Glad Tidings

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WESTERN SPRINGS AUGUST, 2016

Summer Worship at PCWS

Join us for summer fun on Sunday mornings! We're planning services that are filled with reverence, energy, thoughtfulness and joy that will provide something for all ages. We have planned three short sermon series this summer, complete with music and movement and visuals and who knows what else. We hope that you will carve out time in the midst of your summer plans to be with us whenever possible.

The third and final summer series is called Teach Us To Pray and takes a close look at something we know by heart, the Lord's Prayer. From August 14-September 4, the focus will be on the themes and the "aha" moments in the beautiful prayer from Luke 11:2-4. You're sure to hear the Lord's Prayer with new ears when this sermon series concludes.

Songs for children of all ages, skits and drama, and a fresh approach to aspects of worship is in store that will engage all of your senses this summer. We hope you'll like it, and we pray that it creates joy in everyone's hearts . . . and especially in God's heart.

Transition Topics

With Jennifer's departure, work continues on "pulpit supply" with preachers lined up for Sundays through September. Of special note is Sunday, August 21, when PCWS will be one of the first Presbyterian churches to hear from the newly elected Co-Moderator of the General Assembly, Jan Edmiston. Until the arrival of an interim pastor, Pastor Matt continues to be available for pastoral inquiries and care needs.

OUR PASTOR

Rev. Matthew Paul Schmidt, Associate Pastor
mschmidt@presbyws.org

PARISH ASSOCIATES

Rev. Grayson Van Camp, Rev. Donald Simmonds,
Rev. Rebecca McClintok

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

Teacher Training and Safe Space

Calling all Sunday School Teachers! On Saturday, August 27, at 9:00 a.m. all Sunday School teachers are welcome to be trained for the upcoming calendar year. Agenda items will include brunch and break out groups by age for classroom decorating, curriculum sharing, and goal setting. Please join us if you are able. If you're a new teacher and have yet to be trained, you may come early at 8:30 a.m. for Safe Space Training.

Rally Day, September 11th

Save the date for this fun-filled event. As always we will have games and activities for all ages, along with some finger-licking good food. Highlights this year include live music from Ring Shout & Friends (our very own Kevin McDermott's band) and the much anticipated release of butterflies in our beautiful butterfly garden. Don't miss it!

Theology & Brew Goes on Vacation in August

This August, both daytime and evening editions of Theology & Brew will take a break. Stay tuned for it to resume in September.

Congregational news

Inadequate words from a full heart

Dearest PCWS,

There's no possible way to thank you enough for the joy and the honor of having served as one of your pastors for the past thirteen years and five months. From the moment I met the Pastor Nominating Committee (Janet Andersen, Kay Kelly, Rogers Malone, Neil Pendleton, Nikki Rodos, Laura Stark, Carol Stoub and Peter Thomson) back in September of 2002, I knew there was something special about you, and that first impression never changed. You're a remarkable congregation with a gigantic heart and a stunning array of talent.

I am so grateful for all of the opportunities we've shared in worship, in education and in mission. There is not space enough to list the memories and the joys of working with you, serving with you, laughing, grieving, singing and listening to God with you.

Printed in this issue of Glad Tidings is the Presbytery of Chicago's covenant of closure. It's a important document that outlines what it means to be your sinfully proud, but *former* pastor. That document means what it says, and we need to abide by it. It's so important to leave room for new relationships to form with current and future pastors. You are well served, and you will be well served. I thank God for that.

Thank you for the wonderful reception on Sunday afternoon, July 17th. Once again, you assembled a talented, winsome team of creative people to make sure we had food and fun and a chance to hug each other one more time. Thank you for personalized ice cream flavors and generous gifts. Thank you for hosting an informal gathering- it, as Goldilocks says, was "just right."

Thank you for calling me here. Thank you for allowing God to call you here! Thank you for loving and nurturing my sweet family. Thank you for allowing me the deep privilege of being close to you in joy and sorrow. I wouldn't trade a minute.

Love always,

Jennifer

PCWS Gift Card Program

By now you've probably heard a lot about the Gift Card Program at PCWS, but you may not realize just how much the church can make in rebates from the program. There are over 700 different vendors in the program, with rebates of up to 15% depending on the merchant. So stop by the Gift Card Table on Sunday and purchase a few gift cards!

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Garino via email: jgarimo@mindspring.com

CROP HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

Save the Date—October 16, 2016

Please mark your calendar for the annual **CROP Walk** on Sunday afternoon, October 16. As in the past, five local food pantries will receive 25% of funds raised and the remaining 75% will be used by Church World Service to combat hunger world-wide, provide clean water initiatives, and deliver disaster relief, both domestic and International.

Registration is expected to begin at 12:30 p.m. with the walk kick-off at 1:15 p.m. There will be a variety of ways in which to participate in this fun annual event, so watch for additional news and information in PCWS communications and bulletins!

Congregational Life

Session - Did You Know? The Personnel Committee

Who serves on it? David Boxell, Julie Kelly and Paul Banovic, the Moderator.

What do they do? They get to work with our incredible PCWS staff, the pastors, Director of Operations, our music ministry team, our Office and Christian Ed Administrators and through this staff, the countless volunteers that help make it all happen.

The Committee reviews annual staff goals, monitors the comparative compensation environment and recommends staff salaries to Session. The Committee also acts as a "sounding board" and a resource, as needed, to the staff for their plans to direct and teach God's ministries, lead us in worship and deliver the wonderful programs that enrich our congregation.

What's coming next? The Personnel Committee gets involved in changes to the staff and there will be a lot of activity coming up with the search for an interim pastor and eventually a new Pastor. Paul Banovic will chair the Interim Pastor Search Team – more to come soon on that.

Please feel free to contact any member of the Personnel Committee with any questions.

2016-17 PCWS Book Club

In May, the PCWS Book Club made the selections for next year's program. We invite anyone to join us for the year, or any part of the year, as your time and interest permit. Our discussions are always informal and often lively! Here's the list of selections so you can get a head start:

Sept. 28	Gutenberg's Apprentice by Aliz Christie
Oct. 26	Fifty Children: One Ordinary American Couple's Extraordinary Rescue Mission Into The Heart of Nazi Germany by Steven Pressman
Nov. 30	Nothing Daunted by Dorothy Wickendon
Jan. 25	Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania by Erik Larson
Feb. 22	The Whip by Karen Kondazian
March 22	The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah
April 26	The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry: A Novel by Gabrielle Zevin
May 24	Four Corners: A Journey Into the Heart of Papua New Guinea by Kira Salak

Presbyterian Women
Thursday, September 8
12:30 p.m. at PCWS

Join us for our traditional salad luncheon hosted by the board. Rev. Matt Schmidt will introduce the Horizons Bible study, ***Who is Jesus? What a* Difference *a Lens Makes*** By Judy Yates Siker. Each lesson will explore the question "Who is Jesus" through a particular theological lens. We will be joined by our friends from LaGrange and Highlands Presbyterian Churches. Cost $10.00

Thursday, September 15: 1:00 p.m.
Afternoon circle at PCWS
Lesson 1: "Who is Jesus…According to Mark?

Tuesday, September 27: 6:00 p.m.
Evening circle at Boxells, 125 Acacia Circle, # 604, Indian Head Park, for potluck dinner. The study for the year is ***The art of Comforting: What to Say and Do for People in Distress*** by Val Walker. Read the introduction and Chapter 1 through p 13.

Mission & Ministry

Institute of Women Today

PCWS has been in relationship with the **Institute of Women Today** (IWT) almost since the founding of this non-profit in 1974. IWT provides transitional housing for homeless women, children and families at two south side Chicago sites. ***Maria Shelter***, is a 50-bed facility primarily for homeless women and their children located in Englewood. ***Believe Family Shelter*** is a 50-bed shelter located in South Chicago. It serves families headed by fathers and two-parent households. IWT also operates the ***Vincennes Senior Center*** in Englewood. This Senior Day Center serves elder community members facing isolation and food insecurity by offering programs, services and a hot noonday meal.

Each year, IWT is able to provide much-needed services and resources for more than 500 Chicagoans through the shelters and services. Part of this is directly due to ongoing, generous help from PCWS. This happens through Mission budget funding, service through work days, donations of gently used clothes and household items, individual donors and continuing prayer and concerns. Angela Hicks, IWT Executive Director, has been a guest with us on a number of occasions.

PCWS women have served on the IWT Board of Directors for over 35 years. PCWS members and friends have been generous in donating funds, in-kind services and gently used household and clothing items. We have two superstar Work Day organizers in Lance Smith and Brian Sullivan. Each year they organize one or two church-wide work days at either Maria Shelter or Believe Family Shelter. On that appointed day, a wonderful energetic group of PCWS folks swoop in for a fun-filled day of painting, carpentry, electrical or plumbing work, yard clean up and maintenance. It's amazing the difference you can see at the end of the day!

Want to know more about the work of IWT? Feel free to ask Janet Andersen, IWT Board member, or speak with a member of the PCWS Mission Committee.

Chancel Choirs first Sunday will be Sept 11, and their first rehearsal on Thursday, September 8.

Children Choirs will move back to Thursday nights. Bethlehem Choir will be 4:30-4:55 and JAM Choir will be 5:00-5:45 beginning September 15.

Music News

THANKS TO . . .

. . the ten dedicated women who diligently rehearsed "Job, Job" for presentation in worship on July 10. They prepared a challenging piece of 6-part-music and successfully rose to the challenge!

. . . Walt Kovalick for leading a Reader's Theater modern update on the story of Job on July 17.

. . . all who made this year's MAD Camp so much fun and such a great addition to worship the end of June. We are grateful to adult and youth leaders: Laurie Merrifield, Claire Bellamy, Erin Sullivan, Linda and Caroline Murray, Natalie Carlisle, Sarah Blough. And to all the kids in the cast!

. . . those who provided special music in June and July: Chancel Choir, John and Kara Leslie, Kate Kelly, Shannon and Colleen Sullivan, Women's Ensemble, Claire Bellamy, Dan Lewis.

OTHER MUSIC NEWS

August music includes Tres Amigos, Chancel Choir, No-Name Band, vocal solo by Laura Fruit, trumpet solo by Mike Lobash.

AND MORE MUSIC NEWS

Two Sundays for summer choir:

July 31 -
One Faith, One Hope, One Lord

August 14 - The Lord's Prayer
(composer TBA)

In both cases, the primary rehearsal will be that morning at 8:30 a.m. and optional rehearsal the previous Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

EDUCATION

Cave Quest Vacation Bible

This year's VBS was a huge success last month and gave 39 Kindergarten - 5th Graders a rock-solid foundation of God's love, a love that guides us thorough life's dark times. It was an amazing week and we learned that Jesus gives us hope, courage, direction, love and shares his power.

A huge thank you to our amazing volunteers - Carolyn Bozek, Kami Booth, Hank Vaughan, Aileen Pendelton, Pastor Matt, Pastor Jennifer, Danielle, Jesse & Aleisha Bozek, Kim Fronk, Patti Mangis, Ellie Pendleton, Laurie Merrifield, Natalie Carlisle, Michael Devries, Erin Sullivan, Ryann Rymarczuk, Carly Booth, Candice Mares and Sarah Blough. We could not have done it without these amazing folks!

This year's mission focus was Almost Home Kids, an organization that provides transitional care in a home-like setting to children with complicated health needs. We are pleased to report that we collected $500 in gift cards to be given to the families and many donations of wipes, toys, batteries and more. A huge thank you to all who donated.

Explore Podcast Adult Education

The regularly scheduled Explore teachings by Pastor Matt will be recorded in advance of Sunday mornings and available for download directly to your phone or smart device. This will allow for uninterrupted fellowship in the Jones Room following worship, and accommodate your busy schedules, as you'll be able to listen at your convenience. We recommend subscribing to the Explore Podcast through Itunes so you don't miss any of the teachings, interviews, and adult education shared through this new medium. New content will be biweekly. If you have an idea for a live adult education opportunity, please talk to Pastor Matt who will help you coordinate all your education needs.

Youth Sunday School Returns

After a few successful weeks of Junior High and Senior High Sunday School last spring, the Faith Formation Committee has decided to offer Sunday School during worship on the second and fourth Sundays each month. Junior High SS will meet in room 302 and Senior High SS will gather in the youth room. The first regularly scheduled classes will begin two weeks after Rally Day, on September 25 during worship.

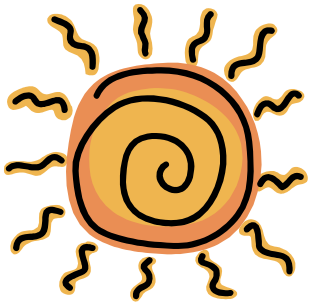
THIS MONTH'S

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Alena Cushman
Mark Dold
Elena Kovalick
Henry Lobash
Olivia Mansfield
Grayson Tester

Youth Ministry

JUPYs (Grades 6 – 8)



Sept. 18
JUPYs resumes for weekly Sunday evening events!

JUPY and UPY Calendar At a glance…

Enjoy your last few moments of summer before school starts!

Youth programs will resume on Sept. 18.

Stay tuned for a new youth Sunday School schedule that starts in September and for fall fun!

UPYs (Grades 9 – 12)

The Youth Committee is busy planning fun youth events, youth Sunday School, new mission projects, and more! This fall is going to be awesome!

What is a JUPY? Ditto UPY?

At PCWS, we value our youth and desire for them to have opportunities for fun, fellowship and faith formation. This fall, we have lots of wacky events, service/mission projects and faith discussions planned for both JUPYs and UPYs.

JUPYs is for middle school students. We meet every Sunday evening from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The only reason we won't meet is if it's a holiday weekend. All 6th grade through 8th grade students are welcome to join us.

UPYs is for senior high students. This year, we will meet at a slightly new time, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. every Sunday except for holiday weekends. Our youth room is decorated with hands that spell L-O-V-E and comfy couches because we believe that God's love holds us through everything. Our hope is that both old and new friends will feel welcome to gather with us for food, fun, mission projects and good conversations.

Both JUPYs and UPYs will kick off this fall on September 18 to welcome the new 6th graders and new freshman! For more information about our youth ministries please call the church office and ask for Pastor Matt or Youth Elder Lance Smith.

Congregational news

The Covenant of Closure is a document required of all pastors and congregations in the Presbytery of Chicago, providing clear boundaries for both pastors and members of congregations as a professional relationship ends and a new one begins.

COVENANT OF CLOSURE
PRESBYTERY OF CHICAGO

The Rev. Jennifer Burns Lewis, the Pastor, Head of Staff, Presbyterian Church of Western Springs, and the Commission on Ministry of the Presbytery of Chicago, having discussed the intent and requirements of the Presbytery's "Policy for Pastors Who Resign or Complete Temporary Pastorates " enter into the following covenant:

1. The Rev. Jennifer Burns Lewis agrees:

    a) not to become involved in any leadership or advisory role (public or private) in the Presbyterian Church of Western Springs congregation; and
    b) not to intervene, support, or give advice to anyone involved in a congregational disagreement or dispute;
    c) not to officiate in any special events in the lives of former parishioners or of the congregation, including weddings, funerals, baptisms, worship leadership, church anniversary activities, etc. unless expressly invited by the Moderator of the Session;
    d) to refuse requests for pastoral services made by members of the congregation;
    e) to consult with the Moderator of Session prior to visiting the congregation, attending worship or attending a special event;
    f) to refrain from giving opinions or directions regarding church business;
    g. to explain and affirm the above principles to the congregation in writing (by letter or newsletter)and/or the pulpit before departing.

It is understood that this policy does not affect or require termination of friendships with individuals in the Presbyterian Church of Western Springs congregation.

2. The Session of the Presbyterian Church of Western Springs agrees:

    a) to respect the terms of the Covenant agreed upon by Rev. Jennifer Burns Lewis outlined above; and
    b) to interpret the terms of the Covenant to the congregation and to incorporate this agreement in the minutes of the congregational meeting when the pastoral relationship is dissolved; and
    c) to incorporate this agreement in the Session Minutes.

Member News

Thank you for your service at PCWS in July! We can't do it without you.

Collated and/or folded bulletins: Laura Fruit

Helped in the office and with database updates: Carol Ulreich, Michelle Hennessy, Donna Strunk, Laura Fruit, Mindy McMahon

Crushed cans: David and Jane Boxell, Mary Jo and Ron Blough

Second Baptist Food Pantry run: David and Jane Boxell

Food for Life team for July: Shopper: Dawn Mansfield
Cook: Mary Jo and Ron Blough
Driver/Server: Becky Glasscock

Prepared Glad Tidings for mailing: Joyce Habermann, Dorothy Andersen, Ruth Riordan, and Mary Kae Headland.
Thanks to Dorothy Andersen, who also was with us in June.

Flower Guild designers: Laurie Merrifield, Sue Kovalick, Sue Eck

Peace and Global Witness Offering

"Can God spread a table in the wilderness?" – Psalm 78:19

Where lives are threatened by injustice and violence, God can, has, and will spread a table of peace and reconciliation.

This is the message of this year's Peace and Global Witness Offering, collected during the Season of Peace, September 4 through October 2, World Communion Sunday.

Each year, gifts to this denominational offering support ministries that help to bring people together at "tables" of many types that help to resolve injustice and transform violence and hate into compassion and community. Each local congregation is tasked with allocating 25% of their collection to local ministries to promote peace and reconciliation in our own neighborhoods. Another 25% is allocated to Presbyterian mid-councils and the remaining 50% is used at the national level by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice.

Please look for more information in September on this important offering and thoughtfully consider how your gift will help provide peace in our neighborhood and beyond.

Amy and Chris Bone
112 Sea Palms Lane
St. Simons Island, GA 31522

Aileen Pendleton:
aileen.pendleton5@gmail.com

We extend sympathy to Jan Fortina and the family of Al Pristave, who passed from this life on July 4th.

Member News

Bulletin Deadline

Please submit all announcements to the church office by 9:00 a.m. Wednesday morning.

Email to pcws@presbyws.org or fax to 708-246-4276.

Are you on Instagram?
Join us at @pcwsyouth and get connected!

Did you know PCWS is also on Yelp!

Find us at https://www.yelp.com/biz/presbyterian-church-of-western-springs-western-springs.

Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/presbyws

You don't need to join Facebook to see photos of all that's happening at PCWS.

Glad Tidings Deadline

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

To ensure your submission is received, please **email** articles and pictures to:

GT@presbyws.org

Help prepare the September *Glad Tidings* for mailing
Meet August 24 @ 10:30 a.m. in the Jones Room.

Remember in Prayer

- The Ahmeti Family
- Tom Allen
- **Kimberly Bone**
- Diane Markley Bruser
- George Bruser
- Sandy Carucci
- David DeFano
- **Bill Dougherty**
- **Billye Dvorak**
- Norm Erickson
- Paulette Erickson
- **Bob Fencl**
- Agnes Garino
- Marc Goldstein
- Elaine Greco
- Ronald Halla
- Loy Hovious
- **Rich Kanak**
- Lynda Kajdi
- Ruth Kaduke
- **Phil Kasik**
- **Kathleen Kircher**
- **Mary Jo Long**
- **Mae Love**
- Deborah Matthews
- **Judy McAtee**
- **Evie Meyer**
- Scott McCormick
- Mary Kate Miller
- Peggy Mirlenbrink
- Mary Myers
- Holly Oliver
- Ginger Oswald
- Sharon Pederson
- Robert Petersen
- Gretchen Quinn
- Rev. Maricela Gonzalez Rubio
- **Marge Sandrik**
- Perry Sells
- **Lewis Skeels**
- Mike Slesicki
- Patti Schoenbeck
- Kent Simmonds
- Susan Simmonds
- Betty Staab
- Margaret Swaar
- Gloria Torres
- **Betty Toft**
- **Norman Toft**
- Beth Tooth
- Dorothy Wilson
- Cheryl Vejsada
- Cheryl, mother of Deb Matthews
- Donna (Friend of Joyce Smyers)
- Michael (friend of Jane Norman)
- Presbyterian Church Congregation in Nueva Paz, Cuba
- Sister of Pastor Marielys at Nueva Paz
- The people of Syria, especially family members of PCWS Interfaith Women's Book Group

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Fax: **708-246-4276**

07-26-2016
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Learn about PCWS

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Events in August

Aug. 10 ***Glad Tidings*** **Article Deadline**

Aug. 17 **Session**

Aug. 23 **Food For Life**

Aug. 24 **Prepare *Glad Tidings* for Mailing**

Aug. 27 **Safe Space and Teacher Training**

Upcoming Events in September

Sept. 5 **Labor Day**
(Church and Offices Closed)

Sept. 6 **Deacons**

Sept. 7 **Committees**

Sept. 10 ***Glad Tidings*** **Article Deadline**

Sept. 11 **Rally Day**

Sept. 21 **Session**

Sept. 27 **Food For Life**
Prepare *Glad Tidings* for Mailing

Sept. 28 **Book Club**

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.