

GLAD TIDINGS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WESTERN SPRINGS

JANUARY, 2019

From Erik's Desk

Happy New Year!



When I was practicing law the most basic measurement of how hard any attorney in a law firm was working was the number of hours they billed to clients for their work. It certainly isn't the best measurement of a lawyer's value because it does not account for actual income to the law firm, but it was the way that you could tell how hard someone was working. Billable hours at most law firms are calculated on an annual basis and in many firms, on January 1 the clock resets to zero. I knew a lawyer who always worked and billed hours on New Year's Day even though it was a holiday. He couldn't stand seeing the "0" in his hours total. For him, the reset was discouraging.

With all of the resets that happen on January 1 (postage rates are going up again, we have the chance to write the wrong year on checks and forms for a couple of months, new laws and tax provisions are in place – you get the picture), it provides us with the opportunity to examine our lives as well. In what areas of your life do you need a fresh start?

Each week when we pause during worship to confess our sins we acknowledge that God regularly gives us the opportunity for a fresh start. God's incarnation – becoming human in the form of Jesus Christ – was God's way of saying to humanity that God desires that we would regularly approach God. But even better is the promise that when we approach God, God will give us that reset ... every day is New Year's Day and Independence Day and Easter and Christmas Day ... every day is a new opportunity for us to be made whole and made new. That's the God we worship!

Friends, later this month will mark six months of our ministry together and I could not be more excited for all that we will see and do together in 2019. Happy New Year to you and I remain grateful for all that you do for the ministries of this church! May we continue to grow closer to God and to one another in the coming year.

Join the BEST PCWS Tradition - Come to Family Camp!

What's Family Camp? A Weekend of Family-Time, Games, Outdoor Winter Fun and Fellowship.

January 4-6, 2019—Camp Edwards, WI
We gather Friday night and close with worship on Sunday before heading home.

The weekend includes: all weekend activities, accommodations, and food.

Costs:

Adults (over 12) \$110 per person

Youth (5-11) \$80 per person

Kids (3-5) \$55 per person

Pay by check in the office or by check or credit card [online](#).

Sign up on the bulletin board so we can plan for the "best weekend ever!"

Deadline to sign up is January 4, noon! If you have questions or need more info, with [Aileen Pendleton](#) or [Allison Weber](#) .



CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Welcome Rev. Susan D. Krummel

On Sunday, January 6, 2019, we will welcome to the pulpit The Rev. Susan D. (Sue) Krummel. Sue is the Executive Presbyterian of the Chicago Presbytery and we are excited to have her preach on Epiphany Sunday while Erik is away at PCWS Family Camp and leading worship there.



Balloon-A-Grams- It's That Time Again!

Last year was my first soiree into this fabulous practice- and what an eye-opening experience that was!! In February, we will be hosting another congregational favorite; as is our tradition, the youth program will be delivering "Balloon-a-grams," to our neighbors in the community!



Gathering Around the Table

If you're looking for a great way to meet new people, get connected, strengthen existing friendships, and enjoy great fellowship, fun, and food, we invite you to "Gathering Around the Table." If you are new to PCWS, or if you've been around here for years, this is a great place to start. "Gatherings" are monthly get-togethers where adult PCWS members and friends, married and single, gather for the opportunity to fellowship and get connected within our church family. "Gatherings" may be a potluck dinner, a cookout, appetizers night or a meal at a local restaurant. Signups are done monthly, for each gathering. Sign up and/or learn more about this fun, fellowship opportunity, and the individual "Gathering" events on [SignUpGenius](#) or on the bulletin board outside the Jones Room. If you are willing to host/organize a future "Gathering," or just have questions, please email [Theresa Dixon](#). New friends are waiting to meet you!



These little bags of fun contain candy, a balloon, and a hand-written card. All you need to do is come to the Jones' Room after worship and fill out a form indicating who and where the "gram" needs to be delivered. Sales will begin Sunday, January 20, 27 and February 3. Sales will continue until February 5 in the office.

Drivers will sign up via Sign Up Genius and we need 2 adults per car with 2 youth.

Our next gatherings will be:

Dinner at Karen Neal's home - January 13

New Years Lunch: January 15: Restaurant TBD

Breakfast - January 28: Restaurant TBD

WE WILL NOT BE SELLING THE CARDS ON THE DAY OF DELIVERY. We do ask that the recipient live within a 5-mile radius of the church. Deliveries of the packages of fun on Sunday, February 10 (the Sunday before Valentine's Day) after worship at 10:30. Thanks in advance, and we can't wait to see you at the table!

OUR PASTOR

Rev. Erik Khoobyarian, Pastor

Email: erik@presbyws.org

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

Candice Mares,
Youth Leader

ADULT NEWS

Presbyterian Women will not have a meeting in January. Instead, we hope you will gather family and friends and attend the Church Women United's fundraiser at Baker's Square, 942 S. LaGrange Road, for a meal or two on January 22. Fliers for this event will be available closer to the event.



30 Days of Character Strengths: A Guided Practice to Ignite Your Best

Are you, or is someone important to you, **seeking more engaging work? Satisfying relationships? Greater confidence?** Make time to explore your character strengths, key building blocks to human flourishing. PCWS will offer a one-of-a-kind learning opportunity for members and friends that will be facilitated by **Jane Strunk Anderson, author of *30 Days of Character Strengths: A Guided Practice to Ignite Your Best***.

PCWS will host a 6-week series of 1½ hours face-to-face workshops:

- Saturday, January 26 at 10-11:30 a.m.
- Saturday, February 2 at 10-11:30 a.m.
- Saturday, February 9 at 10-11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, February 13 at 6:30-8 p.m.
- Saturday, February 23 at 10-11:30 a.m.
- Saturday, March 2 at 10-11:30 a.m.

Virtual workshops will also be possible. Her book will be given to all participants and cost is \$30.00 per person. Members and friends are encouraged to sign up on [SignUp Genius](#), or please contact the church office. For more information contact [Mindy McMahan](#), or subscribe to [Jane's newsletter](#), or take the free VIA Character Strengths Survey.

Jane will be with us in worship January 13 to tell you more about her series and answer your questions.

Early Afternoon Circle – January 17 at 1:00 p.m. This month's Bible Study is Lesson 5, "God with Us When We Are Powerless" from the Horizons Bible Study *God's Promise: I Am with You*.

The Late Afternoon Circle will meet January 22, 2019, in the Upper Room at 4:00 p.m. to conclude our discussion of "The Common Good" by Robert Reich. Part Three asks "Can the Common Good Be Restored? Without it, we are no longer a functioning society; can trust be established again?" Come for an in-depth discussion after which we will enjoy dinner together at a nearby restaurant. For more information, please contact [Sue Eck](#) or [Jan Fortina](#)

Church Women United's annual meeting and brunch will be on January 18th, 9:30 a.m., at St. Cletus Catholic Church. The speaker will be Lana Blitstein from Pillars. She will talk about the merger, clients, and what services are provided. Tickets are available from Laura Fruit. On the back of the tickets will be a short list of items that Pillars clients need. Items will be collected at the meeting.

Interfaith Book Group

The Interfaith Book Group will greet the new year and one another on January 16, 2019. We will leave the PCWS at 1:00 p.m. to travel to the Mosque Foundation. If the weather is inclement, we will leave at 12:45. Please RSVP to the church office.

We will discuss the book: *Mazie Dobbs* by Jacqueline Windspear. Jerry Allers will lead the discussion.

This is a nice book to begin the year with. The best part will be being together again as we continue our friendships and sharing.



CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Cookie Walk Wrap-Up

On December 2nd, the first day of advent, our High School youth held their annual fundraiser to help cover costs of this upcoming summer's mission trip. During our bake sale, we raised approximately \$770! The amount raised will help cover the cost of travel and lodging expenses.

Thank you to all the bakers and volunteers who helped make this fundraiser happen! We thank God for the generous support and you as a congregation who continue to provide for our youth programs! To God be the Glory!

New Advent Wreath Stand

Did you notice the beautiful new advent wreath holder this Christmas season? It was purchased in memory of Bob Fencl and will be a lasting memorial to Bob each year. Thank you to Mary Ellen Fencl and Bob's family and friends.



Pastor's Bible Study

Pastor Erik will continue with Bible Study on Wednesday afternoons in January starting on January 9 from 2:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend this drop-in format gathering. No preparation is required and the text we discuss each week is the text for the upcoming Sunday morning. Join us in the Graham Charter Room!



Rooted & Built Up in Christ...



Update from the Leadership and Ministries Committee

As of the day we're writing this update (December 7th), we have 85 pledges, totaling \$347,354. For the latest update, please see the Chart in the Jones Room.

We still had 15 pledge units at the time of this writing that pledged last year but haven't yet pledged this year. These 15 units pledged a total of \$20,959 last year. So, assuming they'll pledge at least the same amount again this year, we can expect our total pledge dollars to total around \$368,313.

Pledge Numbers:

Our "mean" was \$4,087,

Our "median" was \$3,000 and

Our "mode" was \$3,000

noting 9 instances.

We appreciate everyone's generous commitments and timely responses. Thanks for playing along with our "Dazzling presentations." It made it fun for us! If you haven't made a pledge, it's not too late — You can [pledge online](#), turn in your pledge card with the offering, or simply email your pledge amount to [Leadership & Ministries](#).

YOUTH MINISTRY

“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

UPCOMING

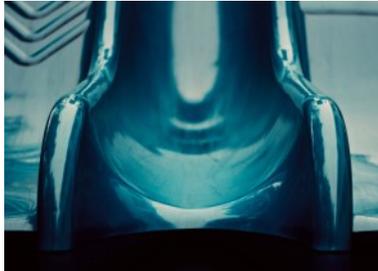
Save the Date:

UPY Water Park
Overnight Wisconsin Dells
Friday, January 18, 2019!!!

UPY H2O Park Adventure January 18, 2019

Friday, January 18:

Depart from Church @ 6:00 p.m.
Check-in to Wilderness Resort,
Wisconsin Dells



Saturday, January 19:

Party All Day at 4 Indoor Parks
Youth will be dropped off at home (It may be a little late)

Mark Your Calendars—Balloon-A-Gram Sales & Deliveries!

Sales will be on Sunday, January 20, 27 and February 3. We need Youth to help staff the tables to take orders.

Deliveries of the packages of fun on will be Sunday, February 10 (the Sunday before Valentine's Day) after worship at 10:30.

I know that schedules can be challenging - and I respect that- but I am requesting that we have a good turnout of youth to assist our tireless drivers in delivering “Grams.” So CALLING ALL UPYs- bring a friend and let's get out there and brighten the community we live in and love!!



Youth Calendar

January Dates:

Friday, January 4 - Sunday, January 6
Family Camp

Sunday, January 13

9:30 am Junior High Sunday School
5:00 pm JUPY Game Night
6:00 pm UPY Game Night

Friday, January 18

UPY Overnight Wisconsin Dells
Waterpark—return Late Saturday

January Quote:

Integrity is choosing your
thoughts & actions
based on VALUES
rather than personal gain.

Staff Contact Info

Candice Mares
Youth Director

cmars@presbyws.org
Text or Call (773) 771-0148

MISSION & SERVICE

Hola and Bendiciones From Our Brothers and Sisters in Cuba!

The most recent visit to Nueva Paz was, again, filled with the love, laughter and generosity of our partner congregation. Jane Boxell and Kathy Wennerstrum were in Cuba for a week in November and were part of a small group who represented the Presbytery of Chicago in Havana for the first three days and visited our partner congregation in Nueva Paz for the weekend.

Over the course of the first few days of our trip, we visited 7 of the churches in the Havana Presbytery and met with Pastors, session members and members of their congregations. Travelling in an oversized church van, we covered a lot of miles those first few days!

We “moved” to Nueva Paz on Thursday and stayed through the weekend. Friday was a busy day, as we were able to participate in both the Breakfast program and the organized distribution of purified water from the Living Waters system.

The Breakfast program, made possible initially by a grant from Presbyterian Women, celebrated its first anniversary on December 11. The group of 15-20 “seniors” who regularly attend the program Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings has become a family. Several are not members of the church, but spoke easily with us about how the program, the Bible readings, lessons and the related discussions have changed their lives, their perspectives and their views of “church” in general.

The Living Waters for the World system has also been enthusiastically embraced by the church’s congregation and, perhaps more importantly, by the community. Four trained operators open the system to distribute water for two 2-hour sessions every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We saw community members lining up with their empty plastic jugs and saw Jesús, a man in his late 70s, a pillar of the Nueva Paz congregation, fill his bicycle push-cart with at least 24 large, heavy jugs of water which he delivered to home-bound members of the community. Four times that day.

We shared in Bible studies, birthday parties, discussions, worship, home visits, and a special day-long field trip to Trinidad and Cienfuegos, two uniquely historic Cuban cities to the east of Nueva Paz. We spoke often about our partnership and ways in which we are all looking forward to celebrating the 10th anniversary of our partnership and the 115th anniversary of their church in 2019. For starters, we connected on our first video call on December 11!

The significance of this partnership is always made abundantly clear when we’re in Cuba. This is, first and foremost, about the relationship. We are treated as family and they always ask about all of you. And give so much of themselves to us while we’re there. Keep an eye out for two white, traditionally-embroidered altar cloths – these are gifts from their congregation to all of us as a physical reminder of the ties that bind all of us together.

So we’re looking forward to having some fun this year as we introduce you further to our brothers and sisters in Nueva Paz. We’re hoping to plan another visit this spring and until then, hope that you will continue to keep them in your hearts as they most certainly do all of you!

Submitted by: Kathy Wennerstrum

MISSION & SERVICE

Knit/Crochet Group



Do you like to knit or crochet? Do you want to learn how to knit or crochet hats or scarves? Does giving warmth and comfort to others motivate you? Our Mission and Faith Formation Committees are seeking your interest and ask you to contact [Joyce Rodos](#) or [Mindy McMahon](#).

Let us know of your interest, availability (morning or early evening) and whether you are able to teach beginners. Based upon responses we will arrange time(s) to meet and learn from each other.

Thank You Musicians



A special thank you to all of the musicians, floral artists, cookie-bakers, craft-makers, caroling coordinators, head ushers, and many other volunteers who put in extra hours of work to make our Advent and Christmas celebrations so wonderful.

Thank you also to our staff for whom this was a particularly busy season with additional worship services (meaning more music and rehearsals and double the number of worship bulletins!).

Souper Bowl Sunday



Super Bowl Sunday will be here in a few weeks and it is time for the JUPYs and UPYs to start gearing up to participate in what is known as Souper Bowl of Caring.

February 3rd will mark the 30th anniversary of Souper Bowl of Caring. Our JUPYs and UPYs at PCWS will participate again this year by collecting money after worship in soup pots. Simply place your donation in the soup pot of the NFL team you wish to win the Super Bowl. Then on the following Sunday we will reveal which Team's pots raised the most money.



The Gift of Warmth

Thank you all for sharing your blessings with those who are less fortunate. Here are the results of your generosity:

Coats: 38
Snowpants: 2
Scarves: 23
Hats: 76
Mittens/Gloves: 44
Boots: 10

What this total does not include are two huge boxes holding over 200 cashmere scarves generously donated by Stacie Wison!

Mission is having a lot of fun spreading the joy (and warmth) of these scarves around and will keep you posted on the variety of places we're sharing this gift. We've already added 24 scarves to each of our Sharing Connections and Margaret's Village holiday dropoffs and will move quickly to share the rest in early January.

Happy New Year ♡ Happy New Year ♡ Happy New Year

MEMBER NEWS

Thank you for your service at PCWS in December! We could not do it without you.

Helped in the office: Amy Malone, Carol Ulreich, Joyce Rodos, Judy McAtee, Kay Kelly, Laura Fruit, and Mindy McMahon.



Second Baptist Food Pantry run: David and Jane Boxell

Crushed cans: David and Jane Boxell, Mindy McMahon, John & Frank Adelpia

Prepared Glad Tidings for mailing: Dorothy Anderson, Harriett Potenza, Joyce Habermann, and Mary Kae Headland

Flowers in December: Nancy Glickman, Jan Fortina, Laurie Merrifield, Sue Eck, and Sue Kovalick

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](#).



Office Hours

Holiday Office Hours:

Monday, December 31:
Church and Offices Open
9:00 a.m.—noon

Tuesday, January 1
Church and Offices Closed

**Wednesday—Friday
January 2 –4**
Church and Offices Open
9:00 a.m.—noon



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!



MEMBER NEWS

Remember in Prayer

Pray for our Members

Betty Toft, Billye Dvorak, Evie Meyer, John Kregg, Kathleen Kircher, Kimberly Bone, Marge Sandrik, Phil Kasik

Pray for Relatives and Friends

Our brothers and sisters at Nueva Paz Presbyterian Church in Cuba

Our men & women serving our country in the Armed Services

Barbara Lennie, friend of Becky & Larry Glasscock

Beata B. Sak, co-worker of Lori Carsten

Betty Staab, friend of Judy McAtee

Bob DiLeonardi, brother-in-law of Bruce Barnes

Brian & Leah Kohlsaak, baby Amelia, and the Kohlsaak family

Brian, friend of the Smyers family

Dave Sipek, business associate of Bruce Barnes

Debi Mirlenbrink, aunt of Lori Carsten

Debbie Cole, daughter of Betty Anderson

Donna, dear friend of Joyce Smyers

Frank Young, cousin of Amy Malone

Gloria Torres, friend of the Merrifield family

Grace Dunham niece of Kay & Tom Kelly and Jill & Roger Dold

Greg Dold, father of Roger Dold

Herman Mirlenbrink, grandfather of Lori Carsten

Holly Oliver, daughter of Mary Kae Headland

Joshua Haberkorn, grandson of Shirley Pine

Marc Goldstein, friend of Carol Ulreich

Mary Kate Miller, step-mother of Julie Garino

Mary, dear friend of Bruce Geary

Michael, friend of Jane Norman

Mike Slesicki, cousin of Barb Farr & Joe Benson

Molly Frank, daughter of Kay Kelly's friend

Norb Mirlenbrink, Uncle of Lori Carsten

Paulette Erickson, friend of Carol Ulreich

Peggy Mirlenbrink, aunt of Lori Carsten

Phyllis Cordell, mother of Laura Cordell

Ruth Kaduke, niece of Herb & Joyce Smyers

Suzie, sister of Patti Mangis

Steve, friend of Mindy & Jim McMahan

Teri Tuffner, aunt of Candice Mares

The people of Syria, and especially the relatives of PCWS' Interfaith Women's Book Group

Theresa Ybanez, great niece of Laura Fruit

Toni Potenza Moya, daughter of Harriett Potenza & Craig Harris

A Note from a Member:

"Dear Friends: My two daughters, Jill and Beth, and my two granddaughters, Sara and Kelsey, recently visited PCWS. We brought by Bruce's ashes to a spot in the Memorial Garden that we had chosen many years ago. My dear, longtime friend, Donna, shared this special time with us. The visit was very short as there were many planned events. Past memories flooded over us as we saw the new furnished sanctuary, photos of the Confirmands Wall, and signs of a vibrant congregation very alive with a new pastor. Grace abounds each day in my new surroundings here in this place, Kansas.

Peace, Jean Janecek"

News Deadlines

Bulletin:

[Email](#) announcements to the church office by 9:00 a.m. Wednesday morning.

Weekly Connection:

Email information to [Michelle Hennessy](#) by Tuesday, 5:00 p.m. for inclusion in the Thursday email.

Glad Tidings Deadline:

Articles for the next month's *Glad Tidings* by the 10th of each month.

To ensure your submission is received, please email articles and pictures to: GT@presbyws.org.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WESTERN SPRINGS
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Western Springs, Illinois 60558-1898



Web Page: www.presbyws.org
E-Mail: pcws@presbyws.org
Prayer Requests: prayers@presbyws.org
Telephone: 708-246-5220
Fax: 708-246-4276
12-28-2018
Dated Mail



Scan to
Learn about PCWS

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 1 **New Year's Day — Church and Offices Closed**
- Jan. 2-4 **Church Office Hours — 9:00 a.m. to Noon**
- Jan. 4-6 **Winter Family Camp**
- Jan. 9 **Weekly Bible Study with Pastor Erik Resumes**
- Jan. 10 ***Glad Tidings* Article Deadline**
- Jan. 16 **Session Meeting**
- Jan. 18 **UPY Overnight to Wisconsin Dells**
- Jan. 21 **Martin Luther King Day — Church and Offices Closed**
- Jan. 25 **Perpare *Glad Tidings* for mailing**
- Jan. 26 **Strength Based Workshop—Session 1**
- Jan. 28 **PCWS Book Group**



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.