



# **SPIRIT SIGHTINGS**

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PALATINE**

**JANUARY 2024**

## **FROM THE PASTOR...**

### **"Prayer for the New Year of Hope, Resilience, and Spiritual Renewal"**

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." - *Isaiah 43:19*

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" – *2 Corinthians 5:17*

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." – *Romans 12:2*

God of all times and all places, as we stand at the threshold of a new year, we lift our hearts in gratitude for the journey behind us and the possibilities that lie ahead. In this sacred moment, we seek your guidance, strength, and the renewal of our spirits.

Grant us the gift of unwavering hope, a beacon that lights our path in times of uncertainty. May we face the challenges of the coming year with confidence, knowing that your promises are steadfast, and a brighter dawn awaits.

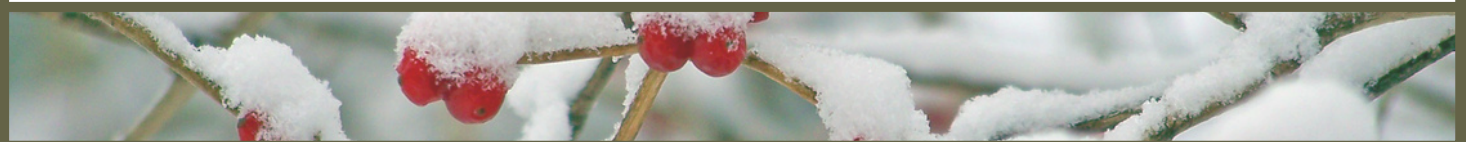
Infuse us with resilience, O God, that we may navigate the storms of life with courage and grace. As we encounter obstacles, transform them into stepping stones for growth, reminding us that through you, we find the strength to rise above every trial.

In this new year, cultivate within us a deep sense of spiritual renewal. May we draw closer to your presence, finding comfort and inspiration in prayer, reflection, and the sacred rhythms that sustain our souls.

Guide us as we embark on this journey into the unknown. Bless our faith community with the awareness that, though we may be small in numbers, the collective power of hope, resilience, and spiritual renewal can make a meaningful difference.

As we step into the canvas of the new year, may our hearts be open, our minds fortified, and our spirits attuned to your divine call for renewal. May this be a year of profound growth, unwavering faith, and shared joy - a shared journey where your light leads us into endless possibilities. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

**~ In Christ, RJ**



# GENEROSITY TALENT TIME RESOURCES WORSHIP MISSION

## **STEWARDSHIP**

Happy New Year

2023 was certainly an interesting year. We have emerged from the pandemic and many things have returned to normal and we are just beginning to find our stride. The combined Sunday attendance, in-person and on-line, is around 55. All members and friends of our congregation are invited to join us in-person for worship and other activities. Fellowship is offered after the service and has been very well attended each Sunday.

Season teams have been amazing, and the season mission projects have been well supported. Our Food Pantry is continuing to provide non-perishable food for 5-7 families in our community that are food insecure. Our Garden Ministry continues to provide fresh produce for the Palatine Food Pantry, which has seen a 40% increase in those needing help this year. Read more about our ministry and mission in the 2023 Annual Report.

PCOP is celebrating 64 years of ministry and mission in our community. Your continued and generous donations encourage us to serve and care for the needs of our community and needs globally. The generosity of our donors helps us to continue to provide a warm and hospitable house of worship. Your stewardship of time, talent and resources supports our mission projects and helps people in need in both the local community and globally. All donations, small or large, help and are greatly appreciated. Looking forward to an exciting 2024!

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

---

## **TREASURER**

We are thrilled to welcome and introduce Liz Bombicino, our new treasurer! Liz serves in this capacity for Highland Park Presbyterian Church and also works in asset management for a real estate investment company in Chicago. Liz resides in Glencoe with her husband, Marc, and three children and is looking forward to meeting everyone and connecting with the church community.





**FOOD PANTRY**

We had an awesome year! Looking back at our PCOP Pantry in 2023 and the consistency of the clients using it, we are grateful that we have been able to serve with love and compassion by providing basic food items for families in CCSD15 schools. There were five families who regularly shopped at the pantry throughout the summer and two more who began using it when classes resumed. Although we did not experience the growth we had hoped for during the year, measuring the worth of serving the community using numbers has not been our focus. Instead, we value and are grateful for the relationships and partnerships we are developing – with the Hunyadi Matyas Scout Troop, Csik Hago School, and Virginia Lake Elementary School each of whom made significant contributions of food items, with the social workers in the district, and of course with the families utilizing the pantry. We are very grateful for our pantry volunteers who give of themselves and their time to keep the pantry operating smoothly by shopping, preparing/packing orders, and staffing the pantry on pick-up days. We are excited to see what 2024 brings!

Anita Kern, Wayne Mroz, Mary Kenter, Barbara Churchill



**Presbyterian Church of Palatine Food Pantry**  
*Sharing God's Love  
 with a Servant's Heart*

**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.

***Accepting everyone, we engage in partnerships that serve with love and compassion seeking to create a just and equitable world.***



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

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

***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***

With the Advent team raising funds for the Faith Community Initiative to buy a refrigerator, the Epiphany team’s Mission focus will be on raising funds to fill that refrigerator! We are looking to raise \$400 or more for fresh food to help feed the 30 people who are being housed at Woodlawn Baptist.

For Christian Education, Pastor RJ will be leading a series on the Parables of Jesus and how to understand them more fully. Tuesday morning bible study will be in person and Thursday night will be on zoom. RJ will also be sending out a weekly prayer as a devotion. Our children will continue narrative lectionary-based lessons using the “God’s Story” curriculum.

Communion and Renewal of Baptism will be on January 7, and communion on February 11 for Transfiguration Sunday.

Sunday, January 28, we will be hosting a lunch after the Annual Meeting Worship. Lunch will be provided but there will be a sign-up sheet to bring salads or desserts. On other Sundays during the season, we will be serving coffee and juice and we would appreciate any sweet or savory treats to share.

Scout Sunday is tentatively set for February 11.

Our team is looking forward to this new year and the opportunity to learn more fully about the teachings and healings of Jesus.

---

***PC (USA) 101***

**Can Ministers from Different Denominations Serve as Pastors in PC (U.S.A.) Churches?**

The answer to this question is yes and no.

There are numbers of ways a minister (ordained to serve in a pastoral role) can serve within our denomination:

- Installed: A permanent or long-term position within a congregation.
- Commissioned: Formally authorized by the Committee on Ministry for a specific ministry or function, and may be in a specific congregation on a specific time frame designated by the presbytery. (1)
- A Temporary Pastor: Appointed for a limited duration designated by the presbytery.

(Book of Order, Appendix B; G-2.0402, G-2.0504b, G-5.0202)

Ministers from PC USA, UCC, RCA, and ELCA can become pastors in PC USA churches in three ways after taking a Polity course, without changing their original membership. Pastors from other denominations can only serve as Temporary Pastors with limited functions approved by the Session and Committee on Ministry.

If a pastor from a denomination outside the 4-covenant partnership wants to be an ordained minister in the PC USA, they must start the process anew by first leaving their membership of their denomination, becoming a member of a PC USA church, and enter into the Ordination Process which will take at least three years and will require passing five Ordination Exams.

### **FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

In the Mark 4:1-34 scripture, Jesus says, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" Here we are also reminded that listening is not simply hearing. It requires following, internalizing, sustaining, and growth. We are called to "hear the word and accept it and bear fruit" throughout life's varied circumstances, challenges, and distractions. This faith journey requires grace, direction, and guidance.

The Epiphany hymn text ***What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright*** expresses the revelation of Christ as Light of the world, our constant guide.

#### ***What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright:***

What star is this, with beams so bright, more lovely than the noonday light?  
'Tis sent to announce a newborn king, glad tidings of our God to bring.

'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed, "From Jacob shall a star proceed";  
and lo! the eastern sages stand to read in heaven the Lord's command.

While outward signs the star displays, an inward light the Lord conveys  
and urges them, with tender might, to seek the giver of the light.

O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on to seek your face,  
let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of your light to use.

This Epiphany season, how can we work to grow in our faith and discipleship? How can we keep our hearts open to God's word and God's purpose?

***Ingrid Mikolajczyk, Director of Music***

---

### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Presbyterian Women are grateful for everyone's support of our annual Cookie Walk. Bakers, you are especially appreciated! Proceeds totaled \$1338. Donations of \$200 each will go to the following six organizations: Hornet's Sled Hockey, Family Forward, Journeys, Partners for Our Communities, Night Ministry, and Asylum Fund. Remaining proceeds will support other missions throughout the year. Thank you!!



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

# JANUARY 2024

1/1	<b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b>		1/17	Grace Circle	10am
1/6	<b>EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>		1/18	Bible Study-Zoom	7pm
1/7	Epiphany Begins Baptism of the Lord Worship-Communion Lent Planning	10am 11:30am	1/20	Rebecca Circle-Zoom	10am
1/9	Bible Study Personnel	9am 7pm	1/21	Worship Easter Planning	10am 11:30am
1/10	PW Board	10am	1/23	Bible Study	10am
1/11	Food Pantry Bible Study-Zoom	2:30pm 7pm	1/25	Food Pantry Bible Study-Zoom	2:30pm 7pm
1/14	Worship	10am	1/28	<b>ANNUAL MEETING</b> Worship Lunch Fellowship- After Worship	10am
1/16	Bible Study Stewardship	10am 7pm	1/30	Bible Study	10am

**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!**

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

# **SPECIAL FELLOWSHIP**

**JANUARY 28th FOLLOWING  
ANNUAL MEETING WORSHIP**

***STAY FOR LUNCH AND CELEBRATE  
THE WAYS GOD HAS  
BLESSED PCOP IN 2023***

**Sandwiches will be provided.**

**Please bring a salad or dessert  
to share.**

**Please sign up in the Narthex  
so we know you're coming!**

# W3 Book Club

## Returns in February

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

**Host & Location - TBD**

**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 8th**

**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](mailto:pastor@palatinepres.com)