



The celebration of Independence Day, more commonly known as the 4th of July, is quickly approaching. It is the recognition of the declaration that the Thirteen Colonies were no longer subject to the monarch of Britain, King George III, and were now united, free, and independent states. In 1870, Independence Day was declared a federal holiday. As each new state joined the union they, too, joined in the celebration of freedom.

Families are planning or have already planned for what they will do to celebrate Independence Day. Some will celebrate by attending fireworks displays, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, political speeches and more.

Spiritual freedom is not usually something we consciously celebrate. We don't plan a celebration when we remember that we have freedom in Christ. If we did, we would be celebrating all the time. Think about that....

The freedom God offers throughout Scripture is freedom from the enslaving power of sin in our lives. Christ's death on the cross set us free from the penalty and power of sin and Jesus takes away the thing that has limited our ability to live abundantly which is our guilt and shame. We are forgiven through Jesus Christ, so we are forgiven completely and totally. Sin, shame, guilt—all of it is dealt with when Jesus sets us free. We don't have to carry that burden of guilt and shame anymore. Jesus declared, "Therefore, if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed" (John 8:36).

Continued on page 2.



Some people view freedom as freedom to do whatever we want, but Jesus portrays freedom as escaping sin and self-focus through serving God and others. Part of maintaining this freedom involves continuing to entrust oneself to Jesus and living as a student of Jesus' word and teachings.

Paul reminds us in Galatians that we are not to “let this freedom be an opportunity to indulge your selfish impulses, but serve each other through love. All the Law has been fulfilled in a single statement: *Love your neighbor as yourself.*” (Galatians 5:13-14) Enabled by the Spirit, Christians are to deny themselves in order to take up their cross, love others as themselves, give sacrificially, exercise kindness and compassion, return good for evil, submit to authority, and forgive.

So, with all of this in mind, do you celebrate your freedom in Christ? How do you celebrate your freedom in Christ? What does this look like for you and how do you live out your freedom? How often do you celebrate your freedom in Christ?

Something to think about as we get ready to celebrate the freedom we enjoy in this country.

Stephanie Knopf, Moderator of the PCW Session
Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Louis

Volunteer Details for the Women's Churchwide Gathering in St. Louis, August 8-11, 2024

For complete information, see articles on pages 9 and 10 of this newsletter.

Local Full-Time Volunteers do not need to register for the Churchwide Gathering. You will check-in at the Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel in the Volunteer Hospitality Room for your volunteering assignment. You will receive your Volunteer Name Tag that will allow you to attend plenary sessions on the day you are volunteering. If you would like to attend the *workshops*, you will need to register for the Gathering through the Gathering webpage. Meals are not provided for volunteers although a meal break is scheduled and light snacks will be available in the Volunteer Room.



A full-time volunteer (non-paying attendee) can reserve and pay for their Synod lunch on Saturday, August 10. Parking can be found at the Marriott St. Louis Grand, between Wash Avenue and Locust on 9th Street. Parking is \$20/day. Presbyterian Women and The Churchwide Planning Team do not provide parking passes or reimbursement for parking fees. We look forward to seeing you in St. Louis!



Gerry and Tim Urban clean cabinets and install shelving in one of the new apartments. For more information about this very creative community, click here:

<https://www.bethelhills.org/>

PCW Crew Helps With New Bethel Hills Apartments in Dutzow

Bethel Hills, a non-profit, faith-based community in Dutzow, provides housing for adults with and without developmental disabilities. New apartments have been built, and Bethel Hills Board President Billie Kramme invited our church to help with some final clean-up, painting, and other tasks to prepare the apartments for public showing.

We thank David Brunworth, John Bugele, Joe Hagan, Steve Sebastian, and Tim and Gerry Urban for working on this project in June, and we thank Billie for sending us photos. Billie has been the volunteer Executive Director at Bethel Hills for three years.

ECC's Summer Musical Features Ian McCracken as Linus in "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown." Directed by Our Own John Anglin.

Our own John Anglin (Director) and Ian McCracken (actor) are busy rehearsing now for "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," a musical based on the comic strip "Peanuts" by Charles M. Schultz. **Performances will be July 18, 19, and 20 at 7:30 p.m. and on July 21 at 2:00 p.m. in the John Edson Anglin Performing Arts Center at East Central College.** *Playbill* says in this musical "the entire Peanuts bunch explores life's great questions as they play baseball, struggle with homework, sing songs, swoon over their crushes, and celebrate the joy of friendship."

The cast is comprised of just six characters: Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus, Schroeder, Snoopy, and Sally. They all sing and dance, and are accompanied by a piano player. Linus, played by Ian McCracken, is instantly recognizable with his trademark blanket. This production is Ian's second under the direction of John Anglin. He played a shepherd in "Amahl and the Night Visitors," which John directed in our sanctuary during a worship service in December 2019.

First performed off-Broadway in 1967, the popular show opened on Broadway in 1971, enjoyed a revival on Broadway in 1999 (where it won a Tony Award for the Best Revival of a Musical), and was produced off-Broadway again in 2014.

At East Central College, "Charlie Brown" was performed in 1971 at the Union City Auditorium because only one building existed on campus—the administration building. The director of the play was John Anglin, who had been on the faculty just a few months. "It was the first play I ever directed at ECC," recalled John, "and it hasn't been performed since then. I wondered if any of the original six cast members were still around, so I looked them up. Five of them are still living and they will all be at the performance on Friday, July 19. The fellow who played Charlie Brown was Jim Eaton, the brother of Mary Eleanor Farrell, and he's coming from Georgia to join us. It's going to be a great reunion!"

During his 33 years at the college, John directed approximately 3 plays each academic year. He retired in 2004 as Chairman of the Humanities and Communications Department, and he has directed a musical at ECC almost every summer since then. To honor John's deep and lasting influence on bringing live theatre to the public, ECC honored John by naming the theatre the John Edson Anglin Performing Arts Center.

[Tickets are just \\$10 to \\$12 and can be ordered online \(and printed at home\) by clicking on this link.](#)



John at rehearsal.



Ian (far right) with two cast members.



Ian and John with the mailbox prop.

William O. and Alice Virginia Whyte

June 11, 1960

Fulton, Missouri

Sam and Mary Eleanor Farrell

June 4, 1961

Sullivan, Missouri

Sid and Janet Thayer

June 10, 1961

Columbia, Missouri

Bob and Jan Eade

August 26, 1962

Seymour, Indiana

Bruce and Sharon Wiese

September 22, 1962

Sioux City, Iowa

Richard and Barbara Duemler

September 23, 1967

Raleigh, North Carolina

John and Vivian Anglin

June 8, 1968

Alexandria, Virginia

Gary and Kathy Froning

November 29, 1969

Washington, Missouri

Tom and Elda Seener

February 14, 1970

Wamego, Kansas

Dean and Aneeta Brown

June 3, 1972

Kearney, Nebraska

David and Diane Brunworth

May 18, 1973

St. Louis, Missouri

Tim and Gerry Urban

August 3, 1974

Columbia, Missouri

*We Celebrate 12 Couples
in Our Church
Who Have Been Married 50
Years or Longer*



You Can Order Scrip Gift Cards on Three Sundays: July 7, August 5, and September 8. Your Purchases Help Support Our Mission Programs

Our next three Scrip order dates are July 7, August 5 and September 8 (Labor Day is September 2). We place our entire group order on the first Sunday of each month, unless there is a holiday that weekend (like Labor Day!), then we will place the order on the following Sunday. We have our Scrip order forms in a white basket in the narthex and they are very easy to understand and fill out. Please check out the many local merchants and the nationwide merchants that you can purchase gift cards from. All the percentages you see next to the merchants' names means that amount comes to our church immediately! We deposit all of our Scrip checks from all our orders into our Scrip checking account then a smaller amount goes to the Scrip Raiseright company for the cards we purchase that month.

Our church retains the profit amount in our account and that really adds up each month. Did you know our Scrip Program has already made a profit of \$1,500 in the first half of this 2024 year?! YES, every purchase counts and makes our non-profit church organization money. People use Scrip cards for every day purchases and gifts, it is fantastic what Scrip cards can do! We could have so many people, members, friends, family, purchase the gift cards and we could make so much more money for our church to use towards mission work. Please check it out. Thank you! Your PCW Scrip Program Coordinators, Gretchen Farrell, Kathy Froning, and Becky Vogt.

COMING SOON

CHICKENS, GOATS, BEES AND COWS, OH MY!!!!

The Mission Committee is planning a new, exciting and fun Heifer International project for the month of September. Promised to be easy and inexpensive, this project is family-friendly. Stay tuned for details.

We'll Be Serving at Harvest Table on Saturday, August 24.

Can You Be One of Our 12 Volunteers?

Our next two Harvest Table event dates are August 24 and November 9. Our August date is coming up soon and a volunteer sign-up will be posted about the end of July so please consider helping out at this wonderful community event that is extremely organized and so much fun to do!

We only need about 12 volunteers to help out at St. Peter's UCC from 4:30pm – 6:30pm. It is all light work: plating the food and serving it to our guests, along with drinks and dessert. We also have clean-up time in the kitchen with washing dishes (there is a sanitizer and dishwashing machine!) then finally putting all away in cabinets. It truly is an amazing experience! Any questions? Please see Gretchen Farrell.





Clerk's Corner

By Nancy Sebastian

Session approved three Fellowship Hall gatherings including volleyball and a memorial service. The Session room was approved for use by the Presbytery Stated Clerk of Session, Rev. Dr. Brandan Eddy to conduct a minute's review for the clerks of Session. The clerk's review is done yearly.

The Personnel Committee will be updating the Child Protection/Vulnerable Adult Policy as well as the Sexual Misconduct and Harassment Policy. The Presbytery has asked for additional wording changes. Mauri Truesdell has graciously taken on the task of typing the documents.

A PCW Safety Committee has been formed to review various procedures and responses to emergency situations. Staff and volunteers need to be educated in appropriate responses. The committee has currently met with the Washington Fire Marshall as well as a Washington policeperson specialist.

It is great to see visitors joining us for Worship. The Worship and Music Committee is working on a welcoming card to be sent to visitors who attend the service. Tom Ellenberger has volunteered to design the card. In the meantime, Linda Booher has agreed to send a personal note to any visitors.

A Technology Committee is currently reviewing all church electronic devices. We have accumulated a lot throughout the church. Documentation and policies are needed for the equipment. A lot of devices are aging out and replacement is needed. These items will need to be budgeted in the future.

Our Session greatly appreciates the leadership and guidance of our Moderator, Stephanie Knopf. She has been a blessing to us. We extend our condolences to Stephanie on the death of her twin sister on June 2.

Rev. Bob will be with us most of July and August. As we move to the fall months, Bob and Jan will take a vacation to Niagara Falls. Upon their return, Bob will undergo his long-awaited knee surgery. Please keep Bob and Jan in your prayers for safe travels. Additionally, let's pray for Bob to undergo a successful surgery and speedy recovery.

We are all anxiously awaiting updates from the Pastoral Nominating Committee. Their hard work is to be commended.

Please remember to check out Ian and friends in the East Central performance "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" which will take place July 18-21.

Grace and Peace, Nancy

Our Church Has an Account at a New Thrift Shop in Town

As you may recall, we established an account with Grace's Merry Go Round last year or so. This account was available for us to donate items for resale, with the proceeds to be used at the pastor's discretion to either allow someone in need to shop for items, such as clothing or provide funds for those same people. The store has since changed hands and we are no longer able to use them for our mission work.

We have established a new account at Jake's Legacy Resale (behind the Casey's store on Hwy. 100). The account representatives will be Barbara Mullins, Sarah Spear and Lee Westerhoff. If you have household items that you no longer need, you could take them to Jake's shop and indicate that the items should be added to Account #819 of the Presbyterian Church of Washington. The proceeds will be used at the discretion of our new pastor, when he/she arrives.

If you have questions about this matter, contact any member of the Mission Committee: Barbara Mullins, chair; Debbie Bandy, Christy Eckert, Gretchen Farrell, Lois Kempf, Kathy Rogers, and Sarah Spear.



Store owner Jake Martin mugs for our camera balancing a bowl on his head. On the card on the right, please note that there are NO drops on Wednesdays and the store is closed on Sundays. We thank every who donates and shops at Jake's Legacy Resale.

Main Store:
900 Don Avenue
Unit C,D
Washington, MO
63090

Outlet Store:
715 Jefferson
Street
Washington, MO
63090

Store Manager: Jacob Martin
Store phone number: 636-900-9377
Store email: jakeslegacyresale@gmail.com
Follow us on Facebook and other social media

Store Hours		Drop Off Hours	
MONDAY	10am-6pm	MONDAY	10am-6pm
TUESDAY	10am-6pm	TUESDAY	10am-6pm
WEDNESDAY	9am-5pm	WEDNESDAY	No drops
THURSDAY	10am-6pm	THURSDAY	10am-6pm
FRIDAY	9am-5pm	FRIDAY	9am-5pm
SATURDAY	9am-5pm	SATURDAY	9am-1pm
SUNDAY	DAY OF REST	SUNDAY	DAY OF REST

Account # 819 PCW

Our Presbytery Needs Volunteers for the National Women's Gathering in St. Louis August 8-11, 2024

Greetings:

I am reaching out in hopes that you can help me with a big event coming to Saint Louis. The Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gathering will be held in Saint Louis, August 8–11, 2024. I have been told that the conference will need 70 volunteers each day. I am not sure how we can accomplish that without strong volunteer support from our congregations.

I am asking if you can rally some interest at your church to get volunteer groups. There are some restrictions on volunteers set by the national PW group, and I want to do my best to ensure that volunteers feel valued and unburdened by giving their time. ([See information here](#))

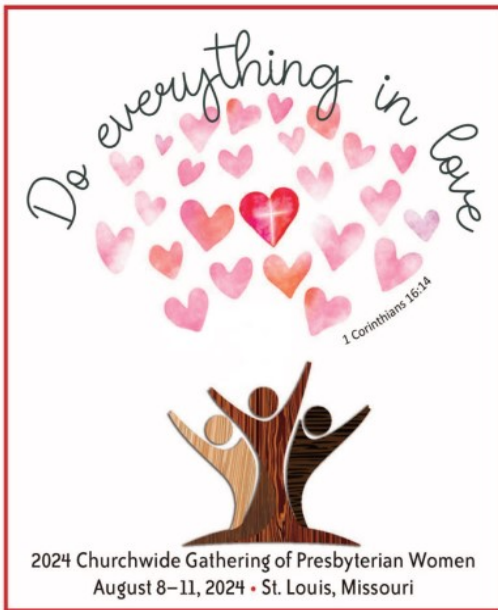
Based on the linked information above, volunteers will not have their parking validated or meals provided, so I am hoping PW groups or individuals (or men open to volunteering) within the church might consider this a mission opportunity by coming to the event in one vehicle to share in the parking expense and possibly consider eating at a local eatery as a fellowship time. Or conversely, see if your church would offset those expenses for any volunteers who might be willing to share their time at this event. I know that this is a big ask, however, I pray that you will help me try to find the local and national PW groups the support they need. The Gathering will begin with dinner on Thursday, August 8, and conclude with morning worship on Sunday, August 11. This conference will take place between the Marriott St. Louis Grand and the America's Center. The exhibit hall, workshops, and bookstore will be at the Marriott St. Louis Grand, with plenary sessions and worship being held at America's Center Convention Complex.

If you think you can help rally some interest, or if you directly could help, please reply to this email and cc' the local volunteer coordinator, Carol Gruber of First Presbyterian Church, Union at grubercarol8@gmail.com.

I am trying not to worry about finding the number of volunteers needed, but we have our own Presbytery Gathering just about a week and a half after the PW Conference and my energy will need to be spread enough to be fully supportive of both events. Thank you for any support you might offer regarding this request. Peace be with you,

Janice McMillen
Communications Associate
Cell: 573.578.3960





Our congregation does not have an active Presbyterian Women's Group at the present time, but all women can participate this year's national "convention," which will be held in St. Louis, August 8-11, 2024. The Gathering is held every three years in various cities.

The Gathering will begin with dinner on Thursday, August 8, and concludes with morning worship on Sunday, August 11. Sleeping rooms, the exhibit hall, workshops, meals, and bookstore will be at the Marriott St. Louis Grand. Plenary sessions will be held just across the street at America's Center Convention Complex. For complete event details and fees, [click here](#).

Deanna Vincent, former PCW member, has paid the fee as an online participant, and is inviting all women to her home (1101 West 5th Street in Washington) to view (free) the four plenary sessions and the Sunday morning worship service. The times are:

- ⇒ **Thursday, August 8 at 8:00 p.m.**
- ⇒ **Friday, August 9 at 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., and 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**
- ⇒ **Saturday, August 10 at 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.**
- ⇒ **Sunday, August 11 at 8:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.**

If you would like to attend any or all of these sessions as a guest in Deanna's home, please contact Aneeta Brown (missouriwriter@yahoo.com) by July 29.



The *Connect Newsletter* is published monthly by the Presbyterian Church of Washington (PCUSA). Articles are due the 20th day of each month. Please deliver to the church office or email to:

Aneeta Brown, Interim Editor

missouriwriter@yahoo.com

Editorial Review Board: Gretchen Farrell, Nancy Sebastian, Mauri Truesdell