

4834 South Point Road
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presbywashmo.org



Connect Newsletter

Friends:

When I was in seminary I spent two years in an internship. The internship was with a Christian organization that provided food for people who needed it. We served hundreds of people a day, five days a week. On top of that, some people came with other needs like rent or utilities. Those people were referred to my supervisor or myself.

Our funds were limited, we could only help families with small children and not all of those. On average, we only had the funds to help one in twenty of those who sought our help. That meant that nineteen times out of twenty I had to tell people no, we would not be able to help them. For most of the people we turned down, it meant that they would probably be evicted from their apartments. I would tell them about how that process worked, how the sheriff would come and their things would be placed out on the curb and how they would not be able to take most of their things to a homeless shelter, if they could find a homeless shelter with an opening. It was news nobody wanted to hear.

Anyone who has ever helped a family face the grief of this impending disaster can understand why the issue of housing and homelessness has been a constant theme in my life.

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Our economic system is not designed to provide housing that does not turn a profit. This means that low-income people often have a hard time finding a rent they can afford. Even when they can find a place, the rent can take such a large part of their income that one little thing (an injury, illness, or a car breaking down) can put them behind on paying their rent and on the way to eviction. I believe that for such people, safe, affordable housing is needed. It is a simple idea, but housing is expensive to build and manage. It is beyond the capacity of churches and charities to provide enough affordable housing for all those who need it. Without government assistance, housing for all Americans is highly unlikely. This makes affordable housing a political issue.

Punishing people for being homeless or restricting opportunities to provide shelter does not end homelessness. It just forces homeless people to be less visible. As Christ calls us to provide for the “least of these” our brothers and sisters we are called into the difficult, political, conflict-laden work of making sure there is decent housing available and affordable for everyone. The calling of our faith is not to find reasons to blame people for being homeless and not to make it possible to pretend that there are no homeless people in our town. Our calling, as people of faith, is to end homelessness.

Rev. Rich Gamble

Pastor

Thank You Harvest Table Volunteers



Our group served 146 meals on August 16 at St. Peter's United Church of Christ. Front row from left are Patty Kellmann, Jill Stallmann, Beth Bonney, Emily Bounds, Nancy Sebastian, and Jane Bugele. Back row: Gretchen Farrell, Sarah Spear, Gerry Urban, Debbie Bandy, Joe Hagan, John Bugele, Joan Wise, and Mary Duemler.

Looking Forward to October—Can You Guess Why?

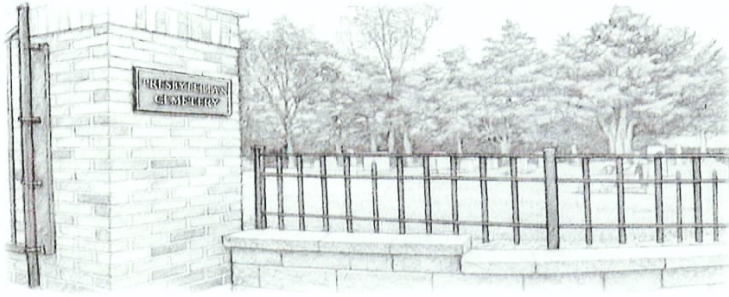


*My bleat is loud, my horns curve tight.
I climb up high with hooves so light.
I munch on hay and grass so sweet,
then leap on rocks with nimble feet. What am I?*



*I peck at seeds and like to roam,
I make my coop my very own home.
I have feathers of every shade.
I'm the bird that lays eggs every day! What am I?*

The Mission Committee will share information on September 28 about our October congregational mission project, which will again include bees, chickens, fish, and cows. Stay tuned!



August 11, 2025

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Paula Obermark
Barbara Schofield
Janet Thayer
Allen Vogt
Roger Westerhoff
Bruce Wiese

Dear Church Family,

We are writing on behalf of the Cemetery Board to ask for your help and support. As many of you know, the land adjoining our cemetery on the east and northeast sides is being developed. Our one-time serene resting place, bordered by trees and woods, is now openly exposed. Our cemetery is a sacred place – a place of peace, remembrance, and honor for those who have gone before us.

In recent months, we have become increasingly aware of the need to build a protective fence and make other improvements to ensure its dignity, safety, and preservation for generations to come. The fence will help prevent damage, discourage trespassing, and provide a clear boundary for this holy ground. We are proposing a steel fence which will complement the one along Pottery Road at our front entrance.

After careful consideration, planning, and consulting, we have determined the estimated cost of the improvements to be \$85,000. We have been blessed with a wonderful gift toward this improvement of \$44,000. We are asking you to consider making a financial contribution toward this important effort. If you choose to donate, please mark your donation for the “Cemetery Fence Fund.” Another option would be to pledge the amount which you will give in installments.

We trust in God’s provision and in the generosity of this loving church family. May we continue to honor those who have gone before us even as we care for the place where they rest. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and may the peace of Christ be with you always.

Sincerely,

The Cemetery Board

The Presbyterian Church of Washington Cemetery
4834 South Point Road
Washington, Mo. 63090
(636) 239-3178
pcwcemetery@gmail.com

See photos of the proposed
fence location on the next
page please.





This photo shows our church cemetery looking east. The new residential apartments are on the left (beside a service road) and massive commercial and residential development is under construction in the upper right. Highway 100 is behind the apartments and not visible. The proposed fence line is **shown in red**. Thanks to Dr. Marty Brunworth for this aerial photo. The new fence will be a steel version of the fence that marks our property

Our church cemetery has a new sign!

Thank you Cemetery Board. This very historic resting place has 741 known burials and 72 are known military veterans. The first person buried here was Elizabeth Judith Hamilton in 1818, ten days before her seventh birthday. The second burial was Daniel Hancock in 1819. He was a few days past two months old. Dr. Benjamin Burch and Dr. Elijah McLean, early founders of our church, opposed each other during the Civil War, but both are buried near each other in our cemetery.



Our Church Book Club Begins Its Sixth Year. Members Love It—and Share Their Reasons

By Aneeta Brown

If it's possible to be “born a Presbyterian,” I think I qualify. In Nebraska, after my infant baptism, I began attending Sunday School at age four, was active in my church youth group, and enjoyed attending church camp for several summers. I graduated from a Presbyterian college, was ordained as an elder decades ago, and served on the Sessions of three Presbyterian churches in Virginia and Missouri. One highlight occurred 15 years ago when my husband and I moved to Albuquerque for three months to be fulltime volunteers at Menaul School, a private school supported by the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Now I have added another rich experience to my life as a Presbyterian. *Book club.* Our church book club—and others agree with me—is unlike any book club we have joined anywhere else. Discussions and friendship in our church book club nourish me in ways that committee work does not. What makes our book club special? Some of our members will tell you. Look for our comments in the colored boxes below and on the following pages.

All adults are welcome to join us. We meet on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. during the school year, and usually 8 to 12 persons attend. We don't take roll, we don't have dues, and we don't discuss politics. We open our sessions with prayer and close with prayer. Our leader, Dr. David Brunworth, selects the books based on suggestions from members and his own group of family and friends. He orders the books, which are usually paperbacks (and often used ones), and we each pay typically \$3 to \$15 per book. When we study a book from the Bible, we each use our own translation, which adds another element of interest to our discussion. We'll save a chair for you.

There have been many books I enjoyed reading with Book Club, including *A River Runs Through It* and *Of Mice and Men*. As a retired history teacher, it was interesting when we read the book on the U.S. Constitution and had a roundtable discussion on the significance of that document today. Of great interest to me was when we read the book “First to Fall” about Elijah Lovejoy who was a Presbyterian minister, newspaper editor, and abolitionist. His story was against the social and political backdrop of St. Louis and Alton in the 1820's and 1830's. We studied Lovejoy's faith and anti-slavery beliefs. Lovejoy ultimately lost his life in 1837 through mob violence for publishing his abolitionist beliefs. He became the first martyr of a free press in the U.S., and his tie to our local area and church made it a compelling read. —Nancy Thater

In the *Sound of Music*, Julie Andrews sang about favorite things. “When the dog bites, when the bee stings, when I’m feeling sad, I simply remember my favorite things, and then I don’t feel so bad.” Yes, life can certainly feel difficult at times, but when we are together in book club, I am moved to a higher plane of awareness of each other that is truly spiritual. Our mornings together are “some of my favorite things,” but it is difficult to pick out two or three books from the many we have read together. I’m not sure it’s the specific books but rather the camaraderie, the sharing of griefs, and laughs that is most important to me.

That being said, our first book was either a Brene Brown title or a David Brooks title. I think it was David Brooks, *The Road To Character*. In this book, he used real life characters’ life stories to help us to rethink our priorities and try to build rich inner lives rather than rich outer lives. In our study of the author, we discovered his transformation from Judaism to Christianity and his transformation from East Coast intellectual to humble observer of the human condition was possible. As a first book, it really launched our club into a group that read to each other, listened to each other, and learned from each other.

The books we read about Christmas—*A Christmas Carol* by Dickens, *A Christmas Memory* by Capote, and the book of Luke in *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language*, were all profoundly moving to me.

The Practical Guide to the U.S. Constitution by McHale was a title that was highly informative and written in a humorous fashion, which I think we all greatly enjoyed and was appropriate to the times we were, and are, in.

I will never forget the deeply hilarious and heartwarming, the *Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid* by Bryson. The tears of laughter by Shirley as she tried to read through some of his funnier passages are moments I will always cherish. —**David Brunworth**

I joined the PCW book club in January of this year shortly after I retired. I have always loved reading and have been curious about book clubs for quite some time but didn’t have the time needed for that kind of commitment. After retiring, I thought the PCW book club was the perfect way to deepen connections with other church members who always enjoy reading, and it has certainly met my expectations! I think *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman has been my favorite book so far. I really enjoy the sharing of thoughts and ideas about what we are reading, and appreciate the mutual respect amongst the members. David’s enthusiasm and dedication in leading the group are a bonus. —**Laura Carder**

I have to confess that I am not a dedicated reader and frequently was unable to finish the assigned book, so it probably sounds strange that I would join a book club. But I knew it would be interesting since David Brunworth was leading it. Since we read the book out loud in our session, if I was behind it didn’t matter. The club is interesting and fun to get various interpretations of the books. We are encouraged to debate different points of view, and we have formed a family within the church family.

— **Linda Booher**

I really enjoyed reading the Brene Brown books. Love her insights into life! *A River Runs Through It* by Norman Maclean was one of my favorites. Reading *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* as an adult reminded me of how drastically perspective can change with the years.

I am always amazed by the thoughtful and often totally “new to me” ideas that open my mind. I find it easy to share my thoughts with this group. They are very encouraging and responsive, no matter how “different” those thoughts may be.

Dan enjoys being with the group and likes the conversations/discussions that unfold with everyone’s varied viewpoints. —**Betsy Greer**

I was intrigued by *Murder on the Orient Express*, which was the first Agatha Christie book I had read. I was also anxious to get to the end of the book because I didn’t know who committed the crime. I missed some of the clues sprinkled throughout the book, and Aneeta said she did, too!

I always feel welcome in book club. Everyone has a little different perspective on the books we discuss, and the camaraderie of the group is great. —**Richard Duemler**

David does a tremendous job of guiding this fun group through the chosen book.

—**Phyllis McElhinney**

I am a very poor reader, but I do very much enjoy reading—mysteries (who done it?) and my favorite are books based on facts such as *The Boys in the Boat*. *The Match* is another great book and a fast read. My problem is that the more I enjoy a book, the slower I read it. A good 500-page book will take me months. So, I attend book club to protect David from all the wild women. I mean sometimes Dan Greer and sometimes Richard Duemler and me! David’s preparation, his reading skills, and most of all his enthusiasm are probably more fun than the books, which in general are not my style. —**Steve Sebastian**

The Life and times of the Thunderbolt Kid: I loved this book, my favorite book so far. It was laugh out loud funny. I read another book by Bryson, not as funny but still worth reading. I love reading humor. *Murder On the Orient Express*: I’ve been a fan of Agatha Christie for decades. I saw the movie some time ago. I love a good mystery.

I love going to the book club. I get to be with my friends and the lively and interesting discussions we have. It’s something I always look forward to, especially in those long winter months. David does a great job.

—**Shirley Coulter**

In Memory of

Dr. Bill Kellermann

1950-2025

Bill was a charter member of our book club.

With his broad background in psychology, he shared unique perspectives that invigorated our discussions.



I belong to two book clubs, and sometimes I don't remember which book goes with which club! Our book club is one of the things I enjoy most about PCW. Even if I'm not crazy about the book we're reading, I always enjoy our discussions and hearing other people's viewpoints. I particularly enjoyed our reading/discussion of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. It was so much more enjoyable to read as an adult! — **Mauri Truesdell**

One of the pleasures of book club for me is getting better acquainted with authors I thought I knew. Before we begin discussing a book, one member presents a brief biography of the author. We all know Mark Twain, of course, but almost no one knew he was raised Presbyterian. Despite Twain being highly critical of Christianity throughout his adult life, his funeral was held on Fifth Avenue in New York City at Brick Presbyterian Church. One of the most entertaining chapters in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, which is loosely based on Twain's childhood in Missouri, describes Tom's devious actions to receive an award in his Presbyterian Sunday School class.

Another author, whose reputation in book club seemed confined to his acclaimed novel, *In Cold Blood*, was Truman Capote. I suggested we read his exquisite memoir, *A Christmas Memory*, which can be completed in about 30 minutes. We were all touched by Capote's humorous and poignant story of living in rural Alabama as a boy in the 1930s in what today would be described as a highly dysfunctional family. When David announced we'd be reading Ernest Hemmingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*, I privately moaned, having read it in high school, where I was bored to death with this classic. In book club, we often read every word aloud—taking turns—which gives a story new dimensions. Some of the men in book club who had fishing experience elaborated on some details in Hemmingway's story. I was soon feeling empathy for the fisherman named Santiago and his hungry, thirsty, sunburned, exhausting experience, alone at sea, trying to harpoon a marlin that he thought might weigh 1,500 pounds.

One of my favorite books was *The Art of Possibility* by Rosamund and Benjamin Zander. With their backgrounds in professional music conducting and psychotherapy, this unusual couple wrote a brilliant book (to me, anyway) about transforming lives through personal habits and actions. The book is packed with nuggets for reflection, and is ideal for a book club. My favorite story in the book is about a girl born in Poland in 1924 who was sent to several Nazi concentration camps during World War II. Gerda Weissmann Kline was eventually liberated, married an American, and her book *All But My Life* was adapted to a short film that won an Academy Award and Emmy Award. In *The Art of Possibility*, this story is shared:

Gerda had a six-year-old friend at Auschwitz named Ilse. One morning Ilse found a single raspberry and carried it all day long in a protected place in her pocket. In the evening, her eyes shining with happiness, she presented it to her friend Gerda on a leaf. "Imagine a world," Gerda later wrote, "in which your entire possession is one raspberry, and you give it to your friend."

I can weep every time I think of this story. Thank you, David, for choosing this book. —**Aneeta Brown**

I love our book club community! Our discussions and prayers are so meaningful and enjoyable. I really enjoyed rereading *The Murder on the Orient Express* and hearing everyone's thoughts. *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid* was hysterical, but also thought-provoking on many topics. —Julia Brown



This male American Goldfinch was photographed in our Mission Garden on August 17, eating the seeds from the Purple Coneflower. Goldfinches are strict vegetarian eaters. Enjoy the bright yellow feathers now because they will turn olive green in the fall.



**Butterflies Love Our
Mission Garden!**

Can You Help Pay the Per Capita Fee For Our Church?

The annual contribution of \$40 per member is the primary source to fund the work of Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy that serves the churches in its care, the national Office of General Assembly that brings us together to discern the Spirit's leading, the Office of Stated Clerk that provides leadership for Presbyterians nationwide, and the Presbyterian Mission Agency that oversees the work of the Presbyterian church for others here and around the world.



If every member contributes to the per capita fund, PCW would *reduce its operating cost by \$5,720*. That would allow more funds to do God's work here. For more information about the history and purpose of the per capita fee, click: <https://pcusa.org/resources/financial-information/capita>



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:

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MEETING TIMES:

Christian Ed.	2nd Sunday	11:30 AM
Church Life	2nd Tuesday	9:30 AM
Finance	2nd Tuesday	1:30 PM
Mission	1st Tuesday	10:00 AM
Outreach	2nd Thursday	6:30 PM
Personnel	2nd Tuesday	6:00 PM
Property	2nd Sunday	11:30 AM
Session	4th Thursday	6:30 PM
Worship	Every other 1st Tuesday	7:00 PM

Updated 7/28/2025

Thank you for supporting this fundraiser for our church!