

THE WINDMILL

MARCH 2018

THE WINDMILL IS THE NEWSLETTER FOR
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF CENTRAL NEBRASKA PRESBYTERY



Donna Messerer, Editor

SAVE THE DATE

SPRING GATHERINGS

O'Neill
First Presbyterian Church
1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
No cost or registration

Minden
Westminster United Presbyterian
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
\$10.00
Registration deadline April 25th

More information enclosed

The Presbyterian Women's Purpose

Forgiven and freed
by God in Jesus Christ,
and empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we commit ourselves
to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study
to support the mission of the church worldwide,
to work for justice and peace
and to build an inclusive, caring community of women
that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and
witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.

Moderator's Musings

"O Lord, you have searched me and known me, You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways." Psalm 139: 1-3 These familiar words brought new truth to me recently.

God, knowing all my thoughts, was a scary thought to me for some time. Not all my thoughts are pleasing or pleasant or positive. But the knowledge that God knows all my thoughts, all my actions is comforting too. I would not want to be away from God's attention even for an instant. God know when the sign of despair comes out of my mouth; God knows when grief is overwhelming and my heart is aching; God knows when I am joyful in the accomplishment of a child who has had a terrific struggle; God knows when success is evident in a smile of accomplishment.

God's knowledge of our thoughts and actions brings comfort and courage. We go forward knowing that God is aware and involved. I don't want an impersonal God. I desire a God that is knowledgeable about me.

I can approach prayer knowing God already knows what I will say and think. God knows who I am concerned about, who needs my prayer. I can approach Bible study knowing that there are more concepts and new understandings that are waiting to make an impression on my life and influence my journey of faith.

Since God knows me totally, I can surrender myself to God, seek to be God's hands and feet in the world around, loving people with God's love, and sharing compassion with those craving understanding. What a wonderful comfort that is!

May we rejoice in God's intricate knowledge and understanding of us.

Annabelle Wells, moderator
Central Nebraska Presbyterian Women

The theme of the fall gatherings of Presbyterian Women in Central Nebraska was
Abounding in Hope / The Spirituality of Hopeful Living

One gathering was held at First Presbyterian Church in Atkinson on September 22, 2016 (1:00) and the other gathering was held at First Presbyterian Church in Beaver City on September 24 (9:00). Moderator, Annabelle Wells, opened the meeting with prayer, the reading of the PW purpose, and the lighting of the Christ candle. Eliza Rzeszutowski welcomed the group in Atkinson and Julie Harper welcomed the group in Beaver City.

At Atkinson an offering of \$238.00 was collected for the Cleveland Bible Camp. Belva Schwankle shared the story of the camp; the work that has been completed and the future goals. The camp is presently in discussion to partner with camp Calvin Crest.

At Beaver City \$146.25 was collected and designated for the Beaver City's Prayer Shawl Ministry. Julie Harper shared the mission work of this ministry.

Kill Weisberg from Hastings 1st presented the program on HOPE. Her message moved on a continuum: from issues of hopelessness in our world today, through definitions of 'hope', to scriptures offering messages of hope, and on to ways we can cultivate hope for ourselves and others, then leaving us with the Hebrews 11:1 passage, 'Faith is the greatest degree of hope'. And in good PW fashion she charged us with a challenge and a call to action: *things don't have to be the way they are, change it with love.*

Hymn singing was led by Jean Melker in Atkinson and Joyce Dean in Beaver City. Darline Watson, Linda Anthony, and Nancy Archart reported on the Synod Gathering held in Sioux Falls in June. Annabelle reminded both groups to hold Sue Medsker-Nedklemm in prayer as she is presently on an 8 day tour in San Francisco as our area representative to the Mission Study Group which is looking at issues of immigration, human trafficking, and domestic violence. The program is titled "Out of the Darkness... Into the Light". John 1:5. She will be speaking at our April gatherings.

Roll Call:	Atkinson - 8	Beaver City - 9
	Axtell - 2	Axtell - 4
	Bethany - 1	Corad - 4
	Ewing United - 1	Hastings 1 st - 3
	Hastings 1 st - 3	Holdrege - 3
	Kearney - 1	Kearney - 2
	Holdrege - 1	Lexington - 1
	Lexington - 1	Minden - 1
	North Platte - 1	
	O'Neill - 5	
	Stuart Community - 2	

The Horizon subscription drawing was won by hometown women. In Atkinson Laura Goeke and in Beaver City Doris Stryer.

The co-ordinating team was introduced and gave short reports. Bonnie Grams raised the hunger challenge. \$47.65 was collected at Atkinson. \$32.48 was collected at Beaver City.

At both gatherings the women gathered at table for food and fellowship. Thank you to the ladies at both Atkinson and Beaver City for their hospitality.

Atkinson: Ann Jones, secretary Beaver City: Linda Anthony, secretary pro tem

	2018	MISSION	GEN FUNDS	BIRTHDAY	THANK	LEAST COIN	HUNGER	LIFE MEM	OTHER GIVING	TOTAL
Abnorton		\$150.00								\$150.00
Accel		\$500.00	\$75.00	\$158.00						\$733.00
Beaver City		\$1,400.00	\$325.00	\$44.00	\$42.00	\$22.24	\$76.00			\$1,909.24
Coast		\$1,000.00	\$150.00	\$99.00	\$204.00	\$38.19	\$150.00			\$1,611.19
Edgar		\$472.50	\$70.88		\$93.00	\$27.59				\$663.97
Evening Bethany		\$165.00	\$51.00	\$75.00	\$119.00	\$16.25				\$425.25
Hastings First		\$1,500.00	\$225.00	\$455.00	\$365.00		\$89.46	\$150.00	\$400.00	\$3,314.46
Holstege		\$500.00	\$75.00			\$58.00				\$633.00
Kearney						\$95.85		\$95.00		\$190.85
Lexington		\$1,200.00	\$180.00	\$60.07	\$155.00			\$95.00	\$454.89	\$2,175.95
Minster		\$500.00			\$207.00	\$7.36	\$26.35			\$740.71
North Prairie		\$790.00	\$515.00	\$15.06	\$900.01	\$69.25	\$40.73			\$1,244.96
O'Neil						\$41.50				\$41.50
St. Paul		\$200.00	\$30.00	\$176.00	\$40.00	\$8.87	\$150.00			\$604.87
Valentine		\$350.00				\$40.00		\$180.00		\$670.00
TOTAL		\$8,877.50	\$1,696.88	\$1,373.35	\$1,815.01	\$425.10	\$462.54	\$875.00	\$914.88	\$15,655.26

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN CENTRAL NEBRASKA
2017 GENERAL FUND ANNUAL REPORT

BALANCE JANUARY 1, 2017		\$2,604.54
INCOME		
GENERAL FUND	\$1,381.88	
PRESBYTERY \$940.73		
SYNOD \$441.15		
OFFERINGS	\$439.00	
SPRING GATHERING GIFT	\$100.00	
FALL GATHERING REGISTRATION	\$51.00	
INTEREST	\$0.28	
TOTAL	\$1,972.16	\$4,576.70
DISBURSEMENTS		
SYNOD	\$441.15	
COORDINATING TEAM	\$285.00	
GATHERING SPEAKERS	\$292.00	
DOOR PRIZES	\$59.85	
FOUNDATION FOR PEACE	\$234.00	
US MISSION EXPERIENCE	\$255.00	
SYNOD GLOBAL MISSION SUPPORT	\$100.00	
CHURCH WOMEN UNITED	\$50.00	
COORDINATING TEAM SG REGISTRATIONS	\$70.00	
COORDINATING TEAM FG REGISTRATIONS	\$63.00	
TOTAL	\$1,850.06	\$2,726.64
COORDINATING TEAM		
MILEAGE	\$131.30	
COPIES	\$62.00	
POSTAGE	\$72.03	
MISCELLANEOUS	\$5.58	
SPEAKER MEALS	\$14.00	
TOTAL	\$285.00	
BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2017		\$2,726.64

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN CENTRAL NEBRASKA
2017 MISSION FUND ANNUAL REPORT

BEGINNING BALANCE JANUARY 1, 2017		\$583.89
INCOME		
MISSION	\$9,292.50	
BIRTHDAY OFFERING	\$1,029.35	
THANK OFFERING	\$1,815.01	
LEAST COIN OFFERING	\$409.10	
HUNGER OFFERING	\$557.77	
HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIPS	\$665.00	
INTEREST	\$0.09	
GENERAL FUND	\$531.00	
HEALTHY WOMEN, HEALTHY FAMILIES BLANKETS +	\$460.00	
TOTAL	\$15,640.02	\$16,223.91
DISBURSEMENTS		
MISSION	\$9,292.50	
BIRTHDAY OFFERING	\$1,029.35	
THANK OFFERING	\$1,815.01	
LEAST COIN OFFERING	\$409.10	
HUNGER OFFERING	\$557.77	
HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIPS	\$665.00	
HEALTHY WOMEN, HEALTHY FAMILIES BLANKETS +	\$460.00	
TRANSFER TO GENERAL FUND	\$531.00	
TOTAL	\$15,639.93	\$583.89
 BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2017	 \$583.89	

2018 BUDGET

	2017	Actual	2018
Coordinating Team	400	285.06	400
Spring Gathering	100	301.90	150
Fall Gathering	150	272.95	150
Churchwide Gathering	450	450	400
USAME, Global Mission Support		150	150
Church Women United	50	50	50
Total	1150	1359.91	1350

Proposed Income

Pledges	1200
Gatherings	100
Tenor	300
Total	1600

Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering
Celebration: Living in the Joy of the Lord

"They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness." Psalm 145:7

April 26, 2018

1:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church
204 East Everett
O'Neill, NE
No cost or registration
1:00 until 4:00

April 28, 2018

9:00 a.m. coffee
Westminster United Presbyterian
Church, 109 North Colorado
Minden, NE
Cost: \$10.00
9:30 until 1:30
Registration deadline: April 25
Send to Donna Schwenka
1294 Sycamore
Minden, NE 68959
308 832-1611 308 832-2170

The Spring Gathering will include worship with Communion. Kili Wenburg, the Director of Adult Education and Spiritual Formation at First Presbyterian Church, Hastings will give the key note address. Come and prepare to be challenged and to grow.

Registration

Presbyterian Women of
Central Nebraska Presbytery

Spring Gathering, April 28, 2018

Westminster United Presbyterian Church
109 North Colorado Avenue
Minden, Nebraska
9:30-1:30
Registration: 9:00 a.m.

Name _____

Address _____

Town and zip code _____

e-mail _____

Cost: \$10.00 includes lunch

Deadline: April 25

Send to Donna Schwenka
1294 Sycamore
Minden, NE 68959
308 832-1611
308 832-2170

BOOK REVIEWS

By Marcia Davis

WONDER R. J. Palacio

The book that inspired the Choose Kind movement.

August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face.

WONDER, begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance.

R.J. Palacio has called her debut novel "a meditation on kindness"—indeed, every reader will come away with a greater appreciation for the simple courage of friendship. Auggie is a hero to root for, a diamond in the rough who proves that you can't blend in when you were born to stand out.

HOMEGOING, Yaa Gyasi

Ghana, eighteenth century: two half sisters are born into different villages, each unaware of the other. One will marry an Englishman and lead a life of comfort in the palatial rooms of the Cape Coast Castle. The other will be captured in a raid on her village, imprisoned in the very same castle, and sold into slavery.

Homegoing follows the parallel paths of these sisters and their descendants through eight generations: from the Gold Coast to the plantations of Mississippi, from the American Civil War to Jazz Age Harlem. Yaa Gyasi's extraordinary novel illuminates slavery's troubled legacy both for those who were taken and those who stayed—and shows how the memory of captivity has been inscribed on the soul of our nation.

This book is the winner of many awards including PEN/ Hemmingway Award, A New York Times Notable Book, A Washington Post Notable Book, One of the Best Books of the Year: NPR, Time, Oprah.com.

2018 PW Reading list

- _____ The Alice Network, Kate Quinn
- _____ Beartown, Fredrik Backman
- _____ Before the Fall, Noah Hawley
- _____ Before We Were Yours, Lisa Wingate
- _____ The Benedict Option: A Journey to Christian Culture in a Post-Christian World, Rod Dreher
- _____ The Bones of Paradise, Jonis Agee
- _____ Brush of an Angel's Wing, Charlie W. Shedd
- _____ The Circle, Dave Eggers
- _____ Downsizing the Family Home, Marni Jameson
- _____ The Four Agreements, A Practical Guide to Personal Freedom, Don Miguel Ruiz
- _____ God's Very Good Idea: A True Story of God's Original Different Family, Trillia Newbell
- _____ Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy, Anne Lamott
- _____ Homegoing, Yaa Gyasi
- _____ The Long Way Gone, Charles Martin
- _____ The Mountain Between Us, Charles Martin
- _____ My Not So Perfect Life, Sophie Kinsella
- _____ Nebraska Presence: An Anthology of Poetry, edited by Greg Kosmicki & Mary K. Stilwell
- _____ One Plastic Bag, Miranda Paul
- _____ Parenting: The 14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family, Paul David Tripp
- _____ The Prayer Box, Lisa Wingate
- _____ The Radium Girls, Kate Moore
- _____ The Stranger in the Woods: The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit, Michael Finkel
- _____ The Swan Gondola, Timothy Schaffert
- _____ We Were the Lucky Ones, Georgia Hunter
- _____ Wonder, R. J. Palacio
- _____ The Year of YES, How to Bless it out, stand in the sun & be your own person, Shonda Rhimes

Suggestions or Questions call
Marcia Davis, 308-6300465 or email md25628@yahoo.com



Reflecting On Light

This month's reflection is from Judy Parsons, Vice Moderator for Mission Relationships, Churchwide Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women.

Light is a traditional and important part of every Presbyterian Women event. We begin our meetings and gatherings by lighting the Christ Candle. This represents Christ's light and we are reminded to allow that light to shine in us and through us. My favorite part of the light is when I get to see it go on in another. Have you ever been around someone when they realize they do have a gift which can be used to make a difference in another's life? The eyes open wider, the

face glows. That is the light of Christ which was always there but was just allowed to shine through.

This light is in all of us who believe and when we let it shine out, not only is it wonderful to see but it helps to illuminate others. Another way of putting it is that when you allow your light to shine for others to see, you also inspire others to discover and let their own light shine.

We light the Christ candle to symbolize the light Christ brought into the world and talk about it shining in us and through us. When you allow fear to stop you, you put the basket over your light. Remember, God is with you and wants you to be successful. Fan the flame of your light and allow it to illuminate others as well. Allow your courage to show others what is possible and your light will guide them to their own light.

"Arise, shine, for your light has come and the glory of the Lord rises upon you."

And from Anabelle Wells, PWP Moderator of Central Nebraska Presbytery we have a reflection on light from the February 2016 issue of *The Windmill*.

Psalms 27 has long been a favorite psalm for me. Recently I have been thinking again about the opening sentence: "The Lord is my light and my salvation: of whom shall I be afraid?"

There are two definitions of light: light is a phenomenon that enables us to see the physical world around us. It is also a concept dealing with relationships, understanding, and guidance. As Christians, we need both functions of light in our vision of life and mission.

Light is an amazing revelation of God's presence with us.

God's light reveals and encourages all good things in my life and in the lives of those around me. God's light illumines my mind as I read the Bible, observe God's creation and meet family and friends. God's light leads me through difficulties, sorrows, grief, and betrayals and also joys and celebrations.

How can I increase my awareness of God as light? Certainly as I read and meditate on the Bible, both individually and in a group, my sensitivity to God as light increases. As I reflect on the beautiful snowflakes that are driven by strong wind to bring moisture to the ground, I am again reminded of God as light, each morning as I open curtains to allow the sunshine to flood the room, I am reminded that my soul is awaiting God's light shining into the depths of my being, to bring new understanding and refreshment to me.



Churchwide Gathering Information

Synod Luncheon at the Churchwide Gathering:

As you register for the Gathering, you will see the option to attend the Synod Luncheon. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet others from our Synod and enjoy a delicious meal and exchange dialogue about PW. Your Synod Coordinating Team is encouraging that you take advantage of this time by paying for half of that meal (your cost will be \$16 after reimbursement). So, check that you will be participating at the time of registration so that plans can be made for the meal/programming. You will be reimbursed for half of your payment through your Presbytery moderator/treasurer following the event. More details will come later as we get closer to the Gathering. Don't miss out!



Speaker Spotlights



Amy Poling Sutherland, author of the 2017-2018 PWHorizons Bible study, *God's Promise: I Am with You*, will share her thoughts about the study and her passion in ministry, which is exploring and witnessing the intersection between people's stories and the unfolding story of God's work in the world.

Ruth Santana-Grace, executive presbyter of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, will provide the keynote on the first evening of the Gathering! We are, says Ruth Santana-Grace, in the midst of a reformation that will lead the church to a renewal of identity. Hear more at the Gathering!



Are you planning on going to the Gathering in Louisville and have room for others to go with you in your car, van or bus? It's always fun to travel with others who might appreciate a ride and it makes the trip shorter. Please share this opportunity with your Presbytery PW moderator- the number of women you could take and your contact information. Let's have a good showing of PW from the Synod of Lakes and Prairies in August!

Gathering Giving Opportunities:

Churchwide Gathering Silent Auction

You may donate! Donated items should be new (nothing used, please) with a minimum value of \$50. Smaller items can be grouped into a basket. To donate an item to the auction, please contact [Judy Peterson](mailto:Judy.Peterson@pcusa.org), [Rhonda Martin](mailto:Rhonda.Martin@pcusa.org) or [Carissa Herold](mailto:Carissa.Herold@pcusa.org). Items should be shipped to the PW offices before the Gathering or hand-delivered to the auction area at the Gathering. The donation form may be downloaded at: https://www.pcusa.org/women/what_we_do/build-community/churchwide-gathering/before-the-gathering/auction/

Program book to host ads again

The 2018 program book will once again include ads that celebrate faithful women, send prayers and joyfully envision the future. See registration booklet.

Churchwide Gathering Gift Cards

Gift cards collected at the 2018 Churchwide Gathering will be given to the D.I.A.P.E.R. Project (Charlestown, Indiana), Kentucky Refugee Ministries (Louisville, Kentucky), and Lily's Place (Huntington, West Virginia).

From Presbyterian Hunger Program
To Central Nebraska Presbytery Presbyterian Women

January 2018

We are so grateful for your support of the Presbyterian Hunger Program in our ministry of alleviating hunger and eliminating its root causes. We believe we are all called to do what we can, however we can, to care for God's people in our own towns, our nation, and around the world. ... Your generosity enables us to connect and equip Presbyterians in amazing "root cause" hunger work: everything from supporting community gardens in food deserts in the U.S. cities to confronting environmental disasters to protecting overseas laborers....

With gratitude,

Rev. Rebecca Barnes
Coordinator, Presbyterian Hunger Program

One Small Gift:

Once again, this year during the Church wide Gathering in Louisville a special offering will be taken. The offering is called "One Small Gift". It is a gift card offering. Gift cards will be purchased by PW groups and donated to area homeless shelters in Louisville. I am collecting donations from the PW groups in the Central Nebraska Presbytery. If you would like to donate to this offering please send donations to: Marcia Davis, 133 s. Colorado Ave, Minden, NE. 68959.

All money collected will go to purchase of gift cards from Wal-Mart, Target & CVS to be taken to the gathering in August.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. -Isaiah 60: 1

Dear Presbyterian Women,

Thank you for your pledges to the mission work of the women and the PC(USA). Our first payment for 2018 is coming soon! This is the time of year we receive the Birthday Offering. Presbyterian Women are committed to improving the lives of others through this offering. Since 1922, the Birthday Offering has funded nearly 100 major mission projects that continue to make a difference in the lives of women and children. The projects to be funded this year are listed in the January/February issue of Horizons. They are: Cottage Village, Cottage Grove, Oregon, Village of Grace Center for Physical and Spiritual Health, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and The Dwelling Place, Minneapolis-St. Paul. Also included is a dedication service. It is amazing how our dollars given to the Birthday Offering have touched so many lives!

Linda Anthony, Treasurer CNPW