

# NEW SONG

Listening for the ways God is working  
in the Presbytery of South Dakota.

Presbytery of South Dakota Newsletter | February/March 2019

## Hurricane Michael Mission Trip

### **POSD to send volunteers to Florida for disaster assistance**

By Kevin Veldhuisen, Transitional Mission Coordinator

We have all heard about the massive destruction of Hurricane Michael and the sweeping effects it had on the Florida panhandle. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is seeking volunteers from all across the denomination to come down and to help the people of Florida find a way back to stable and normal daily life. As a way of helping this effort the Ministry Development and Education ministry team of the presbytery would like to coordinate a group of volunteers to go down to Florida and help in whatever is necessary to move this area forward. We are still awaiting our assignment, but what we do know is that we will be hosted at Dogwood Acres Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center which is just North of Panama City.

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## Spinning My Wheels

By Rev. Kristi Holler  
Emmanuel Presbyterian, Marion

Some of you might remember me from a long, long, long, long time ago. I'm the one you might say was "spinning my wheels." I was born and raised in the Sioux Falls area, beginning on a farm in Hartford. When I first met you, I became a candidate for ministry in 2007, at which time I had just returned from from Decatur, Georgia, where I completed the ThM at Columbia Theological Seminary. I took two swings at the ordination exams, passing three of the five, and decided maybe I wasn't cut out for parish ministry.

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## Hurricane Michael Mission Trip (continued)



Dogwood Acres was also hit by the storm, but is operational enough to host PDA groups of volunteers. Our greatest effort may be to help Dogwood Acres become fully operational for future PDA groups or we may head down to the coastal areas to help in those efforts. As more information comes in we will pass it along.

If you are interested in volunteering for this trip please let me know of your interest at [kevin@presbyteryofsd.org](mailto:kevin@presbyteryofsd.org) or (605) 595-3908.

**Dates of Trip:** March 11-16

**Travel:** Group will fly out of Sioux Falls or Omaha

**Deadline to sign up:** February 15

**Cost:** The presbytery and supporting congregations will fund travel

**Financial Support:** If you are unable to go but would like to financially support this effort, please talk with me. As we get closer to the trip we will have more details of our project and the supplies needed. Therefore we may also solicit supplies to aid in this effort. (I will travel down separately with a trailer.)

Please carefully consider ways you can help with this important endeavor!

## Genogram Group Begins in Presbytery

By Rev. Dr. Carolyn Visser

We are starting a genogram group here in the Presbytery of South Dakota this new year! It is open to all CREs and teaching elders in the Presbytery, no further qualifications necessary.

In case you are not familiar with genograms, let me give you some information. Genograms are sort of like doing your genealogy, but with a twist. Usually getting together a couple of generations of your family—parents and grandparents—is all you need. Then, instead of focusing on the dates so much, you look at these generations from a relationship focus and determine what patterns of behavior seem to run in your family and how those can be a help or a hindrance to you and your ministry.

This is all in an effort to help us who serve the church to be more aware of the things that push our buttons and to help us grow in our own self-awareness. If you attended the fall pastor's retreat at Pioneer Camp last year you know a little about genograms and their usefulness.

I am looking to facilitate a genogram group here in the Presbytery on the last Tuesday of each month, give or take a month. I would like to know if this is something you might be interested in being a part of, so let me know ASAP via email [cjvisser@hotmail.com](mailto:cjvisser@hotmail.com) or cell phone (605) 321-0052.

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, February 26, 10:00-noon at Emmanuel, Marion**. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

## New Cohort of CREs to Begin Fall 2019

Are you interested in becoming a Commissioned Ruling Elder? The Presbytery of South Dakota will begin a new cohort that will meet at United Presbyterian Church in Willow Lake the second Saturday of each month from September 2019 through May 2020. Contact Carolyn Visser ([cjvisser@hotmail.com](mailto:cjvisser@hotmail.com)) or Janice Palmer ([jpalmer516@gmail.com](mailto:jpalmer516@gmail.com)) for more information about the program.



## Camp Registration Is Now Open

Visit **[www.pioneerrimrock.camp](http://www.pioneerrimrock.camp)** to register for summer camps, as well as spring and fall retreat options.

Check out these upcoming opportunities:

**May 3-5** Women's Retreat

**May 24-27** Work Camp

**June 9-14** Young Adventure

**June 17-21** Traveling Day Camps

**June 23-28** Seekers (grades 3-5)

**June 28-July 1** You and Me (grades K-2 + adult)

**July 4-7** Family Camp


**July 7-13** Compass (grades 9-12)

**July 14-20** Pathfinder (grades 6-8)

**July 21-27** Wilderness

**July 29-30** Traveling Day Camps

Want to work at camp? We have openings for this summer, including head cook, assistant to the director, and crew members for counseling, kitchen help, and general maintenance. Contact Jason at **[director@pioneerrimrock.camp](mailto:director@pioneerrimrock.camp)** for more information.



**Women's Spiritual Retreat**  
2019  
"Singing in the Rain"  
May 3rd-5th  
Pioneer Lodge  
Special Guest Presenter: Rev. Kristi Holler

Meals, lodging, and programming provided with registration fee.

Tier 1: \$147  
Tier 2: \$177  
Tier 3: \$207

**REGISTER NOW!**  
[pioneerrimrock.camp](http://pioneerrimrock.camp)

Introducing our Presenter:  
Rev. Kristi Holler, (M.Div., Th.M.) was born and raised in the Sioux Falls area, beginning on a farm in Hartford, South Dakota. She is a pianist, composer, and singer, and enjoys music in a variety of genres and settings, especially worship! Kristi's life work includes church and music ministry. Kristi was ordained and installed as the new pastor at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Marion, SD. Kristi enjoys meeting people, bike riding, reading, laughing, playing trumpet, piano, and chess. Kristi loves nature, this beautiful world God created, all people and every animal imaginable!

**Pioneer & Rimrock**  
Camps and Retreat Centers  
[www.pioneerrimrock.camp](http://www.pioneerrimrock.camp)

## Spinning My Wheels (cont.)

I was drawn to music ministry and settled into that role, singing and accompanying worship in various congregations wherever there was a need. Every so often, I would run into one of you and a knot would quickly form in my stomach, my mind scrambling for an explanation for what in the world I was doing. "Still singing and playing piano" (blah, blah), I'd answer. In other words, spinning my wheels.

I don't have a reasonable explanation for feeling stuck in the last decade of life. However, spinning my wheels, like trying to get out of a deep snow drift, deepened my faith where there was mostly fear; God's Presence and Power turning, turning, turning.

Sometimes we come around full circle. I'm now the pastor of the church in which I became an inquirer, at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Marion. I remember sitting in the Fellowship Hall in the dark waiting to meet with Carolyn Visser and the rest of the committee. Never did I imagine I would someday be the pastor of the church where the ordination process began for me. Looking now in the rearview mirror, I see objects (obstacles) that appeared large at the time, and I was unable to see them through God's eyes and unwilling to trust God's driving.

I'm excited to see all of you again. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and patience. Should you ever get stuck in a snow drift, spinning your wheels, just think (before your frustration takes over): perhaps the spinning wheels are really deepening your faith!



**PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNium 2019**  
July 16-20, 2019 • Purdue University

## Time to Get Ready for Presbyterian Youth Triennium

It's time to start preparing for PYT, which is coming up July 16-20! Students entering 9th grade through those graduating 12th grade are eligible to attend. Learn more about PYT and the theme for this year, "Here's My Heart," on the official website:

**[www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org](http://www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org)**

Denise Lutkemeier is the registrar for our presbytery this year and she is looking forward to working with you all! You can reach her at **[denisel@tnics.com](mailto:denisel@tnics.com)** or 605-949-0249.

## Sioux Falls FPC Accepting Applications for Adams Scholarship

The PW of First Presbyterian Church of Sioux Falls is now accepting applications for the Adams Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded each spring to men and women who are pursuing roles in Christian Service (ministry, mission work, church music, Christian Education, etc.). Initial consideration is given to FPC members and thereafter to outside applicants.

The Adams Scholarship originated in 1966 to honor Dr. and Mrs. Clarence Adams. Dr. Adams was senior pastor at First Presbyterian Church from 1939 to 1966. Presbyterian Women created the scholarship in 1966 and have continued to support it through an annual fundraising event. Memorials, bequests, and individual contributions are also welcomed as ongoing opportunity to support our future Christian leaders. Checks or donations can be directed to PW – Adams Scholarship.

Scholarship forms are available on our church website **[www.fpcsiouxfalls.org](http://www.fpcsiouxfalls.org)**. Go to Quick Link and click on forms. Applications are also available in the church office. Completed applications are due May 1, 2019. If you have any questions, please contact Becky Hillestad at **[hillestadclan@hotmail.com](mailto:hillestadclan@hotmail.com)**.

Adams Scholarship Committee  
Becky Hillestad, Sue Hanneld, Connie Tucker

## We Want to Hear Your Story

Just a quick note from me, Kristie Berglund, your presbytery communicator and editor of New Song. I'm here to help tell stories of the Spirit's movement and God's faithfulness in our South Dakota churches and neighborhoods. If you would like to write an article or be interviewed for New Song, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at **[revkberglund@gmail.com](mailto:revkberglund@gmail.com)**.



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**Synod School 2019**

*"Synod School is well organized, with inspiring worship leaders, talented instructors, and a great children's program."*

**July 21–26, 2019**  
Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa  
[www.lakesandprairies.org/SynodSchool](http://www.lakesandprairies.org/SynodSchool)  
800-328-1880, ext. 207

**Cultivating  
Civil Community**