From Erik’s Desk

I’ve not been very successful at growing things! I had a peace lily once that lived for a while, but aside from that, I’ve never been very successful growing plants. Goldfish never last that long in our house, although I’m still convinced that my mother had a secret stash of replacement goldfish that she would swap out in the event of my over-feeding or forgetting-to-feed or any number of other missteps.

Growing things is hard! It is no wonder then, that increasing in our faith and in our sense of community can be hard, too. For some people these will come naturally, but even then, they require some effort.

To build community, it means taking that step and saying hello to someone you may not know. It means sending a note or a card or making a call to someone facing a challenging time. There’s risk involved in building community, but in reality, the risk is minimal and the benefits far outweigh.

The same goes for our faith. We’ve got to do the work of cultivating faith and being ready for what God is doing in our lives. This means that sometimes we have to change up our habits and take on a new practice, like reading scripture or talking with others about their faith journey.

As a fellow traveler on the journey we call life, I can help point you to ways to grow in both of these areas. I hope you’ll consider reaching out. Plus, as we start planning our fall programs, you’ll see more opportunities to engage with others and grow in faith.

I should tell you that I’m taking some risk of my own this summer and spending time growing some plants! Pepper plants, to be specific. I’ve been nurturing three jalapeno plants, two serrano pepper plants, and one habanero plant. We’ll see how it goes, but I’m hopeful that with some deliberate effort, just like our faith and community, I’ll see the results soon!

See you in worship, at our Summer BBQs, and more!

Peace,

Pastor’s Bible Study for July:

Pastor Erik hosts Bible Study most Wednesdays from 2-3 p.m. All are welcome to attend this drop-in discussion group where we look at the text for the upcoming Sunday. In July we’ll have a limited schedule:

July 3, 10, & 24 - no meeting
July 17 - Colossians 1:1-14
July 31 - Colossians 2:6-15

Join us!

Worship in July

We hope to see you in worship during July! On July 7, our own Dom Garino will be preaching. **Note: communion in July will be on July 14 and NOT on July 7.**

On July 14, Pastor Erik will be wrapping up a short series on the prophets Elijah & Elisha. And then starting on July 21, Erik will be preaching for four weeks from the letter to the Colossians in a series titled: *Christ Is All & In All.* Join us!
Congregational News

Office Corner
In June, I celebrated a full year with PCWS. When I reflect on the past twelve months, I’m amazed at all that has been accomplished. When I interviewed, Pastor Bill and others kept reinforcing that I was coming into a position and a church that was transforming, and boy is that true!

The summer months are a great time to start volunteering in the church office. Because it’s slower, it’s a good way to ease in, and learn the ropes. We are always looking for volunteers who want to come in and staff the phones. Speaking of summer, this year, we will be closed on Mondays. You are welcome to stop by Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., call, or send me an email if you need anything.

Thank you to everyone who helps out around the church to keep us beautiful, tidy, and running smoothly. I hope you all have a wonderful July! - Forrest

Session Scroll
The Session met Wednesday, June 18. Here are some of the highlights of the meeting:
• Approved the hiring of Noor Hafeez as Childcare Attendant
• Heard about Mission plans for the Summer Mission Project to help Facing Forward make a House a Home.
• Received a report from Properties including update on plans to update the Narthex, Air Conditioner, and carpeting for the offices.
• Cheered the report of the new phone system is installed and working great!

Women’s Retreat
October 18-20

Women, come one, come all to the annual PCWS fall retreat. Head to Camp Manitoqua Adult Retreat Center (www.manitoqua.org) in Frankfort, Illinois where Intentional Energy3 will facilitate as we gather to connect and participate in a variety of coordinated activities, games and meals.

Enjoy time together, reflecting, singing, listening, creating and weather permitting, a nature walk. Last year we had many ‘first timers’ and each of us felt welcomed and all felt refreshed upon returning home. Spoil yourself and mark your calendar now. Please contact Mindy McMahon if you have questions.

New Phone System!
Last month the Glad Tidings contained an update regarding several projects around the PCWS campus. In June we completed the upgrade of our new voice over IP (VOIP) telephone system. We’re still getting all of the extensions installed, but this new system will significantly improve the quality of your calls with our church staff!

In Observance of the 4th of July Holiday, the Church and offices will be closed Thursday, July 4th and Friday, July 5th.

OUR PASTOR
Rev. Erik Khoobyarian, Pastor
Email: erik@presbyws.org
For a complete list of our staff, visit our website:
www.presbyws.org.
Gathering Around the Table

Gatherings have included breakfast, lunch and dinner! An appetizer gathering and a micro brewery! People have connected and learned more about each other. Comments heard have included “I didn’t know that!” “When did you start coming to PCWS”? “You traveled where? – I have always wanted to go there!” “Let’s do this again!”

Have an idea? All Signups are Online.

This Month’s Gathering:
Monday, July 22 – 8:30 a.m.
Blueberry Hill, 49 S. LaGrange Road, LaGrange

Willing to host a gathering? Contact Theresa Dixon or Loretta Gratias-Bremer.

2019-20 PCWS Book Club

Beginning this fall, the PCWS Book Club will be reading the following books:

- **September 23**  A Place for Us by Fatima Farheen Mirza (Fiction)
- **October 28**  Falling Leaves: The True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter by Adeline Yen Mah (Nonfiction)
- **November 25**  Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity and Love by Dani Shapiro (Nonfiction)
- **January 27**  The Book of Joy by Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu and Douglas Abrams (Nonfiction)
- **February 24**  House Broken by Sonja Yoerg (Fiction)
- **Mar 23**  Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng (Fiction)
- **April 27**  Becoming by Michelle Obama (Nonfiction)
- **June 1**  Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens (Fiction)

The group will meet in the Graham Charter Room at 7:00 p.m. for discussion. Everyone is welcome to attended for any or all of the discussions. For more information, contact Joyce Rodos.

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Do you shop at Amazon online? Do you know that If you start on the site smile.Amazon.com, and not through an AP on your phone or tablet, a portion of your purchase is donated to PCWS? Your account information is the same, shopping is secure. The only difference, is that through Smile you are not only selecting gifts from the comfort and convenience of your chair, but also giving a gift to PCWS because we benefit from any purchase made using our link to Amazon--anytime throughout the year. So why not change your bookmark and support PCWS when you shop?

Thistle Farms

Pastor Erik mentioned Thistle Farms in his sermon on June 2. Thistle Farms is a community of women in the Nashville area who are all healing from prostitution, trafficking, and addiction. They live and work together as they experience the transformation that can come from love and healing. One component of the program is the production and sales of natural products that are environmentally friendly and good for the body. You may have noticed the new Thistle Farms hand soaps in our PCWS bathrooms.

We are excited to support this great organization by offering hand soap and lotion for sale with proceeds going to Thistle Farms. This is so popular that we sold out on June 2 – but they are back in stock! Soaps and lotions are $12 each and available in the church office for purchase. Stop by and smell all four scents: Citrus Wood, Lavender, Vanilla Vetiver, and Eucalyptus Mint.
Welcome our new Childcare Attendant!

Ms. Noor Hafeez has experience teaching very young children math and reading at Kumon and babysitting at a local Health, Fitness and Recreational Center. She is completing her degree in psychology at UIC next year. Her colleagues describe her as dedicated, positive and a team member offering her support to others so children are learning. Noor reviewed the PCWS website prior to interviewing and found our events to be exciting. She looks forward to contributing to our events while taking care of our infants, playing with them and ensuring their safety. You can meet her in the nursery on June 30 as she joins Cory Hoskins in the nursery.

Teachers and Assistants Wanted!

Faith Formation needs your help! We are looking for Sunday School teachers and assistants for the coming school year. We will be offering Sunday School for all ages from preschool - high school using the Feasting of the Word curriculum.

We use Signup Genius to schedule teachers and assistants and you can choose the weeks you want to help (even if you’re only able to teach or assist once!) We will have a teachers meeting for the Fall on August 14 at 7:00 p.m.

All teachers and assistants need to be trained and approved under the church’s Safe Space Program. You can learn more about the program by reading the policy on the PCWS website or contacting Safe Space Committee Elder Mindy McMahon. If you have been active at PCWS for at least one year and would like to become an approved volunteer, you need to have a background check completed and attend an in-person training session. Upcoming sessions will be on Tuesday, August 27, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, September 15, 11:00 a.m.– noon. Please contact Forrest in the office to begin the approval process and to let her know if you will be attending.

If you are interested in learning more about being a Sunday school teacher or assistant, please contact Kim Fronk. Thank you for sharing of your time and effort to help build the faith of our young people!

Yee-haw Vacation Bible Days
Preschool - 5th grade!

Sunday, July 14, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Yee-haw Vacation Bible Days are coming this summer for our Preschool - 5th graders! Saddle up and mark your calendars for Sunday, July 14, from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. We would love to have your child join us! There will be Bible stories, games, activities, mission and fun while we celebrate God’s gifts to us! Whether you would like to volunteer or be part of the fun, please use the signup link below.

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.

Playground Update!

Plans are coming together for a new playground. Watch for details on the installation date and how you can help!
Summer Music

Summer worship wouldn’t be complete without those who so willingly give of their time and musical talents. We are so blessed here at PCWS with the many musicians we have! In June, The Chancel Choir, Jim and Tricia Koning, the Bell Choir, and No-Name shared beautiful music with the congregation. Thank you to all those involved!

During July, the following people will be sharing their musical gifts with us.

**July 14th:** Jim and Tricia Koning along with two family members, Dorelle Scheeringa, and Daneen Krygsheld

**July 21st:** Amy Malone and Kevin McDermott

**July 28th:** Kevin Hennessy

The summer is also a great time for cleaning out and organizing all of the materials and music that make up the music program here at PCWS. I will be doing a lot of work with the music library this summer to update it. There are also songbooks, other materials and instruments that have been organized and stored that were in great need of being taken care. Stay tuned, as more information will be coming on the changes being made “behind the scenes” of the music program.

Looking forward, choir rehearsals will start up at the end of August (August 22) so stay tuned for more information. Have a great July!

Stephanie Coates, Director of Music

Welcoming Ministry

Looking for ways to help others feel welcome at PCWS? Here two ways each of us can help:

**Circle of 10:** Greet anyone, member or guest, who comes within ten feet of you. Make a special effort to greet the people you don’t already know within your Circle of 10.

**Rule of Three:** Try not to talk to people you know well for the first three minutes after the service. Talk only to those you don’t know or people you know are guests. It takes guests about three minutes to exit the church after worship and we need to make sure someone has made contact with them before they leave.

We know how friendly PCWS is, and Welcoming Ministry will be offering tips throughout the year to help each of us show others.

Michelle Hennessy
Elder, Welcoming Ministry

Youth Wrap Up

This year has been so exciting! Thank you to all the youth and families and friends who have come out to help support our program. Without such an incredible team this year wouldn’t have been the success it was!

The end of the year BBQ was delicious! Fun and fellowship were enjoyed by an intimate little group of both familiar and new faces! We invited the neighborhood children over and hosted an epic game of kickball followed by some legendary whiffle ball! Special thanks to Erik for cooking - it was perfect!

Thank you to everyone who came out with a pet or a car and trusted us to wash them! Also my gratitude to the youth who did the work!! Those last-minute funds will be a game changer on our mission trip to Tennessee.

I couldn’t have survived this year without my trusty and loyal advisor Joey Benson! When you see him around be sure to high five him for his dedication to our youth. Never afraid to get dirty or real with our kiddos- Joey you are a blessing. Thank you.

Candice Mares
Mission News

PCWS Mission Support

Welcome to the first in a series of articles during 2019 sharing information about the PCWS Mission budget. We want members and friends of PCWS to understand how the mission funds established through our church budget help those near and far throughout the year.

Each year, PCWS allocates a portion of our mission budget to support the work of our denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA) headquartered in Louisville Kentucky. They work at the highest level across the United States and globally in support of mission education, training and services. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is one agency through PC(USA) which provides help during time of natural, or human-made, disasters. PCWS has participated in work trips through PDA to be caring hearts and rebuilding hands on the group in times of need. Locally, mission funds support the Presbytery of Chicago serving about 90 PC(USA) churches in the Chicagoland area. We are able to utilize resources from them, participate in joint programs and services and share ideas with other congregations. The regional governing body, the Synod of Lincoln Trails, offers ministry and mission for the Illinois and Indiana region. These interconnected Christian communities of the Presbyterian Church (USA), across our nation, help us increase the power of our funds through joining together with others.

Special denominational offerings, such as One Great Hour of Sharing collected at Easter or the recently collected Pentecost offering, are seasonal offerings established through our denomination’s national church, PC(USA). These support designated mission, education and programmatic offerings. We'll continue sharing about each of these offerings during the year.

Save the Date!

Please “Save the Date” for our annual PCWS work day at Margaret’s Village on Saturday, October 5th. PCWS has had an annual work day at the Maria Shelter or Believe Family Shelter where our efforts help the women, children, seniors and families of Margaret’s Village as they work to overcome the issues in their lives. Lance Smith and Brian Sullivan will once again lead the way as we work to repair and refurbish these two transitional homeless shelters. Watch for more news in future Glad Tidings.

PCWS Donation Center : Box Tops For Education

We have resumed collecting the "Box Tops for Education" labels found on a variety of household products from name brand manufacturer. These little pink labels can be worth substantial funds when combined with labels from other products.

Our labels will go to the Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Menaul School and the Presbyterian Church (USA) have a long history together, going back to the founding of the school in 1896 by a Presbyterian minister, Rev. James A. Menaul. The framework for this long-term relationship has changed over the years, but the love and commitment between the two communities has endured. Ron and Mary Jo Blough from PCWS spent a year at Menaul as Volunteers in Mission.

The labels will help in earning money to purchase school supplies, sports equipment or even computers. A little clipping of these Box Tops can make a substantial difference for the school and their students.

Here is the symbol to look for:
Mission Makers

Are you passionate about mission? Curious about mission? Interested in learning more about mission? We offer various opportunities for anyone to give Mission a whirl! People of all ages and experience levels are welcome!

There are a number of mission activities – both large and small – throughout the year that could use leaders, assistants, and participants. We gladly welcome anyone who may wish to help lead or oversee an event such as a service project at Feed My Starving Children or help with the CROP Walk in October. Interested in helping with a Pop-Up Mission project one Sunday after fellowship? We will be glad to chat with you about projects, questions or interests so we can work with your time, passion, and calendar.

More communication is always helpful. In addition to what is already done, other options include writing articles, helping with the Mission bulletin board or providing a Moment for Mission announcement during worship. It all helps to spread the word about the work and needs of the PCWS mission ministry with members and friends.

All-Church Summer Mission Project!

School’s out, it’s officially summer at PCWS, and it’s time to have some fun with Mission! In addition to continuing our hugely popular monthly pop-up projects, on June 23 we kicked off our BIG summer project: Let’s Make a House a Home.

This project will benefit Facing Forward to End Homelessness, a Chicago-based agency that provides permanent supportive housing and clinical case management services to families and individuals in Chicago who have experienced chronic homelessness and are living with a disability.

Facing Forward presently maintains 228 scattered site units/apartments in varied city neighborhoods, and houses 73 families in townhomes at Sanctuary Place, a housing unit directly adjacent to their administrative offices near Humboldt Park. One of the special things they do when an individual or family makes the transition from homelessness to a supported apartment home is to provide a laundry basket of essentials to help ease that transition. Filled with essentials like hand soap, toilet paper, laundry detergent, dish soap, sponges, cleaning supplies, trash bags, bath towels, kitchen basics, personal care items and maybe a little something extra, this simple gift helps put them just one more step ahead. Facing Forward.

So how will this work? Mission will provide as many laundry baskets as our congregation, neighbors, and friends are able to fill. All of us just need to bring the stuff to fill them. We’ll have display laundry baskets in the Jones Room, and various places throughout the church with tags noting items we’ll all be gathering for the baskets. Simply take a tag or two or three, put them in a spot you see every day, purchase the stuff you’ve committed to and place it in one of the display baskets.

By the end of summer, we hope to have collected enough sets of items to fill several baskets. We’ll take a final massive collection on Kick-off Sunday, August 25 and will assemble the baskets as our September 8 Pop-Up mission project.

Print out the following pages and post on your refrigerator as a reminder! Ready? Set? Let’s Make a House a Home!
Let's Make a House a Home!

Facing Forward to End Homelessness is a PCWS mission partner that provides permanent supportive housing and clinical case management services to families and individuals in Chicago who have experienced chronic homelessness.

One of the special things they do when an individual or family makes the transition from homelessness to a supported apartment home is provide a laundry basket of essentials to help ease that transition. Filled with essentials like hand soap, toilet paper, laundry detergent, dish soap, sponges, cleaning supplies, trash bags, bath towels, kitchen basics, personal care items and maybe a little something extra, this simple gift helps put them just one more step ahead. Facing Forward.

This summer, we at PCWS will be collecting items to assemble as many welcome home baskets as we can. Our goal is to have a significant impact with this project, and we need your help! All you have to do is grab a tag (or, hopefully, several tags!) and purchase the items listed on the tags and bring them back to PCWS any time between now and August 25. This is a great activity for you to do as a family and with friends. You could even have a dinner party and invite people to bring items, or involve your children with the shopping for the items and maybe even choosing what to purchase. Say a prayer for the people who will use the items and share about this organization with others.

Once we collect all of the items, we’ll pack the baskets after worship on September 8 and deliver them to Facing Forward so that we can be a part of making a house a home for several families!

Let’s put our love into action this summer! Throughout the summer months you’ll learn more about Facing Forward during worship, you can learn more about them online at www.ffchicago.org

For more information or questions about our Let’s Make a House a Home mission project, reach out to Kathy Wennerstrum.

Choose a tag in the Narthex or Jones Room!

Presbyterian Church of Western Springs
5250 Wolf Road, Western Springs | presbyws.org
Below is a list of items we are collecting for Facing Forward during the PCWS Let's Make a House a Home summer mission project. Read through the list to find quantities, descriptions, and prices.

How to get involved:
1) Select a tag from the Narthex or Jones Room
2) Purchase the items and quantities listed on the tag
3) Drop off the items at the church
4) Plan to help assemble baskets on September 8 at Fellowship

**Options in this list are estimated to cost $5 to $10**

- **Dish Soap**: 3 x 18 to 24 oz. bottles, any brand
- **Disinfecting Surface Wipes**: 3 x Containers of at least 35 wipes each
- **Toilet Bowl Cleaner**: 4 x Bottles of 24 oz. cleaner
- **Toilet Bowl Brush & Holder**: 2 x Brushes and holders
- **Bar Soap**: 8 x 4-oz. bars

**Options in this list are estimated to cost $10 to $15**

- **Laundry Detergent**: 3 x 30 to 50 oz bottles of liquid detergent
- **Dryer Sheets**: 4 x Medium sized boxes
- **Multipurpose Spray Cleaner**: 4 x Bottles of 32 oz. cleaner
- **Kitchen Garbage Bags**: 2 x Boxes of 45 13-gallon bags
- **Toothbrushes**: 4 x Packages of 4-6 toothbrushes
- **Toothpaste**: 6 x 6-oz. tubes
- **Kitchen Towels**: 4 x Kitchen towels

**Options in this list are estimated to cost $15 to $20**

- **Sponges**: 3 x Packages of 4-6 sponges
- **Set of Bathroom Towels**: 1 x Set of six towels (see tag for details)
We’re Social! Are You?
Follow us, share our information with your friends and family!

CROP WALK: Save the Date!

The 50th anniversary of the CROP Hunger Walk will be on Sunday, October 27th. Plan to participate with the PCWS family and friends. The walk will start at 1:15 p.m. at The First Congregational Church of Western Springs, 1106 Chestnut Street. PCWS will be the half-way point in the walk. There will also be a special family-friendly shorter walk in the neighborhood around the Congregational Church.

Mark your calendar so you, too, can be part of the 50th annual CROP Hunger Walk in the western suburbs! We’ll share more details in the coming issues of the Glad Tidings.

Youth Mission Trip

While you read this, 12 of us will be preparing to embark on a fulfilling and life altering mission trip to Appalachia. Please keep us all in your prayers!

Leaders: Kathy Wennerstrum, Nate Yates, Lance Smith, and Candice Mares; Youth: Natalie Carlisle, Gabi Cloutier, Marc Dold, Abby and Luke Gertsmeier, Jessie and Jayson Fronk, Colleen Sullivan. We will better attempt at keeping a running blog of our adventures to maintain communication with you all while we are away, last year got a little off track- we shall try harder this time!

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.

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!
This Month’s Birthdays

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<td>Theresa Ybanez</td>
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<td>The family of Todd</td>
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<td>Parents of Tiffany</td>
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<td>Toni Potenza Moya</td>
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We extend sympathy to the family of Dr. George Slezak who died June 19, 2019. Please keep Braden, Liz, and all of the Slezak family in your prayers. Read the obituary online.

A Memorial Service will be held June 29, at PCWS. Dr. Slezak’s ashes will be placed in the Memorial Garden beside those of his wife, Donna.
Summer Barbecues at PCWS

Mark your calendars for the summer Barbecues on:
Tuesday, July 16
Tuesday, August 13

Gather on the lawn — 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Summer BBQ’s continue on July 16 at 6:00 p.m.! Bring a side dish or dessert to share, and we’ll provide the rest! These gatherings are a great chance to connect with others in the church, especially since many folks are away on the weekends. Bring the whole family and invite friends along as well! If you’d like to help with preparations, please signup on Signup Genius.

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.