



Why do we give?  
Celebrating the offering  
as an act of worship

Lori Guenther Reesor, September 19, 2018



The  
**Presbyterian**  
**Church**  
in Canada



Presbyterians  
**Sharing**



## About Lori

- B. Math (Statistics)
- Master of Theological Studies
- D. Min. at Tyndale University College and Seminary, 2014
- Blog and research posted at [www.lgreesor.com](http://www.lgreesor.com)



## About Lori

- fundraising consultant
- data analyst
- theologian
- *poet*
- **donor**
- board member
- former pastor
- *wife, mom*

Please type in your questions

Moderator will read them out on your behalf.  
We'll also take question breaks during the presentation and again at the end.

# Celebrating the offering as an act of worship

Today we will cover:

- Theology – why do we give?
- Worship - praying for and talking about the offering
- Practical suggestions for ways to give



# Two Stories from Little Boys

The Offering is important

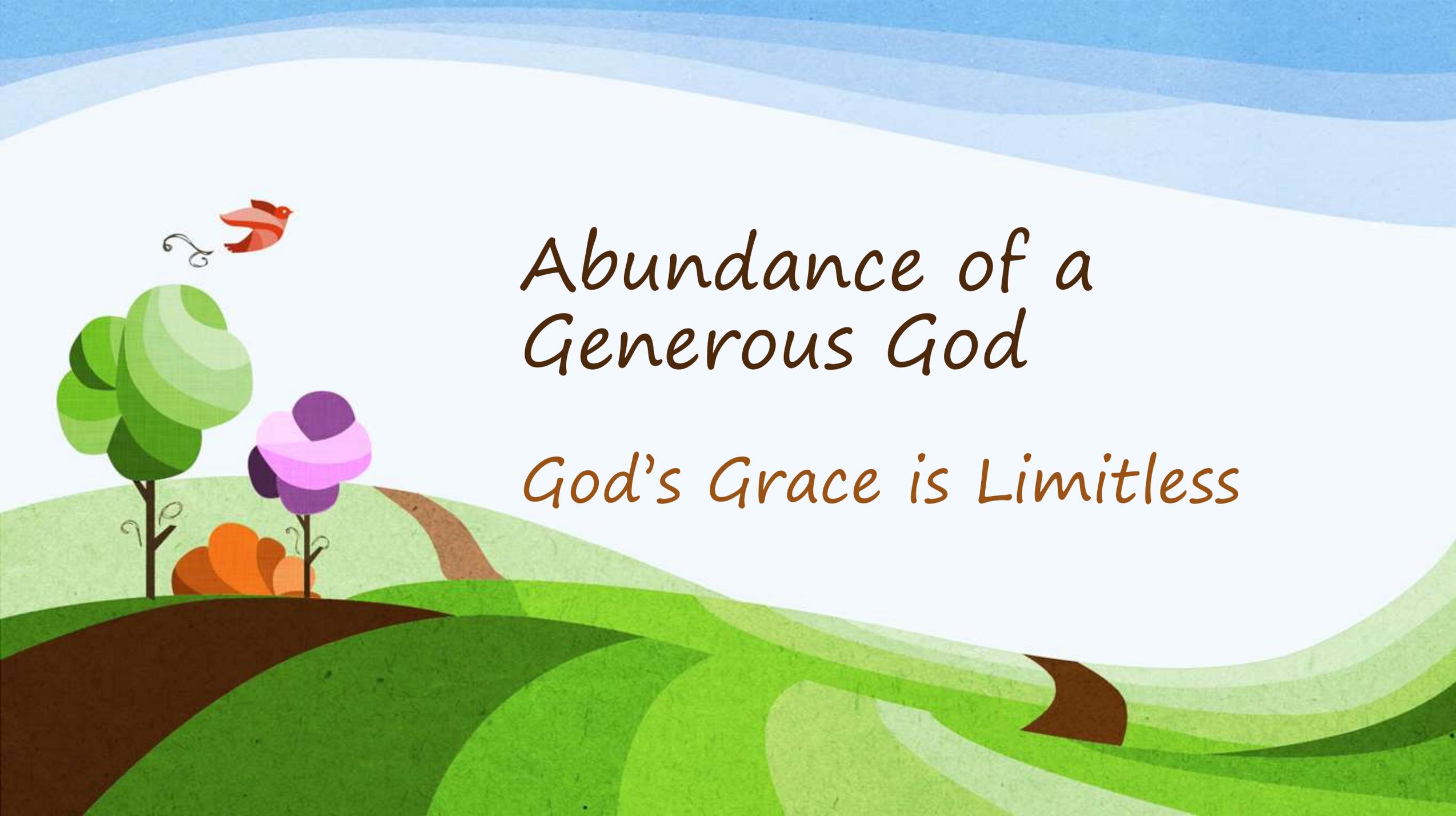
# Peach Blossom Church



**Offering**



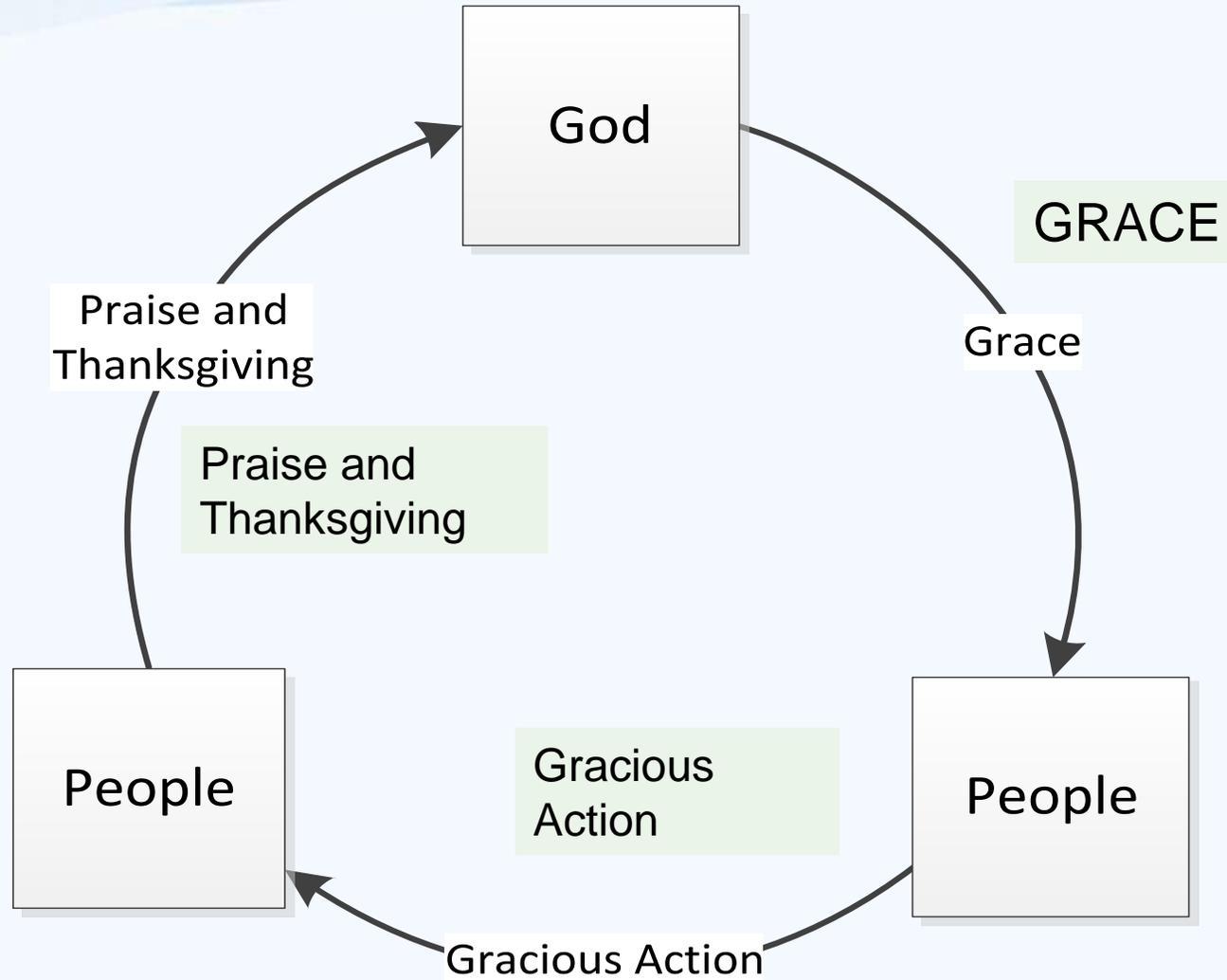
Theology – why do we give?



*Abundance of a  
Generous God*

*God's Grace is Limitless*

# Circle of Grace Model



## Why start with gratitude?

- *Christians give in grateful obedience to all God has given us*
- *God's abundant grace continues in all circumstances and we can always afford to be generous (2 Cor 9:8)*

*When we talk about giving, we are grateful for:*

- *our church where we worship God together*
- *the generous people who share their time, talent and treasure*

A wide-angle, high-angle shot of a sandy beach. The sand is light-colored and shows numerous footprints and tracks, suggesting a busy beach. Scattered across the sand are various pieces of debris, including what appears to be a white plastic cup, a piece of wood, and other unidentifiable fragments. The lighting is bright, creating soft shadows from the footprints and debris. The overall scene conveys a sense of environmental neglect or the impact of human activity on a natural space.

**Scarcity  
Never Enough  
Money**





# *Anxious or Grateful?*



Please type in your questions

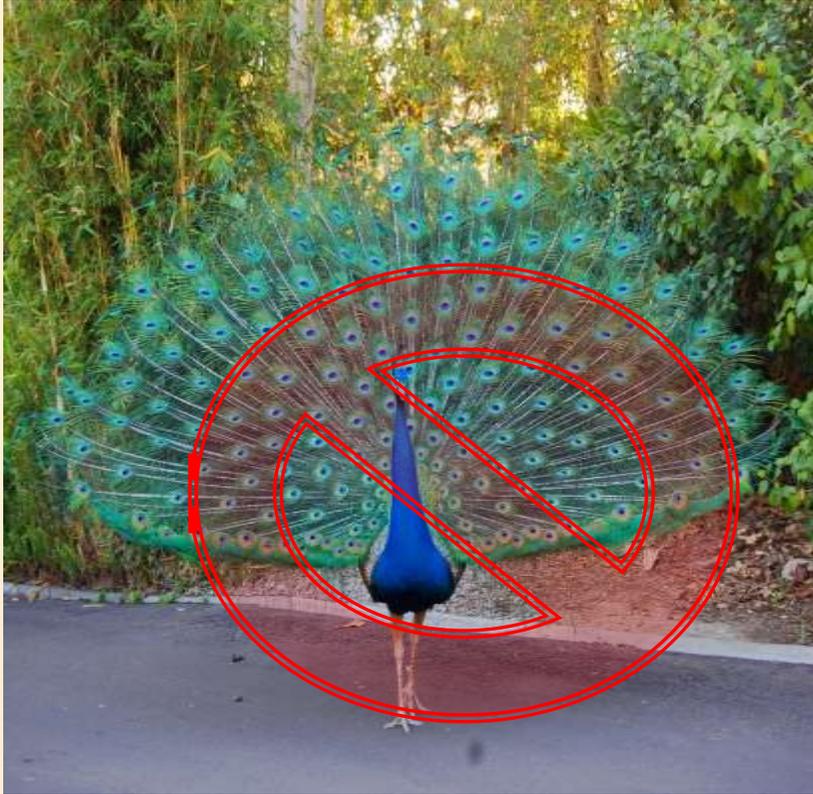
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Worship - praying for and talking  
about the offering

A woman with dark hair, wearing a black vest over a grey long-sleeved shirt and a dark skirt, stands in a church. She has her hands raised and is looking upwards with a slight smile. The background consists of light-colored wooden paneling and a floral arrangement on the right.

“Testimony is a stronger motivator than guilt”.

# Pastor Kay's Worry List

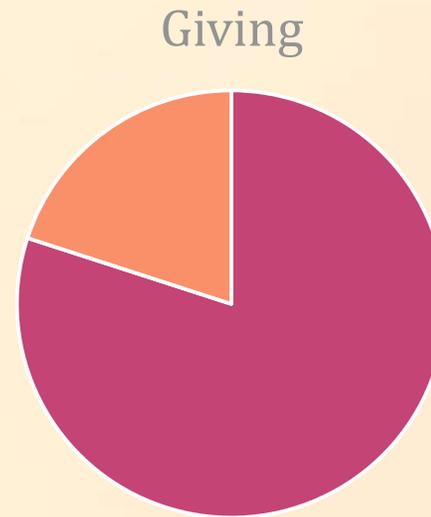




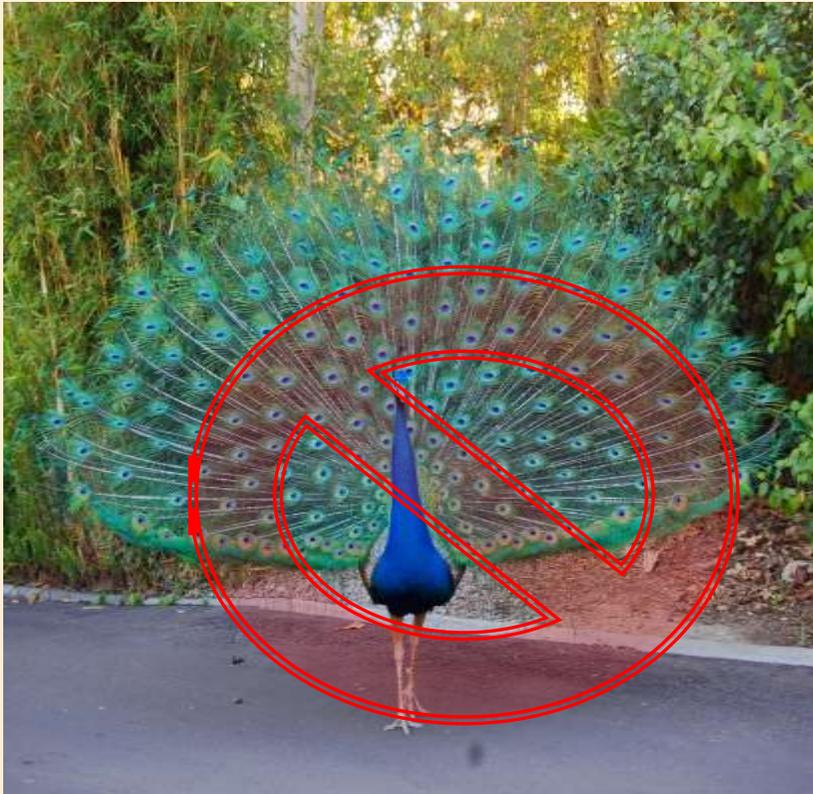
20% of self-identified  
American Christians do  
not give any money to  
their church

# 80/20 rule of Church giving

- 20% of members give 80% of the money



# Pastor Kay's Worry List



# Offering stories

- J. Clif Christopher – *Not Your Parent's Offering Plate*
- 1 Samuel - Goldfish crackers & Sunday School
- Nehemiah – custodians, people who shovel snow
- Stories of God's faithfulness and why I give, why this church matters to me (in related news, congregation raised \$100,000 for endowment fund in a single year without any fundraising dinners. They tell stories in worship)
- <https://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/church-offerings-as-acts-of-worship/>

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Practical suggestions  
for ways to give



Holy Spirit may also speak to people who don't have a cheque book

42% of churches do  
online giving



# Who can help?

- Check out digital giving webinar and handouts at [presbyterian.ca/webinars/previous-webinars/](https://presbyterian.ca/webinars/previous-webinars/)
- In the stewardship section, select
  - “The Power of Digital Giving”

## Stewardship

+ Narrative Budget: Practical Tools

+ Talking about Money

+ Legacy Gifts

+ Saying Thank You!

+ The Power of Digital Giving

# Who can help?

- Donate button on website – Canada Helps
- <http://presbyterian.ca/wp-content/uploads/CanadaHelps-What-Every-PCC-Congregation-Needs-To-Know.pdf>
- Digital giving
- <http://presbyterian.ca/wp-content/uploads/How-to-sign-up-for-digital-giving-with-Tithe-ly.pdf>

## Who can help?

- Pre-authorized giving –
  - The Presbyterian Church of Canada is part of the PAR program, administered by the United Church of Canada. It's a very economical way for people to give at \$0.50 per donor per month, with a cap of \$45 per congregation per month
  - talk to your bank or credit union
  - talk to other churches,

# Contact us

## Lori Guenther Reesor

- Lori Guenther Reesor on LinkedIn
- [lori@lgreesor.com](mailto:lori@lgreesor.com)
- [lgreesor.com](http://lgreesor.com) includes links to my blog, writing, thesis etc.
- [@lgreesor](https://twitter.com/lgreesor) on Twitter

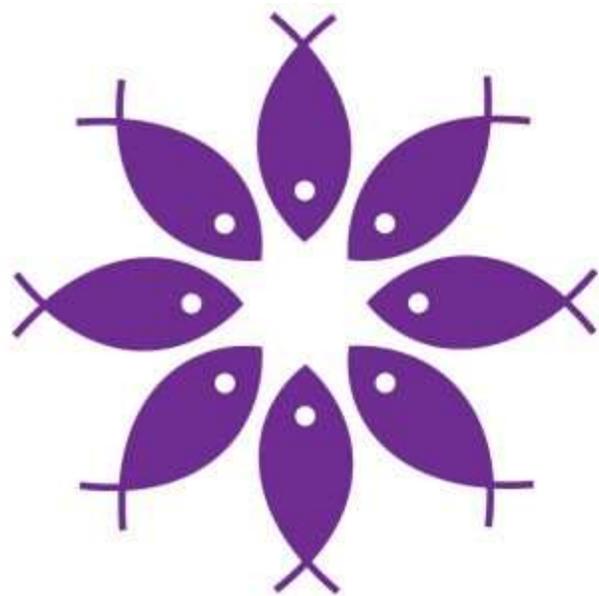
## Karen Plater

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THANK YOU!



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