



**SPRING GATHERING! Saturday, April 21, at First Presbyterian in Leavenworth**

Would you take your shoes off if God told you to? Would you consider the ground you walk on "Sacred?" And if you did, would it make you want to walk down ceremoniously to the Missouri River and take a long drink of its waters? 200 years ago, this was the reality of this geographic area. A pristine, all-natural wholesome region. Today, it is a part of American soil that is considered battered, depleted and in an abused state. Perhaps in a spiritual sense we feel the same way, depleted of God's grace and mercy. Over 200 years ago, this land offered medicine, food and replenishment for our weary souls.

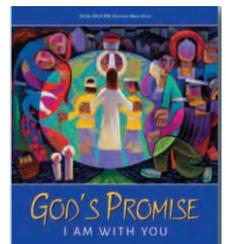
*Celebrating our Sacred Ground* is the program set for the PWHP Spring Gathering. For Native Americans, Springtime was a time of renewal, and the program on Saturday, April 21, 2018 at First Presbyterian Church in Leavenworth, KS will feature sharing of some centuries-old traditions of the history of Native Americans. This interactive program is designed to help participants recognize (and listen to) the Spirit in our daily lives. Come and celebrate communion with Indigenous frybread. Sing, dance and share as we learn more about our own Sacred Ground and how we can celebrate in God's Creation! [Registration form attached!](#)

**JOYS & CONCERNS**

- Prayers of support and healing to **Danelle McKinney** and her family as they grieve the loss of her cousin. Blessings to Danelle as she travels to provide words and comfort to her extended family.
- Prayers of comfort and healing to **Judy Klamm** who recently lost her mother, Carolyn, another beautiful Presbyterian woman.
- Prayers of sisterly love to **Gail Cunningham** as she observes the first anniversary of her daughter Katy's death. Safe travels to her family who came to be with her and Ed.

**2018-2019 HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY**

*God's Promise: I Am With You* by Amy Poling Sutherland. Those words bring comfort to my soul. And that is the title of the 2018-2019 Horizons Bible Study. [See the promotional flyer and order form attached.](#) Watch upcoming e-Connections for the date and time of the Horizons Bible Study Workshop at Village Church.



**MARCH BOOK REVIEW** by Judy Klamm – *The Jesus Creed* by Scott McKnight

As Christians we spend our lives following Jesus and trying to live as He did. Scott McKnight in *The Jesus Creed* offers one example to do this through a simple creed. Loving God with heart, soul, mind and strength and our neighbor as ourselves is what the author calls the Jesus Creed. Along with the Lord's Prayer, the Jesus Creed is an ideal way to express love for others. The author provides many examples of individuals from early church history to present day on how the Jesus Creed.

## ARE YOU GOING? WE HOPE SO!!!

Are you thinking about attending the Churchwide Gathering this summer? If so WE WANT TO KNOW!!! We would like to include you in any information dissemination and get-togethers in preparation for our time in Minneapolis. Please contact Glenda Watts, [gwatts26@gmail.com](mailto:gwatts26@gmail.com), (816) 210-6565, or Pam Nitsche, [pnitsche@kc.rr.com](mailto:pnitsche@kc.rr.com), (913) 831-2262.



## 2018 PW CHURCHWIDE GATHERING

Presbyterian Women's next Churchwide Gathering will be held August 2-5, 2018 in Louisville, Kentucky! Won't you join us? "**Arise, shine, your light has come!**" (based on Isaiah 60:1) is the theme for the Gathering. Held every three years, PW's Churchwide Gathering is an event that celebrates and deepens engagement in all that Presbyterian Women does. Enjoy workshops, tours, forums, resource gathering (and shopping!), plenary sessions with inspiring speakers, worship and more.

- Download the [Registration Booklet](#). Registration opened January 15, 2018.
- Registration is \$425.
- Check out the promotional [video](#).
- Download the [Gathering promotional packet](#).
- Anyone who's been to a PW Churchwide Gathering will tell you it's simply amazing to sing, worship, learn and be in community with more than 2,000 Presbyterian women from around the world!
- Register and reserve a room -- online at [www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering) and by mail
- Get a carpool together. Road trips are terrific!
- Look for scholarship opportunities from your presbytery and synod. [The PWHP scholarship request form is attached](#).
- [Click here](#) to visit the most recent email sent regarding the Churchwide Gathering in 2018.

## WHAT TO READ?

Check out these 3 books that will have small group discussions during the Churchwide Gathering or form a discussion group in your church!

- Change of Heart** by Jeanne Bishop
- Little Fires Everywhere** by Celeste Ng
- Strangers in Their Own Land** by Arlie Russell Hochschild



Here's Dorothy Clarke with her granddaughter and daughter - - race winners, all!



## 2018 BIRTHDAY OFFERING

Begun in 1922, the Birthday Offering celebrates Presbyterian women's history of mission giving. The three projects for 2018 are:

**Cottage Village**, a tiny-house community for low-income residents in Cottage Grove Oregon

**Village of Grace Center** for physical and spiritual health in Tegucigalpa, Honduras

**The Dwelling Place**, a safe haven for victims of violence in Minneapolis and St Paul

See pages 38-40 in the Jan/Feb issue of *Horizons* for more information as well as a dedication service for the offering.

## WOULD YOU CONSIDER . . .

Your Coordinating Team for PW of Heartland Presbytery is seeking more women willing to attend our meetings. The next one will be Saturday, May 5 from 9:00-11:00 AM at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, usually followed by lunch in a nearby restaurant! You could just come, meet us and try us out! Or if you know of someone who would love to know some more great PWs, we need her! If you have a suggestion for someone like this, call Judy Robinett (573-418-0022) for honest information about how we roll. No pressure. Many hands make light work. We are praying that the Holy Spirit will whisper in your ear...

## **MAYA QUICHE PARTNERSHIP**

Jo Randolph visited our CT meeting and reported how our prayers and financial support are an integral part of Heartland's partnership with the Maya Quiche Presbytery in Guatemala. Here are photos of our brothers and sisters. What a testament of faith they are in their communities. At our CT meeting, we chose an individual with whom we are a prayer partner. God's grace knows no bounds. Please contact Jo, [jrandolph4407@gmail.com](mailto:jrandolph4407@gmail.com), if you would like to be a prayer partner or would like to hear more about any aspect of the partnership.



## **MARCH DEVOTION** by Rev Glenda Watts, PWWP Moderator

**Scripture:** Joshua 1:9; Deuteronomy 31:8; Psalm 46, 139:7-12; Isaiah 43:2; Jeremiah 23:24; Philippians 4:6

"Finally, [brothers and sisters], whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honorable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."  
(Philippians 4:8 ASV)

As we come to the end of Lent, think on these quotes from Henri Nouwen:

"God is a God of the present. God is always in the moment, be that moment hard or easy, joyful and painful."

### From *With Open Hands*

"Prayer creates that openness in which God is given to us. Indeed, God wants to be admitted into the human heart, received with open hands, and loved with the same love with which we have been created.... You must constantly stretch out your hands and wait for the gift of life." (page 47)

*"For the gift is the life-breath of God, the Spirit poured out on us through Jesus Christ. This life-breath frees us from fear and gives us new room to live. Those who live prayerfully are constantly ready to receive the breath of God and to let their lives be renewed and expanded."* (page 53)

*"In this prayerful acceptance of each other, there is no place left for prejudice because instead of defining others, we let them appear to us as ever new. Then we can speak to each other and share our lives in such a way that heart speaks to heart.... A good conversation is a process where we give each other the strength to go on, to celebrate together, to be sad together, and to inspire one another."* (page 56)

*To feel regretful, you need to be in the past;  
To worry, you need to be in the future.  
So, when you are fully in the present,  
You are temporarily free from regret and worry.  
From an article on mindfulness*

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Sat Apr 21

August 2-5

Sat TBA

**SPRING GATHERING**, First Presbyterian Church, Leavenworth, KS

**PW CHURCHWIDE GATHERING**, Louisville, KY

**Horizon's Bible Study Workshop**, Village Presbyterian Church, PV, KS