

PRESBYTERY CONNECTION

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter of the Presbyteries of North Central Iowa and Prospect Hill
April 30, 2020

The Presbytery Connection is a bi-weekly joint newsletter for the Presbyteries of North Central Iowa and Prospect Hill. If you would like to contribute to the Presbytery Connection, please contact Jeannie Stolee in the Presbytery office at 319-233-1747 or northiowapresby@gmail.com

If you know of someone who would enjoy receiving this communication, please email or call Jeannie.

Please consider making copies of this newsletter for your Session and running several copies to make available to your congregation.

www.presbynciowa.org

www.prospecthillpresby.org

To see North Central Iowa's calendar of events, please click [here](#).

To see Prospect Hill's calendar of events, please click [here](#).

Governor Reynolds has released the restriction for in-person worship; however, the Presbyteries of North Central Iowa and Prospect Hill and the Iowa Department of Public Health still recommend electronic or drive-in worship for the month of May. If churches choose to meet in person, the Iowa Department of Public Health has guidelines [here](#).

On-Line Worship Services

Churches are being creative in ways to continue to worship when we can't be physically present together. A list of on-line and other alternative worship services is posted on the [North Central Iowa](#) and [Prospect Hill](#) websites under a tab titled "Find Your Local On-Line Worship." You may also click [here](#) to be connected directly to that page on North Central Iowa's website, and [here](#) to be connected directly to that page on Prospect Hill's website.





MATTHEW 25

Matthew 25 grants will support vulnerable congregations facing COVID-19.

The Presbyterian Mission Agency president sets aside funds to be administered by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Read about it [here](#).

Prayers of the Presbytery of North Central Iowa

Week of May 3	Pray for the Ministers in North Central Iowa who are active in Specialized Ministry – Rev. Tamara EnTin Rev. Dr. Linda Smith Rev. Kerin Lang Sorensen
Week of May 10	First Presbyterian Church, Toledo – Rev. Dr. Tom Bower
Week of May 17	First Presbyterian Church, Greene, and Eden Presbyterian Church, Rudd – Rev. Catherine Belles
Week of May 24	Unity Presbyterian Church, Waterloo – Rev. Christine Kaplunas
Week of May 31	First Presbyterian Church, Mason City – Rev. Paul Collier

Prayers of the Presbytery of Prospect Hill

Week of May 3	Zoar Presbyterian Church, George – Rev. John Pea
Week of May 10	First Presbyterian Church, Ringsted – Rev. Suzanne Wobig
Week of May 17	Elliott Creek Presbyterian Church, Bronson – Rev. Dale Lint, Moderator
Week of May 24	St. Paul's Lutheran & Presbyterian Church, Rockwell City
Week of May 31	First Presbyterian Church, Paullina – CRE Marj Feltman

Additional Prayer Concerns

Please pray for our state, nation and the world as we deal with the COVID-19 situation. Keep in prayer those families whose schedules have been upended and livelihood affected, small businesses who may not survive, those who have been afflicted with the coronavirus and the medical personnel as they do their best to take care of everyone. Please also pray for all of the churches in both presbyteries and throughout the nation.

Please pray for Rev. Mark Rabideau of the Greater Greene County Presbyterian Ministries as he deals with health concerns.

Please continue to pray for Josh Ullom, son of Rev. Dr. Dave and Judy Ullom of First Presbyterian Church in Estherville. Josh goes for chemo every two weeks. Please pray for effectiveness to destroy cancer, and to improve the severe nausea he has experienced.

Please also pray for Rev. Dr. Dave Ullom's father, that he may be able to stay in his own home with Home Health care. Please pray for both physical and mental strength to continue to be restored. Please pray for his accepting of his children's decision to not allow him to drive.

Please continue to remember Doug O'Bannon, son of CRE Shari O'Bannon, in your prayers as he continues to battle a liver disease and all the symptoms that come with it.

Churches in Transition

Please pray for the following churches that are in transition:

Presbytery of North Central Iowa

First Presbyterian Church, Boone
First Presbyterian Church, Greene
First Presbyterian Church, Grundy Center
First Presbyterian Church, Jesup
First Presbyterian Church, Reinbeck
Eden Presbyterian Church, Rudd

Presbytery of Prospect Hill

Elliott Creek Presbyterian Church, Bronson
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Ida Grove
First Presbyterian Church, Lake Park
Community Presbyterian Church, Lawton
First Presbyterian Church, Manning
First Presbyterian Church, Odebolt
First Presbyterian Church, Paullina
Lakeside Presbyterian Church, Storm Lake
First Presbyterian Church, South Sioux City

Iowa Tri-Presbyteries Leadership Team Seeking Candidates



The Search Committee for the Iowa Tri-Presbyteries Leadership Team is actively seeking candidates who might consider a call to serve the presbyteries of Des Moines, North Central Iowa and Prospect Hill as one of their three executives. If you or someone you know may be interested in such a position or interested in learning more, please connect them with the search website: <https://engagingleaders.org/iowa-tri-presbytery-leadership-team/>. Letters of interest are being received until May 22.

Synod Seeking Representative from North Central Iowa

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies is seeking a possible representative from the Presbytery of North Central Iowa to serve on the combined Committee on Racial Ethnic Ministries (CREM) and Self-Development of People (SDOP). CREM seeks to promote Racial Ethnic Ministries and raise awareness about issues surrounding racism and inclusion. SDOP is one of the programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing which invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice. The Synod Committee helps distribute funds for scholarships and projects of SDOP.

These are two committees with somewhat similar purposes, so the same group serves on both and they meet simultaneously to carry out their work. They meet twice a year at the Synod office in the Twin Cities, in May and in the fall, coming together on Friday night and going home when done with their work on Saturday. These positions will be elected at the October Synod meeting to begin service in January 2021 for three-year terms.

The committee seeks to have a diverse racial-ethnic membership. Members do not have to be Presbyterian but do need to have a passion for this work.

If you are interested in serving on CREM/SDOP, or know of someone who has a passion for this work, contact Brad Braley, moderator of the Synod Nominating Committee, at bradbraley@cfu.net

Keeping Informed on the COVID-19 Situation

The Presbyteries continue to hold weekly meetings with the pastors to keep abreast of the ever changing COVID-19 situation and to discuss how pastors and churches can continue to minister to and serve their congregations. The meetings will be recorded and the recordings uploaded to the Events section of each website (www.presbynciowa.org and www.prospecthillpresby.org). You may also click [here](#) for the recording of April 28. It is planned to have these meetings weekly and the recordings will continue to be uploaded to the websites.

The home pages of the [North Central Iowa](#) and the [Prospect Hill](#) websites contain information and links on webinars and other resources on the COVID-19 situation.

Festival of Homiletics

The Festival of Homiletics hosted by Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN has gone online for free for this year!! The dates are May 18 – 22 and you may register [here](#). You will also have an opportunity to view the videos at your convenience for \$75.00.



2020
Synod School
July 26-31

Theme:
What Shall We Tell Them?

[2020 Synod School Catalog](#)

From the Synod - COVID-19 Update: *We are carefully monitoring recommendations from the Center for Disease Control regarding the coronavirus. We will make a decision in mid-June about whether or not to proceed with Synod School if pandemic recommendations for social distancing are still in place. If Synod School is cancelled, all monies will be refunded.*

Churchwide Gathering of the Presbyterian Women



Presbyterian Women's 2021 Churchwide Gathering will be held August 5–8, 2021 in St. Louis, Missouri!

The theme for the Gathering is "Rejoice in Hope" based on Romans 12:12–13, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers."

Please click on this link for more information:

https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/build-community/churchwide-gathering/



Conflict Workshop

May 18-20, 2020 - [Lakeshore Center at Okoboji](#)

This workshop is specifically designed to provide church leaders with the knowledge and tools necessary to address, manage, and resolve conflict in a healthy and effective manner. Participants will learn about conflict management styles, including their own default style, what the other styles look like, and how to grow in their ability to use and understand different conflict management styles. Other components of the workshop will include learning how family of origin influences one's attitudes about conflict, plus strategies for responding to conflict in the moment, opportunities for prayer, reflection, worship, and much more.

The cost for this workshop is \$450 for double occupancy or \$550 for single. Limited scholarships are available for PCUSA pastors and lay leaders, sponsored by the Omaha Presbytery Seminary Foundation.

(If you are interested in attending this workshop, it may be best to check as the date gets closer to confirm that it will still be held.)

[Please click here for an on-line application.](#)

[Click here to register \(\\$450-\\$550\).](#)

Scholarships available for church members attending an accredited college or university during 2020-21 academic year

by Paul Seebeck / Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) students seeking their first associate or bachelor's degree are encouraged to apply now for scholarship awards through Presbyterian Mission Agency's [Financial Aid for Service](#) at pcusa.org/apply4scholarships.

The scholarships for PC(USA) undergraduate students for up to \$4,000, depending on need, align with the church's [Matthew 25 invitation](#), which encourages churches and mid councils to work at [building congregational vitality](#), [dismantling structural racism](#) and [eradicating structural poverty](#).

If need remains after the scholarship is awarded, students of color, students who are the first in their family to attend college, and those who represent the neediest 10 percent of students selected for the award based on remaining need and family contribution may be considered for an additional \$2,000 in supplemental aid.

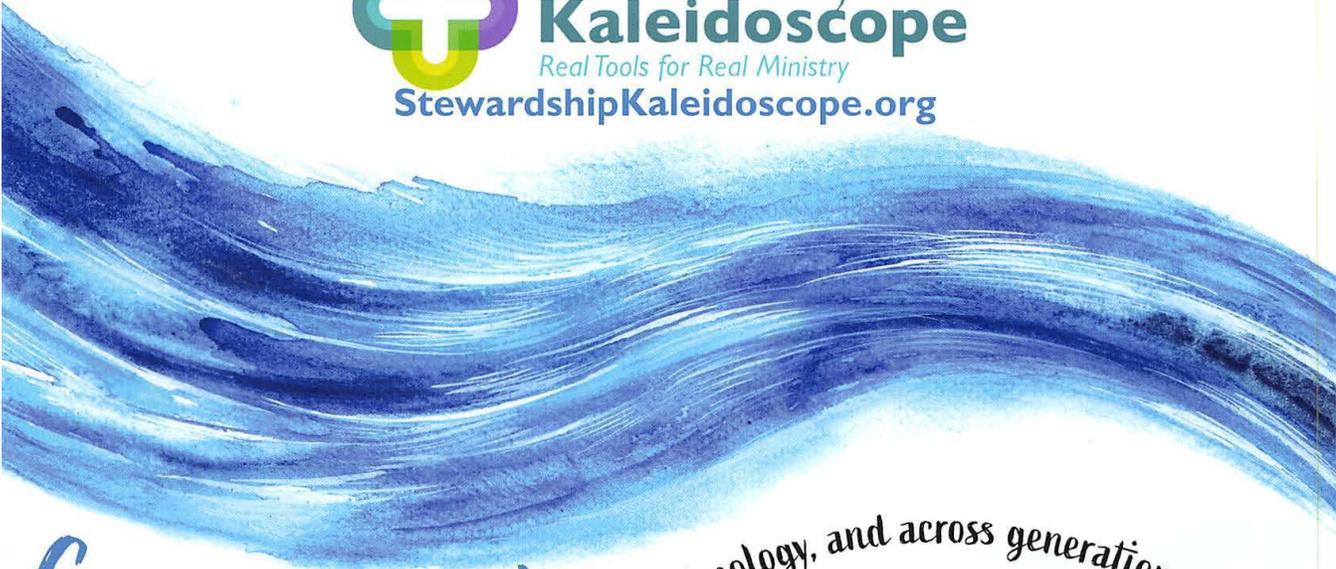
The biggest change this year is that National Presbyterian College Scholarship, Student Opportunity Scholarship, and Native American Education Grant have been merged into a single [online application](#) process. Financial Aid for Service reminds applicants that they alone should apply for the scholarship — not their parents or friends.

Renewal of the scholarships is not automatic. Students apply in the spring for awards that will be announced by June 30. Applications are evaluated based on the response to an essay and recommendations.

The deadline to apply for scholarship awards is May 15.

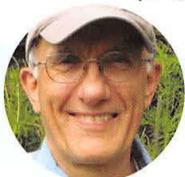
Parents of dependent undergraduates may apply for [PC\(USA\) Parent Loan](#) with features similar to a Federal Student Aid PLUS loan, but with a lower interest rate. Students may request information for this program, or parents can apply by visiting pcusa.org/parentloan.

Financial Aid for Service provides scholarships for up to 120 college students per year and awards more than \$500,000 annually to students pursuing their first degree.



Currents of Faith
The Stewardship of change in community, technology, and across generations.

Plenary Leaders



Bob Sitze
Author of *Stewardship: An Economia for Congregational Change*



Rev. Jon Wolf
Pastor of Digital Engagement & Faith Formation, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Overland Park, KS



Rev. Denise Anderson
Coordinator for Racial & Intercultural Justice, Presbyterian Mission Agency, PCUSA



Rev. Dr. Jonah So
Pastor, Korean Presbyterian Church of Westchester, NY

Worship Leaders



Rev. Lamont Wells
Director for Mission, Vitality, & Partnership, ELCA



Rev. Kathryn Johnston
Senior Pastor, Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church, PA

**September
21-23
2020**

Over 40 workshops covering annual stewardship, planned giving, the theology of giving, current trends and more

Northern Kentucky Convention Center

Lodging at Cincinnati Marriott RiverCenter and Embassy Suites Cincinnati RiverCenter
Right on the Ohio River at Covington, KY and Cincinnati, OH

Helpful Links

Academy



Deepening faith and
encountering Christ in a
new way

Please click [here](#) for information on The Academy.



Rev. Shawn Harmon was ordained to service as a mission worker with The Antioch Partners, a mission sending agency that works in partnership with Presbyterian churches in the US. You can read more about them here: <https://www.theantiochpartners.org/>. You may contact Shawn directly at: harmonhusky@gmail.com. To support Shawn financially: www.theantiochpartners.org/giving. For online giving select “partner support for partners not listed for security reasons” and type “Harmon, Shawn.”



The Iowa Heart Foundation recommends that Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) be placed wherever people gather. AEDs have become so advanced that almost anyone can use them safely. Click [here](#) for more information.



If you feel as if you're at the end of your rope or the recent floods or low crop prices have left you feeling hopeless, please click [here](#) to find a group or network who may be able to help.



Your Iowa Life – if you or a loved one are facing a problem with alcohol, drugs, gambling, mental health or suicide thoughts, you're not alone. That is why the Iowa Department of Public Health has created YourLifeIowa.org so Iowans can chat live, text or call and get reliable treatment options and find nearby help. <https://yourlifeiowa.org/>



Farm Crisis Ministry Network - supporting farmers and those who love and care for them, sharing resources for farm families, congregations, and rural communities. <https://www.facebook.com/farmcrisisministry/>



Spectrum Spirituality Project – support resources for families with one or more children who have a sensory, emotional, and/or behavioral disorder; also equip congregations to welcome and serve these families. https://www.facebook.com/pg/spectrumspirit/about/?ref=page_internal



Iowa Faith Leadership Network – to provide a space for faith leaders to develop interfaith and ecumenical relationships, collegiality, and cooperation; to share resources, ask questions, and learn together; to improve our collective ability to minister to the faith communities we serve as well as to better the lives of people in the communities around us. <https://www.facebook.com/iowafaitheaders/>