Explore Gentleness

After months of carefully examining, wondering about, and standing in awe of all the ways the Spirit flows in and out of our lives, we’ve reached our final fruit of the Spirit: “gentleness”. Please notice that throughout April, children and youth have their own separate EXPLORE adventure focusing on butterflies and faith formation, which leaves the adults to have their own educational opportunities. While we may be in separate rooms, the themes overlap significantly as our children and youth will be learning about how to care for butterflies – perhaps the most gentle of all God’s creatures. Meanwhile, here is the adult education schedule:

April 3 – Adults enjoy extended fellowship (children and youth have various activities)
April 10 – Gentleness Part 1 in the Graham Charter Room
April 17 – Gentleness Part 2 in the Graham Charter Room
April 24 – Adults enjoy extended fellowship (children and youth have various activities)
May 1 – Adults enjoy fellowship (children and youth have various activities – including car wash fundraiser)

Youth Sunday

Mark your calendar for this year’s Youth Sunday service on April 24. Our youth will lead us in worship focused on “New Things” which will have their special touch.

The Youth will enjoy brunch together following church at Blueberry Hill in La Grange.

Seekers’ Class

Interested in learning more about PCWS?
Ready to join our family of faith? Our next Seekers' Class is Sunday, April 10. We’ll meet in the Graham Charter Room from 10:45am to 11:30 and child care is provided.

New ways for our PCWS youth to EXPLORE: April 3 - May 1

Everyone is invited to participate from 10:45 - 11:30 a.m. for 5 weeks of fun opportunities to grow in our faith!

- Preschool - Free play in the nursery with Cory
- Kindergarten - 2nd grade - Choir with Patti
- 3rd - 5th grade - EXPLORING butterflies!
- 6th - 8th grade - EXPLORING butterflies!
- 9th - 12th grade - EXPLORERS - Faith Formation for High Schoolers

In EXPLORING butterflies, we will be fulfilling our promises to our Environmental Covenant as we make PCWS a certified monarch butterfly habitat. We will study the life cycle of a butterfly and how butterflies connect to transformation and stewardship in the Bible.

Our high school EXPLORERS will meet with different leaders each week and ask questions and talk about their faith as it relates to their busy lives. Discussion, discovery and donuts....join us in this exciting new program!

If you are interested in helping with a class or have questions, please contact Kim Fronk: (kimfronk@yahoo.com.)
Here’s a beautiful blessing from author Jan Richardson:

**Easter Blessing**

If you are looking for a blessing, do not linger here.

Here is only emptiness, a husk where a blessing used to be.

This blessing was not content in its confinement.

It could not abide its isolation, the unrelenting silence, the pressing stench of death.

So if it is a blessing that you seek, open your own mouth.

Fill your lungs with the air that this new morning brings and then release it with a cry.

Hear how the blessing breaks forth in your own voice how your own lips form every word you never dreamed to say.

See how the blessing circles back again wanting you to repeat it but louder how it draws you pulls you sends you to proclaim its only word:

risen risen risen.

See more of Jan Richardson’s work at http://paintedprayerbook.com.

May Easter joy and hope be yours. Love,

*Jennifer*

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**OUR PASTORS**

**Rev. Jennifer Burns Lewis,** Pastor/Head of Staff  
**Rev. Matthew Paul Schmidt,** Associate Pastor  

For a complete list of our staff, visit our website: www.presbyws.org.
Congregational Meeting Wrap-up

Many thanks to all who came, participated, and voted at the annual meeting.

Upstairs, we remembered those who passed away in the previous year, thanked outgoing officers, and held a meeting of the corporation.

Downstairs, we heard a stewardship update, approved changes in the terms of call of the pastors, received the 2016 budget, were inspired to discover simple ways to serve on Sundays, and heard the initial invitation to participate in the capital campaign—Committing Today for Tomorrow. We saw a great year-in-review video and thanked God for the joy of being the Presbyterian Church of Western Springs.

Choir Notes

Many thanks for all the musicians who put in extra time and effort to make our Holy Week music so special. We are grateful for brass players who add that extra sparkle: Mike Lobash, Henry Lobash, Steve Eich, Howie Habenicht, Katie Diebel, Stephanie Diebel.

We extend thanks, too, to all who sang in the Chancel Choir during the four Holy Week services.

Thanks, as well, for special Lenten music by Amy Malone, Laura Hepburn, Hillary Schmidt, Kara Leslie, Mary Jo Blough, Mike Lobash, Diane Wood, Tanner Booth, and the No-Name Band.

Our capital campaign, Committing Today for Tomorrow, is well underway!

This campaign began in earnest at the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, March 6, and will continue with learning and pledging opportunities throughout the months of March and April.

The goal of this capital campaign is to raise a minimum of $500,000 to fund immediately necessary repairs to our church property and to begin to replenish our major maintenance reserve fund. As noted in the March 6 presentation areas in need of immediate attention include: exterior water management; interior water damage; aging HVAC systems, lights, carpet, pews and organ; significant cracks in the building structure, sidewalks and parking lot; and many unaddressed needs at the manse.

The Properties Committee has prepared a detailed list of identified needs. Once the campaign has concluded in early May, work will be prioritized according to immediacy of need and our ability to fund the work.

Session and the Capital Campaign Team are grateful to those who have already given generously to this effort and appreciate everyone’s personal, prayerful consideration of their own financial gift as we all Commit Today for Tomorrow and the future of PCWS.

Should you have any questions about this campaign, please don’t hesitate to reach out to a member of the Capital Campaign Team, noted below:

Matt Booth, Laura Cordell, Mark DeVries, Jon Gertzmeier, Kevin Hennessy, Michelle Hennessy, Julie Kelly, Mike Lobash, Kathy Wennerstrum, Steve Wennerstrum.
Enneagram ..... Know Your Number workshop (Saturday) and Wings/Stress/Security workshop (Sunday) April 9 and 10

Saturday, April 9, 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 10, 2016, 1:00 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, April 7
12:30 p.m. at PCWS

What are the possibilities for PW at PCWS in 2016-17? What will our mission emphasis be? Come share your thoughts and ideas as we map our road to the future.

Dessert provided by the evening circle: Cost will be $5.00 at the door.

April 21: 1:00 p.m.
Afternoon circle at PCWS
Lesson 8: “The Hospitality of Living Water—Compassion” from Come to the Waters

April 26: 6:00 p.m.
Evening circle will meet at Now Serving in La Grange for dinner and a social evening.

Theology & Brew—Daytime & Evening

Our setting for Theology & Brew in April will be Palmer Place. Please join us for interesting and thoughtful conversation—ingredients of which will include a current article or issues, a dose of theology, a pinch of sound opinion from all of us, and a wide range of food and drink.

Palmer Place is located at 56 South La Grange Road in beautiful downtown La Grange. Daytime Edition will gather there on Monday, April 18 at 1:00 p.m. and the Evening Edition will gather there on Monday, April 25 at 7:00 p.m. Cheers!
2016 Budget Update

At our annual congregational meeting, we heard an in-depth update from the Leadership and Ministries Committee about our Fall Financial Campaign, 60 for 60. You responded wonderfully to an additional request to review your pledge, resulting in several new pledges and some who increased their 2016 pledges.

Note: Thank you to those who pledge electronically. Only our treasurer knows about our electronic giving. So please always take time to submit a pledge so that the Fall Financial Team can have an accurate count.

We learned that we have about an $18,000 reduction in pledge income for 2016, and the Session hopes to address that shortfall with ongoing stewardship education, encouraging pledging by new members and other members of the congregation, utilizing $28,000 in discretionary reserve money this year, and adopting a scrip program that allows us, the church, to benefit from where we make purchases. See the article on this page for more information on the scrip program.

The Session approved a $479,000 budget for 2016, and the congregation received the budget after approving a 2% increase in clergy compensation (clergy compensation is the only part approved by the congregation.)

As always, and especially this year, the Session is committed to watching the 2016 budget, both income and expenses, very closely.

Additional Funds for PCWS

As you are aware, PCWS is currently experiencing a decrease in pledge income. Session has and continues to investigate new ways to offset our budget deficit, and one of the opportunities that has recently been approved is the Scrip program.

Many of you are already familiar with the concept of scrip, which is a powerful tool that allows families to donate funds to the church simply by ordering gift cards through the church’s scrip program. This is a way for PCWS members and friends to painlessly give additional funds to support the church’s annual budget. These gift cards can be used for groceries, gas, dining out, and numerous other retail purchases -- including Starbucks! There are over 100 merchants on the list.

The purchaser (you) receive the FULL value of the gift card, AND the church receives a percentage of the card’s value, usually between 3% and 15%, depending upon the merchant. For example, buy a gift card through the scrip card and then stop by Panera Bread for a quick lunch or dinner and the church earns 9%! More details will be provided in the near future as to how you can participate in this new fundraising opportunity for PCWS while purchasing items you would buy anyway.

Electronics Recycling Collection Event

The West Cook County Solid Waste Agency will host a regional electronics recycling event in Westchester on Saturday, April 16, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Westchester water tower near the intersection of Cermak Road and Enterprise Drive.

Items accepted include computer equipment, small printers, telephones, answering machines, cellular phones, fax machines, stereo equipment, software, CD’s and tapes. Televisions, VCR’s and DVD’s will also be accepted (no wooden box frames or rear projection large screens).

Items not accepted include refrigerators, stoves, dishwashers, washing machines, dryers, air conditioners, microwaves, oversized copiers and any business / commercial items (the event is residential only).

For more information about recycling in La Grange, please call the Village at (708) 579-2315.
Cave Quest Vacation Bible School
July 11 – 15

VBS will meet from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at PCWS! Join in the fun with Deep Bible Quests, Spelunker Sports and Games, Mission Quest, Cavern Café and Imagination Station. Online registration will open in April for children entering Kindergarten through 6th grade in the fall of 2016.

Want to help us gear up for an over-the-top underground adventure? If you would like to lead a cave crew, help decorate or lead an activity station, please contact Kim Fronk (kimfronk@yahoo.com.)

MAD Camp -- Mark Your Calendars!

Plans are underway for this year’s MAD Camp: Monday, June 20th through Friday, June 24th with the performance in worship on Sunday, June 26th. Children entering grades 2-8 are invited to join us for a fun week of music, art and drama. Camp will take place from 2:00 -5:00 p.m. as usual. Signup sheets will be posted on the Music bulletin board and electronic signups will be available on the PCWS website by the middle of April. Cost is $25 per student, $35 per family. Scholarships are available; please contact to Patti Mangis.

Thank You!!

Thanks to all who supported this year’s SPAGHETTI DINNER! We raised $1,100 to support the Youth Mission Trip this summer to work with the Calvin Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Special thanks to:
• Steve Blough for preparing the sauce and meatballs!!
• All adults that baked and helped in the kitchen.
• Sextons for all the extra cleaning and set-up.
• UPY’s for hard work and making it a successful fundraiser.

And local businesses:
• Casey’s Market in Western Springs for donating the meat!
• Western Springs Fruit Store for all the produce!

Please tell them “thank you” when you shop!

Baccalaureate Breakfast

Will you be putting on a cap and gown this spring? If so, we are hoping to celebrate with you! All high school graduates and their families are invited to breakfast on May 22nd at 8:30 a.m. Please notify the church office if you will be able to attend the celebration.

Teacher Appreciation

On Sunday, May 1, we will honor and thank our devoted teachers. They have blessed our children this year and we are so grateful to them. This will also be the last Sunday for regular Sunday school until the fall. Please tell a teacher “Thank You!” and how much we appreciate them.

BINGO

A huge thank you to those who joined us for BINGO in March. It was a super fun afternoon with lots of fun prizes, mission donations and lucky ducks!

We raised $55 for Umoja, $70 for Maria Shelter and $170 for our exciting new JUPY Monarch butterfly project. Congratulations to Lorraine for being the big winner of our Black Out game! Stay tuned for another fun BINGO event in the future!
**Mission Day**

Sunday, April 3  
5:00–6:30 p.m.  
Come for snacks and to help work on various mission projects

**FAST FOOD FRENZY!!**

Sunday, April 10  
5–6:30 p.m.  
Cost: $8.00

**COMING THIS SUMMER**

**SECRET SAFARI**  
Stay tuned for dates and details

**OUTDOOR GAMES**

April 17  
5:00–6:30 p.m.  
Come enjoy the outdoors and play fun games with your friends

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**This month at a glance...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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| Sunday, April 3    | 5:00-6:30 p.m. | Mission Day  
|                    |          | Come for snacks and to help work on various mission projects                     |
| Sunday, April 10   | 5:00-6:30 p.m. | Fast Food Frenzy  
|                    |          | Come enjoy the outdoors and play fun games with your friends                    |
| Sunday, April 17   | 5:00-6:30 p.m. | Outdoor Games  
|                    |          | Come enjoy the outdoors and play fun games with your friends                    |
| Sunday, April 24   | 9:30 a.m. | End of Year Celebration  
|                    |          | Come to Youth Sunday No JUPY’s                                                  |
| Sunday, May 1      | 5:00-6:30 p.m. | End of Year Celebration  
|                    |          | End of Year Celebration                                                         |

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**UPYs (Grades 9 – 12)**

**Practice Schedule**

Sundays, April 13, 10, 17  
Youth Sunday Planning Continues

Saturday, April 23 - **Final Rehearsal**

3:00 - 5:30 p.m. - please plan to stay for the whole time. This is a mandatory practice.

Sunday, April 24 - **Youth Sunday!!!**

Arrive by 8:00 a.m. for a final run-through. Breakfast will be provided. Join us for brunch after worship.

**Mission Trip Meeting**

April 10, 7:00-8:30 p.m.  
Parents and participants come hear the details about our upcoming trip to Atlanta. $100 due

**Stay for Youth Sunday Planning**

**UPY MISSION TRIP**

June 4-June 11  
Atlanta, Georgia

**Car Wash and Bake Sale**

Sunday, May 1, 11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
Please bring bake sale items  
Lunch will be provided for $5
April Mission Focus – Did You Know?

Umoja Student Development Corporation of Chicago is another of our PCWS mission partners. In recent years, our congregation has supported Umoja with financial gifts from special offerings and mission funds. This year we are hoping to deepen our connection with Umoja by actually working with them and the students they serve in several Chicago Public Schools high schools.

This will be a mission opportunity for adults in our congregation who are able to commit an hour to visit with high school kids, helping them to understand life options beyond high school. Speaking to them about your career. Speaking to them about your college experience. Helping them to explore college options and complete necessary application paperwork. This will not be hard work. It’ll involve merely sharing a few moments of your time to help high school kids envision their futures.

To whet your appetite, here’s a little bit about Umoja:

Established in 1997, Umoja’s aim is to build a “web of dynamic relationships that brings together schools, families and community partners to bridge the gap between the talents and ambitions of low-income youth and the resources they need to thrive.”

Using a youth-centered model, Umoja partners with each school to “increase student attendance and engagement, reduce violence, promote academic achievement and increase graduation and college enrollment rates.”

Their model uses three primary areas of focus to impact student success:

Restorative Justice aims to interrupt, intervene and prevent community conflict and violence, beginning in the schools. “Peace Rooms” for student interventions, discussions and mediations; a disciplinary intervention curriculum; and professional development for teachers and school staff aim to reduce suspensions and keep kids in school.

Social & Emotional Learning is key to students’ building a range of life skills, which prepare them to successfully navigate high school, college and the working world. Umoja’s curriculum uses grade-specific courses and/or advisory programs to engage students from freshman through senior year.

College & Career Readiness program does exactly that: works to ensure that “all students – even those often considered non-college bound based on their test scores and years of education at underperforming schools – graduate high school with quality options for continuing their education.” Students are encouraged to believe in their own future and are supported with ongoing opportunities for one-on-one advising and support through programs such as in-school and after-school application, financial aid and scholarship workshops; parent/family workshops and events; local, state and national college tours; ACT prep classes and career exposure opportunities and events.

Please take a moment to visit Umoja's website, umojacorporation.org, to see the impact their programs have had on thousands of CPS high school kids. And then consider how you might be able to give an hour or two of your time with these kids.

Cont’d on page 9
April Mission Focus (cont’d)

As with all PCWS mission programs, you do not need to be a member of the mission committee in order to participate. In fact, particularly with Umoja, we are planning to form a core group of adults with whom to begin this extended participation. If you have interest in learning more about this opportunity, please reach out to Nate Yates or Kathy Wennerstrum, Mission Elders.

Presbytery News

The Presbytery of Chicago offers many opportunities for service in our city and surrounding suburbs. Perhaps you’d be interested in helping a seminary student prepare for ministry, or help distribute funds for mission all over our city.

Maybe you have a little free time and would enjoy helping other congregations develop a vision for ministry, or would enjoy helping us explore outdoor ministry options.

These are just a few of the ways in which the Presbytery of Chicago connects congregations and ministries in our region.

Interested in learning more? Contact Pastor Jennifer or check out their website at: www.chicagopresbytery.org

www.facebook.com/presbyws

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

Sharing Joy at PCWS

As we shared at the Annual Congregational Meeting, there are a number of simple opportunities for sharing joy and continually supporting our friendly, welcoming PCWS community. All of these happen on a Sunday morning with no prep time needed!

Greeters are the welcoming face of PCWS for members, friends and visitors! It’s a joyful and easy way to start a Sunday morning. Meet and greet folks by the front door in the Narthex starting at 9:15 a.m. Plan to greet with family members, friends or solo. We have tall stools that can be used if standing to greet is a problem.

Ushers receive those entering the Sanctuary for our time of Worship. Meet the morning’s Head Usher at 9:15 for brief instructions. Duties include helping distribute bulletins, collecting the offering and assisting with a quick straightening of the Sanctuary following Worship.

In 2016 we are encouraging further formations of Usher Teams. We thank the circles from Presbyterian Women (PW) and the current Confirmation class for ushering once each month during the school year. The combinations in creating an Ushering team are almost limitless! Consider joining up with 3 other friends, family (or extended) members or maybe folks you want to get to know better. Affinity groups also work well such as Confirmation mentor and mentees or choir member spouses. Be creative!

With your team you can pick a recurring Sunday each month, selective dates throughout the year or even form a “one and done” team. It’s a great way to be with others and help in service during Worship. Think about celebrating with the team by going out to brunch after Worship or maybe grabbing coffee and donuts on your way to ushering.

Sign up for greeting or ushering opportunities on the Lower Level hallway bulletin board (across from drinking fountains). You may also utilize online Sign Up Genius to reserve your space!

If you are or have been an elder or deacon (ordained at PCWS or another church) Communion is an ongoing opportunity for service. We are in need of servers each time we celebrate Holy Communion whether on the first Sunday of each month or for special services during the year. Sign up at the Lower Level bulletin board or speak with Sue Eck.
Thank you for your service at PCWS in March! We can’t do it without you.

Collated and/or folded bulletins: Laura Fruit, Craig Harris, Harriett 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. Thank you, Kay Kelly, for helping with the data base address updates in January and February!

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 March: Cooks: Mary Jo Blough, Jane Boxell, Jan Paddock

Thanks to Sue Eck for cooking with the team in February!

Driver/Servers: Candice Mares

Shopper: Dawn Mansfield

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

Flower Guild designers and flower setup for Easter: Sue Eck, Sue Kovalick, Nancy Glickman and Jan Fortina

Thank you, Kurt Smyers for setting up the stands!

Interfaith Community Partners
Ladies Shopping Night

Thursday, April 21st,
6:00 p.m to 9:30 p.m.
Village Club of Western Springs
4221 Lawn Avenue

$10 admission
15% of all sales will be donated back to ICP

Twelve boutique vendors from all over the Chicago-land area offer everything a girl needs: purses, jewelry, decorative plates, clothing, home accessories, floral arrangements and much, much more.

Update from Cuba

Our friends in Nueva Paz are ever so grateful for the car we provided for them. The car, a Russian made Lada, cost $14,500, the garage cost $500, and the bank charges were $150. The gas and maintenance is about $40 per month. They are using the car to go “to and fro” from Vegas, and also to bring elders to the church on special occasions and other local activities. Marielys, the Pastor, is trying to learn to drive and to date they have not found a fixed-wage driver.

The money we gave them for email will run out in June. The email is working with frequent connection problems.
**Member News**

**LIFE EVENTS**

**Births:**
Rex Kashmir Lee, born March 17, 2016 to Alison Glickman and Chris Lee and big brother, Axl. Proud grammy is Nancy Glickman and proud aunt is Ashley Glickman.

**Sympathy to:**
Mike Zechel on the death of his father, Charles Zechel, who passed away March 1, 2016

The family of Revs. Dan & Jennifer Burns Lewis on the death of her step-father Norman Duncan, who passed away March 5, 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 May *Glad Tidings* for mailing Wednesday, April 27. 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 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. 18  Theology & Brew
Apr. 20  Interfaith Book Group
         Session
Apr. 24  Youth Sunday
Apr. 25  Theology & Brew
Apr. 26  Food for Life
Apr. 27  Administrative Professionals Day

Book Club

May  3  Deacons
May  4  Committees
May  5  Presbyterian Women
May  8  Mother’s Day
May 10  “Glad Tidings” Article Deadline
May 11  Confirmation Dinner with Session
May 15  Pentecost
May 18  Interfaith Book Group
         Session
May 22  Baccalaureate Breakfast
May 30  Memorial Day
         (Church and Offices Closed)

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.