Souper Bowl of Caring

Super Bowl Sunday will be here shortly 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 5th will mark the 28th anniversary of Souper Bowl of Caring. It was 28 years ago that Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC issued the challenge and invited 20 groups to join in raising money for hunger organizations in their area. That year $5,700 was collected, but since then the movement has grown from that one youth group in Columbia to youth groups from around the country. Last year, 6,568 youth groups collected $10,501,072 and canned goods after worship in soup pots and bowls. Our JUPYs and UPYs at PCWS will participate this year in two ways:

First, 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’s pots raised the most money.

Second, the JUPYs and UPYs will host a Chili cook off that you can enter. Simply sign up on the sign-up genius, in the church hallway, or, email or call Tai and let her know you wish to enter the contest. Then bring a crockpot of chili with you to church on February 5th with a clever name for your entry. Following worship, members of the congregation can purchase tickets for lunch. They will taste test all they wish and vote for the pot of chili they like best. After the votes are totaled, we will declare the winner of our first ever chili cook off.

This is a fun way for the entire congregation to get involved, help the youth raise money for a local charity, and compete to see who has the best chili around these parts. For Contest Rules, see page 7.

Balloon-A-gram Sales

Send Valentine Wishes to a loved one or friend and at the same time support the UPY Summer Mission Trip to Cary, Mississippi. A Balloon-a-gram includes a bag of valentine candy, a Mylar balloon and a card that you fill out with your wishes. Each Balloon-a-gram is $6.

Balloon-a-gram Sales: - January 22 and 29, February 5 and February 12 in the Jones Room during fellowship. Deliveries will go out on February 12.

Community Conversations

Where: PCWS
When: Tuesday, February 7, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
RSVP: dpomey@chipres.org or 312-488-3000

Our communities face daunting and complex realities of violence, despair, segregation, and discrimination. Every day we contend with great injustice and suffering. But strengths, gifting, and assets also dwell deep within our communities, and we believe that a new way is possible as we build on our collective strengths: a way of peace, unity, and hope; a way of justice, mercy, and joy! We believe that love in action has the power to transform all of our communities. We are asking you to the table to believe with us. To come with an open mind, open heart, and open will – leaving fear, judgment, and cynicism behind – so that we may join together, to envision a future that is bigger than each one of us.
FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR'S STUDY
CAT Is Coming!

Imagine you are asked by someone new to the area about the Presbyterian Church of Western Springs. Suppose that person had not been raised in a church and had little additional knowledge of church. What if they asked, while standing near the church building, “Hey, what’s going on in there? Is it worth my time?” How would you respond?

In a real sense, we, as a church community, will be seeking to respond to that question in the coming weeks and months. We will begin to focus on what our current mission is and what God is calling this church to be as PCWS moves into the future. What is to go on inside and outside the walls of this gorgeous building in the way of mission for our Lord Jesus Christ?

Toward that end, beginning in February, PCWS will participate in the Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT). What is that? The Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT) is a reliable benchmarked instrument designed to provide an in-depth look at the experiences, perceptions and aspirations of a church's congregation. It is an essential step for any church in leadership transition or undertaking strategic planning. The Presbytery of Chicago strongly recommends that all its churches seeking to call a new Pastor utilize CAT and the Session at PCWS has voted to do so.

The CAT is a customizable assessment instrument that can help:
- Measure the level of satisfaction and energy in the congregation.
- Identify the critical success factors for improving organizational climate.
- Pinpoint the strengths of your congregation’s culture.
- Discover where members would like to go in the future.
- Gauge readiness for change.
- Uncover potential resources you may be missing.
- Prepare for a search for your next pastor.

In February, members and friends of PCWS will receive additional information about taking the CAT survey. Please be on the lookout. The more members that take it, the more helpful the tool will be. And remember, in the midst of all this, One journeys ahead of us, leading us into the future, the One who is the foundation and cornerstone of the church, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Grace and Peace,

Bill
Theology & Brew Meeting Dates

The next Daytime Edition will meet February 14th, 11:00 a.m., at Grapevine Mediterranean Cafe, 9 W Hillgrove Ave, La Grange. The Evening Edition will be served up February 22nd, 7:00 p.m., at Wolf's Head Restaurant and Bar - 6937 Joliet Road, La Grange.

Check your email for the Wired Word article we will be discussing. It will arrive in your inbox the week of each Brew. For more information contact Tai Cole, taicole4@gmail.com.

Ash Wednesday Service - March 1

The Lenten season begins with the observance of Ash Wednesday with Highlands Presbyterian Church. We will celebrate beginning at 6:30 p.m. with a simple meal of a bowl of soup and roll in the Jones Room. Worship will begin at 7:00 p.m. so children and youth will be able to attend.

Volunteers for providing soup, helping with setting up or meal cleanup are needed. Please indicate your preference via the on-line Sign-up Genius site: Ash Wednesday, or sign up at the chart on the lower level bulletin board.

Please mark your calendar to participate in this simple and meaningful beginning to the Lenten journey.

Lenten Devotional

This year our Lenten Devotional will focus on the "Journey We Take". We each take different paths in life. There are paths that we wish we would have chosen and those we look back and can see God's hand in helping to steer us. As we reflect in this Lenten season on our paths, we will look at the path Jesus took, the steps he took, and where they led him. Join us on this journey by writing a devotion and/or by signing up to receive the daily devotions.

To sign up to write a devotion you can do so on the Sign-up Genius or by emailing Tai. If you're not already on the Devotional email list from PCWS, and would like to receive the Daily Devotions, email Michelle Hennessy (mishyd1@comcast.net.)

No-Name Band . . .

. . . is looking for more members! If you enjoy singing and/or playing an instrument, we invite you to join us.

Who we are: A fun-loving, creative, diverse group of musicians and music lovers who enjoy leading Sunday morning worship through contemporary Christian song (think Casting Crowns, Chris Tomlin, MercyMe, Crowder, Plumb, Lauren Daigle, Steven Curtis Chapman, Matt Redman, Jeremy Camp).

How often we perform: Three to four times a year.

How often we practice: Usually a couple of hour to hour-and-a-half evening rehearsals before we perform in church.

If you'd be interested in joining the band, please contact Kami Booth at klbooth@comcast.net. Our next performance is in March - we'd love for you to participate!

Monday, February 20, 2017
Church and Offices will be Closed
PCWS Book Club

We invite anyone to join us for the year, or any part of the year, as your time and interest permit. Our discussions are always informal and often lively! Here are the books for the next two months:

- March 27, *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah

Family Camp

Family Camp 2017 was a huge success this year! Eleven families, comprised of thirty-eight campers, spent the first weekend in January at Camp Edwards in East Troy, Wisconsin. Freezing temperatures did not stop us from the Black Hole, Tiki Island, board games, Twizzlers, hiking through the cathedral of pines, puzzles, ping pong and most importantly, fellowship. Saturday night we gathered for worship which included singing, praying, listening to Tai tell the story of Jesus’ baptism and sharing communion. We are blessed to be part of our PCWS church family and continue this twenty plus year tradition! Thank you to Lorraine Hoskins for organizing this fun event!

Presbyterian Women

Thursday, February 2, 12:30 p.m.
A dessert bar featuring your favorite finger desserts ($5) hosted by the PCWS board. Our friends from First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange will join us as we share our favorite books and get ideas for our winter reading. Have a book you love? Contact Laura Fruit if you wish to share your review with the group.

Thursday, February 16, 1:00 p.m.
Afternoon circle at PCWS


Tuesday, February 28, 1:00 p.m.
Evening Circle at PCWS

Gather at the church for pizza and discussion: *The Art of Comforting* by Val Walker, Chapters 4-5, pp 106-131. Please RSVP to Nancy Glickman (gednan10@gmail.com) by February 27 if you wish to be included in the pizza. Cost of the pizza will be shared.

Interfaith Book Group

We will meet on February 15 at 1:30 p.m. at PCWS and will read the book titled *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly. All women of the church are welcome to join this group.

Happy Reading
February 5th
Chili Cook-off Setup (UPYs-Jones room 8:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m.)
Souper Bowl of Caring (JUPYs Narthex 10:30 a.m.)
Balloon-A-Gram Sales (UPYs-Jones room @ 10:30a.m.)
Chili Cook-off (JUPYs-Jones room 10:45a.m. -11:30 a.m.)

February 12th
Sunday School (JUPYs & UPYs @9:45 a.m.)
Balloon-A-Gram Sales (UPYs-Jones room 10:30a.m.)
No JUPY

February 19th
Bible Study (JUPYs-Youth room 5:00-6:30 p.m.)
Bible Study (UPYs-Youth room 6:30-8:00 p.m.)

February 26th
Sunday School (JUPYs & UPYs @ 9:45 a.m.)
Bible Study (JUPYs-Youth room 5:00-6:30 p.m.)
Bible Study (UPYs-Youth room 6:30-8:00 p.m.)
NO Wednesday Night Fellowship

Lenten Fair
February 26th after worship with Shrove Pancake Breakfast

Spaghetti Dinner
March 4th (ticket sales start on February 12th)

Ash Wednesday
March 1st

Montreat Middle School Conference July 23-29!
Deadline to register: $100 Deposit by February 10th

News

Balloons-A-Gams
It is that time of year: UPYs are selling Balloon-A-Grams in order to raise money for the mission trip this summer. Balloon-A-Grams will be sold in the Jones room January 22 to February 12. They will be delivered on Sunday February 12th!

Souper Bowl of Caring
The Souper Bowl of Caring will be held on Sunday, February 5th after worship. This is a nation-wide effort in which youth groups raise money for local food charities. JUPYs are needed to help hold soup pots and collect money at the Sanctuary doors. And UPYs are needed to help setup and run the chili cook-off in the Jones.

Chili Cook-Off
Youth and families interested in entering a winning pot of chili are needed for the chili cook-off. Sign up online or contact Tai or Brendon for more information. Who knows you might have the winning recipe and the monies raised goes to support a local hunger organization.

Contact
Interim Youth Leader
Brendon DeBoer
jupyandupy@gmail.com

Interim Faith Formation Leader
Tai Zimmerman Cole
(224)345-9270
One Great Hour of Sharing

Our Lenten denominational offering, One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), is a long-standing part of our Presbyterian heritage which we officially dedicate each Easter Sunday.

OGHS ministries provide relief responses through three agencies: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Self-Development of People and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Each of these three programs provides a range of responses addressing both the immediate and long-term needs of those in need.

For example, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance regularly provides food, shelter and education to refugees fleeing the civil war in Syria. Self-Development of People supports projects like Jobs Not Jails, which has already provided access to jobs and education for more than 7,000 former prisoners as they establish new lives after their release. The Presbyterian Hunger Program supports several sustainable agricultural and water projects around the world.

Throughout the Lenten season, please look for a series of bulletin inserts offering further insight into OGHS programs and take a few minutes to learn more about how we can all respond to these needs through our collective support of OGHS.

While this offering is officially dedicated on Easter Sunday, gifts may be made any time during Lent. There is a specially designated envelope in the 2017 box of offering envelopes you may have received, or you could also write a check to PCWS, noting OGHS on the memo line. Another option is to make an online donation under Special Offerings and choose OGHS. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of how you might be able to help!

Cuba Mission Trip

There will be a mission work trip to Cuba from June 12 through June 19, Monday to Monday. We will stay 2 nights in Havana, 4 nights in Nueva Paz, and a final night in Havana. We are limited to 10 young-adults and adults (19 or older) on this trip which has a February 19 registration deadline. The total cost will be $1800 which includes airplane tickets, food, and transportation in Cuba.

We will be doing some sanding and varnishing, and possible plumbing, carpentry, and light construction. Come and see the beauty of Cuba and the wonderfully friendly people of our sister church that we have been visiting for the past seven years.

Please contact Jane Boxell (jboxell@ameritech.net), Kathy Wennerstrum, or Mindy McMahon if interested or for more details.
Mark your Calendar! March 4

Come one, come all! Enjoy a delicious meal made by the UPYS with the help of our chefs, Steve Blough and Kurt Smyers. All proceeds from the dinner will go towards the UPY Summer Mission Trip to Cary Christian Center in the Mississippi Delta where they will work on home repairs. Friends are always welcome!

Specify seating time of 5:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. when you buy your tickets. Ticket sales will start on Sunday, February 12th and will be available Sunday mornings or at the church office through March 1st.

Advance Tickets:
Adults $6 - Children (4-12) $3
At the Door:
Adults $7 - Children $4

Thank you in advance for your continued support of our youth!

Chili Cook off Rules

Each contestant will make a crockpot full of chili. This chili will be eaten by those who purchase tickets (through donations) to the event and voting on the best chili. People who have purchased tickets may try as many different chillies as they would like.

1. Make a crockpot full of chili. This can be your great grandmother's secret recipe or one you have found in a cook book.
2. Bring your chili in the crockpot to Church Kitchen on Sunday February 5th. All crockpots of chili need to arrive before 9:30 am so we can set them up. Earlier is ok, we will keep them warm in the crockpots (That's why it is important to have them in the crockpots. Large pots of chili on the stove are very messy and some times not enough stove space for them all.)
3. Each chili entry needs to have a name. There will be tent cards to write the innovative chili name on them. The chef’s name will be written on the inside so the judges don't know who prepared the pot of chili.
4. A family or individual can submit more than one entry but each entry will need a crockpot.
5. Winners will be selected by secret ballot in which each person buying a ticket will get a vote to be written on their ticket and collected by the youth.
6. Tickets will be sold at the door and the cost of the tickets is a simple donation.
7. Extra soup will be prepared my PCWS youth for those who are not chili fans.
8. All monies raise will go towards the Souper Bowl of Caring efforts and donated to a local charity that the youth group has chosen.

If you have questions please contact Tai Zimmerman Cole at (224) 345-9270 or Brendon De Boer at (712)441-6708.

You can find out more about the Souper Bowl of Caring by visiting the www.souperbowl.org.
Thank you for your service at PCWS in January! We can’t do it without you.

Collated and/or folded bulletins: Laura Fruit, Judy McAtee, Marc Goldstein, Carol Ulreich

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

Food for Life Team: Shopper – Carolyn Bozek
Cooks – Mary Jo and Ron Blough, Sue Eck
Driver/Server – Kathy Wennerstrum, Karen Kennedy

Second Baptist Food Pantry run: Jane and David Boxell

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

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

Flower Guild designers: Sue Eck, Nancy Glickman and Laurie Merrifield

From Our Members

A special thank you to PCWS and especially the "Deacons" for all their cards, letters, calls, and prayers. I also enjoyed the carolers at Christmas. I am doing well and love hearing from my PCWS family.
Love, Mae Love

Dear PCWS congregation,
Thank you for all of your support, prayers, and best wishes for Bob Fencl. We appreciate all that you have done for myself and Bob. We feel so blessed to have been a part of such a loving congregation.

Sincerely, Mary Ellen and family

Dear Friends,
This is a little late, but very heartful. Thank you so much for the wonderful celebration Hail Gate Party! It was so much fun and I appreciate all the work that went into it. Then, I was so surprised to receive a check from everyone. It was very generous of all of you. I feel grateful to have such dear friends!

Carolyn Bozek

Zeke Donald Tester, born December 31st, son of Jill Randa Tester and Dr. Greg Tester. Proud Grandparents are Debbie and Larry Randa.
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 March *Glad Tidings* for mailing Meet February 25 @ 10:30 a.m. in the Upper Room.

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**

Remember in Prayer

Roger Adams
The Ahmeti Family
Tom Allen
Betty Banovic
Kimberly Bone
Suzi Brinkman
Diane Markley Bruser
George Bruser
David DeFano
Michael De Vries
Bill Dougherty
Grace Dunham
Billye Dvorak
Norm Erickson
Paulette Erickson
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
Beata B. Sak
Lewis Skeels
Mike Slesicki
Betty Staab
Gloria Torres
Betty Toft
Norman Toft
Marie Vejsada
Dorothy Wilson
Karen Ziembta
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

To the family of Bob Fencl, who passed away December 25, 2016.
Upcoming Events in February

Feb.  1  Committee Meetings
Feb.  2  Presbyterian Women
Feb.  5  Souper Bowl Sunday & Chili Cook-off
Feb.  7  Presbytery of Chicago: Community Conversation Deacons
Feb.  8  Committee Meetings
Feb. 10  **Glad Tidings** Article Deadline
Feb. 12  Balloon-a-Gram Deliveries
Feb. 15  Session
Feb. 20  President’s Day Church and Offices Closed
Feb. 27  Book Club
Feb. 25  Prepare **Glad Tidings** for mailing

Upcoming Events in March

March  1  Ash Wednesday
March  2  Presbyterian Women
March  3  World Day of Prayer
March  4  Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
March  5  Annual Congregational Meeting
March  7  Deacons
March 10  **Glad Tidings** Article Deadline
March 12  Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 15  Session
March 17  St. Patrick
March 27  Book Club
March 28  Prepare **Glad Tidings** for mailing

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.