

February 2023

Can God Be Found in Pop Culture?



Can God be found in pop culture?

Growing up I was exposed to a variety of theological viewpoints. I'd worshiped at Lakewood Methodist Church, Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church, and attended a Seattle Pacific University-- a Free Methodist school. I was also exposed to parachurch organizations such as Young Life and Inner Varsity. Looking back, I see my upbringing was mostly theologically conservative but my own family while conservative politically was more theologically liberal. I give my parents credit for encouraging me to try and appreciate views from both sides, occupy a centered place, and be open to the beliefs and arguments of others.

One such tension was the divide between the sacred and the common. How a faith community views the world plays an important role in the way a congregation may or may not engage culture. In looking back at my own bias, I realize I held a pretty thick line between sacred and culture. Through Seminary, chaplaincy, and my role as a pastor this line has become very thin. Throughout the Bible we see people experiencing the work of the divine in all kinds of places. Could it be that we can learn about forgiveness, brokenness, grace and vulnerability from the likes of Johnny Cash, Taylor Swift, The Simpsons and a family devoted to flyfishing in Montana?

This Lent, to help us see some of the unique places God is working in our world I will be offering a sermon series using the theme: **Pop Culture: Finding God in Unusual Places**. More than anything I hope this will be a conversation starter for you and your family, friends, and coworkers. What movie has inspired you? What form of art has challenged you? What song changed your life? What movie do you consider blasphemy?

Lent begins with an Ash Wednesday on February 22 service at the church. Then for 6 Sundays we will explore and discuss and engage different artists. So, invite a friend knowing we will have fun while we learn and encounter the Jesus who is always with us.

Peace, *Whit*

SESSION: At the January Session meeting approval was given to create a temporary **THRIVE Committee** to evaluate and implement ideas/activities for the purpose of a) raising revenue to offset budget deficit; b) reaching out to the wider community for the purpose of rejuvenating the church and recruiting members and participants.

Ashley C. is chair, with **Linda V.**, a valued member of the committee that will include both “young” and “old”. Session approval was also given to begin a revenue-generating component of music/technology role in the THRIVE Committee strategy. This group will plan for a concert schedule for summer/fall 2023, consider plans to broadcast and record musical events, to continue to develop skill sets, and to adapt the choir room into music rehearsal room. As of December 31, 2022 the total yearly Undesignated Income was \$265,118 and the total yearly Undesignated expenses \$249,683, with a checking account balance of \$35,068.

Ruth B., Clerk of Session

MISSION

- **Meets Wed., Feb. 1 at 10 am.** This is a hybrid, meeting. Those “Zooming” please get the link from Marny.
- **Mark your calendars!** Mission will have a “**Red, White, and Chocolate**” luncheon on **Sunday Feb. 12** to benefit **Second Wind Fund**, the non-profit group that connects youth at risk for suicide with life-saving mental health treatment. The Red is **Bob R.’s** famous red spaghetti sauce; the White is the pasta; and Chocolate is a chocolate dessert buffet. **Gluten-free options are available.**



- Plans are also being made for a **Corned Beef and fixings St. Patrick’s luncheon on Sunday,**



March 19) to benefit the Presbytery Mission Partnership, **The Carpenter’s Helpers (TCH).** TCH works with **Metro Habitat for Humanity** to build houses,

celebrate dedication ceremonies for new owners, work at the Restore facilities, and organize clergy and women build days for special fellowship.

WORSHIP

The Advent and Christmas season were busy times for Worship, with new Advent banners, preparing the sanctuary for Advent and creating the Narnia wardrobe, Advent candle-lighting, 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. **Ash Wednesday is February 22 this year.**

ITEMS NEEDED FOR MIGRANT FAMILY:

From Den. Pres. Journey with Migrants Mission Partnership (JWM) The

partnership is assisting a migrant family of five : Dad, Mom, 10- and 4-year-old sons and a 3-week-old son. They have housing but are in need

of bunk beds, small couches, small tables, chairs, dishware, cooking ware, towels, rugs, toiletries, sheets/comforters, packnplays, and/ or gift cards.

They’re reaching out to all churches in the JWM partnership (which includes WRPC). If any WRPCers are downsizing and want a good home for their “excess”, they’d gladly take it. To help **please contact Rob or Celeste Habiger.**



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Red, White, & Chocolate Luncheon** Benefit for Second Wind Fund following worship on **Sunday, February 12^h**
- **Ash Wednesday is February 22** Details to follow in upcoming announcements.
- **Annual Congregational meeting on Sunday, February 26.**
- **St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon** for Habitat for Humanity/The Carpenter’s Helpers following worship on **Sunday, March 19^h**

DEACONS: A Caring Reminder from Deacons

If your family suffers a loss or illness, or you would like to request prayer, please contact:

Rev. Whit on his cellphone.

Church Office, 303-422-2354

Prayer Chain: Nancy R.

Deacon Tri-Moderators: Eleanor, Marcia, Jeanne

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.

Deacons next meet Sunday, March 12, following Fellowship Time.

FEB. 26 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please mark your calendars. We will have a Congregational Meeting, **Sunday, February 26**, following an abbreviated service. This meeting will be to receive the church’s 2022 annual report and elect our new slate of officers.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

On January 15th we were very excited to witness the baptism of Zachary T., son of Katie and Tyler T., and grandson of Paula M. We want to congratulate and welcome Zachary into the family of our congregation.

The WRPC young adults gathered on Zoom January 18th. It was a very productive meeting as we listened and shared ideas for ways to reach out to our community.

The Christian Ed committee is now in the process of planning the WRPC's spring event so watch for that important information coming soon!

Grace and Peace,

Linda

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Meets 6 PM Thu., Feb. 2 in Fellowship Hall

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

February 22 will bring Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season. It will also be the season of the **One Great Hour of Sharing** which consistently provides relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed through three important programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) and the Self-Development of People (SDOP). Watch for more information through the months ahead as we share in this important offering.



4-F

Please come to **4-F 8:30 am**
Tuesday, February 7 in
Fellowship Hall, for some
Food, Fun, Fellowship and Fixin'!

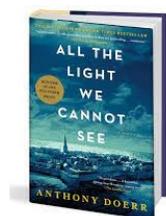


WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY & BREAKFAST:



February 11th
8:30 a.m. breakfast followed by
lesson. All Women of the church
are invited!
Please **RSVP to Eileen.**

THURSDAY BOOK GROUP: 3:00 pm Thu., Feb



23 at the home of Moe K. Reading:
All the Light We Cannot See by
Anthony Doerr. Please **RSVP** to
Moe so that they know how many
plan to attend. All are welcome!

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

MATTHEW 25 COALITION

Did you know?? WRPC is a Matthew 25 Congregation! Choosing two of the Matt. 25 goals on which to focus: (1) Building Congregational Vitality and (2) Eradicating Systemic Poverty.

- We are supporting our neighbors, friends and church family with caring assistance, staying involved in the community in so many ways and working on church activities and projects.
- Our church family is supporting the Second Wind Fund which works around the state to provide life-saving mental health treatment for youth who are at risk for suicide, paying for up to 12 sessions.
- We are supporting Hands of the Carpenter, a program that assists single women in need by removing obstacles that prevent economic self-sufficiency; finding needed cars for them and repairing cars which are broken.
- We provide needed food and clothing for neighbors in our community through The Action Center, and Senior Support Services.
- We provide meals for the homeless through the Family Promise Program and food for young people through the Feed the Future Backpack Program
- We are continuing to grow and learn through such events as a reading of indigenous peoples' poetry and the First Sunday presentations on a variety of current issues.
- But most importantly we are continuing to seek out the most critical needs in our community and working with others to find answers. Right now we are seeking to discern how we can best help with homelessness and the needs of the many immigrants right here in Wheat Ridge and Denver.

A special thank you to everyone! Let's keep on the road as we read Matthew 25 once again and seek to do His will here in this place reaching out in caring service to others.

Next Matt. 25 Coalition hybrid meeting.is
Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 10:00 am

YOUNG ADULT GROUP: meets 6:30 pm
Wed., Feb 8 in Fellowship Hall for a meal & fellowship!

SINGLE LADIES LUNCH Feb. 5 at Noon

WRPC Single Ladies

Luncheon (time to celebrate the New Year) to be held **this**
Sunday, February 5 at Noon at
Clancy's Irish Pub, 7000 W. 38th Ave. Please
RSVP to Caroline



COMMUNITY EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

- Want to volunteer at The **Action Center** or other **service organizations** the metro area? Sign up at the **Project Helping** website.
- **Drawing Classes here with Sandra Davis 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon** Tues., Jan 31 & Feb. 28 Acrylic Pen, , Tuesdays Feb. 7 & 21 Color Pencil, Wed. Feb. 22 Watercolor Pencil (for more details please **contact Sandra** by phone or email below). **Location:** Wheat Ridge Presbyterian Church 9180 W 38th Ave, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033. **Fee: \$40 per class** (Fee includes paper which will be supplied for you in class.) Register with Sandra at sdavis@adsnart.com

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Bob R.	Feb. 2
Chet M.	Feb. 18
Anna J.	Feb. 20
Cait R.	Feb. 22
Jackie T.	Feb. 28

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

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 treasurer

THRIVE COMMITTEE HYBRID MEETING

Meets 4 PM, February 1st. Contact Mick for link if you don't already have it.

PRAYER REQUESTS & NOTES OF THANKSGIVING



With Concern. . .

- For all the volunteers and others that are participating in **Uplift Internationale's Operation Tagahoy 2023 in early February in Sorsogon 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. Their **Annual Gala is April 15th** this year!

With Sympathy. . .

- Prayers of sympathy for Joanie M., husband Ron and family after the sudden death of her **brother, Mark in mid-January.** If you'd like to send a card or note to the Mickle family address is in the church directory.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Sunday, Feb. 19 Transfiguration of the Lord

Wednesday, Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday
Details to follow in upcoming announcements.

1st Sunday in Lent and Annual Congregational Meeting, Feb. 26

Sunday, Mar. 12 Daylight Savings begins (Turn clocks forward an hour), perhaps permanently

Sunday, April 2 Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 6 Maundy Thursday

Sunday, April 9 Easter Sunday

◀ Jan 2023		February 2023				Mar 2023 ▶	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1 10 am Mission Hybrid meeting 4 pm Thrive Hybrid meeting 5:30 pm Healing and Prayer Zoom worship	2 6:00 pm Christian Ed. meeting in FH	3 9:00-2:00 Duplicate Bridge Group	4	
5 8:45 am First Sunday "Critical Thinking" 10:00 am Worship with Communion 11:10 am Fellowship Time 11:20 Music Committee Noon Single Ladies Lunch at Clancy's	6	7 8:30 am 4-F 9:30-Noon Color Pencil Class in S. C.E. room 7:00 pm Pipers Practice	8 6:30 pm Young Adult Group meal & fellowship 6:30 pm Ridge Ringers practice	9	10 9:30-2:30 China Painters	11 8:30 am Saturday AM Women's Breakfast/Bible Study Mission setup for R,W, & C lunch	
12 8:45 am Church School 9am Choir Rehearsal 10 am Worship 11:05 am Fellowship Time/Red, White, & Chocolate Luncheon Mission Second Wind Fundraiser	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day! 7:00 pm Pipers Practice	15 10 am Matthew 25 Coalition Hybrid meeting 6:30 pm Ridge Ringers practice	16	17	18	
19 8:45 am Church School 9am Choir Rehearsal 10 am Worship 11:05 am Fellowship Time	20	21 9:30-Noon Color Pencil Class in S. C.E. room 7:00 pm Pipers Practice	22 Ash Wednesday 9:30-Noon Watercolor Pencil Class in S. C.E. room Ash Wednesday service	23 3:00 pm Book Group at Moe Keller's reading <i>All the Light We Cannot See</i> by Anthony Doerr	24	25	
26 Annual Congregational meeting 8:45 am Church School 9am Choir Rehearsal 10 am Worship 11:20 am Fellowship Time Noon Single Ladies?	27	28 9:30-Noon Acrylic Pen Class in S. C.E. room 7:00 pm Pipers Practice					

Wheat Ridge Presbyterian Church
9180 W. 38th Avenue
Wheat Ridge CO 80033

Phone: 303.422.2354

Fax: 303.456.0533

Web: www.wrpres.org

Email: Jenny@WRPres.org