



February 2018

Everything does not happen “for a reason”...

As a pastor and as a theologian, I have long been troubled when someone says, “**Everything happens for a reason.**” When I was a college chaplain, in September of 2001, a student came to me after staying up all night reading the book of Revelation. She was sure that, through these attacks, God was bringing all things to an end. Another person struggles to understand why they received a terrible medical diagnosis. When someone says, “everything happens for a reason,” often it is a person searching, **not for a physical cause** (e.g. The car accident happened because the driver (Joe) ran a red light and the other car’s driver (Jane) had no time to stop) **but some divine purpose** behind what happened (e.g. The car accident happened because Joe was mean to his kids and Jane needed to learn that life is short.) Things get even trickier when something happens that has **no visible human choice** involved: a 3-year-old gets terminal leukemia; the aid worker dies from a lightning strike; a farming town is flattened by a tornado.

Goodness knows that people in biblical times were often looking for a divine purpose and even a “message” behind and through events—the Hebrew people are conquered and exiled to Babylon as a result of their violation of God’s covenant. Scripture often sees through the lens of **God’s purpose** as it tells the stories of our salvation history. But hindsight is 20/20, as they say. What we can see in our own lives may echo the scriptures. Long AFTER something difficult or joyful happens in our lives, it can be easier to see how **God helped us or we learned and grew** through it. That is **very different from saying that God caused** something to happen. Providence is God’s overall working for good in human history. By the end of time, love will win. Right now, cause and effect is mystery.

“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God...” (Romans 8:28) assures us that, **with God, good can come out of even the most difficult situations.** That does **not** mean that God made those bad things happen in order to “teach us”—God *“makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.”* (Matthew 5:45) God loves us and suffers with us in our pain and in our frailty. God grieves when we choose cruelty over compassion. God loves us in our creativity and strength. Each and every human being is precious in God’s sight—even people we would put in the category of evil.

If God *causes* everything that happens, then that would mean there is **no such thing as sin**—acting counter to God’s will—and there would be **no free will**, something that Jews and Christians cherish as part of the gift of creation. To **search for a divine “why”** for everything that happens in our individual and communal lives is an **exercise in frustration** and sooner or later, the house of cards built upon “reasons” will eventually collapse into God being cruel, callous, or unjust. One day, in the church triumphant we may understand why a saint of WPC died of cancer or why a tornado struck one house but not the one next door: *“For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.”* (I Cor. 13:12) In the meantime, **let’s not ask, “why?” but, “how can God’s love lead me through this?”**

Peace, *Laura*

SESSION--meets 7pm Thursday, February 8th

The Personnel Committee submitted, for a first reading, the newly revised "Personnel Policy and Procedure Handbook. The Session will review the document, make any necessary changes and vote at the February meeting as to the policies addressed. Questions about the policy can be directed to members of the Committee, Jim Niquette, Anne Baker, Linda Johnston, Maxine Foster, and Joanie Mickle.

As complete year-end financial information had not been received by meeting date, a final financial statement for 2017 was unavailable. This will be made available when the books are closed for 2017. The Session thanks all members and friends for their support during the past year. Any questions or concerns are always welcomed.

Ruth Breckon
Clerk of Session

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, Charlene Pierce
Deacon Co-Chairs: Linda Johnston & Dick Remington.

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 won't meet in February unless there is a special need and **next meet Sunday, March 11th, following Fellowship Time.**



WHEAT RIDGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BRIDGE CLUB

WPC Bridge meets **Wednesday, February 21st at 1:00PM to 3:30PM.** Caroline Clovesko is

hosting it here in **Fellowship Hall.** Please contact her in **advance** for further **details** and so she knows **how many tables to setup.**

4F

Please come to 4-F **8:30 am Tuesday, February 6th in Fellowship Hall,** for some **Food, Fun, Fellowship and Fixin'!**



MISSION

- Meets Thursday, Feb. 1st at 3pm
- Mission's Red, White, and Chocolate

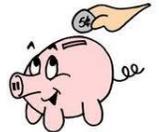


Luncheon, Sunday February 18th

Join your church valentines for a red, white and chocolate benefit luncheon on Sunday, February 18th, after church. The profits will be given to

Uplift Internationale as we celebrate the return of another group of Uplift volunteers.

- **Wilbur Offering:** You will have the opportunity to come forward during special **during the final hymn, on Sunday, February 18th** of worship and **give a special donation** to the Wilburs that feed hungry children in Wheat Ridge (Feed the Future) and Zimbabwe (Lomagundi Clinic).



- **Sunday, March 18th,** will be our **6th Annual St. Patrick's Day Lunch Fundraiser** after worship—to benefit the **National Sports Center for Disabled.**



NEXT MISSION MEETING

Thursday, February 1st @ 3:00 pm

"I was hungry, and you gave me food to eat"

Matthew 25:31-36

Opportunity available:

Co-ordinator(s) for Cooking for Homeless

Skills needed: basic grocery shopping and cooking simple meal for 20-25.

Costs covered through Mission Committee.

Work with 2-3 volunteer helpers.

Time Commitment: 3-4 hours once every other "odd" month (Jan, March, May, July, Sept, Nov.)

Time and day of cooking probably negotiable.

Benefits: Gratitude, "Warm Fuzzy Feeling"

Contact: Ariane Meyer or Marny Eulberg

(Ariane Meyer, who has directed this WRPC project for many years can no longer continue to do this due to health reasons.)

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

Dear members,

It is time now to pay your per capita pledge which is \$30 per person. 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 Gardner, treasurer



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

As you read this I am in Louisville, KY, attending the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) conference. This conference is something I look forward to each year, as it is time spent with colleagues sharing ideas and gaining knowledge from their experiences in Christian Education. It is also a time of learning through creative and informative workshops, facilitated by experts in children and youth Christian Education. By attending this event I bring home valuable information on new ways to work with our children and youth and also, ways to reach out to families within our community.



Most of you may know that WPC has started a youth group. Our youth met on **January 7th**, and after lunch at the church, five youth and two leaders headed to the Dollar Tree to purchase supplies for the **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** program. This program is called Gifts of the Heart and the **youth** bought enough supplies to make four **hygiene disaster relief kits**. Afterward, we went to Starbucks for some hot chocolate and discussed how these kits are used and where they go, for example: natural disasters like hurricanes and wildfires, or area's such as South Sudan for humanitarian relief. Our young people learned how important this mission is, and although, we may not be able to travel to these areas we can still be helpful in other ways.

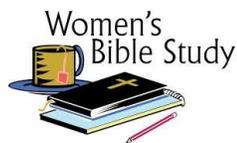
On **February 18th**, the **youth group** will attend an **Avalanche game**. We will have lunch here at the church and will leave at noon, the game is at 1:00pm. They will need to bring money if they want to purchase snacks at the game. Tickets are limited so please let me know as soon as possible if your youth would like to attend.

Grace and peace,
Linda Valo

SATURDAY A.M. WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY & BREAKFAST

February 10th

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



THURSDAY BOOK GROUP



7 pm TBD Thursday, mid/late February at the home of Allan & Sonia Hills.

Reading: *Suite Française* by Irène

Némirovsky Please **RSVP** them, so they know how many plan attending. All are welcome!

COMMUNITY SPEAKER—Sunday, February 4th at 8:45 am. The speaker is a **former producer for the CBS news program 48 Hours**, an American documentary news magazine that has been broadcast on CBS since 1988 presenting real life mysteries and crime stories. Currently, **Lindsey Schwartz** is Executive Director of **Givable**, a non-profit, currently serving St. Louis, soon to expand. Givable is "... a giving platform that encourages people to be daily givers connecting them to local non-profits in their community." Lindsey is speaking on the lessons she learned from crime reporting and how they've led her to her non-profit work with Givable. Please **invite friends, family, and neighbors** for this interesting community speaker.
All members of our community welcome!

PRAYER REQUESTS & NOTES OF THANKSGIVING

With Concern...

- Jim Piperato
- Rebecca Slattery, Betsy Smith's daughter
- Carolyn Steffen
- Gordon Swanson.



With Thanksgiving

WPC received a note from one of the Whiz Kids who is old enough to know..." Thank you for the gifts...really appreciated them."

FELLOWSHIP Small Groups Evening Group #1

Small group Evening #1 meets here **at WPC in Fellowship Hall** for a Potluck, **Friday, February 9th at 5:00 pm.** Any questions? Please **contact Nancy Rosi or Ann Myers**



SINGLE LADIES LUNCH



Keep checking upcoming E-Post and bulletin announcements for details on the Single Ladies Lunch.

NEW BEGINNINGS— Chapter 2



The New Vision for Wheat Ridge Presbyterian Church includes:

1. Inviting greater usage of our facility by the community surrounding the church.
2. Focusing on inter-generational mission—ministering to people at all ages and stages—and bringing those ages from the church and community together in different activities.

In **November**, a **brainstorming session** was held to gather ideas that we might want to incorporate into this vision. In **February**, a **task force** led by Barbara Stimson and made up by anyone in the church, will determine our next steps forward, and look at the feasibility of some of these activities. Any final decisions will be approved by Session.

Here are those ideas. If there is something you would like to **add** or would like to be involved in in any way, **please email Barbara Stimson or Anne Baker.**

NEW BEGINNINGS BRAINSTOMING IDEAS

Idea exchange and support grandparents raising children
Develop groups that easily include our congregation: many ages
Whiz Kids dinner—families and tutors, etc.
Visiting groups to people in nursing homes and home bound
Sponsor assistance for homeless children
Adopt a homeless family or refugee family
Programs offered for community and the church
Single parent family support
Mixing school populations with Highland West and nursing homes
Volunteer in schools-readers
Games available to students/seniors
Indoor/Outdoor Movie Night
Themed dances
More engagement with Highland West
Benefit races or festival
“Touch the Truck” benefit—fire truck
Support families of vets and wounded warriors
Transportation for all age groups
Sponsor athletic teams
Classes—budgeting, parenting, cooking, yoga, dancing, technology, CPR, life skills
Meeting groups—Service dog training, hiking, biking, Prayer warriors
Music concerts/recitals—Outdoor Worship Center, inside for recitals; summer benefit concerts
Daycare—for children or seniors
Community dinners—for Whiz Kids, Highland West, the neighborhood, etc.

(NEW BEGINNINGS BRAINSTOMING IDEAS CONTINUED)

Wedding venue
Homeless shelter-cold weather
After school program—Everitt Middle School
Pet adoption
Cultural nights
Craft and wine activity
Bike clinic
Boys and Girls Club
Reconfigure sanctuary and narthex—more kid friendly and handicapped accessibility
Food pantry or essentials pantry
Community Garden
Offer use of sanctuary to another congregation

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



	Bob Rosi	Feb. 2
	Matt Briggs	Feb. 4
	Grayson Horn	Feb. 17
	Chet Myers	Feb. 18
	Frank Burhorn	Feb. 19
	Anna Johnston	Feb. 20
	Cait Remington	Feb. 22
90 th Birthday!!!	Bob Euser	Feb. 26
	Jackie Trefz	Feb. 28

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Ash Wednesday Service**
February 14th at 6:00 pm in Sanctuary.
 - **Red, White, & Chocolate Luncheon**
Benefit for Uplift Internationale following worship on **Sunday, February 18th**
 - **St. Patrick's Day Luncheon** for National Sports Center for the Disabled following worship on **Sunday, March 18th**
- Holy Week:** Palm Sunday March 25; Maundy Thursday March 29 with potluck dinner at 6:00 pm, service in sanctuary at 7:00 pm; Easter April 1.

February 2018

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 3pm Mission meeting	2 Groundhog Day	3
4 8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am Community Speaker Lindsey Schwartz 8:45 am Church School for Children 10am Worship/Communion 11: 10 am Fellowship Time	5 9:30 am Choir Director Search Committee 3:30-5 pm Whiz Kids Tutoring	6 8:30 am 4-F Come for Food, Fun, Fellowship & Fixin'! 4:00-5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Pipers Practice	7 7:00 pm Ridge Ringers practice	8 7:00 pm SESSION MEETING 7:00 pm Citizens for a Healthy Wheat Ridge (Community Group)	9 9:30 am China Painters 5:00 pm Fellowship Small Group Eve 1 meeting for Potluck?	10 8:30 am Sat. AM Women's Breakfast/Bible Study in Fellowship Hall
11 8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am Church School for all ages 10:00 am Worship 11:10 Fellowship Time No Deacons meeting this month	12 3:30-5pm Whiz Kids Tutoring	13 3:00 pm Personnel Committee meeting 4:00-5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Pipers Practice	14 Happy Valentine's Day 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service in sanctuary No Ridge Ringers Practice	15 9:00 am Staff meeting 7:00 pm Thursday Book Group at Allan & Sonia Hills Reading: <i>Suite Française</i> by Irène Némirovsky	16	17
18 8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am Church School 10am Worship 11:15 am Red, White, and Chocolate Luncheon 1:00 Youth Group attends Avalanche Game	19 Presidents' Day Church office closed No Whiz Kids Tutoring	20 3:00 pm Worship Committee meeting 4:00-5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Pipers Practice	21 1:00 pm WPC Bridge Group in Fellowship Hall, hostess, Caroline Clovesko 7:00 pm Ridge Ringers practice	22	23	24
25 8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am Church School for all Ages 10 am Worship 11:10 am Fellowship Time	26 3:30-5pm Whiz Kids Tutoring	27 4:00-5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Pipers Practice	28 7:00 pm Ridge Ringers			

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