



# Spreading the Word

**Washington Presbyterian Church**  
  
**April 2020**

**From the Pastor's Desk...**

***“On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb...but when they went in they did not find him.” Luke 24:1-3***

Springtime signals many things: warmer weather, fresh flowers, and Easter Sunday.

We know that Christmas always falls on December 25, but Easter and the celebrations leading up to it, change dates. One might wonder, ‘how the Easter date is determined?’

Which is why I have found the answer to this burning question!

One way is to step back to Ash Wednesday’s date. Easter, the main event, occurs six and half weeks after Ash Wednesday. That’s the forty days of Lent. So, what causes these dates to change year after year instead of remaining the same like the other holidays: Valentine’s Day, St. Patrick’s Day, and so forth? Well, we must look to the sky which includes the phases of the moon, the vernal equinox, and Gregorian calendar.



There is a definite period in which the day occurs which is March 22 through April 25 (the Gregorian calendar, not the Julian calendar.) Easter always occurs on the first Sunday after the Pascal Full Moon, according the *Old Farmer’s Almanac*. So, what’s the Pascal Full Moon you might ask? It is the first full Moon that occurs after the vernal equinox, which marks the beginning of spring in the northern hemisphere.

Now, here’s where it gets tricky, I found out. The church has decided to always—and forever--recognize the spring equinox on March 21. However, the equinox could fall on Thursday, March 19—like it does this year. But if you acknowledge the equinox on March 21 like the church, the first full moon after that date isn’t until April 8. The following Sunday—April 12—is Easter this year.

Ok. Got that?! This is why I am a pastor and not an astrologer! And don’t even ask where the Easter bunny came from! Does he only come out on Easter like the groundhog only comes out one day in February? He must be a special breed to lay eggs in a basket!

Here’s wishing you all a wonderful Resurrection Sunday.

*Your humble servant,*  
**Rev. Linda Philabaun**



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Reverend  
Dr. Linda E. Philabaun  
Judy Wilder, Admin. Asst.

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The *deadline* for submitting articles for the **May newsletter**  
  
**April 19 at 5 p.m.**  
  
e-mail information to:  
**jsq85@aol.com**

**The March session meeting was held March 19, 2020 at 6:30 pm. Rev. Dr. Linda Philabaun was the moderator. If you have any concerns for session, please communicate them to Clerk of Session, Cathy Strawbridge.**

**The next session meeting will be Thursday, April 16 at 6:30 pm. (electronically)**

### **Report of the Pastor:**

With March came many trips to hospitals for our congregation. The Deacons have been making many trips as well. Among all of us, our people are being well cared for and addressing their needs.

I met with the Washington Ministerial Association on Wednesday, March 4. We discussed our many services planned throughout Lent, prayed for those churches having internal difficulties, our community in general. At the time of the meeting, Covid-19 did not seem near us, but we discussed developing plans to address it when it comes. We all agreed that early preventative measures were imperative. At this writing, only 2 weeks since the WMA meeting, we have had to implement measures. Thanks to all the information out there with daily updates from the CDC, denominational and government guidelines, we are confidently addressing the virus. We take this seriously and pray for our congregations that we will be able to protect them. As of this past Sunday, we saw several of our churches closing their doors.

I continue to work two months ahead in order that our musicians have my information to select music for our services. And what beautiful music they do select! We are extremely blessed to have, not only terrific musicians, but a choir that sings their hearts out.

**Report of the Treasurer: M.S.P. to approve Treasurer's report for February 2020.**

### **Mission (Jean Escue):**

#### 1. Check Requests:

1. Christmas Joy  
Presbyterian Church USA— \$905.00
2. WHIP  
Souper Bowl Sunday collection – \$291.00
3. Presbytery of Great Rivers  
Per Capita—\$4,243.28

#### 2. Special Offerings

One Great Hour of Sharing  
Received early March thru Easter Sunday – April 12

#### Benefits:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance  
Presbyterian Hunger Program  
Self-Development of People

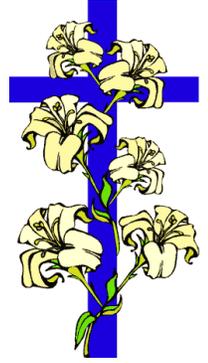
#### 3. Donations for March:

**OSF antepartum donation:** Lotions  
**Children's Hospital donation:** Infant/youth socks or non- skid socks  
**Almost Home Kids:** None  
**WHIP Donation** – Peanut Butter

#### 4. Donations for April:

**OSF antepartum donation:** None  
**Children's Hospital donation:** Card Games  
**Almost Home Kids:** Batteries/any size  
**WHIP Donation** – Jelly

**Donations will be collected when church service resumes**



**Hi Folks—**

**Reminder—please continue to send your weekly/monthly giving to the office. We must continue to pay operating expenses and payroll. I appreciate your efforts and pray for your health and safety during this difficult time.**

**May God bless you and keep you until we meet again.**

**Bill Strawbridge**

**God proved His love on the Cross.  
When Christ hung, and bled, and died,  
it was God saying to the world,  
'I love you.**

Billy Graham



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS — March 2020, cont.

### Worship and Sacraments (Melody Wiseman):

#### 1. ATTENDANCE:

- February 16 - 39
- February 23 - 47
- March 1 - 39
- March 8 - 48
- March 15 - 27



### Unfinished Business:

1. PNC: This work will continue during the suspended church services.

### New Business:

#### 1. Response to COVID-19

1. **M.S.P.** to approve suspending church services until further notice.
2. **M.S.P.** to approve closing the church to outside usage, such as PEO, scouts, weddings. Funerals may occur but be limited to family only.
3. **M.S.P.** to approve the church's administrative assistant to continue working the office per her normal hours, but the church will be locked. She will continue to answer phones, collect the mail, etc.
4. Monetary contributions in the form of a check can be mailed to the church.
5. Pastor Linda will distribute her sermon via email or post on our website ([www.wpcusa.org](http://www.wpcusa.org)).
6. If you need to speak to Pastor Linda or our Deacons, please do so by appointment.

The next stated meeting is Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. **(electronically)**

### News from Pack 410!

The Cub Scout Pack has been busy since December and wanted to share the following report.

The scouts, in a service project for WPC made about 40' of Christmas card garlands to festoon fellowship hall. The scouts made Christmas candle centerpieces and planned a Christmas party.

In January, we acquired a new scout. We welcomed her and went to her home later in the month to cut the pinewood derby cars with help from dad. We also spent a meeting engaging the scouts in planning for spring, including their ideas for outings, fundraising and community service.

Early February included making the Pinewood cars, sanding, painting, etc. We worked on the Cyber chip requirement and talked about cyber safety. After the pinewood derby, we began two weeks of work on the bookmarks for WPC. We made 119, which are ready for delivery. We used conversation cards to promote fun table talk while we worked. Also in February, the Webelos enjoyed a weekend adventure with Troop 1178 (an all girls troop) at the Morton sportsman's club.

We have not met since March 3, thanks to COVID-19. We hope that Pathways camping weekend will come to pass on April 17-19. Crossover for our three Webelos was to be on March 24, with the ceremony planned by the Morton Troop 1178 girls. Postponed. Two Webelos will move forward. Unfortunately, one family is dropping out. Only two scouts will remain at Pack 410 unless spring recruitment is successful. We have been promised assistance from the scout office.

Carol and Melody have been tremendous support for our little band of ragamuffins. These little girls truly love one another. The older girls have proven to be wonderful role models for the littles and have grown in personal leadership as a result. Their flag ceremony is now nearly flawless. I am so blessed to have been a part of this effort. Thank you, WPC, for the opportunity!



Report submitted by Pat Franzen

# MISSION

## CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CARD GAMES



## WHIP JELLY



## ALMOST HOME KIDS

## BATTERIES (Any size)



Dear friends-

Please pass our gratitude along to your church congregations, God abundantly exceeded our expectations for today's food drive! Our pantry is now well-stocked and ready to serve our Washington neighbors in need.

**THANK YOU** for spreading the word and organizing efforts to collect this bounty of food. We are truly blessed to live in such a generous community.

As a reminder, our hours are 8:30-11am and 4:30-6pm on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, and we serve residents in need that live in the 61571 zip code. Please pass this along to any families you know of that could use our help. Our website for updated information is: [whipfood-pantry.org](http://whipfood-pantry.org)

Heartfelt thanks to all the churches for being the hands and feet of Christ--to God be the glory!

Blessings-

WHIP leadership team



## COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION

If you speak to anyone needing assistance finding food, paying housing bills, accessing free childcare, or other essential services, please advise them to call 2-1-1. In response to COVID-19, there are some additional resources being made available to people who generally would not qualify. Alternative number is (309) 999-4029.



## ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP POSSIBILITIES

Pastor Linda's sermons are posted on the church website — <http://wpcusa.org>

First Presbyterian Church of Normal IL, Rev. Matt Wilcox, 8:30am and 11am by livestream and saved upon ending: <https://livestream.com/firstpresnormal>

United Presbyterian Church of Peoria, Rev. Debra Avery, 10 a.m.

1) their Facebook page

2) YouTube from any smartphone, computer, or tablet: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAf9XQ9MUHNGaXdQQRsk6yQ>

Link to the lectionary readings :

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/.../revised-co.../2020/3/15/>



**COFFEE HOURS—**

May 10, July 12, August 9,  
Sept 13, Oct 11, Nov 8,  
Dec 13, 2020



**SHARED WORSHIP SERVICES  
WITH DANVERS AND MORTON**

**May (5th Sunday) - Danvers**  
**August (5th Sunday) - Morton**  
**November (5th Sunday) - Washington**  
**December (last Sunday) - Washington**

**CHURCH IN THE PARK**

**JUNE 14, 2020**

**WENGER SHELTER**

**Elder/Deacon  
Training** scheduled  
for April 18

**CANCELLED**

To be rescheduled  
at a later date

**NO  
PALM SUNDAY  
PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  
Due to the Covid—19 restrictions

**BITS AND PIECES**

**PRAYERS FOR:**

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Rita Hale        | Whitey Wilder     |
| Ann Tharp        | Karl Taylor       |
| Michelle Johnson | Carol Eichelkraut |
| Harriet Maddock  | Fran Freeman      |
| Winne Ebert      | Marge Honeg       |



*Congratulations to:*



*Jessica (Milano) & Dawson Foster*

*On the birth of a baby girl,*

*Levy Marie*

*March 5, 2020*

*Grandparents: Karen and John Milano*

Thank you,

I want to thank you all for your prayers and gifts of delicious homemade food while I have been recovering from a TIA. Seeing some friendly faces at the hospital meant a great deal to me and my family. Receiving telephone calls made my days a lot shorter. (I kept all your food containers at my home; I will return them when the church is open.)

I am feeling very well and grateful for your many kindnesses. My prayers to Kay and Cy.

Karl Taylor

**Scholarship Applications:**



Applications for the Emily Rodgers and Donald Grimm Scholarship are available from Judy Wilder (she will mail or a scholarship form is attached to the newsletter e mail). Please complete the form and return with supporting documents (references) to the church by May 1<sup>st</sup>. (Washington Presbyterian Church 105 South Elm Street Washington, IL 61571). The committee will not accept previously submitted material. Questions: Karl Taylor 444-4154 or 253-4751.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>NATIONAL POETRY MONTH</b>		1	<b>2 Children's Book Day</b> 	<b>3 Ice Cream Sundae day</b> 	4
<b>5 NO Pancake Breakfast AND NO Worship Service</b>	6	7	<b>8</b>  <small>shutterstock.com • 1029830416</small>	<b>9</b>  <b>NO SERVICES</b>	<b>10 NO SERVICES</b> 	<b>11</b>
<b>12 NO SERVICES</b> 	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Turn leftover Easter candy into puppy chow; coat cereal squares in melted chocolate; toss w/ confectioner sugar 	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>Session Meeting 6:30 PM (electronically)</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18 Elder/Deacon training cancelled</b>  1st baseball game at Yankee stadium 1923. 
<b>19 NO SERVICES</b>  Newsletter info due	<b>20</b>  <b>PATRIOT DAY</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  <b>EARTH DAY</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>ARBOR DAY</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26 NO SERVICES</b>	<b>27</b> 1st Social Security checks issued in 1937	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> What is a continuous clothing closure"? - the zipper-patent 1851	<b>30</b> <b>National Honesty Day</b>		

Birthdays:

- |                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 6 Susan Brunner   | 19 Grant Escue        |
| 8 Reta Swearingen | 22 Susan Cox Proffitt |
| 13 Jim Ksycki     | 24 Darrin DeJaynes    |
| 18 Winnie Ebert   | 26 Pat Franzen        |



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