Advent Activities

Sunday, December 3

9:30 a.m.  Worship ~ Communion
          Hanging of the Greens
10:30 a.m. Advent Fair, Cookie Walk
          Alternative Giving Event
          (See article on page 4)
          Fellowship
11:30 a.m. JUPY/UPY Toy Shopping
5:00 p.m.  JUPYs Christmas Party

Sunday, December 10

9:30 a.m.  Worship
10:30 a.m. Fellowship
3:00 p.m.  All Church Caroling
          (See article on page 4)
6:00 p.m.  UPY Christmas Party

Sunday, December 17

9:30 a.m.  Worship
10:30 a.m. Fellowship
5:00 p.m.  Christmas Pageant
          (See article on page 4)

2017 Christmas Eve Worship

5:00 p.m. 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. A candle lighting service will again be a part of this worship.

The 11:00 p.m. service will also focus on the Christmas story as found in Luke 2:1-20. It too will be a candle lighting service and will include the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.

Because Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, the Session voted NOT to have our regular 9:30 a.m. worship that day and focus instead on celebrating our Lord’s birth at the 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. services.

If you are looking for a morning worship, LaGrange Presbyterian Church offers a 10:00 a.m. family service.

Christmas Sanctuary Poinsettias

Advent starts on Dec. 3 this year with Hanging of the Greens. If you wish to sponsor a plant for the Advent/Christmas celebration, you may sign up online or the signup sheet in the lower level hallway. The cost per plant is $30, and the last day to order is Dec. 15.

When you sign up:
Indicate your dedication.
Please indicate if you plan to:
(1) take your plant home after the Christmas service
(2) have your plant delivered to a member or friend of the congregation, or
(3) leave the plant for the Dec. 31 service.

Payment at the time you sign up is appreciated - you may pay online, or send your check made payable to PCWS with a notation for "Christmas flowers."

Family Camp 2018
January 5—7, 2018

It is time to sign up for Family Camp 2018. The Annual Family Camp will be January 5th - 7th. Don’t miss the fun of board games, fireside conversations, late night laughter, and memories that last generations. All are welcome and encouraged to join this fun weekend. For pricing and more information, visit Signup Genius or the bulletin board in the lower hallway.
Dear Presbyterian Church of Western Springs,

It has truly been a blessing to serve the congregation of PCWS over the past year. It is with mixed emotions that I must now say good-bye to all the friends that I have made. The time spent here with the children, youth, families, congregation, and staff has blessed my life in so many ways, and I hope that my being here has done the same for you. Thank you for welcoming me into your lives, your homes, and church to walk with you in life’s joys and sadness. You have helped me learn and grow in a time of transition and change in my own life as well. Please continue to keep my family in your prayers during this time of transition.

The past year has helped to continue to shape who I am, given me great experience and prepared me well for future calls in ministry. This abrupt ending to my ministry has caused me great sadness and has come with much prayer for God’s discernment and presence in the midst of it. It saddens me that I will not be part of the bright future ahead for PCWS. As members of the Presbyterian Church of Western Springs, you are in my prayers as well for your future discernment in where God is calling you to be the church in the world around you. Change is always difficult and sometimes the best we can do is to pray for understanding as we move forward. It is my prayer that God will continue to be a guiding influence in this transition. I will miss you all and will continue to hold the families of PCWS in my prayers.

Grace and Peace,

Brendon De Boer

From the Pastor Nominating Committee

The PNC achieved an important milestone on November 3rd. Having spent the past several months completing the Ministry Information Form (MIF), we obtained the required approval from Session and the Presbytery of Chicago Commission on Ministry (COM) allowing us to enter our completed MIF into the denomination’s Church Leadership Connection (CLC) database. (enough acronyms for you?!) The CLC assists Presbyterian churches seeking a new pastor by matching potential candidates with our church information and position requirements as summarized in our MIF. In addition to reviewing candidates provided through the CLC, the PNC has also contacted numerous seminaries throughout the country to post our position on their internal “job boards”. We will also be advertising the PCWS pastor position in frequently read church periodicals in early January 2018.

The best news - we got our first batch of potential candidates from the CLC in early November! So, “mum’s the word” for the next few months. We appreciate your continued prayers and encouragement as the PNC enters this exciting next phase in calling new leadership to PCWS!
Have You Visited Our Website Lately?

If you have, you already know that we have a Blog! It’s titled “Where Do I See God in My Everyday Life?” Every couple of weeks, members and staff write an entry that is posted to our website. Each article is short – under 600 words, and we hope that you’ll find positive inspiration that God is present in our lives each and every day.

End Of Year Reminder

As the end of the year approaches, it would be appreciated if everyone fulfilled their pledge for 2017 and/or considered additional giving to PCWS! It is through the contributions of all of us that we are able to carry on our ministry.

As a reminder, per IRS guidelines, all contributions must be received by the church, or postmarked, before December 31, 2017 to be deducted for the year 2017. We thank you for your ongoing support of PCWS.

Generations of Generosity

Here’s a quick update regarding the Stewardship Drive:

We’re up to 84 families returning pledges for a total dollar amount of: $311,425. To give you a little color behind those numbers, last year, we had 87 families pledge with a total of $317,448.

We still have 15 families that pledged last year that haven’t returned a pledge yet this year. If all of those families re-pledge, we would expect our total dollars pledged this year to be approximately: $333,455.

That’s about $66,545 under our budget goal of around $400,000. The good news is: We are expecting about $16,007 above last year with an additional 11 families pledging. Additionally, we normally receive pledges well into February and March of the next calendar year, so we’re actually a little ahead of schedule this year.

With our new pastor projected to come on board in 2018, it would be most helpful for us to present and develop a solid budget for the PNC to present to our pastoral candidates. We certainly want to present a strong picture to a new pastor candidate as other churches will be interviewing our candidates as well.

So, if you can increase your pledge, that would be greatly appreciated as we try to get to that $400,000 budget. If you regularly give, but don’t normally pledge, Thanks! But, we’d ask that you pledge so we can develop a really firm budget this year for presentation to our pastoral candidates.

Regardless, thanks to each of you for the quick and timely responses this year to our Stewardship drive. I hope everyone enjoyed the process Chad and I developed this year. If you have suggestions for next year, don’t hesitate to talk with either Chad, myself, or any other member of Session.

Sincerely,
Condy Dixon and Chad Sellman
Leadership & Ministries Committee
“Hanging of the Greens”
First Sunday of Advent

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. Last year, doing this during worship was so well received that we are planning to do this again as a part of worship on the First Sunday of Advent, December 3rd.

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.

All-Church Caroling
December 10, 2017

The annual All-Church Christmas Caroling will take place Sunday, December 10 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 join in this Christmas tradition of sharing songs and good cheer. After spreading Christmas spirit, 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 online or in the lower-level hallway. If you would like to help, when you sign up indicate if you would like to provide a soup, salad, dessert, or help with set-up or clean-up.

Live Nativity 2017
December 17, 2017

Calling all Shepherds, Angels, and Wiseguys. The annual PCWS Live Nativity will be on Sunday, December 17th at 5:00 p.m.

Practice for the Live Nativity will be on Saturday, December 16th at 9:30 a.m.

Please sign up on sign-up genius or on the sign-up in the lower hallway to be part of the Live Nativity this year. Tai will contact you before the practice with your part. If you have questions, please contact Tai.

Advent Fair
December 3

This year our Advent Fair will focus on the theme of the Jesse Tree. Members of the congregation will get the chance to create ornaments to make their own Jesse tree at home to use with the Advent Devotional.

Join the fun and Fellowship on December 3rd after worship in the Jones Room, along with the alternative giving fair and cookie walk.

Reverse Advent Calendar

Available during the Advent Fair, the Reverse Advent Calendar sets out a daily challenge to engage the world around you by giving in small ways. If you choose to participate, you will place an item listed on the calendar in a bag created during the Advent Fair.

Some days, instead of an item, there will be a small task or prayer for you to participate in as a way to prepare yourself for the coming of Christ during this Advent season as well as starting the process of daily giving of oneself.

Cookie Walk

December 3, in conjunction with the Advent Fair at 10:30 a.m., is the annual Cookie Walk.

After Worship, please visit Room 202 and create your own delicious box of cookies. Free Will Donations will help support the UPY Mission trip next summer. Thanks for your support!
The Jesse Tree Advent Devotional

Members and friends of the congregation of all ages have written, drawn and helped prepare this devotional for the entire church family to use and to prepare themselves for Christmas during the Advent season. Following the lineage of Jesus as set out by Isaiah 11:1 “A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.” The devotional explores the scripture passages and stories of each member of the Jesus’ story from creation to his birth.

If you have received Devotionals via email in the past, you will automatically receive it this year. Paper copies will be available for members to pick up outside the Pastor’s office. We hope you will use this daily to read, pray and study the story of who Jesus is through the lens of the story foretold in Isaiah. (If you would like to receive the Devotion via email, email Michelle Hennessy (mhennessy@presbyws.org) and she’ll add you to the list.

You are also invited to create your own Jesse tree at home with ornaments that remind you of each story and its significance to the larger story of who Jesus was and who we are as children of God. Ornament making will be part of the Advent Fair on Sunday, December 3rd.

November 12th Congregational Meeting

Elders, deacons and committee members for the Class of 2019 were elected by the congregation. Following officer training for the elders and deacons, examination by the Session, and ordination and/or installation, they will begin their service in January, 2018. Brief biographies of the newly elected officers will appear in next month’s Glad Tidings.

**ELDERS**
- Loretta Gratias-Bremer
- Jim Koning
- Mindy McMahon
- Sal Melilli
- Colleen Sullivan (Youth)

**DEACONS**
- Sheryl Allen
- Ann DeVries
- Cindy Karstens
- Laurie Merrifield
- Kim Yates
- Jessie Fronk (Youth)
- Salvatore Melilli (Youth)

**New Committee Members**

Listed below and also elected as members-at-large from the congregation to the Officer Nominating Committee (ONC) for 2018. In January, 2018, the Session will name two of its members and the Deacons one of their members to complete the 2018 ONC.

**OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE**
- Natalie Carlisle (Youth)
- Cheryl Hanson
- Kevin Hennessy
- Sue Kovalick
- Jane Melilli
- Laurie Petersen

Also elected at the November 12th meeting were those listed below to serve on the church’s Endowment and Special Gifts Fund and the Safe Space Committees.

**ENDOWMENT AND SPECIAL GIFTS FUND COMMITTEE**
- Matt Booth
- Mike Lobash

**SAFE SPACE COMMITTEE**
- Michelle Hennessy
- Kim Yates
- Elizabeth Slezak
Presbyterian Women
Thursday, December 7
12:30 p.m. at PCWS

Special Holiday Concert and High Tea

Dr. Sarah Holman, professor of vocal music at Wheaton College Conservatory, will present a special recital. Dr. Holman, a mezzo soprano, has presented recitals and appeared in operas both in the United States and around the world, including England, Taiwan, Mexico and South Korea. She has performed with the Opera Southwest, Lyric Opera of Cleveland, DuPage Opera and the Chicago Chamber Opera. She has had roles in “The Crucible”, “Cosi fan tutti”, “The Mikado”, “Patience”, and “The Merry Wives of Windsor.”

Presbyterian Women of PCWS and First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange have joined together to serve the ladies in both congregations. The meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. at PCWS. Following the program, High Tea will be served.

The cost is $12 per person payable at the door. Please call the church office (708-246-5220) by Tuesday, December 5, if you will be attending.

Mission Opportunity We will be collecting packaged cookies to be given to a local food pantry. Please bring them to the December PW meeting. Monetary gifts will be used to purchase items needed by the pantry.

Afternoon Circle meets December 19, 1:00 p.m. in the Graham Charter Room. Lesson 4 “in Community with God’s Messengers” from Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews by Melissa Bane Sevier. Discussion will be led by Rev. Tai Zimmerman Cole.

Evening Circle will not meet in December.

The Results Are In!

There was a great response to our recent music survey—with over 90 survey results sent in covering all age groups in the congregation. Thanks to all who participated using this very informative tool! Your Music Task Force is currently assimilating your survey answers and considering your input on our ongoing music program. There will be more details in the coming months, but one thing came though loud and clear: this congregation greatly values music as part of its overall worship experience.

Your Music Task Force members: Paul Banovic, Kami Booth, Stephanie Coates, Kevin Hennessy, Bill Ingersoll, John Leslie, and Amy Malone.

ONE Church ONE Book

As a congregation this year we are setting out on an adventure together to read the same book. For the whole year we will be reading and discussing, “We Make the Road by Walking” by Brian McLaren.

This Adult Faith Formation class meets each Sunday in the Graham Charter room at 10:45 a.m. Join us each week for a discussion on the week’s chapter (4-6 pages) and share the way you are journeying together.

If you are interested in leading one of the weekly discussions, please speak to Tai. The more voices and perspectives we have the better discussions we have.
“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

### December Dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 3</td>
<td>UPYs Cookie Walk and Toy Donation Drive</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>JUPYs Christmas Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 10</td>
<td>UPYs Christmas Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
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### UPYs Christmas Party

- The UPYs annual Christmas Party will be held at the Melilli home at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 10.
- Supper will be served at the Melilli’s home, so come hungry!
- Please remember to bring a 10 dollar white elephant gift!

### Toy Donation Drive

UPYs will leave immediately after our cookie walk to go to lunch and then Target. While there we will purchase as many toys for children in the Chicagoland area who can’t otherwise afford them. You will need money for lunch.

### JUPY Christmas Party

**DECEMBER 3, 2017**

- We will meet at the Gertsmeier’s house at 5 p.m.
- Plan on bringing a white elephant gift worth $10
- Dinner will be served at the party.
- We will wrap up around 7 p.m.

### Prayer Concerns

Did you know that our youth are being prayed for each week? The Sunday School Teachers, Youth Advisors, and Faith Formation Team prays each week for the youth.

### Staff Contact Info

Brendon De Boer  
Youth Director  
Church Office: (708) 246-5220

Brendon’s email: JupyandUpy@gamil.com  
After business hours you can reach Brendon at (712) 441-6708
Help Provide Purified Water to Nueva Paz

“... for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was naked and you gave me clothing... (Matt. 25:35,36)

Nueva Paz is a small, rural farming town and most of the church members live in the town and surrounding area. The town is very poor – all of Cuba is poor. Food is not plentiful, basic medicines are hard to get and the availability of running water is inconsistent. The water, when they get it, is not “clean.” Purified and “safe” water for ourselves and our children is something we take for granted. In Nueva Paz when the water does run, it’s not purified and it’s not always safe.

PCWS plans to partner with First-Trinity Presbyterian in Laurel, MS to fund and install a LWW system at our partner church in Nueva Paz, Cuba early next year. Donations will go directly toward the team’s fundraising goal of $15,000.

Purified water can decrease illnesses such as cholera and cancer. It will also bring community members together as this water will be accessible to the entire community from the church. Community members are hopeful to have clean water to drink and cook with. Please give as you are able to advance our goal of raising these funds before January 1, 2018. After that, there is a $5000 increase in price.

Imagine:
$25.00. Can help provide water containers for families
$50.00. Can help purchase PVC pipes and other components of the purification system
$75.00. Can help purchase larger sinks at the site
$150.00. Can help fund Water filters for purification system

You may give by check—mark “Clean Water” in the memo or online and choose Cuba Support.

Purified water . . .

Priceless!
The Gift of Warmth

We continue our annual tradition of collecting and donating gently used coats and jackets for men, women and children at Margaret’s Village (formerly 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 at both the Margaret’s Village/Believe Shelters and Sharing Connections 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 Fair
Sunday, December 3, 2017

Please join the Mission Committee at our annual Alternative Giving Event during the Advent Fair on Sunday, December 3. 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.

PAL Craftaid is a member of the Fair Trade Federation and features a variety of sculpted olivewood ornaments, crosses and home décor items, as well as other small gift items, imported from Palestine. Sales of these items support families, schools, elderly groups and community cooperatives in East Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank.

Living Waters for the World (LWW) is a global ministry of the PCUSA Synod of Living Waters with active water purification systems operating in over 800 communities within 25 countries around the world. Over 40 systems are presently operating in Cuba alone. (See the article on page 8)

The Shine Project jewelry will be back, too. Handmade by high school students in Phoenix AZ, Shine also involves the students in customer service, shipping, jewelry design, tee shirt design, new product design, sales, and events as they work to earn college scholarships.

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 International, Church World Service, Presbyterian Mission, Walmart gift cards for Margaret’s Village and an opportunity to donate to the Christmas Joy Offering, all just down the hall in the Graham Charter Room!
Thank you for your service at PCWS in November! We can’t do it without you.

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

**Second Baptist Food Pantry run:** David and Jane Boxell

**Crushed cans:** David and Jane Boxell, Mary Jo and Ron Blough, Mindy McMahon and Davis McMahon

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

**Flowers in December:** Laurie Merrifield, Sue Eck, Sue Kovalick

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**UPY Cookie Walk Needs Your Help!**

On Sunday, December 3, the youth will be hosting their annual Cookie Walk! All cookies sold will directly help with funding for the missions trip to Brunswick, Georgia, this summer. In order to make this fundraiser work and for our youth to succeed, we need YOUR help. Our bake sale is made up completely of donated baked goods from people like you! If you would like to help our youth, please plan on baking a pan of your secret recipe bars, fresh chocolate chip cookies, or whatever it is that you’re known for! We would love it if you could please sign up on the bulletin board at church or online. This helps us get a good understanding of how much baked goods we have coming in as well as what kind of goods we have. We are requesting that all baked goods be brought to church on Saturday, December 2, or Sunday, December 3 by 8:30 a.m. Please plan on leaving them in the kitchen on the first floor of the church.

Then, after worship, please plan on coming over to Room 202, where you can pick up the best goodies in the land! In addition to helping our UPYs by donating, you will be helping them with your gift which lowers costs and creates opportunity for our youth. Thank you all in advance!

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**Theodore Francis Turner,** born October 2, 2017 to first time parents Emily and Patrick Turner, who now live in Boulder, Colorado. Proud grandparents are Scott and Cindi Karstens.

**Austin Alan Zabor,** born November 8, 2017 to Bobby and Lori Ingersoll Zabor and sister Hannah. Proud grandparents are Pastor Bill and Roberta Ingersoll.

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**Support us when you shop this holiday season**

*Buy your gifts and holiday essentials at smile.amazon.com. You shop. Amazon donates.*

**We’re Social! Are You?**

Follow us, share our information with your friends and family!
We Extend Sympathy to:

The family of longtime friend of PCWS Marie Vejsada, on her death Saturday, November 4, 2017.

Rebecca McClintock and family on the death of her mother, November 18, 2017.

Member Updates:

Theresa Dixon’s correct cell number is 630-303-3148.

News Deadlines

Bulletin: Submit announcements to the church office by 9:00 a.m. Wednesday morning. Email to pcws@presbyws.org.

Weekly Connection: Submit information by 5:00 p.m. Tuesday for inclusion in the Thursday email.

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.
Upcoming Events in December

Dec. 3  Hanging of the Greens
       Advent Fair, Cookie Walk
       Alternative Giving Fair
Dec. 5  Deacons
Dec. 6  Faith Formation Committee
       Worship Committee
Dec. 7  Presbyterian Women
Dec. 10 All Church Caroling Event
       *Glad Tidings* Article Deadline
Dec. 13 Personnel Committee
Dec. 14 Finance Committee
Dec. 17 Christmas Pageant
Dec. 20  Session
Dec. 24  Christmas Eve (See Front Page for Worship Times)
Dec. 25 Christmas Day
       (Church & Offices Closed)
Dec. 27  Prepare *Glad Tidings* for mailing
Dec. 26-29 Holiday Office Hours
        (9:00 a.m.—noon)

Upcoming Events in January

Jan. 1  New Years Day
       (Church and Offices Closed)
Jan. 2  Deacons
Jan. 3  Faith Formation Committee
       Worship Committee
Jan. 7  Presbyterian Women
Jan. 5  Family Camp
Jan. 10 *Glad Tidings* Article Deadline
       Personnel Committee
Jan. 11 Finance Committee
Jan. 15 Martin Luther King Day
       (Church and Offices Closed)
Jan. 17  Session
Jan. 22 PCWS Book Group
       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.