

Pres-Bits Newsletter

The Presbyterian Church of Washington

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Dear Friends,

When the flood waters receded in Genesis, Noah came out of the ark with all of the animals, his wife, his sons and their families. And, the Lord promised never to flood the earth again and put a rainbow in the sky to seal the covenant. It is an idyllic image, filled with peace, beauty and relief.

When the flood waters receded in Franklin and St Louis Counties a month ago, there wasn't such an idyllic image. When the waters receded, there was much work to be done. Homes and businesses were forever altered. Lives were severely interrupted.

Many of you know that when Karen and I were on “Stay-cation” in Eureka following Christmas, the flood waters cut off our subdivision. No one in our neighborhood could get out except on foot in some areas or by boat. A day and a half later, the waters subsided enough for us to get out and see the effects of the flood to the town. Believe me, watching the flood levels and damage on television and seeing them in person are much different experiences.

Another day or so later, we began to really understand how much work there was to be done to get homes and businesses recovered. There were work crews in many neighborhoods, including our own. Helicopters flew overhead day and night, recording the flood and the after effects. Television vans could be spotted all over.

There was a lot of work to be done. And, we were very grateful so many agencies and volunteers were there to help our neighbors in Eureka and Pacific. However, once the helicopters and news vans left, so did many of the volunteers. Many who were there for the right reasons did stay and help. But, when the media lost interest and moved on, so did many in the surrounding communities.

Many people at PCW have asked what still needs to be done in Pacific and Eureka. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is still present in Pacific, working alongside Pacific Presbyterian Church. If you have a skill in repairs, carpentry, or just have a strong back, there are opportunities for service. If you can cook for volunteer crews, there are also opportunities for you as well. Or, if you can't help in those areas, but have funds you would like to donate, there are those opportunities, too.

If you would like to help in any way in the continued flood relief in Franklin County or St Louis County, you can contact our PDA representative (Rev. Denise Williams) at Pacific Presbyterian Church. Or, you can let me know and I'll get you in touch with PDA.

Blessings to you all,
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.*



February Office Hours

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

Current Elders

David Brunworth	636-239-4102	dbrunworth@hotmail.com
Joy Kopp	636-432-1800	joykopp54@gmail.com
Vivian Marshall	636-667-0013	marshv1849@att.net
Barbara Schofield	636-390-4123	barbara.schofield2003@gmail.com
Sid Thayer	636-239-7617	sidneythayer@yahoo.com
Bruce Wiese	636-432-1057	ssswbw@charter.net
Jamie Tucker	314-814-2780	jmtsrvir09@gmail.com
Mary Ellenberger	636-742-4591	maryvet01@yahoo.com
Kathy Froning	636-239-7995	kathyfroning@yahoo.com
Lois Kempf	314-630-8379	loiskempf@hotmail.com
Karen Ladd	636-239-5271	jladd001@charter.net
Tim Urban	636-239-2082	tim.urban22@yahoo.com

The Lord's Supper

The sacrament of Communion will be served on Sunday, February 7.

Communion Assignments for February:

Preparer: David Brunworth

Servers: Sid Thayer, Jamie Tucker, Bruce Wiese

Worship Assignments for February:

Sound Tech:

2/7/2016 Allen Vogt
2/14/2016 Ian McCracken
2/21/2016 Joe Hagan
2/28/2016 Tom Ellenberger

Worship Leader: Tom Kempf

Ushers

Shirley Coulter & Jean Weekley
Roland & Pamela Schwarzen
Luther Bierbaum & Barb Hagan
Laura Evans & Jane Bugele

Greeters

Whip Schultz & Nancy Klingert
Tim & Gerry Urban
Don & Jenny Scheibe
Allen Vogt & Karla Becker

Thank You!

We would like to extend a very sincere thank you to everyone who donated to our Christmas Gifts! What a wonderful surprise! We're enjoying using our gift cards and funds for meals, fuel and other escapades! A big thank you as well to the Creative Hands group. The quilt works perfectly in our sun room and we've enjoyed cuddling up underneath it (the pets have as well!). And, of course a huge thank you to the Personnel Committee, the session and the congregation for approving the increase in Pat's salary! It means a lot to us to serve in such a generous community. Blessings in Christ, Pastor Pat, Karen and Alex

Harvest Table THANK YOU!

Thank you to all that volunteered, donated and baked for our first mission meal event of 2016! We had 13 of our church members/friends that served 84 people from our community and had a very delicious and unique supper serving breakfast items including bananas donated from our church and many wonderful coffee cakes from our own PCW bakers! This is always a great and fun way to come together and serve our neighbors. Our next sponsored meal is on April 9th. The Mission Committee



All-Church Potluck

The January pot luck was held January 13. Soup was the main dish. Lynn Unnerstall representing Emmaus Homes, was the guest speaker. The next pot luck will be February 10 at 5:30 p.m. with chicken being served as the meat. There will be no special speaker because of the Ash Wednesday service following the meal. Please sign up! Come for the meal! Stay for the service!

Stephen Ministries Workshop

The idea of becoming a Stephen Ministries congregation began at last year's Hospitality Dinner. Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in congregations that enroll in the Stephen Ministry program. Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. If you are interested in learning more about this program and how the Presbyterian Church of Washington could become a Stephen Ministry congregation, there is a one day informational workshop on Sunday, March 6th at St Paul's Evangelical Church in St Louis from 2 to 6pm. Pastor Pat and Robbin Thayer have already registered. If you would like to attend with them, please let either of them know.

SOUP-ER BOWL on February 7th!

Yes, Sunday, February 7th is not only the biggest football game day ever of the year, but the biggest canned food collection of the year for our Youth Group! We are once again celebrating Robynn's SOUP-ER Bowl in memory of Robynn Greer, longtime Youth Group Sponsor who started the Youth Group participation in this National Event many years ago. Please help out by donating any pantry item that you CAN (get it?, CANNED goods!) OR we will always accept good old cash to purchase food for our area's needy neighbors. ALL of the food and money will be donated, as we do every year, to our own local Loving Hearts Outreach that helps HUNDREDS of people every year! See you on February 7th, GAME DAY, before and after worship!
The PCW Youth Group

Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School Class will have a special Lenten study on Ray Fuquay's book, "The God We Can Know." The study will begin on February 14th, the Sunday after Ash Wednesday, and continue for 7 lessons, through Sunday April 3rd. (There will be no Sunday School class on Easter Sunday, March 27th.) Join us in the Session Room for this special Lenten series. – Jocelyn VanBuskirk

Lenten Dates to Remember at PCW

Wednesday, February 10th at 6:30pm – Ash Wednesday Worship Service with Imposition of Ashes

Sunday, March 20th at 10:15am – Palm Sunday Worship Service with Children's Processional

Thursday, March 24th at 7pm – Maundy Thursday Worship Service with the Lord's Supper

Saturday, March 26th at 7:30pm at Peace Lutheran Church – Ecumenical Easter Vigil Service

Sunday, March 27th at 10:15am – Easter Morning Worship Service with the Lord's Supper

Circle of Friends

The Circle of Friends will meet on Thursday, February 4th and Thursday, February 18th to discuss Lesson 3 of our Horizon's Bible Study, "Come to the Waters." The lesson is titled, "Absence of Water – Thirst and Longing." It is an appropriate emphasis for the Lenten season, which begins February 10th, Ash Wednesday. The Group gathers at 10 a.m. in the Church Library. Feel free to come to one or both sessions; the second will not be a repeat of the first. – Jocelyn VanBuskirk

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, February 10th, marks the beginning of our Lenten journey. The Lenten journey is a journey of meditation, penitence, and sacrifice. To honor this beginning of our journey together, we will hold a special worship service that evening at 6:30pm. This will be a quiet and meditative worship service along with the imposition of ashes. Beginning at 5:30pm, there will also be our regular scheduled potluck dinner.

2016 Presbyterian Youth Triennium

Every three years, thousands of high school Presbyterian youth gather on the campus of Purdue University in Indiana for Presbyterian Youth Triennium! This year's Triennium will be held from July 19th to the 23rd. Youth must be entering 9th grade in the fall of 2016 to attend. The week is filled with outstanding contemporary worship, the best youth speakers from around the nation, intimate small groups and LOTS of fun activities. The deadline to register is the end of April. If interested, please see Pastor Pat for more information.

Presby Scrip Program

Thank you to all those who have ordered gift cards or certificates through the Presby Scrip Program! By purchasing gift cards/certificates the church receives an instant rebate for each card purchased! Tell others in the church just how easy it can be done! Card/Certificates will continue to be offered each week through the Presby Scrip Program in the church foyer. Don't forget there are many more merchant's gift cards in addition to those on our Church order form. Just check out the National List available at the Presby Scrip Table or online at shopwithscrip.com. All you have to do is take the information from the National List and write it in the blank spaces on the Church order form. You can also order online from the comfort of your home. For more information on how to order online or for any further information about the program, see anyone at the Scrip Table on Sundays.

Food Pantry Items of Month

The shelves at Loving Hearts Outreach are still running low. In an effort to revitalize our sense of mission to this organization, we will be collecting specific items for the food pantry each month. February's items are **Soups with substance, Mac & Cheese & Hot Cereals**. All through the month of February, you are encouraged to bring these items and place them in the donation box for Loving Hearts. They can also use canned vegetables, canned meats, cereal and cake mixes – basically anything non-perishable. Empty egg cartons can also be used. Thank you for your generosity!



Change for Chickens

Are your pockets jingling with lots of extra change? Is your wallet or change purse too bulky? Then drop a few coins into the collection jar for the Change for Chickens and see how far those pennies, nickels, dimes or quarters will go. This program gives hope and help to underprivileged people and really educates them and their families with life sustaining skills. Any big or little coins will be much appreciated. PLUS, we have collected nearly \$200 so far! That's enough to buy about 300 chicks! Thank you for your help. The Mission Committee



Youth Group

We are having a great time with our Youth Group this year! In January, we baked cookies (and sampled some!) for Harvest Table and then had a snow day for our second mtg., so a quiet month. For February, we are celebrating our Robynn's SOUPER Bowl Sunday Canned Food Collection on February 7th, and having our two meetings on Wednesday, February 3rd, and 17th. We continue to meet on our regular schedule of meetings with the first and third Wednesday nights in the Church Youth Group room (Room #10), the first room to the right off of the Fellowship Hall. The first Wednesday of the month we usually do a mission project and on the third Wednesday, we usually have a fun activity(always a surprise!). 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 any of the YG sponsors: Laura Conley, Gretchen Farrell and Ian McCracken.

Serving Our Church Family Brothers and Sisters

The Church Life Committee will be updating the Serving Others project we did a year ago. Your willingness to serve will make it easy for friends and members to reach out to each other to help meet the needs of Individuals in our church family. **The goal is to eliminate the thought "I don't want to impose" or "I wish I had someone to help me with this".** **1 Peter 4:10** "Each of us should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." We want to develop a list of people who are willing to be called to help someone who could use a helper in most any situation. Remember, you can always say no if the request doesn't work for you. Lavender colored volunteer sheets are available now. There are several opportunities to serve that were not on the gold sheets we used last year. Judy Bierbaum, Church Life Committee

February Birthdays



2-4	Kevin Carpenter	2-16	Pamela Schwarzen
2-5	Joy Kopp	2-17	Gerry Urban
2-7	Janet Henderson	2-18	Kay Hucke
2-8	Laura Conley	2-19	Sam Farrell
2-8	Donald Conrad	2-19	Pamela Kellermann
2-9	Charlene Jackson	2-19	Roland Schwarzen
2-14	Danielle Tucker	2-22	Peggy Otto



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.



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

Meetings are normally every Tuesday of the month. The quilt frame is set up and quilting is going strong! For information, please contact Barbara Duemler.



Warblers

The Warblers sing at Cedar Crest the last Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. We would love to have more voices come. The only requirement is to make a “joyful noise.” Call Anna Mae Boehmer for more information at 239-3344 or call 314-691-0473

Name Tags

A new name badge signup sheet has been posted on the bulletin board. Nametags are important to all to all of us, and especially so for new members and visitors. Both lanyard and pin on badges are available. Please sign the sheet or contact Judy Bierbaum at 636-432-1293.



MEMBERS WITH CONTINUING NEEDS

Heather Miller, Barbara Pierce, Whip Schultz, Don & Connie Conrad, Karla Becker, Janet Aaron, Roni Fowler, Scott McCracken, Laura Fenner, Lisa Conrad, Jim Watson, Confirmation Class

GRANDVIEW: Christine Lewis

SOUTH POINTE: Elsie & Jack Truesdell, Elaine Dodson, George Peters

CEDAR CREST: June Kleberger, Dorothy Mutert, Beth Saunders

PARK PLACE ASSISTED LIVING (O'Fallon) Boots Bonney

MARYMOUNT (Eureka): Joan Schultz

FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH REQUESTING PRAYERS:

Vicky Vogel (sister of Karla Becker)

Cindy Demitroff (friend of Paul & Lya Struckhoff)

Jim Lebreton (friend of Barbara Schofield)

Anna Roetheli (friend of the church)

Laura Leigh Rhoades (daughter of Laura Evans)

Dixie Kottwitz (friend of the Bierbaums)

Jeff Pierce (son of Barbara Pierce, brother of Janet Aaron)

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)

Mary Bray Wheeler (friend of Barbara Duemler)

Ardis Harnagel (friend of Karen Ladd)

Taylor Bierbaum (grandson of Judy & Luther)

Dottie Shelton (sister of Shirley Coulter)

Holly Stoltz-Smith (friend of the church)

Betty Buerk (relative of Schultz, Vogt, Struckhoff)

Jean Kimme (friend of Barbara Schofield)

Susan Conrad (daughter-in-law to Don & Connie Conrad &
sister-in-law to Paul & Janet Henderson)

Dora Lafferty (friend of Lya Struckhoff)

Dianne Symansky (friend of the Duemlers)

Marc Houseman (friend of the congregation)

Carol Perkins (friend of Karen Ladd)

Megan Turbeville (cousin of Vivian Marshall)

Rena Middendorf & Family (niece of Kathy Froning)

Samantha Nichols

Don Genreux (friend of Pat & Karen Gruber)

Pam Evangelist (sister of Sharon Fenner)

Betty Mechem (friend of Joe & Barb Hagan)

Family of Rev. Hal LaMert (former pastor here)

The Birth of Jesus

