Glad Tidings

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WESTERN SPRINGS **MAY, 2019**

From Erik's Desk

When I was travelling in Israel in February, I had a moment that I've shared with many of you. I was feeling overwhelmed by the crowds of other tourists and religious pilgrims when we were travelling around Galilee. This was the area where much of Jesus's ministry took place and I was particularly excited about visiting the location where the Church has historically memorialized the Sermon on the Mount. I left that place (called the Mount of the Beatitudes) extremely disappointed and sad. I felt distant from God. The rain was coming down, busloads of people were pushing and shoving their way into the church, and I felt nothing good from the experience.

Our faith journeys can be the same. We build up and have expectations of where we'll experience God and how we'll have faith and what our journey will look like. Then reality comes. Reality that looks like a difficult diagnosis or a setback. Reality that looks like the death of a loved one. Reality that is a feeling of emptiness and despair. These realities replace our idealistic images. But our reality is the place where God wants to meet us. The place where we are surprised by God choosing to encounter us.

After we left the Mount of the Beatitudes, we went to the shore of the Sea of Galilee. I stood on the shore and listened to the rough waves off the shore and the gentle waves disappearing into the rocks and pebbles at my feet. The sky was grey but the rain had stopped. The crowds were behind me. The air was crisp. And I felt peace. I felt a peace and an overwhelming sense of awe as I realized that I was in the place where Jesus had encountered so many others. I realized, once again, that it was time for me to set aside my expectations and make room for God in my life so that I could be surprised by God's faithfulness and goodness.

Friends, I hope you'll join us in worship during May and through Pentecost on June 9 as we look more closely at the ways that Jesus stepped into the lives of ordinary people and walked alongside them on their journey. This is the God we follow and the God who desires us. *Draw near. Encounter Jesus.*

Erik

All-Church Workday BBQ Lunch! Saturday, May 18

HELPING HANDS

Join us for an All-Church Workday on Saturday, May 18, starting with coffee and donuts at 8:30 a.m. and projects at 9:00 a.m. We will work together until noon to repair, clean, and maintain our church home. Please plan to help this day as we will be working both inside and outside as we clean and spruce up the church. 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 work load and the more we can accomplish!!

Thank you for signing up online and helping with the clean up! At noon we'll stop working and enjoy a BBQ lunch together!

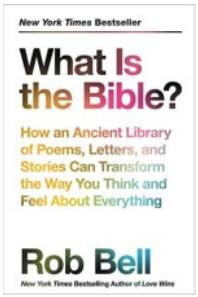
National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 2

This year's theme is "Love One Another" taken from the words of Jesus in John 13:34

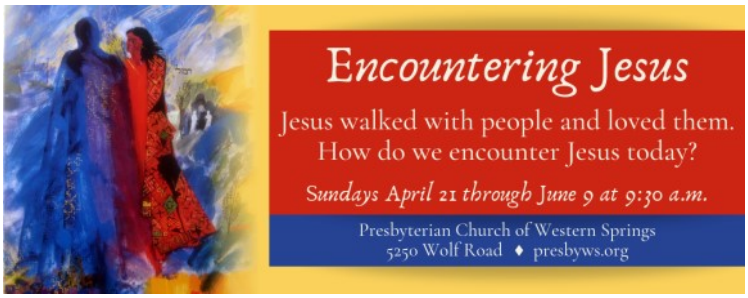
Congregational News

Summer Book Discussion Coming Soon …



Pastor Erik will be leading a summer discussion of the book *What Is the Bible* by Rob Bell (available on Amazon.com). Bell writes: "Some people see the Bible as an outdated book of primitive, barbaric fairy tales that we have moved beyond. And then there are the folks who talk about how important and central and inspired the Bible is but then butcher it with their stilted literalism and stifling interpretations. But you, I want you to read the Bible in a whole new way." This book is a fresh look at how we approach scripture and an engaging and fast-moving read.

Are you interested? Please contact Erik and let him know the times that work best for you as he's trying to determine when to have the group meet (likely a weeknight).



Pastor Erik starts a new Sermon Series Easter Morning through Pentecost. Each Sunday we'll be *Encountering Jesus* by looking at the stories of people who interacted with Jesus and how he changed their lives. Join us on Sunday mornings for worship!

May 5: *Encountering Jesus:* Simon Peter (John 21:1-19)
May 12: *Encountering Jesus:* Paul & Ananais (Acts 9:1-20)
May 19: *Encountering Jesus:* Gerasene Demoniac (Mark 5:1-17)
May 26: *Encountering Jesus:* Paralytic Man at Bethesda Pool (John 5:1-9)
June 2: *Encountering Jesus:* Samaritan Woman (John 4:1-29)
June 9: *Encountering Jesus:* Philip (John 14:8-17, 25-27)

OUR PASTOR

Rev. Erik Khoobyarian, Pastor
Email: erik@presbyws.org

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

Session Scroll

The Session met Wednesday, April 17. Here are some of the highlights of the meeting:

- Now that Spring has arrived, the list of deferred projects was reviewed. Watch for improvements to the landscaping, Narthex, Graham Charter Room doors, and a new phone system to name a few.
- The Finance Committee reported positive news: income is ahead of projections, which is good news.
- Approved the recommendation from the Mission Committee to designate 40% of the Pentecost offering to Chicago's Hope for Kids.

Baccalaureate Recognition

Mark your calendar for June 9th when we recognize our graduating high school seniors during worship and fellowship. We are eager to hear their future plans and express our support for their future.

We would also like to recognize those graduating youth from middle school, college, and graduate school with a notice in the Glad Tidings. Do you have a graduate in your family?

Please provide us with the following information: Name, Relationship to you, School, Degree (major, if applicable).

Send information to Forrest in the office by May 10. Thanks for assisting us in showcasing your children and our church members.

Adult News

Gathering Around the Table

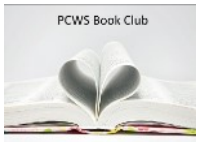
Looking for a great way to meet new people and enjoy great fellowship, fun, and food? "Gatherings" are get-togethers where adult PCWS members and friends, married and single, gather for the opportunity to fellowship.

Gathering dates for May:
May 4 – 5:00 p.m.
Social at Imperial Oak Brewing Co.
May 13 – 8:30 a.m.
Breakfast at Honey Bee's Restaurant
May 19 – 4:00 p.m.
Social at Sue Cushman's home
(Bring an appetizer to share)
May 22 - 11:30 a.m.
Lunch at Wolf's Head Inn

Information on all the "Gatherings" is online and signups are done for each gathering event; participate as often as your calendar allows.

Join us—new friends are waiting to meet you!

PCWS Book Group



June 3, 7:30 p.m.

Pachinko by Min Jin Lee.
Four generations of a Korean immigrant family try to make new lives in Japan.

Mark your calendar and plan to meet in the Graham Charter Room, at 7:30 p.m. for an interesting discussion!

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

Presbyterian Women's luncheon will be May 2nd , 12:30 p.m. at PCWS. Speaker Jim Morrison from the Kare 9 Comfort Dog Ministry, specifically the Military Squad will have three dogs and two veterans with him. Jim will talk about how comfort dogs have helped many people in times of crisis, and give us background information on how the program started, and what the group actually does.

Lunch and program are $12.00. RSVP to the church office by noon Monday, April 29th.

The Early Afternoon Circle will meet May 16th at 1:00 p.m. This month's Bible Study is Lesson 9, "God with Us" from Horizons Bible Study *God's Promise: I Am with You*

The Late Afternoon Circle will not meet again until September.

Church Women United's May Friendship Day

CWU will meet Friday, May 3rd at Advent Christian Church of the Highlands, 1525 Plainfield Road, LaGrange Highlands. It will start with a 9:30 a.m. Bible study, followed with a presentation from Beds Plus at 10:30 a.m., and luncheon at 11:45 a.m. Items for Beds Plus will be collected that day. A list of suggested items is on the back of the luncheon ticket which is $7.00.

If you are interested, please contact Laura Fruit.

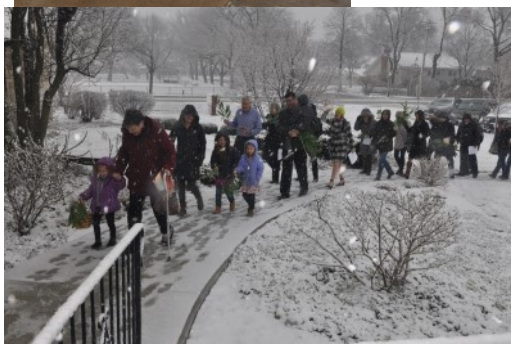
Interfaith Book Group

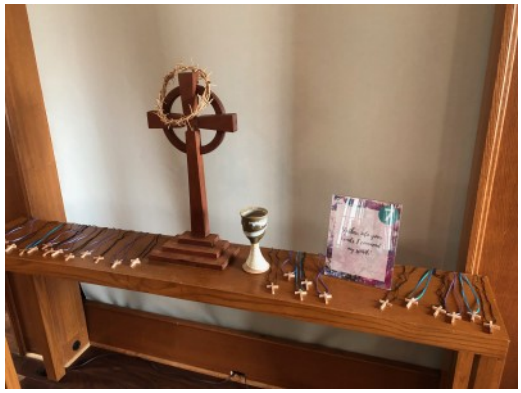
The Interfaith Book Group will have their annual book selection meeting Wednesday, May 1, at the Mosque Foundation. We will leave the church parking lot at 1:00 p.m. sharp. Please call your reservation in to Forrest by April 29.

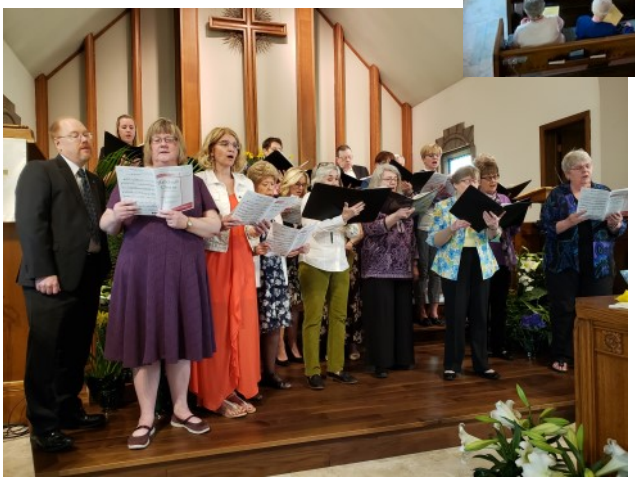
This is always an anticipated meeting as we discuss books we have read and enjoyed and wish to share with the group. I hope you all come with ideas and suggestions.

Carol Stoub
Carol Lambert, Mosque Foundation

Holy Week





Holy Week

Children & Family Ministries

Take me Out to the Ball Game!

Sunday, June 30

What could be better than joining your Church Family for an afternoon at the ballpark? Faith Formation and Church Life have teamed up to bring you the first ever all-church baseball outing! The plan is BYO cooler, any and all snacks or beverages you want (and feel free to bring enough to share).

Caravan Departs: 11:30 a.m. - We will leave from church immediately following fellowship and plan to arrive at the Stadium: 12:15ish . . . there will be tailgating southside-style with some pregame festivities.

Game Time: 1:10 p.m. - we have a block of reserved seating near the batting cages.

Where: Guaranteed Rate Field, 333W 35th Street, Chicago, IL 60616

Cost: $12 per person (Pay **online** and choose "Other" or bring your check payable to PCWS to church)

You are encouraged to **sign up online** soon as space is limited. Indicate that you'll be coming; if you're willing to drive and note in the comment section if you are willing to bring others and how many others your car has seats for.

Casual attire (no Cubs gear ??) Come out and have a great time with us!! Questions? Contact **Candice Mares**.

Playground Update!

Thank you to everyone who helped us meet our fundraising goal for the new playground. When the Session decided to build a new playground, we hoped to raise at least $10,000 toward the cost. *We happily raised that amount!*

Donations are still being accepted and any further donations will reduce the amount we need to use from other accounts.

Planning for the playground is underway, including getting input from the youngest among us! Keep watching for more information about the final design and construction. Bring any questions to Elder Suzie Mosher.

Come one, come all, Safe Space Training — May 5th

Thanks to everyone who volunteers to work with our children and youth as an assistant, teacher, driver, etc. and being Safe Space approved. For those of you wanting to participate, or needing to renew your three-year approval, attend the Sunday, May 5th training at 11:00 a.m. in the Graham Charter Room. We value your leadership and knowledge of methods in which we can ensure the safety of everyone.

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

CAR/ PET WASH
JUNE 23
IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING WORSHIP!

Youth Calendar

JUPY Events:
April 28 – Youth Sunday in Worship
Youth Sunday Brunch
May 19 (3:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.)
JUPY/UPY BBQ
June 30 (11:30 a.m.)
All Church White Sox Game

UPY Events:
April 28 – Youth Sunday in Worship
May 19 (3:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.)
JUPY/UPY BBQ
June 23 — Car/Pet Wash
June 30 (11:30 a.m.)
All Church White Sox Game

July 20 — Youth Mission Trip

JR. High Sunday School:
May 5
May 19

Youth Mission Trip

The mission trip this year to Tennessee will be July 20-27th. We are all very excited and looking forward to working with the Appalachian Service Project. PCWS will be represented by seven youth and three adults.

Staff Contact Info

Candice Mares
Youth Director

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

Summer Happenings

S'mores & Boards

Friday, June 7 -- 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The Church Life Committee is bringing back this event from last summer that was a hit! We'll have a fire pit and s'mores supplies and some outdoor games. Bring your favorite games and a lawn chair as we gather for an evening of relaxed fun, fellowship, and conversation. All are welcome, and feel free to invite your friends and neighbors! Contact Elder Loretta Gratias-Bremer with any questions!

Yee-haw Vacation Bible Days

Preschool - 5th graders!

Tuesday, June 18, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. and
Sunday, July 14, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Saddle up and mark your calendars to join us for Bible stories, games, activities, mission and fun while we celebrate God's gifts to us! Use the signup genius online to register your child(ren) **or** if you would like to volunteer, please sign up online!

Questions, please contact Kim Fronk.

Summer B-B-Qs

Bring a Side Dish to Share
Tuesdays: June 18, July 16, August 13
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Are you ready to have a night "off" from cooking every once in a while this summer? And, even better, a night gathered with your church family? Plan on joining us for summer BBQs on the Lawn Avenue Lawn. The Church Life Committee will provide the burgers, hotdogs, and veggie burgers and all the fixings, and you can bring a dessert or side to share. Bring a chair or blanket and any activities you'd like. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m.

This is a great event to invite your friends and neighbors! All are welcome and no signups are required. Please see Elder Loretta Gratias-Bremer or Pastor Erik with any questions or to help with the monthly BBQs.

Save the Date: June 23
UPY Car/Pet Wash

Plan to have the youth wash and vacuum your car, truck or SUV after worship! They will also shampoo your lovable pet with all the care in the world!

Save the Date:
Kick-Off Sunday August 25!

With school programs starting up at the end of August, PCWS will be kicking off our Fall Programming a little bit early this year to coincide with the start of the school year. Kick-Off Sunday (which we've previously called "Rally Day") will begin our regular Sunday School and other activities.

We'll have a BBQ lunch after worship, live music, and activities for children. Save the date and plan to be there!

Mission & Service

Musical Happenings in April and May

Easter Sunday was a beautiful, joyous service of celebration! Having the choir and brass quintet really made for a meaningful, wonderful service. Thank you to all the choir members and to our brass quintet for sharing of their time and talents!

On Sunday, May 5th, we will celebrate the gifts of music that have guided our worship over the past year. We will also welcome members of the Chancel Choir from Friendship United Methodist Church in Bolingbrook to help us celebrate.

Looking ahead, the Bell Choir will be rehearsing soon to play in June - please contact Stephanie Coates if interested in playing - we would love to have new ringers! Be on the watch for the bells, they have just come back from the Mallmark headquarters where they underwent refurbishment. Not only do they look wonderful but they sound great too!

Please, feel free to contact Stephanie Coates by email.

Pop-Up Mission

Hands-On Mission

We're bringing Mission to you! Once a month, in the Jones Room immediately following worship, there will be an all-ages hands-on mission opportunity available during Fellowship time. Easy yet impactful, we'll do things like assemble laundry kits for BEDS clients, prepare simple Sunday lunches for a local agency, sort donated school supplies . . . you get the picture.

You'll love this opportunity to make a difference while continuing to "catch up" after church. Watch for details in the Weekly Email and Sunday bulletins!

Pentecost Offering

Mark your calendars! Sunday, June 9 is Pentecost Sunday which will be the final collection day for this very important special offering. Proceeds from the Pentecost Offering are allocated to programs aiding at-risk children, youth and young adults. Sixty percent of the amount we collect at PCWS is directed to PCUSA to support ministries with youth and young adults (50%) and child advocacy/children at risk (10%). And 40% stays right here, where we have the opportunity to direct that portion of funds collected to Chicago's Hope for Kids, a local ministry focused on supporting the needs of children in the Chicago area. During the month of May we'll share all the details with a Minute for Mission, bulletin inserts and weekly updates.

Please note that you can give to the Pentecost Offering very easily online.

Thank you for your generous contributions to this important annual special offering.

Member News

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

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

Second Baptist Food Pantry run: David Boxell and Kathy Wennerstrum

Crushed cans: David Boxell and Mindy McMahon

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

Flowers in April: Sue Kovalick

Easter Sunday Flowers: Sue Kovalick, Sue Eck, Nancy Glickman, Laurie Merrifield, and Jan Fortina

This Month's Birthdays

Sal Melilli Jr.	5/1	Drew Petersen	5/16
Diane Ravanesi	5/1	Brian Sullivan	5/18
Scott Sindelar	5/1	Julie Tinaglia	5/18
Davis McMahon	5/2	Joyce Smyers	5/19
Mollie Galloway	5/3	Abby Sindelar	5/20
Amy Malone	5/3	Megan Sindelar	5/20
Kevin McDermott	5/3	Phil Kasik	5/21
Dan Wennerstrum	5/3	Cara Haeske	5/22
Bennett Sellman	5/4	Kalie Hoskins	5/22
Ethan Sellman	5/4	Jon Metcalf	5/22
Tyler Sellman	5/4	Dorothy Andersen	5/23
Tim Karstens	5/5	Nana Mintah	5/23
Carolyn Garbin	5/6	Connor Cushman	5/24
Jeffery Kohlsaat	5/6	Ann De Vries	5/24
Kim Yates	5/6	Matt Booth	5/25
David Boxell	5/7	Evie Meyer	5/25
Laura Barnes	5/8	Paige Dold	5/26
Jessi Bozek	5/8	Alison Glickman	5/26
Pierce Wilson	5/8	Mark Dold	5/28
Nancy Glickman	5/10	Scott Karstens	5/28
Lexi McClintock	5/10	Sheryl Allen	5/29
Casey Leslie	5/11	Marcia Buell	5/29
Joe Benson Jr.	5/12	Neil Pendleton	5/30
Kathy Wennerstrum	5/15		

We're Social! Are You?

Follow us, share our information with your friends and family!

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**.

Member News

Remember in Prayer

- ✞ Our brothers and sisters at Nueva Paz Presbyterian Church in Cuba
- ✞ Our men & women serving our country in the Armed Services
- ✞ Barbara Bescak, aunt of Lori Carsten
- ✞ Barbara Lennie, friend of Becky & Larry Glasscock
- ✞ **Betty Anderson**
- ✞ **Betty Toft**
- ✞ **Billye Dvorak**
- ✞ Brent Young, son-in-law of Larry & Becky Glasscock
- ✞ Brian, friend of the Smyers family
- ✞ **Carol Stoub**
- ✞ Cheryl Donchez, friend of Theresa & Condy Dixon
- ✞ **Evie Meyer**
- ✞ Gary Eiten, Friend of Julie & Pat Kelly
- ✞ Gary Mirlenbrink, uncle of Lori Carsten
- ✞ Herman Mirlenbrink, grandfather of Lori Carsten
- ✞ Holly Oliver, daughter of Mary Kae Headland
- ✞ Jan Keeler, friend of Amy Malone
- ✞ **John Kregg**
- ✞ Joshua Haberkorn, grandson of Shirley Pine
- ✞ **Kathleen Kircher**
- ✞ Kim Rae, friend of Amy Malone
- ✞ Marc Goldstein, friend of Carol Ulreich
- ✞ **Marge Sandrik**
- ✞ 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
- ✞ Norb Mirlenbrink, Uncle of Lori Carsten
- ✞ Paulette Erickson, friend of Carol Ulreich
- ✞ **Phil Kasik**
- ✞ Phil Slocum, husband of Women's Retreat Leader, Diane
- ✞ Ruth Kaduke, niece of Herb & Joyce Smyers
- ✞ 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
- ✞ Tiffany Sellman's Parents
- ✞ Toni Potenza Moya, daughter of Harriett Potenza & Craig Harris
- ✞ Father and Mother of Tiffany Sellman

Thank you!

A special thank you to everyone who worked so hard to prepare for our Holy Week events at PCWS. Like all families, so many in our church family did their part to prepare and host meals, sponsor and arrange flowers and palms, rehearse and lead music, lead egg hunts, provide refreshments, and so many other things!

Thank you also to Forrest and the office volunteers for the additional workload they had during April.

Pastor Erik

Would you like to be a liturgist?

Every Sunday morning Pastor Erik has assistance from someone from the congregation who helps him lead worship. Responsibilities usually include leading the congregation in the Call to Worship, reading scripture, and praying over the morning offering. Pastor Erik will train you!

All are welcome … please contact Erik or Elder Marcia Buell if you are interested.

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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E-Mail: pcws@presbyws.org
Prayer Requests: prayers@presbyws.org
Telephone: 708-246-5220
Fax: 708-246-4276

04-26--2019

Dated Mail

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Events

May 2	**National Day of Prayer** **Presbyterian Women**
May 4	**Gathering Around the Table —** **Cuatro De Mayo!**
May 5	**Safe Space Training**
May 7	**Deacons**
May 10	**Noon — *Glad Tidings* article Deadline**
May 12	**Mother's Day**
May 13	**Gathering Around the Table —** **Breakfast**
May 15	**Session**
May 18	**All Church Work Day**
May 19	**Gathering Around the Table —** **Happy Hour**
May 22	**Gathering Around the Table —** **Lunch**
May 27	**Memorial Day** **Church and Offices Closed**
May 28	**Prepare Glad Tidings for mailing**
June 3	**7:30 p.m. 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.