Presbyterian Church of Western Springs

GLAD TIDINGS

January **2020**

A Note from Pastor Erik…

This past summer I attended my second Pet Parade in La Grange. The first time, the year before, I was being introduced to many of you as the candidate to be your pastor. Before I had even met you, you were being pointed out to me in the parade. Members of the pastor nominating committee and their families were there watching the parade and when someone related to PCWS would parade on by, they'd point them out and tell me about them.

What I noticed that first morning and again last year is that the people of our congregation are involved in so many wonderful things in our community . . . from Interfaith Community Partners, to school bands, to LeaderShop, you all are active and engaged.

I have shared before that I love watching parades. My first thought at the Pet Parade was that PCWS should have a float in the parade. But then when I saw so many of you playing a part in other groups, I realized that PCWS *is* in the parade. We're in the parade when you all march with the groups you love and support.

In the same way, PCWS is in the community when you all volunteer with other organizations. You are truly bringing the love of Christ into the world in so many ways. You represent us (and God!) so well.

Reflecting God's love in the world is such a vital part of our lives as Christians. My hope is that this congregation can be a place where people can be drawn into Christian Community and then empowered to return to the other side of the stained-glass windows ready to embrace a world in need of God's great love.

In the pages of this newsletter and in the coming weeks at PCWS you're going to see a new logo for PCWS and an opportunity to purchase t-shirts and/or sweatshirts with the new logo. As you work and live in the community, my hope is that you'll share with others that this is your church. Wear the logo when you're volunteering or attending an event. A new logo doesn't change who we are – but it gives us the opportunity to share ourselves and our community with others.

Peace,

Erik

Wear the new PCWS logo in style!

This issue introduces everyone to the new PCWS Logo (see the upper left corner!) With the launch of our new logo, we are excited that the Welcoming Committee has ordered a coffee mug for every member and friend! On January 19, during fellowship, stop by the table and pick up your mug. If you're unable to attend worship that morning, they'll be available January 26, or in the office during office hours.

We're also excited to announce we have our own "store" where you can go online and order a fleece shirt, long sleeve t-shirt, or cap with our new logo. Visit our online store to see the items available - the store will be open until January 25. When you place your order, you will be asked to pay for your items, and approximately February 12, your order will arrive at church. We will let everyone know the orders are in via the Weekly Email. You can pick up your order the following Sunday morning.

In the spring, we'll have more items for sale! Our hope is that everyone will order at least one item and wear when you're out and about, for groups to wear when they volunteer, walk in the CROP Walk, for the youth to wear on their mission trip, etc.!

Congregational News

***Praise be to the God and Father our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope...* 1 Peter 1:3**

Happy New Year! I want to start by thanking all of our musicians who shared such beautiful music in worship in the month of December. We are so blessed to have such musical talents that bring the Word to life through music.

Many of you have probably made resolutions for the New Year, please consider making one to give Chancel Choir or Bells a try! I know we are all very busy but what makes being a part of one of our groups easy is our flexible schedule. You can pick and choose when you are available and don't have to be committed for all dates.

Chancel Choir: Do you enjoy singing but are afraid because you don't read music, DON'T BE! You don't have to read music to be in the choir, so why aren't *YOU* in the choir? We would love to have you join us in the choir!

Chancel Choir Rehearsals in January:
Thursday, January 2nd - 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Thursday, January 30th from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
And sing in church on
Sunday, January 5th and 12th

Stephanie Coates
Director of Music

Thank you to Michael Worrell of Black Umbrella Design for our new logo and print designs.

Church & Office Holidays

New Year's Day
Wednesday, January 1
Church and Offices closed

Martin Luther King Day
Monday, January 20
Church and Offices Closed

OUR PASTOR

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

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

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women will not have a general meeting this month.

Thursday, January 16, 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Circle will be held in the Graham Charter Room at 1:30 p.m. to study Lesson 5 in our Bible study *Love Carved in Stone: Don't Kill each Other*. You are welcome to join us. Contact Sue Eck with any questions.

Interfaith Book Group Wednesday, January 15, 2020

The Interfaith Book Group will begin the year by reading The Music Shop by Rachel Joyce. Nancy Glickman and June Abdel-Razik will be our discussion leaders. We will leave PCWS at 1:00 p.m. to carpool to the Mosque Foundation for refreshments and the book discussion. It promises to be a positive beginning to 2020.

Please call the church office (708-246-5220) to confirm that you are coming. All women are welcome to be a part of this group. If you need more information, contact Mary Jo Blough.

Session Scroll

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

- Received a Stewardship update.
- Approved the 2020 Budget.
- Received a status update of building projects in progress.
- Expressed gratitude to the outgoing Elders who will be recognized at the annual meeting in February.

Improvements Abound!

Hopefully by now you've seen a few improvements around the PCWS campus that took place recently. Some are obvious, but a few are less easy to notice:

- Several of the **stained-glass window panes** in the Sanctuary were coming loose and were fixed. All of the windows were inspected and we are in good shape now!
- The **floors on the first floor** and the stairs leading up to the second floor were professionally cleaned and then re-finished. This work will enable our sextons to keep the floors clean and will protect the floors for years to come.
- The **kitchen & Jones Room received some attention** as well. We removed the wood islands and installed new stainless steel worktables. These tables will provide a sanitary work surface and provide plenty of room for people to walk around all sides. The dish storage carts were moved out of the kitchen into a newly-constructed service/storage cabinet that was installed in the Jones Room. Finally, the floors in the kitchen were thoroughly cleaned and a protective treatment was applied. Other small improvements will be happening in the kitchen, including some rearranging of the cabinets. Thank you for your patience as we make these adjustments!
- The Session has approved several other projects intended to **improve the safety** of our facilities: additional railings will be installed on the pathway leading from 53rd Street to the Sanctuary doors; and improvements will be made to make the steps in the chancel more visible.

Special thanks to Walt Kovalick and Forrest, our Church Administrator, for their hard work coordinating these projects and securing other volunteers to help with them as well!

Youth Ministries

Looking Ahead ...

Souper Bowl of Caring
Sunday, February 2

Super Bowl LIV 2020 and Souper Bowl of Caring so . . . be ready to vote with your wallet on your favored team!

Around the corner:
Valentine–a–Grams
Delivered Sunday, February 9

This year, after lessons learned due to a helium shortage - we are hosting a Valentine-a-Gram Sale—NO BALLOONS! Your choice of: One fresh flower or a little teddy Bear. Youth will be selling Grams on Sundays, January 19, 26 and February 2. You can also stop by the PCWS office to purchase Grams. Sales will end **February 4.** Youth will meet Friday, **February 7** (pizza dinner provided) to prep all the Grams and we will make deliveries Sunday, February 9. Watch the church bulletin for details and to volunteer to deliver grams on February 9.

Also Around the Corner
Youth Wisconsin Dells Water Park Adventure
February 28 and 29

Candice and Joey are suiting up and heading North with PWCS' most daring. We will be sleeping overnight Friday, February 28 at the Wilderness Resort in the Wisconsin Dells. Then, all day Saturday, February 29 (Leap Year Day), the youth will have passes to the *four indoor water parks* and will return home that night exhausted after a full day of fun. Please RSVP to Candice ASAP if you're interested.

Estimated costs are about $100.00 (based on minimum 11 youth attending) total for food, lodging and memories that will last a lifetime.

AND From Our Youth . . .

The Cookie Walk was another complete success- all praise be first to the Lord our God, and then big thanks to my UPYs and JUPYs who helped bake and man the room, also thank you to all the phenomenal bakers, and of course the Church family who made it a complete sell out!! Every cookie went to a happy home! We raised over $800 for our mission trip this summer, when we will be returning to Appalachia in July for our service week.

Another SHOUT OUT OF GRATITUDE to the Youth who keep making this season merry by showing up and supporting our youth program as well as each other at all the events we have!

I can never say thank you loudly enough or often enough to Laura and Jon Gertsmeier for opening your home for another A-MAZE-ING Christmas Party! Good times were had by all!

Candice Mares
Youth Director

Congregational News

What is "Per Capita"?

On behalf of the Session, the Leadership & Ministries Committee extends its thanks and appreciation to everyone who has submitted pledges for 2020. Next month you'll hear more at the Annual Meeting, but 2019 was a great year and the increased pledges will enable us to continue to thrive in our ministry at PCWS.

As you likely know, PCWS is a part of the Presbyterian Church (USA) denomination. Our national denomination supports mission throughout the world and supports the infrastructure of the denomination. Locally, we are a part of the Chicago Presbytery which is an organization of the churches in our region who work together on common missions and support one another as we all work in ministry. Between the national office and the presbytery is the Synod of Lincoln Trails.

Each year, contributions from PCWS along with the other churches in our denomination, help support the ministry and mission of our local presbytery, the synod, and the national organization. The financial support is calculated by the number of members in each congregation. In 2020, PCWS will pay $36 per member which will be split among the Presbytery of Chicago ($23.24), Synod of Lincoln Trails ($3.81) and the General Assembly ($8.95).

While we do budget for the per capita expenditure, some members choose to pay the per capita separately from their pledge and other giving. If you would like to do this, you can submit your contribution online or simply make a note of "per capita" on your check.

Thank you for your support of our ministries and mission!

Farewell to Forrest

At the end of January we will bid farewell to our Church Administrator, Forrest Schroeder. Forrest and her husband will be moving to Washington State to be closer to family. Forrest has been an asset to PCWS. During my first 18 months at PCWS, Forrest has taken on many new tasks and I have come to value her support and partnership in our ministry here at PCWS.

When I come up with a crazy idea to try something new and different, Forrest is able to listen to the vision and then create the materials that are needed to help make the program or event a success. She may think I'm crazy when I ask for things, but then she figures out how to make them happen — and happen well. (She also knows how to rein me in when my ideas get a little too wild!)

This past year Forrest has taken on many responsibilities related to our property and the supervision and coordination of our sexton program. She also coordinated the training of our new Financial Secretary Patrick. She and Patrick work closely with Treasurer Pat Ravanesi to coordinate our financial practices so that the office staff can serve the needs of the congregation and assist Pat.

While doing all of these things, Forrest has also found the time to greet many of you, answer your questions, book rooms and ensure correct table set-up, answer more questions, and generally provide a kind listening ear and words of encouragement. Forrest has also supported our deacons and elders with logistics and record-keeping. She has the unique ability to juggle these tasks while also vacuuming, shoveling snow, repairing appliances, and, again, trying to accommodate my crazy requests!

The Personnel Committee will be working this month to advertise the position. In the meantime, I hope that you will join me in expressing appreciation to Forrest for all that she has done and her role in the PCWS community. Forrest's last day at PCWS will be Friday, January 31. On January 26 during Fellowship we will have a chance to extend appreciation and farewell to Forrest.

Thank you Forrest! Best wishes in Washington! We'll miss you!

Pastor Erik

Join us during Fellowship on Sunday, January 26 to bid farewell to Forrest as we celebrate her time at PCWS!

ADVENT

Thank You From our Mission Committee . . .

to everyone who supported the Mission Committee's annual Alternative Giving Event at the Advent Fair. Over $6,700 was raised!! This year, we featured items from Ten Thousand Villages with each purchase supporting artisans around the globe. Honor gifts for Church World Service along with donations for renovation of the Nueva Paz manse were choices for the discerning shopper. Fair Trade chocolate sold out quickly and Thistle Farms soaps and lotions were also available. People supported Walmart gift cards for Margaret's Village enabling residents to purchase gifts for their children as well as to buy household items as they transition into their own apartments.

All of your support and purchases helped brighten the season for these organizations helping those in need. Thank you and well done!

Kudos and Thank You From Faith Formation ...

to those who made the Advent Fair such a big success from hot cocoa to cookie decorating to photos to glitter to crafts! A big thank you to Aileen Pendleton, Carolyn Bozek, Stacia Hoskins, Stacy Restani, Hank Vaughan, Kim Yates, Shannon & Sara Sullivan, Becka & Lexi McClintock and Mindy McMahon for setting up, crafting and sharing some love with our PCWS kids.

PEACE . . JOY . . LOVE . . HOPE . .. was truly the message of the season!

Kim Fronk

Congregational News

Pageant

Once again, the wonder of Christmas was brought to the Sanctuary by our youngest disciples at the pageant on December 15. The children were amazing as they told the Christmas story. They were joined by several adults who played roles, and this year audience participation was added so that everyone could be a part of telling the story.

Special thanks to Laurie Merrifield and her team of volunteers who helped make the event a success. Faith Formation Committee provided a cupcake celebration after the pageant providing the opportunity for continued fellowship!

Sanctuary Flowers

A special note of gratitude to our faithful team who decorated the Sanctuary for Christmas. Thanks to the many poinsettia dedications, we were able to once again change our worship space with the addition of the natural beauty of these traditional flowers. On Friday, December 20, the team of Sue Kovalick, Sue Eck, Nancy Glickman, and Laurie Merrifield placed the poinsettias with love and care. Thank you for your focused and artistic expression as you help to bring joy and excitement to the sanctuary!

ADVENT

Longest Night Worship

On Thursday, December 19, one of the longest nights of the year, we gathered in the sanctuary to take a pause from the busy Christmas season to recognize our need for hope in difficult times.

Beautiful music was provided by Stephanie Coates with Kate Kelly and John Leslie. Thank you to Dom Garino for planning and leading the service with Pastor Erik.

Caroling

On Sunday, December 22, a group of cheerful carolers brought the Christmas Spirit to members of the PCWS community and their neighbors and friends. We made several stops and sang several favorite songs of the Christmas season.

Annual Meeting February 9

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday February 9 immediately following the worship service.

This meeting is an opportunity to receive the reports of the ministries and committees of the church and to look toward a new year of ministry together.

Call for Annual Report Submissions! Due January 19!

In advance of the Annual Meeting on February 9, all committee chairs and coordinators of ministries are asked to submit their annual report from their 2019 activities by January 19.

You can email your submission to Forrest.

Nueva Paz, Cuba – Let's Make (one more) House a Home!

During our trip to Nueva Paz in November, we celebrated our ten years of partnership, and as we do on every trip, we spent some time talking with our brothers and sisters there about both of our congregations separately, and about our plans and dreams for our partnership as we continue to move forward together.

One of the topics of conversation was the condition of their manse and their desire to return this valuable property to livable and usable condition. A little over a block away from the church, the home has sat vacant for more than two years because of the interim period between pastors. With the installation of Pastora Tirisay last April, the Nueva Paz session acknowledged the need to restore the manse and so began to source supplies and initiate some prep work.

As we met with the Nueva Paz session and talked about future plans, their primary request was that our congregation consider providing the funding necessary to complete re-construction of the manse. Essential to their ministry not only as a home for the Pastor, but as a space for private consultation, small group gatherings and community outreach, this home is their top priority this spring. Having gone through a recent restoration of our own manse, we pledged to explore our options and have notified PCWS session of our intent.

Soooooo . . . we're going to help Make (one more) House a Home! With funds remaining from prior fundraising for Cuba, and recent donations to the Cuba Gifts fund, we hope to deliver the good news and the first installation of funding to Nueva Paz in January. We'll keep you posted on their progress with photos and notes, so keep an eye on the Mission bulletin board this spring!

Your Gifts of Food & Warmth

Mission Committee elves delivered:

78	Coats	53	Hats
80	Mittens/gloves	6	Scarves
4	Snowpants	2	Pair Socks
2	Pair Boots		

to Sharing Connections and Margaret's Village the week before Christmas, along with a heaping car-load of non-perishable food items delivered to the Pine Avenue Food Pantry early this month.

Please accept a heartfelt "thank you" from the agencies who graciously accepted your generous gifts!

Congregational News

This Month's Birthdays

Michelle Hennessy	1/3	Mary Smyers	1/16
Stacie Wilson	1/6	Isabella Melilli	1/17
Lori Carsten	1/7	Marin Yates	1/17
Lance Smith	1/7	Cheryl Kroon	1/18
Erin Davia	1/8	Camille Rodos	1/18
Jon Gertsmeier	1/10	Dave Koller	1/19
Herb Smyers	1/10	Marsha Martinaitis	1/19
Laura Smith	1/11	Joe Benson Sr.	1/20
Mary Anne Wilson	1/11	Sarah Sullivan	1/21
Becky Glasscock	1/13	Erik Hanson	1/22
Nancy Ullmann	1/13	Scott Wennerstrum	1/23
Matt Wennerstrum	1/13	Rogers Malone Jr.	1/26
Betty Anderson	1/14	Billye Dvorak	1/28
Debbie Cloutier	1/14	Taylor Kelly	1/30
Jennifer Boxell	1/15	Tanner Booth	1/31
Mary Kae Headland	1/15	Kara Leslie	1/31
Mary Jo Blough	1/16		

Advent Fair Coordinator Shout-Out!

Thank you to Kim Fronk for her work this year in coordinating the Advent Fair on December 8. Kim's dedication to this event brought together a great team of volunteers (who she recognized in her article!) to provide awesome crafts and activities. It was a great way for the PCWS kids and adults to get into the Christmas spirit and have meaningful items to remember the birth of Jesus.

Each year this event also provides great fellowship. Thank you, Kim, for all you do for our children of PCWS!

Pastor Erik

Gathering Around the Table

Looking for a way to connect with others? Look no further! Attend a gathering with others for a meal or other event. Everyone is welcome to join any of the gatherings — you can sign up online at presbyws.org/signup or on the bulletin board outside the Jones Room.

Saturday, February 8th, 6:00 p.m. "Tropical Night" at the Banovic's home. Join us for a Winter Escape; wear your tropical attire, Hawaiian shirt, etc.

Saturday, March 7th – Mark your calendar for a "Game Night" at Lorraine Hoskins' home. Watch for more details in the February Glad Tidings.

Do you have an idea for a way to offer adults a chance to get to know one another better? If you have an idea for hosting a gathering, please Theresa Dixon or Loretta Gratias-Bremer.

P.U.M.P

Look for our first Pop-Up Mission Project (P.U.M.P.) on Sunday January 26th.

Watch for details on the 2020 kick-off project closer to the date.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

- Our siblings at Nueva Paz Presbyterian Church in Cuba
- Our men & women serving our country in the Armed Services
- The people of Syria, and especially the relatives of PCWS' Interfaith Women's Book Group
- **Betty Toft**
- **Betty Anderson**
- **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
- **Elaine Wood**
- Gary Mirlenbrink, uncle of Lori Carsten
- Holly Oliver, daughter of Mary Kae Headland
- Jacob DeBoer, father of Tricia Koning
- 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
- Marc Ladene, friend of the Slezaks
- **Marge Sandrik**
- Mary Jo & Tully Davia, grandparents of Isabella Davia
- Mary Kate Miller, step-mother of Julie Garino
- Mary, dear friend of Bruce Geary
- **Michael De Vries**
- Michael, friend of Jane Norman
- Mike Slesicki, cousin of Barb Farr & Joe Benson
- Norb Mirlenbrink, Uncle of Lori Carsten
- Pat McTiernan, friend of Phyllis DiFrancesco
- Paulette Erickson, friend of Carol Ulreich
- Peggy Mirlenbrink, aunt of Lori Carsten
- **Phil Kasik**
- Ruth Kaduke, niece of Herb & Joyce Smyers
- The Swaar and Williams families
- Teri Tuffner, aunt of Candice Mares
- Theresa Ybanez, great niece of Laura Fruit
- Toni Potenza Moya, daughter of Harriett Potenza & Craig Harris
- Parents of Tiffany Sellman
- Paul, cousin of Elizabeth Slezak
- The family of Zach Fangmeier: his mother Taylor, brother Nick and aunt Mary Moos.

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* due by the **10th** of each month.

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

We're Social! Are You?

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

You don't need to join Facebook to see our Page!

Presbyterian Church Of Western Springs

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Scan to Learn about PCWS

Mailed: December, 209

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

01/24/2020 - All Church Bulls Game

What could be better than joining your PCWS Church Family for an evening of basketball? Join us for an outing to see the Bulls play the Sacramento Kings.

When: Friday, January 24 - game starts at 7:00 p.m.

Where: United Center

Cost: $25 per person
(Pay **online** and choose "Other" or bring your check payable to PCWS to church)

Please **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.

Please come out and have a great time with us!