- Produce and distribute an annual Protestant youth program planning and event calendar
- Maintain records of enrollment and attendance at all Protestant youth programs and activities
- Attend meetings as required

SEND YOUR RESUME FOR ANY ONE OF THESE POSITIONS TO: INFO@SAWYERGLOBAL.COM



The Nicaragua International Partnership of the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley is part of an international partnership between the Interdenominational Council of Evangelical Pastors of La Concepcion, Nicaragua, and the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley, USA. We are united with our partners through love and faith in Christ, in response to God's call to build God's kingdom, working actively, modeling the ministry of Jesus Christ to extend his love, justice, joy, hope, empowerment, and message within our communities.

Consistent with our jointly developed partnership Mission Statement and the PCUSA relationship-based mission model, we strive to act with a commitment to world mission, a love for humankind, and a trust in each other which continually deepens objectives.

A letter and packet was recently mailed to each PMRV church regarding our decades-long partnership in Nicaragua. If you don't know much about this partnership, we encourage you to read more about it and help us raise funds to support this incredible ministry.

[Nicaragua Partnership Information](#)

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, April 18th THEOLOGY ON TAP WILL MEET 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 other...just as John Calvin intended! For more information, please contact Bob Keefer @ keefer.robert@gmail.com Sponsored by the Presbytery's Worship and Spirituality Committee



THE LUNCH BUNCH... The monthly Lunch Bunch will be Tuesday, April 16 at 11:30 am at the Arboretum Village, 8141 Farnum Drive, Omaha. It 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 card as they are unable to take cash. If you wish to attend, please make a reservation with Cindy Harvey, 308-224-0476 or crharv@aol.com by Thursday, April 11. It's always a lively time and you should come and join us.



PW SIT N 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.



Sit & Sip events will be held via Zoom on the **last** Saturday of each month from 11 a.m. to noon Central Time. So, grab your favorite beverage, relax in your favorite chair, and join in the discussion!




The topic for discussion for April 27th is the "Climate Justice & Earth Care Congregations."

Please register by contacting Lana Schultz at: lanaj0@casselton.net and a Zoom link will be sent to you a few days prior to the event along with any "study" materials to aid our discussions. Photo by Tyler Nix via Unsplash



2024 Book Discussion Group

JUSTICE and PEACE

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



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

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

JANUARY 8



JULY 8



MARCH 11



SEPTEMBER 9



MAY 13

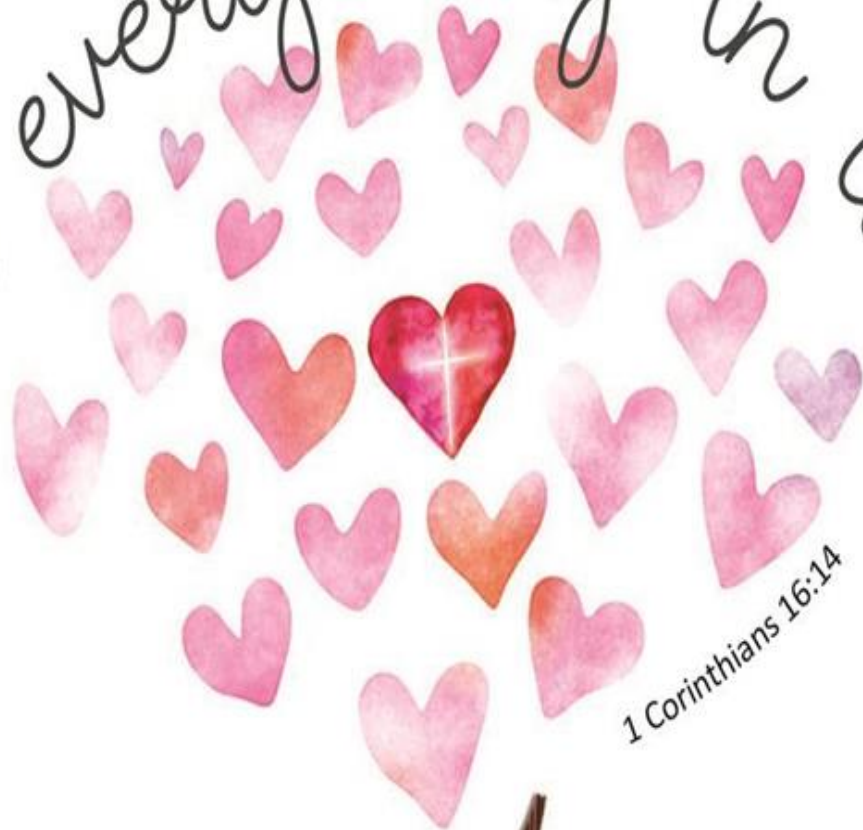


SEPTEMBER 11



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

Do everything in love









1 Corinthians 16:14



2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women
August 8–11, 2024 • St. Louis, Missouri

Presbytery EVENT Calendar

April 14, 2024 – May 25, 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thurs	Friday	Saturday
14 3 rd Sunday of Easter	15	16	17 Weekly Pastor Gathering via Zoom International Day of Farmers' Struggle	18 Worship & Spirituality Theology on Tap Com on the Preparation for Ministry (CPM) 	19	20 Presbyterian Foundation Workshop
21 4 th Sunday of Easter	22 Earth Day	23 FELD COM Mission & Evangelism	24 Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day Weekly Pastor Gathering via Zoom	25 	26	27
28 5 th Sunday of Easter	29	30	1 Weekly Pastor Gathering via Zoom Mental Health Month and Foster Care Month begins	2  National Day of Prayer	3 May Friendship Day	4
5 6 th Sunday of Easter Older Adult Week Begins Legacy Giving Sunday National Day of Awareness & Action for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls & Two-Spirit People	6 Holocaust Remembrance Day	7 Social Justice & Peacemaking Committee	8 Weekly Pastor Gathering via Zoom	9 Ascension of the Lord  Christian Ed	10	11 Fair Trade Day Calvin Crest Board meets
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15 Weekly Pastor Gathering via Zoom Stewardship of Resources	16 Worship & Spirituality Theology on Tap 	17 Men's Retreat – Calvin Crest	18 Men's Retreat – Calvin Crest 1001 New Worshiping Communities
19 Day of Pentecost Pentecost Offering Intercultural Church Sunday Mission Worker Sunday Presbyterian Heritage Sunday	20	21 Lunch Bunch Leadership Team Meeting	22 Weekly Pastor Gathering via Zoom	23 	24	25 Africa Day

Please check with Presbytery Office for specific meeting information

Presbytery Prayer Calendar

April 15, 2024 – May 17, 2024

Sun day	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thurs	Friday	Satur day
14	15 We pray for Chris Roseland, PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV COM, Vicki Hallberg We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia	16 We pray for Jashalund Royston, PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV COM, Nan Sams We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of James	17 We pray for Cynthia Rubin, PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV COM, Martha Slocombe We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of National Capital	18 We pray for Yvette Russell, PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV COM, Bonnie Brown We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of New Castle	19 We pray for Alicia Samuels, PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV COM, Judy Crick We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of New Hope	20
21	22 We pray for Elizabeth Sanders, PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV COM, Pam Otto We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Peaks	23 We pray for Jeanie Schmuckie, PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV COM, Marshall Ziemann We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Salem	24 We pray for Eileen Schuhmann, PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV COM, David Friedli We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Shenandoah	25 We pray for Michelle Schultz, PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV COM, Linda Reffert We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina	26 We pray for Paul Seebeck, PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV COM, Rick Sleyster We pray for the work and ministry of the Synod of the Northeast	27
28	29 We pray for Robyn Davis Sekula, PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV COM, Kathleen Keefer We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Albany	30 We pray for Ellen Sherby, PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV CPM, Richard Davidson We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Boston	1 We pray for Julianna Sheridan, PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV CPM, Jay Cline We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse	2 We pray for Alejandro Sherman, PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV COM, Norm Roberts We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Coastlands	3 We pray for Effie Shipp PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV COM, Al Zimmerman We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Eastern Korea	4
5	6 We pray for Rheannon Sicely PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV CPM, Diane Greenfield We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley	7 We pray for Manuel Silva-Esterrich PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV CPM, Shelli Latham We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Geneva	8 We pray for T.Clark Simmons PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV PJC, Nick Dougherty We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Highlands of NJ	9 We pray for Eva Slayton PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV PJC, Robert Keefer We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Hudson River	10 We pray for Adam Slutzky PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV PJC, Bob Sieck We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Long Island	11
12	13 We pray for Ashley Smalley-Rae PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV PJC, Bonnie Brown We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of New York City	14 We pray for Kim Smith PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV PJC, Cindy Denton We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Northeast NJ	15 We pray for Melaina Smith PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV PJC, Carolyn Reaves We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Northern New England	16 We pray for Melody Smith PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV PJC, Gary Eller We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Southern New England	17 We pray for Natalie Smith PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV PJC, Chris Olson We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Southern NJ	18

