

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

Dear Friends,

I really want to like camping. I would like it to be a hobby of mine. But, I am just too accustomed to modern conveniences and comforts to really embrace camping. The extent I'm willing to camp is Recreational Vehicle camping. My dad owns an RV. It's a big ol' thing. The motor home has allowed us to put all the conveniences of home on wheels. RV camping means no longer having to contend with sleeping bags, cooking over a fire, or living among the elements. My dad can park his fully equipped home on wheels on a cement slab in the middle of a few pine trees and hook up to a water line, a sewer line and an electric line. His RV even had a satellite dish at one time. It is possible for us to go camping and never have to go outside.

I have thought about buying an RV when I retire with the hope of seeing new places. Yet, I would likely deck it out with the same furnishings as my living room. And, nothing would really change. Karen, Alex and I might drive to a new place, set down in new surroundings. But, the newness of the experience might go unnoticed since we have carried along our old setting.

New life in Christ begins when the comfortable patterns of the old life are left behind. This Easter we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and the newness of life that can be ours through faith in his name.

However, many times, when we look at our "new lives," they don't seem to be that different from our old lives. Just like RV camping tempts us to bring our comfortable furnishings with us, we are often tempted to resist a true change in our lives of faith. We try to answer God's call to mission and service to the community, but we're fearful of truly embracing and diving into our "new life."

And, entering into and embracing a "new life" can be uncomfortable and little scary. But, embracing new life can also be incredibly exciting and highly rewarding. Just as Christ overcame death through his resurrection on Easter morning, we can overcome the darkness of our lives (anxiety, grief, shame, worry, fear, etc.) by embracing a

fundamental truth of our faith: Your faith in Christ has made you a new creation. You are not the same as you were prior to embracing faith.

But, do our lives reflect that newness? How have we been changed? And, are we sharing the newness of our lives with others?

This Easter, take some time to examine: "How has faith in Christ changed me? How can I live out my new life so that others may see the resurrected Christ in me?"

Happy Easter! He is 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.*



March Office Hours

The church office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. except Friday, March 25 when it will be closed in celebration of Good Friday.

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, March 6 and on Easter Sunday, March 27.

Communion Assignments for March:

Preparer: Tim Urban

Servers: Mary Ellenberger, Bruce Wiese, Barbara Schofield, Jamie Tucker

Worship Assignments for March:

Sound Tech:

3/6/2016 Allen Vogt
3/13/2016 Ian McCracken
3/20/2016 Joe Hagan
3/27/2016 Tom Ellenberger

Worship Leader: Nancy Thater

Ushers

Jean Weekley & Kay Hucke
Roland Schwarzen & June Gellhausen
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!

I would like to thank each and every one for attending the luncheon after church on January 31. Over 80 were in attendance. There was \$850.00 given in the free-will donation which will be used for work at the cemetery. Again thank you and God bless you. Anna Mae Boehmer

Valentine's Date Night Thank You!

Dear, Tom, Dan, Pat, Don, Bruce, Luther, Roland, Joe, Tom and Tom:

Thank you all for a wonderful Valentine's Date Night this past Saturday evening. The surf and turf meal was outstanding with delicious appetizers and a nice romantic movie to wind up the evening, but the company was the best!

See you next year!

Love, Gretchen, Betsy, Karen, Jenny, Sharon, Judy, Pam, Barb, Lois and Sharon

Office Administrator

I will be out of the office for a while in March due to surgery for hip replacement on March 3. Several ladies have graciously volunteered to "man" the office for me while I'm gone. I very much appreciate each one that has volunteered to help Pat and me out during that time. I will be monitoring the church email so you can still send messages, bulletin announcements, etc. and I will get them. I would greatly appreciate prayers for a safe and successful operation and a speedy recovery. Thanks so much. Carol Ramsey

Harvest Table Info

Our April 9th meal has been rescheduled due to several conflicts, so as of now, our next scheduled Harvest Table meal will be August 20th. Thank you and look for more info of when we may reschedule another meal. The Mission Committee

SOUP-ER BOWL of Caring set records!

Our Souper Bowl of Caring, a collection of donated pantry food and monetary gifts on Super Bowl Sunday, has been counted and WE SET NEW RECORDS! We donated 244 food items and \$215 this year from our February 7th collection date, each of which set a record for us for the past 13 consecutive years and all given to our local Loving Hearts Outreach. We've been participating for 15 years now, 13 years running and two prior years with only a monetary amount noted. Many thanks to everyone in church that day that helped and contributed, and to our Youth Group that went the extra yard and scored a touchdown for HUNGER, and especially doing so in remembrance of former member and Youth Sponsor, Robynn Greer. Way to go, everyone!

The PCW Youth Group

World Day Of Prayer

World Day of Prayer is Friday, March 4th. The Franklin County Church Women United prepare for an annual service. This year the service will be at the Presbyterian Church in Union at 7:30 p.m. This year's service has been prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of the nation of Cuba with the theme, "Receive Children, Receive Me."

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday

As an added treat for our Palm Sunday worship service, 3/20, the children of the church will grace us with a palm-waving processional and a song. The children's choir will involve children 5th grade and younger. They will practice at 9am in the sanctuary each Sunday before Palm Sunday beginning Sunday, March 6th.

Maundy Thursday

This year's Maundy Thursday worship service (6pm, March 24th) will be a little different from previous years' incarnations. This year, we will worship in the Fellowship Hall. We will begin gathered around tables with a meal provided by the Church Life Committee. During the meal, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper around the tables, serving each other the elements. Following the meal, we will worship our Lord in the traditional "Tenebrae" style, with dramatic readings, music and the extinguishing of candles. Expect to see a sign-up sheet soon, just so the Church Life Committee has an idea of how much food to prepare.

Easter Vigil

The Presbyterian Church of Washington will be participating in a community "Easter Vigil" service at 7:30pm on Saturday, March 26th at Peace Lutheran Church. Pastor Pat (who will be preaching that night) 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!



All-Church Potluck

The February pot luck was held February 10. In spite of the bad weather we had over 30 in attendance. Following the meal everyone went to the sanctuary for the Ash Wednesday Service. The next pot luck will be March 9 at 5:30 p.m. with stew being the main dish. The special speaker will be Julie Hook of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. Please sign up! Come for the meal! Stay for the mission!

Easter Egg Hunt

Easter arrives a bit early this year and we'll be ready for our 7th Annual Easter Egg Hunt on the day before Easter, **Saturday, March 26th at 11am!** We always hope for a great turnout of children from our church and local community and we have not been disappointed yet! We will soon have a collection box out for CANDY, as we need almost 4000 pieces of individually wrapped, small candies to fit into plastic eggs for hiding on our back lawn. Please also join us for an Egg Filling Party on Monday, March 21st at 10am to fill all of those wonderful eggs with treats. On the Egg Hunt day, everyone is welcome to join us not only for the Egg Hunt (children thru 12 years, bring your baskets!), but also for face painting, coloring tables, a family movie basket raffle and punch and cookies after the hunt! See you then! Laura Conley and Gretchen Farrell

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, Rev. Jocelyn and Robbin Thayer have already registered. If you would like to attend with them, please let either of them know.

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. There will be two dates to choose from for the class (both Sundays): March 13th and 20th. Both classes will be held following worship. You don't have to attend both classes. Please prayerfully consider attending.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing special offering will be collected Easter Sunday. Envelopes will be the pews that day. Inserts about the offering will be in the bulletin. Through the OGHS offering we can serve people in your community and around the world by alleviating hunger, rebuilding after crises or catastrophe, and working with communities to overcome oppression. As examples of the impact of our OGHS gifts, 220,000 people received food, water, shelter and medical care in the aftermath of the Nepal earthquakes; over 308,000 people in 30 countries now have increased food security and livelihoods through international development work; more than 10,000 children and their families in five bateyes in the Dominican Republic have access to clean water, helping to prevent water-related diseases. Please be in prayer about how you may give.

Adult Sunday School

During Advent the Adult Sunday School class is studying Jesus' "I Am" sayings: "I am the bread of life"; "I am the vine..."; "I am the good shepherd"; "I am the way, the truth and the life." These sayings enable us to know God better, and to know better our own responsibilities as Jesus' followers. Do you know what it means that we Christians are to be bread, part of a grapevine, shepherds, and people of the way, truth, and life? Join us, Sunday mornings at 9:00 in the Session Room to explore what "I Am" means for all of us. - Jocelyn

Text Messages

In an effort to improve congregation-wide communication in the event of worship cancellation, emergent prayer requests and memorial service information, PCW is putting together a "texting group" to expedite mass communication. If you would like to receive text messages in the event of worship cancellation or memorial service announcements, text your name and cell phone # to Pastor Pat (ask him for his cell phone # if you do not have it).

7th Annual Book Sale

Our HUGE Annual Community Book Sale will be held in our Fellowship Hall on Friday, April 15th, and Saturday, April 16th, both days from 8am – 6pm, with a special time for any church members and friends to see the last of the books after worship on Sunday, April 17th, before we pack them away. We would love to have help organizing all the books from Monday, April 11th – Thursday, April 14th, 9am-3pm. Please look for a sign-up on the bulletin boards. Got any book donations? Please drop them off those four days OR call Gretchen Farrell. Thank you! Gretchen Farrell, Kathy Froning and Karen Ladd, Co-Chairpersons

Circle of Friends

The Circle of Friends, which normally meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, will meet only once in March: on the 17th. (We shall not meet on March 3rd because we want to give our time that week to the World Day of Prayer Service on Friday, the 4th.) This month the lesson from our Circle study, "Come to the Waters" is about "Dangerous Waters – God's Deliverance." Scripture passages for discussion are from Joshua chapter 3 and Psalm 69. Join us in the Church Library on the 17th at 10 a.m. - Jocelyn

Happy Birthday, www.presbywashmo.org!

This month, our revamped web-site is turning one year old! We are working hard to make sure information on the web-site is new, accurate and up to date. Not sure when a meeting is scheduled? Check out the web-site! Interested in upcoming events, existing small groups and other ways to serve the community in the name of Jesus Christ? Go to www.presbywashmo.org! Wondering what Pastor Pat might be preaching about over the next few weeks? Visit our page! Happy Birthday, Web-Site!

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.

Hand Bell Choir?

With the dramatically increased worship attendance since Advent, and the amount of new faces on Sunday morning over the past two years, the Worship Committee of PCW would like to “resurrect” the Hand Bell Choir. If you are interested in playing in the Hand Bell Choir, keep your eyes open. There will be a sign-up sheet posted soon. And, even more vitally important, if you feel called to DIRECT the Hand Bell Choir, contact Pastor Pat or someone from the Worship Committee.

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. March’s items are **Canned Fruits, Salad Dressings and Dry Pastas**. All through the month of March, 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!

Washington Bridal Extravaganza



The Washington Bridal Extravaganza was held on Sunday, February 21 at the KC Hall. The church participated this year with a booth to showcase our Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary. We gave away a magnetic clip with the church name and phone number to all the brides & grooms and put together a special brochure to advertise the hall & sanctuary. We also had photo books with past rental pictures to show the Hall setup.



Daytona Hawkins of St. Clair was the winner of our drawing for a free hall or sanctuary rental and is very excited about her reception and/or wedding taking place at The Presbyterian Church of Washington.

Thank you to Judy Bierbaum, Lya Struckhoff & Becky Vogt for their part in putting this event together. Also, thank you to Gretchen Farrell for providing decorations for the booth.



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 OVER \$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 February, we worked on our SOUP-ER Bowl of Caring football banner and skit and started watching 'Second Hand Lions'. In March, we will have our meetings on March 2nd and March 16th and NOT on March 30th, which is the fifth Sunday. 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.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE LAVENDER FORM FOR SERVING OUR CHURCH FAMILY BROTHERS AND SISTERS

The Church Life Committee is 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 a friend 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

March Birthdays



3-3	Anna Mae Boehmer	3-10	Jean Van Der Kamp
3-4	Luther Bierbaum	3-19	Tom Farrell
3-4	Emily Bounds	3-20	Sharon Fenner
3-4	Bill Kellermann	3-29	Libby Farrell
3-5	Jim Conley		



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)

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)

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)

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)

Pam Evangelist (sister of Sharon Fenner)

Betty Mechem (friend of Joe & Barb Hagan)

Peter VanBuskirk (Jocelyn's grandson)

Ray Tucker (father-in-law of Jamie Tucker)

Sarah Truesdell Krumpak & twins (great niece and cousins to
Jack, Elsie, Kathy & Mauri Trusdell)

Leon Bierbaum (brother of Luther Bierbaum)

Alexandria Caldwell (friend of Becker family)

Joe Bryant (friend of Lya Struckhoff)

Carol Ramsey (church office administrator)