



# The Sower

*Newsletter for the Presbyterian Women in the  
Synod of Lakes & Prairies*



February, 2022

Kathleen Keefer, Editor

## Moderator's Musings

How are you holding up? Is the extended pandemic getting you down? Are you coming to the end of your rope with Zoom meetings, masks, hand sanitizer, and all the other things that are now our common lot? Well, you aren't alone. I think we all long for an end, but realize that realistically this might be with us for a while yet. A friend of mine told me a few days ago that the latest Omicron variant may likely be the beginning of the end. He said that a new virus' life starts with the most potent variant, the one that kills, and then weakens as it branches to new strains, until the last one is a nuisance, but doesn't kill very often. We can only hope.

When it comes to staying home by myself, I'm pretty OK, since I am quite introverted. It is no problem for me to be by myself and to find things to occupy my time. It is otherwise with some of my friends and relatives who are extroverted. They miss being with other people a lot. In fact, being in a crowd is their happy place. So they aren't doing so well in this climate where being in a crowd can be dangerous.

Whenever I get to feeling that I can't take any more of whatever it is, I turn to the Psalms for comfort. I particularly like Psalms 3, 22, 23, 25, 100, 121, and 150. They remind me that no one is alone, that God comforts those in adversity, and that praising God will bring joy. What are your go-to verses? Do you take comfort from the Psalms, as I do, or is it in the gospels or the letters that you find words of balm to your soul? Wherever you go, God will be with you and the Spirit will guide you. Bless you all.

Photo by [Rachel Strong](#) on [Unsplash](#)





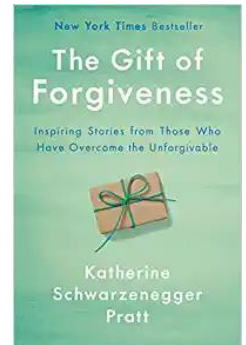
Fellowship of the Least Coin Prayer Movement is simple, yet significant and unique: --It brings Christian women together in a fellowship of prayer without any discrimination of race, nationality, culture or denomination. --The offering is unique because all—regardless of income, education, nationality or home—give only the smallest coin of their currency. --The least coins become a large amount in the same way individual prayers offered by many throughout the world become a strong force. In 2021, the Fellowship of the Least Coin granted 22 projects worldwide, including those that advocate to (1) end gender-based violence and human trafficking of women (2) develop women’s leadership (3) facilitate the social integration of migrant and refugee women (4) empower vulnerable women and girls during a pandemic (5) provide parenting/family literacy education to Indigenous mothers impacted by domestic violence and (6) raise awareness about the rights of women and girls. *Horizons Magazine*, pgs. 23-25 (Nov./Dec. 2021).



The Gift of Forgiveness: Inspiring Stories from Those Who Overcome the Unforgivable, by Katherine Schwarzenegger Pratt, Viking: 2020.

This book explores the topic of forgiveness.

We all deal with forgiveness since we all suffer bruises in our lives. Katherine conducted more than twenty interviews, talking with individuals about how they came to forgive the unforgivable in their own lives. One example is Sue Klebold, whose son, Dylan, was one of the Columbine shooters.



Sue dealt not only with the loss of innocent lives in the school but the loss of her own son, who finally killed himself in the school library. Sue had difficulty accepting others who said they forgave her. She has realized that she will never fully forgive herself. Instead she has turned that feeling into action. She tries to live her life dedicated to Dylan’s memory. She has talked to parents, teachers, school personnel, and law enforcement about the suffering that people endure. She has also written a book, *A Mother’s Reckoning*, and donated all profits to mental health organization and to support research into suicide prevention. So her journey in forgiveness continues and all of us continue with our journey in forgiveness also.

By Annabelle Wells



For 100 years, Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering has helped fund mission projects that improve lives. The 2022 Birthday Offering recipients are:

**Mission at the Eastward (MATE)**  
**McCleary House Transitional Housing**  
 missionattheeastward.org  
 Farmington, Maine  
 \$80,000



**Iglesia Presbiteriana de Lares, Puerto Rico**  
**Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand**  
 facebook.com/iglesia.lares  
 Lares, Puerto Rico  
 \$100,000

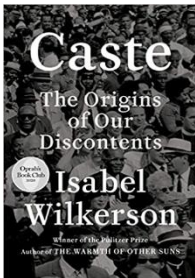


Lord, open unto me

- Open unto me—light for my darkness.
- Open unto me—courage for my fear.
- Open unto me—hope for my despair.
- Open unto me—peace for my turmoil.
- Open unto me—joy for my sorrow.
- Open unto me—strength for my weakness.
- Open unto me—wisdom for my confusion.
- Open unto me—forgiveness for my sins.
- Open unto me—love for my hates.
- Open unto me—thy Self for my self.

Lord, Lord, open unto me! Amen Howard Thurman

CASTE: The Origins of Our Discontent BY ISABEL



WILKERSON is the next book being read by Justice & Peace Book Discussion Group. The discussion is scheduled for March 14, 2022 at 6:30 PM EST (5:30 CST).

Caste was named #1 nonfiction book of the year by Time, One of the ten best books of the

year by People, one of the best books of the year by the New York Times Book Review and O:The Oprah Magazine, NPR, Bloomberg, etc. Isabel Wilkerson uses real life stories to look at the sometimes hidden caste system and how it has shaped the history of the United States. She links the caste system in the US with the systems in India and Nazi Germany. Click on the UR code on the inserted flier to join the group.



SETTING PRIORITIES...AGAIN!

From *Wellspring: 365 Meditations to Refresh Your Soul* by Karen Moore.

“But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Matthew 6:33

The start of a new year is a good time to take a look at your priorities, to examine more closely where you are willing to put your effort and energy. What’s at the top of your to-do list?

Most likely, you’ll find a lot of things there like cleaning out the garage, decluttering closets, daily exercise. At the beginning of a year, we’re usually pretty focused on improving ourselves and our lot in life.

Matthew recommends that we go back to our to-do list to see if we’ve remembered to put God at the top of it. He says that when we start there, we’re getting it right. In fact, we’re getting the message that there’s really nothing worth doing if God is not a part of the equation.

Today, put your to-do list aside for a bit and scratch out the stuff that keeps you busy and look for the stuff that keeps you in the business of life, the life God called you to. He can only help you, guide you, and bless you if you invite him into your story. Call him, he’s always available to you.

*Lord, I know that I get so busy with life I forget to even mention your name in passing. I forget that you are the reason I get to do anything at all. Be with me today and lead the way to all that you would have me do. Amen.*

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After looking at Luke 8:4-15, a SD pastor stated:

To comprehend Jesus,  
we must participate with Jesus.  
Your day can be all about Jesus,  
but not be with Jesus.  
When we spend time with Jesus,  
others get to know Him.  
Are we spending time WITH Jesus?

Know that the ever present mystery we name God... is in your past forgiving you, in your present loving you and in your future meeting you. And may the blessings of the source of life, love and hope, the word of life, compassion and wisdom and the breath of life, grace and truth surround, sustain and surprise you this day and all of your days. Amen. Submitted by Mary Jenner

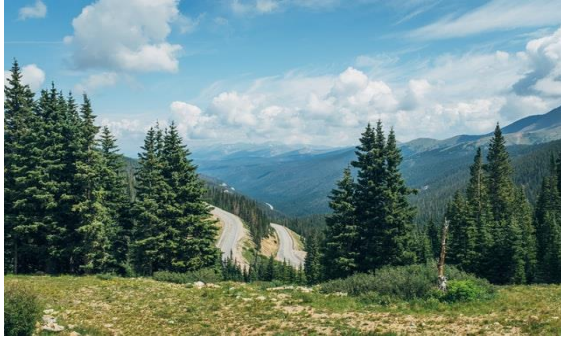


Photo by Tyler Davis on Unsplash

My husband, Roger, and I lived for a while in Colorado Springs, at the edge of the Rocky Mountains. I can remember waking up in the morning and being drawn to the window to look out and up at Pikes Peak. In the early dawn, the snow capped mountain top would catch the light before the rest of the world had awakened. As long as we lived there, we began our days looking up and praising God for the wonders of creation.

I bought a pair of hiking boots while we were in Colorado Springs because one of the great pastimes out there is trekking through creation. It's just as popular to hike up the mountains during spring, summer and fall, as it is to ski down the face of the mountains during winter. Anyone going hiking in Colorado had to learn certain rules:

1. Come prepared with the right equipment. Wear hiking boots, not soft-soled tennis shoes.
2. Keep your backpack light. Carry what you really need, but not more than you have to.
3. Watch your footing. Be careful to place your foot on solid ground.
4. Be responsible for yourself and remember, it is easier to stay out of trouble than it is to get out of trouble.
5. Be prepared to find that the spectacular outer world will point you to your inner life.

In the beauty and solitude of the mountains, one has to be prepared to be encountered by God; ready to learn what really matters; ready to have personal priorities rearranged. Time after time I met hikers who came back a different person because of their hike.

As we hike through 2022, we must journey with the right equipment--the teachings of Jesus to be our map and compass, and a heart wide open to receive the blessings of strenuous exercise. Your trek can either work out the kinks or add to your struggles. Put your steps on the solid ground of your faith in God, practice walking a trust walk with God, and be

prepared to find that your real treasure is within. --  
*Barbara Todd, Presbyterian Women of Des Moines Presbytery*

Matthew 6:19-21 *Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Submitted by Barbara Todd

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**ICC is Inclusive Caring Community,** a Leadership Committee, promoting inspiring, caring, informative messages to our moderators.

One of life's greatest pleasures is having the opportunity to meet different women of faith and learning different ways to serve.

What makes a great Leader?

Listening to what people want or need, to help them feel like they have been heard, to

help them feel they are in a safe zone, where

anything they may say is ok. It is okay to have differences of opinions, as we all uniquely

formed. The thing is we need to

hear each other, not just ourselves. Feeling valued

and listened to builds trust, and

people are more likely to share ideas more freely

when they feel they are being heard.

Then, we can form a compromise that all can feel

comfortable with, particularly when

you are figuring how to use limited resources to do the most good.

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## PW Synod Gathering June 16-19

### Sioux City



Are you making your plans for the Synod Gathering? The Registration Packet is available on the Synod Website or from your PW

Presbytery

Moderator....we'd

see you there. Beth

(left) overlooks the

'riverview' that will

backdrop for our

love to  
Jensen

be the





Plenary (whole group) time together. This photo is from October 2019---we've been praying over and planning this Gathering just for you! The beautiful artwork (below) by Sue Kimball symbolizes our time together as we celebrate PW Better Together! Make your plans now!

**Family activities in the Sioux City area are just waiting for your family while you attend the Gathering:**

- Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center
- Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve
- LaunchPAD Children's Museum
- Sargent Floyd River Museum
- Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center
- Hard Rock Casino

The Gathering Committee has selected 2 Mission Opportunities for \$10 gift cards & identified 2 recipients for the Gathering Offering. There will be 16 workshops to choose from: Building Blocks of PW, Welcoming Immigrants, Horizon's

Bible study overview, Creative Worship/drawing closer to God, Prayer ≠ Monologue, What's happening in Palestine/why should I care?, But What Can I do?, Going on a Road trip, Before and after the S-O-S, ABC's of LBGTQIA+, All About U Adoption, Dakota Presbytery (Rev Dr Clifford Canku), Deep Dive into Matthew 25, Native American Boarding Schools, Beyond Joy  
And a first time: Gathering Choir led by Music Leader Rev Kristi Holler and musician Pat Penn!  
Hands-on-Mission project: cutting/sewing Presbytery Disaster Assistance Gift of the Heart School Bags

*Hope to see you in June on the River in Sioux City! Face-to-face!*

Please use the registration form found in the Gathering Packet that you were sent via email. Please, always forward to other PW who may be interested.

**PW SYNOD PRE-GATHERING MISSION EVENT**



**DR. SUSAN**  
*LaFlesche Picotte*  
**CENTER**

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

Dr. Susan LaFlesche

Picotte Center and MORE

Thursday, June 16, 2022 -- 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Join in this pre-gathering mission event on Thursday, June 16, 2022 for a guided tour of the Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Hospital in Walthill, NE. Visits will also be made to the John G. Neihardt Center (tour), the Bancroft Cemetery (tour), Faith Presbyterian Church (possible tour), and Dr. Susan's home in Walthill (no tour). Lunch will be at Honoring-the-Clans Sculpture Garden, weather permitting.

Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte, an Omaha Native woman, was the first Native medical doctor. In

her younger years she attended Presbyterian Mission Schools and later taught Sunday School and served as an interpreter at the First Presbyterian Church in Walthill, NE (aka Faith PC), on the Omaha Reservation. This is where she built a hospital funded in a large part by the Presbyterian Church. This hospital is currently being restored and funds are being raised to complete this restoration. The restored hospital facility will house a medical clinic, cultural and educational spaces to teach/learn Native culture and arts, as well as space on the grounds for community gardens and an outdoor amphitheater.

Prior to participating in this mission event, you may consider reading the book, "A Warrior of the People" by Joe Starita. This book will provide background information; however, it is not required to participate in this event.

We will leave from the Hilton Garden Inn, Sioux City, NE at 8:30 AM on Thursday, June 16, 2022 and return no later than 3:00 PM.

**COSTS:** The following expenses may apply for you:

- Lodging, if needed for the evening of June 15th (you need to make your own reservation)
- Box lunch information will be provided upon receipt of your registration and payment will be required by May 15th (weather permitting, we plan to eat outdoors for lunch)
- Donation to your driver for gas expenses, if you are riding with someone

**LUNCH:** Box lunches will be ordered. Once you register, you will receive an email confirming your registration and providing box lunch options and cost.

**LODGING:** If lodging is needed for the evening of June 15, 2022, you can make lodging reservations at the Hilton Garden Inn, Sioux City or anywhere you choose.

**This is a repeat – the needs are just as urgent as they were in November!**

**2022-2023 Dakota Presbytery Partnership Opportunities  
PW Synod of Lakes and Prairies**

**OSLH Native Connections**



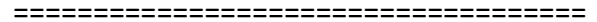
**“Welcoming the Child” Ceremony and Support to new mothers  
Pine Ridge, South Dakota**

A “Welcoming the Child” Ceremony is held for newborns teaching the Lakota cultural traditions of protecting the baby’s fontanel (“soft spot”) from harm or sickness, and the sacred connection to walking in balance. This ceremony offers a way to celebrate the birth



and also offer support with cultural teachings, parenting skills (nutrition, nurturing baby care, build/maintain healthy relationships), helping mothers get their GED or high school diploma, develop job skills and/or offer coping skills.

Gift baskets are given to each mother and these items are needed for the baskets: Clothing sizes 3-6 months ONLY – 2-onesies, 2-sleepers, 1-outfit, socks, bibs, 2- receiving blankets, disposable diapers (not newborn), wipes, baby wash, baby toothbrush, baby caps/hats, and baby bottles (small). Items can be mailed to: Lisa Schrader, % OSLH Native Connections, 412 Dakota Street, Pine Ridge, SD 57770



**Services for homeless men, women and children  
Pine Ridge  
Presbyterian Church,**

**Pine Ridge, South Dakota**

Elder Ruby Schlueter provides three meals each week for 60-70 men, women and children of Pine Ridge who are homeless. She calls these folks her “family” and the love she shares with them is received and reciprocated.

At Christmas she provides a gift for each person. Items needed include: hats, mittens, gloves, scarves for children and adults; hand towels and washcloths; small shower gel, shampoo, lotion; hair brushes, combs, and elastic hair bands; sturdy backpacks for adults and children; hoodies, sized 1X-2X-3X; pull-over shirts, size 1X-2X-3X; colored pencils and drawing paper; fleece lap robes.

Gift items or financial contributions for meals can be mailed to:

Ms. Ruby Schlueter, PO Box 7002 (592 E. Hwy 18), Pine Ridge, SD 57770



**Gather the Children Home (Emergency Foster Care)  
Pine Ridge Reservation,  
Porcupine, South Dakota**



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

while a suitable foster or relatives home becomes available.

Items needed include: twin sheets and mattress pads, twin-sized fleece blankets, crib sheets, towels and wash cloths. Also, ongoing financial support paying for monthly internet and phone expense or some other monthly expense. Please include a self-addressed and stamped postcard that can be returned to you as acknowledgement that items were received. These items can be shipped to the following address: Gather Our Children Home, House #32, Porcupine School Road, Porcupine, SD 57772

**Wacinyan Tipi (House of Hope) Homeless Shelter 45657 Veterans Memorial Highway Sisseton, SD**

Wacinyan Tipi's (House of Hope's) mission is to restore the basic integrity and dignity of the Dakota values of each individual who is homeless and passes through their shelter doors. Hygiene kits are much needed. All items for each kit should be placed in a one-gallon Ziploc bag. Each hygiene kit should include: hand towel, wash cloth, toothbrush, toothpaste, bar of soap, shampoo and comb (wide-tooth preferred). Kits should be mailed to: House of Hope, %Dora Arteaga, 45657 Veteran's Memorial Highway, Sisseton, SD 57262



**2021-2022 Dakota Presbytery Partnership Opportunities continued:**



Sisseton Wahpeton College  
Sisseton, SD  
Financial contributions are being received by PW Synod of Lakes

and Prairies to create a sustaining Native American student scholarship fund. These funds will make it possible to grant a scholarship each semester to a Native student attending Sisseton Wahpeton College as a second semester freshman or a sophomore. Criteria for selection is in place. Ongoing funds

are needed to sustain granting a scholarship each semester. Contributions can be mailed to: Terri Sherman, PWS Treasurer, 12244 N. 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE 68517 Note on memo line: "Native American Scholarship Fund".



*New Church World Service Project – Assemble "Welcome Backpacks"*

Church World Service (CWS) has released a new *Welcome Backpacks* kit that can be assembled much in the same way that



we have been assembling the Gift of the Heart Kits (hygiene, school, clean-up buckets) for many years.

These backpacks are one tangible way to welcome unaccompanied minors or families to the United States at one of our local resettlement offices.

CWS welcomes asylum seekers at the US southern border by partnering with 17 border shelters. Shelters who receive asylum seekers released from Border Patrol or ICE, provide them with food and shelter, and arrange transportation for them to reunite with their families. Most asylum seeker



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

arrive to these shelters with little more than the clothing on their back.

CWS Welcome Backpacks provide unaccompanied minors and families with the essentials for their transition: food and water, children's activities, a blanket, basic hygiene items, and PPE. You can help extend welcome by assembling backpacks or sponsoring a backpack to be assembled."

For information about contents of the new Welcome Backpack kit and how to assemble, pack, and ship them, go to <https://cwsglobal.org/donate/welcome-backpacks>.

Please note that at this time, this new kit is not yet being received at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD but must go to CWS at its address in Elkhart, Ind.

(Submitted by Marilyn Stone)

## Sewing Machines Fill Need During Pandemic

At the outbreak of the pandemic, Susie Amos, moderator of the PW of Dakota Presbytery, asked for masks; and then said that the women of Dakota Presbytery could make their own if they had sewing machines.

Funds were available to purchase 3 used machines, and a 4th was donated. All were sent to Susie for the PW of Dakota Presbytery. Since that time, 4 more machines were donated and taken to the Mission Meeting in August and distributed to various tribes; and 8 more machines were donated and taken to the Dakota Presbytery meeting in early October, for a total of 16 machines donated and distributed.



In addition to the sewing machines, sewing supplies, fabric, and other items like additional needles for the machines, were donated and given to Dakota Presbytery's PW to help the women with their sewing projects.

All the machines were reconditioned by a man in Ottumwa, Iowa, who was born on a Chippewa Reservation, and whose parents were missionaries of the Christian Alliance on the Pine Ridge and Fort Pierre reservations. Submitted by Sharon Falck, chair of the Native American Concerns Committee



## Ongoing Donations of Fabric and Supplies

Quality quilting fabric and sewing supplies such as sewing machine needles, 6-inch rulers and measuring tapes, thread and needles, scissors, and straight pins, may be sent to any of these four women. Each is located in a different part of Dakota Presbytery:

Susie Amos  
P.O. Box 104  
New Effington SD 57255

Ida Ashes Brown  
38630 SD Hwy 46  
Lake Andes SD 57356

Ruby Schlueter  
592 E. Hwy 18  
Pineridge SD 57770

Ernestine Youpee  
P.O. Box 1491  
Poplar MT 59255

The pandemic has limited access to resources but has not diminished the desire to do what we can for and with each other. Thank you to the PW of Dakota Presbytery for reaching out, and to the PW of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies for responding in supportive ways.

Submitted by Sharon Falck, chair of the Native American Concerns Committee of the PW of the Synods of Lakes and Prairies

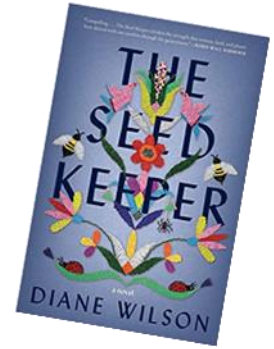
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Register today to join a book study . . .

## *The Seed Keeper*

by Diane Wilson



This book study is sponsored by Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and led by members of the PWS Native American Concerns Committee.

**It is open to interested women and men across the synod,**  
via Zoom videoconferencing (using computer or phone)  
There is no charge to participate, yet registration is required.

**Dates: February 21, March 7 and 21**  
**Daytime study begins at 1:30-2:30 PM (CST)**  
**Evening study begins at 6:30-7:30 PM (CST)**

Synopsis: A haunting novel spanning several generations, *The Seed Keeper* follows a Dakhóta family's struggle to preserve their way of life, and their sacrifices to protect what matters most.

Rosalie Iron Wing has grown up in the woods with her father, Ray, a former science teacher who tells her stories of plants, of the stars, of the origins of the Dakhóta people. Until, one morning, Ray doesn't return from checking his traps. Told she has no family, Rosalie is sent to live with a foster family in nearby Mankato—where the reserved, bookish teenager meets rebellious Gaby Makespeace, in a friendship that transcends the damaged legacies they've inherited.

On a winter's day many years later, Rosalie returns to her childhood home. A widow and mother, she has spent the previous two decades on her white husband's farm, finding solace in her garden even as the farm is threatened first by drought and then by a predatory chemical company. Now, grieving, Rosalie begins to confront the past, on a search for family, identity, and a community where she can finally belong. In the process, she learns what it means to be descended from women with souls of iron—women who have protected their families, their traditions, and a precious cache of seeds through generations of hardship and loss, through war and the insidious trauma of boarding schools.

Weaving together the voices of four indelible women, *The Seed Keeper* is a beautifully told story of reawakening, of remembering our original relationship to the seeds and, through them, to our ancestors.

Register by contacting Marilyn Stone at [mmstone52@att.net](mailto:mmstone52@att.net)

Provide the following information:

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| - Email address | - Name                                  |
| - Presbytery    | - Phone #                               |
|                 | - Afternoon or evening study preference |



# Book Discussion Group

# JUSTICE AND PEACE

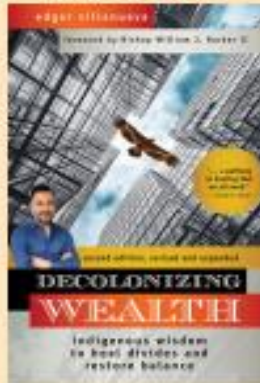
- DISCUSS THE BOOKS WITH OTHERS VIA ZOOM  
• The J&P Book Discussion Group is open to all!
- DISCUSSION GROUP MEETS EVERY OTHER MONTH  
• Read and discuss any or all books that appeal to you. Registration will be needed to join the discussion on Zoom.
- RECEIVE STUDY GUIDES TO INFORM YOUR READING  
•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

## 2022 Reading Selections (6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Eastern Time)

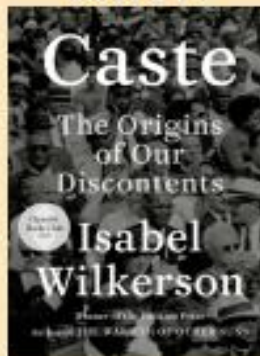
JANUARY 10



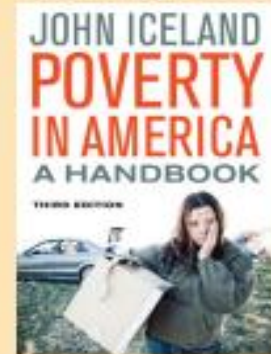
JULY 11



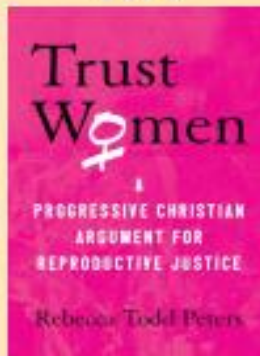
MARCH 14



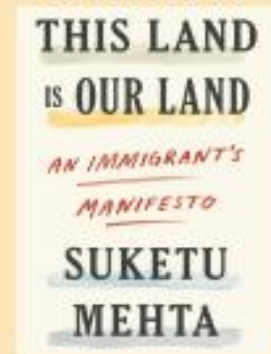
SEPTEMBER 12



MAY 9



NOVEMBER 14



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

**Current PW-SLAP Synod Coordinating Team Officers - changes are highlighted**

Moderator Sue Medsker (2022) 314 N. Cedar Ave. Hastings, NE 68901 402-984-3545 <a href="mailto:suebeemedsker@gmail.com">suebeemedsker@gmail.com</a>	563-419-7371 C <a href="mailto:brandtja@luther.edu">brandtja@luther.edu</a>  Susie Rivera Amos (2024) PO Box 105 New Effington, SD 57255 605-467-0040 H <a href="mailto:kunshisusie@yahoo.com">kunshisusie@yahoo.com</a>	<a href="mailto:Lanaj0@casselton.net">Lanaj0@casselton.net</a>  Zoom Coordinator Lana Schultz PO Box 891 Casselton, ND 58012 701-238-4538 C <a href="mailto:Lanaj0@casselton.net">Lanaj0@casselton.net</a>
Vice-Moderator Lana Schultz (2023) PO Box 891 Casselton, ND 58012 701-238-4538 C <a href="mailto:Lanaj0@casselton.net">Lanaj0@casselton.net</a>	Churchwide Board of Directors Representative Susan Ingels (2023) 12627 M Ave Fayette, IA 52142 563-419-8751 <a href="mailto:syngels6@gmail.com">syngels6@gmail.com</a>	Native American Concerns Chair, Sharon Falck (2022) 809 Turnberry Drive Grinnell, IA 50112 641-660-7615 <a href="mailto:Sfalck2009@gmail.com">Sfalck2009@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer Terri Sherman (2024) 12244 N 84 <sup>th</sup> St. Lincoln, NE 68517 402-441-2823 W 402-446-0063 H 402-525-6008 <a href="mailto:terri.sherman@zoetis.com">terri.sherman@zoetis.com</a> <a href="mailto:terrisherman@windstream.net">terrisherman@windstream.net</a>	Appointive positions: Together In Service Belinda Breit (2022) 345 Niagara Lane N Plymouth, MN 55447 612-306-5961 <a href="mailto:belinda.breit@comcast.net">belinda.breit@comcast.net</a>	Donna Preston P O Box 276 Grandin, ND 58038 701-238-7414 <a href="mailto:preston@gra.midco.net">preston@gra.midco.net</a>
Secretary Kitch Shatzer (2022) 27 Ash Lane Washington, IA 52353 319-461-0266 <a href="mailto:revkitch@hotmail.com">revkitch@hotmail.com</a>	Justice and Peace Coordinator Kathleen Keefer (2022) P O Box 243 Clarinda, IA 51632 712-542-0039 <a href="mailto:kathleenkeefe20@gmail.com">kathleenkeefe20@gmail.com</a>	Ernestine Youpee P O Box 542 Poplar, MT 59255 406-768-7663 C 406-786-3491 <a href="mailto:giveseagle@gmail.com">giveseagle@gmail.com</a>
Historian Judy Bell (2024) 5217 Roberts Drive Greendale, WI 53129 414-378-6437 C <a href="mailto:jmoinebell@aol.com">jmoinebell@aol.com</a>	ICC Coordinator Hope Dougherty PO Box 223. Manitowish Waters, WI 54545 715-543-2669 <a href="mailto:hdougherty2018@gmail.com">hdougherty2018@gmail.com</a>	LaVonne Looking Elk 3729 W. Chicago Rapid City, SD 57702 605-716-0888 <a href="mailto:slooking@rap.midco.net">slooking@rap.midco.net</a>
Search Committee Gloria Rust (2022) 1657 200th Avenue Luverne, MN 56156 507-283-4975 H 507-227-7393 C <a href="mailto:grust49@gmail.com">grust49@gmail.com</a>	Sower Editor Kathleen Keefer (2022) P O Box 243 Clarinda, IA 51632 712-542-0039 <a href="mailto:kathleenkeefe20@gmail.com">kathleenkeefe20@gmail.com</a>	Susie Rivera Amos PO Box 105 New Effington, SD 57255 <a href="mailto:kunshisusie@yahoo.com">kunshisusie@yahoo.com</a> 605-467-0040 H
Janine Brandt (2023) 1362 175 <sup>th</sup> St. Postville, IA 52162 563-532-9427 H	Communications Coordinator Lana Schultz PO Box 891 Casselton, ND 58012 701-238-4538 C	Marilyn Stone 3915 Lake Street Burlington, WI 53105 262-763-0918 H 262-492-7921 C <a href="mailto:mmstone52@att.net">mmstone52@att.net</a>  Barbara Todd 5210 Panorama Drive

The Sower-November, 2021

Panora, IA 50216  
712-355-0052 C  
[rogerbarbaratodd@gmail.com](mailto:rogerbarbaratodd@gmail.com)

Sonia Weston  
P O Box 254  
Pine Ridge, SD 57770  
605-867-1623  
[soniaw@gwtc.net](mailto:soniaw@gwtc.net)

2022 Synod Gathering  
committee  
Beth Jensen, co-chair, 319-223-  
5742  
[dbjensenfamily@gmail.com](mailto:dbjensenfamily@gmail.com)

Maggie Horak, co-chair, 402-  
429-0523

[mmhlim@outlook.com](mailto:mmhlim@outlook.com)

Terri Sherman 402-525-6008  
[terri.sherman@zoetis.com](mailto:terri.sherman@zoetis.com)

Audrey Fenton 712-276-6322  
[wayneaudrey@aol.com](mailto:wayneaudrey@aol.com)

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Presbyterian Women in Synod of Lakes &  
Prairies  
Kathleen Keefer, Editor  
PO Box 243  
Clarinda, IA 51632