



Spreading the Word

**Washington Presbyterian
Church**

APRIL 2021

From the Pastor's Desk....

So, what should I do with Jesus?" Pilate asked it first, but we've all asked it since. I believe it's a fair question and a necessary one. He called himself God, yet wore the clothes of a man. He called himself Messiah, but never led an army. He was regarded as king, but his own crown was thorns. People revered him as regal, yet his robe was stitched with mockery. Small wonder Pilate was puzzled. How do you explain such a man?

I believe one way is to take the walk, his walk, his last walk. During this Lenten season, is where I have tried to lead you. Have you followed his steps or stood back in the shadows? From Jericho to his entrance into Jerusalem. From the garden to the trial. From Pilate's palace to Golgotha's cross. We have watched him walk angrily into the temple, imagined his anguish in the garden of Gethsemane, and painfully up the Via Dolorosa. Witnessed the power from the empty tomb.

All of us have our own walk, witnessed alongside of Him. I was thinking of three walks, three journeys. Three slaves and the paths they took to freedom. Mary Barbour could tell you about her slavery, but she would rather tell you about her freedom. You see as a free person, she wandered the roads looking for work. She was victimized by opportunists. She refused to end up like many others who went back to the plantation. She walked on. Her walk to freedom was never forgotten. The path taken from slavery to liberation was vivid. She said it was more than a road, it was a release. The shackles opened and freedom dawned for her and her father.

Do you remember yours? Where were you the night the door was opened? Do you remember the touch of your Father? I hope it is permanently planted in your soul.

I am reminded of a third grader in my Sunday School class which I was teaching. He was the one disrupting the rest of us, climbing on chairs and banging on the underside of the tables. After class one of the other children ask me to do something with him. Little did she know, I had already tried. I prayed about the little boy and found out that he was from a broken home being raised by an aunt. He was rarely in school and often bullied other children when he was. One school counselor told me there were drugs and abuse in his home and that his father was in prison. I took the opportunity to meet with the boy each Sunday before class. He was reluctant to describe what was happening at home, often times saying nothing at all. If I touched him, he would cower and draw up his body. I continued to pray for him until one Sunday during our one-on-one, he asked through his tears, if he could be baptized. My heart leapt for joy! The Lord had heard my pleas and went to work on his little heart. I made contact with his aunt and asked if she would sponsor him, since his parents were unapproachable. What a glorious Sunday it was. It was Easter! For the first time I saw him smile and open his arms to the congregation. I have often wondered what happened to him. You see his mother moved him away (not due to anything the church had done.) I simply explained to her that her boy was way ahead of his time and that she should find a church for them both where he could be in Sunday school and continue to learn of God because he wanted to.

Every year thousands of people climb a mountain in the Alps, passing the stations of the cross to stand at an outdoor crucifix. One man noticed a little trail that led beyond the cross. He fought through the thicket and came upon another shrine that symbolized the empty tomb. It had been neglected and brush grew up all around it. Almost everyone went as far as the cross and no further. Far too few have moved beyond the cross to find the real message of Easter—the message of the empty tomb.

Green the grass. Ripe the bud. Yellow the flower. Blue the sky. Beautiful the butterfly. Risen the Lord!

**Happy Easter to all!
Pastor, Linda**



105 S. Elm Street
Washington, IL 61571
309-444-3637
Fax 309-444-3637
(please call before faxing)
wpcpcusa@mtco.com
www.wpcusa.org

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Note From the Pastor	1
Session Highlights	2
Easter	3
Mission	4
Bits and Pieces	5
Prayers	5
Calendar	6
Birthdays	6

The **deadline** for submitting articles for the **May newsletter**
April 17 at 5 p.m.
articles may be e-mailed to
jsq85@aol.com

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS—March 2021

The March session meeting was held March 18, 2021. If you have any concerns for session, please communicate them to Clerk of Session, Cathy Strawbridge.

The next session meeting will be Thursday, April 15, 2021, at 6:30 pm.

Pastor's Report:

Greetings Easter people! Some of you may think it's been a long road to Easter Sunday and spring. The good news is this—It's a new year half past the virus.

Since last we met, my office and brain have been buzzing. I believe getting ready for Easter is more involved than Christmas. At least it has been this year. I have focused on thought-provoking sermons to make the Lenten season real for everyone.

Report of the Treasurer: M.S.P. to approve Treasurer's report for February 2021.

Report of Commissioner to Presbytery: Next scheduled meetings

May 25, 2021

August 24, 2021

November 13, 2021

Facilities and Maintenance: (Kevin Gall) The lighted church sign on the front lawn will be repaired.

Finance: Bill Strawbridge

Received one volunteer to help review the books and need ONE more.



Member Care: Karen Milano

Planning a picnic in the park for June 13, 2021.

Mission (Jean Escue):

\$645.00 collected for the Christmas Joy Offering

Special Offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing (Received thru Easter Sunday – April 4)

Benefits:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Presbyterian Hunger Program

Self-Development of People

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

Donations for April:

OSF antepartum donation: None

Children's Hospital donation: Card Games

Almost Home Kids: Batteries/any size

WHIP Donation – Jelly

Worship and Sacraments (Melody Wiseman)

Attendance:

February 17 (Ash Wednesday) - 17 Zoom

February 21st - 19 in person, 20 Zoom

February 28th - 18 in person, 20 Zoom

March 7th - 19 in person, 20 Zoom

March 14th - 18 in person, 18 Zoom



Deacon's Report:

A proposal for a **Handicap Equipment Borrowing Program** was presented and approved.

Unfinished Business:

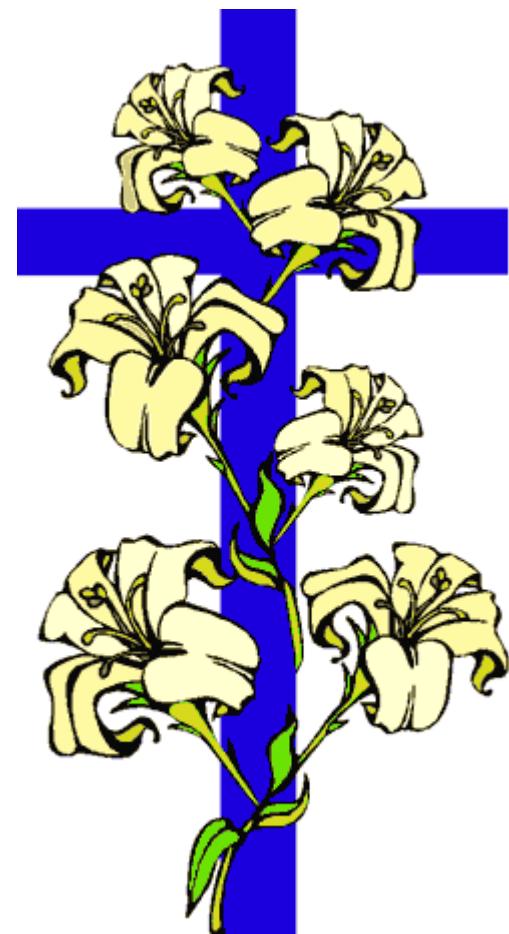
PNC Committee Report update: The Ministry Information Form (MIF) has been updated, approved and active.

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



He is Risen

DEATH COULD NOT HOLD HIM.

Rejoice in the resurrection of

Jesus Christ.



WISHING YOU A BLESSED AND JOY FILLED EASTER!

MISSION

WHIP JELLY



ALMOST HOME KIDS

BATTERIES



CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

CARD GAMES



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING—FEBRUARY 17—APRIL 4, 2021

in a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression

Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

BITS AND PIECES

Carolyn Hardesty recently moved to Georgia near her daughter. Her new address is:



The Landing of Bogart
Carolyn Hardesty
2881 Monroe Highway
Building 300, Suite 205
Bogart, GA 30622

She would enjoy hearing from you.

PRAYERS FOR:

Nancy Ponto—cancer
Mark Wolf—health concerns
Kim Siu—health concerns
Lila Neville— health concerns
Kim Hess (bookkeeper)—daughter-in-law has breast cancer
Marge Honeg— broken leg
Ann Tharp—therapy after fall



APRIL CARD SHOWER

Please consider sending a note or card to:

Nancy Ponto

Marge Honeg

Lila Neville

Kim Siu

Ann Tharp

Millie Eldridge

(Apostolic Skylines Nursing Home)

Sandy and Mike Fritz

Carolyn Hardesty

PNC COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Ministry Information Form (MIF) has been updated, approved and active.

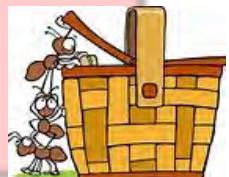
Please continue to pray for the PNC.

PNC Committee



CHURCH IN THE PARK

Ready for summer? Mark your calendars for our annual Church in the Park outing. Yes, that's right! This year will be a bit different but come enjoy our worship and fellowship at Wenger Shelter on June 13th at 10:30 am. We ask that everyone bring their own sack lunch and lawn chairs so that we might spread out a bit. Also please wear your masks as we are still observing Covid protocols.



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The 2021 Sanctuary Flower sign up sheet is available in the East Room by the office. Please sign up to provide flowers for the communion table on the third Sunday of each month. If your flowers are in honor of someone or a special celebration, please note on the sign up sheet. There will be no flowers needed in February and March due to celebrating Lent. If a vase is needed, there are several in the vestibule at the west end of the Session Room/Nursery hallway. Please feel free to use any of those vases from the box.





2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Maundy Thursday 	2 Good Friday 	3
4 Worship 9:30 AM 	5	6 National Tartan Day 	7	8	9	10 Sibling Day
11 Worship 9:30 AM	12	13 National Scrabble Day	14	15 Session Mtng 6:30 PM (virtual)	16	17 Newsletter Info due
18 Worship 9:30 AM	19	20 Volunteer Recognition Day	21	22 Earth Day 	23	24
25 Worship 9:30 AM	26	27	28 National Guide Dog Day 	29	30	

Birthdays:

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



Washington Presbyterian Church



105 South Elm Street
Washington, IL 61571

