MAD CAMP - July 15—19

We will be having MAD Camp in July this summer, it is open to children ages 7-15. The musical rehearsals will be Sunday, July 15 to Thursday, July 19 and will be from 1:00 - 3:30 p.m. with the performance on Sunday, July 22, during worship. We are also in the process of confirming an afternoon performance at Plymouth Place for the afternoon of the 22nd.

Cost of MAD Camp will be $40 per child or $50 per family. Scholarships are available. Registration is available on our website. A minimum of 20 participants is needed for MAD camp to be successful and the registration fee is due no later than July 1st.

Please contact Stephanie Coates or Mindy McMahon for more information.

Pentecost Is May 20th

Sunday, May 20th, is the Day of Pentecost, one of the three most holy (and joyful!) days of the Christian year, along with Christmas and Easter. Any child in the church can tell you Jesus was born on Christmas and any bereaved Christian can tell you that Jesus was raised from the dead on Easter. But what happened at Pentecost?

It is the day we celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit to the first Christians (see Acts 2:1-21). Those early believers, all of whom received the gift of the Spirit, had a new sense of power and courage, daring to oppose rulers and mobs. They were united as a community of faith, becoming what we now call the Church. Many would call Pentecost the birthday of the Church. They received a renewed sense of mission, being sent forth to claim the world for God by preaching the gospel and ministering to human need. Such is the Spirit of Pentecost some 2,000 years ago and today.

We hope to capture some of that spirit in our worship on May 20th. As we seek by God’s Spirit to renew PCWS in preparation for this church’s next Pastor, Pentecost is a vital step in that journey. The highlight of the service will be receiving the confirmation class as active members of PCWS (see “From the Interim Pastor’s Study” article to learn more about that). Please join us as the Pentecost story is brought to life with banner, streamers, several languages, Scripture, prayer, and song.

Youth Sunday – May 6

Mark your calendar for this year’s Youth Sunday service. Our youth will lead us in worship focused on ‘LOVE’ and growth and transition, they are excited to share their unique perspective.

The Youth will enjoy brunch together following church at Blueberry Hill in La Grange.

SAVE THE DATE
Manse Makeover
Saturday, May 19 – 9:00 a.m.

Calling any and all PCWS church members and volunteers!! We need all hands on deck to prepare the manse as we narrow our search for our new pastor. It will not be long now and with the rites of Spring upon us, we need to get to work.

Please plan to help this day. We will be working both inside and outside as we clean and spruce up the manse. Plan to wear your work clothes and a list of tasks will be ready for you when you arrive. The more folks that attend and help out, the easier the workload and the more we can accomplish!!

Thank you in advance for signing up online or in the lower hallway to help us plan the activities.

Any questions, please feel free to reach out to Sal Melilli or Walt Kovalick.
Confirmation Class to Be Received on Pentecost Sunday, May 20

“Christians are made, not born,” said the third century theologian Tertullian. Following Jesus Christ is not something that comes naturally, without faith, commitment, and training. Confirmation is an historic means of helping to shape Christians. Today, making Christians has become challenging work for the church. So many factors in modern life seem to conspire against the church in its efforts to make disciples.

Confirmation at PCWS began last September for seventh and eighth grade students who chose to participate. A gifted leadership team consisting of Rogers Malone, Tai Cole, and Brendon DeBoer (until his departure from PCWS in December) have taught and guided the process, with an adult PCWS mentor for each confirmation class member.

I thought it would be helpful to share some information about the Presbyterian understanding of this process. Confirmation has as its goal discipleship, helping form people who more closely resemble disciples of Jesus Christ in their lifestyle, beliefs, and values. Thus, we are more interested in our youth (and adults!) knowing and following Christ than we are in them knowing “about” Christ.

On the one hand, “the life of the mind in the service of God” is important to Presbyterian Christians. It is important to know what we believe and why we believe it. A person who knows what he or she believes has a strength that others lack. On the other hand, the Christian faith is much more than a mere “head trip.” It is a way of life together. It is loving God with all our being... heart, soul, mind and strength... and loving our neighbors as we love ourselves. The Christian faith involves the total person. It is a personal experience and a relational experience.

Confirmation does not begin or end our growth as Christians. Our youth are already “children of the covenant.” Confirmation is a major step but not the only step in one’s life-long faith journey. Our prayer is that each of us, no matter how young or old, is continuing to grow in the faith.

Those in this year’s confirmation class who will be asked to profess their faith in Jesus Christ and become active members of PCWS on May 20 are: Sam Blough, Carly Booth, Nick Boxell, Gabrielle Cloutier, John Cole, Mark Dold, Jayson Fronk, Abby Gertsmeier, Grace Hughes, Henry Lobash, Olivia Mezan, Katie Pendleton, and David Slezak.

Please keep them in your prayers as they and all of us seek to follow our Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,
Bill
Pastor Bill

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

For a complete list of our staff, visit our website: www.presbyws.org.
“Welcome Our New Pastor”

“We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace that God has given the churches of Macedonia... who voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means ... for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints.” (from 2 Corinthians 8:1-4)

The special mid-year financial campaign kicked off on Sunday, April 22, with an announcement of our theme, “Welcome Our New Pastor.” As a session, we prayerfully came to the conclusion that a new pastor should come into a financially healthy church.

As we come to the close of our capital campaign and will soon be making some necessary investments into both the aesthetics and infrastructure of the church, we can’t forget about unexpected needs that come up. This particular campaign is focused on two primary items. First, the travel and expenses for the PNC in their search for our new pastor. Second, long overdue upgrades to the Manse, as our new pastor will likely utilize this as their home.

The campaign will run from April 22nd through May 20th. As you are likely already aware, you can pledge in different ways! They are:

1. On-line on our website, or
2. You may return the pledge card that was sent to you earlier in the mail; either by return mail or simply place the card in the collection plate on Sunday; or
3. Send an email to stewardship@presbyws.org with your pledge amount.

Whichever method you choose, please remember to submit your pledge no later than May 20th so that Session can allocate the needs appropriately. The goal of this financial campaign is $75,000 and the Leadership & Ministries Committee is providing weekly updates via a chart in the Jones room.

Every single gift is vital to our church. Please make your commitment today! If you have not made a pledge for this year, we ask that you commit to helping PCWS locate and welcome our next Pastor by pledging to the “Welcome Our New Pastor Campaign”. If you have already pledged for 2018, we thank you, and ask that you consider making an additional pledge to the “Welcome Our New Pastor Campaign” as a response to God’s love and the many blessings God has bestowed. Thank you for your faithful support and for all the gifts that you share.

Should you have any questions about the campaign, the Church’s operations or budget, please don’t hesitate to contact our committee members or Interim Pastor.

Sincerely,
The Leadership & Ministries Committee
Chad Sellman, Moderator
Condy Dixon
From the Session

For those of you unable to attend service on April 22, Session announced that we are moving forward with the projects associated with the recent Capital Campaign, and at the April Session meeting, we put budgets and timelines behind the major projects. And, subsequently, prioritized the projects, based on needs, weather concerns, and Government approvals. While our budgets are still a work in progress, we feel we have good initial bids with appropriate minimums and maximums established.

Here’s a quick synopsis of the top 5 priorities, budgets and timelines we’ve established:

1. Manse repair - $45,000 - $50,000, Begin immediately, complete by June 1.

2. New Organ Contract signed and ordered - up to $132,000 approved – Signing contract before 5/1 to avoid price increase by manufacturer. Should arrive within 6 months. Hopefully installed by First Sunday of Advent (December 2).

3. Water Drainage repair - $80,000 - $110,000 – Begin immediately – End date unknown as we still have design and Village approval hurdles to overcome. Certainly, completed before Winter – we hope – Next Winter – if this winter ever leaves!

4. New HVAC for the Sanctuary - $120,000 - $150,000 – Accepting bids now and will determine contractor and award the business asap. However, the work itself won’t begin until after Summer is over – projecting September 1.

5. Sanctuary Update / renovation / new carpet. Getting some additional bids this week. Once bids are finalized, we’ll work this into the schedule around the rest of the infrastructure work.

We thank the Capital Campaign Committee, past and present Session members, and the congregation for their patience and support!

“How’s the search coming along?”

“What’s new with the PNC?”

“Are you getting close to finding us a pastor?”

We know your questions and we’ve been intentionally vague with our answers. We encourage you to speak with a PNC member if you have questions about the process. We just can’t give any specifics.

The PNC continues to meet regularly to discuss dossiers, conduct screening interviews, listen to sermons, and visit churches of candidates. If we like what we see, hear, and learn, candidates will meet with the PNC for further conversations. This will allow us to examine his or her qualifications and help all of us to discern whether there is a fit between us.

Some Sundays we will be in church at PCWS – we still need to be connected to each of you. Some Sundays we will be in church, but not here. Can’t say more than that. And some Sundays we’ll be visiting family and friends – yes we do still have these, too.

We prayerfully continue this special job on behalf of all of you. The PNC is comforted by your continued offerings of support. We remain grateful for your prayers for this process.

Committing today for tomorrow
Calling All Graduates!

The Baccalaureate Breakfast will be Sunday, May 6, at 8:30 a.m. in the Jones Room before Youth Sunday worship. This is the time when we celebrate our seniors’ growth and time at PCWS. We will pray over them, and ask for God’s blessing on their lives!

Soooo . . . seniors, parents and confirmation mentors, please plan on joining us for breakfast and worship!

From the Youth Director

This spring has been a time of reflection, as well as planning, and preparing as we continue to shape the youth program into something that works for all of us. With all of these new beginnings, I want to again extend my thanks for everyone’s support and love.

I am so proud of each and every one of the youth here at PCWS! We are surrounded by so many talented young people and I consider myself lucky to be a part of the mix. I would like to share Mother Teresa’s “Anyway” poem . . .

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered;
Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;
Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;
Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;
Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;
Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;
Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;
Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;
Give the world the best you’ve got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and your God;
It was never between you and them anyway.

*The original version of this poem was written by Kent M. Keith*
Presbyterian Women
Thursday, May 3 – 12:30 p.m.

Join us at PCWS as we explore the beginnings of America’s favorite girl detective. Spunky, curious, and more fearless than she should be, Nancy Drew burst on the scene in 1930 and was an immediate success with girls yearning for a feminist role model before they even knew they wanted one! Nancy continues to be read today, more than 80 years since her creation—mostly by granddaughters, encouraged by grandmothers who have fond memories of their time spent with the iconic girl detective.

The story of Nancy’s creator is just as fascinating. Edward Stratemeyer was a creative and masterful storyteller as well as a marketing genius. We will learn more about him and his work when Susan Becker takes us on a trip back in time to our girlhood reading.

Lunch will be served. Cost $12. RSVP to the church by April 30.

Afternoon Circle meets May 15 at 1:00 p.m. in the Graham Charter Room. Lesson 8 “In Community with All the Saints” 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 May 22 at 6:00 p.m. Location TBD. We will wrap up our discussion of Tears We Cannot Stop by Michael Dyson and begin discussion of plans for fall. Questions: contact Nancy Glickman or Jane Boxell.

Church Women United
Friday, May 4 – 9:30 a.m.

May Friendship Day at St. James Lutheran Church, 5129 Wolf Rd, Western Springs. Bible study, 10:30 a.m. worship followed by a salad luncheon hosted by the CWU board. See Mary Jo Blough for tickets. Cost $7.00

PCWS Book Club
May 28, 7:30 p.m.

We invite anyone to join us for the last meeting of this season. Discussions are always informal and often lively! We’ll discuss:

The Last Midwife by Sandra Dallas

The Interfaith Book Group

The Interfaith Book Group will meet on Wednesday, May 9, to choose the books we will read next season.

We will meet at the Mosque Foundation leaving the church by car pool at 1:00 p.m. Please call the church office to confirm your attendance. This is always a fun filled day as we ponder and choose the books to read and share.

From the Finance Committee

Our financial statements through the first quarter are in line with the budget and within expectations. As several of our capital projects are in process, we are in a good position based on the capital campaign funding and look forward to seeing the projects come to life. We also appreciate your pledge and non-pledge giving and encourage you to share your offerings as you are able.
Summer Music at PCWS!

Summer is quickly approaching and with that, we are looking for those of you with musical gifts to share with the congregation this summer!

There are many weeks in June, July, and August that need to be filled. If interested, please, feel free to send me an email, stefcoates@presbyws.org.

We Make the Road by Walking

Where has your journey led you this year? As an individual and in your faith? As we wrap up the year of reading We Make the Road by Walking, don’t forget the journey you embarked on and the ways in which you have encountered scripture and the like. Now to continue the journey . . .

Safe Space Training

Wednesday, May 9 – 7:30 p.m.

PCWS has a policy called Safe Space. It is our child and youth protection policy required by the Presbytery and the church’s insurance company, but it is much more than that. It is about Jesus’s call to us to care for the least of these, our children. It is about our Biblical and moral mandate to live into the baptismal vows made to the children placed in our care. When you attend Safe Space training, you learn more than policy basics, you will learn about why we are called to do this. Come join us.

If you have questions about Safe Space at PCWS, please speak to Tai Cole or Michelle Hennessy.

Summer Book Study

This summer we will be reading Falling Upward by Richard Rohr. As we wrap up the book We Make the Road, it is important to remember our journey in life is not over. From the book, “In the first half of life, we are naturally and rightly preoccupied with establishing our identity—climbing, achieving, and performing. But those concerns will not serve us as we grow older and begin to embark on a further journey, one that involves challenges, mistakes, loss of control, broader horizons, and necessary suffering that actually shocks us out of our prior comfort zone. Eventually, we need to see ourselves in a different and more life-giving way.” This message of "falling down"—that is in fact moving upward—is the most resisted and counterintuitive of messages in the world's religions, including and most especially Christianity.

In Falling Upward, Father Richard Rohr—the founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation—offers a new paradigm for understanding one of the most profound of life’s mysteries: how our failings can be the foundation for our ongoing spiritual growth. Drawing on the wisdom from time-honored myths, heroic poems, great thinkers, and sacred religious texts, the author explores the two halves of life to show that those who have fallen, failed, or "gone down" are the only ones who understand "up." We grow spiritually more by doing it wrong than by doing it right.”

Discussion of the book will be encouraged during coffee hour and in Breaking Bread gatherings. The book can be ordered from Amazon or an order can be placed by the office. Cost is $13.50
Clean Water for a Generation – Living Waters for the World in Nueva Paz

Wow. Where to begin? Do we start with the incredible amount of work our brothers and sisters in Nueva Paz did in preparation for the installation of the Living Waters system? Or do we talk about hauling city water in by the truckload to fill the new underground cistern because the city pump was not operating?

Or do we talk about the expert Living Waters-trained team from Mississippi who taught us daily about building bridges through faith, mutual problem-solving, creative education and a sense of humor?

There are so many stories to share about this particular trip to Cuba, but the most important to us is to communicate the gratitude our friends in Nueva Paz expressed for the generosity and good wishes from all of you, for Jane Boxell, for our partner friends from Mississippi and most clearly, to God, for the gift of purified water that they will now share with the entire community.

Supported by the kindnesses of several locals like their welder, who worked into the night to make additional improvements to the system and bottling area, and despite issues with the city water supply, the installation went smoothly. A regular crew of teachers participated in 3 days of training in preparation for teaching their congregation and then their community about the importance of and essential uses for purified water. And their 4 trained operators have already begun a regular schedule of educating their community and dispensing purified water to anyone with a clean bottle who understands how and when to use the water.

We were moved in many ways by our friends in the Nueva Paz congregation, by others in their community, by our partners from Mississippi and by the reality that something we take for granted here can be unavailable yet so very important to other Children of God not so far away. We were regularly reminded how fortunate we were to witness this essential partnership and will happily share our stories with anyone who has a couple hours to spare!

Look for pictures and additional information on the PCWS website, Facebook page and the Mission bulletin board in the coming days. We include a few pictures of the system and people enjoying the clean water. To see more pictures, visit our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/pg/presbyws/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1812866185443101

Reduce...Reuse...Recycle

Please continue depositing aluminum items in the box just inside the lower entrance doors.

Acceptable items:
any aluminum beverage cans, aluminum foil, and aluminum baking pans

Our goals are to:
• assist in cleaning and protecting the environment
• sell the aluminum to raise money to support our sister church in Cuba

Thanks for your participation!

Monday, May 28

Church and Offices will be closed.
CLEAN WATER FOR NUEVA PAZ
Thank you for your service at PCWS in April! We can’t do it without you.

Helped in the office:  
Sue Eck, Jan Fortina, Loretta Gratias-Bremer, Mary Kae Headland, Michelle Hennessy,  
Kay Kelly, Walt Kovalick, Mary Jo Long, Judy McAtee, Mindy McMahon, Joyce Rodos, Donna Strunk,  
Carol Ulreich, Kathy Wennerstrum.

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

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

Prepared Glad Tidings for mailing:  Dorothy Andersen, Joyce Habermann, Mary Kae Headland, Donna Strunk

Flowers in April:  Sue Eck, Sue Kovalick, Laurie Merriefield, Jan Fortina, Nancy Glickman

Member notes:  
Thanks for all the food and prayers. Thought I’d update all of you. Walked the circuit from my house north to 42nd street then across the street down to 43rd street and back to my house twice tonight with Tom by my side. Now trying to stretch out without messing with my back. 2400 steps today! A record for the last 3 weeks but nowhere near the 10,000 I was used to before the ruptured disc. Baby steps.  
Kay Kelly

Bed rest worked! Emma Katherine Carie was born on March 12. She was 7 pounds, 7 ounces and 20.25 inches long. Baby and mom Stefanie are doing well. Dad Blaise and big brother Everett were thrilled to welcome her home right on schedule.

Emma Kate is the great niece of Jill and Roger Dold and Kay and Tom Kelly. Thank you for all of your prayers!

Thanks to those of you who joined us in prayer during my mother’s last days. She went to be with the Lord on Friday, March 23, at 4:00. My father and sister had been with her most of the day but left around 3:00. When I heard she had been uncommunicative, I went for a long walk in the park. Soon after I learned of her passing. We are particularly grateful for good conversations about faith, both with me, several clergy and with friends. My mom asked for our dear friend Ila to come over on Thursday night to continue those faith conversations, and Ila told me mom said “this is so comforting”. Thanks be to God that she is in the arms of Jesus and her suffering is over. Her funeral was in Cheyenne on Saturday, April 7. Patti Mangis

Dear PCWS Friends,  
Thank you for your cards and much appreciated prayers. It’s a good feeling to know so many people are sending kind and caring thoughts my way. I’m trying to be patient – taking each day as a step towards getting back to “normal” – whatever that might be!  
Sincerely,  
Ruth Riordan
To Patti Mangis on the death of her mother, Joan Hughes, on March 23rd.

Steve, Leslee, Olivia and Avery Mezan on the death of Steve’s mother, Mary Ann Mezan, on April 1st.

Congratulations to Adam & Christine Rodos, and sister Cami, on the birth of Jack Emmett Rodos on April 16. Proud Grandmother is Joyce Rodos.

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 June Glad Tidings for mailing—Meet May 24, 10:30 a.m. in the Upper Room.
## Upcoming Events in May

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<td>May 20</td>
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<td>Confirmation Sunday</td>
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<td>May 24</td>
<td>Prepare <em>Glad Tidings</em> for Mailing</td>
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<td>May 28</td>
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## Upcoming Events in June

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<td>June 26</td>
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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.