



MONDAY MORNING IN THE PRESBYTERY

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A Place for Prayer and Reflection

Prayers of the People for May 12, 2024 – Mother’s Day

Womb of Creation, Wellspring of Life, on this Mother’s Day we give thanks for the way you nurture and care for each of us as your beloved children. We praise you for your comfort and care, for the ways you wrap your divine arms around us and pull us close, for the ways you suffer when we suffer, like a mother aching and grieving over the pain of her child.

God of Wisdom, Nurturer of Hope, we also give thanks for the faithful lives of women without children, for the abundant gifts they share, for the fruitful lives they live. For all those for whom “Mother’s Day” is painful, we pray the church can be a place that embraces and celebrates all expressions of love and all those who delight in the care and upbringing of God’s children.

God who provides, help us to know and care for people who are need of your mercy and grace. Today, we turn our attention to:

- The innocent caught in the crosshairs of war ...
- Political leaders seeking paths to peace, but who are stymied by powerful opposition ...
- The grieving, the exhausted, the depressed ...
- The displaced, the threatened, the unjustly persecuted ...
- The sick and those who care for them ...

Teri McDowell Ott and Presbyterian Outlook, Outlook Order of Worship, May 12, 2024

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

WORLD CENTRAL KITCHEN RESUMING GAZA OPERATIONS

WCK Palestinian team restarting feeding, opening its third high-production kitchen

by World Central Kitchen | Special to Presbyterian News Service

Photo by Wonderlane via Unsplash

WASHINGTON — [World Central Kitchen](#), which [last week honored seven colleagues killed during an April 1 Israeli airstrike in Gaza](#), will resume operations in Gaza Monday with a Palestinian team delivering food to address widespread hunger, including in the north.

WCK's aid to Gaza was suspended for four weeks following the death of WCK workers killed by an Israeli military strike on April 1. Prior to halting its operations, WCK distributed more than 43 million meals in Gaza and accounted for 62% of all international non-governmental organizations aid.



"The humanitarian situation in Gaza remains dire," said Erin Gore, chief executive officer of World Central Kitchen. "We are restarting our operation with the same energy, dignity, and focus on feeding as many people as possible. To date we have distributed more than 43 million meals, and we are eager to deliver millions more."

Erin Gore (Photo courtesy of World Central Kitchen)

"Food is a universal right, and our work in Palestine has been the most life-saving mission in our 14-year organizational history. We will continue to get as much food into Gaza, including northern Gaza, as possible — by land, air, or sea."

World Central Kitchen has 276 trucks with the equivalent of almost eight million meals ready to enter through the Rafah Crossing and will also send trucks into Gaza from Jordan. WCK also continues to explore the maritime corridor that delivered food and humanitarian goods via boat with the support of Open Arms, a Spanish humanitarian organization, and the United Arab Emirates. WCK is also examining if the Ashdod Port can be utilized to offload relief supplies destined for Gaza.

Additionally, World Central Kitchen is opening a third high-production kitchen known as "Damian's Kitchen" after the skilled kitchen builder Damian Soból, who was lost in the April 1 attack. Damian's Kitchen is in Mawasi and adds to WCK's 68 other community kitchens in Gaza, including two other high production kitchens in Rafah and Deir al Balah.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/world-central-kitchen-resuming-gaza-operations/>



STRONG CITIES NETWORK, PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY PARTNER TO HOST U.S. MAYORAL RETREAT

The August retreat seeks to put communities first by combatting hate, extremism and polarization

by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary | Special to Presbyterian News Service

In August, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary will host the Strong Cities Network U.S. Mayoral Retreat.

(Photo courtesy of Pittsburgh theological Seminary)

PITTSBURGH — In October 2023, Pittsburgh commemorated the five-year anniversary of [the shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue that left 11 people dead](#) and the city searching for answers to what remains the worst anti-Semitic attack in U.S. history.

One of the many lessons from the city's response in the wake of this unspeakable tragedy was the support and cooperation among and between its faith communities, a model for how interfaith cooperation and dialogue can support a city's healing. Through work with [former Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto](#), [Strong Cities](#) has been [sharing learnings from Pittsburgh's response](#) with cities across its global network.

Strong Cities is excited, therefore, to announce it is partnering with [Pittsburgh Theological Seminary](#) — which is preparing students grounded in faith and formed in community, and committed to education and service that fosters a greater sense of purpose — to host the inaugural Strong Cities Network U.S. Mayoral Retreat in August 2024. A three-day residential program convened on the Seminary's Pittsburgh campus and benefiting from the support of other Pittsburgh-based partners, including [Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College](#), the [Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation](#), and the [Eradicate Hate Global Summit](#), as well as the [National League of Cities](#), and the [Muhammad Ali Center](#), the U.S. Mayoral Retreat will be a unique opportunity for mayors and other local leaders to share and learn approaches and innovations they need to tackle an increasingly complex threat environment marked by rising hate and polarization.



With a centuries-old history of mission, scholarship and service, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is committed to relationships of mutual learning and serving with other faith traditions and theological viewpoints. With its urban campus and proximity to Pittsburgh's tech and education sectors, the Seminary's history, mission, and resources provide a rich context for this mayoral retreat in a city that has so much to share with cities about response and resilience.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/strong-cities-network-pittsburgh-theological-seminary-partner-to-host-u-s-mayoral-retreat/>

'LEAN IN AND LOOK UP'

Two retiring University of Dubuque administrators inspire seminary graduates with their commencement talks

by Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service Photo by Sincerely Media via Unsplash



LOUISVILLE — Dr. Mark Ward and the Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Bullock, two retiring administrators at the University of Dubuque, were anything but retiring Saturday, speaking to graduates during commencement exercises at the [University of Dubuque Theological Seminary](#) with passion and honesty. Watch the 71-minute commencement ceremony [here](#).

Ward, Saturday's featured speaker, is retiring this summer after 14 years as the university's Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty. Bullock, the university's president since 1998, is stepping down and [will be succeeded by Dr. Travis L. Frampton on June 1](#).

Ward read from [Romans 8:19-31](#), which includes these familiar words from Paul: "We know that the whole Creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the Creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies."

"Just because [seminary] was a rich experience doesn't mean it was easy or fun," Ward said. "Let's do a little reality check here: In all those rich experiences, might there have been some groaning?"

"Paul expects groaning and actually bestows groaning with meaning and purpose," Ward said. "In a sign of God's common grace, even non-Christians would say groaning is a part of life and that it may actually signal something good."

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/lean-in-and-look-up/>

PENTECOST OFFERING HELPS BRING TOGETHER YOUNG ADULTS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE TO CHANGE THE WORLD

YAVs are finding their way through New York City — and their own calling

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

Photo of Juliet Owuor

LOUISVILLE — Once worlds away, Juliet Owuor [ō-war] and Maggie Collins now find themselves mere inches apart.

The two roommates share a small New York City apartment with two other young adults — but that's not all they share.

Owuor — a native of Kenya whose family eventually settled in Lubbock, Texas — and Collins, who calls Winston-Salem, North Carolina, home, were both commissioned last summer to serve as part of the [Young Adult Volunteer](#) program, through which they are seeking to find their calling.

Not to mention their way through the New York City subways.

"The Young Adult Volunteer program gave me the freedom to try something new without as much risk, like being in New York City where I wouldn't be alone but where I knew I would have to learn how the subway system worked," said Owuor, who stayed in her hometown of Lubbock for both her undergraduate and now graduate studies in environmental engineering at Texas Tech University.

"To be here, I knew I had to let go of everything. I knew if I wanted something different, I would have to do something different."

For Owuor, the "something different" that was just the right fit at the right time for her was the PC(USA)'s YAV program, an ecumenical, faith-based year of service lived out in sites across the U.S. and around the world.

In addition to its focus on national and international service, the YAV program — which has been changing the lives of young people ages 19–30 for nearly three decades — also emphasizes living in intentional Christian community, spiritual formation and vocational discernment.

Young adults like Owuor and Collins, who seek to transform not only themselves but also the systems that perpetuate injustice in the U.S. and across the globe, are supported, in part, through the [Pentecost Offering](#), one of the PC(USA)'s four [Special Offerings](#). Not only do gifts to the Pentecost Offering benefit the YAV program, but the Offering also supports the [Office of Presbyterian Youth and Triennium](#) and the ["Educate a Child, Transform the World"](#) national initiative. A hallmark of this shared offering is that 40% of it is retained by individual congregations for local ministries, while the remaining 60% is used to support children at risk, youth and young adults through ministries of the [Presbyterian Mission Agency](#).

Collins said that she was initially attracted to the YAV program "because of the way that it gives young people the opportunity to live across the United States and the world in order to explore their passion and faith in a unique way."





“I wanted to give myself some time to discern what I wanted to pursue in life, whether that is further schooling or jumping into the workforce,” she said.

Photo of Maggie Collins (photo by Darla Carter)

Because of Collins’ strong commitment to the church’s role in advocating for peace, she was placed at the [Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations](#), where [she had previously served as a summer fellow three years ago](#) during her undergraduate years at the University of Richmond. Her double major in leadership studies and French, the international language of diplomacy, has served her well in her current role.

As has her faith formation at [Highland Presbyterian Church](#), where the Rev. Debbie Layman, associate pastor, continues to be both a mentor and a source of inspiration.

“My home church has always put an important focus on social justice and the church’s obligation to serve the greater community,” Collins said. “This had a large impact on me and my conception of what it means to be a Christian. My pastor has also been a guide for me through my YAV experience, as she held a similar role with the PC(USA) when she was around my age.”

Owuor’s foundation in the PC(USA) began soon after her family moved to the U.S. from Kenya, when her father’s cousin told them to visit a Presbyterian church in Oxford, Ohio, for food and resources. Although the family moved several times before settling in Texas, they never forgot the kindness of that first Presbyterian congregation.

“Because Presbyterians are such amazing people, we would continue to find a Presbyterian church no matter where we moved to,” she said. “When we found [Grace Presbyterian Church](#) in Lubbock, we got that same family sense. Everybody knows you. They check up on you. Then, when I stayed in town for college, I got more involved in the church, was confirmed, and later became a ruling elder.”

Owuor said that being a ruling elder changed the way she saw church.

“I got to see what it really takes to have a church functioning — electing people, making decisions for your church,” she said. “It’s different from other denominations. When we have a problem that’s specific to us, we get to decide how to solve it.”

As the church’s pastor, the Rev. Dana Mayfield, and other members of the congregation continued to encourage Owuor in her vocational discernment, she was invited to attend her first [Association of Partners in Christian Education](#) annual event. It was there where she met Destini Hodges, coordinator of the YAV program.

“When I went to the book fair to look for resources for our church, Destini was there and she started talking to me,” Owuor recalled. “She showed me a pamphlet with YAV on it and said, ‘You should do this.’ I tried to say no, but you can’t say no to Destini! I knew I had been looking for something new, I just didn’t know what it was.”

Within the YAV program, Owuor was appointed to a brand new pilot program with the Presbyterian Mission Agency’s [Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People](#) (SDOP). The position was created to provide the YAV with missional experiences that would foster direct engagement in the work of anti-poverty ministry.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pentecost-offering-helps-bring-together-young-adults-from-across-the-globe-to-change-the-world/>

EXXON’S LEGAL ACTIONS AGAINST CLIMATE-CONSCIOUS SHAREHOLDERS INVOKE PC(USA)’S RESPONSE

Current MRTI efforts include letter to fossil fuel giant, resolution filed with Goldman Sachs
by Emily Enders Odom, Mission Communications | Special to Presbyterian News Service

Photo by NASA via Unsplash

LOUISVILLE — For nearly 30 years, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) through its [Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment](#) (MRTI) has worked to engage corporations to adopt better and more just environmental policies and practices to mitigate the escalating impact of climate change.

One such focus of the PC(USA)’s engagement, ExxonMobil — which has historically been resistant to proposals related to Environmental, Social and Governance matters — is once again making headlines. And although [the 225th General Assembly \(2022\)](#) voted to divest from Exxon, the PC(USA) has nonetheless continued to exert its influence with the company where possible through its affiliation with the [Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility](#), of which the denomination is a founding member.

ICCR is a coalition of faith- and values-based investors who view shareholder engagement with corporations as a powerful catalyst for change.

When Exxon filed a lawsuit in January against two of its shareholders, the investor groups Arjuna Capital and Follow This, ICCR requested that other investors support its efforts to challenge such an unprecedented move against shareholders seeking changes in the company’s climate-related practices.

“The ExxonMobil lawsuit is important because, if successful, it would set a dangerous precedent that a company could sue its own shareholders when it disagrees with resolutions those shareholders file,” said Katie Carter, the PC(USA)’s director of Faith-Based



Investing and Shareholder Engagement and lead staff to MRTI. “Even if the suit is not successful, the potential threat of dragging shareholders through a long legal process could be used to deter shareholders from filing resolutions.”



Photo of Katie Carter

Carter further observed that Exxon’s most recent action builds on already troubling developments in the broader corporate and shareholder engagement context.

“Companies are trying to discredit shareholders as ‘woke progressives’ who are just trying to push an agenda without any interest in actually improving company performance or financial returns,” she said. “Because a core part of engagement with companies in recent years has been on Environmental,

Social and Governance issues, the recent company pushback has been colloquially termed the ‘anti-ESG’ movement, in which we see the Exxon lawsuit as the latest development.”

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/exxons-legal-actions-against-climate-conscious-shareholders-invoke-pcusas-response/>

PRESBYTERIANS SHOW SUPPORT FOR MORAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON

The Poor People’s Campaign will hold event June 29 to highlight injustices and mobilize voters
by Darla Carter | Presbyterian News Service

The Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, co-founder of the Poor People’s Campaign, speaks during January’s Matthew 25 Summit. (Photo by Rich Copley)

LOUISVILLE — [The Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival](#) announced Monday that it will once again hold an assembly and march in Washington, D.C., to call attention to the plight of poor and low-wage workers, push for moral public policies and encourage people to vote. Presbyterian ministers the Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, national co-chair of the Poor People’s Campaign, and the Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, advocacy director of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), were among those present at the announcement of the June 29 event dubbed the Mass Poor People’s and Low-Wage Workers’ Assembly and Moral March on Washington and to the Polls. (Watch the full press conference [here](#).)



The summer event is designed to launch the “mobilization and outreach of 15 million poor and low-income, infrequent voters” across the United States as part of the PPC’s national movement to counter those policymakers who are proposing and passing legislation against living wages, affordable health care, access to clean water and air, adequate housing and the like, according to material distributed to partners.

“We know and we have heard and we will continue to hear this morning that poor and low income voters make up nearly 40% of the electorate in some key places, and when we come together around a moral agenda, we have the power to fundamentally transform the politics of this nation,” said Theoharis, Executive Director of the [Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice](#) at [Union Theological Seminary](#).

The movement is necessary to propel elected officials to take a stand on issues that keep people struggling and hungry, according to the Poor People’s Campaign.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/presbyterians-show-support-for-moral-march-on-washington/>

THE PC(USA)’S OFFICE OF PUBLIC WITNESS SIGNS LETTER URGING FUNDING RESTORATION TO UNRWA



Letter sent to President Biden, House and Senate leaders

by Scott O’Neill | Presbyterian News Service Photo by Mohammed Ibrahim via Unsplash

LOUISVILLE — The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s [Office of Public Witness](#) joined with more than 100 additional immigrant, refugee, human rights and humanitarian organizations urging Congress to introduce and pass legislation that supports reinstating funding to the [United Nations Relief and Works Agency](#), known as UNRWA. The letter calls it a “moral and strategic failure” to suspend funding during a period of catastrophe and extreme need.

UNRWA provides education, health care and social services to Palestinian refugees. U.S. funding for UNRWA was halted on Jan. 26 after it was alleged that 12 UNRWA employees collaborated with Hamas in the Oct. 7 attack on Israel. A [recent webinar presented by](#)

[OPW](#) focused on UNRWA’s role in the region, where it was noted that 13,000 of UNRWA’s 30,000 employees worked in Gaza. Most of the workers are Palestinian refugees.

The letter, addressed to President Biden, Speaker of the House Mike Johnson and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, emphasizes that cutting off funding to UNRWA “completely erodes the international community’s ability to respond to one of the worst humanitarian crises of our time” and that UNRWA’s ability to provide services that are essential to the survival of Palestinians is irreplaceable. It further states that international non-governmental organizations and other UN-based organizations do not have

the personnel, resources, or infrastructure to adequately address the current humanitarian needs in Gaza. UNRWA also provides assistance to more than three million Palestinian refugees in the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

A [recent news report](#) noted that Israel has yet to provide evidence that UNRWA employees had ties to the Oct. 7 Hamas attack. However, an Israeli foreign ministry spokesperson has accused more than 2,000 UNRWA workers of being members of Hamas or Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

The April 29 letter

Dear President Biden, Speaker Johnson, and Leader Schumer,

We, the undersigned 103 immigrant, refugee, human rights and humanitarian organizations, write to express our alarm and deep disappointment following Congress's decision to reinforce and codify the Biden Administration's suspension of U.S. funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the principal aid provider for millions of Palestinian refugees in Gaza and in the surrounding region. Suspending funding during a humanitarian catastrophe, widespread starvation and looming famine is a moral and strategic failure that abandons nearly two million displaced Palestinians during a period of extreme need. We call on Congress to urgently introduce and pass legislation and for the President to support reinstating funding to UNRWA.

For over six decades, the United States has been one of the strongest supporters of UNRWA, including its largest bilateral donor. Without U.S. support, UNRWA cannot effectively carry out its role as the largest humanitarian agency in the region. Currently, UNRWA is working to provide life-saving assistance to Palestinians in Gaza who are facing extreme malnutrition, starvation, and an outbreak of deadly diseases due to Israel's ongoing bombing campaign and deprivation of aid. To date, [over 34,000 Palestinians have been killed](#) and tens of thousands more injured without access to functioning hospitals or appropriate medical care. The situation in Gaza is extraordinarily dire, and the need to ensure civilian protection and humanitarian relief is crucial.

Cutting off funding to UNRWA completely erodes the international community's ability to respond to one of the worst humanitarian crises of our time. International NGOs and other UN organizations have repeatedly stated that they do not have the personnel, resources, or infrastructure to respond to the humanitarian needs in Gaza appropriately. Continuing UNRWA operations is imperative to address and alleviate the ongoing crisis. There is no debate that UNRWA's ability to provide services, including food, water, medical assistance, and protection, is irreplaceable and essential to the survival of Palestinians in Gaza, especially now as famine is imminent.

Furthermore, prohibiting funding to UNRWA not only affects Palestinians in Gaza, but also harms over three million Palestinian refugees in the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria who depend on its services for shelter, education, financial assistance, access to healthcare, and more. Palestinian refugees are excluded from receiving any protection or other assistance from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which is mandated to provide aid to all other refugees globally. Thus, UNRWA is the primary entity serving this population and has effectively been doing so since its establishment over 75 years ago. UNRWA's unique experience, knowledge, and expertise within the region and with the Palestinian refugee population is indispensable.

To read the entire letter: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/the-pcusas-office-of-public-witness-signs-letter-urging-funding-restoration-to-unrwa/>

JAMES ATWOOD INSTITUTE FOR CONGREGATIONAL COURAGE SET FOR GHOST RANCH AUG. 22-25

Presbyterian Peace Fellowship honors a gun violence prevention prophet by multiplying courage
by Presbyterian Peace Fellowship | Special to Presbyterian News Service

Photo of The Rev. Jim Atwood (Photo by Della Orr-Harter)

With every event of gun violence, does the Spirit tug at you to do something? Yet what? And how? And do I have the courage and skill to do it? Or... I've been working on this — how do I become more effective?

If these questions call to you, the [Presbyterian Peace Fellowship](#) invites you — and perhaps others from your church — to attend the inaugural James Atwood Institute for Congregational Courage at the [Ghost Ranch Education and Retreat Center](#) in Abiquiu, New Mexico, August 22-25. Honoring [the late Presbyterian prophet of gun violence prevention, James Atwood](#), the Institute will offer intense continuing education for clergy and lay leaders in a range of educational, pastoral and action strategies for gun violence prevention mission in the local congregation.

"In the church [we speak of energy, intelligence, imagination and love](#)," said the Rev. Margery Rossi, Acting Coordinator of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship's Gun Violence Prevention Ministry. "To that list, Jim Atwood urged the cultivation of courage. None of those spiritual gifts matters unless we have the courage to act on them."

The purpose of the Atwood Institute is to cultivate this courage by providing new skills and an ongoing community to overcome the sense of frustration, helplessness and isolation that church leaders can feel on gun violence prevention and other difficult issues. Occurring annually, the Atwood Institute will train clergy and lay leaders in Gun Violence Prevention (GVP) practical skills for congregational use, including preaching on and discussing GVP effectively, managing opposition and trauma, emergency response to gun violence, and engaging congregations and communities in practical GVP education and action.



The institute is ecumenical, welcoming all denominations. It will offer hands-on training for [Guns to Gardens](#) events, including the opportunity to transform a gun into a garden tool. Additionally, participants will have the option to follow up the event with quarterly online gatherings with their Atwood Institute community, with a goal of encouraging one another over time. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/james-atwood-institute-for-congregational-courage-set-for-ghost-ranch-aug-22-25/>

MEMPHIS CHURCH FINDS NEW LIFE, MINISTRIES IN STOREFRONT

Evergreen Presbyterian Church pastor: 'I'm glad [members] were bold enough to take that leap.'
by Nancy Crowe for the Presbyterian Foundation | Special to Presbyterian News Service



Evergreen Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tennessee, is writing a new chapter not only in a nontraditional place, but with new friends and missions. (Photo courtesy of Evergreen Presbyterian Church)

Membership had gone from 1,400 to about 160 over the decades. Maintaining a 10-acre campus, with a tall-steeple sanctuary built in 1950, drained money and energy. Church leaders struggled with the implications of closing or merging.

It's not a new story.

However, [Evergreen Presbyterian Church](#) in Memphis, Tennessee, is writing a new chapter not only in a nontraditional place, but with new friends and missions.

Wandering

Longtime member Susan Bransford, whose husband Roger served for years on the property and grounds committee, said the congregation made many efforts to lower

operating costs.

The sanctuary, gym and education building proved too much to maintain. Discussions about selling the property to the neighboring, Presbyterian-affiliated [Rhodes College](#) went on for years.

"We were bleeding money," Bransford said. "It was very obvious it needed to happen."

Other members were not ready to let go. But one older member, the wife of an influential former pastor, weighed in.

"She stood up in a meeting and said, 'I love this building a lot. I love the memories, but it's time to move on.' And she made all the difference in the world," Bransford said.

Evergreen in 2013 participated in the [Presbyterian Foundation's Project Regeneration](#). This program helps congregations deal with property and other transitions and discern God's call in writing their next chapter.

The congregation voted that year to sell its property to the college, which has since turned the gymnasium into a bookstore and the sanctuary into a concert hall.

Eleven years ago, Evergreen Presbyterian Church sold its former building to Rhodes College, which has since transformed it into a concert hall. (Contributed photo)

Evergreen member Mark Hamilton, who led the committee in charge of the sale, said the property could likely have brought in more money on the commercial market. But Rhodes let Evergreen stay for 27 months, rent-free, while it looked for a new home. An afterschool program moved to a nearby public school; the preschool, to another church.

The congregation, then under the leadership of the Rev. Lucy Waechter Webb, tried out different worship spaces for a couple of years. It ultimately decided to use some of the proceeds from the property to purchase its current building in 2016.

Still Evergreen

"We ended up buying a storefront, which is what everybody absolutely agreed they did not want," Bransford said.

Yet here Evergreen is in a modest single-story space that, from the street, looks like it could house anything from a dry cleaner to an independent bookshop.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/memphis-church-finds-new-life-ministries-in-storefront/>



A LITTLE ANARCHY MIGHT BE GOOD FOR US

Terry Stokes, author of the upcoming 'Jesus and the Abolitionists: How Anarchist Christianity Empowers the People,' is the guest on the 'A Matter of Faith' podcast



by Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service Terry Stokes (Photo courtesy of Terry Stokes) LOUISVILLE — [Terry Stokes](#), who wrote the upcoming book "[Jesus and the Abolitionists: How Anarchist Christianity Empowers the People](#)," said during a recent "A Matter of Faith" podcast that he wrote the book to help people "look at anarchy and grab insights and inspiration for how to reshape our theology and our practice within our communities and our society." Stokes' nearly hour-long conversation with podcast hosts the Rev. Lee Catoe and Simon Doong can be heard [here](#).

Stokes explained anarchy as a philosophy as well as “a lifestyle or a movement.” He offered two definitions: the absence of rulership and what he called “a more poetic definition,” the “art of relating freely as equals.”

“As I got more into anarchism, the question of could our lives in community be improved without rulership was the entry point into all my constructive work between my spiritual background [Stokes earned a Master of Divinity from [Princeton Theological Seminary](#) in 2020] and this new political philosophy I was getting into,” he said. “Are human beings inherently good? Inherently bad? Are they inherently neutral?”

Growing up “in the conservative milieu, there was a lot of talk about original sin and depravity,” Stokes recalled. “That started to get dismantled when I was in seminary, but it wasn’t until another philosophical voice came in from the outside, through anarchism, that I was able to reconsider that question.”

If we believe human beings are inherently bad, “a logical next step is some or all humans need to be coerced in order to do right and live in harmony with the people around them,” he said. But if we believe humans are inherently good, or at least inherently neutral, “the first step after saying that was to go back through Scripture and see if there is a way I could go through the narrative, the scheme of the text, and see if that was an interpretation I could arrive at or hold with integrity.”

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/a-little-anarchy-might-be-good-for-us/>

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION REPORTS FOR GA226

Key advice about authoritative interpretations, this summer’s overtures

Fred Tangeman | Office of the General Assembly - May 1, 2024

LOUISVILLE

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC) has now completed significant parts of its pre-General Assembly work, making public two committee reports covering authoritative interpretations and business items submitted to the 226th General Assembly.

A week-long meeting in April brought the committee together in Louisville, where it livestreamed discussions for the wider church.

Carla Campbell, ACC Moderator from the [Synod of the Trinity](#) and Stated Clerk of the [Presbytery of Pittsburgh](#), encouraged news service readers to learn the committee’s advice and recommendations directly from the reports in [PC Biz](#).

On a personal note she reflected on the April meeting and looked to the future, including ways the ACC will support the 226th General Assembly in Salt Lake City and the kind of Presbyterians who might enjoy serving on the committee in the future.

Read the ACC’s reports here:

[ACC Recommendations on Current Requests for AIs and on Items of Business with Constitutional Implications](#)

[ACC Summary Report with AI \(Authoritative Interpretation\) Recommendations and Editorial Changes](#)

Some members of the Advisory Committee on the Constitution, April 2024, Presbyterian Center, Louisville. *Author photo.*

Each day of the Louisville meeting began with devotion, centering the committee in prayer. The first morning included an orientation, which Campbell said was especially helpful given the new online committee structure in place for this summer’s General Assembly.

Campbell’s six years on the ACC have included three new assembly formats, with this cycle the first the ACC has been able to meet in-person in the months before the assembly. It was also the first cycle where Campbell, who received the moderator’s gavel two years ago from [Forrest Claassen](#), had a chance to work on current requests for authoritative interpretations of the Book of Order — two from the Presbytery of the Cascades (on minister training and committee composition) and one from the Presbytery of Milwaukee (on public worship).

As it does each assembly cycle, the ACC also reviewed overtures seeking to amend the Book of Order or containing language that could raise constitutional questions. ACC recommendations are given serious consideration by committees and plenaries, but any action informed by their advice is carried out by the General Assembly.

Each day the full committee broke into two groups, with each half breaking into smaller groups to discuss draft responses that were later brought back to the full group.

Much of the committee’s work over the past year involved reviewing past [authoritative interpretations](#) and making recommendations about which to bring into the new Church Discipline section of the Book of Order, previously The Rules of Discipline.

“The bulk of that work was done at our fall meeting in St. Louis and with emails and via Zoom,” Campbell said. Altogether the committee looked at more than 600 authoritative interpretation notations.

<https://pcusa.org/news/2024/5/1/advisory-committee-on-the-constitution-reports-for/>



AREN'T WE ALL JUST HOLDING SPACE?' THE REV. MICHELLE SCOTT-HUFFMAN'S STIRRING SERMON HELPS THE PC(USA)'S NATIONAL STAFF LEAN INTO MENTAL HEALTH MONTH



by Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service

Photo by Matthew Ball via Unsplash

LOUISVILLE — The Rev. Michelle Scott-Huffman, campus minister of [Ekklesia Progressive Campus Ministry](#) at Missouri State University in Springfield, preached for the first time in her career on Psalm 23 during Chapel Service on Wednesday, the first day of [Mental Health Month](#).

Scott-Huffman, an ordained Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister, recalled praying “though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death” the day she found herself on a terrifying ride at an amusement park. “This was some King James level of fear, and those were the only words I had,” she told the PC(USA)’s national staff during their weekly online worship service. “I never got to the next line, but I did indeed still fear the evil that was about to go down.”

After warning those gathered for worship that she planned to mention suicide later in her sermon, Scott-Huffman called the beloved psalm “not a text for death. It is undoubtedly a text for life — life that’s hard, life that’s real, life that feels unrelenting sometimes, life that’s just downright scary. In hindsight, I wonder if God breathed that text into my spirit at a time of my own fear so that I might know its value when I would later walk alongside dozens or maybe hundreds of people with significant mental health struggles. Maybe God knew something I didn’t know about the road ahead.”

Fresh out of seminary, Scott-Huffman’s first ministry was a church plant. “Our demographic studies helped us identify our target market: the young cosmopolitan 35-year-old gay man driving a BMW” who has “ample disposable income, perfect pitch and a passion for theological discourse. Well, they didn’t get the memo,” she reported, “but other people did.”

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/arent-we-all-just-holding-space/>

‘A CALL TO IMAGINE THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE’

Composer, musician, bandleader and futurist Nicole Mitchell Gantt is the guest on the second installment of a Matthew 25 webinar series

by Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service

Photo of Nicole Mitchell Gantt

LOUISVILLE — Flautist, futurist, bandleader and composer [Nicole Mitchell Gantt](#) joined the Rev. Jermaine Ross-Allam Wednesday for the second installment of the [Matthew 25 series](#), “Imagining a Future Beyond Systemic Poverty and Structural Racism.” The 75-minute webinar included a time of improvised music and, in the style of Sankofa, a look at the past to help build a hopeful, more joyous and inclusive future.

Read about the first webinar in the “Imagining a Future” series [here](#).

Ross-Allam directs the PC(USA)’s [Center for the Repair of Historic Harms](#). Mitchell teaches

composition and computer technologies at the University of Virginia. For more than 20 years,

Mitchell’s critically acclaimed Chicago-based [Black Earth Ensemble](#) has been her primary compositional laboratory with which she has performed at festivals and art venues throughout Europe, Canada and the United States.

Ross-Allam said his interest in Mitchell’s music began while he was still in graduate school. “I love these great musicians,” he said, mentioning legends including Louis Armstrong, John Coltrane and Billie Holiday. “But who is living, working and thinking right now at that level of transformational capabilities?” For him, Mitchell fit the bill.

“Thanks for tying all those parts of myself into one expression,” she told Ross-Allam. “I know a challenge we’re facing is, how do we dream in a world like this?”

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/a-call-to-imagine-the-change-we-want-to-see/>



UPCOMING PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

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.

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, May 16th **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 @ keefe.r Robert@gmail.com Sponsored by the Presbytery's Worship and Spirituality Committee



THE LUNCH BUNCH... The next monthly Lunch Bunch will be on Tuesday, May 21 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 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, May 16. It's always a lively time and we hope you will 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!




NO Sit & Sip for May as it falls on the Memorial Day weekend. We will meet on June 29th. Our topic of discussion will be LGBTQIA+.

Please register by contacting Kathleen Keefer @ kathleenkeefe20@gmail.com 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

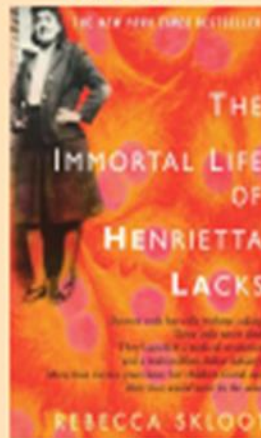
-  DISCUSS THE BOOKS WITH OTHERS VIA ZOOM
 - The J&P Book Discussion Group is open to all!
-  DISCUSSION GROUP MEETS EVERY OTHER MONTH
 - Read and discuss any or all books that appeal to you. Registration will be needed to join the discussion on Zoom.
-  RECEIVE STUDY GUIDES TO INFORM YOUR READING
 -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

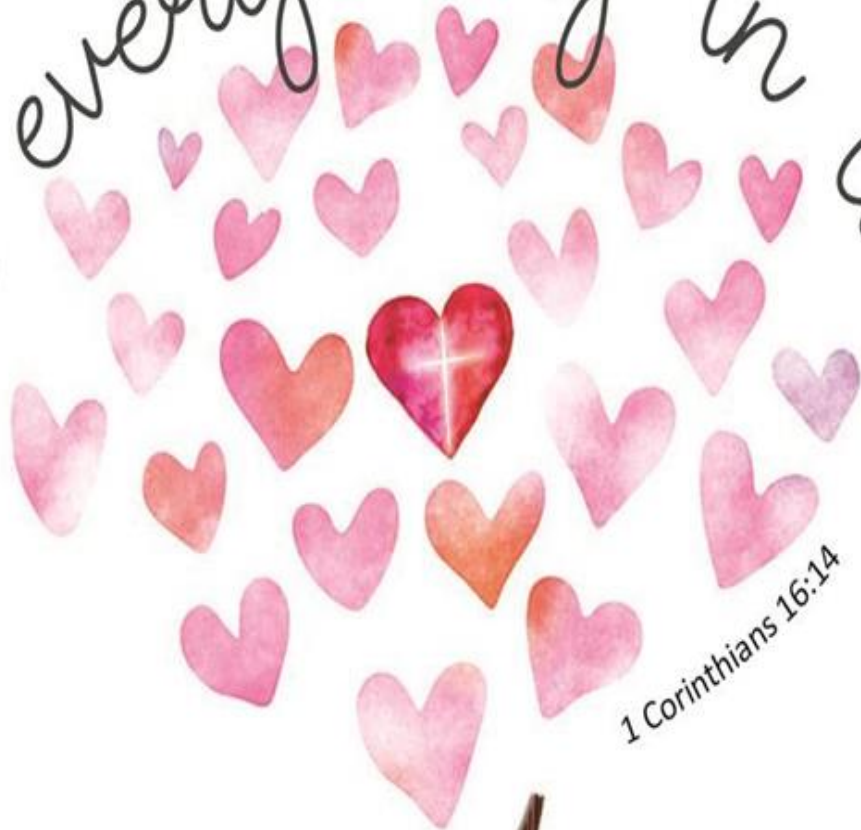


SEPTEMBER 11



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

May 6, 2024 – June 8, 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thurs	Friday	Saturday
<p>5</p> <p>6th Sunday of Easter Older Adult Week Begins Legacy Giving Sunday National Day of Awareness & Action for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls & Two-Spirit People</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Holocaust Remembrance Day</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Social Justice & Peacemaking Committee</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Weekly Pastor Gathering via Zoom</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Ascension of the Lord</p>  <p>Christian Ed</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Fair Trade Day Calvin Crest Board meets</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Mother's Day</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Weekly Pastor Gathering via Zoom Stewardship of Resources</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Worship & Spirituality Theology on Tap</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>Men's Retreat – Calvin Crest</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Men's Retreat – Calvin Crest 1001 New Worshiping Communities</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Day of Pentecost Pentecost Offering Intercultural Church Sunday Mission Worker Sunday Presbyterian Heritage Sunday</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Lunch Bunch Leadership Team Meeting</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Weekly Pastor Gathering via Zoom</p>	<p>23</p> 	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Africa Day</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Trinity Sunday</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Memorial Day</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Mission & Evangelism COM</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Weekly Pastor Gathering via Zoom</p>	<p>30</p> 	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Second Sunday After Pentecost</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Social Justice & Peacemaking</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Weekly Pastor Gathering via Zoom</p>	<p>6</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>National Gun Violence Awareness Day</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Third Sunday After Pentecost</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Weekly Pastor Gathering via Zoom</p>	<p>13</p> <p>PMRV Christian Educators' Meeting</p> 	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>

Please check with Presbytery Office for specific meeting information

Presbytery Prayer Calendar

May 6, 2024 – June 1, 2024

Sun day	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thurs	Friday	Satur-day
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
19	20 We pray for Stephen Smith PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV FELD, Jodi Filipi We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley	21 We pray for Ryan Smith PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV FELD, Karen Johns We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Utica	22 We pray for William Smith PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV FELD, Rick Holbert We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Western NY	23 We pray for Rebecca Snipp PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV FELD, Ellen Scott We pray for the work and ministry of the Synod of the Pacific	24 We pray for Katie Snyder PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV FELD, Shelli Dart We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Boise	25
26	27 We pray for Samuel Son PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV FELD, Rudy Wang We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Cascades	28 We pray for Teresa Sontarp PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV FELD, Jenny Gollehon We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Eastern Oregon	29 We pray for Jake Souder PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of PMRV FELD, Jessica Scheopner We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Kendall	30 We pray for Roger Spalding PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of Worship & Spirituality, Michael Geiler We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Nevada	31 We pray for Frank Spencer PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of Worship & Spirituality, Suzanne Gorhau We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of North Central California	1
2	3 We pray for Alex Spoelker PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of Worship & Spirituality, Robert Keefer We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of Redwoods	4 We pray for Champara Srinivasan PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of Worship & Spirituality, Kris Oertell We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of San Francisco	5 We pray for David Staniunas PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of Worship & Spirituality, Ardys Hansum We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of San Joaquin	6 We pray for Marsha Stearley PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of Worship & Spirituality, Becki Balestri We pray for the work and ministry of the Presbytery of San Jose'	7 We pray for Tim Stepp PC(USA) staff. We pray for the work & ministry of Mission & Evangelism, Rebecca Nichol We pray for the work and ministry of the Synod of the Rocky Mountains	

