Glad Tidings
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WESTERN SPRINGS
MARCH, 2018

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER at PCWS

The Lenten journey, which began with our Ash Wednesday Service on February 14, culminates with Holy Week, as we reflect upon Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem and the speed with which the crowd turns from triumphant shouts of welcome into the city to the tragic shouts of “Crucify him.” The journey includes gathering with his disciples around the table in an upper room to observe the Last Supper, to witnessing his crucifixion at Golgotha outside the city, to receiving the incredible good news in a garden near the city of his resurrection on that first Easter morning. We hope you will join us on this journey. Here are the ways we will gather at PCWS during Holy Week:

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 25
• 8:15 a.m.- Community Blessing of the Palms Service at Tower Green (rain site: Grand Ave Community Center)
• 9:30 a.m. at PCWS- Festive Music by the Chancel Choir, a palm processional and celebration to open the service and ends with a Passion Sunday theme.

Maundy Thursday, March 29
• 6:30 p.m.- Maundy Thursday meal in the Jones Room
• 7:15 p.m.- Communion and Tenebrae (service of shadows) In the Jones Room with Highlands Presbyterian Church.

Good Friday, March 30
7:00 p.m.- Good Friday service at Highlands Presbyterian Church - 1901 W. 58th Place, LaGrange (just east of Wolf Road)

Easter Sunday, April 1
• 6:30 a.m.- Sunrise service with coffee and donuts following
• 9:30 a.m.- Easter Worship (only one sanctuary service this year because of Spring Break)

Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation—March 4

The Session has called for the annual meeting of the congregation and corporation to be held on Sunday, March 4th, following worship. The meeting will be called to order immediately after the 9:30 worship service. The agenda for the meeting is a review of church programs, ministries, mission, and finances for 2017 and a presentation, by the Session, of the 2018 budget that has been approved by the Session. A copy of the Annual Report will be included with the Glad Tidings mailed to each household, and you may pick up a copy at church on Sunday, February 25. At the meeting, new officers of the corporation will be elected.

While the annual meeting may often seem quite mundane, please know that the lay leadership of the church demonstrated at such meetings is one of the great contributions of the Presbyterian family to the Church Universal (thank you, John Calvin!) The annual meeting is just one of the many outward expressions of the Reformation doctrine of “the priesthood of all believers.”
Easter- A Complete Transformation!

In an Easter sermon preached in Germany in 1940, just before he was arrested by Hitler’s Gestapo, a pastor, Helmut Gollwitzer, said this: “On Easter, a complete transformation took place...that which was certain has become doubtful, and that which was doubtful has become very sure.” Notice this transformation that takes place when the women visit Jesus’ tomb that first Easter. (Mark 16:1-8).

As they made their way along in the first light of dawn, what were their certainties? The main one was that Jesus was dead. They had seen him crucified, watched him die, seen his body taken down from the cross and buried. There could be no doubt about that. And that led to another great certainty: here in this world, death is stronger than God. For it was in Jesus that God’s own self was revealed to them. Yet death had taken him as it takes us all. God may be almighty in heaven, but here on earth, death is king. There could be no doubt about that.

And from those two certainties, came all those bitter, worldly-wise certainties that people have lived by in every age. Let me mention only a few:

- Nice guys finish last.
- Might makes right.
- Look out for number one.
- Don’t get mad, get even.

Surely the women thought that these tough and disillusioned views of reality were the only certainties that we have. Here they come around the bend with their certainties and when they looked up, they saw a sight that turned everything upside down. The stone was rolled back. The tomb was empty. There was a messenger there saying, “He has risen!” (Mark 16:6)

What was demanded of them was a radical transformation. As Gollwitzer says, “That which was certain has become doubtful, and that which was doubtful has become very sure.” They were certain Jesus was dead, but now it was doubtful. They were certain death was stronger than God but now it is doubtful. They were certain “nice guys finish last” and “might makes right”, but these and all those other worldly wise views of reality are now doubtful.

And on the other side, their doubts became certainties. They doubted the stone could be rolled away (Mark 16:3), but now they know it can be. They doubted there were any cracks in the universal reign of death, but now they know the cracks are there. They doubted God’s power on earth, but now they are sure of God’s power. Yes, a remarkable transformation took place. Christian friends, we are to live in the light of and in the power of that Easter transformation!

Grace and peace,

Bill

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

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

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

Lenten lunches continue on March 6th and March 13th for lunch and worship. Each week, we will gather for a light lunch of soup and sandwiches followed by a brief (10-15 min. time of worship that will consist of prayer, music, scripture and reflections). Cost of lunch is free will donation.

Members of the community are invited to join us so spread the word. Lenten Lunches begin at 12:00 noon. Worship will start at 12:35 p.m. and everything will end by 12:50 p.m. for those who need to return to work or have an appointment.

PCWS Book Club

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

March 26
The Round House by Louise Erdrich

April 23
The Spymistress by Jennifer Chiaverni

Lenten Lunches

THANK YOU, KRISTENE!
Mark your calendar for Sunday, March 11

In gratitude for the four and ½ years of service she has rendered the Presbyterian Church of Western Springs, a farewell party is being thrown for our much-loved Office Administrator, Kristene Hiepler-Hartwig, who left our employ in mid-February to take a full-time job in the office for the Presbytery of Chicago. It will be held in the Jones Room on Sunday, March 11th, immediately following worship.

A highlight of the party will be the entertainment! Since we have never seen her in her role as church musician (her other part time church job), Kristene and her husband, Jim, will be playing and singing for us.

Please join us for this very special send off on March11!

Letter from Kristene

To my family at PCWS. It’s been a whirlwind 2 months already in 2018. I am overwhelmed with your outpouring of love, prayers and gifts, first from Christmas, then for my husband, Jim, after his fall in January, and now for me as I leave PCWS. Thank you for all of it! I will miss this place of worship, outreach and mission, and I will miss all of you; what is happening with your families and lives. We have touched, consoled, and celebrated with each other, and I am blessed to have you in my life. My home email is kristenelhh@gmail.com if you ever want to drop a line.

Love,
Kristene Hiepler-Hartwig
Welcome Laura Fruit, Assistant Treasurer

With the resignation of John Boxell, Laura Fruit has graciously consented to volunteer as our Assistant Treasurer. Laura Fruit was raised a Lutheran and became a Presbyterian after she married. She has served as an Elder and Deacon. Before her three children arrived (2 boys, 1 girl) she worked at an insurance agency as an Ocean Marine Claims Examiner. Over the space of twenty years Laura has worked for three small companies doing payroll and bookkeeping. She has been singing in church choirs since grade school. Besides singing in our chancel choir, she also sings with The Tower Chorale, West Suburban Symphony Singers, and Encore Chorale.

Update from the Pastor Nominating Committee

The members of your PNC are still working hard to find a new solo pastor for PCWS.

Many of you have approached PNC members with questions. This is good. It means you still care about PCWS and us. As you know we cannot share specifics but here’s a brief update.

1. We are working very well together.
2. We are conducting a nation-wide search.
3. Since November, we have received LOTS (a very-specific word, isn’t it?) of Pastor Information Forms. Each of these 4 – 8 page documents is reviewed and evaluated by the entire PNC. This is just the beginning of a multi-step process to get to know a candidate and to learn what he or she may offer us.
4. We have started conducting formal interviews.

The PNC continues to meet regularly to discuss dossiers, conduct telephone screening interviews and watch or hear sermons. We plan to visit churches of potential candidates. The candidates and your PNC are trying to truly discern whether we are called to serve together in a long-term relationship.

What we ask of you is that you continue to pray for the committee and the candidates. We are trying to find the right candidate to lead PCWS into the future.

Submitted by Kay Kelly and Walt Kovalick, PNC Co-Chairpersons

Save the Date:
March 10, 2018

Come one, come all, to the amazing dinner of a lifetime! This annual event is one of PCWS’ finest and classiest nights. The Youth come together to create a dining experience like none other!

Back by popular demand: Three Seatings at 5 p.m., 6 p.m. & 7 p.m.!

Tickets will be going on sale soon and wrapping up on March 4, so don’t wait too long! The prices are going to be the same this year as they have in the past and are as follows:

Advance Purchase Tickets are: $7 for Adults and $4 for children
At the Door: $8 for adults   $5 for children

We hope to see you there!

Theology and Brew

During winter and early spring, Theology and Brew will be on hiatus. There are several other opportunities during Lent such as the Lenten Lunch for your continued faith formation.
I am so thankful for the support you all have shown me as I embark upon this new adventure of leading the youth here. January ended with a BASH! Thank you to the over 25 kids that came out to my welcome party Fast Food Frenzy!! February was a fabulous month. Balloon-O-Gram sales were impressive as always and our mission trip budget is the proof. Also, an overwhelming shout of gratitude to the parents, UPYs and JUPYs who saw to its continued success by helping deliver grams despite the snow storm.

Our other February game changer was an X Box game system tournament. It was fun for all. Maybe we will make it into an annual event! Lots of our youth came by, many bringing friends, giving our UPYs a new energy for which we were long overdue. Room 303 is starting to feel more like home for all of us! (Special thanks to both Hank Vaughan Jr. and Hank Vaughan III for their efforts as well as my A Team that always comes through when I need them.)

I haven’t had much time to enjoy the company of our JUPYs due to the confirmation schedule so I am looking forward to a little down time with them soon.

March 11 will be the next meeting for JUPYs at 5:00 p.m. and UPYs at 6:30 p.m. We will be calming it down and keeping it real at the church for a night of alien, board games and comradeship. I hope everyone has a safe and fun-filled spring break!

Candice Mares
Youth Leader

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Balloon-A-Grams

Thank you all for purchasing balloon-a-grams this year! The UPYs and I really appreciate the support. We sold 236 “Grams.” This will help us out immensely and will go towards renting vans, and purchasing fuel for our trip! Total Raised : $2,513!

Thanks again, and don’t forget to purchase your Spaghetti Dinner tickets (which is on Saturday, March 10), to continue in helping us raise funds for the trip!

One Recipient raved:
“My heart is full of happiness right now thanks to you. What an incredibly thoughtful gesture, thinking of the kids with these balloon-a-grams from your wonderful church! The personalized cards made the kids smile! They came at a wonderful time, too. So nice they are loved by others.”

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Youth Mission Trip
July 22—28, 2018
Jacksonville, FL

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Friday, March 2, 2018
Presbyterian Women
March 1, 12:30 p.m.
“Should I Stay or Should I Go”

Many people struggle to make decisions about the best living situation for themselves or an aging parent. Most seniors, if given the choice, would choose to remain in their own home for as long as possible, and most families want to respect that choice. What is it that makes staying home possible? This is very subjective and varies in each situation. Many family members or caregivers have a threshold—an event in which they know that living at home is no longer an option, yet others are absolute in their commitment to keeping themselves or their loved one at home no matter the circumstances. There are many options, some of which people don’t always think about. The presentation will focus on tips to help make staying at home easier and warning signs of when in-home care or a care facility is necessary.

Danette (Dani) Krogh has nearly 30 years of experience in senior care in Illinois and is past president of the Illinois Homecare Providers Association. In addition to graduate degrees, she holds a Certificate in Gerontology.

Lunch at First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange. Call the PCWS office (708-246-5220) by February 27 to make a reservation. Cost $12. Carpooling from PCWS will be available.

March 2—Church Women United World Day of Prayer at All Saints Episcopal Church, 4370 Woodland Ave, Western Springs. 9:30 a.m. Bible study, 10:30 a.m. program.

Afternoon Circle will meet March 20, 1:00 p.m. in the Graham Charter Room. Lesson 7 “In Community with the Hope of the Future” from Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews by Melissa Bane Sevier. Discussion will be led by Rev. Tia Zimmerman Cole.

Evening Circle will meet March 27 at 1:00 p.m. in the Graham Charter Room. Dessert will be furnished. We will be discussing Tears We Cannot Stop by Michael Dyson. Books are available at local libraries.

Dear PCWS Congregation,

We hope this letter finds you staying healthy with all the winter bugs going around. We have just installed a new set of eager, energetic Deacons who have joined the veterans already serving. We have organized ourselves, and we want to remind you about some opportunities for you to help and serve others. There are many in our midst that are natural, joyful helpers and givers. We would love to have you on board with us!

As disciples of Christ, we are called to serve and love one another. It brings joy to serve, and on these gray days, here are some ways you can experience the joy of giving:

Heartwarmers – Soup Donations
Welcome! Now is a great time to whip up a batch of your favorite belly-warming soup and donate a jar or two of it to Heartwarmers. This wonderful PCWS program provides non-emergency meals to members and friends when a need is recognized. Soup is delivered during pastoral and at-home communion visits. Glass jars and labels are available in a marked cubby outside the Pastors’ offices. Once you’ve filled your jars at home, label them with the type of soup and date made. Then bring them back to church and place them in the freezer located in the room behind the CE supply closet. Bags of cookies are welcome too!

Greeters and Ushers – There are two ways to sign up to greet and usher at our 9:30 a.m. worship service. You can sign up in the lower hallway next to the (Continued on next Page)
Did You Know.....

There are many ways to financially support PCWS:

**In Person:** Sunday mornings you can place your contribution in the Offering Plate.

**By Mail:** You can mail your contribution to the church office.

**From your Bank:** You can schedule a contribution through your bank – commonly referred to as “Bill Pay.” This option provides convenience for you, consistency for the church and is free to you and the church.

**Online:** PCWS offers a Secure Web Page where you can make one-time contributions or schedule payments to the church. You can contribute toward your pledge, pay for Chancel Flowers, Per Capita, and more. There are several options for how you contribute:
- Use your checking or savings account to automatically transfer funds from your account to the church’s bank account. The church is charged 25 cents for each transaction plus 0.75%.
- Use your Credit or Debit Card. The church is charged 3% for each transaction.

The last two options also provide convenience for you and consistency for the church. If you choose to use our online page, we ask that you consider increasing your contribution to cover the processing fees.

To use the PCWS webpage, go to www.presbyws.org, click on the Giving Tab, then “Online Giving” and then the “Online Giving” button and you can set up or change an automatic contribution, make a one-time contribution or view your online history. It’s easy, safe and convenient!

However you choose to support PCWS, we thank you.

The Finance Committee
PCWS Cares

Our PCWS congregation shows it is a responsive and giving one of all ages. Youth Director, Candice Mares sought the help of Youth member neighbors to shovel snow for Banovics while they focused on health issues.

Our admiration for our congregation is shown on Gertzmeier family member faces after a heavy snow fall in February. As Betty and Paul expressed, “You are all awesome. It’s all cleared now! Thanks to all of you. We love this church family.”

As we begin the Lenten season, one of the things we consider as a congregation is our Lenten denominational offering: One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). Officially dedicated on Easter Sunday, April 1st, this offering is a long-standing component of our Presbyterian heritage.

Each year, OGHS ministries provides immediate and long-term assistance to many in need via three essential programs:

1) Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
2) Self-Development of People
3) Presbyterian Hunger Program.

Many of the families and communities served have been affected by natural disasters. Others, many poor and hungry, are empowered by efforts which support the development of community gardening and micro-enterprise programs.

Throughout the season of Lent, you will find a series of inserts in your Sunday bulletins, highlighting the assistance provided through OGHS ministries. Please take a couple of minutes to read each insert to learn more about how we can each make a difference in the lives of many through our collective support of this program.

While this offering is officially dedicated on Easter Sunday, donations can be made any time during Lent, either with a specially designated envelope in the 2017 box of offering envelopes some may have received, with a check written to PCWS noting “OGHS” on the memo line, or give online at www.presbyws.org. Simply select the “donate” button and type One Great Hour of Sharing in the “change it here” box.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of a gift to the One Great Hour of Sharing ministry this Easter.

St. Patricks Day
Saturday, March 17, 2018
Mission and Service

Nueva Paz—The Wheels are in Motion!

Thanks to our children’s generous and thoughtful gifts, our congregation’s generous holiday giving and our prolific aluminum recycling program, the process of bringing purified water to our partner church and their surrounding community in Nueva Paz, Cuba continues!

Our partner in this endeavor, First-Trinity Presbyterian Church in Laurel, Mississippi, has installed several Living Waters for the World (LWW) systems throughout Cuba and has continued to make progress on our installation. After establishing their connection with Nueva Paz and identifying the Cuban team responsible for preparation, final installation, operation and maintenance of the system, throughout the course of the last several months, they’ve also secured and assembled the system materials, guided the prep work in Cuba, put together their US team and have begun the process of obtaining visas and travel arrangements for the Installation trip the week of April 3-10.

They’ve saved two spots on the team for PCWS and Mindy McMahon and Kathy Wennerstrum have jumped at the chance to participate. In addition to bringing LWW educational supplies to Cuba, we will also be bringing our usual jam-packed suitcases filled with your generous donations and gifts for our friends and family in the Nueva Paz congregation. Please keep an eye out for the donations list, which will be posted on the Mission bulletin board and included in bulletins soon.

Below is a photo of the system that will be installed inside the church’s community and education building. Additional photos are available on the Mission bulletin board showing some of the preparation that’s been taking place in Cuba. The prep work involves the installation of a new underground cistern beneath the church’s courtyard, along with the construction of an outdoor bottling station, also in the courtyard between the sanctuary and community buildings. As you might imagine, materials for the prep work have been challenging to secure in Cuba, so this has required additional sourcing efforts and a lot of physical labor on the part of the Nueva Paz team. The promise of providing purified water for their community keeps them at it!

We’ll continue to keep you posted throughout the next several weeks as the trip begins to take shape. What a wonderful gift from our community to theirs to begin the New Year!
Thank you for your service at PCWS in February! 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, Kathy Wennerstrum

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 March:  Sue Kovalick

Member notes:

Dear faithful friends,

Thank you for the many kindnesses you shared during my recent illness. The flowers added beauty and color during dreary days. The delicious meals were savored and enjoyed and now I know that there are many fabulous cooks at PCWS.

The visits by Deacons were truly gifts from God. The interchanges we shared let me understand that my energy would return, in time, and I would be able to participate again. The visits were uplifting and so much appreciated.

The many prayers were felt and my faith strong as my body healed.

Thank you ALL for being friends and a strong support for me. I look forward to being with you soon.

Blessings and grateful Thanks,
Carol Stoub

Address Update:
Deb Matthews
9032 Greene Dr
Providence Village, TX 76227
Same phone number: 630-414-3590

Loose Change Offering

Did you know that all loose change placed in the offering plates has been designated to fight local hunger. These donations are split evenly between the Pine Avenue Church Food Pantry and the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Last year PCWS raised $6,620 through loose change donations.

It is important to remember that only loose change is designated to these important missions, paper bills will not. So, next time you have a little jingle in your pocket or purse, please think of making a positive "change" to reduce local hunger.
Remember in Prayer

팔 The Ahmeti Family
팔 Paul Banovic
팔 Kimberly Bone
_pal Diane Markley Bruser
_pal George Bruser
_pal Phyllis Cordell
_pal Billye Dvorak
_pal Paulette Erickson
_pal Becky Glasscock
_pal Marc Goldstein
_pal Elaine Greco
_pal Joshua Haberkorn
_pal Ronald Halla
_pal Rich Kanak
_pal Ruth Kaduke
_pal Phil Kasik
_pal Kathleen Kircher
_pal John Kregg
_pal Barbara Lennie
_pal Deborah Matthews
_pal Evie Meyer
_pal Debi Mirlenbrink
_pal Norb Mirlenbrink
_pal Peggy Mirlenbrink
_pal Mary Myers
_pal Holly Oliver
_pal Ginger Oswald
_pal Sharon Pederson
_pal Marge Sandrik
_pal Beata B. Sak
_pal Mike Slesicki
_pal Betty Staab
_pal Carol Stoub
_pal Gloria Torres
_pal Betty Toft
_pal Norman Toft
_pal Teri Tuffner
_pal Theresa Ybanez
_pal Cheryl, Deb Mathews mother
_pal Tom L.
_pal Brian, friend of the Smyers family
_pal Our men and women serving our country in the Armed Services
_pal Donna (Friend of Joyce Smyers)
_pal Michael (friend of Jane Norman)
_pal Presbyterian Church Congregation in Nueva Paz, Cuba
_pal The people of Syria, especially family members of PCWS Interfaith Women’s Book Group

We’re Social! Are You?
Follow us, share our information with your friends and family!

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 April Glad Tidings for mailing—Meet March 27, 10:30 a.m. in the Upper Room.
## Upcoming Events in March

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| Mar. 10 | *Glad Tidings* Article Deadline  
Spaghetti Dinner |
| Mar. 11 | Daylight Savings Time Begins  
Farewell Reception for Kristene |
| Mar. 17 | St. Patrick’s Day |
| Mar. 21 | Interfaith Book Group  
Session |
| Mar. 25 | Palm Sunday |
| Mar. 26 | Book Group |
| Mar. 27 | Prepare *Glad Tidings* for mailing |
| Mar. 29 | Maundy Thursday |
| Mar. 30 | Good Friday |

## Upcoming Events in April

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To view a full calendar of events, please visit our webpage: [www.presbyws.org](http://www.presbyws.org) and click on the “Calendar” link at the top of the page.