

SPIRIT SIGHTINGS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PALATINE

FEBRUARY 2024

FROM THE PASTOR...

“You are my righteousness; I am your sin. In Christ we can become what we were not. Amen! Lord Jesus, you are my righteousness, I am your sin. You took on you what was mine; yet set on me what was yours. You became what you were not, that I might become what I was not.”

— Lent Prayer- Martin Luther

Growing in Faith During Lent

As we approach Ash Wednesday on February 14, we enter the sacred season of Lent, a journey of 40 days leading us towards Easter. This Lenten season, our focus will center around a profound question and theme: "Who is this Man?"

While February 14 is often associated with expressions of love and romance, our church community is preparing to delve into the contemplation of faithfulness. It is a time to reflect on our spiritual journey and consider how we may have strayed from the boundless love of God.

At the core of our reflections is the central figure, Jesus Christ. He is the Divine, the one who selflessly gave up himself for the sake of our eternal life. Lent provides us with an opportunity to deepen our understanding of who Jesus is and the significance of his sacrifice.

Traditionally, believers commemorate these 40 days through acts of fasting or giving up certain indulgences, often a habit or special food. The question arises: Will these sacrifices truly transform our lives by the end of Lent? Beyond mere abstinence, Lent is a time for profound spiritual renewal. Instead of giving up a small portion of our lifestyle, I encourage each of us to consider giving up a piece of ourselves to God. This may involve dedicating time to draw closer to God through activities such as reading scriptures, engaging in prayer, or maintaining gratitude journals.

Let us embrace this Lenten season as an opportunity to renew our faith through thoughtful reflection and intentional acts of devotion. As we journey together, may we emerge on Easter Sunday with hearts renewed and spirits uplifted, having drawn closer to the essence of our faith.

~ In His Grace, Pastor RJ Kang

GRATITUDE

KINDNESS

APPRECIATION

CARE

TALENT

TIME

RESOURCES

MISSION

STEWARDSHIP

Per Capita

The cost of governing the Presbyterian Church USA is shared equally, responsibly, and independently by all members through a Per Capita (Latin for by head/person). Per Capita is a major funding source for the Presbytery, is requested from all congregations, and is based on total active membership of each church. Each member is requested to pay the Per Capita every year and all churches are encouraged to pay the full amount requested by the Presbytery.

The Per Capita for each church member of the Presbytery of Chicago for 2024 is \$36.50.

PCOP's share of the 2024 Per Capita is \$36.50 times the number of active members at the end of 2022. Our Total Active Membership as of December 31, 2022 was 84. That makes PCOP's share of 2024 Per Capita \$3066. If you are a pledging member, please make every effort possible to pay your Per Capita by year end. If you are not a pledging member and wish to help with PCOP's Per Capita payment, your donation will be thankfully accepted. PCOP will pay the full amount requested by the Presbytery with any shortfall coming from our operating funds.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration regarding Per Capita.

Your Stewardship Team: Allan, Bruce, Carol, Linda, Pastor RJ, and Tom



PC (USA) 101

Salvation is a repeating cycle of God's action and our response.



God acts with grace; we respond with gratitude. God claims us as beloved children; we proclaim God's saving love. God redeems from sin and death; we rejoice in the gift of new life. This rhythm of Divine action and human response – found throughout scripture, human history, and everyday events – shapes all of Christian faith, life and worship. (W-1.0102)





Sharing God's Love with a Servant's Heart

FOOD PANTRY

Looking back to the end of 2023 and through mid-January of 2024 we have delivered 25 orders to 10 different families on 5 pick-up dates. Those 10 client families included 23 adults and 26 kids meaning that we 49 people were served by the Pantry.

In general, orders are placed on scheduled pick-up days and are available on the next designated pick-up day. Although the aim is to schedule pick-up days biweekly, we made adjustments to mesh with Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year holidays and the holiday season school closing. Orders not picked up on schedule are "saved" for a limited time, and, if eventually necessary, returned to inventory. Orders not claimed on the pickup day on which they are ready may be retrieved whenever the Church office is open.

While we have set a firm schedule for these pickup days, we are finding that it more applies to our own order filling and packing rather than when orders are placed or when they are delivered. Orders placed by school social workers on behalf of their students' families tend to be received the day before or day of pickup. And, when "saved" orders are picked up, we allow that client to place an order for the next pickup day, regardless of how imminent it is, even though the delayed pickup reduces our lead time to plan and schedule our volunteer shoppers and packers for the next round. We are adapting to this reality by assuring sufficient surplus stock in our inventory.

We continue to enjoy strong support and participation from the Virginia Lake School social worker. She steps in on behalf of her students' families to email their Pantry orders to us and usually picks them up herself and delivers them to the student's family. We continue to strengthen our relationship with her and are striving to improve the Pantry's connection with social workers at the other schools in the district.

Anita Kern, Wayne Mroz, Mary Kenter, Barbara Churchill

Vision Statement

PCOP seeks to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ with compassion in our neighborhood and community. As God's disciples, our focus is to promote health and well-being in a manner that restores individual dignity by distributing sustenance and nutrition through good quality food to those living among us that are hungry or suffering from food insecurity.



EPIPHANY: THIS IS MY SON! - JANUARY 7- FEBRUARY 11

Team Members- Nancy Briggs, Barbara & Bruce Churchill, Lyn Nawrot and Mary Kenter

The Epiphany season began with a beautiful service renewing our Baptism, celebrating the Lord's Supper, and words reminding us of and renewing our affirmation of His presence with us now and forever. During the season we have the opportunity to center our lives and our thoughts on God's Beloved Son, and on how we might reach out to serve others in His name. As the Epiphany season wraps up there are still opportunities to listen, learn, serve, and participate.

MISSION –Usually season teams have two giving opportunities during the season, one local and one global in nature. As we considered continuing the Advent team's support of the Faith Community Initiative, we felt we had found a mission project that had both global and local facets. The Faith Community Initiative was launched by the Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church and is a group of faith communities working together to welcome, house, support, and accompany asylum seekers across Chicago. The Woodlawn Baptist church is one of the faith communities trying to meet the needs of 30 people being housed at their church. Our goal is to raise funds to provide food for these individuals and families while they are staying at Woodlawn Baptist. Through this effort, we join other faith communities in offering assistance in a time of unexpected need. **Prayerfully consider helping us raise \$400 or More to stock the refrigerator that your Advent donations helped make possible.**

BIBLE STUDY – *Unlock the Wisdom of Parables!*

January 9th through February 8th

Join this inspiring study and dive into the timeless teachings of Jesus in this Bible study on the Parables.

Tuesdays at 10:00am – In person

Thursdays at 7:00pm – Via Zoom

WORSHIP – The final two Sundays of the season offer special worship opportunities.

February 4th – Scout Sunday

February 11th – Transfiguration Sunday. We will be celebrating communion.

This Is My Son “Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Mark 9:7

Coming Soon!

Lent

Who Is This Man?

February 14 – March 29

Worship

February 14, 7:00pm – **Ash Wednesday**

March 24, 10:00am – **Palm Sunday**

March 28, 7:00pm – **Maundy Thursday**

March 29, 7:00pm – **Good Friday**

Communion will be served on February 18 and April 6 (Maundy Thursday)

Mission

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Fish Banks coming soon!

Collection of household items for Palatine High School's Pirate Cove Comfort Closet

Suggested items include: paper products, feminine hygiene items.

Team Members- Pam Anderson, Anita Kern, Marge Pearson, Barbara Singelmann; Nancy Barkman (consultant/session), Linda Baumgart (stewardship)



CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our dedicated volunteers are currently taking turns leading our children as we actively seek a Children's Christian Education Leader. Throughout this month, the children's lessons will remain aligned with the adult message.

- 4- Mark 5:21-43 Jairus' Daughter Healed
- 11- Mark 8:27-9:8 Transfiguration
- 18- Mark 10:17-31 First Last and Last First
- 25- Mark 10:32-52 Bartimaeus Healed



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

As we enter Lent, we reflect, repent, seek a closer relationship with God, and joyfully anticipate the resurrection.

This year, I begin by practicing:

1. Reflect Christ-like love in daily interactions.
2. Forgive others as willingly and fully as I would seek forgiveness.

1 Corinthians 13: 4-7

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. **6** Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. **7** It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

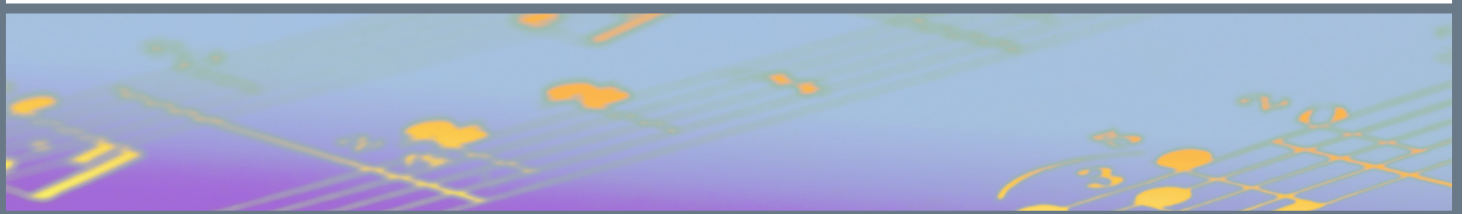
My Song is Love Unknown verse 1 #209

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me, love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be. O who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

O Carpenter, Why Leave the Bench verse 4 #162

O Carpenter, why leave repairs with wood and clamp and glue, and rise from death to seek instead to make the whole world new?

Ingrid Mikolajczyk, Director of Music



FEBRUARY

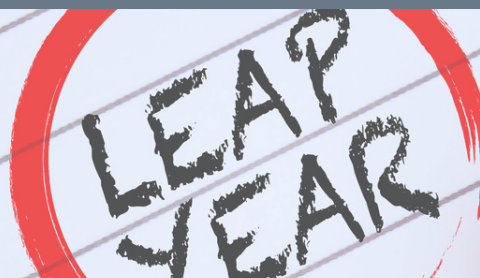
2/4	Scout Sunday Worship Deacons	10am 11:30am	2/20	Stewardship	7pm
2/6	Bible Study	10am	2/21	Grace Circle	10am
2/8	PCOP Pantry Bible Study-Zoom	2:30pm 7pm	2/22	PCOP Pantry	2:30pm
2/11	Transfiguration Sunday Worship/Communion	10am	2/24	Rebecca Circle	10am
2/13	Bible Study Personnel	10am 7pm	2/25	Worship Session PW Movie Night	10am 11:30am 5:00pm
2/14	<i>Ash Wednesday</i> PW Board <i>Worship</i>	10am 7pm	2/27	Presbytery Assembly	4pm
2/18	Worship	10am	2/29	Leap Day	

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

OUTSIDE REGULAR HOURS, PLEASE ARRANGE A MEETING WITH THE PASTOR.

If you have yet to sign up to serve on one or two 2024 Season Teams,
 please do so! We especially need people to sign up for PI & P2

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



W3 Book Club

Returns in February

NEXT W3 - FEBRUARY 2 - Begins at 7:00pm

Host & Location - Katrina's

BOOK - "Little Bee" by Chris Cleave

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.

BIBLE STUDY

January 9th - February 13th

Pastor RJ Will Lead A Series On:

Unlock the Wisdom of Parables!

Join Our Inspiring Bible Study. Dive deep into the timeless teachings of Jesus through our engaging and enlightening Bible study on PARABLES!

- Tuesdays at 10:00 AM In person (the Library)
- Thursdays at 7:00 PM via Zoom

If you are interested in attending via zoom

EMAIL - pastor@palatinepres.com

SAVE THE DATE

PW Movie Night

Sunday, February 25th

at

5:00PM

All women of the church are invited to join us for a Movie Night at PCOP.

A light supper will be provided.

Watch for more info and a sign-up sheet.



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**