



A NEW VISION

Our Vision Statement is a picture of a desired state – whom is God calling us to become? The Mission Study Team worked for many of hours, individually and as a group to digest the Holy Cow! Mission report as well as with Session interaction. The Mission Study Team began wondering about our church ministry and asking the question, “Why?” Why do we exist, why do we do what we do? Why? Why? Why? Their work was distilled by our Session, and from this statement the “how and what” of our life (programs, ministry, etc.) began to form. From this new Vision Statement will flow leadership initiatives to prepare us for a new installed pastor and a new future. You will begin to see the statement frequently, and you are invited to reflect on the “Why” question for yourself!

PCW Vision Statement:

Learning together to be followers of Jesus Christ, reflecting God’s light into the world.

Emphasis:

Welcoming young families into our multigenerational faith journey.

Focus Areas:

Worship, Fellowship, Mission

Rationale or explanation. A Vision Statement is like poetry: every word is critical and has profound meaning, selected after deep prayer, inspiration and discussion.

“Learning” – Following Jesus is a continuous journey, wherein we are constantly striving to better follow the Lord. “Teaching and learning” was one of the top priorities coming from the congregational survey.
Luke 24:32

“Together” – Although we certainly learn and pray on our own, there is a richness that comes when we do so as a small group or a larger congregation. *Matthew 18:20*

“Followers of Jesus Christ” – Many people believe in God, but only Christians believe in Jesus, His Son. Jesus most often told His disciples to “Follow me!” A disciple or follower strives both to learn the teachings of Jesus and to live by His example. We considered the word “disciples” but found that “followers” is more understandable in modern usage. *John 8:12*

“Reflecting God’s light” -- God brought Jesus as a shining light into a murky, broken world that still exists today. The image of PCW as a light continuously appeared to our team as we prayed and studied, walked around the church, and described what we envision for PCW in the future. It is our important role as Christians to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world, to let His light shine through us. *Mark 4:21*

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LENT FROM PASTOR BOB ANDERSON



Our Christian Lenten season begins the Sunday following Ash Wednesday. This is a forty-day season traditionally given to personal soul searching, confession, forgiveness and spiritual enrichment. Ash Wednesday is the traditional beginning of the Lenten season. Our PCW Ash Wednesday service will follow the services in our Book of Common Worship. Bill Seale, Director of Music Ministry, is arranging some special music for this night that will help create an atmosphere for “soul searching” and personal confession. We will sing hymns and pray together. I will lead a meditation from the Scriptures that will help us focus on how to grow in our faith during Lent. The Service of Imposition of Ashes will be included in the service for those who would like to receive the ashes. The imposition of ashes in the sign of the cross is a reminder that we were created from the dust of the earth and one day will return to dust. With that in mind we seek to live humbly (literally, “close to the ground”) before our Creator who fashioned us and has a design for our lives.

The term “Lent” is rooted in the Latin word from which get the word “lengthen”. This forty-day season accompanies the lengthening of days in spring. One might then consider Lent as a time of “lengthening” our spiritual lives – growing longer, deeper, richer. What spiritual practices will help you do that? During Lent our sermon series will be about prayer. This may be a practice that will help you “lengthen” your spiritual life.

Here’s another thought: A theme of “giving up” something is often associated with Lent – as in fasting! However, you might consider other ways to approach a spiritual discipline for Lent. As I wrote elsewhere in this Crossroads, you might try giving “honor” to someone who “rubs you the wrong way”. You might consider “giving away” (rather than giving “up”). Give away to the poor, increase your giving to the church, give away a listening ear to someone who needs encouragement, give away patience... be creative!

Please, join us for Ash Wednesday service, **March 6th, at 7 p.m.** in the Sanctuary.

Growing in Grace!

Pastor Bob



WELCOME MIKE GALLAGHER!



We are excited to introduce Mike Gallagher as our new Property Manager. Mike comes to PCW after a long successful career in commercial HVAC - experience that should serve PCW well, given our aging HVAC system.

Mike is a lifelong resident in the area, currently living in Sharonville with his wife Beth. They have two daughters, Lesley and Kelly (who was married at PCW), and four grandchildren, who all live in the area.

Fun fact: Mike and Beth share two of their grandchildren with Rod and Jackie Sidley - they are in-laws! If you see Mike around the building, please take a moment to welcome him to the PCW family. We are blessed to have him!

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YOUTH AUCTION BRUNCH FROM ADAM HAYDEN

Fundraisers are typically about raising money. However, this is not always the case. For example, one year we raised FUN at the Wyoming Fall festival. And this year we are trying to raise worship, engagement, and community on **Sunday, March 17th**.

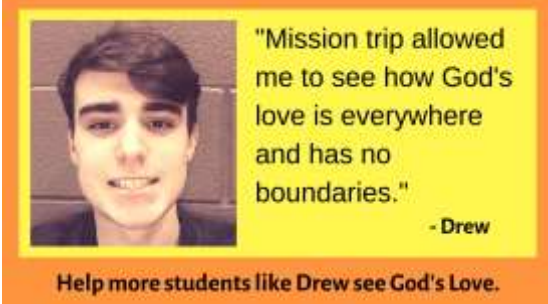
We are going to have a Youth Auction Brunch on that morning, but the emphasis will not be on money. Instead, it will be where it should be: God and God's people. We will come together in Worship that morning at an all-church service at 10 a.m. followed by an Auction and a Brunch. Youth will help lead us in worship that morning and assist us as we move from worship to fellowship (i.e. bidding and eating:) after the service.

In case you don't know, around 40% of our youth group consists of kids who attend other churches or no church at all. We try to be an inclusive bunch. We don't always succeed at that, even though we try. We invite the congregation at large to do the same thing on the morning of March 17th.

This will be a great day to invite family and friends to service and to the brunch. The event is FREE this year! Sometimes people are reluctant to attend a church service, but they might attend a brunch! We never know until we invite them.

Of course we will raise money through the auction, and all of the proceeds will go towards youth missions. Regardless of raising \$1 or \$1,000 or \$10k or \$1 million, we will be together in worship and fellowship and that is always priceless! We hope you will Join us. Please sign up in the Gathering Area for the Brunch.

Peace, The Young Congregation Team



POLLY MARTY SCHOLARSHIP FROM BARB MARTY

As many of you are aware, PCW has been the home of a very special learning center in our community named Lads n' Lassies. This center has been the first educational experience for hundreds of little children for over sixty years. It was first housed in the home of its founder, Polly Marty, at 1215 Beechwood Lane, in the fall of 1957. Since then it has moved to different locations in the community and now has found a special "home" in our church.



Lads n' Lassies' current director is Stacy Akers. She and her dedicated staff have offered and continue to offer the young people of Wyoming and adjoining communities, forming an excellent start in opening the doors of learning, creating and appreciating the world around us.

Polly Marty's two sons, Ted and Terry, and their extended families, in honor of this special person, have instituted a scholarship in her name. We hope, in addition to the extended Marty family, there will be others whose lives have been touched over the years, either by their personal experience in attending Lads n' Lassies or maybe by their children or grandchildren who have or are attending this learning center.

Should you feel that you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to this worthy cause by helping one or more needy children enjoy a positive learning experience in their young lives, send your donation to "The Polly Marty Scholarship Fund" at 667 Reily Rd., Wyoming, OH 45215. You will be bringing much joy to a child or children and their families with your donation. As has been said, "One never stands so high as when he or she stoops to hold the hand of a child."

PRAYERS AND SQUARES QUILT MINISTRY

The Presbyterian Church of Wyoming's Prayers and Squares Quilt Ministry was begun in September of 2009 by Rita Zuidema and Amy Snow. This ministry is a chapter of the worldwide ministry with began in 1992 at Hope United Methodist in San Diego, California. PCW's chapter has gifted over 300 quilts to men, women, children and babies.

Quilts are given for a variety of reasons: to provide comfort to those suffering chronic or acute illnesses, in honor of baptisms, recovery celebrations and others. Each quilt has been prayed over and knots tied by our congregation. Most recipients have been our church family and their friends and relatives.

It is a small group, and they are always looking for more people who love to sew. Prayers and Squares ministry is able to provide to the materials needed throught the donations of many generous people. The group meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at the home of Karen Bammerlin.

If you have any questions about the ministry or would like to request a quilt, call Karen at 772-3175 or Suzie Limouze at 729-4962.



MARCH ADULT DISCIPLESHIP FROM ROB KEELOR



The Tabernacle - The Dwelling Place of God

During this Lenten season we commonly look at fasting, prayer, devotion, and sacrifice. By looking at the Tabernacle of the Old Testament, we can learn much about (1) God's plan of redemption through history, and Christ's ultimate fulfillment of the same, (2) how, before Christ, a sinful people could approach a holy God and receive grace and mercy, (3) how the priesthood is foundational to understanding Christ's priestly ministry, (4) how the sacrificial system within the Tabernacle teaches of the importance of

a blood sacrifice to atone for sin, (5) how a good grasp of the Tabernacle is essential in understanding much of the Book of Hebrews and other portions of the New Testament, (6) and much, much more. Susan Anderson has graciously agreed to teach us about this relevant and timely topic with fascinating graphical detail.

Please join us on Sundays in March at 10 a.m. in the Founders' Room for Adult Discipleship.

LENT BIBLE VERSES

Philippians 3:10-11 ¹⁰ I want to know Christ - yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

1 Peter 5:6 ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Matthew 6:16-18 ¹⁶ "When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

SUMMARY OF PCW FINANCES & FACILITIES FROM RON STOERKER

Many thanks to people who have stepped up to help doing odd jobs during this “interim” period of searching for a maintenance manager. Howard Renner has done multiple handyman-type jobs around the building. Kevin Lawson and Don Peairs have helped to set up the Great Room for a number of events. Bill Morley and the youth helped to rake leaves last fall. Bill also enlisted the Lighthouse boys in pruning shrubs around the church building last summer. We welcome our new maintenance manager, Mike Gallagher, to PCW. Mike will work 3 days per week and will focus on the efficient operation of all mechanical systems in the building.

We still are looking for people to volunteer to answer phones and do other jobs from 9 to noon, Monday through Thursday. This is a great way to welcome all visitors to the building and show them to an office or space where they are to meet. Please contact me if you would like to know more about this.

JANUARY 2019 SUMMARY	2019 Budget	Percent	2019 YTD	2018 YTD
INCOME				
Congregational Support	570,540	91.7%	65,677	87,418
Foundation Support	35,324	5.7%	0	0
Other Income	6,500	1.0%	120	1,500
Designated Benevolence	10,000	1.6%	250	0
Total Income	622,364		66,047	88,918
EXPENDITURES				
Salaries & Benefits	397,307	63.3%	25,283	33,572
Ministry Areas	14,250	2.3%	1,174	14
Operating (building & utilities)	158,134	25.2%	10,841	14,577
Benevolences	58,000	9.2%	131	1,061
Total Expenditures	627,691		37,429	49,224
Income less Expenditure: operating	<5,327>		28,618	39,694

GROWING ORGANICALLY THE HEALING SPACE

Growing Organically is a community outreach series co-sponsored by PCW, The Healing Space and Apex Chiropractic. This mission is growing organically. During the past 6 months 16 donation-based programs have offered affordable opportunities for transformation. Each program provides both a holistic healing ministry and community exposure for the sponsoring organizations. Our co-sponsorship model provides combined promotion by all 3 organizations, expanding our outreach to thousands of people who may not otherwise be aware of all that PCW offers the community. Many of the programs are hosted at PCW, offering an additional opportunity for participants to experience our sacred space. For more information on *Growing Organically*, please visit The Healing Space website at: <https://thehealingspacecincinnati.org/growing-organically/>. You may also be updated monthly by subscribing to our email newsletter on the homepage of The Healing Space website at <https://thehealingspacecincinnati.org/>.



CELEBRATIONS AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING

Our Worship Service and Annual Meeting were well attended on Feb. 10th. It was a celebration of God's loving faithfulness to our congregation in this past year. As you read the summary below, give thanks to God for PCW's members who are dedicated, passionate disciples of Christ.



- Kristen Hurd presented a review of the work of the Mission Study Team based on congregational input from the Holy Cow! survey taken last Fall. She shared the new Vision Statement for PCW.
- The following people were elected to serve as officers of the church:
 - Elders: Adrienne Palermo, Craig Theile, Linda Voss and Steve Wilson
 - Deacons: Amber Cartwright, Suzie Limouze, Mary Jo Peairs, John Quinn, John Stickney, Kathy Wilson
 - Youth Deacons; Sawyer Cartwright, Max Lackey, Kaitlyn Palermo, Thomas Stickney, Trevor Vollette and Caroline Zackerman
 - Pastor Nominating Committee: Matt Fischer, Rob Keelor, Denise Koesterman, Mary McLawson, Jessie Modderman, Dee Dee Uhle and Steve Wilson
- Leslie Mowry shared the good news that our finances for 2018 came in with a slight surplus.
- Mary Mc Lawson was elected Manager of the PCW Foundation, Mike Kremzar was thanked for his service.

PASTORAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC)

The Pastoral Nominating Committee was elected on February 10 at our PCW Annual Meeting of the Congregation. The seven members were elected to represent our congregation in the search for the next installed Pastor. And they will deal with an *overflow of acronyms*. Read on!

On February 17th the Presbytery engaged the PNC in an Orientation Session that will allow them to begin to meet and begin the next steps in the process. The first big task will be to write a Church Information Form (CIF). This document will present PCW to pastors who are open to considering a new call. The General Assembly Church Leadership Connection will post the CIF in an online presence for Pastors to consider. These pastors have completed and filed a Personal Information Form (PIF) on the Church Leadership Connection web site.

How are candidates selected? There are several avenues for the PNC to follow. The first is "matching". The General Assembly software will send to the PNC the names of potential candidates that match certain criteria in the PCW Mission Information Form (MIF). The PNC can also search through the data base and connect with candidates they select. Some ministers will "self-refer", which means that they will see the PCW availability and send their PIF for consideration. One more way is for PCW members who may know ministers who are considering a move can refer their name to the PNC.

The PNC will be reporting regularly to the congregation, and it will be our task to keep this group in our prayers. May we be faithful in our intercession for God's will to be fulfilled at The Presbyterian Church of Wyoming.

INTERESTED IN JOINING PCW?

A new member orientation will be held on **Sunday, March 10th**, from 4-6:30 p.m. We will share faith journey stories, learn about PCW's history and ministry, and also learn about what it means to be a Presbyterian. This gathering is informal, lots of fun, and builds community as we celebrates our faith together. A light meal will be served, and child care will be available. Contact Pastor Bob at boba@pcwyoming.org, or Kristen Hurd at kebloomer@hotmail.com, for more details.

LENT AND EASTER SEASON AT PCW

Ash Wednesday - March 6, 7 p.m.

Our Ash Wednesday service will bring together music, prayer and reflection. This special service will guide us to search our souls and "give ourselves" to this season of preparation. The Imposition of ashes will mark us as those who depend on God for our life each day.

Palm Sunday - April 14, 10 a.m. Single Service

All will receive a palm to wave in honor of Jesus' Lordship over our lives. Enjoy this service with family and friends as we remember Jesus' ride into Jerusalem. Jesus looked over the city and wept. The sermon will explore what Jesus saw that day.

Maundy Thursday - April 18, 7 p.m.

This will be a service of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper surrounded by music, teaching from the scriptures and the traditional Tenebrae Service. You will be inspired as the Spirit takes us into the Heart of God and God's love reaches deep into our lives.

Good Friday - April 19, 7 p.m.

The PCW Sanctuary will be set aside for an hour of meditation, prayer and reflection. You may come and go as you desire. A worship guide for your personal use will be available to guide you with scripture and prayer.

Easter Sunday - April 21, 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m.

Celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus with us! The resurrection broke the power of death's hold on this world. This is our foundational Christian belief, and on Easter Sunday we will be inspired to know the power of the resurrection in our own lives. In the sermon we will walk in the garden with Mary early on that Sunday morning and discover the glory of a Good Morning in the midst of sorrow.



VISION STATEMENT (CONT.)

'Into the world' – It is not sufficient that we focus on PCW alone as we follow Jesus. Yes, we need to learn and grow and worship, but we also need to take these learnings into practice, in the broader community.

Matthew 28: 19-20

'Welcoming young families' – The highest priorities among the congregation in our survey relate to bringing young families into PCW. *Matthew 19:14*

'Into our multigenerational faith journey' – And yet we cannot abandon our current members, both young and old. So we welcome the new and celebrate those that are already with us, learning and following Jesus together. *Psalms 145:4*

'Worship, Fellowship and Mission' – Beyond welcoming young families into PCW and education/learning, the other high priorities coming from the congregational survey are:

- Strengthen our Worship experience. *John 4:24*
- Increase opportunities for meaningful Fellowship. *Acts 2:42*
- Focus on Mission. This was the highest priority among the young, those we seek to have join us for the future. *1 John 3:17*

Limiting our focus to three areas should allow PCW and Session to transform, concentrate and grow without getting bogged down in trying to do too much.

PCW Mission Study Team: Pastor Bob Anderson, Leader
Cheryl Albrecht, Kristen Hurd, Leslie Mowry, John Stickney, Jeff Van Fossen

Presbyterian Church of Wyoming

225 Wyoming Avenue . Cincinnati OH 45215

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UPCOMING PCW EVENTS

March

- 4 **Finance Meeting** - 7 p.m., Library
- Worship Committee** - 7 p.m., Founders' Room
- 5 **Young Congregation Team** - 8 p.m., Founders' Room
- 6 **Ash Wednesday Service** - 7 p.m., Sanctuary
- 10 **New Member Orientation** - 4 p.m., Parlor
- 11 **Session Meeting** - 7 p.m., Founders' Room
- 17 **Single Youth-led Service** - 10 a.m., Sanctuary
- Silent Youth Auction with Hors d'oeuvres** - 11:30 a.m., Gathering Area
- Live Youth Auction & Brunch** - 12:30 p.m., Great Room
- 18 **Deacons Board** - 7 p.m., Parlor
- 25 **Mission Team Meeting** - 7 p.m., Founders' Room

April

- 14 **Palm Sunday** - 10 a.m., Sanctuary
- 18 **Maundy Thursday** - 7 p.m., Sanctuary
- 19 **Good Friday** - 7 p.m., Sanctuary
- 21 **Easter Sunday** - 8. 9. & 11 a.m. Services



*Please visit pcwyoming.org
for a full calendar of events.*