Glad Tidings

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WESTERN SPRINGS **FEBRUARY, 2016**

Explore:
Fruit of the Spirit Continues in February

The Apostle Paul believed that the one God of Israel was actively at work and present at all times and in all places for everyone. He especially tried to teach us that God's Spirit manifests itself in a variety of ways that we can sense, notice, observe, feel, and see as guiding virtues in our hearts; evidence that we're living into the kind of life that God desires for us. Since September in Explore, we have been learning about this truth that Paul calls the fruit of the Spirit. This February, our long journey continues as we learn, study, and discuss the virtues of "love" and "patience". On February 7, we'll focus on "love". On February 14, there is no Explore. Then for the last two weeks of February, we'll dive deeper into "patience".

Adult Mental Health First Aid Training - Saturday, February 6 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Adult Mental Health First Aid USA is an 8-hour training to teach participants how to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. The evidence behind the program demonstrates that it helps trainees identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders.

In the course, you will learn risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for how to help someone in both crisis and non-crisis situations, and where to turn for help.

PCWS is pleased to host this free event. Lunch from Corner Bakery will be provided with a $10 donation. Cash, bank card or checks to Presbyterian Church of Western Springs will be accepted that day.

Register online at www.namidupage.org/events, or by calling PCWS (708) 246-5220 or NAMI DuPage at 630-752-0066 x 218 and ask for Brittany.

Balloon-a-grams are Back!

Orders continue February 7 & 14. We invite you to take advantage of this special and easy way to "share the love" for Valentine's Day!

Think friends, family members, neighbors… recipients need not be church members. Who will you be "sharing the love" with this year? UPYs will make personal deliveries on February 14 , on Valentine's Day!

We will deliver:
- ♥ A long-lasting Mylar balloon
- ♥ Valentine candies
- ♥ Your personalized message

Cost: $6, including delivery
Limited delivery -within 5 miles of the church.

Ash Wednesday February 10, 2016

We will again celebrate Ash Wednesday in collaboration with Highlands Presbyterian Church. If you've participated in the past you'll know there is a fine variety of highly tasty soups. Volunteers for providing soup, helping with meal, setting up or clean-up can be done via the on-line Sign-up Genius site or sign up on the lower level bulletin board.

6:30 p.m.
simple soup supper followed by…..
7:00 p.m.
Ash Wednesday worship service

Congregational Life

Oh, February! How is it possible that you are here so soon?

I am not ready. I am still drinking my coffee from a Christmas mug.

Getting ready, being ready, having any time to thoughtfully reflect upon life is a challenge for many of us. I'm going public and telling you that I'm sticking to my new year's resolutions to complete six 5Ks or greater with my daughter in 2016, but I don't feel ready for the first one of the year. I'm hoping I'll feel ready for the beginning of Lent on February 10.

Here are some things I AM ready for:
--I'm looking forward to see what interesting things the **Lent** worship planning team tees up for us.
- I can't wait to be part of the joy of **balloon-a-grams** again this year.
-- I'm very pleased that PCWS is hosting the **Adult Mental Health First Aid** workshop. It's a wonderful opportunity for us to offer something so important to our members and to the wider community. I hope that many of you will attend. (see details on the front page.)

Thanking God for each one of you,

Jennifer

Worship Planning Teams

In 2015, the Worship Committee and Session approved the formation of 12 worship planning teams to assist our pastors and musicians in providing some variety and visual cues for seasons of the church year and themes in worship.

Our first team, Team Epiphany, met in December and as the season of Epiphany unfolded from January 6 - February 9. They offered us some beautiful reminders of the work of God's Spirit in worship and our lives and put in place a little nod to technology so that your smart phone can support your worship style, if you wish. Thanks, Team Epiphany! (Jessi Bozek, Claire Bellamy, Stephanie Coates, Jennifer Lewis, Jorie Malone, and Alison Weber).

Team Lent will be bringing their unique vibe to visual expression in worship for the season stretching from Ash Wednesday to just before Holy Week. We look forward to what they will offer. Thanks, Team Lent! (Bob Cushman, Dom Garino, Dan Lewis, Rogers Malone, Patti Mangis, and Matt Schmidt)

OUR PASTORS

Rev. Jennifer Burns Lewis, Pastor/Head of Staff jlewis@presbyws.org
Rev. Matthew Paul Schmidt, Associate Pastor mschmidt@presbyws.org

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

Congregational news

Interpreting Per Capita

One of the distinctive things about being Presbyterian is the per capita portion of our budget. Literally, it means “for each head” and is based on the number of confirmed members on the membership roll of a congregation in a given year. Per capita money is shared between the presbytery, synod and General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) on important things like curriculum and support of programs in the life of the denomination. It’s a very important part of being a connectional church and we encourage you to consider paying the per capita amount, if you haven’t already done so.

PCWS pays per capita on every confirmed member, and one of the ways you can support the work of the church is by contributng your portion. It’s a small-but-mighty way of putting a dent in our expenses that makes a big difference! If you’re willing to pay your per capita contribution for yourself and your confirmed family members, we invite you to pay it now, while you’re thinking about it (you can send write a check or pay online) - the amount for 2016 is $33 per confirmed member.

Thank you for your generous support of the ministry and mission of our congregaton.

For more information on per capita, visit the Chicago Presbytery website: http://www.chicagopresbytery.org/2014/12/04/2015-per-capita-is-31-23/

Faith Formation News

The Faith Formation Committee was very busy in 2015 and is already looking ahead to 2016! Some highlights of 2015 include - new Growing in Grace and Gratitude Curriculum for ages preschool-6th grade, Advent Fair/Cookie walk, Lenten Fair, Baptismal cards, EXPLORE, Everest VBS, Kids Worship, Theology and Brew, Room 202 and UPY room updated, Mission Trip to Tennessee, Safe Space Policy, SYNC, THUBS, Supper Club for young adults, background checks and training for all teachers, Confirmation and so much more. A huge thank you to Pastor Matt and Carolyn for all of their time and energy spent on organizing and making these activities happen!

As we celebrate the good things in 2015, we also understand that faith formation is a work in progress and is constantly evolving. If you would like to join the Faith Formation committee, have any comments or suggestions for 2016, please talk to committee members; Matt, Carolyn, Kim Fronk, Kim Yates or Loretta Gratias-Bremer.

Annual Congregational Meeting/ Annual report Sunday March 6

Save the date: Sunday, March 6 will be our annual congregational meeting. Remember the year in review with us. Look ahead and Commit Today for Tomorrow.

Worship will include commemorative moments and then we’ll move to the Jones Room for the business portion of the meeting.

Watch for the print version of our annual report as an insert to the March issue of Glad Tidings.

EASTER SUNDAY

Many school districts are holding their Spring Break during Holy Week again this year. This means many members and their families will be away for Palm and Easter Sundays. PCWS will conduct our Sunrise Service on Easter at 6:40 a.m. and one Easter Worship service at 9:30am. Note this change! There will not be a second (10:45am) worship service this year on Easter.

Adult news

Theology & Brew—Daytime & Evening

Each month, a group of various members of PCWS and friends from different places gather to discuss theology (which literally means "words about God") while enjoying a beverage of choice. This February we plan to meet twice. And you are invited to join us for one, or for both.

The daytime edition of Theology & Brew is scheduled for Monday, February 22 at 1:00 p.m. and the evening edition is scheduled for Monday, February 29 at 7:00 p.m. Both gatherings will happen at Now Serving Café in La Grange. Please talk to Pastor Matt if you'd like to join the email list to receive the articles we'll discuss.

Book Club

Book Club meets in the Graham Charter Room at 7:30 p.m. This month's selection:

February 24: The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks
by Jeanne Theoharis

Presbyterian Women
Thursday, February 4
12:30 p.m.

Soup, salad, and dessert luncheon ($10) hosted by the PCWS board. Our friends from First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange will join us as we share our favorite books and get ideas for our winter reading. Contact Joyce Rodos if you wish to review a book.

Afternoon circle will meet Thursday, February 18 at 1:00 p.m. at the church. Lesson 6: "Waters of Justice and Right-eousness----Justice" from *Come to the Waters*

Evening Circle will meet Tuesday, February 23 at 6:00 p.m. at Baker's Square in LaGrange. Study will be Chapter 22.

Family Camp 2016

What do the Black Hole, Euchre, sledding, Karma, Twizzlers, jazz squares and puzzles have in common? Why, Family Camp 2016 of course!

On January 8-10, fifty-four people representing fifteen PCWS families, spent the weekend together at Camp Edwards in East Troy, Wisconsin. It was a fantastic weekend of fellowship including games and conversation with great weather for sledding and hiking. After Saturday dinner, we gathered together for music, worship and communion with Pastor Matt encouraging us to look ahead to 2016 and find ways that God is ever present. Family Camp is a wonderful reminder of the faithful community we have here at PCWS and we hope that you will join us next year for this annual event.

Congregational Life

2016 Lenten Devotional

The 2016 Lenten Devotional paper guide will be available Sunday, February 7th. You may pick up a copy outside the pastors' offices or on the Deacons' table in the Narthex. The electronic version will be sent beginning on Wednesday, February 10th to those who previously received either the 2015 Lenten or Advent devotional.

If you wish to join this electronic distribution method, please send an email to Michelle Hennessy (mhennessy@presbyws.org) with your email address. She will add you to the email list. If you wish to opt-out of the electronic devotional distribution, send an email to Michelle Hennessy including your email address. She will remove your email from the devotional distribution list. You may always opt-out during the series if you wish.

This year, our Lent journey will use the ***Be Holy*** Lenten devotional from Presbyterian's Today publications. Pastor and author Brian Coulter has written brief daily reflections, paired with a short, ancient form of praise and petition called a breath prayer, to explore what holiness means for Christians today. He invites us to receive from God this blessed gift that makes our lives more compelling, more enjoyable, and more faithful. Original artwork by Bess Reynolds brings this holy Lenten journey to life. We hope you will find this a meaningful way to reflect each day during Lent.

Stephen Ministry—A Year Later

It has been just about one year since PCWS installed its first Stephen Ministers. Since then some of these Stephen Ministers have been busy with care receivers and the whole group has met about every three weeks for supervision and continuing education.

It has been a busy year, sometimes scary, sometimes exhilarating. We have all learned a lot more than we did when training "ended." But we have not been able to meet all the needs for caregiving this year because each Stephen Minister has only one assignment at a time and because Stephen Ministers are always paired with a receiver of the same sex. So, a new class began last month with Marilyn Hanson and Joyce Smyers. We appreciate their willingness to make this considerable commitment of time and energy. Please pray for God's blessing in their lives.

Training will always be an ongoing enterprise with Stephen Ministry so we ask that you continue to ask yourself and pray about whether God is calling you to minister in this way to his hurting people. Sharing God's love and concern with others can be one of the most rewarding activities you can participate in.

LEAD EVENT
Save the date!
March 5, 2016
8:00 a.m. -12:15 p.m. at McCormick Seminary!

LEADing Change: Leadership, Education, Development
This special time in our presbytery deserves a special LEAD event!

$10.00 registration includes a continental breakfast, worship, a plenary and eight exciting workshops.

On leading change for all those in the church. As always, this LEAD event—LEADing Change—will be presented in partnership with McCormick Theological Seminary and the Presbytery of Chicago.

Questions? Contact Grayson Van Camp at vancamps@earthlink.net

Children and Youth

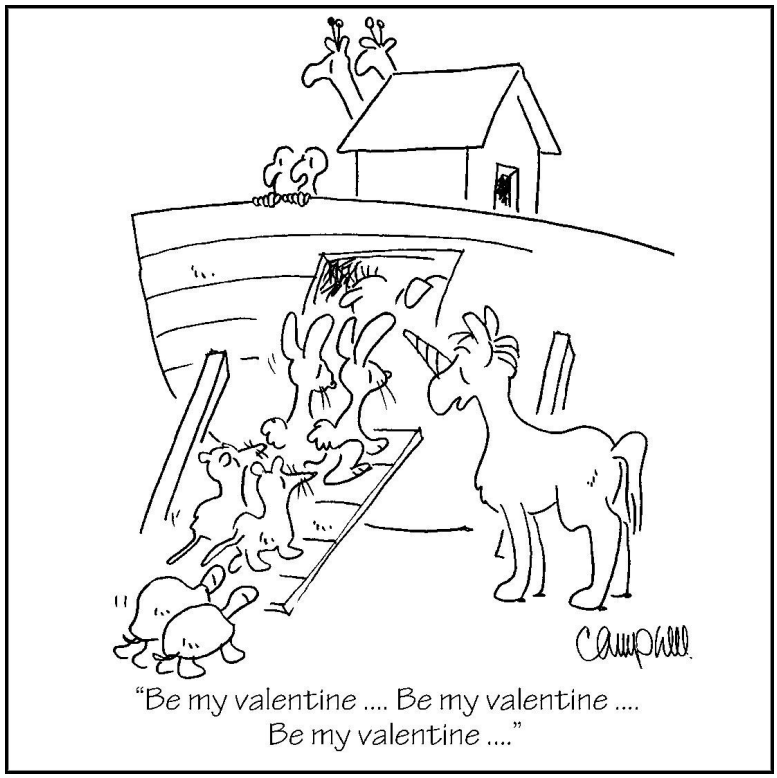
What is Souper Bowl of Caring?

Souper Bowl of Caring is a national movement of young people working to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game. On Super Bowl Sunday, February 7, 2016, the JUPYs will take up a collection (using a soup pot), asking for one dollar or one item of food for people in need. They give 100% of their donation directly to the local hunger-relief charity of their choice.

Easter Egg Hunt

Since Easter falls during most spring breaks this year, we will not be having the full Bunny Brunch activities. However, we do hope you will join us for an egg hunt between after the 9:30 a.m. worship service.

If you are going to be around on Easter Sunday and are willing to help with this event, please contact Kathy Boxell.



Lenten Fair

This year, the Lenten Fair will be on March 6. Our children will host fellowship that day. The theme this year is hospitality and welcoming because God's grace is the most welcoming power in the universe. Stay tuned for more details.

Sunday, February 14

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!
VBS will be July 11- 15!

THIS MONTH'S

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

John Adelphia III
Sam Blough
Nick Boxell
Abby Gertsmeier
Madison Reed
Bennett Sellman
Ethan Sellman
Tyler Sellman

Youth Ministry

JUPYs (Grades 6 – 8)

Super Bowl of Caring- Sunday, February 7

Come help collect money in the narthex after worship. We will count the money and send to a local charity.

Valentine Party
Sunday, Feb. 7• 5-6:30 p.m.

Bring as many friends as possible for this special, Valentines themed party! Wear RED!

No JUPY's on Feb. 14

Crazy Movie Challenge
Sunday, Feb. 21 5-6:30 p.m.

Ready Camera 1. Quiet on the set. And…Action!! Come for an evening of crazy movie-making challenges. Make sure your cell phones are charged

ICE SKATING & PIZZA

Meet at church at 3:00 p.m. for Skating at Seven Bridges followed by pizza.
Bring $15.
Back at church at 6:30 p.m.

UPYs (Grades 9 – 12)

Valentine Balloon-a-gram Sales

Sunday, Jan. 24,Jan. 31, Feb.7, & Feb. 14

Help sell Balloon-a-grams after church and put candy bags together on Feb. 7 after Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Deliveries will be:
Sunday, Feb. 14,
11:30 a.m..- 2:30 p.m.

This is a significant mission trip fundraiser.
We need help from all participants!

We especially need parents' help with deliveries. Please bring a GPS if you have one.

Youth Sunday - April 24

Come help plan Youth Sunday Feburary 21 & 28, 7:00—8:30 p.m.
We want your ideas!

Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, March 12
2:30 - 8:30 p.m..

Everyone's help is needed ~ get the date on your calendar.
Ticket Sales start February 26!

SNUBS

Sunday Night UPY Bible Study
Feb. 7, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Not your typical Bible Study. We'll ask interesting questions about sex, drugs and rock-n-roll, basically we'll talk about anything relevant to youth and faith today.

Mission & Ministry

Presbytery News - of special interest to PCWS

The Presbytery of Chicago will meet on Saturday, February 13 from 9:30-3:30 p.m. for its first assembly in 2016 at First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange. At that meeting, Pastor Jennifer will be installed as the moderator of the Presbytery for this year.

Her responsibilities will include moderating four presbytery assembly meetings as well as ordinations and installations that are scheduled in 2016. She will continue to serve on Presbytery's Council and Coordinating Work Group and the presbytery's transition team called The Verge. It's quite an honor to be elected to serve as moderator. Needless to say, she covets your prayers, always.

We're co-hosting the assembly meeting with First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange and Elder Marcia Buell is our liaison for volunteers.

You're cordially invited to attend the installation service, which will take place at approximately 1:00 p.m. and will include a sermon by the Rev. Barbara A. Wilson, Community Organizer, Presbytery of Chicago, charges by Teaching Elder Ashley-Anne Masters, Senior Chaplain at Lurie Children's Hospital and Ruling Elder, Greg Boyer from Northminster Presbyterian Church of Evanston and music by PCWS and First Presbyterian LaGrange musicians. Please consider attending. Pastor Jennifer would love for you to be there!

The presbytery's theme for 2016 is Isaiah 43:18-19—

Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Our Lenten offering, a long-standing part of our Presbyterian heritage, is officially dedicated each Easter Sunday. This particular offering addresses the needs of people in need of assistance due to a sudden catastrophe (war, flood, fire) or other unfortunate circumstances beyond their control.

The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) ministries provide relief responses through three agencies:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Self-Development of People, and Presbyterian Hunger Program.

Each of these three programs provides a range of responses addressing both the immediate and long-term needs of those in need.

Throughout the Lenten season, please look for a series of bulletin inserts offering further insight into the OGHS programs and take a few minutes to learn more about how we may each respond to these needs through our collective support of OGHS.

While this offering is officially dedicated on Easter Sunday, gifts may be made any time during Lent. There is a specially designated envelope in the 2016 box of offering envelopes you may have received, or you could also write a check to PCWS, noting OGHS on the memo line. Another option is to make an online donation - listed under Special Offerings. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of how you might be able to help.

Mission & Ministry

O, CHRISTMAS TREE

Christmas items used around our church are evaluated each year as we take them down following the holiday season. It has become apparent PCWS will need a replacement artificial green Christmas tree in 2016 for use in the Jones Room. The tree that has been in use has served us well but it has seen better days now with missing or shedding branches.

If your household has a 5 to 7 foot artificial tree no longer being used, please consider donating it to PCWS. Speak with Pastors Jennifer or Matt for further details.

News from Cuba

One of the ways that Nueva Paz Presbyterian Church used the car we helped them get was by bringing the elderly and home bound members to church for a roasted pig Christmas dinner.

March 12, 2016

Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/presbyws

You don't need to join Facebook to see photos of all the activities that happen at PCWS.

Monthly Mission Focus

FOOD PANTRY

Welcome to the first installment of what we hope will be a monthly feature on each of the many agencies touched by the mission outreach of PCWS. This month, we'll provide a brief introduction to our interaction with the **Pine Avenue Food Pantry** in Chicago.

The Pine Avenue Food Pantry serves an area in Austin where no other food pantry is available. They have an all-volunteer staff of about 10 for their Tuesday morning session. They supply food for 25-35 households each week, including many seniors dependent on social security, for whom the rising costs of prescription drugs and utilities leave them short on money for food.

Financial support for the pantry comes from several suburban churches and also the Oak Park-River Forest CROP walk.

As you may recall, during the Christmas season, our Christmas Giving Tree in the narthex provided suggestions for, and a place to drop off non-perishable food items to be shared with Pine Avenue. Our generous congregation placed a little over 200 food items (about 18-20 bags of groceries) under the tree this year, all of which was personally delivered the week after Christmas by Janet Andersen and helped them to restock their pantry after their own busy Holiday season.

In addition to the non-perishable goods, PCWS mission sends our loose change, collected via the offering plates, to Pine Avenue. That handful of change you drop into the plate each week may not seem like much to you, but when combined with the spare change of the rest of our congregation, grows to a really meaningful amount (approximately $2500 last year) which makes a real difference in the lives of those for whom spare change is all they have.

The pantry is most thankful for our congregation's benevolence and the checks we are able to send to them twice each year make a real difference in the lives of the clients they serve.

Member News

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

Collated and/or folded bulletins: Laura Fruit, Carol Ulreich, Harriett Potenza and Craig Harris

Helped in the office and with scanning and database updates: Carol Ulreich, Ruth Riordan, Michelle Hennessy, Donna Strunk, Laura Fruit, Sue Eck, Diane Bonner, Harriett Potenza and Craig Harris

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 January:
Shopper: Kathy Wennerstrum
Cooks: Sue Eck, Kim Fronk, and Ann De Vries
Driver/Server: Candice Mares and Kathy Wennerstrum

Prepared Glad Tidings for mailing: Mary Kae Headland, Ruth Riordan, Joyce Habermann and Dorothy Andersen

Flower Guild designers and flower setup in January: Nancy Glickman, Jan Fortina

CHANCEL FLOWERS: REFLECTING THE SEASON OF LENT

From Ash Wednesday through Good Friday, the chancel flowers will speak to the mood of the season as believers take to the journey toward the cross prior to Easter. Beginning on the Sunday following Ash Wednesday through Good Friday, the chancel will contain a simple arrangement of pussy willows. This reflects the focus on preparation and repentance found in the context of Worship throughout Lent.

If there is a special occasion during Lent you wish to remember or celebrate, the Flower Committee will be happy to create an arrangement appropriate for the Narthex, Jones Room or Memorial Garden. Please contact the church office to indicate your occasion and make provisions for the donation for the flower arrangement.

Monday, February 15

Church and Offices will be closed.

Member News

LIFE EVENTS

We extend synpathy to:

The family of Bruce Janecek who passed away on December 23, 2015.

The family of Henry Strunk who passed away on December 24, 2015.

The family of Donna Bast who passed away on Deecember 29, 2015.

The family of Margaret Miller, who passed away on January 14, 2016.

The family of Jerry Rodos, who passed away on January 21, 2016.

Welcome to:

Camille Rodos , born January 18, 2016. Proud parents are Adam and Christine Rodos , proud grandparents are Jerry & Joyce Rodos.

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 March *Glad Tidings* for mailing Tuesday, February 23. Meet @ 10:30 a.m. in the Jones Room.

Remember in Prayer

- The Ahmeti Family
- Tom Allen
- **Kimberly Bone**
- David Boyer
- Diane Markley Bruser
- George Bruser
- Carie Family
- Sandy Carucci
- Joan DeClene
- David DeFano
- **Norman Duncan**
- **Billye Dvorak**
- Norm Erickson
- Paulette Erickson
- Marc Goldstein
- Ronald Halla
- **Kathleen Kircher**
- **Mary Jo Long**
- Robin Lewis
- Deborah Matthews
- **Evie Meyer**
- Peggy Mirlenbrink
- Mary Myers
- Holly Oliver
- Ginger Oswald
- Robert Petersen
- **Shirley Pine**
- **Marge Sandrik**
- Rev. Maricela Gonales Rubio
- Mike Slesicki
- Patti Schoenbeck
- Steve Stark
- **Carol Stub**
- Margaret Swaar
- Gloria Torres
- **Betty Toft**
- Beth Tooth
- Dorothy Wilson
- Donna (Friend of Joyce Smyers)
- Michael (friend of Jane Norman)
- Presbyterian Church Congregation in Nueva Paz, Cuba
- The people of Syria, especially family members of PCWS Interfaith Women's Book Group

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.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WESTERN SPRINGS
5250 Wolf Road
Western Springs, Illinois 60558-1898

Web Page: **www.presbyws.org**
E-Mail: **pcws@presbyws.org**
Prayer Requests: **prayers@presbyws.org**
Telephone: **708-246-5220**
Fax: **708-246-4276**

01-26-2016
Dated Mail

Scan to
Learn about PCWS

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Events in February

Feb. 2 Deacons

Feb. 3 Committees

Feb. 4 Presbyterian Women

Feb. 6 Adult Mental Health First Aid Workshop

Feb. 10 Ash Wednesday
"*Glad Tidings*" Article Deadline

Feb. 13 Chicago Presbytery Meeting
Rev. Lewis Installation

Feb. 14 Valentines Day/ Balloon-a-Gram Deliveries

Feb. 15 Presidents Day
Church and Offices Closed

Feb. 17 Session

Upcoming Events in March

Mar. 1 Deacons

Mar. 2 Committees

Mar. 3 Presbyterian Women

Mar. 4 World Day of Prayer

Mar. 6 Lenten Fair
Annual Meeting

Mar. 10 "*Glad Tidings*" Article Deadline

Mar. 12 Spaghetti Dinner

Mar. 13 Daylight Savings Time

Mar..16 Session

Mar. 20 Palm Sunday

Mar. 23 Book Club

Mar. 24 Maundy Thursday

Mar. 25 Good Friday

Mar. 27 Easter Sunday

To view a full calendar of events, please visit our webpage: www.presbyws.org