



Monday Morning in the Presbytery

A weekly news update from the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley in Iowa and Nebraska

Distributed by e-mail only to the churches, Clerks of Session, ministers, Presbytery officers and committee members and others who wish to be on the e-mail list.

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- Please send dates, times, locations of events to: pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com. However, to plan and schedule events talk with Joan Royer (joan@pmrv.org or 402-553-8300 or 800-603-8980).
- Please report email address changes to please send your new address to: pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com.
- To stop receiving Monday Morning drop an e-note to: pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com.



News from our E.P., Kevin Keaton

What: The Clearwater 2010 conference, "Finding Our Way in the Wilderness,"

Presenters: GA Moderator Bruce Reyes-Chow; author, minister and well-known speaker Carol Howard Merritt; and acclaimed professor J. Andrew Dearman.

When: Friday through Sunday, April 16-18

Where: Presbyterian Clearwater Forest near Brainerd, Minn.

Additional Information and brochure available at:

<http://www.facebook.com/l/93b3b;www.lakesandprairies.org/PDFFiles/Clearwater%202010%20BROCHURE1.pdf>

Planning for After Easter

"What do you mean 'After Easter'? There is way too much between now and then to even think about it!"

The Season of Lent is unlike any other time in the Liturgical Year. There is a deep mystery that accompanies the wide range emotions evoked by Ash Wednesday, the 5 Sundays in Lent, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter. Those in leadership do enjoy guiding the church through this season; however, it comes with a price that most parishioners fail to comprehend!

The first after-Easter clergy retreat I attended began with this remark: "Few people understand or appreciate the depth of fatigue experienced by clergy following Easter. They don't need just 'rest and relaxation;' they need 'restoration and renewal.'"

Opportunities for after Easter renewal have grown in the last decade, many offered by Synods and Presbyteries. Most events are 48 – 72 hours; just long enough to feed the spirit and nurture the soul! The long-term benefits are immeasurable.

"So what do you have planned after Easter?" If you are in leadership in your congregation, posing this question to your pastor may provide a needed nudge as well as offer permission. If you are a pastor, I am confident your congregation would afford a few days in the weeks following Lent for you to experience the deeper, renewing power of Easter.



Kevin

News from our Congregations

Peace Presbyterian Church

First Annual Art Show and Art Sale (*This is a juried art show featuring local artists concluding with a silent auction and raffle.*)

Sponsored by: Peace Presbyterian Church and Arts For All, Inc.

Where: Peace Presbyterian Church, 333 S. 204th Street, Elkhorn, NE.

When: Friday March 26 and Saturday March 27th from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Cost: \$2 or non-perishable food donation for the Douglas County West Pantry
Lunch is available on site. ~~~_Proceeds to support the two separate missions of Peace Presbyterian Church and Arts For All, Inc.

Walnut and Avoca Churches

The Walnut and Avoca Congregations are joining with Peace United in Walnut, Trinity Lutheran, and St. Mary's, again this year to host **Sunday evening, Lenten "worship and a meal" services.**

When: 5 PM. Sundays during Lent.

Where: First Service: United Church in Avoca

West Hills Church

West Hills is celebrating its 50th Anniversary!

When: Sunday, February 28th, 10:00 am

Where: West Hills Church (3015 S 82nd Ave)

Rev. Denn Denning will be preaching.

Westminster, Council Bluffs

13TH ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY CORNED-BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER

When: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2010 - 4:30 - 7:00 P.M.

Where: Westminster Presbyterian Church, 517 South 32nd Street, Council Bluffs, Iowa

Cost: Adults - \$7.00 ~ Children 12 and under - \$3.00

(Dinner includes dessert and beverage)

Tickets available from General Missions Committee Members or at the door.

All profits will be used for special mission projects.

Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry



The Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Committee Meeting:

When: Wednesday, February 24 at noon

Where: Camp Calvin Crest.

Everyone is welcome to join the group to help plan the OWLS (Older Wiser Livelier Saints) September Celebration.

Bring your own lunch.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry Opportunities

Special Opportunity for 20 -30 Year Olds

"Bread for the World – Hunger Justice Leader Program"

Bread for the World is looking for the best and brightest 20- to 30-year-old advocates to join our next class of Hunger Justice Leaders.

- Selected participants will attend an advocacy training workshop—**all expenses paid**—in Washington, DC, **June 12-15, 2010.**
- The leaders will then coordinate hunger advocacy efforts in their communities for the next 12 to 18 months.

Vanessa Martinez, a Hunger Justice Leader from Santa Ana, CA, shares her passion and commitment in a short video. Watch it and then apply to become a Hunger Justice Leader—or pass it on to someone who should.

Video: <http://www.bread.org/get-involved/hunger-justice-leaders-training/>

The application deadline is March 12, so don't wait. Apply now.

Calvin Crest Confirmation Retreat

When: Friday-Sunday, April 30-May 2, 2010

Where: Calvin Crest Camp, Conference and Retreat Center ,
2870 County Road 13, Fremont, NE 68025

Who: Confirmation classes of any size church,
along with your Pastor, Youth Leaders and / or Parents.

Why: Experience the larger church, Christ in community, and to have fun at Calvin Crest!

Cost: \$54

Deadline for Registration: Monday April 12, 2010

Brochure and Registration form attached.

Position Available: Part Time Youth Leader

NEW HORIZON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 30 Valley View Drive in Council Bluffs is looking for a **Youth Leader**. **This position will be part time, approximately 4-6 hours a week** for 40-45 weeks a year and can start within the next few months. Experience in organizing and executing church ministries is preferred. **Salary** will depend on experience with a starting hourly rate of \$15.

Responsibilities will be to (1) Plan and lead two weekly youth group meetings. One group is middle school students and the other high school students. These meetings should include group building, worship, discipleship, mission and outreach. (2) Communicate with pastor, church staff and leadership, youth, parents and congregation. (3) Develop meaningful relationships with the youth, encouraging them to grow in their faith.

Characteristics of applicant must be (1) Well-grounded as a follower of Christ, having a personal theology consistent with the Bible and Presbyterian beliefs. (2) Live a Christian life embracing Christian disciplines, ethics and morals to be a role model for our youth. (3) Have strong inter-personal skills, working well with youth and adults. (4) Be able to create, plan and execute youth ministries. (5) Be able to provide faith based counseling to youth and adult volunteers.

Contact Donna Pritchard, Personnel Chair at 712-325-8192 or e-mail dj.pritch@cox.net.

Special Opportunity for Youth Groups

Expressing your love for God is a reward in itself. {But \$25,000 makes a pretty sweet bonus prize.} The ymiLIVE *Youth Video Challenge* is a great opportunity for your youth group to work together on a project that will tap into their creativity and talent.

Create a video expressing your groups' interpretation of John 7:38 "Out of the believer's hear shall flow rivers of living waters," then post it on www.ymiLIVE.org. Your youth group will then have an opportunity to receive one of two \$25,000 endowments to benefit youth ministry at your church!

Visit www.ymiLIVE.org to learn more.

Mission and Ministry Opportunities in the Presbytery

Crossroads Connection partners with local congregations to be in mission and ministry with ex-offenders and their families.



Crossroads invites you and your congregation to be part of this ministry.

How can your church partner in ministry with Crossroads?

- The cooks in your congregation can prepare and serve a meal for Crossroads on a Sunday evening, serving approximately 60 people.
- Your pianists, organists, guitar players and other musicians can accompany hymn singing during worship and/or provide special music for the worship services.
- Your church members can become transportation sponsors to transport people to and from the Work Release Center. (Note: this involves a two-hour training session at the WRC.)
- Your church can provide financial support. (We have several suggestions of how to give financially to the ministry of Crossroads Connection.)
- Your pastor, associate pastor, commissioned lay pastor, or other speaker can preach on Sunday evenings.

Currently, we are especially in need of groups who can prepare and serve a meal on Sunday nights. Crossroads attendance is about 60 to 65 people. If you like cooking, please contact Crossroads!

For more information, please call or email Becky Balestri at 397-4318 or bkillion@hotmail.com

Help Stop the Oppression of Women

In honor of International Women's Day, CARE will present "Half the Sky LIVE" in movie theaters nationwide on March 4th at 7:30pm

Participating theaters in our presbytery: Omaha: AMC Oakview 24 ~ Midtown Crossing ~ Village Point Cinemas Council Bluffs: Star Cinema 16

About "Half the Sky LIVE" Inspired by the bestselling book from Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, this will be an exciting night of musical performances, celebrity commentary, uplifting stories about women and girls overcoming tremendous obstacles and a powerful short film by Academy Award Winner Marisa Tomei and Lisa Leone.

About "CARE" Much more than a night at the movies, this event is about helping women around the world turn oppression into opportunity. 30% of ticket sales will go to CARE. CARE is a humanitarian organization that fights global poverty by empowering marginalized women and girls to bring lasting change to their communities. Visit www.care.org to learn more.

Volunteer Opportunity In many theaters, CARE staff and volunteers will distribute information about CARE. Volunteers arrive at the theater an hour prior the film (6:30pm). Prior to the event, volunteers will receive detailed information about their role, CARE materials to distribute and a complimentary ticket to the film. *If you are interested in volunteering at your local theater, please email halfthesky@care.org and copy me (sberman@care.org) listing your name, preferred email address, mailing address and the theater where you would like to volunteer.*

Presbytery Mission Trip: Meet our Nicaraguan Partners!

When: October 29 – November 5, 2010

Who: Everyone!

Informational Flier: Click on link on [PMRV Mission Page](#) or see attached flier

Contacts: Lyle Franzen at lyl_franzen@yahoo.com or 210-6845, or
Joyce Serenil at 345-6093 or blackcat100@cox.net

Spiritual Formation and Growth Opportunities

Spring Women's Retreat for women of all ages!

When: March 5th & 6th (7:30pm Friday – Noon Saturday)

Where: Lied Lodge, Nebraska City

Cost: \$75* - Includes all retreat events, room, & breakfast

Questions and Reservations: Please contact Jeff McDonald (402) 682-1439

Sponsored by the Murray Presbyterian Church

Poster attached for use in sharing with your congregation.

Great Plains Presbyterian Pilgrimage #7

Great Plains Presbyterian Pilgrimage (GPPP, for short) is a three-day renewal retreat for Christian adults, designed to further the faith walk of the individual, and in turn strengthen churches. *As one participant in multiple GPPP weekends recently stated, "Nothing before in my life has given me the opportunity to witness first-hand the body of Christ being built up as a Pilgrimage weekend has. It is life-altering. It is empowering. It is inspiring. It is a body of believers, knit together by God, coming together for the sole purpose of nurturing one another on a journey with Christ, and then charging them to go home and impact their own churches."*

Where: The weekend is held at Camp Calvin Crest in the Proett Retreat Center.

When: The weekend begins at 5pm on Thursday the 22nd of April and concludes by 4pm on Sunday the 25th of April.

What: The weekend is all-inclusive, and every guest need is met.

Cost: \$230 per person (*scholarships available upon request.*)

Who: Everyone. All are welcome!

For further Information and Registration Materials: See

<http://www.gpppilgrimage.org> or the GPPP information attached to this newsletter.

Guest Registrations are currently being taken and can be submitted to the GPPP registrar listed on the form or if you wish, you may send your registration to the editor of this newsletter (pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com or Rev. Jody Filipi, 602 S 78 St, Omaha NE 68114)

Editor's Note: I attended GPPP#6. I want to encourage everyone to attend a pilgrimage weekend. It is a retreat like no other I have ever been on – it is a place where one truly experiences the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love.

Continuing Education Opportunities

2010 Church Unbound Conference

When: August 11-14, 2010

Where: Montreat Conference Center

Lead plenary speaker: Brian McLaren.

Complete information and Registration materials can be found at:

<http://www.montreat.org/current/2010-church-unbound>

"Depression and Suicide Risk"

When: March 15th, 11:30am-1:00pm

Where: Lasting Hope Recovery Center, 415 S 25th Avenue, Omaha, NE 68131

Cost: None

Please join us as Dr. H. John Lehnhoff, PhD, Clinical Psychological Consultant for Alegent Health presents a **program designed to equip clergy to deal with this serious issue.** Program content includes:

- Introduction and Overview of Depression and Suicide Risk
- Depression's signs and symptoms
- Suicide risk factors
- Aspects of self injury
- Treatment and safety considerations

Space for the program is limited, so please RSVP to joseph.omeara@alegent.org or 402-343-4619 by March 11th. *Lunch will be served.*

Presented by the Alegent Faith and Health Network

"Ethics in Ministry:

Establishing Boundaries, Preserving Connections, and Restoring Hope"

When: March 8-9, 2010

Where: Saint Benedict Center, Schuyler, Nebraska.

Attached to this email is a brochure and registration form

For more information, contact: Sharon Shields, Cotner College Program Administrator - shieldscotner@windstream.net - 402.474.3207.

Third Annual UDTs Mission Conference "Turning Missions Upside Down"

When: will be held on campus March 9-10.

Where: Dubuque Seminary

Conference features exciting lectures presented by Rev. Dr. Jin S. Kim, founding pastor of Church of All Nations, Minneapolis, MN and Rev. Fletcher Matandika, founder of Ministry of Hope and Joy to the World Ministries.

Click here for the conference schedule: <http://udts.dbq.edu/edu.cfm>

For information about these events or to register, contact:

563.589.3691 or UDTSConted@dbq.edu

Spring Renewal Conference

When: April 5-8 at the

Where: University of Dubuque campus.

We are pleased to host three spectacular speakers this year, including the Berger Lectures: Rev. Dr. Craig Barnes, Shadyside Presbyterian Church and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; the Woods Lectures: Dr. Rodger Nishioka, Columbia Theological Seminary; and the Warren Lectures: Dr. Ralph Watkins, Fuller Seminary

More information will be online at <http://udts.dbq.edu/edu.cfm>

For information about these events or to register, contact:

563.589.3691 or UDTSConted@dbq.edu

Event Calendar

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Febr	22	23 1PM LOWE AVENUE COMMISSION (PRESBYTERY OFFICE) 4:30PM COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (NEW HORIZON) 4:30PM SPIRITUALITY, THEOLOGY & WORSHIP (PANERA'S, MALL OF THE BLUFFS) DEADLINE: ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT (MIDNIGHT)	24	25	26	27	28 10AM WEST HILL CHURCH 50 TH ANNIVERSARY WORSHIP SERVICE
Mar	1	2	3	4	5 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER	6	7

Prayer Calendar

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Febr	22 Keep this congregation in your prayers throughout the coming week: Castelar. Rev. Lyle Franzen is pastor of this congregation.  	23 Celebrate the call of Rev. Nancy Ross-Hullinger. Nancy was ordained in 1995. She is pastor at Avoca.  Pray for Rev. Ron Hubler. Ron is retired and living in Omaha.  Pray for George Thompson, member of the Presbytery's Preparation for Ministry Committee	24 Pray for Rev. Stephanie Huisman. Stephanie is sweeping as temporary supply pastor at Dundee Presbyterian Church.  Pray for Rev. Ernie Gutha, member of the Presbytery's Preparation for Ministry Committee	25 Pray for Rev. Melvin Hurst. He is the Pastor at United Trinity in Hamburg.  Pray for Rev. John Hansen, member of the Presbytery's Preparation for Ministry Committee	26 Pray for Rev. Portia Iverson. Portia is serving as Interim Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Papillion.  Pray for Walter Bennett, member of the Presbytery's Preparation for Ministry Committee	27 Please pray for Rev. Harold Johnson. Harold is retired and living in Omaha.  Pray for Rev. Deborah Boucher-Payne, member of the Presbytery's Preparation for Ministry Committee	28 Pray for the members of the Latino / Hispanic Working Group. Rev. Lyle Franzen is chair. Remember West Hills in your prayers as the congregation celebrates its 50th Anniversary. Pray for the people of Haiti, the relief workers and ongoing relief efforts.