

“Christ is all and in all.” Colossians 3:11

Pres-Bits Newsletter

The Presbyterian Church of Washington

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“Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”

- Romans 6:4

New life... Is there any metaphor that resonates more with us as Christians?

We often times associate the “newness of life” that Paul mentions in the above passage from Romans, with eternal life or life after death. That is the traditional celebration of Christ’s victory over death on Easter morning. Because Christ lives, so too will we. Because Christ had victory over death, so too will we. All of this is true.

But, I believe there is even more to celebrate on Easter morning! I believe that “newness of life” can be experienced and celebrated NOW! Because Christ lives, not only will we live eternally one day, we can also live “new lives” right now.

I believe if we look around at our church and Covenant Family, we can see signs of new life all around us. Just read the pages below: A new and vibrant web-site, new members, increased worship attendance, a baptism, active youth and children, a growing community garden, new worship services and ministries. NEW LIFE all around us!

Because of Christ’s victory over death, we get to experience new life all around us...all the time! We just need to look for it, appreciate it in our hearts, and give thanks in our worship. And, the hope of the resurrection and the hope of new life isn’t only evident in our church life, but in our personal lives as well. Easter morning reminds us that if we can claim victory over death, we can claim victory over any and all obstacles: addiction, depression, loneliness, grief and pain. Newness of life can be yours today!

May Easter morning bring you hope of new life in your homes and in your hearts!

He has RISEN!

Pastor Pat

Our Church Mission Statement

Jesus Christ calls us to:

- *Enliven our spiritual lives by experiencing God among us,*
- *Grow in love for one another as children of God,*
- *Invite all to share in our fellowship,*
- *Demonstrate God's love through service to others.*



April Office Hours

The office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Current Elders

Karla Becker	636-239-5370	twotales@gmail.com
Luther Bierbaum	636-432-1293	emmettis@yahoo.com
David Brunworth	636-239-4102	dbrunworth@hotmail.com
Bill Kellermann	636-239-7958	wckellermann@gmail.com
Joy Kopp	636-432-1800	joykopp54@gmail.com
Vivian Marshall	636-667-0013	marshv1849@att.net
Jenny Scheibe	636-239-3765	dandjscheibe@att.net
Barbara Schofield	636-390-4123	bcschofield60@gmail.com
Sid Thayer	636-239-7617	sidneythayer@yahoo.com
Paula Obermark	636-239-5308	paulaobermark@gmail.com
Bruce Wiese	636-432-1057	ssswbw@charter.net

Worship Assignments for April:

Sound Tech:

4/5/2015	Allen Vogt
4/12/2015	David Brunworth
4/19/2015	Joe Hagan
4/26/2015	Bill Kellermann

Worship Leader: Miles McCracken

Greeters

1. Whip Schultz & Nancy Klingert
2. Tim & Gerry Urban
3. Don & Jenny Scheibe
4. Allen Vogt & Karla Becker

Ushers

Shirley Coulter & Mauri Truesdell
Richard & Barbara Duemler
Luther Bierbaum & Barb Hagan
Laura Evans & Jane Bugele

The Lord's Supper

The sacrament of Communion will be served on Sunday, April 5.

Thank you!

Thank you for your participation in the celebration of my 90th birthday by your presence, cards and unexpected money. I have given all of the money to Loving Hearts Outreach, whose service to others is so special to me. Jean Van Der Kamp

These Days

Devotionals for the second quarter are available on the table by the hearing devices.

Celebration of Aging Honoree - Joy Kopp

The Church Life Committee has nominated Elder Joy Kopp to be honored by the Presbytery of Giddings Lovejoy at the Celebration of Aging event to be held at First United Presbyterian Church in Granite City, Il. on May 6th. Joy's leadership skills and infectious smile have indeed brought joy to many! Congratulations, Joy!

Sacrament of Baptism

Join us for worship on Sunday, April 26th, when we will celebrate the baptism of Stanley Joel Barnhart. Stanley is the son of Kenny Barnhart and Lizette Becker.

New Member Class

We have had lots of new faces around here lately! Because of all the wonderful new visitors these past few months, Pastor Pat will be offering a class open to anyone interested in becoming a full member of the congregation in April. There will be two dates to choose from for the class (both Sundays): April 12th and 19th. Both classes will be held at 9am. You don't have to attend both classes. Please prayerfully consider attending.



Fundraising Dinner

There is a fundraising turkey dinner planned for Sunday, April 12 after worship. Free-will donations will be received with proceeds going to the boiler fund. Everyone is invited!

Boiler Fund

To date, \$23,825 has been donated to the boiler fund. The \$35,000 invoice for the new boiler has been paid. The amount over and above our contributions was taken from the savings. All contributions for the boiler fund received from this time forward will be deposited back into the savings account to replenish those funds.

Holy Week Services/Events

Sunday, 3/29 – Palm Sunday Service with Children's Choir

Thursday, 4/2 – 7pm – Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service with The Lord's Supper

Saturday, 4/4 – 11am – Community Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, 4/4 – 7:30 pm – Easter Vigil at Peace Lutheran Church

Sunday, 4/5 – Easter Sunday with The Lord's Supper and Special Musical Guests

Special Music for Easter

A special duet entitled "King of Peace" will be sung by Samantha Rodgers (soprano) and Riley Dunn (tenor) on Easter morning at the 10:15 service. They have performed at Six Flags and have been very active in theatre at East Central College.

Easter Vigil

The Presbyterian Church of Washington will be participating in a community "Easter Vigil" service at 7:30pm on Saturday, April 4th at Peace Lutheran Church. Pastor Pat and Parish Associate Jocelyn will join ministers from Peace Lutheran and St Peter's UCC to lead us all from the darkness of Good Friday to the joy of Easter morning. An ecumenical celebration of the Lord's Supper will also be celebrated. If you do attend the service, you are asked to bring bells (any kind, it doesn't matter) to ring in the Day of Resurrection!

Maundy Thursday

You do not want to miss this year's Maundy Thursday service. Many attended last year's service at the Methodist Church and were incredibly moved. This year's Maundy Thursday service will be held in our sanctuary and will be equally impactful. The service will involve a atmospheric service, often called a "Tenebrae" service. We will incorporate the drama "A Service of Shadows" by Norman H. Wiegel into our worship. We will also celebrate The Lord's Supper together in commemoration of the last meal that Jesus ate with his disciples. This special service will be held on Thursday, April 2nd at 7pm.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Contributions to this special offering support Presbyterian Mission Agency ministries such as Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People. These ministries strive to help all of God's people find resilience, hope and faith in the face of challenging circumstances. Please be in prayer about how you can give to OGHS. Envelopes are in your envelope packet and in the pews through Easter Sunday.

Annual April Book Sale

Our Community Book Sale is set for **Friday, April 17th & Saturday, April 18th**, from 8am – 6pm both days, in our large Church Fellowship Hall and we will FILL it completely! Please stop by and see the THOUSANDS of books, children's books, music, cds and dvds that we have! We have a reading area where anyone can sit and sample some of their favorite selections, and have the kids color and play. All books are organized into categories and volunteers are ready to help one find a special book, or to fulfill a summer reading list. Donations are very welcome at any time now until Thursday, April 16th. Please contact Gretchen Farrell with any questions.

YOUTH FUNDRAISER- Service/Item Auction

Youth will offer services (lawn care and housekeeping etc...) plus handmade items for auction beginning Easter Sunday and ending Sunday, April 19th. This is an awesome group of middle/high school students; there is sure to be something you'll want to bid on! Proceeds to benefit our Youth Group!

Community Easter Egg Hunt is on again!

Hop to it! Our 6th Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt at our church is this **Saturday, April 4th, at 11 a.m.** (the day before Easter!) and we are looking forward to lots of fun! Come join us for a great, festive day as we hunt for over 3500 plastic candy filled eggs (along with some special prize eggs!) on the back lawn of our church followed by cookies and punch in the Fellowship Hall. We'll have face painting and coloring in the Fellowship Hall, too. Last year, we had a terrific turnout of just over 100 kids hunting eggs on a gorgeous day and in a friendly Christian way! All children through the age of 12 years are welcome to join in on the fun as we have three age groups going in a staged start to the Egg Hunt. We are hoping for another wonderful day, but **RAIN OR SHINE**, we are on! Tell all your friends and neighbors about it! Watch for the candy donation box to be out around mid-March as we'll need to fill all those wonderful plastic eggs. We're having our Youth Group help hide and fill eggs, but as there are so many, we'll still need to have an egg filling party on Monday, March 30th at 10 am in the Senior High room, and all adults are welcome! Thank you! Gretchen Farrell & Laura Conley

Background Check Sunday – April 19th

On Sunday, April 19th, the Christian Education Committee will have a table set up with Background Check forms available. We are looking for more volunteers to help in our various youth and children's ministries. Our church's policy requires all adult volunteers working with minors to have a background check performed. These background checks are very simple and non-intrusive. So, if you think you might ever volunteer for the nursery, for youth group, for Sunday School, for a mission trip, camp or retreat...if you think you might ever help with transporting children or youth to go bowling, or to a movie, or to a restaurant... then we ask you to consider filling out a background check form that morning. Background checks are \$12 each. But, the church will pick up the cost for you!

Mound Ridge Fundraiser at the Zoo!

The deadline to register for the Mound Ridge Fundraiser at the St Louis Zoo is fast approaching (deadline is April 8th). The Mound Ridge Dinner Auction will be April 18 at the Saint Louis Zoo. This year's event will be held at the Living World just inside of the north entrance. Hospitality begins at 6:00pm. Dinner served at 7:00pm. The evening will also include an auction, prize drawings, and special guest speaker **Scott Woodbury** from **Shaw Nature Reserve**. Pastor Pat and Karen will be there! We'd love to have lots of company from Washington there as well! Make your reservation now by sending your check or credit information to Mound Ridge Camp and Conference Center, 31 Agape Way, Cook's Station MO 65449. Your \$60 donation is tax deductible and goes to the Crippen Scholarship Fund to help students attend camp.

Youth Group April meetings

Our Church Youth Group will be meeting on April 3rd and 15th this next month. We continue to meet on our regular schedule of meetings with the first and third Wednesday nights. The first Wednesday of the month we usually do a mission project and on the third Wednesday, we usually have a fun activity. We meet in the Church Youth Group room, the first room to the right off of the Fellowship Hall. All Youth from 6th – 12th Grades are welcome to come have some fun, snacks, a short Bible Lesson and a great time to be with other Christian Youth. Any questions? Just ask anyone on the Church Christian Education Committee, Pastor Pat, Laura Conley, Vivian Marshall, Heather Miller, Karla Becker, Bill Kellermann and Gretchen Farrell.

New Faith-Based Support Group – THE REFUGE

Founded and facilitated by Robbin Thayer, this group was formed in order to provide **refuge** to those experiencing sadness, grief, stress, anger, or any other negative feeling caused by life's endless obstacles. The Refuge is an open door support group. You may come once or as often as you'd like. An oath of confidentiality is expected by all who attend. Facilitator is not a licensed therapist. Group will meet the 2nd Thursday of each month, 7:00 P.M., in room 12 of the fellowship hall. This month's meeting will be January 8, 2015. For more information email RefugeWashMo@gmail.com or call the church office 239-3178.

Camp Experience 2015

Parents and Grandparents, mark your calendars for a very special week at church this summer! The week of **July 27 – 31, 2015** will be a very special week in the life of our church and community. That week, Mound Ridge Retreat Center will be bringing "camp" to our backyard! "Camp Experience" is much like Vacation Bible School, only so much more! Camp Experience is a cooperative program between Mound Ridge and PCW. It offers a unique opportunity to nurture the children of our congregation and community in their faith. It also provides for young people the wonderful benefits of a camp experience. In other words, Bible Camp will be coming to us! That week, Mound Ridge will bring its summer staff to Washington to run a typical week of Bible camp programming to our facility.

Tentative plans for Camp Experience will run from 8am to 2pm each day with a possible overnight "campout" on Thursday night the 30th. The program is for children entering 1st through 5th grades, though older youth will be encouraged to attend to help lead games, music and other programs. Adults will also be needed to provide meals, serve food and refreshments and to have fun alongside the kiddos!

If you have any questions about Camp Experience 2015, please contact someone from the Christian Education Committee or Pastor Pat.

April Birthdays



4-3	Jan Hardin	4-17	Philip Kellermann
4-4	Andrew Greer	4-17	Nancy Thater
4-5	Patrick Gruber	4-20	Evelyn Walters
4-7	Sam Bonney	4-27	Carl Bounds
4-10	Philip Henderson	4-30	Beth Saunders



All-Church Potluck

March's Pot Luck was held on March 11 at 5:30. All enjoyed delicious food and fellowship. The featured speakers were David & Diane Brunworth. They were excellent! The next regular pot luck will be Wednesday, April 8 at 5:30.

The guest speaker will be Sandy Langenberg from the United Way. Come for the meal! Stay for the mission!



Name Badges

Wearing of name badges has been pretty lacking in recent weeks. Most members do know each other but it can be a big help to new members and visitors to SEE your name tag to help remember your name. If you have misplaced your nametag, please put your name on the bulletin board list. Let's make a renewed effort to recognize visitors and introduce ourselves. Let's be hospitable! Ask them to sign our guest book and escort them to the Fellowship Table.



PUT ON YOUR SHOPPING SHOES!



The Church Life Committee has planned a group visit to one of the best resale/consignment shops in the area on Tuesday, April 21st. We will meet at the church at 9:30 a.m. and carpool to The Shop Around the Corner located on East Fifth Street. Take your own car if you prefer. After shopping we will walk across the street for lunch at the Pizza Hut buffet. The shoppers will vote on who found the best bargain and the winner will eat lunch free! Come join us for this fun outing. If you would like a ride, contact Judy Bierbaum at 432-1293.

LET US SERVE ONE ANOTHER

The Church Life Committee has worked on developing a list of names and phone numbers as a resource for people who would like help with a ride, task or specific need. The goal is to make it easy for friends and members to reach out to each other to help meet the needs of our church family. We want to help eliminate the thought "**I DON'T WANT TO IMPOSE**" or "**I WISH I HAD SOMEONE TO HELP ME WITH THIS**". There are volunteers willing to help with a wide range of situations. The list is printed on lavender paper and is on the table outside the sanctuary where the hearing devices are located. Pick one up for yourself and let's get these volunteers names in front of the people who would benefit. Many thanks to all the volunteers!



Loving Hearts Outreach Please continue to remember this outreach mission.

They can use canned vegetables, pastas, canned meats, cereal and cake mixes – basically anything non-perishable. Empty egg cartons can also be used. Please bring items and place them in the box in the Narthex and Jean Van Der Kamp will deliver them to Loving Hearts.



Bridge

Please join us on Fridays from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. to play Bridge. Everyone is welcome to come and play. Bring your friends.



Creative Hands Group

The group meets every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. except the third Wednesday of each month. The quilt frame is set up and quilting has begun! For information, please call Barbara Duemler.

Prayer for Life (PFL) meets Tuesdays at 7:00 a.m.

Prayer can be the glue that holds individuals, couples, ministry teams, families, and churches together and the fuel that makes them soar. It is the means by which we can all engage in ministry to each other. Join us on Tuesdays at 7:00 a.m. We study and learn a variety of prayer methods, both as individuals and as a group, to connect people and their needs to God.



MEMBERS WITH CONTINUING NEEDS

Heather Miller, Don VanBuskirk, Barbara Pierce, Whip Schultz, Don & Connie Conrad, Karla Becker, Janet Aaron, Boots Bonney, Roni Fowler, Elsie & Jack Truesdell, Scott McCracken.

NEW HAVEN CARE CENTER: Evelyn Walters

GRANDVIEW: Christine Lewis

VICTORIAN PLACE: Dorothy Mutert, Beth Saunders

SOUTH POINTE: Joan Schultz

HOMESTEAD: Mary Lais

CEDARCREST: June Kleberger, Glenda Nagel

FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH REQUESTING PRAYERS:

George Peters (parent of Nancy Thater)
Vicky Vogel (sister of Karla Becker)
Cindy Demitroff (friend of Paul & Lya Struckhoff)
Jim Lebreton (friend of Barbara Schofield)
Jordon Creason (friend of Nancy Nolting)
Anna Roetheli (friend of the church)
Doug Holtmeier (friend of Karla & Mike Becker)
Laura Leigh Rhoades (daughter of Laura Evans)
Rose Pitman (friend of Elsie Truesdell)
Dixie Kottwitz (friend of the Bierbaums)
Jeff Pierce (son of Barbara Pierce, brother of Janet Aaron)
Macy Lynn Crecielus (friend of Sam & Boots Bonney)
Joan Archer (friend of Barbara Schofield)
Phil Colter (friend of Mauri Truesdell)
Rick Kresse (father-in-law of Mauri Truesdell's daughter)
Becky Lunsford (friend of Lya Struckhoff)
Sarah McGurthy & family (daughter of Ollie & Virginia Whyte)
Rosemary Phillips (friend of Pierce family)
Mary Bray Wheeler (friend of Barbara Duemler)
Larry Bernardoni (friend of Tim Culp)
Geri Waller (Gail Taubel's sister)
Ardis Harnagel (friend of Karen Ladd)
Paula Pursley (grandmother of Hailey Joyce)

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please call the office if you would like to add someone to the prayer list. Also please notify the office if you have made a prayer request for someone who should be removed from the list.