



CONNECTION

FALL 2017

Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

Invite you to our Fall Gathering



'INTERFAITH OUTREACH: Understanding our Muslim Neighbors'

Saturday, October 7, 2017

9:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Registration, coffee and fellowship start at 9:00 a.m.

Presbyterian Church of the Apostles

701 East 130th Ave, Burnsville, MN

Keynote Speaker

Sadia Tarannum, is the Interfaith Outreach and Community Building Director at the Northwest Islamic Community Center in Plymouth. Sadia states in her bio that building deeper Interfaith/inter-community relationships, education and raising awareness is very important to her. She has been working diligently to ensure we cultivate a community with faith, kindness and love as the foundation, not just in the NW suburbs but also in the greater Twin Cities and in the nation. She feels that in the current atmosphere, education and building relationships is vital. She is working with several community leaders from different faith groups to build relationships and educate others about the beauty of Islam. She participates in church and synagogue group discussions and leads education sessions. She is developing a plan for *Peace Camp* for kids of different faiths to learn from each other and better understand each other's faith traditions.

The Offering will go to the Northwest Islamic Community Center for their work in developing Peace Camp for kids of different faiths.

PLEASE INVITE other women from your church and community to join us

REGISTRATION FOR THE OCTOBER 7 GATHERING MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 21

Agenda for the Gathering

9:00	Registration, Displays, Coffee and Refreshments
9:45	Welcome, Roll Call, Lighting of Christ Candle and Devotions – Rev. Bebe Baldwin
10:00	Speaker, Sadia Tarannum, Director at the Northwest Islamic Community Interfaith Outreach and Community Building
11:45	Exercise !!!
12:15	Lunch
1:15	Announcements and Committee Reports
1:45	Worship and Communion
2:45	Extinguish Christ Candle



INFORMATION TO PONDER FOR THE FALL GATHERING

(Be certain to come to the Gathering with questions regarding Islam)

What is Islam?

Islam means “peace, security and wholeness through total submission to god’s will”. It is both a religion and a way of life.

Muslims follow a religion of peace, mercy and forgiveness that should not be associated with acts of violence.

If Islam promotes peace, why is there so much unrest in the Middle East?

There are a lot of reasons for unrest in the Middle East—many economic and political rather than religious in nature.

After the Ottoman Empire lost World War I, European countries carved out the Arab world with a series of mandates, designating regions of the Middle East and North Africa as protectorates of European countries.

Throughout the rest of the century, there have been many independence movements across the region, but country borders and forms of governance, many reminiscent of colonial history, are still contentious and ethnic tensions are high.

Undoubtedly, many violent extremism groups use the name of Islam in their political and military campaigns. However, political and economic factors contribute heavily to the instability of the region, and much more nuanced education to understand.

Furthermore, only 20% of Muslim people around the world live in the Arab world, and of those who live in the region, a vast majority are victims of violent extremism and many die fighting the violence in their home country.

MISSION REPORT

We had so many generous gifts at the Spring Gathering: **102** Dresses for Haiti, 18 baby hats, 12 menstrual hygiene kits, 18 pairs of underwear, 19 baby kits, 3 large suitcases and 9 twin size sheets.

Just look at all the different ways we are helping in the world, in addition to what your churches do locally. Thank you for giving from the heart!!

School Kits, Baby Care and Hygiene Kits Desperately Needed Worldwide

There will always be a need for all of the kits we send to our various mission partners. Check out <http://www.churchworldservice.org> for specific information about the school bags or other kits. I've been told that CWS has lots of school supplies at the warehouse for which they need bags. Some groups don't have people who sew. So, if we get school supplies in, we'll send them but we'll also send along just school bags plus \$3 for each one for the shipping of the kits from the warehouse to their final destination. So, rev up your machines, ladies, and start making school bags.

The contents of each kit have been selected with care based on years of experience to make them as useful as possible, wherever and whenever they are sent.

School kits should include:

- One pair of child-size metal scissors. (I've seen multiple sizes at Wal-Mart. Buy the bigger size because these are for school age children.)
- Three 70-count spiral notebooks or two 100-page notebooks.
- One 12 inch ruler
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- One large eraser
- Six new unsharpened pencils with erasers
- One box of 24 crayons
- One 12" X 14" to 14" X 17" finished size cotton or lightweight canvas bag with cloth handles.

Put all small items in a one-quart Ziploc bag.

Hygiene Kits should include:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels, no microfiber)
- One washcloth, no microfiber
- One wide-tooth comb suitable for heavier, coarser hair
- One nail clipper
- One bath size bar of soap in wrapper
- One toothbrush (in original packaging) (no toothpaste because it deteriorates in storage)
- Ten standard size Band-Aids®

Place all items in a one-gallon plastic Ziploc bag.

Baby Care Kits should include (sizes up to 12 months):

- Six cloth diapers (flat, not pre-folded diapers, are preferred).
- Three T-shirts or undershirts (no onesies because t-shirts can grow with the baby; onesies can be cut off and serged on the bottom to make t-shirts)
- Two washcloths and 1 bar Ivory soap
- One gown or sleeper
- Two diaper pins (You can order diaper pins through Bed, Bath and Beyond or Amazon).
- One lightweight sweater or sweatshirt (Can be hand knitted or crocheted)
- Two receiving blankets

Items must be new (or look new) and no larger than 12 months in size. Wrap items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with both diaper pins. (I add an extra 2 pins attached to the diapers.)

If you have trouble completing the baby kits for lack of something, bring what you have (mark it as incomplete) and we'll finish the kits. Our group was given the compliment that we make such nice baby kits. Good work all!

Since the presentation by the ladies from First Presbyterian in White Bear Lake who started the Rural Health Care Initiative in Sierra Leone, Africa, we have been sending our baby kits to them. Sierra Leone is in equatorial Africa so we need to send lightweight clothing and blankets. The Birth Waiting Home is expected to open in late fall. That will be such an exciting time for all the women in the community.

Please include a check for \$5 made out to PW/PTCA with each kit to pay for the shipping from here to Africa.

At our Fall Gathering, we will be **collecting sheets** for the Rural Health Care Clinic. Sheets need to be:

- Flat (solid or patterned)
- Twin-sized (you can cut and hem larger-sized sheets into twin-sizes. Cut them no smaller than 60 inches wide. Half of a queen size sheet does not make a suitable sheet.) Sheets smaller than that will be made into crib sheets.
- New or very good condition. Check out the Goodwill Stores, garage sales and estate sales for bargains.

We encourage that all sheets, including new ones, **be washed** prior to mailing. Absolutely no pet hair!

This year we can send cash for the sheets and then they'll be purchased in Africa.

Little Dresses for Haiti

There's a website: www.littledressesforafrica.org which has some cute pictures of sweet little girls for whom people have made darling little dresses. The original concept of the program was that people would make these little dresses out of pillowcases, although any simple little dress will be just fine. There is even a Simplicity pattern for the pillowcase style. If your group would be interested in making these dresses or donating fabric for them, we can see that they get where they need to be. We have been sending our dresses to Haiti through Reiser Relief, another organization which has done a presentation for us. These dresses are distributed at orphanages and schools that Reiser is helping to support. Each dress may be the only new dress a child ever receives.

Diapers from T-shirts

One of the St Paul churches is going to start making diapers from old t-shirts. I believe the Austin church is also doing this. If you can get your husband to part with his old shirts, you can bring those and we will pass them on.

The Dwelling Place

The Dwelling Place, a shelter for women and their children leaving abusive situations, was previously presented as a mission emphasis. Linda Wiza, the director, asked me if we could make quilts for them. I don't have enough quilters at my church to be able to do this but I have been making pillowcases for them. (I have to have a reason to keep buying cute fabric.) I'll bring some to show everyone, along with the pattern and maybe some kits. Your group could do this for The Dwelling Place or a shelter in your area.

Brittany's Place

The White Bear Lake church **is** making quilts for Brittany's Place, a shelter for young women rescued from sex trafficking. They accept fabric, quilt squares, quilt tops, money for supplies. If your group would like to be part of this, talk to Sonja Irlbeck at the gathering.

Menstrual Hygiene Kits

I will bring some samples of the kits. One church made kits for the Spring Gathering. I'd love to see more groups tackle this worthwhile project. We send these kits to the Rural Health Care Initiative.

Don't forget we are still collecting suitcases, large or small.

*Belinda Breit, Mission Coordinator
Belinda.breit@comcast.net
612-306-5961*

At last year's Fall Gathering, three women from **The Dwelling Place** shared information regarding their program with us. On October 7 (the same day as this year's Fall Gathering) their organization is holding a dinner and silent auction event. Pat McKisson, our Gathering Co-Chairman, is volunteering to help with the event.

They are particularly interested in silent auction items and are asking if any of our PW groups would be willing to put together a basket to be auctioned off. Some ideas for basket themes are:

- Spa Basket (Ideas: Fluffy towel, bath sponge, body soap and lotion, hand and foot lotions, lavender candle, relaxation CD)
- Dormitory Basket (Ideas: Fleece blanket, slippers, popcorn, popcorn bowl, hot chocolate, cup)
- Baby Basket (Ideas: Baby blanket, plush toy, mobile, baby soap, baby shampoo)
- Wine Basket (Ideas: Bottles of wine (2 or 3), wine cooler, bottle stopper, wine glasses, coasters, towel with wine motif)

Pat is interested in other basket ideas that they might pursue as well as hearing from any PW group that might be willing to donate a basket. They are also looking for other silent auction items. **Please contact Pat (pmac0247@gmail.com or 651-773-5107) to let her know if your P.W. group would like to participate and what they are able to donate.**

Thanking you in advance for any way that you might be able to support this program. In Christ's Love and Peace, Pat

COMPASSION, PEACE AND JUSTICE ISSUES

Pat McKisson, Justice & Peace Coordinator

'ENDING CHILD TRAFFICKING IN THE U.S. BEGINS WITH YOU'

A Message from Carol Smolenski, Executive Director, ECPAT USA

Dear friends,

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, the country's groundbreaking legislation to end human trafficking and provide much needed support to victims, is currently up for reauthorization. The continued life of this legislation is crucial to our fight against child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, and that is why I am asking for your help.

The TVPA emphasizes a victim focused approach to combating human trafficking, while also strengthening restitution to the victims of human trafficking. Critically, a number of new provisions are being added as protections for children. This is a bipartisan issue. Members of congress and individuals on both sides of the aisle can all agree the United States of America must end child trafficking and provide support for victims of these unconscionable crimes.

We are counting on you to help us achieve a world where no child is bought, sold, or used for sex.

Contact your senators now and tell them to support the TVPA Reauthorization Bills.

"MY NEIGHBOR IS MUSLIM: Exploring the Muslim Faith"

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota has developed this book as a very special gift to the church and local communities. Its author is Professor Todd Green on behalf of Lutheran Social Service.

Imam Hassan Ali Mohamud, compliments the great book called "My Neighbor is Muslim." He states, "I have read the whole book, especially the Islamic parts, with which I was satisfied except for a few areas which have been edited. I found the book a useful educational tool, not only for non-Muslims but also Muslims, to bridge between the Muslim community and Christian community in the USA. In addition, the book is a summary of understanding about basic foundations of Islam and the Muslim faith. It is a great educational piece which I recommend that everyone in America read and pass on to his/her neighbor to correct the misconceptions about the religion of Islam and Muslims."

To get a copy of this book, go to Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota website and in the search box on their website put in 'My Neighbor is Muslim'.

"WE CHOOSE WELCOME":

'Embracing Immigrants and Refugees into our Communities'

We Choose Welcome is an awareness campaign of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) which is an expression of personal and corporate commitment to welcome refugees and immigrants into our communities. The phrase stems from a [statement](#) made by former Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Gradye Parsons, in which he urged us to "Choose Welcome, Not Fear."

To welcome others is a central value of the Christian faith, shared by most of the world's religions. The call to welcome the stranger is so common in the Bible that one must wonder if it is so oft repeated because of its

importance, or because we are so quick to disregard it. In this time of great global and domestic conflict, perhaps both are true.

- In the midst of fear of terrorism and radicalism, we choose to welcome those who flee from terror and tyranny.
- In the midst of hate speeches and hate crimes, we choose to welcome those who are rejected because of their skin color or their foreign dress.
- In the midst of anxiety about our own economic prosperity, we choose to welcome those who come from distant lands to labor in our fields and our warehouses.
- In the midst of political debates which seek to divide us between those who are born here and those who are not, we choose welcome, a welcome for all children of God, proclaiming one household.

We Choose Welcome signs are available for use in your church yard, your home, and around your community. May they serve as an outward expression of the welcome you already practice and as a daily reminder to live up to our common mission to welcome the stranger. Go to: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/we-choose-welcome/> for information and printing options for these signs.

We know there is much work to be done to create a welcoming political and social climate for refugees in the U.S., and that the scale of the problem can be daunting. By building relationships across cultures and lifting our voices in the public square, we can make good on the promise that our welcome signs proclaim.

HOW ARE THE CHILDREN?

A Critical Conversation on the Church and the Opportunity Gap

(Article from July 7, 2017 Emerge)

Saturday, November 4 - 9:00 a.m. to noon

Valley Community Presbyterian Church

3100 Lilac Drive, Golden Valley, MN

“It’s not rocket science to love a child.”

By Rev. Dr. Alika Galloway

The African greeting, “How are the children?” reminds us that the health of a community depends upon the well-being of the children. The children in our communities are **our** children. Too many are not doing well. The academic achievement gap is an opportunity gap for stable housing, employment, community resources, and more.

Join other Presbyterians for a Critical Conversation. Explore what we as individuals and as congregations can do to help close the gap. We shall share ideas, hear stories, and discover the creative work being done in our churches.

Featured speaker will be Dr. Ross Roholt, Associate Professor and specialist in youth development, School of Social Work, University of Minnesota.

P.W. 'WORK FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE'

We are called to share God’s love with the world, by being God’s hands in the world. We answer God’s call to “do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God” (Micah 6:8).

Presbyterian Women in the Congregation, Presbytery and Synod groups respond to local or regional justice and peace needs. Our work can be action, advocacy or awareness-building—or a mixture depending on the gifts of our groups. In addition to local and regional emphases, Presbyterian Women Churchwide suggests addressing the injustices of:

- **Mass incarceration**
- **Poverty**
- **Racism**
- **Human trafficking**
- **Violence**

And promoting:

- **Quality education**
- **Informed advocacy through the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**
- **Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD)**

Together in Action Days

While Presbyterian Women works for justice and peace on many issues in many ways, **Together in Action Days** are opportunities for Presbyterian Women across the country to address two specific justice issues in their local contexts. Learn more about:

- Together in Action **against human trafficking** (January)
- Together in Action **for children’s education** (May)

Presbyterian Women supports the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s work in the areas of **advocacy and social justice, education, hunger and poverty, immigration, gender and racial justice and environmental ministries.**

Letter from our PW Moderator

Hello PW,

We are still looking for more women to serve on the coordinating team. The opening positions are Secretary, Treasurer, Barbara Tilton Scholarship Fund chair, Vice-Moderator. I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer. Whether expected or unexpected be prepared for the new things coming into your life.

Peace,
Michele Gallick, Moderator

Celebrate Presbyterian Women!
Celebrate 30 years of Presbyterian Women!
2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women
Arise, shine, your light has come! Isaiah 60:1

Attend because you want to . . .

- experience deep community and worship with more than 1,000 Christian women;
- discover how PW is engaged with the world— and how you can be, too;
- learn about current issues in the church and the world;
- explore mission opportunities;
- attend workshops on a variety of topics;
- meet international participants;
- participate in Bible study;
- visit the exhibit hall to connect, relax and shop;
- celebrate 30 years of Presbyterian Women!

WHEN is the 2018 Churchwide Gathering? The Gathering begins on Thursday, August 2, 2018, and concludes on Sunday, August 5, 2018.

WHERE will this Gathering be held? The Gathering will be held all under one roof at the Galt House in Louisville, Kentucky. Optional tours and events will visit local Presbyterian, mission-focused and cultural sites, but there's more than enough planned in the Galt House to keep you busy for the whole Gathering!

WHO attends the Gathering? Christian women (and a few men and children!) from across the country and around the world come together for this triennial event. Past Gatherings have included people of all ages and from more than 20 countries.

WHAT happens at the Gathering? Lots! Join in worship—enjoying uplifting music and gifted preachers—with sisters in faith from around the country and the world. Find inspiration in the plenary (large group) sessions, which highlight everything from Bible study to mission projects. Learn about your areas of passion and key issues in the world today through educational opportunities (forums and workshops) led by inspiring speakers. Get excited about the future of Presbyterian Women at the Business Meeting, where PW's 2018–2021 leaders will be elected, a budget will be finalized and programmatic emphases will be chosen. Witness the installation of the newly elected leaders of PW's 2018–2021 Churchwide Coordinating Team. Visit the many exhibits. Shop in the marketplace and bookstore. Take in some of the interesting and fun Louisville sights.

HOW MUCH will the Gathering cost?

- Full registration is \$425. Daily registration is \$125 per day. Hotel, travel and some meals are additional.
- Hotel Accommodations: Housing and programming are all under one roof at the Galt House. Rooms start at \$144 per night; suites start at \$159 per night, for one to four persons per room, plus tax. These discounted rates will apply three nights before and after the Gathering.
- For full-service air travel assistance, contact Roger Roy, Global Travel Alliance, at 505/867-2829 or gtaror@yahoo.com.
- A limited number of leadership development grants will be available to help with Gathering costs and our PW/PTCA will also have some scholarship monies available.

Where can I get more information? The Gathering web pages (www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering), the PW Facebook page (www.facebook.com/presbyterianwomenpcusa), the Gathering registration booklet (mailing with the November/December 2017 issue of Horizons) and, of course, every issue of Horizons magazine!

Registration opens on January 15, 2018. Look for a registration booklet with the November/December 2017 issue of Horizons magazine. (Not a subscriber? Call 866/802-3635 or visit www.presbyterianwomen.org/horizons.) Register by May 1, 2018 to receive an early registration incentive gift.

DIRECTIONS TO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES

From the Southeast (Rochester):

Choose your route to I494 west. Go west on I494 to I35W south. Take I35W south to exit 90, take ramp right and follow signs for CR-11. Turn right on CR-11 north. Go about .5 miles and turn left onto 130th St. E. Go about .8 miles. Church will be on the left.

-or-

Choose your route to I35 north (suggested route is via US-14 west or Hwy 52N to Hwy 46 West) and follow directions below for Austin/Albert Lea).

From the South (Austin/Albert Lea):

Choose your route to I35 north. Keep straight on I35 north to Exit 2 and follow signs for Burnsville Parkway. Turn right onto Burnsville Parkway west. Go about .5 miles and turn right onto Nicollet Ave./CR-7 S. Go about .6 miles and turn left onto 130th St. E. Go about .6 miles to the church which will be on the right.

From the Northeast and the East (Stillwater, White Bear Lake, North St. Paul, St. Paul): Find your route to I35 south. Follow I35 south to exit 90, take ramp right and follow signs for CR-11. Turn right on CR-11 north. Go about .5 miles and turn left onto 130th St. E. Go about .8 mile. Church will be on the left.

From the West:

Choose your route to I35W south. Follow I35W south to Exit 3A, take ramp right and follow signs for Hwy. 13 north. Turn right onto Nicollet Ave./CR-7 S. Go about .6 miles and turn left onto 130th St. E. Go about .6 miles to the church which will be on the right.

