



HOLY WEEK AT PCW



Holy Week at PCW this year was very special. Palm Sunday began with a joyous, palm-waving procession from the Great Room to the Sanctuary led by our Director of Contemporary Music, Tom Haines, the Visions Worship Band, and the choir. Our Service for the Renewal of Baptism for Confirmation was a highlight as five youth were confirmed and received into membership. Dr. Anderson prayed a blessing for each one with the anointing of oils parents and Elders laid hands on them.

Our Director of Traditional Music, Bill Seale, designed a Service of Tenebrae for Maundy Thursday. After sharing in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, participants joined in the deep blessing of increasing darkness as we recalled the death of the Lord Jesus. Scripture readings led us through the events, and choral music inspired us to follow Jesus as we "take up our cross" with him.

The church sanctuary was open on Good Friday evening for self-guided meditation and prayer. Holy Week proved to be a week of holy preparation for the celebration of Christ's resurrection.

Then, on Easter Sunday our celebrations were joyful and spirit-filled! We were happy to have so many families, visitors and children in attendance for the services.



SPRING AT PCW FROM PASTOR BOB ANDERSON

As the spring season begins warm, I take great delight in our church grounds bursting with life. Flowers are bursting through cold ground; tree blossoms bring a delightful fragrance to the campus. The Easter Sunday decorations helped to highlight all this spring beauty and new life – beauty abounds! In much the same way there has been a plethora of events and celebrations that beautify this season.



In February we elected new officers to fill our seats on Session and Deacons. On May 13 both groups will gather with new and continuing officers for an officer orientation time with Dr. Anderson. On Sunday, May 19th, we will ordain and install our Elders and Deacons. Pray for them as they seek to be faithful leaders in our midst.

Our Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) began its spring growth early this season. They are hard at work preparing all the material necessary so that they can place PCW on our Presbyterian Church Leadership Connection web site. This is the place where a church PNC and potential candidates can be introduced. Your PNC meets weekly – keep them in your prayers for wisdom and perseverance.

The Session continues to work with the results of the Holy Cow! mission study. On April 20th Session met again to begin to address the new vision and future planning. This will be a continuing process for Session, and the plans will emerge from the Session itself. Pray for the Session to be faithful and creative with the vision God has given.

What a joy it was to confirm six new youth during the worship service on Palm Sunday! Give thanks to God for their parents, PCW Mentors and our members who embrace them in their faith journeys.

In addition, Becky Bosarge is now working with us to lead us in our pastoral care needs. Becky will assist in worship leadership a few times each month, and she will be visiting those who are sick, recuperating or simply need a friend from the church.

I just reread what I wrote and I'm thinking that this page is a bouquet of spring flowers, complete with grand colors and a fragrance that floats to heaven, giving praise to God!

Peace in Christ, Dr. Bob Anderson

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP FROM ROB KEELOR

You are most welcome to join us in a series titled, *"A Faith that Pleases God."*

Who: Disciples, doubters, and everyone in between

What: The Book of Hebrews, Chapters 11-12

Where: PCW Library / Adult Discipleship Room

Why: Hebrews 12:2 says that *"Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith."* But what is faith?

What is the essence of faith? How are we to understand faith, even in the midst of doubts?

How: With love, grace, and thanksgiving.

When: Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 a.m.

May 5 – The Substance of Faith

May 26 – An Enduring Faith

May 12 – An Exemplary Faith

June 2 – The Decisions of Faith

May 19 – Faith in Action:

June 9 – A Conquering & Courageous Faith

Meet your PCW Mission Team to discuss current mission outreach opportunities



SPRING - A TIME TO WONDER FROM REBECCA BOSARGE

As I write this article, I can see new leaves on the burning bushes outside my window, a big bee doing a quick fly-by, and gorgeous redbud blooms standing out against the green of the other trees. I can hear children playing, a lawn mower running – it's spring! Jesus is risen, and our world seems to be coming back to life.



The season of Spring, a season of new life, new growth, and renewal can invite us to consider our own lives and God's invitations to us to embrace our own season of growth and renewal. One way to respond to that invitation is the spiritual practice of Wonder.

Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat on the website www.spiritualityandpractice.com write that "Wonder begins in the senses, comes alive in the imagination, and flourishes in the adoration of the Divine."

There are so many things that can awaken our sense of wonder: that first cup of coffee in the morning, a juicy peach, a clear night sky, a spring thunderstorm, beautiful music, an unexpected kindness - the supply is endless!

Psalm 19 says:

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the ends of the earth.

It's all around us! The whole world is continually talking to us, and wonder is a way we can listen.

Praying with Wonder

Notice: In your quiet time look back over your day/week; when was your sense of wonder awakened?

Savor: Reflect on your experiences of wonder; pray with them. Do they connect you in some way to others? To the rest of creation? To God?

Respond: Does your experience of wonder awaken you to any areas of new life springing up? How can you tend that?

I would love to hear about what has awakened your sense of wonder this spring, so when you see me around church, let me know!

Becky Bosarge, Director of Pastoral Care

VALLEY CONCERT

Join us for this year's final Valley Concert on Mother's Day, May 12th, at 4 p.m.

Pianist Michael Chertock returns to present a special Mother's Day recital in honor of all the mothers in the audience! Michael is the chair of the piano department at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, principal pianist with the Cincinnati Symphony and conductor of the Blue Ash Symphony. He has recorded several albums on the Telarc label.

A poster for the Valley Concert Series. At the top, it says "The Protestant Church of Wyoming Valley Concert Series". Below that, in large yellow text, is "Michael Chertock, Pianist In Recital". Underneath, it says "Sunday, May 12 (Mother's Day) 2019 4:00 p.m.". At the bottom left, there is an address: "225 Wyoming Avenue Wyoming, Ohio 45215 Free Will Donation". At the bottom right, there is a photograph of Michael Chertock sitting at a piano.

HEART CONNECTION FROM LAURIE GORBY



"I like gardening—it's a place I find myself when I need to lose myself". Alice Sebold

Did you know that The Healing Space (THS) has a Meditation Garden? Like all gardens, it is a work in progress, yet it's springing awake with renewed vision. This garden is a sacred space for us at PCW, for THS clients, Lads and Lassies, and the community. The garden already has wonderful "bones" - an anchoring beech tree, perennials and bulbs, wooden benches, fairy circle, sculpture, fire pit and little library. It offers sensory experiences, including the sight of nature's beauty, the scent and taste of herbs, and the feel of varied textures. I envision this sacred space growing into a "living" garden of butterflies, bee pollinators, and welcoming birds. As the garden grows organically, it has the potential to be a seasonality garden, with something of interest for all four seasons.

The Meditation Garden has already benefited from three Eagle Scout projects and other generous volunteer efforts. The wonderful synergy of our community is already at work. Would you like to support this vision and make it come to life? Or just enjoy being outside?

I know that we all have responsibilities and busy lives, so I want to make it easy by coordinating and being the contact person. From time to time I may ask for help with a specific task (like spreading wood chips for the paths). We welcome you to think of us when you are dividing your perennials or when shopping for your own garden. We are developing a wish list, starting with donated plants and labor, and who knows, we might eventually grow a budget! So, if you would like to stop and smell the flowers, come play in the dirt, or contribute in other ways, please contact Laurie Gorby at 513-702-4217 or lagorb@one.net.

TRAINING OFFERED FOR VISITING MINISTRY

Making visits to those in the hospital, are homebound, or who have special needs, can offer encouragement, a sense of belonging, and can communicate God's love and care. Visiting is a ministry of presence and listening.

But it can be intimidating. How do you start? What do you say? What do you do?

The Presbytery of Cincinnati, under the leadership of Reverends Kelsey - Hawisher-Faul and Barb Tesorero, and the Deacon boards of the Heritage and Mt. Washington Presbyterian churches, are offering a training session for making home and hospital visits. The training will be held on: **Tuesday, June 4, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Mt. Washington church.**

Several PCW Deacons will be attending and want to invite any congregation member who feels called to this important ministry to join them.

Email Becky Bosarge, our Director of Pastoral Care, at becky@pcwyoming.org to reserve a spot, to ask questions, or to express your interest in participating in a visiting ministry, even if you can't make this training session.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM DON HOFFMAN

- Session met for dinner with the 2019 Class of Confirmands, heard their faith statements and, with great joy, voted to welcome them into membership in PCW
- The Clerk asked members of Session to recommend members who would be willing to form a committee to plan events and special worship to celebrate our 150 years of ministry in Wyoming
- Session heard a report from elder Rob Keelor, member of the PNC, that encouraged Session to oversee an update for our website, a review of staff assignments and completion the Mission Study and long-range plan for PCW
- Session heard a report from the Mission Study Team and agreed to meet for a special three-hour workshop to continue the mission study planning concentrating on the area of Worship
- Pastor Anderson agreed to make contact with a website designer to begin the process of redesigning our website and Facebook pages
- Mission reported that plans for the Reading-Lockland Summer Program for youth to move to PCW are progressing. This is an exciting addition to the many Mission efforts at PCW

SUMMARY OF PCW FINANCES FROM RON STOERKER

MARCH 2019 SUMMARY	2019 Budget	Percent	2019 YTD	2018 YTD
INCOME				
Congregational Support	570,540	91.7%	149,789	139,527
Foundation Support	35,324	5.7%	0	0
Other Income	6,500	1.0%	515	1,837
Designated Benevolence	10,000	1.6%	466	348
Total Income	622,364		150,770	141,712
EXPENDITURES				
Salaries & Benefits	397,307	63.3%	82,223	100,903
Ministry Areas	14,250	2.3%	2,167	2,750
Operating (building & utilities)	158,134	25.2%	52,345	40,073
Benevolences	58,000	9.2%	2,920	3,801
Total Expenditures	627,691		139,655	147,527
Income less Expenditure: operating	<5,327>		11,115	(5,815)

MBA PLAYERS NEEDED FROM ADAM HAYDEN

The Mediocre Basketball Association is back. Do you want to play basketball without the pressure and practice?

The MBA is for you! **Every Thursday in May from 3:15ish until 4:30 p.m.** we will get together at PCW and play some stress-free ball. All middle school students are welcome and invited. Pick up a form in the Gathering Area and sign up today!



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING UPDATE

Kudos for generosity and interest to all of you at PCW! Our offerings are still coming in, and as of Easter Sunday our total is \$1670. That includes the children's coin banks that totaled \$70.00. We thank our Church Administrator, Ron Stoerker, for managing the Kroger's coin-change machine to count the coins - thanks be to God!



One Great Hour of Sharing is one of several special offerings in which our PC (USA) denomination invites us to share each Lenten Season. This offering is a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. The offerings are one way we fulfill Isaiah's prophecy that God's people "shall be called the repairer of the breach." Isaiah 58:12

PCW MISSION TEAM FROM CHERYL ALBRECHT



The Session of PCW voted unanimously and enthusiastically to make space available at PCW to house the Reading-Lockland (R-L) Summer Program in the Summer of 2019 from June 3, 2019 - August 9, 2019. With the closing of the Reading-Lockland Presbyterian Church, which has housed this program for many years, the program was left without a venue. We at PCW are excited to be partnering with New Direction Youth Academy (NDYA), Inc. to provide 60-80 youth of our communities with the opportunity to learn, eat, have fun and be surrounded by wonderful, loving and supportive staff of NDYA and members of PCW. The program runs Monday-Friday from 7:45am-1:30pm. This program serves children and youth from age 3 to age 17. It provides them with a free breakfast and lunch every day along with classes in writing, reading, math, art, character education and gym. Teachers from the Cincinnati Public Schools are teaching the classes, and Tyrone Wilson is directing the program. This is a wonderful Spirit-led opportunity for PCW to live into our new vision and mission! We are now working on the logistics to ready our space for the program, including clearing our kitchen refrigerator to make way for the children's breakfasts and lunches! We have been working with the groups that use the refrigerator on alternate plans, but if you have a concern or haven't been contacted, please contact Cheryl Albrecht, 513.225.6851 or Leslie Mowry, 513.761.7493. We are confident that we can make it work for everyone with some flexibility and creative thinking!

Volunteer opportunities are being discussed, and possible ways to serve include (times are approximate):

1. Monitoring the entrance from 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
(flexible on how much time you give - all or part of the time)
2. Helping with breakfast set-up 7:45 a.m. -8:45am
3. Helping to sign in students from 7:30am-9am
4. Helping with lunch set-up 11:45am-12:45pm
5. Hanging out with the kids while they eat their lunch 11:45am-1:00pm
6. Helping in the classes as needed and escorting kids during class changes from 8:50am-11:50am
7. Helping with the signout of students 12:45pm-1:30pm
8. Readyng the Great Room for services on Sunday and then readyng the Great Room for classes on Monday.

6 Please prayerfully consider how you could share your time and talents with this program. If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Albrecht, 513.225.6851.

PNC UPDATE FROM MATT FISCHER

We want to update you on your PNC's progress, and a lot has transpired since the last month's update!

We are in listening and discovery mode. The PNC visited our Senior High Youth Group on April 7th to get their input on why our church (and the youth group) is a relevant part of their lives and faith journeys. They did not disappoint, and the feedback will be incorporated into the overall narrative we are creating. Also we met with Don Hoffman, our Clerk of Session, and we invited Pastor Bob to join us for obvious reasons. In Pastor Bob's distinguished career as an interim pastor, he has successfully guided many congregations through the pastor nominating process, and who better to tap into for wisdom and guidance throughout this journey?

In addition to these conversations we are working on completing the MIF (Ministry Information Form) which will be used to match us with prospective candidates. A component of that document required us to select 10 leadership competencies that we believe are needed for this role. There is a list of 33 skills to choose from in the following categories, Theological/Spiritual Interpreter, Organizational Leadership, and Interpersonal Engagement. We completed this task with healthy debate, and we are happy to report that there is strong agreement on the top ten competencies we're seeking from prospective candidates.

The committee will also visit and observe worship services at several other Presbyterian churches in our area that are reported to be doing well and growing. We hope to gain insights that will also help us tell our PCW narrative in a more meaningful and relevant way. Last but not least, we are pleased to tell you that your Session and PNC are working together on every level to do the things that need to be done to prepare us as a united church and congregation for the calling of a new head pastor. The level of trust and cooperation we feel not only encourages us in our work, but it also inspires us because we see firsthand the dedication of our faithful brothers and sisters and how God is at work within our church!

We want to hear from all of you. Please feel free to reach out to any of us if you have questions or want to share your opinions.

In Christ,

Matt Fischer, Chair, pcwpnc1869@gmail.com
Denise Koesterman, koestermankw@gmail.com
Mary Mc Lawson, lawsonmarymc@gmail.com
Steve Wilson, wilsonsteven497@gmail.com

Dee Dee Uhle, uhle@fuse.net
Jesse Modderman, jessamyne79@gmail.com
Rob Keelor, rob@idspids.com

SPECIAL OLYMPICS FROM DENISE KOESTERMAN

Would you be interested in volunteering to help a very special athlete at the Special Olympics? This year the event will take place on Saturday, **May 11th, from 8:30-11:00 a.m.** at the Lockland Stadium, in Lockland, Ohio.

Please contact Denise Koesterman at 513-289-7322 or dkoesterman@cinci.rr.com or. You can also sign up in the Gathering Area. Thank you!



Presbyterian Church of Wyoming

225 Wyoming Avenue . Cincinnati OH 45215

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UPCOMING PCW EVENTS

MAY

- 6 FINANCE** - 7 p.m., Library
- WORSHIP COMMITTEE** - 7 p.m., Parlor
- 7 PNC** - 7 p.m.
- YOUNG CONGREGATION TEAM** - 8 p.m., Youth Room
- 11 SPECIAL OLYMPICS**, 8:30 a.m., Lockland Stadium
- 12 VALLEY CONCERT**, Michael Chertock, 4 p.m., Sanctuary
- 13 JOINT SESSION & DEACONS MEETING**, 6 p.m., Founders' Room
- 14 PNC** - 7 p.m.
- 20 PERSONNEL**, - 7 p.m., Library
- 21 PNC** - 7 p.m.
- 27 MEMORIAL DAY** (building closed)
- 28 PNC** - 7 p.m.



*Please visit [pcwyoming.org](https://www.pcwyoming.org)
for a full calendar of events.*