



February 2020

BOTH Now AND Next ...and in between

Dear Wheat Ridge Family,

Last week, I decided to write this February newsletter piece on the need to be a congregation and broader Church **both right now and yet also look for what is next**. This is true for Wheat Ridge Presbyterian Church as we live in this turbulent religious and social landscape as do our brothers and sisters in the Presbyterian Church (USA), virtually every other



Christian denomination, as well as friends of different religions. Declining religious attendance numbers across the board are just the most visible aspect of the sea we find ourselves (to mix metaphors...). We cannot and will not change the ocean, but we can discern new ways to navigate.

We are a church right now. We have: devoted members; meaningful worship with great music; some visitors curious about our ministry; great adult education classes as well as loving ministry with children, youth, and intergenerational fun; we tutor local students; cook meals for people living without homes and support building homes; we support many other missions and we nurture each other with fellowship & acts of caring; all this reaching out from building and grounds that are a gift to the community.

We are also looking for what is next. Like most churches in the US, our members are aging and “joining the church triumphant” faster than new and younger members are joining. This has implications for our energy level to do the work and fun I listed above as well as having the money needed to do ministry as it has happened in the past. So, church leaders all over are listening and seeking what is next—new ways to navigate on the choppy waters of the 21st century. I have told you before about the Presbyterian organization, NEXT Church [www.nextchurch.net]. I attended their annual gathering 5 years ago, have kept up with resources online, and for the past 5 months have been led in a group of ~14 PC(USA) ministers learning about leadership that *adapts* to meet challenges (re-assessing what is needed) rather than solely seeking a *technical* fix (e.g. adding another program without asking why). I will be attending the annual meeting this March—paying only for travel since a *NEXT Church scholarship* supports attendance by pastors of smaller congregations.

Just before I sat down to write this, I read an article that NEXT Church shared from FaithandLeadership.com (out of Duke Divinity School). It is entitled, *Leading in an in-between season* and it adds yet another layer to NOW and NEXT: in-between. As a congregation and as leaders, we want to be the best community we can be **NOW**—and I believe we are. Also, we are looking at what is next. Rather than rush headlong into the **NEXT** initiative, we take time to discern in the “**IN-BETWEEN**” season for God’s leading. Standing on a threshold isn’t very comfortable but it is where the body of Christ in the USA and elsewhere finds itself. I am grateful to be standing in the in-between with all of you.

Peace, *Laura*

SESSION— Called meeting 6 PM, Mon., Feb. 3 & regular meeting 7 PM Thur., Feb. 13

There is not much news from Session as they did not meet in January. The Treasurer's office continues to work in getting the new accounting system up and running, and work continues on improving the web page. Remember the **Annual Congregational meeting on February 23**. At this meeting the budget approved by Session for 2020 will be presented. The terms of call of the minister will be voted on by the congregation, as well as election of officers. Financials for the year will be reviewed.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

ARE DUE in the office by **Friday, February 7**.

These are the reports each committee chair writes to re-cap the year of 2019. If you would like your 2018 copy, please email the church office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Youth Sunday during worship on Sunday, February 9.**
- **Red, White, & Chocolate Luncheon** Benefit for Uplift Internationale following worship on **Sunday, February 16^h**
- **Annual Congregational meeting on Sunday, February 23.**
- **Ash Wednesday service February 26 at 7:00 pm in sanctuary**
- **St. Patrick's Day Luncheon** for Habitat for Humanity/The Carpenter's Helpers following worship on **Sunday, March 15^h**

DEACONS

A CARING REMINDER FROM THE DEACONS: If your family suffers a loss or illness, or you would like to request prayer, please contact:

Laura 303-422-2355 (church)
or 720-471-0751 (cell)
Church Office, 303-422-2354
Prayer Chain, Betty N.
Deacon Chair: Lori G.

PRAYER CHAIN – Prayer Chain is quick way to have your prayer concerns passed on to part of the church family and enables the church to support you more rapidly in your time of need. The Prayer chain has been activated 6 times in the months of December and January.



Deacons **next meet Sunday, March 8, following Fellowship Time.**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please mark your calendars. We will have a Congregational Meeting, **Sunday, February 23**, following an abbreviated service. This meeting will be to receive the church's 2019 annual report, approve Laura's terms of call, and elect our new slate of officers.

MISSION

• **FAMILY PROMISE:** On **Thursday, Jan. 23rd**, the family promise committee prepared and served dinner for the homeless being housed that week at the Jefferson Ave Methodist church to total of 12 people. This is a way our church mission committee participates in serving some of the needy in our neighborhood.

- **Meets Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 2:00 pm**
- **Mission's Red, White, and Chocolate Luncheon, Sunday February 16th**

Join your church valentines for a red, white and chocolate benefit luncheon on Sunday, February 16, after church. **"Gluten free options"** will be available at the red, white and chocolate luncheon. The profits will be given to **Uplift Internationale** as we celebrate the return of another group of Uplift volunteers.



- **Sunday, March 15**, will be our 8th **Annual St. Patrick's Day Lunch Fundraiser** after worship— this year to benefit the Presbyterian arm of **Habitat for Humanity, The Carpenter's Helpers**. Kudos to those of you that have volunteered to help with the **Carpenter's Helpers/Habitat for Humanity build on Saturday, February 8.**



WORSHIP

The Advent and Christmas season were busy times for Worship, with the Hanging of the Greens, Advent candlelighting, poinsettia ordering and placing, and taking care of all of the myriad details involved in our worship services. Thank you to all of the volunteers that helped with these activities!

It's hard to believe, but Lent begins near the end of February. We have again ordered **Lenten devotionals** for your use and will have an Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary on February 26 at 7:00 pm.

NOVEL INSIGHTS SERMON SERIES

Laura will be preaching on a book once every two months or so and invites all to read or re-read these books for a deeper experience. The next book will be on March 15, *Plainsong* by Kent Haruf. Other novels in the order of when they'll be discussed include in May, *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker, in June/July, *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson and in Aug./Sept., *A Gesture Life* by Chang-Rae Lee.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

As you read this, I am attending the **Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) conference** in Little Rock, AR. I enjoy this annual conference, as it is an opportunity to learn new exciting things that help me teach our children and



youth here at WRPC. I'm sure when I return, there will be plenty to share about my experience.

Soon our youth will be participating in **Youth Sunday**.

Please join us on **Sunday, February 9th**, when the youth take their place in the worship service as they learn how to serve God through faith and action.

This year we will offer a Confirmation class for our youth, parents who are interested in their youth attending please contact Linda V.

Grace and Peace,
Linda

Save the date! Vacation Bible School June 21-26

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

The Lenten Season will bring the **One Great Hour of Sharing** opportunity to our church family once again. This is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. We will feature each of the 3 programs supported by this Offering over the next three months. This month we look at the **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program (PDA)** working alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees. PDA has been there providing assistance and support in Puerto Rico as they have been dealing with both Hurricane Maria and the recent earthquakes. They have been there in the Bahamas as they dealt with the devastation of Hurricane Dorian. They have been there during the 2019 Spring tornadoes and flooding across the US and even the "winter tornadoes" now across the South. They were there with "hands-on" support during the Missouri River Flooding in Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas. As the One Great Hour of Sharing theme reminds us "may we be called, as Isaiah said, "repairers of the breach, restorers of streets to live in" through this offering.

The Stewardship Committee has tried to share the information regarding the option of "On-line Giving" through information in recent bulletins and e-posts as well as the pew cards. This is managed by the Presbyterian Foundation and their secure site: "eservicepayments.com." A special thank you to all of our church family for all the ways you give to the WRPC ministry.

4-F

Please come to **4-F 8:30 am Tuesday, February 4** in Fellowship Hall, for some Food, Fun, Fellowship and Fixin'!



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY & BREAKFAST:

February 8th

8:30 a.m. breakfast followed by lesson. All Women of the church are invited!

Please **RSVP to Eileen**.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Bob R.	Feb. 2
Matt B.	Feb. 4
Doug L.	Feb. 4
Chet M.	Feb. 18
Frank B.	Feb. 19
Anna J.	Feb. 20
Cait R.	Feb. 22
92 nd Birthday!! Bob E.	Feb. 26
Jackie T.	Feb. 28

...and if we have missed *your* birthday please notify the church office @ 303-422-2354

WRPC BRIDGE GROUP

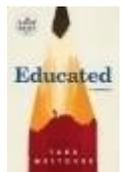
meets **Wednesday, February 19 at 1:00 pm**. Betsy S. is hosting this month. Please **RSVP to Betsy** so that she knows how many tables to setup.



THURSDAY BOOK GROUP: 7:00 pm Thu., Feb

20 at the home of **Belinda S.** Reading: **Educated** by Tara Westover. *Educated* is a memoir about a young girl who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University. Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom.

Please **RSVP** so that she knows how many plan to attend. All are welcome!



PRAYER REQUESTS & NOTES OF THANKSGIVING



With Concern. . .

- For all the volunteers and others that are participating in **Uplift Internationale's Operation Tagahoy 2020 February 1-8 in Naga City in the Philippines**. May they be able to provide needed surgeries and other help to many and may all stay safe and healthy during the trip and the travels back and forth.

With Sympathy. . .

- Prayers of sympathy for **Deloris G.** family after the death of her **brother, Lloyd**, on Saturday, January 25 in Oregon. Lloyd had been under the care of hospice and his daughter was caring for him and was with him when he died.

With Thanksgiving. . .

- Update from **Alice D.:** Alice and her dog friend, Chance, are in their new home in Springfield, MO. She is finding it much easier to breathe and is able to do without the oxygen for periods of time during the day. She is still dealing with many boxes to be unpacked but is finding her new home quite comfortable. She misses the Colorado sun!!
- From **Bob E.'s family:** "Dear Church Family, on behalf of Bob, Gary and I would like to thank Rev. Sugg and all the people from Wheat Ridge Pres, who visited him before Christmas to sing carols. Not only did it bless Dad but everyone there enjoyed and appreciated it. Thank you also for the gift bag of goodies. Dad felt very loved on!

Sincerely, Gary and Linda"

- From **Bill P.:** "Karen and I are very appreciative of the flowers and cards received from the Deacons and other church members regarding my recent hip replacement surgery. Rehab is going well. Please put a note in the church bulletin thanking everyone for their best wishes. Much appreciated. Thank you.
Regards, Bill and Karen P."
- From **Jenny G.:** "Thanks so much to all for the flowers, sympathy cards and notes, and expressions of sympathy for me and my family at the sudden yet peaceful death of my father, John. WRPC is truly "where people care."

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

Dear members,

It is time now to pay your per capita pledge which is \$32 per person.

The per capita pledge supports the mission of the broader church through the work of Denver Presbytery and PC(USA) national and global mission. I would like to collect everyone's payments now, so I can remit the entire amount to Presbytery by the end of February. Thanks for your help in getting this done early in the year.



Eileen G. treasurer

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- The **Action Center Concert Fundraiser:** Ken Caryl Concerts presents "An Evening of Love Songs" **Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 7:30pm** at St. Philip Lutheran Church - 7531 S. Kendall Blvd. Littleton, CO. This is a free and family friendly event. Donations will be collected to benefit the Action Center in Lakewood. For more info please visit <https://www.stphilip-co.org/concerts/>
- The **shelter at the Action Center** is reopening. We want to invite any interested groups to take a tour of the new 'digs'. Here is a list of tour dates. Please call to set up a convenient time to take a tour. **Shelter tour dates:**
1/30 from 1:30 - 2:00 pm, 1/31, 2/4, 2/12, and 2/19 from 11:00-11:30 am, 2/5 and 2/14 from 2:00-3:00 pm
- **Diabetic/Prediabetic Support Groups**
Prediabetics and Diabetics and their families are invited to **meetings every month on the first Tuesday at 3:30 pm at Gardens on Quail, 6447 Quail Street, Arvada, 80004** office phone 303-456-1500 or **first Thursday at 4:30-5:30 pm at Arvada Presbyterian Church, 5592 Independence Street, Arvada, Co 80002**. For more information, contact David Reed.
- **Spread the word! Jobs with the 2020 Census**
2020 Census jobs are flexible, well-paying temporary jobs (Census takers in Denver and Jefferson Counties will be paid \$20.50/hour + mileage) and anything you can do to help spread the word would be greatly appreciated! The application can be completed online at www.2020Census.gov/jobs.

FEBRUARY 2020

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

						1
						4pm Denise Shannon Ordination Svc at Trinity Presby. Arvada
2 8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am Church School for All Ages 10:00 am Worship (Communion & Nametag) 11:10 am Fellowship Time	3 3:30pm-5pm Whiz Kids Tutoring 6:00 pm Called Session meeting	4 8:30 am 4-F 10:30 am Staff meeting 3:30 pm Diabetic Support Group at Gardens at Quail 4:30-6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Pipers Practice	5 2:00 pm Mission Committee meeting 7:00 pm Ridge Ringers	6 4:30 pm Diabetic Support Group at Arvada Pres.	7 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE	8 8:30 am Sat. AM Women's Breakfast/Bible Study 10:00 am Youth Sunday practice The Carpenter's Helpers build project
9 Youth Sunday 8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am Church School 10am Worship 11:05 am Fellowship	10 3:30pm-5pm Whiz Kids Tutoring	11 4:30-6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Pipers Practice	12 7:00 pm Ridge Ringers	13 7:00 pm Session meeting 7:00 pm Citizens for a Healthy Wheat Ridge	14 9:30 am-2:00 China Painters	15
16 8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am Church School 10 am Worship 11:05 am Fellowship Time/Red, White, & Chocolate Luncheon Mission UI Fundraiser	17 President's Day No Whiz Kids Tutoring	18 4:30-6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Pipers Practice	19 1:00 pm WRPC Church Bridge Group. Hostess, Betsy S. 7:00 pm Ridge Ringers	20 7:00 pm Thursday Book Group at the home of Belinda S.	21	22 6:30-8:30 pm Uplift Internationale Fundraiser: A Live Tribute to Frank Sinatra, Westminster Elks Lodge
23 Annual Congregational meeting 8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am Church School 10 am Worship 11:20 am Fellowship Time Noon Single Ladies	24 3:30-5pm Whiz Kids Tutoring	25 4:30-6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Pipers Practice	26 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service in sanctuary	27	28	29

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