Holy Week

Christians are often referred to as a pilgrim people, meaning that our faith invites us on a lifelong journey with God. Holy Week is a solemn part of that journey, as we reflect upon Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the speed with which the crowd turns from celebrating him to shouting, “Crucify him.” From there, his last days include gathering with his disciples around a Passover meal and transforming it with Jesus’ words into what we call the Last Supper, to witnessing his crucifixion, to receiving the gift of the news of his resurrection on that first Easter morning.

Why take the journey? It’s hard, it’s sad, and many of us would say that there’s enough sadness in the world without needing to be reminded of the tremendous sadness of the last week of Jesus’ earthly life.

Well, here’s why: Holy Week isn’t just one week out of the year. Nor is Good Friday just a “single event in history that we choose to remember a couple of days before Easter.” (Nadia Bolz Weber, Accidental Saints, p. 141.) Good Friday happens every day for people who struggle with pain, loneliness, feeling forgotten by God, and experiencing injustice. And the promise of Easter, that love is the response to it all, happens every day as well. Wherever you are this Holy Week, please pause and consider such despair and such love. And see what happens. May you be astonished by love.

For a schedule of events during Holy Week, see page 5.

Spaghetti Dinner—March 12, 2016

The annual Spaghetti Dinner is on March 12 this year. Tickets will be on sale through March 6. There will be seatings at 5:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Advance Purchase Tickets are:
- $7 for Adults and
- $5 for children
At the Door: $8

Proceeds will help with the UPY Mission Trip to Atlanta, Georgia this June.

Upstairs, Downstairs (which was just as cool as Downton Abbey)

On Sunday, March 6, we’ll be convening our annual congregational meeting and we’ll be playing, once again, with the model we tried out last year, of commemorating and giving thanks in worship for the retrospective parts of the annual meeting. Then, we’ll head downstairs for the business part of the meeting, as we look ahead and plan for the future.

You’re going to want to be there, whether you’re the nostalgic type and like to think back, or you’re a visionary and like to plan and dream about what’s coming in our life together. We’ll also be graced with the Lenten Fair that morning, which will be a lovely interaction during fellowship and the annual meeting.

So, plan to join us UPSTAIRS in the sanctuary at 9:30 a.m. and DOWNSTAIRS in the Jones Room at 10:30 a.m. It promises to be a morning as interesting as Downton’s Tom Branson, with parts as gracious as Lady Mary’s manners and there are sure to be some good quips, just like the Dowager Countess of Grantham.
Here we are, in the midst of Lent, with Easter just a few short weeks away. Here, at the beginning of a new month, still winter, not yet spring, we are keenly aware of how challenging the journey can be, and yet so rich with meaning and emotion.

Here we are, together as a community, working on tasks, dreaming our dreams, facing brave challenges, delighted at the ways in which God is present among us and with us.

Here we are, God’s people, expecting resurrection.

Thanks be to God.

Jennifer

Photo Directory Update - Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

The photo directory information has been submitted and we hope you are gleefully anticipating its arrival! The Directory committee wants to send out its thanks to the following people who made it possible (hopefully, we haven’t missed anyone):

- Deacons Bruce Barnes, Val Blough, Kami Booth, Katie DeVries, Jill Dold, Laura Gertsmeier, Jane Melilli, Laurie Merrifield, Jan Paddock, Mary Jo Sindelar, Erin Sullivan, Sarah Sullivan and Lisa Wenerstrum, who spent countless hours contacting members of their link lists to get the most current address and contact information.
- Kristene Hiepler-Hartwig and Michelle Hennessy for wearing out their eyes and fingers entering the updated information into the church database.
- Carol Ulreich and Aileen Pendleton for creatively conceiving, compiling and creating the activity pages.
- Walt Kovalick and Jessi Bozek for writing and recording fun messages for the automated phone calls.
- Kami Booth, Jill Dold, Rogers Malone, Jane Melilli, Laurie Merrifield, Jan Paddock, Mary Jo Sindelar and Sarah Sullivan for lending their smiling faces and welcoming spirits to hosting the photography sessions and helping to verify information.
- Kami Booth, Mark Burt, Laurie Merrifield and Aileen Pendleton for taking well-composed photos and lending them to the staff and activity page creators.
- Tom Kelly and Jennifer Burns Lewis for proofreading the roster pages until their eyes were blurry.
- Jennifer Burns Lewis for her guidance and encouragement throughout the process.
- Lastly, to Laurie Merrifield and Jan Paddock, the directory committee, for foolishly agreeing to help me tend to the details needed to keep this effort on track.

Together, we can move mountains. I’d work with all of you again in a heartbeat! Thank you!

Kay Kelly, Deacon Moderator of the Directory committee

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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.
Explore Faithfulness:
Confirmand/Mentor Challenge

The next fruit of the Spirit that we’re learning about this year in Explore is “faithfulness.” Due to the annual congregational meeting and spring break, Explore will gather only once in the month of March, on Sunday the 13th. All ages from grades 1 - adults are inviting to witness an epic Confirmand/Mentor Challenge & Fun Day in the Jones room from 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Please consider joining us to watch and participate in a fun morning of challenging, funny games and trivia – a real mash-up of popular game shows with a fresh, faith-related flavor.

Meet Your Deacon

The Board of Deacons works busily behind the scenes to help care for and support PCWS members. Each month, we’re introducing you to one of the Deacons participating in this caring ministry. This month, the spotlight is on Lori Carsten. Lori lives in Willow Springs with her husband, Greg, and their daughters, Claire (age 8) and Marissa (age 6). Here are a few fun facts about Lori:


Year Lori and her family joined PCWS: 2015

Anything special you have especially enjoyed about PCWS so far: The Christmas pageant is always a lot of fun and the Advent Fair.

Career: Lori is Manager of Sales Administration at KI Industries

Favorite Hobbies: Lori enjoys playing and watching sports (soccer, hockey and football are her favorites). She also loves spending time with her family and reading.

Favorite foods: Cookies and pot roast

Tell us something interesting about yourself that we wouldn’t already know: I enjoy coaching my girls’ soccer teams and played soccer myself for over 25 years.

Do you have pets? No pets – but we did have foxes live under our deck last spring.

Favorite sports team(s): Blackhawks, Bears, Bengals and Claire’s and Marissa’s sports teams

Capital Campaign

There are exciting things on the horizon for our Church! Our physical Church, that is, which supports the work and worship of our congregation and community nearly every day.

Session has determined that it is time to commit to some much-needed repairs, replacements and reserves in order to meet the challenges of maintaining our Church Today and for Tomorrow.

Please plan to attend the annual meeting on Sunday, March 6 to learn more about Session’s plans and to see how you will have the opportunity to Commit Today for Tomorrow for the future of PCWS.
Theology & Brew—Daytime & Evening

Mark your calendar for this month’s offerings! Or, if you’re unable to attend, read and ponder and wonder about this month’s articles on your own time, anytime, in your own way! The daytime edition of Brew this month will gather on Monday, March 14 at 1:00 p.m. at Now Serving Café in La Grange. The evening edition of Brew will gather on the Monday after Easter, March 28 at 7:00 p.m. at Now Serving Café in La Grange. Cheers!

Enneagram ..... Know Your Number workshop (Saturday) and Wings/Stress/Security workshop (Sunday) April 9 and 10

Saturday, April 8, 2016, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Know Your Number: Enneagram master Suzanne Stabile provides a foundation for our inner work. She explains some history and theory of the Enneagram as a tool for spiritual, emotional and interpersonal development, and spends time describing each personality type, including what drives us and what we tend to avoid, how we interact with others, and how to move toward health and wholeness in our unique ways.

Sunday, April 9, 2016, 1 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
The Sunday afternoon workshop (Wings/Stress/Security) will go further in depth about how each type is influenced by their neighboring numbers, and how each number deals with life -- what happens when we are stressed, anxious, or afraid? How do we tend to shift our responses when we feel safe and happy? How can we work on remaining healthy in ourselves and our interpersonal relationships when these situations arise? The Enneagram is a fluid tool, not a rigid one, and knowing how we move from place to place in our personalities can give us insight into how to live more fully from our true, essential Self.

PCWS and the Presbyterian Church of Palatine are sponsoring these workshops.

Registration Fees:
Saturday - Know Your Number (including lunch): $105
Sunday - Wings/Stress/Security (snacks/coffee): $65
Both days: $150 (save $10 per workshop by registering for both)
PCWS Members: $125 for both days

To register, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/enneagram-workshops-with-suzanne-stabile-tickets-20531732966

Presbyterian Women

Thursday, March 3:
12:30 p.m.
Plymouth Place
Come for a lovely afternoon tea at Plymouth Place hosted by the afternoon circle. Share a story of PW or PCWS.

March 4 -- Church Women United
World Day of Prayer at PCWS
9:30 a.m. Bible study.
10:30 a.m. Worship

March 9 -- 7:00 pm.
Ladies Game Night
All are welcome. Enjoy an evening of laughter and lively conversation while playing a few classic games and a few new ones. As always with Presbyterian Women, we will have food and beverages! We will meet at the Pendleton home. RSVP to Aileen at alpendleton@sbcglobal.net

March 17 -- 1:00 p.m. Afternoon circle at PCWS.
Lesson 7: “Streams of Mercy—Forgiveness” from Come to the Waters

March 22 -- 6:00 p.m. Evening circle will meet at Baker’s Square for dinner and discussion of Chapters 27-32 in Making Sense of the Bible by Adam Hamilton.
**Chancel Choir**

This spring we are using a strategically focused rehearsal schedule for Chancel Choir. The gist is we rehearse for 2 weeks, Thursday/Sunday/Thursday/Sunday and then take a couple of weeks off. If you have always wanted to be in choir but the time commitment was too much, this is your chance.

The next set of rehearsals are:
- Thursday, February 25
- Sunday, February 28
- Thursday, March 3
- Sunday, March 6

Chancel Choir will be singing on February 28 and March 6. Ask a choir member about the gorgeous piece we are singing on February 28th (not that all our pieces aren’t gorgeous . . . ).

**Festival Choir for Holy Week**

For Holy Week, choir will be rehearsing these dates:
- March 10 - 7:00 p.m.
- March 13 - 8:30 a.m.
- March 17 - 7:00 p.m.
- March 20 - 8:30 a.m.

AND they will sing on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday (with Highlands), Good Friday (also with Highlands) and, of course, on Easter Sunday morning with organ, brass and percussion. Plan now to join us for these moving worship services.

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**LEADing Change: Leadership, Education, Development**

March 5, 2016
8:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. at McCormick Seminary!

$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.

Register online: [https://support.mccormick.edu/pages/LEAD-2016](https://support.mccormick.edu/pages/LEAD-2016)

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

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**Holy Week**

**Palm Sunday, March 20**

8:15 am Community Blessing of the Palms Service at Tower Green (rain site: Grand Ave Community Center)

9:30 a.m. at PCWS
Festive Music by the Chancel Choir, a palm processional and celebration of the King of Kings all mark this day.

**Maundy Thursday, March 24**

6:30 p.m. — Maundy Thursday meal with some explanation of the role of the seder on this evening.
7:15 p.m. — Communion and Tenebrae (service of shadows)
In the Jones Room with Highlands Presbyterian Church.

**Good Friday, March 25**

7:00 p.m. — Good Friday service at Highlands Presbyterian Church 1901 W. 58th Place, LaGrange (just east of Wolf Road)

**Easter Sunday, March 27**

6:41 a.m. — Sunrise service with coffee and donuts following
9:30 a.m. — Worship service
10:30 a.m. — Easter Egg hunt on the grounds and fellowship
See page 6 for more information
Easter Egg Hunt

Grab those Easter baskets and bring them to church Easter morning for a traditional Easter egg hunt! Since Easter falls during spring break, we will not be having the full Bunny Brunch activities. However, we do hope you will join us for the egg hunt after the 9:30 a.m. service, rain or shine. Your little chickadees will have a great time finding the eggs and will be delighted by the surprises inside.

Lenten Fair—March 6

Come have fellowship and snacks provided by the Sunday School classes during the Congregational Meeting in the Jones Room on March 6. We have been learning about hospitality and will be hosting all of you during fellowship hour.

MAD Camp -- Mark Your Calendars!

We are excited to announce the dates of this year’s MAD Camp:

Monday, June 20th-Friday, June 24th with the performance in worship on Sunday, June 26th.

Watch the April Glad Tidings for more info about the show we will be doing.

PCWS Babysitting List

We are compiling a list of babysitters. Anyone interested in being included on the list for our church members, please have them email Aileen Pendleton @ alpendleton@sbcglobal.net.

BINGO

MARCH 6,
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Bring friends, family, grandparents for this fun event at PCWS, all ages welcome! Suggested donation per card will be $5 and all money will go towards mission for PCWS! Snacks and drinks provided.

Silly prizes will be awarded, signup is available in the hall or email Kristene at kristene@presbyws.org.

Questions -- contact Ann DeVries, Kim Fronk or Aileen Pendleton. Can’t wait to see you there!

Balloon-a-grams

Special thanks to all who helped by purchasing Balloon-a-Grams for your friends and loved ones. We were able to sell 340 and raised $1,356 to help support the summer mission trip to Atlanta, Georgia. We will be staying and working with the Calvin Center on home improvements.

Special thanks to all the parents for driving for the deliveries.

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. On Super Bowl Sunday, February 6, the JUPYs collected $520 for 2nd Baptist Church of LaGrange to support their food pantry.

Thank you for all your generous support.

Hannah Lombardi
David Skjei
Youth Ministry

JUPYs (Grades 6 – 8)

Youth Sunday Planning
Help us begin to shape our ideas into a fun and meaningful worship service.

Please add these dates and times to your calendar:

April 3 – 7 – 8:30 pm Brainstorming & Planning
April 10 – 7-8:30 pm – Small Group planning
April 17 – 7-8:30 pm More Planning
April 23—Dress Rehearsal TBD
April 24—Youth Sunday!!! Be here at 8:30 a.m. Join us for brunch afterwards (10:45 a.m.)

COMING EVENTS

FAST FOOD FRENZY
APRIL 10

Youth Sunday Planning
Help us begin to shape our ideas into a fun and meaningful worship service.

Please add these dates and times to your calendar:

April 3 – 7 – 8:30 pm Brainstorming & Planning
April 10 – 7-8:30 pm – Small Group planning
April 17 – 7-8:30 pm More Planning
April 23—Dress Rehearsal TBD
April 24—Youth Sunday!!! Be here at 8:30 a.m. Join us for brunch afterwards (10:45 a.m.)
One Great Hour of Sharing

During the Lenten season, one of the things we consider as a congregation is our Lenten denominational offering: One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). Officially dedicated on Easter Sunday, March 27, this offering is a long-standing component of our Presbyterian heritage.

Your gift to OGHS, coupled with the gifts and talents of people and communities all over the world, helps to provide the larger gifts of Sustainability, Partnership and Service to those facing hunger, to those rebuilding after crises or catastrophe and to those in communities working to overcome years of oppression.

As specific examples of the impact your gift can have on those in need:

- “220,000 people received food, water, shelter and medical care in the aftermath of the Nepal earthquakes” via Presbyterian Disaster Assistance;
- “Over 308,000 people in over 30 countries now have increased food security and livelihoods through international development work” as a result of the Presbyterian Hunger Program; and,
- “More than 10,000 children and their families in five bateyes in the Dominican Republic have access to clean water, helping to prevent water-related diseases” through the work of the Presbyterian Mission Agency’s Self-Development of People.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of a gift to the One Great Hour of Sharing ministry this Lenten season. Donations can be made any time during Lent, either with a specially designated envelope in your 2016 box of offering envelopes, with a check written to PCWS noting “OGHS” on the memo line, or give online at www.presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs.

Presbytery News

Many thanks to all of you who helped host the Presbytery at First LaGrange on February 13, and to those who attended Pastor Jennifer’s installation as presbytery moderator for 2016.

Please take a close look at the article about LEAD on page 5. LEAD is an amazing opportunity to stretch our brains and receive training as leaders and learners in the church!

Coming up . . . Umoja Student Development Corporation

Mission Committee is planning to feature Umoja Student Development Corporation as our next monthly mission focus. Traditionally, we have been financial partners with Umoja and this year we are hoping to support them in more hands-on ways.

Please check out their website at http://www.umojacorporation.org and take special note of their upcoming fundraiser on Friday, March 11 at the Garfield Park Conservatory!

www.facebook.com/presbyws

You don’t need to join Facebook to see photos of all the activities that happen at PCWS.
March Mission Focus – Did You Know?

Food for Life is one of our longest-standing Mission relationships and is in partnership with the First Presbyterian Church of Chicago to feed the homeless and hungry in their Woodlawn community.

In order to understand the importance of the Food for Life program, it’s helpful to understand the history of the First Presbyterian Church:

Founded in Fort Dearborn in 1833, this church was truly the first Presbyterian church in Chicago and, from the beginning, has been active in its community. Henry Ward Beecher and Frederick Douglass have spoken here. Zephaniah Humphrey, pastor during the Civil War, gave the invocation at President Lincoln’s nomination in 1860. In the 1950’s, First Church became one of the first integrated churches in Chicago and, on two different occasions, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke to the community in this church.

The congregation moved into its present structure, at 6400 South Kimbark, in 1926 and served what was a vibrant community at that time; one supported by influential Chicagoans who had settled into grand homes in the Hyde Park area. Sadly, in the 1950’s, much of the economic infrastructure of Chicago’s south side collapsed, yet the congregation voted in 1953 to remain in the Woodlawn neighborhood, rather than following many of its former congregants to the suburbs.

Things have not improved in this neighborhood. Things have not improved for First Presbyterian Church. This cathedral-like building now attracts just a small group of congregants for a Sunday service. In fact, most years, the sanctuary is only used for worship during the summer and the Holiday season, as it is too expensive to heat the space in winter. The stained-glass windows are spectacular, albeit scarred by bullet holes.

Given these challenges, First Presbyterian remains a proud congregation that continues to work to serve the community in which they worship. And this is where PCWS has been a partner for years. Continuing a tradition begun in the 1970’s, every Tuesday, year-round, First Presbyterian volunteers serve lunch to the homeless and hungry in their neighborhood. Every fourth Tuesday, PCWS prepares, delivers and helps to serve this lunch. PCWS volunteer cooks prepare four roasters of chili-mac and volunteer drivers deliver and serve the meal that also includes a warm vegetable, fruit, bread, lemonade and a dessert. It’s a simple meal, but one that is received gratefully by those who have come to rely on it.

This is one of those Mission partnerships in which PCWS takes great pride. Over the years, many members of our congregation have participated in the preparation and the serving of the food and have seen first-hand the importance of this routine to the First Presbyterian Church’s congregation and its community.

The Mission committee would like all members of our congregation to have the opportunity to participate in this unique PCWS tradition of giving. Do it once and you’ll understand the connection between our two Presbyterian congregations and communities. All it takes is setting aside a portion of one Tuesday. That, and a car large enough to carry the food!

We are currently filling our schedule for 2016. Secure your spot today by reaching out to Kathy Wennerstrum, Mission Elder at kowennerstrum@me.com.
Thank you for your service at PCWS in February! We can’t do it without you.

Collated and/or folded bulletins: Laura Fruit, Craig Harris, Harriet Potenza.

Helped in the office and with scanning and database updates: Carol Ulreich, Ruth Riordan, Michelle Hennessy, Donna Strunk, Laura Fruit, Sue Eck, Dorothy Andersen, Donna Marie Kanak

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 February: Cooks: Kim Fronk and Ann DeVries Driver/Servers: Betty and Paul Banovic Shopper: Kathy Wennerstrum

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

Flower Guild designers and flower setup in February: Sue Eck

Systemic racism

The conversation began Saturday, January 16 at Clarendon Hills Presbyterian Church. Pastor Jennifer, Loretta Gratias-Bremer, Marilyn Hanson, and myself, attended from PCWS. Approximately one hundred other people, from various denominations, attended the workshop hosted by the Chicago Presbytery and conducted by the Chicago Regional Organization for Antiracism (ROAR). The purpose was to raise individual awareness on how racism permeates our culture in both overt and subtle ways.

The morning started by establishing a common definition and a common analysis of racism. Both were needed in order to work toward solutions for racism in which we can all participate. Other topics included:

* Implicit Bias
* Systematic Power
* Cultural Dominance
* Transforming Values

Upon completion of this workshop, attendees walked away with new tools to scrutinize our culture, our media and our institutions for racial bias. Personally, this workshop gave me new eyes in which to look at situations. Who are the power brokers? Are those with power and privilege looking to expand the circle to include others or are they willing to keep the status quo in order to personally profit or keep power? Think of these questions in terms of our candidates for president, situations in our schools and churches, or monetary allocations for public projects. “Racism dehumanizes us all - Dismantling racism heals us all.”¹

Check out additional workshops offered by Chicago ROAR by going to the crossroadsantiracism.org website. Help the conversation continue.

Nancy Glickman

¹ Homepage, Crossroads Antiracism Organizing & Training, 2016 Crossroads, accessed January 22, 2016, crossroadsantiracism.org
Easter Flowers

If you wish to make a donation for a plant for the Easter Sunday celebration, the signup sheet is posted in the lower-level hallway. The cost per plant is $20 and the last day to order is March 22. Payment at the time you sign up is helpful. Please indicate your preference on the signup sheet to:

◊ take your plant home after the 9:30 service on Easter Sunday;
◊ have your plant delivered to a member or friend of the Congregation;
◊ have the plant used in planters and flower beds at church.

World Day of Prayer
March 4, 2016

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 April Glad Tidings for mailing Tuesday, March 29. Meet @ 10:30 a.m. in the Jones Room.

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.
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

Upcoming Events in April

Apr.  5  Deacons
Apr.  6  Committees
Apr.  7  Presbyterian Women
Apr.  9  Enneagram Workshop
Apr. 10 “Glad Tidings” Article Deadline
        Enneagram Workshop
Apr. 16  Confirmation Spring Retreat
Apr. 20  Session
Apr. 27  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.