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Connect Newsletter

The world is a mess! There is violence, killing, war, injustices, abuse, anything horrible you can imagine. Yet, there is love and hope in Jesus Christ. We are called to make a difference, to be part of the solution to right the wrongs and be Jesus' advocates in this world.

Thoughts on Justice and Peace

God sends the Church to work for justice in the world: exercising its power for the common good; dealing honestly in personal and public spheres; seeking dignity and freedom for all people; welcoming strangers in the land; promoting justice and fairness in the law; overcoming disparities between rich and poor; bearing witness against systems of violence and oppression; and redressing wrongs against individuals, groups, and peoples.

God also sends the Church to seek peace: in the Church universal, within denominations, and at the congregational level; in the world, where nations and religious or ethnic groups make war against one another; and in local communities, schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, and homes. These acts of peacemaking and justice are established upon God's gracious act of reconciliation with us in Jesus Christ, and are a way of participating in Christ's priestly intercession or advocacy for the world.

(PCUSA Book of Order, Directory for Worship, W-5.0304)

Prayer for Justice and Peace

Mighty and merciful God, lover of justice and equity, you call us to support the weak, to help those who suffer, and to honor all people.

Yet.....

We hear of hateful violence and senseless killing . . .

We feel the suffering, sorrow, and shame of the oppressed . . .

We fear that justice will again be delayed or denied . . .

We recognize patterns of privilege and systems of discrimination . . .

We see your creation destroyed by carelessness and greed . . .

We weep for the victims of . . .

We grieve in the aftermath of . . .

We pray for an end to . . .

We long for a day when . . .

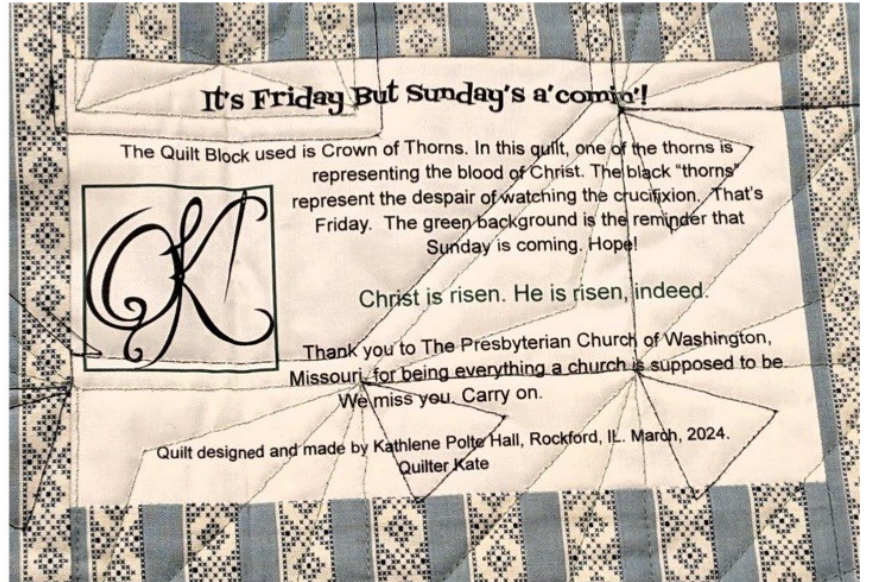
Gracious God, keep us working and praying for the day when your justice will roll down like waters, and your righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Replenish our strength and stir up our hope as we look for signs of your coming reign. And fill us with the peace that passes understanding—the deep peace of Jesus Christ our Savior, in whose holy name we pray. Amen.

Book of Common Worship, page 591-601

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



Kate Hall Makes a Custom Quilt For Our Church



On Sunday, March 17, John and Jane Bugele presented a handmade quilt to the congregation from Kate Hall. Kate and her husband Brian had very serious health problems during the last two years when they were active members of our congregation, and they moved last year to Illinois to be closer to family. In gratitude for the love and care they received from us, Kate designed and stitched a quilt to be used as a wall hanging in our church. The craftsmanship is exquisite, and we are honored to have this “Crown of Thorns” quilt as a permanent piece of art in our church.

Presbytery Grants Approval to Proceed With Appointing Pastoral Search Committee

Gerry Urban (right), chairman of the Mission Study Team, announced from the pulpit on April 21, 2024, that Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery has approved the report submitted by the Mission Study Team. Our church is now in the process of appointing a Pastoral Search Committee.



Gerry and her committee worked for several months to meet the Presbytery’s requirements for this very complex report, and we thank and commend them: Chairman Gerry Urban, Liz Barnhart, Linda Booher, Pat Brown, Janet Carpenter, and Ian Mc Cracken.

Our Worship and Music Committee Manages Multiple Tasks for Every Worship Service

By Tom Ellenberger

Worship services at Presbyterian Church of Washington are known for beautiful music, memorable sermons, and warm fellowship during and after the service. Volunteers are a key ingredient for a meaningful Sunday worship experience. From changing the paraments according to the liturgical calendar to checking the audiovisual equipment, volunteers work in front and behind the scenes to enable our worship. The Worship and Music Committee plays a central role in scheduling volunteers and working with church staff to meet the needs of each service. If you'd like to get more involved with our Sunday worship services, then read on to find an opportunity that suits you.

The Worship and Music Committee meets monthly to schedule the regular worship roles described below, and to coordinate with church staff for special services and events. Members of the committee were recruited or volunteered to serve, except for staff members Aaron and Emily who serve as part of their duties in worship planning. The committee works alongside the pastor and choir director through monthly meetings and weekly emails to plan the service. Tom Ellenberger is the current committee chair who organizes committee meetings on the second Thursday of each month. Our typical planning for Sunday worship service begins with the Pastor sending the order of worship—liturgy, hymns, scripture readings, sermon title—to the committee and our church secretary, Ann Hart. Accompanist Emily Bounds selects the additional music (Prelude, Offertory, and Postlude) and makes any final changes after Ann distributes a draft bulletin. Liturgists, greeters, and communion servers are chosen each month, and members of the committee help in recruiting these individuals as explained below. The Worship and Music Committee works together with our other church committees to prepare for special services, create a welcoming environment for members and visitors, and to generally support one another.

Our Worship and Music Committee

Tom Ellenberger, chairman
Mike Becker
Aaron Bounds
Emily Bounds
John Bugele
Katie Collins
Tom Kempf
Vivian Marshall
Jolene Patterson

As we search for a new pastor, the dedication and generosity of our volunteers has become even more evident in keeping church activities functioning smoothly. Our church members are the foundation of Presbyterian Church of Washington's ministry.

Continued on page 4.

Greeters: John Bugele schedules two greeters each month to welcome worshipers and direct visitors to sign the guest book. Generous donations recently enabled the purchase of PCW coffee/tea mugs as welcoming gifts for church visitors. We will include some church information inside the mugs.

The first people a member or visitor sees in our church on Sundays are the greeters. At left (in white) Mauri Truesdell and Kathy Rogers greet Barbara Schofield.



Ushers: Vivian Marshall schedules our ushers who serve one Sunday each month throughout the year. The ushers hand out bulletins, direct visitors to the nursery and bathrooms, and assist with any special seating needs. Ushers convey prayer requests to the pastor and assist the acolytes who light the candles in the front of the sanctuary. A prayer group organized by David Brunworth and Jolene Patterson follows up on the weekly prayer requests from the worship service. Ushers also monitor building security during the service and clean up the sanctuary after the service.

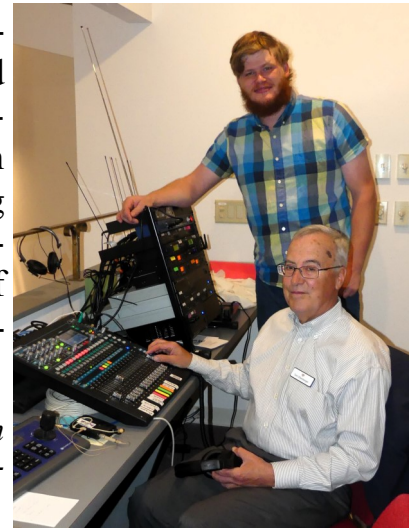
Liturgists (Worship Leaders): Katie Collins schedules one liturgist per month to convey announcements, lead prayers, and read the Scripture each Sunday. The liturgist also serves as a host for our pulpit supply pastors, welcoming them and helping as needed. If you enjoy public speaking and pronouncing complicated names from the Old Testament then talk to Katie Collins. This could be your calling.

Music Program and Choirs: Our Music Program Director Aaron Bounds and Accompanist Emily Bounds create a music program that enriches our worship and provides choir members with professional coaching. You have probably noticed new faces in the choir. The voice and bell choirs have been a source of growth for our congregation and are a unique feature of our church. Our choirs have a rich history that Katie Collins summarizes, “John and Jane Bugele are the source, inspiration and have been driving force for our choir and bell choir for many years. Without their leadership, we would not have the blessing of music that we have today.” John responded, “We are definitely blessed to have two professional music educators—my kids!—leading our music program. We as a church are very fortunate to have so many members with musical talents. I really enjoy the comradery in both the vocal and bell choirs. Both are fun groups to be a part of.” The choirs practice on Wednesday evenings and Sundays before the service. If you would like to make a joyful noise or want more information please talk to Aaron, Emily, or a choir member.

Continued on page 5.

Sound Mixing and Livestream: Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain! Maybe you've noticed the people in the sound booth at the back of the sanctuary. They are managing the audio-visual portion of the worship service. This includes the flat screen displays in the sanctuary, the public address system, and a hearing assistance system with individual earphones for the hearing impaired. Livestreaming our worship on YouTube extends the reach of our ministry and provides access to folks who can't worship in person.

Andrew Brehe (standing) handles the livestream for our worship service on April 21, 2024, while Tim Ellenberger controls the sound system in the sanctuary.



The recorded worship services are available on our PCW YouTube channel. Each Sunday a volunteer runs the sound mixing system and staff member Andrew Brehe manages the large screen displays in the sanctuary as well as the livestream computers that broadcast our worship services. Our sound volunteers Kevin Carpenter, Mark Thayer, Tom Kempf, Pat Brown, Scott Marcus, and Tom Ellenberger volunteer one Sunday each month to manage the live sound, as well as sound for the livestream production. Andrew Brehe works the livestream most Sundays, and we need an additional volunteer to substitute when needed. If you like gadgets and would enjoy helping behind the scenes, talk to Andrew Brehe or Tom Ellenberger about becoming a sound mixing or livestream volunteer. All that's needed is your time and talent on Sunday mornings, and a willingness to learn the systems.

Liturgical Calendar and More: Mike Becker keeps us in sync with the liturgical calendar, changing the paraments on the pulpit and front table, and creating the calendar that lists the colors of the choir stoles to be worn each Sunday. Mike also fills the candles on the front table with oil and helps to reorganize the front of sanctuary for communion, baptisms, advent, and other special events.

Presentation Slides: Ann Hart, our Financial Secretary and Administrative Assistant, prepares the slides that are shown during worship (order of worship, illustrations, responsive readings, hymn words, moment for mission). Jolene Patterson prepares the announcement slides that are shown before the service. The announcements highlight opportunities for mission and community service, social events, and ways to get involved at PCW. Talk to Jolene if you have information about upcoming church events or would like to help prepare the weekly announcements slides.

The Worship and Music Committee members listed on page 3 would welcome your involvement with planning and supporting our worship services. Talk to committee members for information and the Chair, Tom Ellenberger, if you are interested in joining the committee. This is a great way for you to participate in the ministry of our church and to work with our future pastor.



Clerk's Corner

By Nancy Sebastian

- ◆ Now that the Mission Study is approved, a Pastoral Nominating Committee will be formed as soon as possible. It is our desire to keep the momentum going and this committee will be charged with completing the Ministry Discernment Profile. The basic information is already completed (church name, address, etc.) The committee will take the information from the Mission Study to articulate what we are looking for in a Pastor.
- ◆ Mark your calendars for May 12 as we will have a short Congregational Meeting to elect our Pastoral Nominating Committee. Once the committee is approved by the Congregation, we will once again need approval from the Presbytery Commission On Ministry.
- ◆ Session has begun discussions on safety during the worship service with prayerful guidance. We are looking into consultation with the Washington Police Department as well as other specialized safety consultants. One of the considerations up for discussion is to lock the doors during worship. The Worship Committee is working on this. If you have any suggestions or constructive comments, please reach out to Tom Ellenberger, Chairman, Mike Becker, Aaron Bounds, Emily Bounds, John Bugele, Katie Collins, Tom Kempf, Vivian Marshall or Jolene Patterson.
- ◆ The Personnel Committee has provided a document “Committee Oversight of Church Administration” in the absence of a Pastor. This document is to be approved by each committee at their May meeting and will be available to assist Ann.
- ◆ Washington Mayor Hagedorn will be issuing a proclamation declaring Thursday, May 2, 2024, as a day of prayer for our city. Please spread the word and join us in prayer for our nation. This coincides with the annual National Day of Prayer and this year's event will take place at the Washington VFW Post 2661 at 813 Jefferson Street. This year's theme is LIFT UP THE WORD – LIGHT UP THE WORLD based on 2 Samuel 22: 29-31.
- ◆ There is a need for a sub-committee for technology updates. With aging equipment in the sound booth and questionable Wi-Fi connections at time, it is necessary for a committee to come up with a long-range plan. If you have interest or knowledge in this area, please reach out to Tom Ellenberger.
- ◆ Our Outreach Committee has many events planned so stay tuned to “What's Up” for the details. We hope to see you at the Fairgrounds May 3rd for the Pops Concert and come hungry. Pizza will be available along with a free will offering.
- ◆ We are looking forward to Graduation Recognition Day on May 19. We will be taking a group picture in the sanctuary after the worship service.

Peace, Nancy



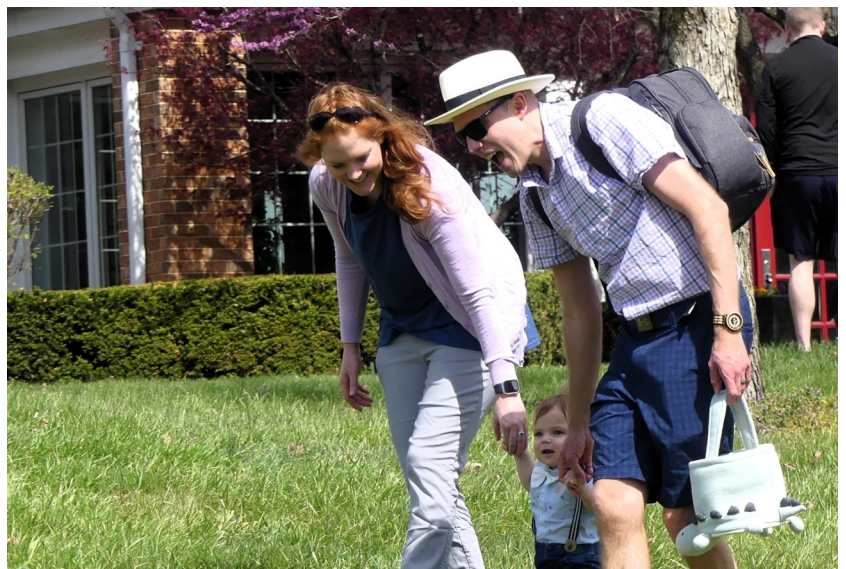
At our Palm Sunday worship service, several children—in addition to these boys—marched in a processional carrying palm leaves. From left are Jack Orfgen, Carl Bounds, Theo Bounds, Harrison Orfgen, and Theo Orfgen. The Orfgen brothers of Michigan are the grandsons of Vivian Marshall.

Our Easter Egg Hunt





We hosted our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 30, for an enthusiastic crowd of children of all ages. Thanks to our Christian Education Committee for planning this annual event, and for the following members and friends who stuffed eggs, hid eggs, and set up Fellowship Hall as a gathering spot before and after the hunt: Debbie Bandy, Stanley Barnhart, Carl Bounds, Theo Bounds, David Brunworth, Micki Brehe, Kathy Froning, Dean Greer, Cora Hedrick, Hazel Hedrick, Craig Matzes, Ian McCracken, Jack Orfgen, Jolene Patterson, Kathy Rogers, Nancy Sebastian, Sarah Spear, Mauri Truesdell, and Tim and Gerry Urban.

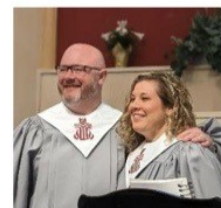




Our choir performed a beautiful Easter Cantata on March 31. Above, guest pastor Rev. Carol DeV Vaughn closes the service with a benediction. Choir members who performed the cantata were (In alphabetical order) Terrie Allen, John Anglin, Aaron Bounds, Becca Brehe, Emily Bounds, David Brunworth, Jane Bugele, John Bugele, Katie Collins, Sam Farrell, Joe Hagan, Patty Kellmann, Lois Kempf, Tom Kempf, Scott Marcus, and Barbara Mullins. (We regret that some of the choir is not visible in this photo.)



Our bell choir added to the glorious Easter music. From left are John Bugele, Lee Westerhoff, Jane Bugele, Mauri Truesdell, Marsha Stonerook, Kathy Rogers, and Katie Collins. At right are Aaron Bounds, Ministry of Music Director, and Emily Bounds, Accompanist.





Book Sale chairman Gretchen Farrell (left) and her fantastic team of volunteers produced another successful Community Book Sale on April 26-27 at our church. We'll have complete details in the June issue. Thank you book donors and buyers!



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