Glad Tidings

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

Ice Cream Social to Celebrate Rev. Lewis
Sunday, July 17, 4:00—5:30 p.m.

Please save the date so that you can be present to celebrate the future and say thank you to Rev. Jennifer Burns Lewis. Bring your whole family on July 17th between 4:00-5:30 p.m. to build your own sundaes and visit with Jennifer and her family in the Jones Room.

If you would like to donate to a farewell gift for Jennifer, please submit a check made to PCWS (memo: farewell gift) or donate online and select "Pastor Gift." Please RSVP via signup genius: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E094EAFA82AA13-farewell

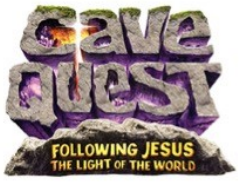
Summer Worship at PCWS

Our second summer series begins: "When Life Falls Apart." Come with us as we explore hope in the midst of suffering as we look at the book of Job. We imagine you're thinking, "Ugh. Job. That sounds terrible!" We were not convinced, either, until we were reminded that the message of Job is as relevant today as it was in ancient times. Job's story is one of personal struggle and human helplessness in the face of suffering. Job's story is about how one stands with another who is struggling. The book of Job is ultimately about faith…and that's always a timely topic.

Please plan to be with us for worship that touches the mind and heart and glorifies God. We have filled summer worship with activities and worship helps for children and youth that adults are enjoying, too. Come and join us.

July 3	Communion Sunday sermon: "A Giant of a Man"	text: Job 1 Pastor Jennifer
July 10	Baise baptism sermon: "Crossing the Line"	text: Job 3, 4 and 7 Pastor Jennifer
July 17	Commission Stephen Ministers sermon: "Amazing Words"	text: Job 14, 19 Pastor Jennifer
July 24	sermon: "Big Questions"	text: Job 31, 38 Pastor Matt
July 31	Cushman baptism sermon: "Question, Mystery, Wonder, Love"	text Job 38, 41 Pastor Jennifer

Cave Quest Vacation Bible School
July 11 – 15
9:00—11:30 a.m.



Save the date for Cave Quest Vacation Bible School! Join in the fun with Deep Bible Quests, Spelunker Sports & Games, Mission Quest, Cavern Café and Imagination Station. Open to children entering Kindergarten through 5th grade in the fall of 2016. Cost is $25/child and includes a daily snack, crafts, games and a music CD. Go to our online registration page to register your child or volunteer: www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/pcws.

Theology & Brew—

Theology & Brew is open to all adults who wish to enjoy thoughtful, interesting conversations about current topics related to God, faith, culture, and public issues. Each month, we find an article and distribute it before our gathering for people to read. If you'd like to join the email list that receives the articles please email Pastor Matt : mschmidt@presbyws.org.

This July we have two editions (*topics TBD) you may like to attend:

Daytime Edition – Monday, July 25 at 1:00 p.m. at Owl & Lark coffee and juice shop located at 41 South La Grange Road, downtown La Grange.

Evening Edition – Tuesday, July 26 at 7:00 p.m. at Santiago's Mexican Restaurant located at 24 Calendar Court, La Grange, IL 60525

Congregational Life

I love July at PCWS because I love Vacation Bible School. I love the joy of the church building being filled with laughter and music and learning. I love that we learn with and from children from throughout the community.

Pastor's Column

I love that indoors and out, friendships are formed, we can be serious and silly all in the same morning, and that we talk about God. I am so thankful to have one more VBS with you.

Love,

Jennifer

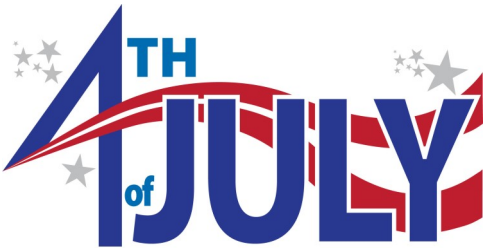
Transition Topics

Even as plans are afoot to celebrate Jennifer's time at PCWS (see related article on the front page), the Session has begun planning for the immediate future. At Jennifer's request, the Session has called a Congregational meeting on July 31st after worship to dissolve her relationship with PCWS. Therefore, Moderator of the Worship Committee, Marcia Buell, has begun work on planning for preachers in the pulpit for the months of August and into September.

Following the departure of a pastor/head of staff, the next phase in our transition will be hiring an Interim Pastor for a period of months as we consider the next chapter in the life of PCWS. At the June 15 meeting, Session approved the formation of an Interim Pastor Search Team responsible to Session. The Team will work with Presbytery staff and its Commission On Ministry to seek prospective candidates. There are pastors trained as "interims" available in the Presbytery, so this process is anticipated to be well along by September. The following Elders volunteered for this team: Paul Banovic (Chair), Kathy Boxell, Lance Smith, Condy Dixon and Nate Yates.

Notice

The Session has called for a congregational meeting following worship on Sunday, July 31, for the singular purpose of concurring with the request of the Rev. Jennifer Burns Lewis to dissolve the pastoral relationship as pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Western Springs, effective July 31, 2016, so that she might accept the call to the Presbytery of Wabash Valley to be their Visioning and Connecting Leader, beginning August 1, 2016.



MONDAY, July 4th

Church and Offices will be Closed.

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

Did You Know…..

that the per capita contribution to the PC(USA) is based on each confirmed member and is part of our annual budget?

Per capita contributions fund the governance, program and mission work of the Presbytery of Chicago, the Synod of Lincoln Trails , and the work of the General Assembly as a whole. Together with the per capita contributions from churches throughout the country, these funds support important work and resources like curriculum development, training and support for leaders and congregations, and ministry that we accomplish together as a body.

The 2016 per capita amount for congregations in the Presbytery of Chicago is $33 per confirmed member. The total amount paid by the church this year is approximately $23,000, of which a little more than $1,700.00 has been received from PCWS members to date. Submitting your per capita contribution with your annual pledge, or at any time of the year, is an important part of church membership and is essential to the church budget.

If you've paid your per capita amount, thank you! If you intend to, or would like to help offset the cost to PCWS with your contribution, thank you, too!

Please feel free to contact Pastor Jennifer or a member of the Leadership and Ministries Committee if you have questions about per capita.

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

Safe Space Training in July

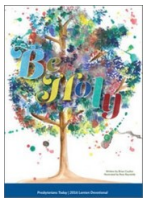
The Safe Space Team has set a goal of having 80 members and friends of PCWS trained in our Safe Space Policy. We believe that because our culture here is one of love and hospitality, our safe space goals fit perfectly with who we already are—a welcoming place for families of all ages!

The next training is open to all adults who have not yet been trained at PCWS. If you'd like to be a certified driver for youth events, or if you are a parent of children or youth who attend any of the wonderful PCWS programs, or if you happen to be someone who might volunteer at some point in the next few years, then you are invited to become trained. So far we've trained about 40 people in the easy, healthy practice of safe boundaries for our church and we'd like that number to grow!

Please consider joining Pastor Matt and the Safe Space Team on July 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Congregational Life

BE HOLY- -Join the Summer Book Study!



What does it mean to be Holy? Can we really be Holy? Is it even attainable? Join the summer book study at PCWS on Wednesday evenings in July at 7:00 p.m. as we delve into Brian Coulter's book-- Be Holy. As you probably remember, Brian was the author of our wonderful Lenten devotionals. Everyone is welcome to attend: young/old, new members/longtime members/friends, male or female. Topics will be stand alone, so feel free to come and go according to your schedule.

Topics are:
July 6 – Our Calling – Be Holy (yearning, becoming, reflection) Questions: Are we created to be ordinary? Do we need superpowers to become Holy or can we just embrace the superpowers we already have? Is God already in us and is that all we need?

July 13 – Set Apart From – Find Identity (lost, beloved, identify) Questions: Can you encounter God without being changed? How do you find your identity in Christ? How does God create you to be uniquely you?

July 20 – Set Apart With – Find Belonging (loneliness, communal, connected) Questions: How do we find our place in God and the church? How do we find our own significance? How do we give others a sense of belonging--connectedness? How do we bring others on our universal adventure?

July 27 – Set Apart For – Find Purpose (aimless, balance, embrace) Questions: What is your life worth living for? How can you live a life set apart? How do you recognize God even in the messes of your journey? Is "Being" Holy an action word? How can you make God smile?

Email Nancy Glickman (gednan10@gmail.com) for more Information. See you there!

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. Here's a quick example:

Let's say you spend an average of $500 per month on groceries, at either Mariano's or Jewel. Now let's say that instead of paying these stores directly, you purchase $500 worth of gift cards from PCWS (both stores are in the program). Both of these stores give a 4% rebate to PCWS. So…

$500 per month x 12 months = $6000
$6000 x 4% = $240 in rebates to PCWS

This is just for one family. Imagine if 50 families did this – it would be $12,000 to PCWS in **one year**! And this is through no additional spending on the part of our members!!

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

Congregational Life

Another way to support PCWS – Smile.Amazon.com

Do you shop at Amazon.com? If you're not already using AmazonSmile when you shop, you should start right now! When you sign up at smile.amazon.com and choose PCWS as your favorite charity, .5% of your eligible purchases will be donated.

The only real catch is you have to remember to start shopping at smile.amazon.com (which means you have to update your bookmark if you want to do this), and shopping from the Amazon apps or Kindle won't count. Otherwise, it's just like shopping on Amazon—only you get to support PCWS without doing anything extra. Why not visit smile.Amazon.com today, login to your Amazon account, choose PCWS as your favorite charity and update your bookmark. It's that easy!

There are hundreds of thousands of products that qualify (you'll see an "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" badge near the item description or price). The service doesn't cost anything to you or PCWS (for that reason, donations are not tax deductible). All you have to do is start your shopping at smile.amazon.com. Even though .5% isn't a lot on each purchase, if we all shopped

Why not buy Amazon gift cards from PCWS, add them to your account, and then shop through Amazon Smile—It's a double win for PCWS!

Mission Trip Accomplished!

From June 4 – 11, eighteen youth and adults from PCWS traveled down south to Atlanta, GA, for a summer UPY mission trip. They stayed in the Calvin Center, a Presbyterian camp, with nice accommodations like bunk beds and air conditioning (atypical mission trip luxuries).

On Monday, the group divided in two and helped out a few local elderly people with chores around their homes like weeding, scraping paint, trimming difficult to reach trees, and other household tasks that the homeowners were unable to do on their own. On Tuesday, the group finished up work at April's home in the morning and then went to Six Flags in the afternoon. And on Wednesday, the real fun began. For the next three days, our youth group partnered with IMPACT, an organization similar to Habitat for Humanity.

Together with over 200 youth, they built three houses in three days starting with flat cement foundations, finishing with roof decking. This project took place in a very poor suburb south of Atlanta called Griffin. The homes will be sold for less than they cost to build to families or individuals who would otherwise not be approved for a traditional mortgage, thus allowing them to gain equity and invest in their own community.

On Saturday, the whole group drove home with lots to think about . . . like how it feels to help people . . . a sense of real accomplishment . . . new relationships with children from the neighborhood in Griffin and budding friendships and hopes of romance amongst other youth groups who were at IMPACT.

Congratulations Seniors!

Michael DeVries graduated from LT. During his years in high school, Michael was on the golf team, sang in choir and Madrigals. He also enjoys songwriting. Other interests included being on the class board, involved in snowball and a member of the National Honors Society. Michael will be attending Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois next year and plans to study biology. He has fond memories of games and fun at Winter Family Camp.

Paige Dold graduated from Westmont High School. She was a snowball director, National Honors Society Vice President, an Illinois State Scholar, participated in Relay for Life and was in many plays and musicals at Westmont High School. Next year Paige will attend Illinois Weslyan and study psychology. She will always remember going on confirmation retreats with friends.

Paige McMahon graduated from LT. During high school Paige has enjoyed work, shopping and time with family and friends. She will be attending University of South Carolina and planning to major in chemistry. She hopes to join a sorority and is excited for parent's weekends. Paige has fond memories of the Mission trips and spending time with good friends.

Katie Sindelar graduated from LT. She was on the dance team and participated in track and had fun. She will be attending University of Arizona next year and will study communications. Katie is looking forward to the warm weather. She has fond memories of spending time with friends at PCWS.

Alison Slezak graduated from LT. She was a runner for the track team and cross country. She was part of Best Buddies and a member of GEMS(Girls in engineering, math and science). Alison will be attending Washington University in St. Louis next year studying environmental science. She also hopes to be in the running club and do some community service. She has fond memories of running for Easter Eggs, the Christmas Pageant, confirmation and many fun Mission trips.

Samantha Tracy is a friend from Highlands Presbyterian Church who has joined our youth group. We are so happy that she was been with us. She graduated from LT where she enjoyed Best Buddies and Bible Studies and joining UPYs. She will be attending Hope College in Holland, Michigan next year and will be studying Special Education.

Charlie Wennertrum graduated from LT where he enjoyed all sports like tennis, basketball and football. He is attending University of Illinois next year and is planning to study abroad and joining some clubs while attending U of I. He has great memories of the mission trips he went on.

Youth Ministry

JUPYs (Grades 6 – 8)

Secret Safari

Friday-Sat July 8-9

Leave at 2 p.m.

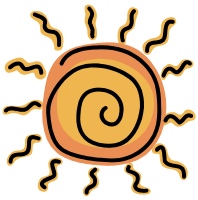
Arrive back

Saturday 8 p.m.

Cost: $95

Includes transportation, lodging and all activities.

Mini Golf and Lunch
Sunday July 24
Noon-2:00pm



End of Summer Party!
August TBD

UPYs (Grades 9 – 12)

Beach Day

Sat. July 23

Plan on all day fun! Stay tuned for details.

WANTED

Youth Committee Members

If you want to help with ideas and planning, please consider joining the Youth Committee. We need your input to make this upcoming year Awesome !

Mission & Ministry

VBS Mission Project Needs Your Donations

This month during Vacation Bible School we will be collecting items for Almost Home Kids, an organization that provides transitional care in a home-like setting to children with complicated health needs. The organization, for which our very own church member Kathy Wennerstrum volunteers, offers a place for these kids to stay when they are ready to be discharged from the hospital but preparations still need to be made at home. Staffed with 24-hour medical support from skilled pediatric nurses, Almost Home also offers training for the parents of these children.

Almost Home Kids has a wish list for their two 12-bed facilities located in Naperville and Chicago. Please consider purchasing one or more of the items below and dropping them off at the designated area in the church narthex the week of July 11 through 15th:

- Plastic baby bottles (suggested brands: Avent, Tommee, Tippee and Platex)
- Rubbermaid plastic Mixer-mate bottles, 2-quart size (to hold formula)
- Sensory children books with music or sound
- Pacifiers
- Wrist rattles and foot//ankle rattles
- Light and sound mobiles
- Crib light and sound music boxes
- Batteries for toys (AA, AAA, C & D)
- Boppy cushions and covers
- Johnson & Johnson Baby Head-to-Toe Wash
- Desitin - maximum strength original paste (tubes)
- Laundry detergent - “All Ultra Free Clear Liquid” brand
- Ivory soap liquid detergent
- K-Cup Coffee packs (for clinical staff, family members, guests)
- Glad rectangle 8-cups/64-oz. containers with lids
- Rubbermaid storage bins (18 gallons, for storage of clothing, blankets, etc.)
- Full-size boxes of Kleenex
- Large bath towels and wash cloths
- Hand sanitizer - travel size with cap, 2-oz. and 12-oz
- Vinyl gloves (latex- and powder-free - medium and large size)
- Gift cards in any amount to Target, Walmart, Jewel, Office Max or Home Depot
- Gas gift cards (Shell, BP, etc.) and Metra/Ventra prepaid cards to help with parents’ travel expenses
- First class postage stamps

News From Cuba

There have been many changes in Cuba over the past several months ~ the U.S. embassy has been opened, President Obama has visited the island, the first U.S. cruise ship has docked in Havana. The phenomenal number of tourists, Americans and around the world, is straining the infrastructure in Cuba. Insufficient numbers of hotels rooms have spurred the rental of private homes; but then they have to go to the stores and markets to purchase food, just like all Cubans do daily, and that puts a strain on the food supply.

Transportation in Cuba, which we all know is difficult and expensive, is even more of a problem. Increasing numbers of new PC(USA) congregations and presbyteries are interested in exploring a partnership, joining the over 80 PC (USA) congregations and presbyteries already in partnership. Over 500 U.S. Presbyterians have visited Cuba last year.

Save the Date:
September 11, 2016!

Mission & Ministry

Looking forward to the "fruits" of your labors!

Many thanks to those who have ordered, received and are currently nurturing your seedlings from Grace Seeds Ministry! We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of the resulting produce to be shared with our friends at the food pantry at the Second Baptist Church in LaGrange.

Did you know that every Sunday (with the exception of Sundays before a Monday holiday) we collect non-perishable food for the Second Baptist Church food pantry? Yep, in a bin in the "collection center" outside of our pastors' offices.

And did you know that we also collect fresh produce there, as well? We do! Fresh produce from your garden, the grocery store or even the farmers' market. Just be sure the produce is well protected, like in a plastic bag or disposable container.

And did you know that dedicated volunteers personally deliver all of this food every Monday morning? They do!

So if you have non-perishable food items and/or fresh produce you'd like to contribute, please bring them to church with you on Sundays. And if you'd like to participate in this or other Mission opportunities, please reach out to a member of the mission committee.

Happy Growing!

Monthly Mission Focus – Greater Chicago Food Depository

For many years, PCWS has sent volunteer groups of adults, families and children to the Greater Chicago Food Depository where we help with repacking donated food from large, bulk packaging into smaller individual and family-sized parcels. The volunteer work can involve anything from sorting produce, to checking bread, to measuring and re-packing dry goods like cereal, pasta and rice.

Founded in 1979, the Food Depository serves more than 232,100 Cook County families each year through "a network of 650 pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, mobile programs, children's programs, older adult programs and innovative responses that address the root causes of hunger." With the goal of "until one becomes none," last year they were able to distribute "689 million pounds of shelf-stable food, fresh produce, dairy products and meat, the equivalent of 155,000 meals every day."

Please take a minute to visit their website:
www.chicagosfoodbank.org/site/PageServer
for more information and, more importantly, join us for . . .

Great Chicago Food Depository
Kid's Repack Day

Saturday, July 16, 2016
2:30-4:30 p.m.
A great day of family summer fun

Kids' Day at the Greater Chicago Food Depository is especially designated for families or groups with children ages 5-13. We have signed up for 20 slots. A 1:1 adult/child ratio is required for all sessions. There will be single adults that may help with families with 2 + children. Volunteers will help pack or sort food to be distributed. We will meet at the church at 1:15 p.m. to carpool to the site. Long pants and closed shoes (no sandals) are necessary.

Signup through Sign-Up Genius!

Member News

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

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

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

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

Second Baptist Food Pantry run: Jane and David Boxell

Food for Life team for May: Shopper: Dawn Mansfield
Cooks: Sue Eck, Mary Jo and Ron Blough
Driver: Kathy Wennerstrum

Food for Life team for June: Shopper: Dawn Mansfield
Cook: Kim Fronk
Driver/Server: Carolyn Bozek

Prepared Glad Tidings for mailing: , Donna Strunk, Dorothy Andersen, Joyce Haberman, and Mary Kae Headland

Flower Guild designers: Nancy Glickman, Laurie Merrifield, Sue Kovalick

MEMBER UPDATES

Change of address:
Jorie Malone
939 N. Fairfield Avenue, Apt. 1
Chicago, IL 60622

Correction from the new directory:
Herb Smyers email address:
hsmyers@comcast.net

The Smyers Phone # 708-246-3155 listed in the directory is no longer available. Please use their cell phones only.

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 August *Glad Tidings* for mailing
Meet July 26 @ 10:30 a.m. in the Jones Room.

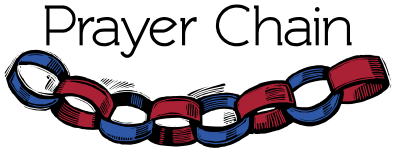
Remember in Prayer

- The Ahmeti Family
- Tom Allen
- **Kimberly Bone**
- Diane Markley Bruser
- George Bruser
- Sandy Carucci
- **Bill Dougherty**
- **Billye Dvorak**
- Norm Erickson
- Paulette Erickson
- **Bob Fencl**
- Agnes Garino
- Marc Goldstein
- Ronald Halla
- Loy Hovious
- **Rich Kanak**
- Lynda Kajdi
- Ruth Kaduke
- **Phil Kasik**
- **Kathleen Kircher**
- **Mary Jo Long**
- Deborah Matthews
- **Judy McAtee**
- **Evie Meyer**
- Scott McCormick
- Mary Kate Miller
- Peggy Mirlenbrink
- Mary Myers
- Holly Oliver
- Ginger Oswald
- Sharon Pederson
- Robert Petersen
- Al Pristave
- **Marge Sandrik**
- Rev. Maricela Gonzalez Rubio
- Mike Slesicki
- Patti Schoenbeck
- Kent Simmonds
- Susan Simmonds
- 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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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**

06-28-2016
Dated Mail

Scan to
Learn about PCWS

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Events in July

July 4 Fourth of July
(Church and Offices Closed)

July 6 Be Holy! Book Study Begins
(Every Wednesday in July)

July 10 *Glad Tidings* Article Deadline

July 11 Vacation Bible School

July 17 Ice Cream Social
Farewell to Rev. Jennifer Burns Lewis

July 25 Theology & Brew Daytime Edition

July 26 Food For Life
Prepare *Glad Tidings* for Mailing
Theology & Brew Evening Edition

July 31 Congregational Meeting

Upcoming Events in August

Aug. 10 *Glad Tidings* Article Deadline

Aug. 17 Session

Aug. 23 Food For Life

Aug. 25 Prepare *Glad Tidings* for Mailing

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.