A Note from Pastor Erik ...

“I’m so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers.” – L.M. Montgomery, Anne of Green Gables. I’ve always enjoyed this quote because it somehow captures the wonder of a month of transitions and gatherings. As the weather changes and the warmth of summer gives way to cool, crisp days and falling leaves, we are surrounded by a shifting landscape that invites our own reflection on our lives.

For us at PCWS, during Stewardship we will be invited to dream together about our future in ministry as we look toward 2020 and consider our individual financial commitments to PCWS. The future is exciting and it is through your support that we are able to have an impact in our community and our world. Thank you for all you do!

But as I consider all that is going on in the church this month, I am encouraged because we have so many chances to live presently – in our October. This is a month of opportunity. We have opportunities to put our faith into action at Margaret’s Village (10/5) and the Greater Chicago Food Depository (10/12). Our women will step away for a retreat as they build friendships and faith (10/18-20). Our youth will continue their faith journeys during confirmation, and opportunities for conversation with one another and Candice. And then at the end of the month we’ll celebrate the 50th anniversary of the CROP Walk for hunger and have our Trunk-and-Treat gathering (both on 10/27). All the while, we’ll be gathering for choir and handbell rehearsals, Sunday School, worship, Bible study, book discussions, fellowship, and more! These are just a taste of what’s going on here at PCWS in October (there’s more contained in these pages). New beginnings, gathering with others, growing in faith – this is who we are!

My prayer for you this month is that you might look for ways that you can practice your faith at PCWS so that you can go out into the world and live your faith. May our church be a place where you feel challenged and loved and where you can grow in your faith and encourage others. I am so glad to live in a world where there are Octobers, but I am also so glad to be journeying through this October with you all!

Parents’ Night Out
Saturday, October 5
5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Ready for a date night, or perhaps simply some child-free time to run errands? Drop your children off at church while you enjoy an evening however you’d like. Childcare will be provided, and we’ll have games and activities for the kids to enjoy together during this fun-filled evening. Register online by October 3.

Trunk - and - Treat
Sunday, October 27
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Join us for the annual PCWS Trunk-and-Treat event in the church parking lot for a safe way to participate in family-friendly Halloween fun. Children can wear their costumes (nothing too scary please!) and visit cars decorated by PCWS members who will be distributing treats. Bring your children and their friends, all are welcome!

Please sign up online to decorate your car, wear your costume and distribute treats for this fun-filled event.

Pastor Appreciation Fellowship

What is the best way to show the Pastor your appreciation? COME TO CHURCH!

Sunday, November 3rdd, the Deacons will be hosting Fellowship Hour in appreciation of Pastor Erik and his ministry at PCWS. Mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend!
October, 2019

Session Scroll

The Session met Wednesday, September 18. Highlights of the meeting:

- Enjoyed a potluck meal and joint meeting with the Deacons
- Received a report from the recent Presbytery Meeting
- Discussed potential new logos
- Called for a congregational meeting on October 13 to vote on changes to the PCWS By-Laws.

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women meets October 3 at 12:30 p.m. at the LaGrange Highlands Presbyterian Church, 1902 W. 59th Place, LaGrange Highlands. Betty Kay will present a look at Mary Todd Lincoln as viewed from Mary Todd’s sister, Elizabeth Todd Edwards. Betty is a Bicentennial Road Scholar, author, and historical actor who will become Elizabeth this afternoon. Lunch will be served – cost is $12. Reserve your place by calling Forrest in our office (708-246-5220).

Please remember a “Thank Offering” will be taken in October and November. Forty percent of this offering supports health ministries - twelve projects in the U.S. and six international ones. The remaining percentage supports new or expanded projects and small capital improvement projects for Presbyterian Women.

Circle
Thursday, October 17 – 1:30 p.m.

We will meet in the Graham Charter Room and our study will help reframe the way we look at and live as we explore a “love letter” from a loving God, Lesson 2, in our Horizons study Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments.

Women interested in participating in the Women’s Retreat, October 18-20, are encouraged to register on-line and pay by October 7. Financial scholarships are available.

Cost: $175.00

Please contact Mindy McMahon if you have questions.

The Body of Christ Women’s Retreat

Do you long for some quality time away from the busyness of your life?
We invite you to join us exploring all that makes you so special and experience different ways to care for yourself.

This retreat looks at how we are “fearfully and wonderfully made” as we find God’s purpose in our lives. We look at overcoming negative self-talk, listen to each other’s stories, and develop positive steps for self-love and care.
Discover the importance of feeding your mind, body, and soul.
There will be time set aside for games, crafts, nature walks, and a special Taize’ worship.
This retreat covers you from head to toe!

Perhaps you are considering attending the Women’s Retreat and wonder what you will gain from it. Reach out and inquire so you can determine your plans. Comments from women who attended retreats in the past include:

“I loved sharing in the small groups.”
“All of the ‘fun’ and using our projects to learn more and more about how we love our God.”
“Gathering to know my fellow retreaters in a closer way.”
“Being away with friends; establishing deeper friendships. Having quiet time to reflect values with God.”
“Thanks for making my first retreat so wonderful.”

Women interested in participating in the Women’s Retreat, October 18-20, are encouraged to register on-line and pay by October 7. Financial scholarships are available.

Cost: $175.00

Please contact Mindy McMahon if you have questions.

**OUR PASTOR**

The 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

This is a great way to connect with folks who you don’t know AND to connect and learn something new about folks that you do know! Be sure to RSVP on Signup Genius or on the bulletin board outside the Jones Room.

If you’d like to learn more about this program, or have an idea for hosting a gathering, please email Theresa Dixon or Loretta Gratias-Bremer.

Gathering Dates for October:
Tuesday, October 8, 11:30 a.m.
Russell’s BBQ
5545 S. LaGrange Road, Countryside
Check out their website - Orders are placed at the counter and food will be brought to your table.

Monday, October 21 at 8:30 a.m.
Willow Hill
6678 Joliet Road, Indian Head Park

2019–20 PCWS Book Club

The group will meet in the Graham Charter Room Monday, October 28 at 7:00 p.m. for discussion.

October 28  Falling Leaves: The True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter by Adeline Yen Mah  (Nonfiction)

Everyone is welcome to attend for any or all of the discussions. Check the church calendar for future dates and Books. For more information, contact Joyce Rodos.

Flower Sponsors Wanted

Help bring nature to worship — sponsor Chancel flowers for a Sunday! The signup chart is online and posted on the lower-level bulletin board if you would like to remember a loved one or honor a special occasion. The cost is $35 per Sunday and envelopes are provided next to the chart. Please specify if you wish to take the flowers home or have them delivered to others. Those who are in the hospital or home recuperating love to get flowers!

Prayer Following Worship

Have you ever had someone pray with you? We often share our prayer requests through email or even in conversation, but there’s something special and powerful about praying with someone.

Starting September 8, each Sunday after worship our Stephen Ministers (members of the congregation who have committed themselves to caring for others in the church) will be available in the front of the church to pray with you after the postlude. You can share with them a specific concern (or celebration) or simply ask for prayer. Give this a try and experience the gift of prayer.

Adult Education Options

Have you thought about joining some of the Adult Education series that Pastor Erik hosts? He offers a variety of times and days of the week, many of which require no preparation. All are welcome and will find the groups to be inviting of all perspectives. Participants expressed the following responses...

“I enjoy attending the Wednesday Bible Study as it delivers a bit of scripture in the middle of the week. It is also nice to hear how others interpret the passage. It is a nice way to spend an hour and walk away feeling fulfilled!”

“Group Bible Study at PCWS offers an opportunity to learn and better understand the history and meaning of God’s word. Pastor Erik leads an insightful and interactive session that someone new to reading the Bible or someone who has more significant depth can participate in and relate to. These study groups are intellectually and spiritually gratifying.”
Potluck and Talent Night
November 2, 6:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for November 2 - 6:00 p.m. in the Jones Room! All ages are invited to share their talents! The evening will begin with dinner (bring a main course, salad, or dessert) and then enjoy the talents of PCWS friends and members! Do you dance? Sing? Play an instrument? Tell jokes? Do handstands? Juggle? Whistle?

Signup online and let us know what talent you’d like to share!

Mission Sunday School

During Sunday School on October 6th, Peter Hansen and Nate Yates will share the meaning of the CROP Walk and ways the children can participate. Children should dress in comfortable shoes and clothing as they may go outside. They will return to the sanctuary to sit with their family for communion.

The Crop Walk takes place October 27. (See article on Page 7.)

Sending Our College Students . . .
Some PCWS Love . . .
With College Care Packages!

The Deacons are collecting items to include in care packages that will be sent to our younger members away at college. Please consider donating some of the suggested items or other things you feel might be enjoyed by those away from home.

- Leftover Halloween candy
- Tea or cocoa packages
- Individual soup packets
- Granola bars
- Kleenex packets
- Hand Sanitizer
- Popcorn
- Mints
- Pens/pencils
- Individual bags of chips
- Individual cookie packets
- Toothbrushes
- Floss
- Note cards

Please bring your donations to church before November 5th to be included in the packages.
**Matching Gifts**

Does your employer have a matching gift program? Many employers have programs where, after verifying an employee contribution to a charity, the employer will match a certain percentage of an employee donation and give money to the same charity. If you aren’t sure whether your employer has a matching gift program, check with your human resources department.

Sometimes employer matches to a church can present challenges. Some company policies exclude churches from a matching gift program, citing the promotion of one belief at the exclusion of others. If employers have such a policy, encourage them to contact the church. Oftentimes, employers will include churches in matching programs if the church can demonstrate contributions are used to benefit mission work that isn't directly tied to furthering any single denomination or religious belief.

Please contact Pastor Erik with any questions or if you would like more information for your employer and/or to arrange for a PCWS representative to speak with someone regarding their company’s matching gift program.

Matching gifts are a great way to provide further financial support to PCWS!

**Stewardship**

The Session's Stewardship Committee kicks off the church's annual campaign this month to secure pledges and financial commitments to fund next year's mission, operating and capital budgets.

Key to the committee's success is its receipt of completed pledge cards from all church members. The committee asks that pledge cards, which are being mailed to each church member, be returned on any Sunday in October. Cards will be mailed to all members and available in the pews as well. Pledges can also be made at any time online at www.presbyws.org, or by e-mail to stewardship@presbyws.org.

Stewardship Chair Condy Dixon and Elder Mike Lobash developed this year's campaign around the biblical teachings of charitable giving. At its core, stewardship is the act of taking care of everything God has given and created, including your church family and its missions.

The church is coming off several years of successful fund raising, including a three-year capital improvement campaign. Although the amount to give to the church is a personal, prayerful decision, the committee does ask members to consider increasing their annual pledge to the church's operating budget by including some amount previously directed toward the capital campaign.

Committee members will report on the progress of the stewardship campaign throughout the month of October and will be available to answer questions regarding the campaign and other planned giving opportunities. Keep your eye out for the brochure coming this week!

**World Communion Sunday – October 6**

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday and celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our siblings around the world. To remind us of our connection to the world, our communion table will be set with breads from different cultures and we’ll break the various breads during our celebration of the Lord’s Supper.
PCWS

Winter Family Camp

January 3-5, 2020

Cost: $110/adult, $80/youth, $60/child under 6

Accommodations  Camp Edwards is a YMCA camp located in East Troy, Wisconsin. We have two lodges available and each family will have a private room with bunk beds and bathrooms attached to the rooms (in one lodge, bathrooms are shared between two families). Our camp registrars will work with you to find the right room set-up!

Activities & Schedule  There will be lots of indoor and outdoor activities including gathering in the lodges around the fireplace for board games, carpet ball, euchre, puzzles, and more, and, depending on the weather and conditions, some outdoor fun with sledding, skating, hiking, and cross-country skiing. A highlight every year is a Saturday afternoon scavenger hunt led by the Yates family! Sunday morning Pastor Erik will lead us in worship and we'll serve one another communion before packing up and heading home.

Food  The dining room is a short walk from the lodges. The cost includes all meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. But a highlight of Family Camp is always the snacks that people bring! (And if you sleep in on Saturday, you'll still enjoy Aileen Pendleton’s famous cinnamon rolls!)

Getting There  Campers typically meet in Western Springs at 5 p.m., and caravan with a stop for dinner along the way. The drive is about 2 hours, and if you can't make it in time to join the caravan, you can meet us there when you're able.

Families, couples, and singles are all welcome as Winter Family Camp is open to everyone! Please contact Lorraine Hoskins (lorhos@hotmail.com) with any questions or to sign-up.

Financial assistance is available - please do not let the cost keep you from attending.

To Register and Pay Online, visit our Online Donation Page!
Join us at the Chicago Food Depository on Saturday, October 12!

We have reserved a slot for a work session at the Greater Food Depository on Saturday morning, October 12. Carpooling from the church will be available. We will leave around 7:45am and will be back by noon. Interested in attending? You can either sign up on the Chicago Food Depository website or contact Jan Paddock by email. All attendees must be pre-registered. Also, the minimum age for volunteers has been is 11.

Please join us for a morning of fun and service!!!
Summer Mission Project: 
Facing Forward to End Homelessness

What a wonderful summer for mission at PCWS! Thank you to everyone who participated in the “Let’s Make a House a Home” project. All summer long, people gathered items for these baskets and in September we packed the baskets. Pastor Erik and I delivered the baskets to our mission partner, Facing Forward to End Homelessness, and the staff and clients of the organization helped us bring the baskets in from our cars. The offices are housed in one of the apartment buildings where families make their new homes. Our project became quite real in that moment. The products that we had been collecting, stopped being supplies and became an expression of love to people we didn’t know and might never meet.

This was a significant project for PCWS and, to be honest, when we first started it, I wasn’t sure what sort of goal we should set. But very quickly it became clear that people were engaged and ready to help others. This has always been true of our congregation, but particularly with this project, you all rose to the occasion. Together, we gathered enough basic household items to fill 50 “Welcome Home” baskets for the clients of Facing Forward to End Homelessness.

From toothpaste and bath towels to laundry detergent and disinfecting wipes, each of these baskets will be an essential aid to both individuals and families moving into a supported apartment home for what may be the first stable housing situation in their lifetimes.

Some fun facts: over the course of this project, we collected 275 bars of soap, 200 kitchen towels, 150 tubes of toothpaste and well over 200 toothbrushes. With weekly additions to our shopping carts, boxes of online orders, and a festive “giving” party we all kept the pile of (quite fragrant) supplies growing.

Thanks to the Sunday school kids and the high school students for assembling the personal touch of “chocolate chip banana bread” gifts: a jar with ingredients hand-measured and filled, tied with a bow, paired with a recipe card and set in a shiny new bread pan. And to everyone who participated in our lively Pop Up Mission Project on September 8 when we formed spontaneous teams to assemble the first 25 baskets, which were then delivered to Facing Forward on September 11. Our middle school Confirmation students then completed the final 25 baskets which were delivered on September 25.

On behalf of Facing Forward to End Homelessness and their clients, thank you all for a summer of creative giving and, especially, for your kindness and generosity!

Kathy Wennerstrum

Margaret’s Village Work Day
Saturday, October 5th

There is still time to sign up for our annual PCWS work day at Margaret’s Village on Saturday October 5th. Lance Smith and Brian Sullivan will once again lead the crew as we repair and refurbish facilities run by Margaret’s Village on the south side of Chicago. During past PCWS work days at the Maria Shelter or Believe Family Shelter our efforts have helped the women, children, seniors and families of Margaret’s Village as they work to overcome the issues in their lives.

We will meet at PCWS at 8:00 a.m. for carpooling to the shelter. Lunch will be provided and we are usually back to PCWS in the early afternoon (depends on final project selection). All skill levels are welcome from first-time participants to those bringing their own tool kits! Sign up online or contact Lance Smith.
Cuba Trip

The Mission Committee is excited to share that our next trip to Cuba will take place November 11-18 which will be a very special trip for us in that we will be bringing Pastor Erik with us to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of our partnership with the church in Nueva Paz!

The group will include Erik, Paul Banovic, Kevin McDermott, Mindy McMahon, and Kathy Wennerstrum.

In addition to some special gifts that we will be bringing to our friends in Cuba, the need for medical supplies continues to be significant and they have asked us to bring the following:

- Ibuprofen
- Acetaminophen
- Vitamins for children and adults
- Vitamin C
- Pain relieving ointments
- Decongestants
- Benadryl
- Antibiotics
- Antacids
- Probiotics
- Band aids
- a suitcase with wheels

If you would like to learn more about our partnership with Nueva Paz church, please talk with Kathy Wennerstrum or Jane Boxell. When the mission team returns, there will be an opportunity for conversation with them about their experience.

Peace & Global Witness Offering

Four times a year, PCWS receives special offerings that are coordinated by the PC(USA). The annual Peace and Global Witness Offering will be collected on World Communion Sunday, October 6.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. The local presbytery uses 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice.

One vital component of this mission is the Peacemaking Program, which selects a number of individuals from a variety of countries to serve as Peacemakers. This year, 12 Peacemakers were selected for the program and began their U.S. program in Louisville on September 11. PCWS and the Presbytery of Chicago have been selected as one of the visits on the itinerary of Izett Samá Hernández, a Cuban pastor with whom we have maintained a very special partnership. Izett has served in many positions of leadership with the Cuban Synod and with the Presbytery of Havana and, while serving as pastor of the Presbyterian church Los Palos, a rural community similar to and close to Nueva Paz, also served as the moderator of our Nueva Paz partner’s session during their 2-year interim period without an installed pastor.

Izett has visited us before and we are looking forward to her return. The expected dates of Izett’s visit are October 9-15, although the processing of her visa has been delayed, so we’re hoping by the time you read this, her visa has been granted and she’s somewhere in the United States working to build bridges of Peace. We are all very much looking forward to having Izett back in our midst as a real, live representation of the peacemaking work made possible through the Peace and Global Witness Offering.

Visit the PCWS Online Giving Page and select Peace & Global Witness under Special Offerings to give today!

Columbus Day — October 14
Church and Offices will be closed.
Introducing Patrick Rivers

Please join us in welcoming Patrick Rivers to the church staff as our Financial Secretary. In this newly created role, Patrick will work hand-in-hand with our Church Treasurer, our Church Administrator, the Finance Committee and our volunteers to maintain PCWS’s financial records. Patrick worked as Treasurer and Vice President at family-owned companies in the Chicago area for 35 years before retiring in 2014. He now spends his time volunteering and one of his favorite organizations is the Christian Dental Society. In addition to supporting the group locally, every year he goes with them to Jamaica, where they spend four days treating 300-400 people, providing much needed dental care. Patrick lives in Lombard with his wife, Lisa, and has two grown children, a son and a daughter. We are excited to have Patrick joining us. Please stop by to say ‘hi’ when you see him!

Congregational Nominating Committee

The Congregational Nominating Committee began work during September as they prayerfully seek to identify individuals for service on our Session and Board of Deacons. If you have any questions, please reach out to Elder Steve Wennerstrum or Pastor Erik.

Office Corner

There is a lot that goes into the planning and execution of the goings-on at PCWS. From events, to day-to-day needs, volunteers serve an important role in the life of this church and building. This fall, I’d like to take a moment to recognize some of those volunteers and their contributions. Thank you to Walt and Sue Kovalick for their efforts in caring for the church facility, and helping to keep it organized. They have helped to clean out some of the dingier storage areas, and check off some our repair to-dos. Thank you to Mindy McMahon for her continued support in the church office, helping with anything that pops up. She has helped on too many projects to name, and her enthusiasm is so appreciated. Thank you to our wonderful crew of volunteers that help to prepare the GT for mailing – Dorothy Andersen, Jan Fortina, Joyce Habermann, Harriett Potenza, and Mary Kae Headland. Thank you to Carol Ulreich for her help in the office. She takes on some of the most behind-the-scenes tasks that keep us from falling behind in our reporting. Thank you to Amy Malone, Joyce Rodos, and Kay Kelly for their help in staffing the office when I am away. It’s so nice to go away knowing that there is a great group holding down the fort. Thank you to all of these volunteers and the others I haven’t mentioned for their time and dedication. As always, if you’re looking to be more involved as a volunteer in the church office, please reach out to me!

Forrest Schroeder
Church Administrator

This Month’s Birthdays

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<td>Lillian Hanson</td>
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Remember in Prayer

❖ Our siblings at Nueva Paz Presbyterian Church in Cuba
❖ Men & women serving in the Armed Services
❖ 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
❖ Cheryl Kroon
❖ Elaine Wood
❖ Evie Meyer
❖ The Family of 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
❖ Linda Bell, daughter of Margot Walsh
❖ Lisa & Mike Porters, friends of the Leslie family
❖ Marc Goldstein, friend of Carol Ulreich
❖ Marge Sandrik
❖ Mary Jo & Tully Davia, Isabella Davia’s grandparents
❖ Mary Kate Miller, step-mother of Julie Garino
❖ Mary, dear friend of Bruce Geary
❖ Mary Palmer, aunt of Lori Carsten
❖ Michael DeVries
❖ Michael, friend of Jane Norman
❖ Norb Mirlenbrink, uncle of Lori Carsten
❖ Friends and family of Paul Eck
❖ Paulette Erickson, friend of Carol Ulreich
❖ Peggy Mirlenbrink, aunt of Lori Carsten
❖ Phil Kasik
❖ Ravi Deva, friend of Lori Carsten
❖ Ruth Kaduke, niece of Herb & Joyce Smyers
❖ The family of Zach Fangmeier: His mother Taylor, Brother Nick, and aunt Mary Moos
❖ 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
❖ Parents of Tiffany Sellman
❖ Toni Potenza Moya, daughter of Harriett Potenza & Craig Harris

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.

Notice of Address Change

Laura & Bob Fruit have relocated to Edmond, Oklahoma, as of early September. If you would like their new address to update your address books, please contact Forrest in the church office.

Congregational Meeting—October 13

The Session has called for a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of voting on proposed changes to the By-Laws.

We’re Social! Are You?
Follow us, share our information with your friends and family!
Have you seen the new playground?

After a year of anticipation, the new playground was completed in September! Special thanks to David Boxell for removing the old playground, and to Matt Mosher for coordinating the design and construction along with his team of Peter Hanson, Mark De Vries, Walt Kovalick, Pastor Erik, and Eddie Restani. And thank you to everyone who contributed funds toward the playground, and of course to our kids who shared their design vision!

This playground will serve our church and community for decades to come!

To view a calendar of events, please visit our webpage!