Slide 1: The Synod of the Sun is a mid-council that includes 11 Presbyteries (yours plus 10 others) in the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. Just like each of us in the pulpit and in the pew is a member of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(name your) Presbytery, we are also a member of the Synod of the Sun!

The synod’s mission is to serve Christ by connecting, equipping, and empowering Presbyterians for Christ’s mission within and beyond the synod’s bounds. That happens through opportunities for leadership development and service, grants & scholarships, and special relationships with other Presbyterian institutions and agencies.

Slide 2: The synod forms and supports networks of people from more than one presbytery around like missions or ministries. Those include

* + - Solar Under the Sun, a ministry that trains people to take solar energy into places in the world that suffer the effects of energy poverty.
    - Synod of the Sun Presbyterian Disaster Network, newly formed, these partners seek to help communities both prepare and respond to disasters.
    - Commissioned Pastors, a group of people serving churches coming together for continuing education, networking, and fellowship.
    - Oklahoma Presbytery Network are three presbyteries seeking ways to live out Christ’s call in the state of Oklahoma together.

Slide 3: Since 2012 the Synod has awarded over $930,000 in grants and scholarships. There are 12 different opportunities for grants, ranging from older adult ministry, peacemaking, and new mission initiatives. There are 7 different scholarships offered that support Young Adult Volunteer, seminary coursework for pastors and ruling elders, and international mission trips.

Slide 4: In 2019, amidst all the concern about our southern US border, the synod invites everyone to “Come See, Go Tell” and IMAGINE: Compassion in McAllen, TX Oct 31st -Nov 2nd. Through conversation and opportunities for service, participants will hear and see the story of those mobilized to help asylum seekers and children separated from their parents at the Texas/Mexico border. Equipped with first-hand knowledge of the border crisis, participants will be able to return to their home congregations with stories to tell and actions to take. The synod will pay room and board for 6 people from each presbytery to attend. Registration will begin in August.

Slide 5: Solar Under the Sun is a network, and signature mission of the synod. SUS trains people at “Solar School” to partner with communities in countries where electricity is not readily available or affordable. Students of the school are taught how to assess need and build solar panel systems that provide power for things like schools, hospitals, and even homes in places like Haiti, Honduras, and Kenya.

Slide 6: REJOICE! That we are a connectional church. Each one of us plays a part in our local congregation and the presbytery, but also in the Synod of the Sun. REJOICE that there is such good work happening in this region – and there is more yet to be done.

Visit synodsun.org or find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!

*Micah 6:8 “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”*