

WOODLAND PARK PRESS

A PUBLICATION OF
WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A COVENANT NETWORK OF FAITH
AND A GREENING CONGREGATION



APRIL – 2018 HAPPY EASTER!

“Risen”

*If you are looking for a blessing,
do not linger here.*

*Here is only emptiness,
a hollow, a husk
where a blessing used to be.*

*This blessing was not content
in its confinement.
It could not abide its isolation,
the unrelenting silence,
the pressing stench of death.*

*So if it is a blessing you seek,
open your own mouth.
Fill your lungs with the air
this new morning brings
and then release it with a cry.*

*Hear how the blessing breaks forth
in your own voice,
how your own lips form every word
you never dreamed to say.*

*See how the blessing circles back again,
wanting you to repeat it, but louder,
how it draws you, pulls you,
sends you to proclaim its only word:*

*Risen.
Risen.
Risen.*

*—Jan Richardson
from Circle of Grace*

Dear WPPC Community,

As you likely have heard by now, the Session of WPPC has been working for some time on a new organizational model for the church. This didn't come out of nowhere; it's the outcome of at least the past 4^{1/2} years (and more than that before I arrived) of assessment and re-assessment of where we find ourselves, what our mission is, and how our current structures are supporting or hindering that mission. Structural change is a constant reality for any church—as the cliché goes, if you're not changing, you're dying, so we'd better be willing to change! That said, change happens at different rates and in different ways depending on the season of shared ministry in which we find ourselves.

Our church has been engaged in slow incremental change for quite some time—experimenting with slightly different models and making changes little by little. That form of change is often preferable because it doesn't feel as risky or destabilizing to the community as a whole. That said, sometimes a bigger shift is needed. Over the past few years, many of you have been involved in some way or another with the ongoing assessment we've been doing of all our

(Continued on page 2)



A Member Congregation of the
Covenant Network of Presbyterians

**Toward a Church as Generous
and Just as God's Grace**

(Continued from page 1)

committees and ministries. At every annual officers' retreat since I arrived, we have examined (in one way or another) what's working, what's not, and why. That ongoing assessment has led individual ministries and Session to make many of those slower incremental changes...and, at the same time, Session has found itself consistently running into some questions that we couldn't fully address without being willing to consider some deeper and broader changes to how we operate. Those questions include how we can better integrate new members, how we can integrate our small but essential children and family ministry, how to account for cultural changes that impact volunteerism, how to prevent volunteer burnout and encourage our members to support one another in using a broader range of their gifts and skills in Christ's service, and more.

For nearly a year now, our Session and representatives from the Deacons have been working hard to address these questions. We thought carefully about how to go about exploring organizational change — should we do this by including the whole congregation in the conversation from the start? Should we elect a special committee? How do we ensure that the different parts of the church are represented in this process? Finally, we decided that, thanks to the Presbyterian model of electing officers and the nominating committee's careful attention to electing a representative Session and board of the Deacons, the congregation had already elected the group that needs to consider these kinds of changes. As such, all currently serving Session members and deacons were invited to participate in developing the new model. After much hard work and many difficult discussions, we've finally landed on a new model that we think is worth a try. We know that not everything will work perfectly. We know that there will be things that we forgot or that were nice in theory but don't work out in practice...and we're also excited, hopeful, and energized by the opportunity to try a new thing in collaboration with you.

In the coming weeks, you will have the opportunity to sign up for a small group gathering in which you'll get to learn about the new model, ask questions, tell us what you're excited about, and express your concerns. We'll be offering these sessions at a variety of times during the week (before church, after church, weekday evenings) and at several locations (at the church and in homes). We hope that everyone will make a concerted effort to attend one of these sessions. We will also offer several follow-up sessions after church for questions that come up after you've attended an introductory session. In addition to those opportunities, we encourage you to reach out to your Session members and directly to me with your thoughts, questions, and concerns.

Change can bring excitement and new life to a community, and it also inevitably raises anxiety. Changing models of ministry tends to cause a particular form of anxiety called "role loss"—which is the grief, anger, or sadness that people experience when they can no longer participate in an organization or in a relationship in a way that was meaningful to them. All of your church officers (and I, as your pastor) want you to know that we deeply value the gifts and contributions of every member of our congregation. Any changes we are proposing are NOT because we want to take away your means of serving or displace you; on the contrary, we are trying to encourage our church to continue to grow in its ability to welcome new members (and old ones too!) to try new things and explore how we can share our gifts with one another in God's service. We will continue to depend on your commitment, your particular areas of expertise and passion, and your willingness to support one another in growing in Christ as we live into this new season together.

I want to thank our Session members and our Deacons for the tremendous amount of time and effort they have put into thoughtfully developing this new model for us to try. I also want to sincerely thank every member of the WPPC community for your commitment to WPPC and to Christ's call on our lives. Thank you for the many years of service that have built the church community that now has the opportunity to try this new thing together.

In the peace of Christ,

Pastor Staci

An Easter Prayer

First Presbyterian Church, Mesquite, Texas

By a friend of the congregation and frequent guest minister

“With family and friends gathered around us, the heartbeat of hope
dwelling within us, the celebration of Easter upon us,

Grant, O God, that we each be given:
Grateful hearts for the blessings of each day and the life we share together
Open and growing minds to invigorate our days
Hands outstretched in care for others
This food and drink to nourish our bodies and gladden our hearts
Energy to be good neighbors to all in congregation and in our community.

On this threshold of this season of hope , give each of us -
A full measure of joy and satisfaction
as new experiences of belonging to one another are discovered
old ties of friendship renewed and
new ties of friendship developed
to the honor and glory of your name and
the advance of your Kingdom of Love in this place.

AMEN

Bob Nicholson

Woodland Park Presbyterian Church
225 N. 70th St.
Seattle, WA 98103
woodlandparkpres@qwestoffice.net
(206) 782-3776
www.wppcseattle.org

Ministers The Congregation
Pastor The Reverend Staci Imes

pastorstaci@wppcseattle.org

Parish Associate The Reverend Ellen Acton
Minister of Music Jeffrey Wilsor
Office Manager DeAnne Hamlin
Church Newsletter Editor Alan Herbig
Church Librarian Jeri Lee
Church Custodian Tom Keim
Nursery Attendant Jenna VanderMeer Davis

Articles for the **WOODLAND PARK PRESS** are due
by the 20th of the month. E-mail them to me at
debbiealan@yahoo.com .

Please make sure to note **your name and phone
number** with your article so I may contact you if I have
any questions. Thanks again to all of the contributors
for this month's **PRESS!**

Thanks -

Alan Herbig - Editor

WOODLAND PARK PRESS

April Sunday Readings

Sunday, April 1st Easter!

9:00 – 9:30 Bring flowers/greenery to decorate
the cross!

9:30 Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt before service

10:30 Easter Worship Celebration

*The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be
received during the Easter Service. There
will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday.*

Scripture: 1 John 20:1-8

April 8 John 20:19-31

(Rev. Chris Foster guest in pulpit)

April 15 Acts 9:1-19a

April 22 Acts 16:16-34

April 29 Acts 17:16-31

Bits and Pieces

WE CHOOSE WELCOME!

HOLY HOPS, BATMAN! Join us for fellowship and discussion at the next Holy Hops, Monday, April 2nd, 6:00 p.m. at The Dane, 8000 15th Ave NW. The Dane offers café style shared plates, made to order hot sandwiches and packaged snacks - no outside food, please Info at: <https://www.thedaneseattle.com>

Holy Hops is a casual time to discuss different topics concerning our lives as Christians over a pint, away from committee meetings and church duties! Please come join us!

SCRIPTURE CONVERSATION with Pastor Staci meets Tuesdays at noon at the Green Bean Coffee Shop, 8525 Greenwood Ave N. The April Scripture Conversation readings are:

April 3; No Scripture Conversation meeting

April 10; Acts 16:16-34

April 17; Acts 17:16-31

April 24; Philippians 1:1-18a

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRY GATHERING: Have you wondered about becoming a member of Woodland Park Presbyterian Church? Would you like to learn more about the Presbyterian Church (USA), and what it means to be a Presbyterian? Pastor Staci will lead a fun and informal gathering this spring (actual date TBD based upon availability of those interested). You don't have to be sure that you want to join nor do you have to commit to joining if you attend. Gathering date(s) will likely be a weeknight evening over a light meal. If you'd like to participate, or if you have questions, please reach out to Michael Bronsdon at (206) 799-7614 or michael@bronsdon.com.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Recovery: June Howard, Debbie Blane, Bethany Erickson, Evelyn Merritt, Salwa Nemr; Margaret Russell, and Ken Stover

Missionaries: Brian and Sandi Thompson-Royer.

Our college students: Arthur Bale, Miki Bale, Lupita Barren, Colin Bronsdon, Jessica Cruz, Erin Emery, Kai Hirayama, Luke Luttrell, Myles Sproul Nelson, Ben Peterson, and Emily Peterson.

Presbytery Connections - April, 2018

By Roger Lee

The Presbyterian participants at the 62nd UN Commission on the Status of Women heard a wide variety of topics. The forums included advocating for LGBTQI rights to many other issues affecting women chosen by UN agencies and multiple non-governmental agencies. For more information, see:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pcusa-participants-bring-diversity-of-purpose-to-un-commission-on-the-status-of-women/>

For suggestions of the moral and spiritual values in this years Oscar nominated films you can follow this link. For more information, see:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/moral-spiritual-values-2017-oscar-nominated-films/>

Although Judges granted temporary injunctions against summary deportations, immigrant Presbyterians in New Hampshire, New Jersey continue to face uncertain future. For more information, see:

<http://www.pcusa.org/news/2018/2/28/immigrant-presbyterians-new-hampshire-new-jersey-c/>

In 2018, the YAV program is celebrating the sending of its 25th class of young people to serve for one year of accompaniment. For more information, see:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/March-7-2018/>

The 40 children coming to "Camp in a Van" were one of Misión Presbiteriana Hispana's greatest success stories of 2017. This church is one of the PC(USA)'s new worshipping communities in Fayetteville, North Carolina. For more information, see:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/March-12-2018/>

Learning to Walk in the Dark

by Barbara Taylor Brown

Taylor has become increasingly uncomfortable with our tendency to associate all that is good with lightness and all that is evil and dangerous with darkness. Doesn't God work in the nighttime as well? In *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Taylor asks us to put aside our fears and anxieties and to explore all that God has to teach us "in the dark." She argues that we need to move away from our "solar spirituality" and ease our way into appreciating "lunar spirituality" (since, like the moon, our experience of the light waxes and wanes). Through darkness we find courage, we understand the world in new ways, and we feel God's presence around us, guiding us through things seen and unseen. Often, it is while we are in the dark that we grow the most.

With her characteristic charm and literary wisdom, Taylor is our guide through a spirituality of the nighttime, teaching us how to find our footing in times of uncertainty and giving us strength and hope to face all of life's challenging moments.--from the Amazon.com website.

Everything changes when we read. --Neil Gaiman (author)



Jeri Lee
WPPC Librarian

Sojourner's Truth

Sojourners magazine:

April 2018

<https://sojo.net/about-us>

How Evangelicals Became White

For much of American evangelical history, spreading the gospel meant spreading whiteness

Kelly Brown Douglas

Wrestling with the Angel of Death

In states where medically assisted death is legal, how do clergy respond?

Why We Go to Jail?

A brief history of Christian civil disobedience

Shane Claiborne

Faith and the Apathetic Voter

Why do Christians who yearn for a more just society decide not to vote?



How to Combat Political Apathy

How do we reconcile our vote with our conscience?

Christina Colon, Faith Zamble

Commentary

Who Pays for Tax Cuts?

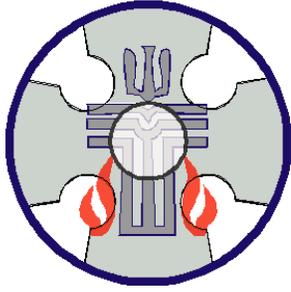
Tax cuts for middle class Americans come at a painfully high price

Here Come the Robots

Your next caregiver could be an android

Keep our Churches Purple

The Johnson Amendment was almost a victim of the Republican tax overhaul



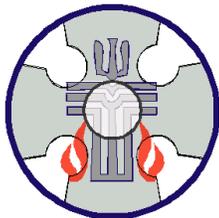
APRIL 2018

WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEATTLE – WASHINGTON



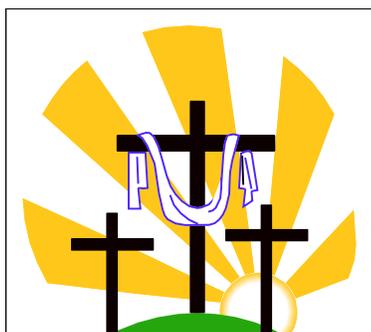
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 <i>Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt</i> Easter Sunday	2 Soup Kitchen 6:00 Holy Hops (The Dane on 15th)	3 (Lisa Hirayama) 6:00 – NAC #6	4	5 6:30 Worship Committee 7:30 Choir Practice	6 (Colin Bronsdon)	7 8:00 Men's Breakfast Group (Bay Café)
8 (DeAnne Hamlin) RAC Fellowship Committee	9 Soup Kitchen	10 7:30 - Stewardship Committee	11 (Jessica Cross)	12 7:30 Choir Practice	13 (Marie Gill) (Cameron Highet) (Gene Oliver) 6:15 Open Mic Check In 7:00 Open Mic Night! 	14
15 RAC—Deacons Birthday Cake Sunday 6:30 F.O.R. meeting	16 Soup Kitchen	17	18 (Nigel Herbig)	19 6:00 – NAC #6 7:30 Choir Practice	20 7:00 Movie Night (New Time!)	21
22	23 Soup Kitchen	24	25 7:00 Session	26 (Sonia Highet) 7:30 Choir Practice	27 (Jim Christensen)	28
29 (Diane Carleton)	30	<p>Each Sunday 9:15 Sunday School for All Ages 10:30 Worship Service RAC Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>Please let us know your (Birthday) so we can note it on the calendar.</p> <p>NAC = Neighborhood Action Coalition JBC = Just Before Church RAC = Right After Church</p>				



WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
225 NORTH 70TH STREET
SEATTLE, WA 98103
(206) 782-3776

**PLEASE SEND IN YOUR LABEL WITH CORRECTIONS, IF NEEDED,
OR IF YOU WISH NOT TO RECEIVE THE WOODLAND PARK PRESS**

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit No. 4593



Easter 2018
Come join us for Easter
at
Woodland Park Presbyterian
Church

April 1: Easter Morning

9:00 to 10:15 You're invited to bring flowers to decorate the cross

9:30 to 10:15 Easter Brunch Sponsored by the Fellowship Committee
and Egg Hunt for the children

10:30 Easter Worship Celebration John 20: 1 - 8

*The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received during the
Easter Service. There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday.*