

## **Justice for Our Children; Healing for Our Communities**

- Stop burying the truth of the horrific acts of cruelty and deaths of Native children at boarding schools
  - Return our children to their family homelands from mass and individual graves wherever they are
  - Speak the trauma that has been passed down from generation to generation in our communities
  - Persevere in holding governmental, church and private institutions accountable for restitution
- Our children's names were unknown to the strangers who stole them, but we continue to sing out our children's names.*

## **October 6, 2021: Day of Remembrance and Action**

- This date remembers the forcible taking of Native children to the first off-reservation boarding school at Carlisle, PA by Captain Pratt in 1879, though compulsory "mission schools" existed long before
- Learn more at: <https://boardingschoolhealing.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/Justice-for-Our-Children-Healing-for-Our-Communities/103462802069999/photos>
- Wear the color orange in solidarity with others standing for truth and standing against violence
- Hold prayer circles and sacred gatherings to remember our children, inviting others to join
- Advocate for federal, state and local government and church leadership to search out and make known the truth of the slaughter of our children, people and culture

### ***The artist, Paige McNatt, explains the image on front:***

*"The school is in the background with the children's moccasins and shorn braids being buried with the truth in the foreground. I wanted to have dark, looming clouds in the sky behind the school to convey the darkness and pain that it represents. I chose to have "justice for our children" behind a yellow, more hopeful part of the sky. On the grass, there are brown spots to show that there are many other holes <where the truth of the devastation has been buried> just like the one in the foreground of the drawing."*

This artwork was commissioned by the Native American International Caucus of the United Methodist Church and sponsored by the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference Committee on Native American Ministries, 2021.