

Spirit SIGHTINGS



Presbyterian Church of Palatine

April 2024



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





Pastor's Message

Jesus declared, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." John 11:25 NRSV

As we enter the glorious season of Easter, our hearts are lifted with the joyous melody of resurrection. Easter is not just a day; it's a season of renewal, hope, and the triumph of light over darkness.

The resurrection story is the heartbeat of our faith—the moment when death was conquered, and life everlasting was secured for all who believe. The same power that conquered death and brought Jesus back to life is at work in our lives.

In the middle of our crazy and often challenging lives, Easter nudges us to shed the weight of our worries and step into the light of hope.

The story of Jesus rising isn't just a plot twist in history; it's a plot twist in our stories as well. It is the moments when the hope pierces through our doubts, fears, and struggles, reminding us that there's always a sunrise after the darkest night.

The great news is that Easter isn't just a one-day celebration; it's a reminder to live each day with a heart full of gratitude, kindness, and a dash of resurrection joy.

As we celebrate the risen Christ, let us bring that celebration into our homes, workplaces, and everywhere we go. May our lives become a living testimony to the everyday miracles of Easter—the kind that makes us smile, share a little love, and find hope in unexpected places.

Embrace the beauty of the everyday miracles, and live in the light of Easter joy today and each day!



Pastor RJ Kang



Stewardship

The following is an excerpt from an article in the Spring 2024 issue of **Mission Crossroads**. This article, **World mission and stewardship of opportunity**, was written by author The Rev. Dr. John Wilkinson, Director, Mission Engagement and Support.



“Stewardship” is one of those strange church-y words that we rarely use outside church and that can carry with it obtuse meanings.

Stewardship is only about money, we say. Or, we say defensively, stewardship is about much more than money. In my work, I take a “yes-and” approach. Yes, stewardship is about money, and it is about so much more than money. Yes, stewardship is about sharing our financial resources.

And, to use the traditional language, it is also about sharing our time and our talent, our gifts, and our energy. But it is so much more than that ...

Lately, I have been thinking about the concept of “stewardship of opportunity.” What do we do with the opportunities the Holy Spirit presents to us? How do we respond with our time and talent and treasure when moments cross the paths of our lives?



Please take some time to reflect on how you will answer these two questions. Did your answers surprise you? Are you pleased with your answers, or do you need to rethink how you will respond when a “stewardship of opportunity” crosses your path?

Bruce Churchill, Stewardship Ministry Team

Garden Ministry: Celebrating 19 Years



Church garden plots for the 2024 season are set to open soon after being rebuilt by a Scout aiming for his Eagle Scout badge last November.

We're eager for a fresh start and seek volunteers to tend to plots or assist with weeding, watering, and harvesting produce for the Palatine Food Pantry. Our work is benefiting an average of 550 families monthly.



No experience necessary; mentors are available. Contact Lyn at 224-578-2202 for more details or to get involved!

Easter Season Updates

“Easter: Turning the World Upside Down”

The Easter Season, with the theme “Easter: Turning the World Upside Down”, celebrates the joy of transformation through the risen Christ.

Fellowship, Fun, and Learning

The Team provides beverages for Fellowship. Please come and, if you’d like, bring along something to add to the table.

April 21st: Take part in special Fellowship time -- enjoy lunch provided by the Easter Team and have fun playing an old favorite board game -- or a new one!

May 5th: Come hear Kathy Millen, executive director, speak about the critically important work of Partners for Our Communities (POC). Collaborating with other local organizations, POC helps empower underserved people develop greater self-sufficiency and become leaders in their communities.



Mission

Global mission

- Feed My Starving Children meal packing session – Friday, May 3rd 7:00 – 9:00 PM. [Directions](#). Come for a light supper at PCOP at 5:00 PM. Carpooling to and from FMSC. Please sign up.

Local mission:

- The United African Organization: We are collecting gently-used clothing and household items for UAO, which promotes social and economic justice and civic participation of African immigrants and refugees in Illinois.

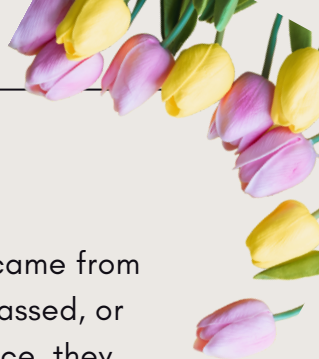
Devotionals

- Weekly prayers on the miracle of resurrection are being emailed. Our Daily Bread Easter devotional booklets are available.

Team Members

Emima Asakawa, Kathy Ekeberg, Katrina Keiffer, Tom Kenter, Jan Lohs, and Cheryl Maluta.





Food Pantry: Unexpected Blessings

Our PCOP Pantry is thriving! In recent months our pantry clientele list has almost doubled. The relationships we have formed with social workers at Winston Campus and Virginia Lake Elementary have strengthened and grown as they have come to trust that we will welcome and respect the families they refer to us - that we are a "safe place".

There are some things we didn't expect when the pantry was in the planning stages in 2020 or even as we have been in operation since November of that year. This school year, staff from Winston Jr. High have brought students to the pantry to shop and they are also the ones who were excited to deliver the 15 boxes of items the school had collected as donations to the pantry.

Their first trip to shop they were very tentative and quiet and took very few items. Now when they come, they seem to feel comfortable. They haven't been greedy; they just take enough items to get them through breakfast and lunch over a weekend or during spring break.

Whether their initial discomfort came from being in a church, being embarrassed, or just the newness of the experience, they have now relaxed and are open to receiving what we offer.

One of the new family clients we have is from Virginia Lake Elementary. The VL social worker shared with us that staff has been trying unsuccessfully to build a relationship all year with this family. With the offer of receiving food from the pantry, regular dialogue has been established and they are now able to offer the family services and assistance which benefit them.

Unexpected blessings - we never know in what ways our service to others will impact them.

Food Pantry Team

Barbara Churchill, Mary Kenter, Anita Kern, Wayne Mroz, Jim Ekeberg (session liaison)



What does it mean to be a Presbyterian?



PC (U.S.A.) 101, Part II

1

Being Presbyterian emphasizes our connectional nature, recognizing the importance of intertwining individual Christians in local churches and fostering connections among congregations for shared mission.

This commitment reflects our understanding of the church's unity within the broader universe.

It underscores our collective responsibility and interconnectedness, acknowledging that we are all part of a larger community and accountable to one another.

“This commitment reflects our understanding of the church’s unity within the broader universe.”

2

Identifying as Presbyterian entails a commitment to living in faithful discipleship, relying on the guidance of the Holy Spirit to shape our lives in the image of Jesus Christ.

It signifies a dedication to honoring and serving God at all times and in all places.

3

Being Presbyterian involves subscribing to the Presbyterian polity, which is characterized by ordered ministries and a commitment to a disciplined structure within the church based on the Word of God.

I hold great respect for the sense of order evident in our worship services and the organized manner in which Sessions and committees are conducted.





Upcoming Events

April

2024

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

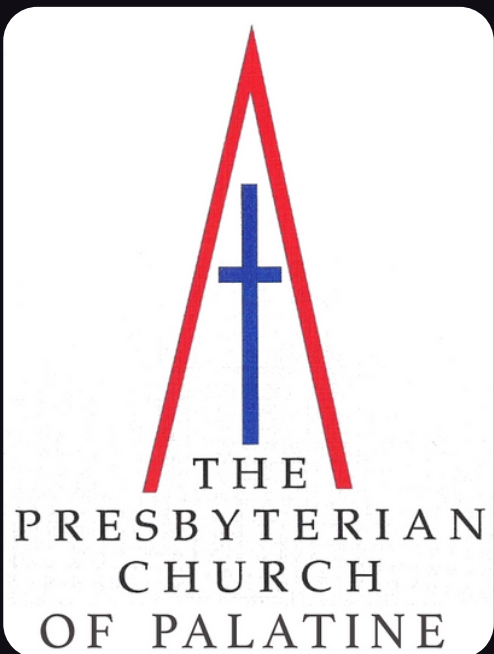
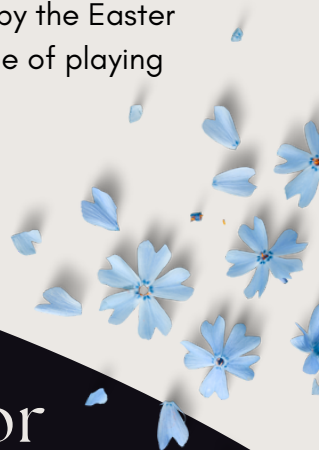
	1	2	3	4 Food Pantry 2:30	5	6
7 Worship 10 AM Deacons 11:30 AM	8	9 Personnel 7 PM	10 PWCT Meeting 10AM Cosby Room	11	12 PW Retreat St. Mary of the Lake	13 PW Retreat St. Mary of the Lake
14 Worship 10 AM PW Retreat St. Mary of the Lake	15 RJ's Sabbatical Starts	16 Stewardship 7 PM	17 Grace Circle 10AM Cosby Room	18 Food Pantry 2:30	19	20 Rebecca Circle 10AM via Zoom
21 Worship 10 AM	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Worship 10 AM Session 11:30 AM	29	30				

Special Fellowship! Sunday, April 21st

Following worship, enjoy lunch provided by the Easter team and a fun, community-building time of playing games.

Guest Pastors

- April 7th - Carol Reagan
- April 21st - Rev. Dr. Barbara Wilson
- April 28th - Rev. Dianne Shields



Visit our website for more information!

[WEBSITE](#)



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