Glad Tidings
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WESTERN SPRINGS
OCTOBER, 2018

From Erik’s Desk

If you see smoke billowing from the backyard of the manse, don’t be too concerned! I’ve recently started using my new smoker. As you all learn more about me, one of the things you’ll learn is that I love traditional barbecue and all varieties of it. I’ve explored brisket in Texas, pulled pork in the Carolinas, and of course ribs from St. Louis. The culture of competitive BBQ has been one of my other “churches” in life. Building community with other people from all walks of life as we spend hours together competing has been a hobby for years.

At some point I lost interest in the competitive side of BBQ and found that what I really enjoyed about those competitions was the time spent with other people. And BBQ involves a lot of time! There’s a strange phenomenon that occurs when cooking large cuts of meat at low temperatures over long periods of time. It is called the “stall” and I wonder if you’ve heard of it. One would think that there would be a gradual increase of the internal temperature of the meat over time. While this is correct, at some point the stall happens. Basically, the temperature of the meat stops going up! It stalls out.

The unpredictable nature of the stall is that it can happen at just about any point midway through the cook and it can last for anywhere from 30 minutes up to five or six hours. You read that right! You just have to wait through the stall and you know going into the cook that the stall will come. But on the other side of the stall, as the temperature starts rising once again, you also know that the glorious finished product will be waiting.

I think in life and in our faith we can often end up in the stall. We get used to our patterns, we lose our passions, and we start wondering why we are doing what we’re doing. This can happen to us in Christian community as we struggle through processes or disagreements and it can happen in our personal faith life. It can happen in marriages, jobs, and relationships.

There’s something important to know, though, about the stall. Even during the stall the meat is still moving toward doneness. The cooking is happening. The meat is changing and becoming:

(Continued on Page 2)

Installing Our New Pastor

The Presbytery of Chicago will formally install The Rev. Erik P. Khoobyarian as our Pastor & Head of Staff on Sunday, October 14, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. Please plan on attending this important event in the life of our congregation. Since our establishment in 1955, we have installed only three other head pastors, so this does not happen very often! The worship service will include wonderful music from PCWS musicians and the preacher for the service will be Rev. Dr. John E. White, Dean of Students and Vice President for Student Relations at Princeton Theological Seminary. The installation will conclude with two charges: one to Erik as our pastor, and another to the congregation!

The Deacons are organizing a reception following the service. Contact Judy McAtee (jmcattee626@gmail.com) if you would like to help.

TRUNK or TREAT
Sunday, October 28 – 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Come join the fun! Decorate your car trunk and come to the parking lot at 4:00 p.m. ready to pass out treats to the children of our church and the community. Be sure to sign up on Signup Genius to tell us that you’re willing to participate (costumes too)! This is an opportunity for PCWS to provide a safe environment to enjoy Halloween.

Questions? Contact Loretta Gratias-Bremer (lgpat@aol.com)
Nominating Committee News

The Congregational Nominating Committee will be meeting in October to begin the process of nominating new officers (Deacons and Elders) for the church. Please prayerfully consider whether you are interested in serving in either capacity!

If you are contacted by a member of the committee, you’re invited to prayerfully consider their invitation. Do you have a recommendation of someone to serve? Or are you interested in serving? Please contact Elder Steve Wennerstrum, chair of the Congregational Nominating Committee or talk to Pastor Erik to learn more about what it means to be a Deacon or Elder.

Membership Class

Have you been worshipping with PCWS? Are you active in PCWS ministries and activities? Do you think of PCWS as your church? Join Erik and others for a conversation about church membership and what it means to formalize your involvement in this way. (No commitment to join!)

Saturday, November 17
8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Continental Breakfast is provided.
Questions? Interested? Contact Kay Kelly (klkelly10@gmail.com) or Jane Melilli (janemelilli@gmail.com)

From Erik’s Desk (Continued)

even though it isn’t measurable and it can’t be seen. In our lives – whatever the season and whatever we’re experiencing, may we trust the stall and trust that our God is working with us, within us, among us, around us, and through us toward the promise of life on the other side of the stall.

PCWS Blood Drive

October 28

In the spirit of Halloween, the Deacons are thinking about blood...giving blood, that is!

The Deacons are sponsoring the PCWS Blood Drive on Sunday, October 28th from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Jones Room. You can schedule your appointment by calling the church office or by contacting LifeSource at 877-543-3768 or at www.lifesource.org (use code WS14). Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome.

To prepare, stay hydrated, eat a healthy breakfast, roll up your sleeves, and give! If you have questions, please contact Ann DeVries or Kim Yates (kim.yates@gmail.com)

Winter Addresses

Going away for the winter? Make sure to update your address with the church office. Let us know when you’ll be leaving and returning to Illinois, so that we can make sure to forward church mail to your winter address.
Rally Day Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who came together and attended our Rally Day celebration for the new church year! Sextons, staff and congregation members were active in this jubilee making joyous music, dancing, conversing, photographing the fun on our faces, and eating delicious food. Ring, Shout and Friends inspired several want-to-be musicians among us to join them. The scavenger hunt, face painting, cookie walk, chalk art and Bouncy House offered our youth hours of fun.

Donations of food, ice, beverages, tent, flowers, along with your time and creativity, contributed to our church family’s fulfillment. Please offer comments or suggestions for next year to Loretta Gratias Bremer (lgpat@aol.com), Mindy McMahon (mindymcm@aol.com) or members of our committees.

Gathering Around the Table  Saturday, October 20th 6:00—9:00 p.m.

Gathering Around the Table will be small monthly gatherings for adult PCWS members and friends to socialize in a casual setting, allowing an opportunity to get to know each other better. Signups will be done monthly, for each gathering, as your calendar allows. “Gathering Around the Table” will give us the opportunity to make new connections and/or strengthen ones already in place.

Gatherings will vary: they may be at someone's home, or out at a restaurant. It will be up to the host/hostess for the individual gathering event to choose. The meals may be lunch out at a restaurant, a picnic in the park, a dinner in a home where the meal is planned, or a potluck where everyone is asked to bring something. We hope the gatherings will allow us all to make new connections within our church family.

The first “Gathering Around the Table” will be at a location to be announced. Sign up now, for the October gathering, online at Signup Genius.com, or on the bulletin board outside the Jones Room.

If you have questions, please email Theresa Dixon (tdixon.north@comcast.net)

“Meet and Greet” Success!

PCWS kept Erik on his toes during August and September. 14 households hosted gatherings for 140+ members and friends of PCWS. These “Meet and Greet” events have included dinners, breakfast, brunch, afternoon teas, Scotch tastings and a play date. The welcoming spirit of PCWS truly shone brightly!

Huge thanks to hosts Janet “Ande” Andersen, Eric Boeckmann, Jen and Bob Cushman, Theresa and Condy Dixon, Julie and Dom Garino, Ian Hunter, Kay and Tom Kelly, Judy McAtee, Amy and Rogers Malone, Marsha Martinaitis, Suzie and Matt Mosher, Aileen and Neil Pendleton, Sarah and Brian Sullivan and Barb and Hank Vaughan.

Interfaith Book Group

The Group will meet on Thursday, October 18 at 1:30 p.m. at the Mosque Foundation.

Ann Beran Jones will lead a discussion on The Spymistress by Jennifer Chiaverini. This book promises fascinating discussions. All women of the church are invited to be part of this group of readers and learners.

We will leave PCWS parking lot at 1:30 p.m. Please let Forrest know if you plan to come.

Carol Stoub, PCWS
Carol Akhers, Mosque
Remodeling of the Sanctuary Concludes October 12!

As you read this article, the remodeling of the Sanctuary is in its final phase. As background, the Session approved plans on August 15 to upgrade and refresh the Sanctuary as anticipated in the Capital Campaign. Work began after church on September 23, and the Sanctuary and most of the first floor will be closed for use through Friday, October 5. While we will worship in the Sanctuary on Sunday, October 7, some additional painting will carry over to the following week with all work to be completed by Sunday, October 14.

The Session accepted the report of the Sanctuary Improvement team composed of Sheryl Allen, Stephanie Coates, Jim Koning, Marcia Buell, Walt and Sue Kovalick. Additional design ideas were contributed by Jane Melilli and Lisa Wennerstrum. The team reviewed a number of ideas for making our sanctuary (and adjacent areas) better serve our goals and needs for the future. While being mindful of funding limitations, they visited two other local (recently updated) church sanctuaries and considered a number of materials for flooring and other surfaces.

Following is a summary of the work approved by the Session:

For the main area of the sanctuary:

1. Replace carpeting in the sanctuary with porcelain tile up the main aisle, across the front, 2 side aisles, and across back of church
2. Replace the chancel floor, steps, and lower platform with hardwood
3. Cover tile under the pews with luxury vinyl tile
4. Replace cove base molding on outer walls
5. Install a new curtain behind the cross of a different fabric to improve the sound of the organ (speakers are behind the curtain)
6. Replace several single floodlights in the chancel area with new LED track light bars
7. Repaint vertical spaces between columns in front of sanctuary and the north, south, and rear walls
8. Increase spacing between pews to offer easier access for all and rearrange location of the “short” pews in rear to allow wheelchair seating next to them.
9. Procure 12 movable, padded oak “pew” chairs to replace the first row of pews on each side (6 chairs on each side). Chairs will be sitting on porcelain tile to allow removal for special events
10. Procure 24 new upholstered, metal frame chairs for the chancel area (12 on each side)

Outside the sanctuary:

1. Remove wallpaper border and repaint narthex
2. Replace deteriorated flooring outside classrooms/elevator lobby with carpet squares
**Pastor’s Bible Study**

Please join Erik for a drop-in Bible Study Wednesdays, 2:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. in the Graham Charter Room. We will look at the scripture text(s) for the upcoming Sunday morning and have great discussions!

Feel free to come any time and invite a friend to join you!

See Erik with any questions.

**Lunches . . Programs . . Fellowship . . Mission**

**Thursday, October 4, 12:30 p.m.**

All Women are invited to a luncheon on **Thursday, October 4th**, 12:30 p.m., at Highlands Presbyterian Church, 1901 W. 58th Place, LaGrange Highlands. Following lunch, there will be a character presentation of *Three Illinois Women During the Civil War*, given by Betty Kay, an Illinois Bicentennial Road Scholar, author, and historical actor. Cost is $12.00. Please RSVP to our church office by noon on Monday, October 1st.

**Wednesday, October 17 - 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** Northeast Illinois Church Women United Institute Day at Lyonsville Congregational Church, 6871 Joliet Rd., Indian Head Park. The $12 registration includes lunch and program.

**Early Afternoon Circle** meets **Thursday, October 18th**, 1:00 p.m., in the Graham Charter Room. They will be discussing the Horizons’ Bible Study, *God’s Promise – I Am With You*, Lesson Two, “God with Us in Our Uncertainty”. If you are interested in joining, contact Joyce Rodos (jirodos@yahoo.com) for the Bible study book.

**Late Afternoon Circle** meets **Tuesday, October 23rd**, 4:00 p.m., in the Upper Room. They will continue their study of the book *The Common Good* by Robert B. Reich. For additional information, contact Sue Eck (sueeck@gmail.com) or Jan Fortina.

**Chicago Presbytery Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering**

**Saturday, October 27** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at Second Presbyterian Church of Chicago, 1936 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago. This is an interactive workshop sharing steps to help bring a balance of mind, body and spirit to participants. The presenters are Maryanne Kyle and Angela Stephenson.

For more information, contact Nina at ninakoelpin@att.net or 630-690-5174.
It has been said that hands tell the stories of life. These marvelous creations of God, these beautiful, scarred, one of a kind hands, store so much of your story. As do the mighty and loving Hands of a God who has held you in God’s hands all along as your own story has been written.

For one weekend in November, we invite you to treat yourself to a time-out. To take a break from the everyday stuff of life, and give yourself time to remember. To give yourself the gift of meaningful connection with other women of faith, as you share your stories together. And to ask, “What if you saw your hands as a catalogue of your life up to this point? What lessons have you learned? What experiences are you grateful for? Where have you seen God at work in the stories of your hands? And what might be the new stories of serving and worshiping and living out God’s call in your life that God may be wanting to write next in your life?”

You are not going to want to miss this opportunity for fun, relaxation, fellowship, and joy, as we come together to praise the God who rejoices in all our stories.

**Friday, November 2 - 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. check-in;**
 * Bring beverage (wine is permitted) and an appetizer or fruit to share with all the women

**Saturday, November 3 -**
 * Full day together with breakfast, lunch and dinner on site and spiritual events - Bring snacks and beverages for nighttime game playing

**Sunday, November 4 -**
 * Breakfast and joyful closing service together - 11:00 a.m. departure with option to gather in Oregon at ‘Cork and Tap’ for lunch.

**Accommodations:**
We have reserved the Sears Center that has eight bedrooms, four rooms with private bathrooms and four rooms that share a bath. The rooms all have a queen bed and a set of bunk beds. We plan to have three persons to a room, thus no one has to share a queen bed unless we have an abundance of interest. There is a meeting room with fireplace, kitchenette and is where we will meet and play games at night. There are no stairs. We also reserved the Bunk House that has a private room for our leader and second bedroom with a bunk bed, all sharing one bathroom. It also has a kitchen and sitting area that we will allocate for meditation or private conversations. The dining hall nearby will be shared with other guests while we have our meals. A few single occupancy rooms may be available in the Heritage Lodge where a non-PCWS group has reserved and will be confirmed at a date closer to the event.

**Cost:** $175 per person

To register, visit the [PCWS Womens Retreat website](#) to complete the registration form and pay online!

Questions? Contact Mindy McMahon (mindymcm@aol.com.)
**Mission Sunday School**

Our first Mission Sunday School will take place on October 7 when Nate Yates will help children explore the importance of our local CROP Walk as a part of Church World Service’s efforts to end hunger “one step at a time.”

PCWS will be hosting this year’s walk on October 21. We hope to excite our children about this particular mission by talking about the lack of healthy food available to many children in other parts of the world. We will be exploring ways in which the Walk helps other kids in need, and by encouraging family participation in our local CROP Walk. For this Mission Sunday School, the preschoolers—fifth graders will begin the morning in church with their families, leave the Sanctuary after Words for Children and then return to be seated with their families for Communion.

**Safe Space Information Session**

We will be offering an information session and training on our Safe Space Policy Sunday, October 28 at 10:45 a.m.

One of the requirements of our policy is to have a minimum of two Approved adults present for every activity — Sunday School, nursery, UPY meeting or outing.

Please consider becoming “Approved” and helping PCWS offer safe programs for children, youth and adult volunteers.

Please contact Loretta Gratias –Bremer (lgpat@aol.com) or Michelle Hennessy (mhennessy@presbyws.org) with any questions or for more information.

**Welcome Back Youth!**

What a great start to our Church and School year. It is so wonderful to normalize. I hope you all are settling back into a steady fall routine. I love seeing your beautiful faces on the regular again.

This fall at PCWS has been host to some welcome new traditions. I really enjoy sitting with the youth in the front of church-holding them responsible for their own worship experience among their peers. Also, the implementation of a once a month youth “Sunday School” where together we explore our Faith, Questions, and Christianity.

UPYS and JUPYs meet twice a month now through May (see the church website calendar for dates and times). This year we are sharing an all youth meal in between Jr and Sr high meetings. At our all family meetin we had some good discussion and an excellent kick off to the new season! Thank you everyone who attended. We are still looking for energetic adults, Safe Space Approved, who want to help be an adult leader at either UPYs or JUPYs!

PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN THE UPCOMING CROP WALK!

As always, I am always available for questions, advice or concerns, my cell and email are in the bulletin and directory!

Peace and Love,
Candice (cmares@presbyws.org)

**College Care Packages**

The Deacons will be putting together college care packages on Monday, November 5th so plenty of time for everyone to drop off your extra Halloween candy.

There will be collection boxes outside the Graham Charter Room beginning November 1. Please consider dropping off your left over candy or other goodies: pens, pencils, or other small non-perishables for our wonderful college students!

If you have questions, please contact Sheryl Allen (salleninteriors@yahoo.com.)
Music at PCWS

We have a new organ! What a great morning of music on September 9 as we welcomed our guest organist, Dr. A. Steven Taranto, in worship to introduce our new organ to the congregation. In the afternoon, we had a wonderful Dedication Concert which included handbells, trumpets, and the Chancel Choir. A big thank you goes to those choir members who were able to sing at the concert as well as Jim Koning, Tricia Koning, and Mike Lobash for their instrumental offerings as well.

As we move into the fall, come join us in singing with the Chancel Choir! We're always looking for new members to join the choir and we can always use more voices. If you're not in the choir, what can I do to get you in the choir? Do you enjoy singing but are afraid because you don’t read music, DON’T BE! You don’t have to read music to be in the choir, so why aren't YOU in the choir? Chancel Choir is open to anyone, age 14 and up and does not require the ability to read music - just a desire to sing. The choir rehearses on select Thursday evenings from 6:30 - 7:30 pm and please, if Thursday evenings are not a viable option, contact me and we will work out an alternative plan.

Chancel Choir rehearsals in October will be on October 4, 11 and 18. The choir will sing in church on the 14th for the morning service as well as at Pastor Erik’s Installation in the afternoon.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Stephanie Coates (scoates@presbyws.org) anytime.

Handbell Choir: The handbell choir will begin rehearsals in October. If you would like to come and ring with us, or even just give it a try, please let me know.

No-Name Band: The band will be leading worship on Sunday, October 28. Please contact Kami Booth if interested in singing or playing with the band.

Peace and Global Witness Offering

Special envelopes will be available on September 30 and October 7 (World Communion Sunday). Please help PCWS make a substantial contribution to this important offering as we participate in the work of the Church throughout the world.
Mission & Ministry

Are You Able?

Margaret’s Village  
(Maria Shelter) Work Day  
Saturday, October 20, 2018

With all the negativity going on in our society today, this is your opportunity to have a positive impact by spending a few hours with your fellow PCWS members helping to improve the lives of distressed mothers and their children. All we need is your smiling face and two hands as we will have jobs for all skill levels.

Plan to meet at PCWS at 8:00 a.m. to carpool to the shelter. We will plan to be done around 2:00 p.m. to return home. Lunch will be provided. If you have any questions on how you can help, reach out to Lance Smith or Brian Sullivan. A signup sheet has been provided at Signup Genius and in the lower hallway outside the Jones Room.

Veggies, Eggs and a Side of Hope

That’s the theme of this year’s CROP Walk, sponsored by Church World Service (CWS) as part of the CWS Zero Hunger initiative. At present, CWS coordinates programs in 30 countries, and this year’s focus is in Indonesia; specifically in East & West Timor. Teaching and supporting sustainability, CWS distributes seeds and provides training in building and maintaining a home garden. The program also provides roosters and hens with the dual goals of creating a sustainable source of protein, as well as a source of income.

PCWS will be hosting the local CROP Walk on Sunday, October 21. Registration will begin at 12:30 p.m., we’ll have a brief gathering at 1:00 p.m. and will begin the walk by 1:15 p.m.

We’re looking for a great crew of walkers, as well as a number of volunteers to help with the kick-off and wrap-up at PCWS:

If you’d like to walk, please visit our CROP Walk website, https://www.crophungerwalk.org/lagrangeil/PCWS and register as a walker. You can then share your link with friends and family and help raise money!

If you’re unable to walk, and would like to donate, visit our CROP Walk website, https://www.crophungerwalk.org/lagrangeil/PCWS to donate.

If you’d like to volunteer to help at PCWS that day, we’re looking for the following:

Setup: 2
Registration table: 2
Canned food collection station: 2
Hosts (to provide guidance & directions inside the church): 3
Water table after the walk: 2
Food table after the walk: 2
Bottles of Water: 8 cases
Please sign up in the lower hallway or on Signup Genius.

Any questions, please email Nate Yates. (yates15@yahoo.com.)

Thanks for helping to feed the hungry!
Thank you for your service at PCWS in September! We could not do it without you.

**Helped in the office:** Laura Fruit, Judy McAtee, Mindy McMahon and Carol Ulreich

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

**Crushed cans:** David and Jane Boxell, Mindy McMahon

**Prepared Glad Tidings for mailing:** Dorothy Andersen, Joyce Haberman, Harriett Potenza, and Mary Kae Headland.

**Flowers in September:** Laurie Merrifield, Sue Eck, Jan Fortina and Sue Kovalick

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Welcome to:

Hazel Mary Kelly, daughter of Andy and Maggie Kelly, was born August 30. Maggie delivered 8-pound, 2-ounce “Hasty Hazel” unexpectedly at home while brother Finn slept and daddy was driving home. Baby and mom are doing well. Hazel’s proud grandparents are Kay and Tom Kelly.

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**Job Opening: Childcare Attendant**

PCWS is looking for a nurturing adult (18 years and over) to help care for our Infants - young children, Sunday mornings 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m. and periodically at other times. Primary responsibility is to provide attentive care to the needs of our infants-young children while maintaining an enthusiastic and safe environment.

Ideally, all applicants must have childcare experience and completion of First Aid Certification a plus. Finalists must be able to be approved under the Safe Space Policy. Additional hours may be offered during evenings, weekdays or weekend events.

More Information, and the application, is available on the [PCWS Website](#).

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**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 Tuesday, 5:00 p.m. 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.
Phil Kasik and Christine Kasper tied the knot after 29 years of friendship on August 25, 2018 at the First United Presbyterian Church of Earlville, IL.

Neal Malone, son of Rogers & Amy, wed Sara Bitetti on September 14, 2018 in Stratton, Vermont.

Congratulations!

If you shop at Amazon, please click on the image above to shop and have a portion of your purchases donated to PCWS.

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

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 November Glad Tidings for mailing—Meet October 26, 10:30 a.m. in the Upper Room.
Upcoming Events

Oct. 14  3:00 p.m. Erik’s Installation

Oct. 20  8:00 a.m.—Work Day at Margaret’s Village
         6:00 p.m.—Gathering Around the Table

Oct. 21  12:30 p.m.—CROP Walk

Oct. 28  9:30 a.m.—Blood Drive
         10:45 a.m.—Safe Space Training
         4:00 p.m.—Trunk or Treat

Nov. 2-4  Women’s Retreat

Nov. 17  8:30 a.m.—New Member Class

Dec. 9   3:00 p.m.—All Church Caroling

Jan. 4-6  Winter Family Camp

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.