



Moderator's Musings - A Hopeful Spring, 2019

What a winter we have had here in the Mid-west, I am sure you will all agree! Snow storm after snow storm and temperatures well

below 0° have given us time and the excuse to stay home. I was asked a month ago to give the message at Bethany Presbyterian Church on Sunday morning – something I have not been asked to do before, but I was happy to do, but the service had to be canceled because of snow. So, here is part of the message.

First the Scripture is from The Message: Luke 10: 38-42 “As they continued their travel, Jesus entered a village. A woman by the name of Martha welcomed him and made him feel quite at home. She had a sister, Mary, who sat before the Master, hanging on every word he said. But Martha was pulled away by all she had to do in the kitchen. Later, she stepped in, interrupting them. “Master, don’t you care that my sister has abandoned the kitchen to me? Tell her to lend me a hand.”

The Master said, “Martha, dear Martha, you’re fussing far too much and getting yourself worked up over nothing. One thing only is essential, and Mary as chosen it – it’s the main course, and won’t be taken from her.”

When talking about Presbyterian Women, this has to be my favorite scripture! It really says it all! Martha shows hospitality – she welcomes Jesus into her home and she makes him feel comfortable. Then it seems she goes over the top in preparing a meal- she is ‘pulled away by all she had to do in the kitchen’. Martha is fearless – also a PW trait – she actually interrupts Jesus while he is teaching to complain about her sister Mary, who has left her to do all the work the it seems to me, Martha has chosen to do.

And then there is Mary – I always see Mary as the younger sister, the quieter of the two. I see her, sitting before Jesus, constantly pushing her glasses back up on her nose, perhaps taking notes in her black and white composition notebook. She is also the quintessential PW.

Jesus has to protect Mary’s position as student and pretty much tells Martha, “You know, Martha, we would have been just fine with soup and salad, instead of the standing rib roast you thought you had to make.

Coming up in the PW Calendar of events there are plenty of opportunities to be both Mary and Martha. On **April 13th**, we will have our **Spring Gathering at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Council Bluffs**. Our main presenter is **Susan Medsker-Nedderman**, who was a USA Mission Experience Partner to the Greater Bay Area and she will sharing her adventures with us. I will also share some of what I learned at the UN.

June 21 through 23 are the dates for the Synod Gathering in Ames, IA. This is a fantastic event, filled with learning experiences, hands-on mission, fun events, and fellowship with old friends and new. (We have scholarships available!!)

September 13 -14, Homestead Presbytery PW will have their **Fall Gathering at nearby Calvin Crest** and they have invited Missouri River Valley to join them. They have invited **Jenny Lee, who is Moderator for Presbyterian Women (Churchwide)**. I heard her speak in Louisville and she is dynamic and has energy and vision for PW for the future. It would be great for you to come “sit at her feet”! For more information about Jenny Lee – click and go:

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/2019/01/02/presbyterian-women-moderator-states-plan-for-moving-forward/> or highlight and cut and paste.

On **October 19**, we will have our **4th Annual Mission Blast at Presbyterian Church of the Cross** in Omaha. We were able to do a lot of great “Martha” last year, time to join us again. You will hear more about this soon.

As I travel around the Presbytery, I keep hearing about how “we are getting older”, “our congregations are aging,” “we are tired and it is time for the younger women to take over.” I understand this, especially after the winter we’ve had. I do not want to see anyone of you slip on the ice and break a hip, wrist, arm or anything! But Spring IS coming and it’s time to show these young women what they are missing.

Kathleen Keefer



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Go to our web page for information, updates, events and prayer requests

<http://pmrv.org/index.php/presbyterian-women>



TOGETHER IN SERVICE

Diane Kratz

Spring Always Brings April Showers and Severe Weather! California is experiencing floods and landslides as I'm writing this article. Now is a good time to think about collecting for Hygiene Kits or School Kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. I also included items for Clean Up Buckets which are also needed for disaster assistance but are rather expensive to assemble.

I like these Gifts of the Heart mission projects because they are an easy way to include the entire congregation in a mission project for your Presbyterian Women. We often don't ask for help with these projects. Hygiene and School Kits are easy to include everyone because individual items do not cost a lot so even our school children can bring a bar of soap, a box of crayons, an eraser or a toothbrush.

So don't hide in your church! Include everyone to gather supplies for these kits. A collection drive is a way to get out in front and be visible in your church. As far as the school kits are concerned, children who have experienced a disaster need to get back to normal as soon as possible. School is the normal routine for children.

This spring, please consider collecting items for hygiene kits and collect for school kits when the Back to School sales begin.

Look for more information on the Mission Blast coming in on Saturday, October 19 at Church of the Cross.



Hygiene Kit

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

Please do not add toothpaste.

Toothpaste with an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment. Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure.



School Kit

- 1 — pair of blunt scissors (rounded tips)
- 3 — 70-count spiral notebooks or notebooks (total 200-210 pages/no loose-leaf or filler paper.)
- 1 — 30-cen meter ruler (12")
- 1 — hand-held pencil sharpener
- 6 — new pencils with erasers
- 1 — large eraser
- 1 — box of 24 crayons
- 1 — cloth bag, 12" x 14" to 14" x 17" finished size, cotton or lightweight canvas, cloth handles.

Clean up Bucket

- 5 - gallon bucket with re-sealable lid,
- 5 - scouring pads
- 7 - sponges, assorted sizes
- 1 - scrub brush
- 5 - dust masks,
- 50 - clothespins
- Clothesline- two 50 or one 100 ft. length
- 1 - box dry laundry detergent 50-78 oz.
- 1 - pair work gloves
- 2 - pair latex gloves (like Playtex®)
- 1 - 12 oz.* liquid concentrated household cleaner (like Lysol®)
- 1 - 25 oz.* bottle liquid disinfectant dish soap (like Dawn®)
- 1 - pkg. cleaning towels (18 reusable, like Easy Wipes®)
- 24 - count roll heavy-duty trash bags (33-45 gallon) 1 bottle insect repellent (drops or roll-on, not aerosol), 6-14 oz.*

**liquids in plastic bottles only Send only new, unopened materials. Pack items securely in the plastic bucket; seal lid with packing tape. Value \$56



The UN Women is the [United Nations](#) entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

Kathleen Keefer, moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley and resident of Clarinda, IA, has been selected to serve as a delegate for the 63rd Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender

equality and the empowerment of women. CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equity and the empowerment of women.

The upcoming CSW session takes place in New York City in March. Keefer worked 30-plus years in the field of child-abuse investigation and prevention, seeing equal amounts of pain, frustration and isolation in the eyes of the mother as well as the child. This work also brought her into the field of intimate partner violence (IPV) and services to protect women and children (and sometimes men), to work toward the prevention of IPV and to support the family in these difficult times. She is retired from Southwest Iowa Families, Inc where she was the Program Manager for the Positive Family –Family Support Program.

She recently became involved with international educational disparities, supporting a young man's effort to meet his educational dreams in Uganda. Through this effort she became aware of the lack of available education for children, not only in Uganda, but throughout the world, even in the United States. This becomes a women's issue when the children grow up, uneducated, living in poverty, and surrounded by violence and brutality, thus continuing the cycle of poverty and violence.

In addition to her service to Presbyterian Women in her presbytery, she serves as secretary or Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Lakes and Prairies, and coordinator of the synod organization's Justice and Peace Committee.

She strives to learn about the plight of women and children throughout the world and make others aware of situations that do not make the front page of newspapers or the typical woman's newsfeed. As committee chair, she sends out frequent e-mails citing items from the Presbyterian Women's Working for Justice and Peace calendar, stories about the #metoo movement, children soldiers, the use of the threat of sexual assault as a weapon of war, and hands-on mission projects such as "Days for Girls."

Keefer is excited to serve as a delegate to the commission, and she looks forward to sharing her experience with Presbyterian Women throughout the synod, the presbytery and southwest Iowa.

RUMMAGE SALES:

Bethany, CB - April 4, 5, 6

New Horizon, CB – April 4, 5, 6 VISIT BOTH!!