

GLAD TIDINGS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WESTERN SPRINGS

FEBRUARY, 2019

From Erik's Desk

One of the things I've enjoyed most about the past 6 months that I've been here with you all at PCWS (Yes! Six months!) is having the opportunity to hear the stories of your lives. These stories are more than just the recapping of our collective experiences in terms of family life, work history, and church involvement. While the recaps are important, I am firmly convinced that it is in the sharing of our stories that we see the thread of God's continued presence throughout our lives. Indeed, in learning about one another, we also learn about God. In growing closer to one another, we grow closer to God. The distance between our present reality and heaven becomes a little bit thinner when we share the stories of our lives with one another.

My encouragement to you will regularly be for you to explore ways that you can connect with others. For some of you this is quite easy, but for others, you might need a little bit of help. We have programs in the church for various age groups and stages of life (including Presbyterian Women, our youth groups, Gathering Around the Table, choirs, and many others) and we even have committees that could use your help. The interesting reality is that serving on a church committee can be a way for further fellowship and growth even as you do the work of the church. A fundamental goal of everything that we do at the church is fulfillment of our mission statement and our ministry goals. This means that whatever you're doing in the church, it should be advancing our mission to reflect God's love in the world and to one another. If it isn't advancing our mission, we shouldn't be doing it. Let that sink in for a moment.

So, the invitation from me is pretty straightforward: *connect with others at PCWS*. Look for ways to hear the stories of others and for opportunities to tell your story. These stories are important and they are where we encounter Christ. I look forward to continuing with you on this journey, and if you need help connecting with others, please reach out to me or take a look at ways within these pages.



We are doing it again . . . Balloon-A-Grams!!



This fundraiser helps offset the costs of our Mission Trip to Tennessee with ASP - Appalachian Service Project this summer. The youth will be delivering "Balloon-a-Grams," to friends, loved ones, and neighbors in the surrounding community. These little bags of fun contain candy, a hand-written card and a balloon. If you haven't placed your order yet, all you have to do is come to the Jones Room after worship on February 3rd, or the church office before Wednesday, February 6 and fill out a form for where the "gram" needs to be delivered . . . we take care of the rest! We do ask that the recipient live within a 5-mile radius of the church.

In order to continue this delightful tradition of bringing fun to the doorsteps of our church family and friends, we are looking for safe space approved adults (Safe Space approved driver plus one safe-space-adult, per car) for Balloons delivery. We will be delivering the packages of fun on Sunday, February 10 (the Sunday before Valentine's Day) after worship at 10:30 a.m. Thanks in advance, and we can't wait to see you at the table! If you want help deliver, please speak to Candice Mares or Mindy McMahon or use Sign-up Genius.

PLEASE NOTE - we will not have Same Day Sales - Prepare Accordingly.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Capital Campaign Nearing Completion

By the time this edition of *Glad Tidings* goes to print, we will likely have completed all of the projects related to the Capital Campaign! Next month we will be celebrating the success of the campaign and all of the projects that were completed. There will be a feature article in the March *Glad Tidings* and we will share more about the completed work at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on March 17. This will be a great opportunity to celebrate the many hours and significant contributions that made these projects possible to equip our congregation for the next chapters of our journey of faith!

Pastor Erik on Study Leave: February 11-23

Pastor Erik will be taking some time for reflection and study in the Holy Land in February. He will be spending most of his time in the Old City of Jerusalem on this pilgrimage as he walks in the footsteps of Jesus and learns more about the current conflict in Israel and Palestine. Please keep Erik in your prayers. We look forward to hearing about his trip when he returns.

While Erik is away, please direct pastoral care needs to the Church office and Forrest will coordinate with the Deacons and on-call pastors to ensure that needs are met. On Sunday, February 17, worship will be led by one of our Parish Associates, The Rev. Grayson Van Camp.

Special Thanks

As many have noticed, we decided to remove the old playground structure because it had reached the end of its safe use. While the playground was brought down in the Fall, we did not have a plan for its removal. During the past several weeks, David Boxell has spent dozens of hours, sometimes in freezing temperatures, dismantling the playground and disposing of the parts. David worked double-time in early January so that he could complete the project before leaving for Florida. **Thank you, David, and enjoy your well-earned time in the warmer weather!**

Also, keep your eyes and ears open for upcoming news about planning for a new playground structure!

Prayer List

PCWS is a congregation that prays for our community and those we love. Please take a look at the prayer list that we publish each week in the bulletin and each month in the *Glad Tidings* and make those prayer intentions a part of your regular prayer practices. Also, be sure to let Forrest in the office know when someone is ready to come off of the prayer list. While we are all in need of prayer at all times (Amen?), the prayer list is a helpful way to know more immediate prayer needs.

When you add someone new to the published prayer lists, we may ask you how many weeks you would like the person included and we'll honor that request. Also, did you know we have a group of individuals in the church who have committed to being in prayer for our community? When immediate prayer needs arise, feel free to email Pastor Erik and he will alert the prayer chain. It can be a great comfort to know that others in our community are available to pray for you.



2018 Committee Reports

In preparation for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on March 17, all Committees are asked to provide written reports to Forrest by February 22.

OUR PASTOR

Rev. Erik Khoobyarian, Pastor

Email: erik@presbyws.org

For a complete list of our staff, visit our website: www.presbyws.org.

ADULT NEWS

Lent Begins March 6

Preparations are being made for Lent and Holy Week in March and April. Plan on joining us for our simple soup supper, Bowl and a Roll on Ash Wednesday, March 6. We will gather in the Jones Room for soup and supper at 6:00 p.m. and then move the Sanctuary for worship at 7:00 p.m. Feel free to come for supper and worship or just join us for worship.

Look for more details in the March issue of Glad Tidings, but Holy Week services will include:

April 14 — Palm Sunday,

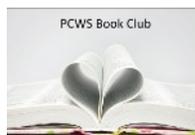
April 18 — Maundy Thursday,

April 19 — Good Friday will be a drop-in self-guided worship experience (from noon-7:00 p.m.)

April 21 — Easter Celebrations at sunrise and 9:30 a.m.

All services during Lent and Easter will be held at PCWS. We are not combining services with Highlands Presbyterian Church this year, but all are welcome to attend our services, of course. Please feel free to invite your friends and family to join us for worship during this meaningful time in the church year. We will have promotional materials available to share about our services with others.

PCWS Book Group Monday, January 28 7:30 p.m.



The group will meet in the Graham Charter Room to discuss *Anxious to Talk About it: Helping White Christians Talk About Racism*, Carolyn B. Helsel.

Lunches . . . Programs . . . Fellowship . . . Mission



Presbyterian Women will meet February 7th at 12:30 p.m. at Plymouth Place. This is our annual book review meeting, where we share information about our favorite books. We will be in the Education Room where we will welcome residents who normally are unable to attend our meeting. Please join us for fellowship and dessert. The meeting is being hosted by the PW of LaGrange Highlands Presbyterian Church. The cost is \$12.00. RSVP to our church office by Monday, Feb. 4th for the meeting on Feb. 7th. See you there!

Early Afternoon Circle will meet February 21 at 1:00 p.m.

This month's Bible Study: Lesson 6, "God with Us Through Our Trials" from Horizons Bible Study *God's Promise: I Am with You*.

The Late Afternoon Circle will meet February 26 at 4:00 p.m. in the Upper Room. We have concluded our discussion of the "*The Common Good*" by Robert Reich." Plans for February are still under discussion. Contact [Sue Eck](#) or [Jan Fortina](#) for further information.

A Lenten Journey Through the Psalms

Join Pastor Erik and others for a journey through the Psalms on four Sunday mornings during Lent from 8:05-9:05 a.m. on March 10, March 17, March 31, and April 7 (no class on March 24). Each week we will read and compare a selection of Psalms and we will work together and individually to gather our own personal catalog of Psalms for various instances and stages of life with a special focus on praying with the Psalms during Lent. Feel free to come for one week or all four! The coffee will be hot and childcare will be provided with advance request to the Church office.

Interfaith Book Group

The Interfaith Book Group will meet at PCWS on Wednesday, February 20 at 1:30 p.m. in the Jones Room. Nina West will lead the discussion of *The Woman in White* by Willie Collins. The women of the church are welcome to be part of this wonderful group of ecumenical friends. We grow together by reading and discussing wide-ranging ideas and thoughts provided by the books we read.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Pastor's Bible Study

Most Wednesday afternoons
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.



Erik hosts a drop-in (meaning you don't have to prepare beforehand or come every week!) Bible Study. We look at the text for the upcoming Sunday and hear one another's impressions of the scripture and learn more about the context and history of the text.

This month, with Pastor Erik away for a couple of weeks, we will only be meeting on February 6th and 27th. In March we will meet on March 13th and 27th. There will be no meeting on Ash Wednesday (March 6) or on March 20th. Please join us!

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Please save the date for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on March 17, 2019, after worship. This will be a wonderful time as we gather to hear the news of the church from 2018. We will celebrate the completion of the Capital Campaign projects and offer gratitude to those who were instrumental in making the projects happen. We will hear about the upcoming year, including programs and projects. The Session will share the 2019 budget and the congregation will vote on any changes in the terms of call for our pastor. Please plan on joining us for this important gathering of the congregation!



Thank you Moderator!

2018 was a busy year for the Deacons of PCWS and we would like to extend a sincere thank you to our Deacon Moderator, Judy McAtee, for her tireless dedication and leadership. Judy's willingness to share her time and talents in organizing projects and committees and caring for others has made a positive impact inside and outside of PCWS. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful resource among us and we truly appreciate all her efforts.

Thank You for a great year, Judy!

Shout Out For The Youth!!

I can't believe that we are over one year into my tenure as Youth Director!! I am still thankful every day to be surrounded by the coolest kiddos in the world to help me with my learning curve!! UPYs started the new year with an overnight in the Wisconsin Dells at four indoor water parks, and as I am sure you imagined it was an epic weekend. Thank you to everyone who helped make this experience a success.

JUPYs have continued to teach me an appreciation for ageless church traditions like the game Alien. We have an all-youth dinner and movie night on the horizon, there is always something to look forward to.

This month includes the cherished Balloon-A-Gram tradition . . . visit the table in the Jones Room after worship to purchase your gram and send a treat to a friend.

I would like to take a moment to thank all the parents and volunteers that make this job not a job at all! PCWS truly is a magic place to be. So psyched!

Candice Mares
Youth Leader



Save The Date

March 9, 2019

YOUTH MINISTRY

“Let no one look down upon you because of your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity.” Timothy 4:12

UPCOMING

Save the Date:

Balloon-A-Gram Prep Party
Friday, February 8, 7:00 p.m.
Pizza Provided!!!

Mark Your Calendars— Balloon-A-Gram Sales & Deliveries!

Sales will continue Sunday, February 3. We need Youth to help staff the tables to take orders.

This year will have a few tweaks from previous years including a Pizza and Prep Party Friday February 8th in the Youth Room.

Deliveries of the packages of fun on will be Sunday, February 10 (the Sunday before Valentine’s Day) after worship at 10:30 a.m.



February Quote:

Youth is not a time of life, it is a state of mind. You are as old as your doubt, your fear, your despair. The way to keep young is to keep your faith young. Keep your self-confidence young. Keep your hope young.

Luella F. Phean

Youth Calendar

JUPY Meetings

February 24 at 6:00 p.m.
(all youth dinner and show)
March 24 (5:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m.)
April 14 (5:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m.)
April 28 – Youth Sunday in Worship

UPY Meetings:

February 8 at 7:00 p.m.
Pizza & Balloon-a-Gram prep party!
February 24 at 6:00 p.m.
(all youth dinner and show)
March 24 (6:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m.)
April 14 (6:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m.)
April 28 – Youth Sunday in Worship

JR. High Sunday School

February 3
February 17
March 10
April 7
April 14
May 19

Watch for additional dates!

Staff Contact Info

Candice Mares
Youth Director

cmare@presbyws.org
Text or Call (773) 771-0148



MISSION & SERVICE

Souper Bowl – Sunday, February 3



Super Bowl Sunday will be here in a few days and it is time for the JUPYs and UPYs to start gearing up to participate in what is known as Souper Bowl of Caring. February 3rd will mark the 30th anniversary of Souper Bowl of Caring, a charity tackling hunger issues in communities all across the country.

Our JUPYs and UPYs at PCWS will again participate this year. They will collect money after worship in soup pots and bowls. Simply put your donation in the soup pot or bowl of the NFL team you wish to win the Super Bowl. Then on the following Sunday we will reveal which Team raised the most money.

Maybe one day soon we will see a pot/bowl for our Bears! 😊

Thank you!

At PCWS, our church officers (Elders and Deacons) change at the start of the calendar year. This year, a few of our officers will be completing their terms and we should all express gratitude to them for the service they have provided. It is interesting to note that some of these people have been in church leadership during the past few years when we have had three different head pastors at PCWS! All of them have been in leadership during this time of significant transition and we are grateful for their hard work. An interesting thing about our denomination is that once you are ordained as an Elder or Deacon, you continue to serve in your ordained capacity even after your term ends. So, while these individuals are no longer serving on the Board of Deacons or the Session, they remain as Elders and Deacons. Thank you to the following individuals for their service:

Deacons:

Julie Kelly
Salvatore Melilli
Jessie Fronk
Theresa Dixon
Bob Cushman

Elders:

Eric Boeckmann
Joyce Rodos
Chad Sellman
Colleen Sullivan
Nate Yates



This Lent (which starts with Ash Wednesday on March 6), PCWS will join with Presbyterians worldwide in collecting the “One Great Hour of Sharing” offering. This offering shares God’s love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. We are hoping to have generous giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering at PCWS. This is a good way to involve children in helping others financially. Kids can collect coins, give portions of their allowance or earn additional allowance to cover the offering.

You can make your contribution at any time by placing your check in the offering plate or the office with “OGHS” or “One Great Hour of Sharing” in the memo line. You can also contribute online through the [PCWS website](#). We will be formally collecting the offering and dedicating our contributions during worship on Palm Sunday, April 14.

Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports projects in over 100 countries.



February 18
Church and Offices will be Closed.

FAMILY CAMP JANUARY 4-6, 2019

Traditions New & Old

Our rich tradition of Winter Family Camp delivered the special routines that have become part of its cherished fabric when nearly three dozen PCWSers journeyed north to Camp Edwards on Epiphany weekend -- relaxed fellowship, walks to the Cathedral of the Pines, continuous games, puzzle challenges and of course, the overflowing gift of an open pantry of family camp favorite snacks and homemade treats (you have to dig in early to get a Lorraine Hoskins lemon square or Kim Fronk chocolate chip cookie masterpiece). The Yates family devised scavenger hunt, a perennial favorite, cross camp trek that blends the beauty of God's creation with some healthy competition, did not disappoint and the balmy temperatures and sunshine had us breaking a sweat.

We celebrated the new and most welcome addition of fresh families, Pastor Erik's leadership, including his contribution of a newly beloved game, Wizard, and a youth-led walk to Tiki Island, to take in the beauty of Saturday's sunshine. The capstone of our time together, Sunday morning worship, brought together our individual families to celebrate as God's family the joys of the weekend, the sacrament of communion and the gift of His love. Each family camper chose an Epiphany star, inscribed with a word to inspire them in the coming year, a new tradition to guide us all.

The good feelings from Family Camp 2019 are being brought forward! Planning for 2020 is already underway so we can continue to embrace our traditions and invite, in new ways, all of the PCWS family into the true joy and love that is Winter Family Camp.



For more fun photos from Family Camp, visit our Facebook Page!

MEMBER NEWS

Thank you for your service at PCWS in January! We could not do it without you.



Helped in the office: Amy Malone, Carol Ulreich, Kay Kelly, Laura Fruit and Mindy McMahon.

Second Baptist Food Pantry run: David and Jane Boxell, and Kathy Wennerstrum

Crushed cans: David and Jane Boxell, and Mindy McMahon

Prepared Glad Tidings for mailing: Dorothy Anderson, Harriett Potenza, Joyce Habermann, and Mary Kae Headland

Flowers in January: Sue Eck and Nancy Glickman

February Birthdays

Alex Burt	2/2	Ryan Gertsmeier	2/18
Owen Cole	2/3	Betty Banovic	2/19
Jim McMahon	2/4	Jeremy Miller	2/19
Jim Koning	2/5	Jen Cushman	2/20
Scott Merrifield	2/5	Ashley Glickman	2/20
Joyce Habermann	2/7	Bud Kircher	2/20
Judy McAtee	2/7	Karen Neal	2/20
Frank Pesce	2/8	Janet Millis	2/21
Kevin Remiker	2/9	Michael Millis	2/22
Laura Fruit	2/11	Paige McMahon	2/23
Tom Wennerstrum	2/11	Jessica Bonner	2/24
Shirley Pine	2/12	Roger Dold	2/24
Ethan Strohl	2/12	Janet Remiker	2/25
Betty Toft	2/12	Alison Slezak	2/25
Rich Haeske	2/13	Patty Tassone	2/27
Laura Gertsmeier	2/15	Bob Fruit	2/28
Andrew Millis	2/15		
Andy Hoskins	2/17		
Greg Tester	2/18		

News Deadlines

Bulletin:

[Email](#) announcements to the church office by 9:00 a.m. Wednesday morning.

Weekly Connection:

Email information to [Michelle Hennessy](#) by Tuesday, 5:00 p.m. for inclusion in the Thursday email.

Glad Tidings Deadline:

Articles for the next month's *Glad Tidings* by the 10th of each month.

To ensure your submission is received, please **email** articles and pictures to:

GT@presbyws.org.

We're Social! Are You?

Follow us, share our information with your friends and family!



If you shop at Amazon, please click on the image above to shop and have a portion of your purchases donated to PCWS.



MEMBER NEWS

Remember in Prayer

- ✠ Our brothers and sisters at Nueva Paz
Presbyterian Church in Cuba
- ✠ Our men & women serving our country in the
Armed Services
- ✠ Barbara Lennie, friend of Becky & Larry Glasscock
- ✠ Beata B. Sak, co-worker of Lori Carsten
- ✠ Betty Anderson, and the family of Betty's
daughter Deb Cole following Deb's recent death.
- ✠ **Betty Toft**
- ✠ **Billye Dvorak**
- ✠ Bob DiLeonardi, brother-in-law of Bruce Barnes
- ✠ Brian, friend of the Smyers family
- ✠ Dave Sipek, business associate of Bruce Barnes
- ✠ Debi Mirlenbrink, aunt of Lori Carsten
- ✠ Donna, dear friend of Joyce Smyers
- ✠ **Evie Meyer**
- ✠ Frank Young, cousin of Amy Malone
- ✠ Gloria Torres, friend of the Merrifield family
- ✠ Grace Dunham, niece of Kay & Tom Kelly and Jill &
Roger Dold
- ✠ Greg Dold, father of Roger Dold
- ✠ Holly Oliver, daughter of Mary Kae Headland
- ✠ Joshua Haberkorn, grandson of Shirley Pine
- ✠ Marc Goldstein, friend of Carol Ulreich
- ✠ Mary Kate Miller, step-mother of Julie Garino
- ✠ Mary, dear friend of Bruce Geary
- ✠ Michael, friend of Jane Norman
- ✠ Mike Slesicki, cousin of Barb Farr & Joe Benson
- ✠ **John Kregg**
- ✠ Molly Frank, daughter of Kay Kelly's friend
- ✠ **Kathleen Kircher**
- ✠ **Kimberly Bone**
- ✠ **Loretta Gratias-Bremer**
- ✠ **Marge Sandrik**
- ✠ Norb Mirlenbrink, Uncle of Lori Carsten
- ✠ Paulette Erickson, friend of Carol Ulreich
- ✠ Peggy Mirlenbrink, aunt of Lori Carsten
- ✠ Phil Slocum, husband of Women's Retreat Leader,
Diane
- ✠ **Phil Kasik**
- ✠ Rudy Weber, father of Peter Weber
- ✠ Ruth Kaduke, niece of Herb & Joyce Smyers
- ✠ Sharon Pederson (mother of Stephanie Coates) on
the death of her husband, Floyd Pederson
- ✠ Teri Tuffner, aunt of Candice Mares
- ✠ The people of Syria, and especially the relatives of
PCWS' Interfaith Women's Book Group
- ✠ Theresa Ybanez, great niece of Laura Fruit
- ✠ Toni Potenza Moya, daughter of Harriett Potenza
& Craig Harris



We recently learned that one of our charter members, George Petros, died on December 3, 2018. George has been living in Georgia since 2007, but he and his late wife Pat remained connected to PCWS after they moved. When we have further information about services or contact information for condolences, we will provide an update. Here is a link to George's obituary: <http://www.mcdonaldandson.com/obituary/george-petros>.

We continue to pray for Loretta Gratias-Bremer and her family after the death of her husband, Pat, on January 1. Pat's obituary can be read here: <http://www.hjfunerals.com/obituaries/2019/01/02/richard-pat-bremer/>

Pray for Stephanie Coates on the death of her stepfather Floyd Pederson.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WESTERN SPRINGS
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Western Springs, Illinois 60558-1898



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Prayer Requests: prayers@presbyws.org
Telephone: 708-246-5220
Fax: 708-246-4276

01-25-2019
Dated Mail



Scan to
Learn about PCWS

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Events

- Feb. 3** Balloon-A-Grams—Last day to order
- Feb. 7** Presbyterian Women
- Feb. 10** *Glad Tidings* Article deadline
- Feb. 14** Valentine's Day
- Feb. 18** President's Day — Church and Offices Closed
- Feb. 20** Interfaith Book Group
- Feb. 24** All Youth Movie Night
- Feb. 25** PCWS Book Group
- Feb. 26** Prepare *Glad Tidings* for Mailing
- Mar. 1** World Day of Prayer
- Mar. 6** Ash Wednesday
6:00 p.m. meal followed at 7:00 p.m. Worship



To view a full calendar of events, please visit our webpage: www.presbyws.org
and click on the "Calendar" link at the top of the page.