



Winnetka

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 2014

CROSSROADS NEWSLETTER

In last Sunday's Bible study following worship (which I invite you all to this week!), some truly great discussion emerged about the gospel accounts to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. In fact, it was one of those spirited discussions that I can't put down this week!

In discussing the variety of stories, themes, and orderings of the different gospels, someone made an excellent observation, "It's as if each gospel writer, in a particular community setting, was answering in a different way the question, 'What would it take for you to believe that Jesus, son of God, is come to save you and the world?'" What a great way to understand why Mark focuses on Jesus' ministry, why Luke includes an account of his miraculous birth, why Matthew includes a genealogy linking Jesus to David and Abraham, and why John focuses on Jesus' divine identity. What would it take for you to believe? I'm inspired by this, says each gospel.

The gospel tellers answered this question for particular communities in history, all struggling to understand and be faithful in a resistant world like ours. So in our study someone else asked a great follow up question, what would it take for ME to believe? What would the perfectly convincing gospel account say to me, so that I could believe more fully? Many expressed a yearning for more details, some for more plausible details, so that we didn't get hung up on implausible things like a virgin birth or faith healings. Others expressed wondering about Jesus' young life, so that we could better understand how he came to be so prepared for faithful ministry and miracles.

I think this is a truly great question for all of us to ask ourselves this holy season, in preparation for Easter. What would it take for me to believe? I agreed with my fellow group members on Sunday, more facts and details, more opportunity to understand how Jesus came to be who he was, would sure help my ability to believe in him, and my ability to follow him and cultivate similar development in myself.

When we bring these faithful questions and wonderings to our study of the Bible, in my experience, we discover the profound way that the gospel variety is inspired to give just what our belief needs. For me, it's about each gospel's invitation to find that Jesus is risen, one of the hardest things to believe. In Mark and Matthew, the angel at the tomb tells the women come to find his dead body that he is not here, he is gone to Galilee, the place where he spent his life in ministry to others, serving the poor and marginalized, healing the sick, and seeking the lost. In other words, if we go to those places of ministry ourselves, in our own lives, we will discover that death and despair do not have the last word, for us or those we serve. And then in Luke and John, the risen Jesus appears directly to those grieving and despairing, highlighting that God also comes to us and calls us by name, which we may have eyes to see. We can go find God's truth by practicing ministry with our lives, and God's loving truth can find us if we will open our eyes and hear God calling.

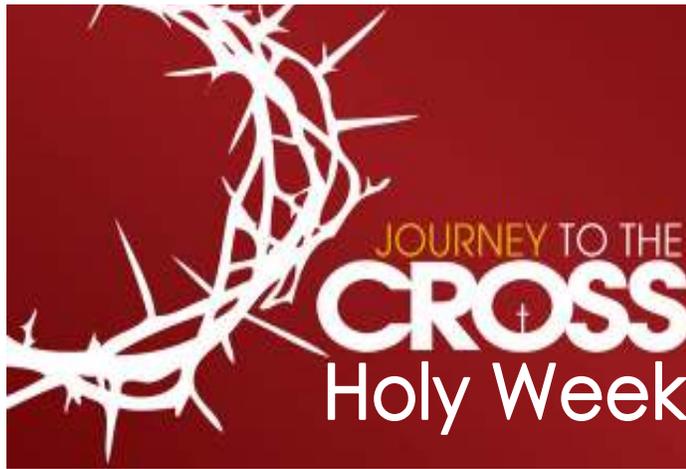
It takes different things for different folks like us to have faith in what Jesus reveals about God. So thank God we have a variety of scriptural expressions witnessing to the wondrous truth. And thank God for the gift of each other as partners in the journey. I hope the gospels and our wonderful community inspire the truth to find and be found by you again this holy season.



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David



Holy Week April 13 - 20

Palm Sunday

April 13 @ 9:45am

Palms, Processions, and Hosannas Ringing!

Maundy Thursday

April 17 @ 6:30pm

Soup Supper, Footwashing, and Holy Communion

Good Friday

April 18

@ 12 noon

A simple service with scripture and organ

@ 7:30pm

Tenebrae (Service of Darkness) around the cross

Easter Sunday

April 20 @ 9:00am and 11:00am

Festival Service of Word and Holy Communion

Alternative Worship April 9 @ 7pm

The service that was planned for April 2 has been re-scheduled for Wednesday, April 9 at 7:00 pm. Pastor Adam will lead an interactive and alternative worship service of song, prayer, and communion. After communion you can experience the prayer stations that will be set up in the CLC.

Help Spruce Up the Church April 12 @ 9am-12pm

We have a great group of folks who are organizing a "Field Day" for our church - a day that the entire WPC community (children, youth, parents, families, adults, and others) are invited to spend the morning at church working to spruce up and clean up our facilities and get the church building and grounds ready for Palm Sunday and Easter.

There will be projects available for all ages, and we invite you to come join us on Saturday, April 12 at 8:30am for donuts, juice and coffee, and then from 9am-12pm as we work around the church's building and grounds. [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up!

Church Decorating April 19 @ 10am

There is lots to do on Holy Saturday (April 19) to get the church decorated for our Easter festivities...banners to hang, flowers to arrange and the new Easter candle to put out. Decorating will start at 10am on Saturday. There will be something for everyone to do!



Easter Egg Hunt April 20

All the children will have an opportunity to hunt for Easter eggs after both services on Easter Sunday.



April 2014

Highlights



Our church family is growing! Please take some time to say hello to our newest WPC members next time you see them at church.

Chimene Pellar
Nicholas Pellar
Ana Pellar
Sophia Pellar
Steve Juliusson
Alan Veenstra
Sally Veentsra
Steve Juliusson
Amy Schutz
Haley Skeens

New Elders and Deacons

WPC is a remarkable community of faith because of the people who have stepped up to lead it. We Presbyterians believe that churches are at their best when skilled leaders in the congregation rise to meet the challenges of the future.

Each year, our church elects “elders” to lead and guide the church, and “deacons” to care for people in the church. Our new elders and deacons were elected at our congregational meeting on March 9.

Deacons

(Class of 2016) Sally Christie, Bob Crowe, Susan Langan, Emily Marshall, Ernie Palmer, Elizabeth Probst and Monica Diaz (youth)

(Class of 2014) Donna Powell

Elders

(Class of 2016) Martha Bermingham (Personnel), Skip Wiltshire-Gordon (Worship & Music), Wally Scott (Leadership Development) and Lauren Holly (Youth)

Our New Stephen Ministers Are Here!

Stephen ministers are trained to help others walk through grief, loss, divorce, death of a loved one and other difficult life transitions. WPC Stephen Ministers offer confidential, one-to-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and outside our faith community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.

WPC now has 13 commissioned Stephen Ministers:

Margie McInerney
Kirk McInerney
Nan Krause
Ron Krause,
Jeanette Eilers
Tom Eilers
David Holly
Allison Farnen
Linda Black, Dick Sawdey
Lynne Frid
Liz Crowe
Bob Crowe

If you or perhaps someone else you know could benefit from a lasting supportive relationship during a difficult time, you can talk to Pastor David Lower, Pastor Adam Walker Cleaveland (847-446-7777), Rev. Kathy Dale McNair (847-989-1989), or Judy Sawdey (312-848-9439).



Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 20
9:00 and 11:00

Both services followed by fellowship and egg hunt for children!



The Three Days

The “Three Days” at the end of Holy Week (Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) are the heart and soul of our worship life as Christians. On those days, we tell again the story of God’s great love for humanity.

But wait...three days? That’s right! During this most holy time, we go back to our ancient Jewish roots and count the days from sundown to sundown, beginning with Maundy Thursday evening and ending as the sun sets on Easter Sunday.



Maundy Thursday 6:30pm Supper and Worship

This is the last full day of Lent; at sundown Lent ends and the “Three Days” begin. In the evening we gather together for a meal, as Jesus and his

disciples did, and during the meal, we are invited to eat and drink at the Lord’s Supper, have our feet washed, and remember once again what it means to live together as Jesus’ beloved friends. When the meal is finished, we keep watch. The Three Days of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord have begun. Why is this night different from all others? Come to church and find out!

Good Friday

12 noon and 7:30pm Tenebrae Service

Friday is the sixth day of the week and, in the creation story, it is the day when God created human beings. On this “Good” Friday, God re-creates humanity through the cross of Christ. This day is something bigger than itself. Unlike every other worship service of the year, today there is no formal beginning or formal ending since the worship of the Three Days really forms one continuous worship service. On this day many Christians set aside meals, entertainment, jobs, schooling and hobbies so that they can do whatever they can to come together with others in prayer. What will you do this year to create more space for your own observance of Good Friday?

Holy Saturday

At nightfall on Saturday, the fasting ends and the feasting begins. In the early days of the Church, this was *the* night when adults were baptized into the faith. Many Christian traditions still continue this ancient practice of gathering late in the evening for the Easter Vigil, and many Presbyterian churches are re-discovering this wonderful celebration. Saint Augustine said that, on this night above all other nights, “the church keeps watch for the Lord and the Lord keeps watch over the church.” What can you do to make this night special, as you keep vigil at Christ’s tomb, looking for signs of the resurrection?



Easter Sunday

9 and 11am

Festival Service of Word and Holy Communion

Easter is the Sunday of Sundays, the feast of feasts, the last day of the Three Days, and the first of the Fifty Days of Eastertime! No matter what day we were baptized, Easter is the anniversary of our own dying and rising with Christ. The church’s heart and soul is found in Easter. The word “Easter” comes from the same root as the words “star” and “east.” It means “dawn light” and is a wonderful way to describe the Christian Passover. In the words of Psalm 118: “This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!”





Children Singing on Palm Sunday

Our Sunday School children have been learning a special song that they will be singing with the “big choir” on Palm Sunday (April 13). Please have your children in the sanctuary at 9:00 on that Sunday. It would help us get ready if you could review the words with your children over the next couple weeks:

*Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna to the King!
Sing we in one accord.*

*Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna to the King!
Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.*

Praises and Prayers

We continue to lift up Martha Ross Mockaitis in our prayers as she recovers from successful surgery on March 5th. Martha is improving every day and lately has been able to take some trips out of the house. It’s all very encouraging news Martha appreciates our thoughts and prayers. The Sunday school children enjoyed making cards for her too! Martha will continue to receive support from her care team and we will keep you apprised of her progress.

Thank You Teachers!

Our Faith Explorer teacher sign ups are all complete for the remainder of our Sunday school classes this spring. Thanks to all of our teachers and guides for volunteering your time with our children. The program would not work without you!

Dollhouse Anyone?

Dori Schneider from our nursery staff is hoping to borrow a doll house (hopefully complete with dolls and furniture) for a Sunday school lesson later this month. If you have one you could lend us, please Contact Nancy Holly at Nancy-Holly@comcast.net or 773-960-8377. We will make sure it is returned as soon as the lesson is over.

Order Flowers for Easter

If you would like to help fill the sanctuary with flowers for Easter Sunday (and the Easter season), please fill out this form and return it to the church office by Sunday, April 6. The suggested donation for each plant is \$20.

In loving memory of _____

In honor of _____

A gift to the church _____

Given by _____

Number of plants _____

Total Donation _____



CUBA2014

We are finalizing a really exciting team for our **CUBA2014** trip this year. We have 14 youth, and at least 6 adults going. We hope that WPC will continue to support us as we raise money for this trip, and continue the good relationships and ministry that our two churches do with one another. Below are the youth who are going on the trip:

Lara Amidei	Will Amidei
Robbie Bay	Alex Colitte
Kelsey Curran	Monica Diaz
Erica Diaz	Lauren Holly
Alex Martin	Philip Martin
Daniel Parker	Haley Skeens
Elliot Tucker	Skip Wiltshire-Gordon

We are still finalizing the adults for the trip, but so far our trip leaders are going to be:

Al & Sandra Diaz
Anne Hobson
Linda Martin
David Lower
Adam Walker Cleaveland

I would ask that you begin praying for this **CUBA2014** team now—we are excited for the trip and for all that we will experience in Havana with our Cuban brothers and sisters. Many of the senior high students going on the trip are going for the first time, so we are excited for them to experience the joys that others have been able to experience in Cuba. Our trip will be July 26—August 2.



CUBA Y MAS

SAVE THE DATE: May 4. We have a great team of youth, parents and other supporters who are putting together an amazing benefit event called Cuba Y Mas. There will be food, music, art, history and all proceeds will go to support the **CUBA2014** trip, as well as Winnetka Presbyterian Church.

We are going to have good food, Cuban-themed music, some fabulous raffle items, a live auctioneer, and of course the many great silent auction items that are being donated. There are sports tickets, a plane flight around Chicago, food, wine and so much more. Rumor is you can even bid on your Associate Pastor baking you six of his secret—recipe lemon meringue pies. If you haven't had a chance to submit your item for donation yet, please be in touch with Kitty Curran as soon as possible.

Youth Schedule for April

Below is a schedule for our youth group activities for April - please plan to attend these great opportunities for developing good friendships and deepening your faith.

April 9: Alternative Worship Gathering @ 7pm

April 6: Youth Group @ 7pm

April 11: God's Work @ Albany Park Theatre Project

April 27: Youth Group & 7pm





April 2014

Adult Education

The Good News of the Gospels April 6 and 13

If you missed our first session last Sunday, you missed some amazing conversation about the Synoptic Gospels. Don't worry though...for the next 2 Sundays, after worship, please join David for a study of the gospel accounts, to enrich your reading and understanding of them! We will learn about the authorship, audiences, contexts, and emphases of each gospel, culminating in a comparative study of the Resurrection accounts. You don't need to be reading the gospels during Lent in order to participate in this class, but it certainly helps!



Mental Health Awareness April 26 & May 4

May is "National Mental Health Awareness Month"

and WPC will be having two speakers from the National Association for Mental Illness local affiliate share their stories with us in the bonus hour on April 26 and May 4

April 26 - Steve Colton

Steve Colton has been a NAMI/Cook County North Shore Board member for six years. He is currently a group facilitator for the "Balance for Success" support group. In recovery for years from depression, Steve has inspired many to seek help and find hope for the future.

May 4 - Pat Rodboro

Pat Rodboro is currently the NAMI/Cook County North Shore affiliate's Board Vice President. Pat's personal story and the stories of her family members have touched so many when she shares how mental illness impacted her family.

For more information, please contact Kathy Dale McNair, 847-989-1989 or kdmcnair@comcast.net

Coming Soon: Tavern Talks

We've hinted that something new was going to be coming to WPC, and we are excited that we will be launching Tavern Talks in the near future.

Our first Tavern Talks will be held at Meier's Tavern on Lake Avenue. Tavern Talks is a different opportunity than both Theology on Tap and The Corkscrew Club. Tavern Talks is described as "drinks and conversations about spirituality and life." This is an opportunity open to both men and women, and will be a more focused time for conversation about some of life's big questions. Some possible topics that we could cover at Tavern Talks might be about reading the Bible, pluralism, sexuality and faith, social justice, the problem of evil, faith and money, politics and faith, doubt as faith and many more!

It is our hope that anyone could feel comfortable inviting a friend to Tavern Talks, as it is a very casual conversation in an inviting setting, about things that matter.

This is also an opportunity that we at WPC have to take our faith beyond the walls of the church—to go where people are, and to create a safe, public space for conversations that many people are interested in having, whether they're active members of a faith community or not.

Adam has facilitated similar groups where he has had Christians, Jews, Muslims, atheists and others, all joining in a really engaging conversation. Stay tuned for more information in the coming months!



April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10am Staff Meeting 7:30pm AA Meeting	2 9:30am Women's Bible Study 9:30am Naomi's Circle	3	4	5 8am Men's Group
6 8:45am Choir 9:45am Worship & Sunday School 11am Fellowship 7pm Youth Group	7	8 10am Staff Meeting 7:30pm AA Meeting	9 9:30am Women's Bible Study 9:30am Naomi's Circle 7pm Alternative/Interactive Worship	10 9:30am LifeTalk at Caribou Coffee 7:30pm Choir	11 8pm AA Meeting	12 8am Men's Group 9am Field Day
13 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 8:45am Choir 9:45am Worship & Sunday School 11am Fellowship 11am Choir Rehearsal	14	15 10am Staff Meeting 7:30pm AA Meeting	16 9:30am Women's Bible Study 9:30am Naomi's Circle	17 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 9:30am LifeTalk at Caribou Coffee 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Supper and Communion Service	18 <i>Good Friday</i> 8pm AA Meeting 12pm Worship 7:30pm Tenebrae Worship Service	19 <i>Holy Saturday</i> 8am Men's Group 10am Church Decorating
20 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 8am Choir 9am Worship 11am Worship	21	22 10am Staff Meeting 7:30pm AA Meeting	23 9:30am Women's Bible Study 9:30am Naomi's Circle	24 9:30am LifeTalk at Caribou Coffee 7:30pm Choir	25 8pm AA Meeting	26 8am Men's Group
27 8:45am Choir 9:45am Worship & Sunday School 11am Fellowship 7pm Youth Group	28	29 10am Staff Meeting 7:30pm AA Meeting	30 9:30am Women's Bible Study 9:30am Naomi's Circle			



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Office Hours
Monday - Thursday: 9:00am - 5:00pm
Friday: 9:00am - 1:00pm