Glad Tidings

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WESTERN SPRINGS **DECEMBER, 2016**

Hanging of the Greens

As the days grow shorter, we are already looking ahead to the holidays. And with the coming of the holidays, comes Hanging of the Greens at PCWS. This year, we are trying something new.

Our regular Sunday service after Thanksgiving will focus on music and preparation for advent by decorating the church. It will be a participatory service, by those who are able, to hang greens to decorate the sanctuary. During Fellowship Hour, the tree(s) downstairs can be decorated by all. We are excited about this new approach of working together in worship and after as we prepare for the advent season!

Christmas Worship At PCWS

Christmas Eve Worship this year will be held at 5:00 and 11:00 p.m. As in years' past, the 5:00 p.m. service will be a family centered service with a theme from the Lukan Christmas story, emphasizing the outstretched hands of the baby Jesus. Those hands continue to reach out to us throughout his ministry and our lives.

The 11:00 p.m. service will also focus on the Christmas story as found in Luke 2:1-20 and will include the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Christmas Day Worship, on a Sunday this year, will occur at our usual Sunday worship time of 9:30 a.m. Come dressed casually and enjoy singing some of our favorite Christmas carols and celebrating the good news that Christ the Lord is born!

HOLIDAY *Office Hours*

Monday, December 26
Office Closed
Tuesday, December 27—Friday, December 30, Monday, January 2, 2017
Office Open 9:00 a.m.—noon

Christmas Sanctuary Decorations and Poinsettias

Advent starts on November 27 this year with the Hanging of the Greens. In addition to the poinsettias that will grace our Sanctuary on Christmas Eve and Day, the Worship and Flower Committees are adding two 7-1/2 foot Christmas trees with white lights in the chancel area and new boxwood wreaths for the windows.

Your $30 sponsorship will not only continue our poinsettia tradition but will also help defray the cost of these new additions and beautify the sanctuary for this year and years to come.

Please sign up online through our Sign-Up Genius by December 11 or you can give Kristene a call in the office and she will sign you up and help you with your dedication.

You may donate online, or send your check made payable to PCWS with a notation for "Advent Sanctuary Decorations." Thank you!

Congregational Life

Advent and Christmas Greetings from the PCWS Staff

Dear PCWS Friends,

The gospel of John sums up the grace and mystery of Christmas with this short but powerful phrase, "And the Word became flesh and lived among us..." (John 1:14).

This verse affirms that God takes the initiative with us. That is the deepest meaning of Christmas. The Word comes to us; God enters human lives and human history; God chooses to be born and to dwell among us. This shows us that we are loved into life and kept in life, and even in death, by a God whose love never stops seeking us and whose love never ends. In the light of such good news, all we can do is rejoice and be glad!

In this Advent and Christmas season, may the love of God, which always seeks us and which never ends, become flesh and dwell in your life, your family, our church, and our world. And may you be kept by this love in the new year to come.

Grace and peace,

Bill *Brendon* *Cory*
Hank *Joyce* *Kristene*
Kurt *Linda* *Michelle*
Pat *Patti* *Stephanie*
Tai

End of Year Finances

As the end of the year approaches, the Finance Committee asks everyone to please fulfill your pledge for 2016 or consider giving to PCWS! It is through the contributions of everyone that we are able to carry on our ministry. A convenient way to complete your pledge or to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to check out electronic giving through our website.

As a reminder, per IRS guidelines, all contributions must be received by the church, or postmarked, before December 31, 2016 to be deducted for the year 2016. We thank you for your ongoing support of the mission and ministry of PCWS.

"Excel in the grace of giving"
2 Corinthians 8:7

The campaign, "Stewardship: The Heart of Giving" is underway and we would like to remind everyone to please turn in their pledges as soon as possible to help us determine the 2017 budget. We've made pledging easy with two different options; online and in an envelope recently mailed to your house.

In an effort to reduce our operating costs, we would like you to consider paying your 2016 per capita , if you haven't already and your 2017 per capita inn addition to pledging. This is $33 per person. A reminder, the per capita can be paid by check, or online.

Thank you for consideration,
The Leadership and Ministries Committee

OUR PASTOR

Rev. Bill Ingersoll, Interim Pastor
wjingersoll@att.net

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

Advent Activities

Advent Fair
December 4

If you would like to be part of the fun by leading a craft or activity during Fellowship hour, please email Kim at kimfronk@yahoo.com.

You may create your own Pinterest inspiration or we will provide you with a project. Either way we promise it will be a fun morning!

Cookie Walk

December 4 at 10:30 a.m. is also the annual Cookie Walk. Please visit Room 302 and create a delicious box of special cookies. The donations will help support the UPY Mission trip. We appreciate your support.

All Church Caroling
December 11, 2016

Mark your calendars – the annual All Church Christmas Caroling will take place Sunday, December 11 at 3:00 p.m. There will be a warm bus to chauffeur us to stops at retirement communities and homes of members. Songbooks will be provided. This is a great family event and we hope everyone will share in this Christmas tradition of sharing songs and good cheer. After spreading Christmas cheer, we'll head back to PCWS for a supper of hot soups and sandwiches in the Jones Room. Everyone is welcome - please let us know you'll be caroling on the signup sheet in the lower-level hallway or online at sign-up genius.

Sunday, November 27

9:30 a.m. Worship
Hanging of the Greens
10:30 a.m. Extended Fellowship

Sunday, December 4

9:30 a.m. Worship ~ Communion
10:30 a.m. Advent Fair, Cookie Walk
Alternative Giving Event
Fellowship
11:30 a.m. JUPY/UPY Toy Shopping
5:00 p.m. JUPYs Christmas Party

Sunday, December 11

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Fellowship
3: 00 p.m. All Church Caroling
6:00 p.m. UPY Christmas Party

Sunday, December 18

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Fellowship
5:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant (See Page 6)

Christmas Eve Worship
Saturday, December 24

4:45 p.m. Pre-service music by our children
5:00 p.m. Child Friendly Worship Service
10:45 p.m. Pre-service music by our musicians
11:00 p.m. Worship with carols & Communion

Christmas Day Worship
Sunday, December 25

9:30 a.m. Come dressed casually and enjoy singing some of our favorite Christmas carols.

Congregational News

PCWS welcomes Tai Zimmerman Cole and Brendon De Boer to Faith Formation!

Tai Zimmerman Cole will be our Interim Faith Formation Leader and Administrator beginning November 1. She graduated from North Carolina State and holds a Masters of Divinity and Masters of Christian Education from Union PSCE in Charlotte. Tai comes to PCWS with strong experience in Faith Formation from cradle to grave. She most recently worked at the First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights as the Associate Minister for Executive Administration and Adult Education. Other job experiences include Associate Minister for Christian Education in Rock Hill, SC, Director of Ministry with Youth and Families in Charlotte, NC and a Director of Youth Ministries in Quail Hollow, NC.

Tai has 4 children, Jacob, Jessie, John Edward, and Owen, and lives in Oak Park with her husband, John. He is the head pastor at the First United Church of Oak Park. In her free time, she teaches art classes at Paper Source, loves to garden, read, bake, and can be found surfing Pinterest. Tai is excited to serve at PCWS and share her gifts of creativity, leadership and ministry through Faith Formation.

Brendon will be our new Youth Leader beginning November 1. He graduated from Trinity Christian College in 2015 with a double Major in Theology and History. In addition to working with our youth, he is employed at Elim Christian School in Palos Heights where he works with young adults who have severe behavioral and mental disorders. He loves to talk about it, so feel free to ask!

After graduating from Trinity, Brendon moved to Alsip, where he currently resides. In the past, he has worked with multiple different youth groups including an internship under the youth director of Orland Park CRC. He hopes to use the skills he learned in school, volunteering, and the internship to continue the good work being accomplished in the JUPY and UPY programs.

Thursday, December 1
First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange

Program—10:30 AM, catered lunch to follow.

Rochelle Pennington is a freelance author and newspaper columnist from Wisconsin whose work has been included in several bestselling series including *Chicken Soup for the Soul*, *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff, and Stories for the Heart*. She is the author of *The Golden Highlighted In Yellow: A Short Course in Living Wisely and Choosing Well.* Pennington's research on the Christmas Tree Ship was featured on the Weather Channel's Storm Stories holiday special.

The Christmas Tree Ship is remembered today as one of the most "storied shipwrecks" of the Great Lakes. Through vintage photographs, newspaper clippings, and interviews with persons directly connected to the story, *The Historic Christmas Tree Ship*details the extraordinary events surrounding this loved legend.

Catered lunch will follow. Cost for the luncheon and program is $15.00.To make a reservation, call the LaGrange church office (708-354-0771) by Tuesday, Nov 29.

Afternoon circle
Thursday, December 15 - 1:00 p.m.

Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes by Judy Yates Siker. Lesson 4: "Who is Jesus…According to John?" led by the Rev. Don Simmonds.

Evening circle
Tuesday, December 27, 3:00 p.m.
Will meet for an afternoon tea at the home of Jan Fortina. In addition to discussing "The Art of Comforting" pp 58-92, there will be a reading of "A Cup of Christmas Tea"

Congregational News

Signups Go Online

We will hosting all Sign-Ups online beginning December 1, 2016. We believe that using online signups, once we get used to it, will be better for 99% of us. For individuals who don't like online sign-ups, just give Kristene a call and she will sign you up.

Here are some of the advantages:

- We have had instances where there have been duplicate sign-ups – one in the hallway and one online. If they are only online, we should be able to avoid duplicates.
- The sign-ups are visible from home, office, or mobile devices for everyone.
- For the Sunday flower sign-ups, the Flower Guild can check online when they purchase the flowers for any special instructions.
- Without sign-ups in the hallway, it might make passing easier.
- People can pay at the same time as signing up if they choose.
- Reminders can be sent a couple of days in advance.
- All sign-ups will be visible online, not just a few.

This will save Kristene time every day as she is presently checking all the sign-ups in the hallway and then entering online to try to avoid duplication .

We hope everyone will give this a try and find out it works well. Please let Kristene know if you need help signing up or you encounter any problems!

"Come one, come all! Kids, Families, Friends Wanted to portray "The Christmas Pageant."

The Pageant Practice will be Saturday morning, December 17th, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. The Pageant will be performed Sunday, December 18th at 5:00 p.m. Come, and help make The Christmas Story come alive.
Look for the signup sheet at the Advent Fair, or talk to Mrs. Merrifield . . . she will be recruiting! There is a part for everyone. We need actors, singers, musicians, costume designers, make up artists, and stage crew. The Pageant is fun and beautiful, all at the same time.

"Look for me at church . . . I will be recruiting, Laurie Merrifield, Lampony@me.com"

2017 Winter Family Camp, January 6-8th

Do you like sledding, ice skating, or simply snuggling up and playing games? Don't miss out on this fun family event for all!

This is a great way for singles, couples and families to get to know other congregation members. Mark your calendars and watch for the signup to come out soon.

PCWS Gift Card Program

By now you've probably heard a lot about the Gift Card Program at PCWS, but you may not realize just how much the church can make in rebates from the program. There are over 700 different vendors in the program, with rebates of up to 15% depending on the merchant. So stop by the Gift Card Table on Sunday morning and purchase a few gift cards!

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Garino via email: jgarino@mindspring.com

THIS MONTH'S BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Kinley Baise
Kalie Hoskins
Shannon Sullivan

Farewell and Divine Percolation

Dear Friends In Christ,

The privilege to be your Associate Pastor has come and gone. I've moved away to Michigan and even as I write this (a few days before my final Sunday) I'm experiencing strong feelings of loss and grief. This church, the Presbyterian Church of Western Springs, is filled with wonderful people, like you, whom I will miss immensely. My morning and evening lamentations are that we no longer can do ministry the same way ever again and we can't be church the same way ever again. We must change apart from one another. I will miss your Christmas Eve worship, I won't laugh and play at the next Family Camp, and I can't lead the mission trip. I only have one sermon left (although by the time you read this, even that will have happened). There are at least a million stories I wish I could have shared with you – the one about the broken tooth, the one about the ATV accident, or that terrible glitter incident at my senior year prom (don't ask). There are even more Bible teachings and discussions I wish we could have had.

While I trust that I'm stepping forward along the narrow path with Jesus leading me, I also feel like I'm leaving so much goodness and many missed opportunities. This makes the transition harder and the loss extra sharp.

I also know that God is brewing something new for me and for you. A divine percolation is afoot. This church will become something more: more loving, more patient, more honest, more open. And I will as well. In separated-by-distance but connected-by-spirit ways, we are both participating in God's redemptive drama on display for all of history, a story that bends towards justice and love, and a narrative that is worth living into wherever we may be.

I leave you with the words of the Apostle Paul, who knew how to say goodbye and how to love a church from a distance.

> *Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.*
>
> *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you*.
>
> -2 Cor 13:11-13

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Matthew P. Schmidt

Presby Perks

To see more pictures, visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/presbyws/

You do not need to join Facebook to view our page.

Mission & Ministry

Dancing in the Dark: Nurturing Healing & Resilience

Saturday, December 10 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Fourth Presbyterian Church, 126 E. Chestnut Street,
Chicago, IL Cost: $15

To live in a broken world is to witness and experience various degrees of pain and trauma within the body and spirit. Please join with the Presbytery of Chicago and members of the Chicago community for a special seminar, where we will explore the broad categories of emotional trauma that we experience as humans. In addition, we will journey together through an introduction of nine stages of healing, which go beyond the superficial dysfunctional behaviors that we often participate in as a result of our emotional wounds.

For more information, and to register, visit the Presbytery website: http://www.chicagopresbytery.org/events/dancing-in-the-dark-nurturing-healing-and-resilience/

Peace and Global Witness Offering

For this special offering the Mission Committee pledged to send our portion (25%) to an organization in the city of Chicago that is working to bring peace to troubled neighborhoods. We found Teamwork Englewood, a community building organization that includes the area around Maria Shelter.

Teamwork Englewood was founded in 2003 and works with about 40 other local organizations to build a stronger and safer community. Their Quality-of-Life Plan includes ten diverse strategies to improve life in Englewood. Some of these are: attract new industries that provide living-wage jobs, reclaim empty spaces to create parks and gardens, revive retail businesses, promote healthy lifestyles, improve safety and security in the community, expand health and social services to schools, and bring services to special-needs people.

So after watching the nightly news you wonder “why doesn’t somebody do something”, you can think of how Teamwork Englewood is trying on many fronts to bring peace and prosperity to their community.

It is never too late to give…just mark your donation to Peace and Global Witness.

Christmas Joy Offering

We will be collecting the Christmas Joy Offering throughout the season of Advent. Seventy-five percent of this important annual denominational offering will be used by PC(USA) to assist retired and current church workers in need. The remaining 25% will be allocated to our PCWS Benevolence Fund, maintained to help support those in our congregation who may find themselves in need of emergency assistance. Please check bulletin inserts throughout the month of December for more information.

Maria Shelter Work Day

On Saturday, October 29, 2016, Andy Hoskins, Tom Kelly, Herb Smyers, Clark Wood, Brian Sullivan and Lance Smith participated in a workday at Maria Shelter. Although a small but lethal crew, they were able complete various projects including tree trimming, light fixture replacement, repair and paint a wheel chair ramp, build new shelving units and repair a cement sidewalk. In addition, they delivered diapers from the UPY's Diaper Drive, which was good timing since Maria Shelter was on their last box!! Thanks to our workday team for all they completed!!

2016 CROP Hunger Walk

21 walkers from PCWS joined 293 others on a beautiful autumn afternoon to raise funds to help stamp out hunger. The LaGrange/Western Springs walk saw walkers from 14 congregations raise $18,007 in total. PCWS walkers proudly raised $1,165 towards this total. 25% of these funds will go directly to local programs to fight hunger.

Mission & Ministry

The Gift of Warmth

We continue our annual tradition of collecting **gently used coats and jackets** for men, women and children which will be donated to Maria Shelter and Believe Family Shelters on the south side of Chicago. If you also have **lightly used and reliable boots**, we'll be happy to include those, as well. Please look for the coat rack on the 2nd floor near the elevator.

We'll also be collecting **new hats and mittens/gloves** for children and adults of both the Maria/Believe Shelters and Sharing Connection in Downers Grove. As in the past, there will be a specially marked Christmas tree on the 2nd floor to collect the hats and mittens.

The **Christmas Giving Tree** will be in the Narthex, where we'll gather **non-perishable food items** for our local food pantries. The tree will contain "ornaments" with a food item noted on the back. Simply select an ornament, encourage your children to select an ornament, bring that particular food item(s) to church and place it under the Christmas Giving Tree.

If you don't have the opportunity to take an ornament, any non-perishable food items are welcome and will be much appreciated by the local pantries.

Alternative Giving Event – Sunday, December 4

Please join the Mission committee at our annual Alternative Giving Event during the Advent Fair on Sunday, December 4. As in the past, we will have a wide variety of gift items available for purchase in the Graham Charter Room after worship. Whether you're shopping for friends, family, teachers, neighbors, coaches or even yourself, every item purchased will also "give" to someone else, here or around the world. For example:

Divine Fair Trade Chocolate, "Owned by cocoa farmers; made for chocolate lovers", Divine Fair Trade Chocolate is co-owned by the 85,000 farmer members of the Ghana cooperative that supplies the cocoa for these chocolates. They earn a share in the profits, have a voice in the company and have a presence in the global marketplace. Large and small milk and dark chocolate bars (some plain, some interesting) and after-dinner thin mints will be available.

Concern America "is an international development and refugee aid organization that works with economically impoverished communities around the world to develop long-term solutions to poverty . . . training villagers to become their own health care providers, water engineers, and artisan cooperative leaders." We will be featuring several unique holiday ornaments, accessories and gift items from Concern America's Fair Trade craft marketplace.

In addition to the above items (and more – come see!) available to purchase and take with you, there will also be plenty of **Alternative Gift donation opportunities** through **Heifer Project International, Church World Service, Presbyterian Church (USA) Missions, Walmart gift cards for Maria Shelter** and an opportunity to donate to the **Christmas Joy Offering,** all just down the hall in the **Graham Charter Room!**

Member News

Thank you for your service at PCWS in November! We can't do it without you.

Collated and/or folded bulletins: Laura Fruit, Judy McAtee

Helped in the office and with database updates: Carol Ulreich, Michelle Hennessy, Donna Strunk, Laura Fruit, Mindy McMahon, Judy McAtee

Food for Life in November:
Shopper: Carolyn Bozek
Cooks: Ron Blough, Ann and Michael De Vries
Driver/Server: Ann and Michael De Vries, Kim Fronk

Second Baptist Food Pantry run: David and Jane Boxell

Crushed cans: David and Jane Boxell, Mary Jo and Ron Blough

Prepared Glad Tidings for mailing: Dorothy Andersen, Ruth Riordan, Joyce Habermann and Mary Kae Headland.

Flower Guild designer: Sue Kovalick

Sextons Wanted

We have three Sexton staffers that will be transitioning to their next path this coming spring/summer. In order to fill that void, we will need to fill four part-time Sexton positions. In order to have a smooth transition, we need to have these positions filled in the spring to accommodate a training period.

Hours: Monday-Friday 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. or later if needed;
Sunday from noon to 4:00 p.m.
an occasional Saturday, if necessary, noon to 3:00 p.m.

Hours scheduled are based on individual's availability and church's schedule. Priority will be given to church members or those associated with the church.

If you are interested in a job and helping out the church, please contact Kurt Smyers from 3:00 -5:00 p.m. on Monday-Wednesday. We need your help ASAP.

We Extend Sympathy to:

David & Lauri Petersen — David's father, Robert Petersen passed away in September and Laurie's father, Loy Hovious, passed away Wednesday, October 12.

New Member Address Update:
Philip and Rachel Galloway
212 S. Madison Ave
La Grange, IL 60525

Member News

Bulletin Deadline

Please submit all announcements to the church office by 9:00 a.m. Wednesday morning.

Email to pcws@presbyws.org or fax to 708-246-4276.

Are you on Instagram?
Join us at @pcwsyouth and get connected!

PCWS is on Yelp! Find us at: https://www.yelp.com/biz/presbyterian-church-of-western-springs-western-springs.

www.facebook.com/presbyws

You don't need to join Facebook to see photos of all that's happening at PCWS.

Glad Tidings Deadline

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

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

GT@presbyws.org

Help prepare the January *Glad Tidings* for mailing
Meet December 27 @ 10:30 a.m.
in the Upper Room.

Remember in Prayer

- The Ahmeti Family
- Tom Allen
- **Betty Banovic**
- **Kimberly Bone**
- Suzi Brinkman
- Diane Markley Bruser
- George Bruser
- David DeFano
- **Bill Dougherty**
- **Grace Dunham**
- **Billye Dvorak**
- Norm Erickson
- Paulette Erickson
- **Bob Fencl**
- Elaine Greco
- Joshua Haberkorn
- Ronald Halla
- **Rich Kanak**
- Ruth Kaduke
- **Phil Kasik**
- **Kathleen Kircher**
- Barbara Lennie
- **Mae Love**
- Deborah Matthews
- **Evie Meyer**
- Debi Mirlenbrink
- Norb Mirlenbrink
- Peggy Mirlenbrink
- Mary Myers
- Holly Oliver
- Ginger Oswald
- Sharon Pederson
- **Pat Petros**
- Rev. Maricela Gonzalez Rubio
- **Marge Sandrik**
- **Lewis Skeels**
- Mike Slesicki
- Patti Schoenbeck
- Kent Simmonds
- Susan Simmonds
- **Herb Smyers**
- Betty Staab
- Margaret Swaar
- Gloria Torres
- **Norman Toft**
- **Marie Vejsada**
- Dorothy Wilson
- Karen Ziemba
- Cheryl, mother of Deborah Matthews
- Donna
  (Friend of Joyce Smyers)
- Michael
  (friend of Jane Norman)
- Presbyterian Church Congregation in Nueva Paz, Cuba
- The people of Syria, especially family members of PCWS Interfaith Women's Book Group

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WESTERN SPRINGS
5250 Wolf Road
Western Springs, Illinois 60558-1898

Web Page: **www.presbyws.org**
E-Mail: **pcws@presbyws.org**
Prayer Requests: **prayers@presbyws.org**
Telephone: **708-246-5220**
Fax: **708-246-4276**

11-27--2016
Dated Mail

Scan to
Learn about PCWS

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Events in December

Dec. 1 Presbyterian Women

Dec. 4 Advent Fair, Alternative Giving Fair, Cookie Walk

Dec. 6 Deacon Meeting

Dec. 7 Committee Meetings

Dec. 10 *Glad Tidings* Article Deadline

Dec. 11 All Church Caroling

Dec. 18 Christmas Pageant

Dec. 21 Session

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Worship
5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Dec. 25 Christmas Day Worship

Dec. 26 Prepare *Glad Tidings* for Mailing

Dec. 27—31 Church and Offices Closed
Holiday Office Hours
9 a.m.—noon.

Upcoming Events in January

Jan. 2 Offices Closed in Observance of New Year's Day

Jan. 3 Deacon Meeting

Jan. 4 Committee Meetings

Jan. 5 Presbyterian Women

Jan. 10 *Glad Tidings* Article Deadline

Jan. 18 Session

Jan. 23 Book Club

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.