

## This Week in Presbyterian Public Witness

**70 DAYS OF PEACE PRAYERS AND FASTING IN SOUTH SUDAN, June 10 - August 18.** The World Council of Churches, in solidarity with the South Sudan Council of Churches, has called for a season of prayer and fasting as a complex crisis, underlined by armed conflicts, food insecurity, and displacement continue to unfold in the world's youngest nation. Rev. Tut Kony Nyang Kon urges those praying to focus on the seven spheres of influence, including the family, church, governance, economy, education, media (including art and entertainment), and health.

**THE PRESBYTERIAN ADVOCACY HOUR** is held via Zoom during the fourth Wednesday of the month, June 25, noon.

*June Topic: Seeking Peace, Speaking Truth: Presbyterian Advocacy for Justice and Peace in the Holy Land.* Explore justice issues with spiritual grounding, in-depth analysis, and practical tools for advocacy. Optional breakout for networking, movement-building, and community connection. Contact the SPC church office for a link to sign up.

### UPCOMING ADVOCACY VISIT WITH SENATOR

**SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, Tentative Date June 30.** In keeping with our Matthew 25 Initiative foci on eradicating systemic poverty and mitigating climate change, Pastor Gusti is coordinating with the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness in Washington, DC to bring our concerns to Senator Capito on these issues, including a training on faith-based advocacy. Roughly 50 people have already signed up. A generous donor has offered to fund a trip to Washington. *If you would like to join us, please contact the church office. Spread the word! You do not need to be Presbyterian to join this effort!*

## Prayer for Mercy

**To Begin With, the Sweetgrass, excerpt**

Eat bread and understand comfort.

Drink water, and understand delight.

Visit the garden where the scarlet trumpets  
are opening their bodies for the hummingbirds  
who are drinking the sweetness, who are  
thrillingly gluttonous.

For one thing leads to another.

Soon you will note how stones shine underfoot.  
Eventually tides will be the only calendar  
you believe in.

And someone's face, whom you love,  
will be as a star

both intimate and ultimate,  
and you will be both heart-shaken and respectful.

And you will hear the air itself,  
like a beloved, whisper:  
oh, let me, for a while longer, enter the two  
beautiful bodies of your lungs.

**Mary Oliver**