



## *Connect Newsletter*

**On Ash Wednesday we began our forty day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance.** Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

“Lent”

By Ann Weems

Lent is a time to take time to let the power  
of our faith story take hold of us,  
a time to let the events get up  
and walk around in us,  
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,  
a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,  
a time to place our feet in the streets of  
Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and  
listen to his Word,  
a time to touch his robe  
and feel the healing surge through us,  
a time to ponder and a time to wonder....  
Lent is a time to allow  
a fresh new taste of God!  
Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think,  
for thoughts come unbidden.  
Perhaps we're afraid to face our future  
knowing our past.  
Give us courage, O God,  
to hear your Word  
and to read our living into it.  
Give us the trust to know we're forgiven  
and give us the faith  
to take up our lives and walk.

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



## Volunteer Now To Help Serve Harvest Table on Saturday, March 9



Our first 2024 Harvest Table event is coming up soon on **Saturday, March 9** and we need a few more volunteers. Please see the list on the bulletin board to see if you can help out from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Our community Harvest Table is a great event that serves a warm meal to anyone that comes into the doors of St. Peter's UCC fellowship hall at 20 East Fifth Street in Washington. We always have a wonderful time as a group working together to serve the meal, drinks and dessert, followed by clean-up. And we almost always do it in record time! Please come and help us support

the needs of our neighbors. This will be the first of four Harvest Table events for us this year. The other three dates are: *May 18, August 24 and November 9.*

## Sunday, March 10 Is Deadline for Delivering Gifts to Church For “Your Other Mother Pregnancy Center”

During Lent this year, our Mission Committee is collecting supplies for Your Other Mother Pregnancy Center in Union. This non-profit organization provides services to women with low income and little to no support for themselves and their children. They provide counseling, referrals, pregnancy testing and education, adoption services, and they also distribute diapers, formula, and other baby and children items.



Similar to our Christmas Giving Tree for the Pregnancy Assistance Center in Washington, we have ornaments on the Easter tree indicating individual needed supply items. Pick an egg ornament or more, shop for the item, and return it unwrapped to church by Sunday, March 10. We have a Pack and Play “crib” to store the collected items. There is no need to attach the ornament to the gift item as we do at Christmas time. The collection began February 18, 2024. Questions? Please contact Christy Eckert at 314-703-5984 or [cfeckert45@gmail.com](mailto:cfeckert45@gmail.com).





**Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, March 30 for children ages 0-12, rain or shine. Registration at 11:00 a.m. and the hunt begins after 11:30 a.m. Bring your own basket please. The public is welcome to this free event.**



**Christ Is Risen!**

Our choir, under the direction of Aaron Bounds, will be performing an Easter Cantata on March 31 at the 10:15 indoor worship service. The cantata is "Footprints in the Sand: A Journey to the Cross and Beyond." If you would like to be part of this special Easter music, the choir welcomes anyone who can attend the cantata rehearsals on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. and on Sundays at 9:15 a.m.





Your garden at home might be dormant, but activity for our church Mission Garden has already begun. The “garden angels” met in late January to plan this year’s produce, which again will be donated to Loving Hearts. From left are Kathy Rogers, Katie Collins, Mauri Truesdell, David Brunworth (chairman), Kevin Carpenter, Vivian Marshall, and Steve Sebastian. Beginning this spring, look for garden updates and specific labor needs in Tuesday’s “What’s Up” newsletter. All members and friends are welcome to get their hands dirty in our garden.

## **Submit Your Next Scrip Orders on March 3 and April 7**

**Sunday, March 3** is our next group Scrip order date. We do this on the first Sunday of every month. If a holiday falls on that Sunday, we move the order date to the next Sunday. We welcome any and all orders, newcomers, and any questions on national and local merchants. Just give your order form and check to one of the Scrip coordinators by 12 noon on March 3 OR bring your order into the church office prior to that date OR place your order online and get your check into the church or a coordinator and you are set! Our church gets a percentage of profit from each and every order, that amount depends on the merchant, but it all adds up. Easter is coming up soon so this is a perfect time to get some Scrip cards to put in those baskets! Check out our Scrip table next time you go by and feel free to ask your Scrip coordinators any Scrip questions. What can YOU buy with a Scrip card this week?



The Scrip Order Form is on page 12.

*Gretchen Farrell, Kathy Froning and Becky Vogt, Your PCW Scrip Coordinators*

## Read All the Details About Our Community Book Sale on April 26 and 27 in Our Fellowship Hall

Our annual Community Book Sale is happening once again (we have been doing it now for 15 years, can you believe it?) and it will be here before we all know it! Mark your calendars for Friday and Saturday, April 26 and 27 and spread the word.

**Yes**, we need any and all books that you are going to clean out of your homes.

**Yes**, we will start taking them two weeks before the sale on April 26. (If you really need to get them out of your house before then, talk to Gretchen.)

**Yes**, we take books, CD's, DVD's, magazines, just about any type of media except encyclopedias.

**Yes**, we need volunteers to organize the books into the 30+ categories. No heavy lifting.

**Yes**, our volunteers get first crack at checking out all the books.

**Yes**, we need help on the two sale days, check out the sign-ups coming soon to the bulletin boards.

**Yes**, we will have a special time for members to make purchases on Sunday, April 28 after worship.

**Yes**, we have lots of fun doing all of this and raise lots of money for our church!

**Yes**, we completely fill our church Fellowship Hall with BOOKS. It's crazy!!



**PCW Book Sale will be April 26 and 27  
from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day.**



Our **PCW Mission Study Team** has been working diligently for several weeks gathering information from the congregation as part of the new pastor candidate process. Above from left are Pat Brown, Janet Carpenter, Linda Booher, Ian McCracken, and Gerry Urban, chairman. Not pictured is Liz Barnhart.



# Clerk's Corner

By Nancy Sebastian

Great news!! Ann L. Hart has accepted the position of Administrative Assistant and Financial Secretary for our church. Ann started her position Monday, February 26 and will work Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Ann has an extensive financial background and will be an asset to our church. She has worked as a bookkeeper for two churches recently and plays the piano. Ann and her husband reside in Lonedell. Ann's faith-based life will be a wonderful addition to our church. Welcome Ann!

Words are inadequate to express the gratitude of this church to Becky Vogt who has helped with the church financial operation several times over the last couple of years, despite an injured arm. Thank you, Becky, for all the time, talent, and expertise you have given to make sure our church financial records are aligned. Ann will be in good hands with Becky providing the financial training. Alan Vogt, here is a huge shoutout to you and thank you for sharing your wonderful wife.

Many church volunteers have staffed the office for the last couple of months and are greatly appreciated. Two deserve special recognition. *Mauri Truesdell* demonstrated her exceptional leadership skills in coordinating all the office volunteers. As Personnel Chairman during some very challenging times, Mauri has gone above and beyond in so many areas and is so appreciated. *Gretchen Farrell* has done an incredible job keeping our office organized and functioning. Gretchen's attention to detail, financial knowledge and expertise has made our last couple of months appear seamless. Thank you, Gretchen, for your energy, enthusiasm, and talent as you go forward sharing office procedures with Ann. Our church volunteers are absolutely the best, and if you assisted in any way with office functions recently, you are a blessing to our congregation.

Pastor Bob Jensen has shared that he absolutely loves coming to Washington and we are looking forward to sharing even more worship experiences with him in the future. This is a compliment to you, our congregation, who has made him feel at home. Pastor Bob has recently shared he will be undergoing a knee replacement and will be scheduling it soon. Please keep Pastor Jensen in your prayers. He will find out in mid-March the scheduling procedures and we can make our prayers more specific with timing.

We will be celebrating Spirit Day on March 10 and will be enjoying a wonderful brunch following worship, compliments of the Church Life Committee. The Committee will provide everything. Please wear your blue PCW shirt or another blue shirt if it is convenient. Let's celebrate the upcoming spring weather.

Blessings,

Nancy





Our own Chris Brehe (left) has been a dedicated volunteer at Loving Hearts for the past 18 years. He sorts, packs, and carries items in both the thrift shop and food pantry. “We really appreciate how Chris helps us in so many ways,” said Michelle Crider (above), executive director of Loving Hearts. The thrift shop is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

## ***Can You Knit or Crochet? Become a Blanket Partner***

In the Spring of 2025, a domestic violence safe house under the direction of Turning Point Advocacy Services will open in Franklin County. A group is being formed to provide each child and adult sheltered in Franklin County with a new, hand-made crocheted or knitted blanket to use while at the house and to take with them when they leave. **Volunteer stitchers are needed to create 175 blankets every year.** Blankets of two sizes are needed: 36”X36” for children and 48”X60” for teens and adults. Please, only hand-made and only crocheted and knitted items at this time! For more information about Turning Point Advocacy Service, go to their website:

<https://www.turningpointdvs.com>.

For more information about Blanket Partners, ask Debbie Bandy. Thank you!







Tom and Gretchen Farrell orchestrated a grand Valentine's Day Dinner on February 10 in Fellowship Hall. A dozen volunteers helped the Farrells prepare the four-course meal, set up tables and chairs, decorate the tables, and serve dinner to 50 guests who enjoyed the feast, the flowers, and the fellowship.









## 2024 PCW Committee Members

### Christian Ed. Committee

Kathy Rogers, Co-Chair\*  
 Gerry Urban, Co-Chair\*  
 Beth Brehe  
 Micki Brehe  
 Craig Matzes  
 Ian McCracken  
 Heather Miller  
 Jolene Patterson\*

### Church Life Committee

Linda Booher, Co-Chair\*  
 Sarah Spear, Co-Chair\*  
 Beth Bonney  
 Jane Bugele  
 Shirley Coulter  
 Barb Hagen  
 Jan Hardin  
 Karen Ladd  
 Vivian Marshall  
 Barbara Mullins\*  
 Francie Turnure  
 Jean Weekley  
 Sharon Wiese

### Finance Committee

Tom Farrell, Chair\*  
 Linda Booher, Treasurer\*  
 Karen Ladd  
 Phyllis McElhinney  
 Elda Seener\*  
 Bruce Wiese

### Mission Committee

Barbara Mullins, Chair\*  
 Debbie Bandy  
 Christy Eckert  
 Gretchen Farrell  
 Lois Kempf  
 Kathy Rogers\*  
 Sarah Spear\*

### Outreach Committee

Tom Farrell, Chair\*  
 Aaron Bounds  
 Alicia Brehe  
 Katie Farrell  
 Ian McCracken  
 Heather Miller  
 Nancy Sebastian\*

### Personnel Committee

Mauri Truesdell, Chair\*  
 Mary Ellenberger  
 Gretchen Farrell  
 Joe Hagan  
 Nancy Sebastian\*  
 Elda Seener\*  
 Tim Urban

### Property Committee

David Brunworth, Chair\*  
 John Bugele  
 Bob Eade  
 Mary Ellenberger  
 Jim Glamann  
 Joe Hagan  
 Mike Mullins  
 Barbara Schofield  
 Steve Sebastian

### Worship Committee

Tom Ellenberger, Chair\*  
 Mike Becker  
 David Brunworth\*  
 John Bugele  
 Katie Collins  
 Tom Kempf  
 Vivian Marshall  
 Jolene Patterson\*

### \*Session Members

Nancy Sebastian, Clerk  
 Linda Booher  
 David Brunworth  
 Tom Ellenberger  
 Tom Farrell  
 Barbara Mullins  
 Jolene Patterson  
 Kathy Rogers  
 Elda Seener  
 Sarah Spear  
 Mauri Truesdell  
 Gerry Urban



<b>Christian Ed.</b>	<b>3rd Tuesday</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>Church Life</b>	<b>2nd Tuesday</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
<b>Finance</b>	<b>2nd Monday</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
<b>Mission</b>	<b>1st Tuesday</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
<b>Outreach</b>	<b>2nd Thursday</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>2nd Tuesday</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>Property</b>	<b>2nd Sunday</b>	<b>11:30 AM</b>
<b>Session</b>	<b>4th Thursday</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>
<b>Worship</b>	<b>2nd Thursday</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>

Updated 2/3/2024



# March Birthdays

- 2 Jonathan Farrell
- 3 Anna Mae Boehmer
- 4 Bill Kellermann
- 5 Jim Conley
- 7 Jan Eade
- 15 Sarah Spear
- 15 Stanley Barnhart
- 19 Tom Farrell
- 20 Sharon Fenner
- 20 Debbie Bandy
- 29 Libby Farrell Garcia



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Aneeta Brown, Interim Editor  
[missouriwriter@yahoo.com](mailto:missouriwriter@yahoo.com)

**Editorial Review Board:** Gretchen Farrell, Nancy Sebastian, and Mauri Truesdell.

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