

SPIRIT SIGHTINGS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PALATINE

OCTOBER 2023

FROM THE PASTOR...

"Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18)

What is your vision for PCOP?

A vision statement is like a compass that guides us on our spiritual journey. Here are some compelling reasons why our church needs a vision statement:

Clarity of Purpose: A vision statement provides clarity by defining our purpose, the reason we gather, and the mission we are called to fulfill. With a clear vision, we are better equipped to focus our efforts and resources on what truly matters.

Alignment: It helps align the hearts and minds of our members. When we share a common vision, we can work together more effectively, united in our pursuit of God's will for our church that fosters unity.

Inspiration: A compelling vision statement inspires us. It motivates us to strive for excellence in our worship, discipleship, mission, and service. It serves as a source of encouragement during challenging times.

Outreach and Growth: A well-written vision statement can be a powerful tool to communicate to the world who we are and what we stand for, inviting others to join us in our faith journey.

Accountability: A vision statement allows us to assess whether we are moving closer to our goals and living out our values. It holds us accountable to the mission we've set for ourselves.

Stewardship: With a clear vision, we can better steward our resources—financial, gifts, talent, and time. We can make informed decisions that support our vision.

Legacy: A vision statement helps us leave a lasting legacy for future generations. It ensures that our church's purpose and values are carried forward, preserving our identity and mission for years to come.

On Oct. 28th, I invite you to join the workshop to be part of composing our vision statement. Our vision should reflect God's will for our church and God's desire for us to be a beacon of light in our community and beyond. I hope you will accept an invitation to this event and join us in this crucial endeavor.

In Christ's Love, Pastor RJ Kang



STEWARDSHIP

As we enter into the time of our annual giving campaign, I am writing a two-part stewardship article on why we give to support the ministry and mission of The Presbyterian Church of Palatine. The first article deals with the question of who we are, and what we do. In the second article I will attempt to explain why we should give financially to support PCOP and to help us continue to spread God's word and do his works. – Bruce Churchill

We at PCOP are a small and faithful congregation. We have an impact in our community and within the world. Sunday worship, conducted by Teaching Elder RJ Kang, is well attended and can also be viewed live on Facebook and YouTube. To enhance our learning, RJ offers a Tuesday morning in-person Bible study and Thursday evening Bible study via Zoom.

Fellowship is offered in the Cosby Room after Sunday service. There is a once-a-month Friday evening men's Bible study and a once-a-month Friday evening book club for women. PW meets monthly to nurture faith through prayer and study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women.

We at PCOP have a large presence in our community. We are not the only congregation to call our church home. Two additional congregations meet in our facility. The church of servants, a Korean church, and Monte de Sion, a Hispanic church worship in the sanctuary, have fellowship in the basement, and conduct Bible studies for their members. Both churches value our facility and contribute both physically and financially, helping us maintain our facility as a warm and welcoming place for worship and fellowship, now and in the future. The Csik Hago Hungarian School also meets on Saturdays during the school year and contributes physically and financially in support of our facility.

In addition, there are many other groups that use our facility meeting spaces and also contribute monetarily for that use. Some of the groups are 5 AA groups, 2 theater groups, the Chicago Highlanders Pipes & Drums, and several scout troops.

We are very proud of our ministry and mission projects within our community and the world. Our Garden ministry grows vegetables in our eight garden plots and twice a week delivers much-needed fresh produce to the Palatine Food Pantry. Our PCOP Food Pantry provides non-perishables and laundry soap for families of the students at the Winston Campus and Virginia Lake school. These staples are available for pickup twice a month during the school year. A crew of dedicated shoppers, packers, pickup greeters, and administrators keep this vital ministry working smoothly.

We are a congregation that is found by grace, fed by grace, and follows by grace. We attend Sunday worship, we participate in season teams, we support our mission projects and we support the ministries of PCOP. We also seek fellowship, support each other in times of crisis, share times of joy, and pray for peace and justice in our world. We are PCOP!





GARDEN MINISTRY

The pictures say it all! This past month, the garden has been producing a lot of beans, onions, all kinds of peppers, Swiss chard, yellow squash, zucchini, cucumbers, tomatoes, and herbs such as basil and sage. And all of it went to the Palatine Township Food Pantry.

The fresh and nutritious veggies from our garden are a much-appreciated addition to the foods that are given out at the Township's Food Pantry. Donations they receive now help them with food purchases over the cold months, as well as, personal care, health, and cleaning products. The Pantry has seen a 40% increase in those needing their help this year. During this year, please go on their website and see what their clients could use.

Our gardening team- Jim Ekeberg, Marge Pearson, Curt Peterson, Pam Anderson, Robin Dillon, Mirabel Wiryen, Crystalyn Boyer, Cheryl Maluta, Lyn Nawrot, and the church of servants

We are very fortunate that during the drought this summer we were able to maintain an automatic watering system through the church. The time we saved hand watering let us do the important job of weeding and harvesting.



FROM THE PCOP FOOD PANTRY

How Many Presbyterians Does It Take to Run a Food Pantry?
(or... Behind the Scenes at the PCOP Pantry)

During the school calendar year we open our pantry doors 20 times, basically every 2 weeks. Because clients place their orders in advance, we are able to have them bagged and ready for pick-up each pantry day. In order for things to run smoothly we have lots of volunteers behind the scenes preparing the orders. For each pantry day, 2-3 people are given a shopping list with items to buy. The list might include 6 cans of fruit cocktail, 2 boxes of cereal, 4 boxes of pancake mix, 8 cans of tuna, etc. – generally 40-50 items per shopping trip. Shoppers bring the items to the pantry, put them away, and fill out a voucher for reimbursement. Then we have baggers who take each client's shopping list and fill it using stock from our shelves. Almost finally are the staffers who come each pantry pick-up day from 2:00-4:00pm to greet our clients. They are tasked with delivering the bagged groceries and making certain a new order is completed. They also do an inventory of in stock items. The true "finally" is after the orders have been picked up & new orders have been placed. A master list is created showing what items are needed to fill the new orders and that list is compared to the inventory to determine the shopping lists for our next pick-up day. Our volunteers are of all ages (elementary school aged helpers make excellent baggers!) and we are grateful for every one of you!!

Barbara, Wayne, Mary, and Anita





HARVEST 1 : WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

Harvest 1 Season: August 27 - October 8

Team Members-Lyn Nawrot, Jean Tittle, Cheryl Maluta, Mary & Tom Kenter

“With God All Things Are Possible” The scripture readings during Harvest 1 remind us that what seems impossible for us as humans, is possible with God by our side.

Global Mission

Peace & Global Witness Offering that will be collected thru the end of Harvest I.

Our goal is to raise \$1000 so that \$250 will go back to our Pantry.

Local Mission

Palatine Township Food Pantry

We will be collecting personal health and cleaning products.

You can obtain a list of what is needed by the bulletin board in the Narthex and place those items in the trunk located in the entryway.

Devotions

DFP Wendy Canedy will be sharing stories from the “God Winks” stories devotional.

Communion - World Communion Day, October 1

We will have combined worship with church of servants.

Potluck Lunch - October 1

Joint Potluck lunch with church of servants following worship.

As we move through the season look for the signs of God winking in your daily life and remember, with God all things are possible!

HARVEST 2: THE BOUNTY OF GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

Harvest 2 Season: October 15 - November 26

Team Members- Anita Kern, Judy Lundeen, Jennifer & Allan Garraway

Communion: October 15 & November 26

Special Events

Oct. 15 - WINGS presentation after worship

Join us for a cup of soup while you listen to the presentation.

Nov. 20 - Commitment Sunday

Dedication of Pledges, Season Teams & New Members

Celebrate with Cake!

Weekly Devotions

Great is Thy Faithfulness by Our Daily Bread

Mission Opportunities

Global: PCUSA “Peace and Global Witness” Offering

Local: Palatine Township Thanksgiving Baskets

2024 Giving Commitment





FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

Exciting news! We began a curriculum in Children's C.E. this month! It's titled *God's Story*, and it follows the Narrative Lectionary, which is used by our church. Our first lesson found us in the Garden of Eden, caring for the Earth and the animals with Adam and Eve. Every week, we will move further along the timeline, as we consider our own place in God's story. Patti and I continue to ask the children for prayer requests and praises, as well as pray the Lord's Prayer at the end of every lesson.

The Harvest One Season Team chose the theme "With God, All Things are Possible." To illustrate this, devotions for Harvest One are personal accounts taken from the book titled *God Wink Stories* by Squire Rushnell and his wife, Louise Duart. Three weeks in, they certainly are showing us that with God, all things are possible.

Until next time,

Wendy Canedy

PC USA 101

There were 30 amendments proposed by the 225th General Assembly held in Louisville, KY in June 2022. All were approved. If you would like to see the complete list, please feel free to contact me.

Key changes in the new Book of Order

- A minister's terms of call:
 - include a paid family leave policy of at least 12 weeks. This leave is to accommodate the birth, foster placement, or adoption of a child; to provide care to an ill or disabled family member, or to heal following a loss or tragic event.
- The fourth section of the Book of Order has been replaced with a section titled "Church Discipline."
- The revision did not change the procedures as much as the way they were organized: "Now folks participating in judicial cases can see discipline process information together in one place, and remedial process information in one place. That makes it easier for church councils to address individual and council behaviors."
- Presbyteries are directed to establish "terms of dissolution" for the ends of an installed pastoral relationship.
- All councils, including sessions, are expected to set anti-racism and harassment policies.
- References to "men and women" were changed to "people."
- The business of congregational meetings now includes receiving reports regarding a disciplinary decision against a member of the congregation.
- The category of "honorably retired" was changed to "retired."
- Accommodations were made to allow for congregations and their committees to meet electronically provided that all members present can hear and be heard simultaneously.



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

"I will sing of your love and justice; to you, LORD, I will sing praise." - Psalm 101:1

Congregational singing has long been part of the church's musical tradition. Though singing becomes an outward expression, it begins with inward reflection, listening, and understanding. When we sing, we act as a vessel through which a song is shared.

"The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul."

~ Johann Sebastian Bach

"...For a linnet, a nightingale, a parrot may sing well; but it will be without understanding. But the unique gift of man is to sing knowing that which he sings..."

~ John Calvin, from Preface to the Genevan Psalter

"Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can."

~ John Wesley

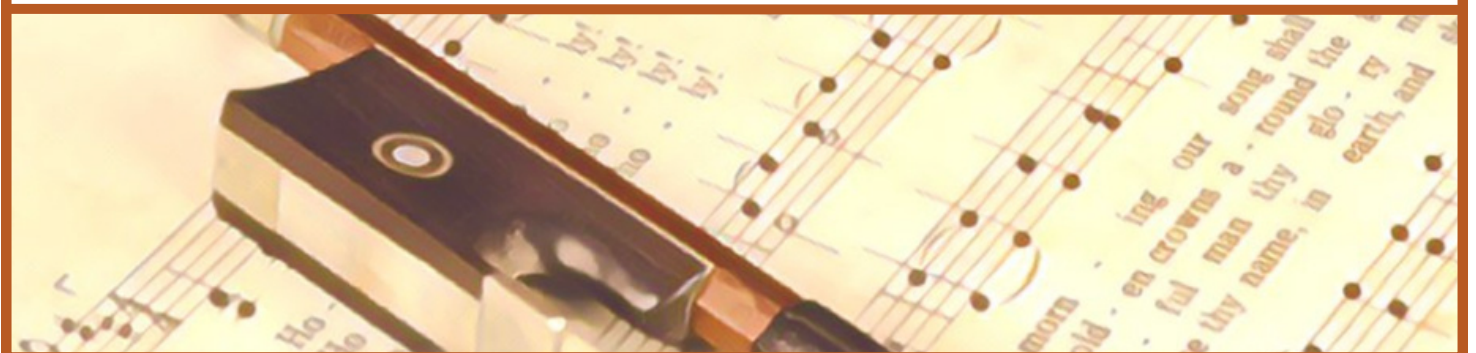
How do you offer praise?

How do you reflect God's love?

Does music in worship refresh your soul?

How do you share your gifts?

Director of Music, Ingrid Mikolajczyk





OCTOBER

10/1	Worship World Communion Pot Luck Lunch	10:00am 11:30am	10/17	Bible Study-Library Stewardship	10:00am 7:00pm
10/3	Bible Study-Library	10:00am	10/18	Grace Circle-Cosby Room Alpha Prayer Ministry	10:00am 7:00pm
10/4	Alpha Prayer Ministry	7:00pm	10/19	Bible Study-Zoom	7:00pm
10/5	Bible Study-Zoom	7:00pm	10/21	Rebecca Circle	10:00am
10/6	W3 - Mary Kenter's	7:00pm	10/22	Worship	10:00am
10/8	Worship	10:00am	10/24	Bible Study-Library	10:00am
10/10	Bible Study-Library Personnel	10:00am 7:00pm	10/26	Pantry Pick-up Bible Study-Zoom	2:30pm 7:00pm
10/11	PW Coordinating Team-Cosby Room	10:00am	10/28	Visioning Workshop	9:30am
10/12	Pantry Pick-up Bible Study-Zoom	2:30pm 7:00pm	10/29	Worship	10am
10/15	<i>Harvest 2 Begins</i> Worship Domestic Violence Presentation Soup Lunch Advent Planning Mtg.	10:00am 11:00am 11:30am	10/31	Bible Study-Library	10:00am

OUR OFFICE HOURS ARE MONDAY - THURSDAY, 10:00AM - 2:00PM

PASTOR KANG'S IN-OFFICE HOURS - TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS BETWEEN
10:00AM & 12:00PM

FOR TIMES NOT IN THAT FRAMEWORK, PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO MAKE CERTAIN SHE IS AVAILABLE.

As you consider your annual giving during H2 Season
please sign up to serve on one or two 2024 Season Teams

You may sign up in person in the narthex, call, or email the church office.



UPCOMING EVENT HARVEST 2 SEASON



DATE:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 FOLLOWING WORSHIP

GUEST SPEAKER:

**SHELLEY WELCH, SR. MANAGER
OF ANNUAL FUND GIVING**

***JOIN US FOR A CUP OF SOUP WHILE WE LISTEN
TO THE PRESENTATION***

BIBLE STUDY

Pastor RJ Will Lead A Series On:

Does God Have A Sense Of Humor?

**This topic will extend to the end of October.
A new topic will begin in February.**

- **Via Zoom -Thursdays at 7:00 PM**
If you are interested in attending via zoom
EMAIL - pastor@palatinepres.com
- **In Person - Tuesdays at 10:00 AM**
In the Library

W3 Book Club

NEXT W3 - OCTOBER 6 - Begins at 7:00pm

**Check PCOP Happenings or contact the church office for
W3 October Book Club Host & Location**

**BOOK - "My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry"
Fredrik Backman**

What is W3? It is a fellowship for women, with wine (or beverage of choice), and word (conversation), specifically for women of PCOP and their female family and friends. The fellowship revolves around a book club where both fiction and non-fiction books are discussed. Additionally, participants will explore where they perceive the works of God and how they perceive God's presence in the story.

Seeking Church Treasurer



- Are you organized?
- Do you have some understanding of general accounting and Quickbook?
- Are you looking for part-time work that will serve God and God's community?

**If you answer "yes" to above questions, please
send your resume to:
pastor@palatinepres.com**