

May 2019



Changing Times, Changing Church

Dear Wheat Ridge Family,

You don't have to have your finger on the pulse of our culture to know that the **culture is changing** at a rate that alarms many people. Rather than give in to our natural inclination to fear, as followers of the Risen Christ, we find an anchor in God's steadfast love for the whole world. God is still very much present, and scripture tells us time and again that the living God is God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Jesus or angelic messengers tell the followers many, many times, "**Fear not...**" **and these words apply to you and me.**

Many of you know at Easter last year, nearby Presbyterian Church (USA) (PCUSA) congregation, **First Presbyterian Church, Lakewood**, decided to close. This was sad, to be sure, but it also meant that other PCUSA congregations (including ours) were blessed with some new members—dedicated Presbyterians with wisdom and experience to share. The financial resources of the sale of the First Lakewood property will **benefit new and existing ministries** in the Presbytery of Denver.

Our congregation participated in the "**New Beginnings**" program a little over a year ago to look at our community, our resources, our energy for ministry. We decided to prioritize inter-generational programs, and getting community organizations to use our building. This has already brought fresh enthusiasm to our mission. We take it day by day and month by month looking for fresh prompts from the Spirit!

Even with dedicated efforts, approximately **170 of the 9,636 PCUSA congregations closed or left from 2017 to 2018, but our denomination is not alone.** Changing beliefs and demographics mean that congregations of all stripes (Catholic, mainline Protestant, evangelical, even so-called mega-churches) are having to **re-evaluate their physical plant, financial situation, and human resources for ministry.**

Our neighbors/brothers and sisters at **Arvada Presbyterian Church (APC)** are being intentional about that re-evaluation right now. About seven folks from APC worshiped here at WRPC a month ago. They are getting familiar with a few other local PCUSA congregations. Their building is very large and expensive to maintain and the Session has voted to sell it. The congregation will vote on that question May 19. **This is NOT a vote to close. APC is entertaining several options:** sharing space with an ecumenical partner, merging with another PCUSA congregation, or something the Spirit hasn't yet revealed. We pray for our brothers and sisters as they discern the Spirit's call to APC for 2021 and beyond.

As one who earns my living in the church, it can be tempting to fret. But then I am reminded that **the constant in life is God's love for each and every one of us.** We can face the changing religious landscape knowing that, trusting in and being led by the Spirit, we will be equipped to do what is needed today, tomorrow, and in the years to come. That is all that any of us can do. **God's love is constant in life, but so is change.** It has always been so. It just feels like the change has been particularly rapid in the Church in the past 10 years. That is likely to continue. As the old hymn says, "**On Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.**"

Psalm 46:1-3 God is our refuge and strength, / a very present help in trouble. / Therefore we will not fear, / though the earth should change, / though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; / though its waters roar and foam, / though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

1 John 4:18 "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear...."

Peace, *Laura*

SESSION

It has been over a year that the church completed the process of New Beginnings. After several meetings in small groups two avenues, 1. Technology and 2. Building Use, were to be explored to continue the process. A question the Session is asking is where are we now in the process and where do we want to go? Your feedback would be most helpful in guiding the Session and Elders would be interested in hearing your thoughts. The web re-design is nearing completion and should be up and running by the first part of May.

On a Sunday this September after morning worship, Sherry K., from the Presbyterian Foundation, will give a presentation on giving options, legacy planning and tax considerations for charitable giving.

At the first of the year a new software accounting system was installed. With "bugs" still to be worked out, a detailed report is not ready at this time. A brief financial picture for the first three months does show that expenses slightly exceed income.

Clerk of Session, Ruth B.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS—May 25-June 11

The office will be closed Fridays, Memorial Day (May 27), and open afternoons (1:30-4:30 pm) Monday-Thursdays.

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 P.

Deacon Co-Chairs: Linda J. & Lori G.

PRAYER CHAIN – WPC's Prayer Chain is a quick way to have your prayer concerns passed on to the church family and enables the church to support you more rapidly in your time of need.

DEACONS--meet 11:05 am Sunday, May 26

WORSHIP

- **May 26th** is the first **Outdoor Worship Service** with the **earlier worship time of 9:30 am** followed by a **10:30 am Coffee Fellowship** in Fellowship Hall. On the **first Sunday** of each summer month, the service will be **indoors** and **communion** will be offered. The other **Sundays** will be **outdoors**, weather permitting.
- **Calling Musicians—Music Director, Katie Sakanai** is looking for congregation members who'd like to provide **special music this summer**. If **interested**, please **contact Katie** at Katie@WRPres.org.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Saturday May 4 from 9:00 am-Noon is the annual WPC church spring cleanup day.



The church needs your help with weeding, trimming, painting and organizing to prepare the Church property for the upcoming summer. We ask you to bring any specialized tools (wheel barrows, string trimmers, leaf blowers, hand clippers for bush trimming) that could be of help. If you have any questions, please contact Jo Ann F. or any member of the Property Management Committee. A large turnout will insure a minimal work load for all involved and a productive day! Since Colorado weather can throw a few surprises, **Saturday, May 18** is scheduled as the **rain date**.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

This year's spring event, "**Everything's Coming Up Disney**", was met with rave reviews and was attended by over 100 people during the two-night event. The evening started with a traditional Italian spaghetti dinner along with Nonna Celestina's meatball recipe, *delizioso!* After dinner we were delighted by the talented students of the Denver School of the Arts Nisha C., Wyatt J., Taylor R., and their accompanist Ryan D., we were equally entertained by our WPC children and youth Adelaide, Annika, and Naomi who also shared their talents. The C.E. Committee wants to thank the musicians, volunteers, and everyone who participated for helping to make this event so memorable.

There is a **Youth meeting** on Sunday, May 5th at 11:30 am (approximately an hour). We will meet downstairs in my classroom and lunch will be served. This meeting is to plan Youth Sunday. Please join us for this very important meeting.

We are excited to announce that **Youth Sunday** will be on **May 19th**, our children and youth will participate in the worship service. Please join us as they offer their gifts through scripture reading, Time with Children and Youth, music, and more. During the Youth Sunday service we will also honor all three of our DSA students who will be graduating. There will be a reception for them after worship in the Fellowship Hall and you will have a chance to give cards or congratulations to Nisha, Wyatt and Taylor at that time.

June 10-14 Vacation Bible School/Kamp Kidventure for ages 5-9 (\$20 per child) and **VBS/Drama Camp for ages 10-14** (\$30 per youth) Registration is now open at www.wpcpres.org, for ages 5-14, from 9am-4pm Mon.-Fri. Register on the church website or pick up an application from Linda V. or in the church office, fill it out and return it to Linda or the office. Grace and peace, Linda V.

Happy Birthday



Alicia G.	May 2
Mayson V.	May 2
Betty N.	May 5
Shirley H.	May 9
Betty P.	May 9
Barbara S.	May 20
Carol C.	May 21
Kristy M.	May 28
Sean M.	May 30
Janette P.	May 30

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

MISSION

- **Meets Wednesday, May 1 at 3:30 pm in the conference room.**
- **Wilbur Offering:** You will have the opportunity to come forward **during the final hymn, on Sunday, May 19th** and **give a special donation** to Wilbur the piggy bank that feed hungry children in Wheat Ridge (Feed the Future) and helps patients in Zimbabwe (Lomagundi Clinic).
- **Mission Bake/No Bake Sale Sunday, May 12 after worship.** We are planning to have a bake (and “no bake”) sale on Sunday, May 12 after worship. We welcome donations from all bakers who would like to show off their culinary skills and those of you who have a bit of a sweet tooth or are in need of a last-minute Mother’s Day gift to come! The **proceeds** will be used to **purchase the food that then is used to make a meal for the homeless families** enrolled in **Family Promise** during the week they spend at Jefferson Avenue Methodist Church. Members of Wheat Ridge Presbyterian Church prepare an evening meal and deliver it about once every 8-10 weeks. If you’d like to help prepare the food and/or deliver and serve it, there is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall or you can contact Betty N. or Jeanne M. We **need 2-3 people** to meet at **2:00 pm the day of the meal to prepare it** and then **deliver and serve it at 6:00 pm that day.** Please **contact Betty or Jeanne** if you have any questions.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

A special thank you to everyone who supported the One Great Hour of Sharing this year. Our efforts do make a difference in the vital work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Self Development of People Program here and around the world. Thanks to you \$1130 was raised this year for this special offering.

The special Pentecost Offering in June will support ministries with children and youth as well as Young Adult Volunteers and children at-risk. 40% of the Offering will stay right here in our church family for projects with our children and youth.

PRAYER REQUESTS & NOTES OF THANKSGIVING



With Concern. . .

- **Lori G.** is receiving treatment for a serious case of bronchitis.
- **Kristy M.** continues treatment for cancer. If you’d like to help the Mestdagh family with meals, please contact the church office or use the link found in the E-Post to schedule and prepare a meal for them.

With Sympathy . . .

Bunny B., died Tuesday, April 23rd. A **memorial service** will be held here on **Saturday, June 15 at 10:00 am.** She was under the care of hospice for the past several weeks as well as the watchful eye of family members including, **Nancy, Paula, Katie,** and other members of the family were able to spend time with Bunny in those final days, and she died peacefully.

With Thanksgiving...

From the **S. Family:** “We would like to express our gratitude for the unbelievable support provided by members of Wheat Ridge Presbyterian Church to our family these past three months. We have been overwhelmed with many fantastically delicious meals from members, by your thoughtful cards, letters and words of kindness, and for ongoing prayers of support. You have made this difficult time much easier for our family. Thank you from Tim, Annika, Nolan & Isaac.”

4F (Food, Fun, Fellowship and Fixin’)



Will next meet **Tuesday, May 7 at 8:30 am.** Please come for some Food, Fellowship, Fun and Fixin’!

FREE AED TRAINING OFFERED:

On Sunday, May 5 at about 11:20 am following worship, Executive Director of Uplift Internationale, Hannah Jamsay, will offer free ten-minute AED training. An AED, or automated external defibrillator, is used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. It's an easy-to-use, medical device.

SINGLE LADIES LUNCH

No Single Ladies Lunch this month due to the Memorial Day Holiday.



Betsy S. will be hosting it on Sunday, June 30th. It will be an earlier lunch time as summer worship and fellowship are half an hour earlier. Please watch for details regarding the next Single Ladies Lunch in upcoming E-Posts and bulletin announcements.

KING SOOPERS CARD UPDATE:

- King Soopers gift cards reloaded after March 31st no longer give our church a rebate. The **new system** makes it much easier as every time you shop and sign in as a **loyalty member**, we automatically get a 5% rebate.
- To use the King Soopers or City Market Community Rewards Program, **you need to designate/register WRPC as your 5% recipient.**
- **Sign into this link:** <http://www.kingsoopers.com>
- If you have already created a **King Soopers account, sign in.** If you do not have a King Soopers account associated with your loyalty card, you need to create one. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a loyalty card. Once logged into your King Soopers account, you can **search for Wheat Ridge Presbyterian Church either by name or RE405 and then click Enroll.**
- If you do not have a King Soopers loyalty card, you can obtain one at the Customer Service desk at any King Soopers.
- Under the old system, the church received about \$4,000 in 2018. If a lot of folks register their loyalty card to the church, we expect to receive much more in 2019!
- **REMEMBER, purchases will not count until after you register your loyalty card.** You must swipe your registered King Soopers loyalty card or use the phone number that is related to their registered King Soopers loyalty card when shopping for each purchase to count. **If you need assistance** registering your loyalty card, please talk to Betsy S., Laura S., or call the church office.

WPC BRIDGE GROUP – WPC BRIDGE GROUP Meets Wed., May 15 at 1:00 pm at the home of Betsy



S. Please **RSVP** to Betsy for further details and so that she knows how many plan attending.

THURSDAY BOOK GROUP

7:00 pm Thursday, May 16 at Joan P.'s

. Reading: *The Once and Future King* by T.H. White. **RSVP** so, she knows how many plan attending. All are welcome!



RIDGE RINGERS



Happy Summer Break!
Thanks for all the wonderful music.

PIPERS “RAINY DAY PRACTICES” HERE This summer SUNDAYS 1:00–2:30pm.



Centennial State Pipes and Drums usually practices elsewhere outdoors on Sundays from 1:00-2:30 pm in the summer. On rainy days, if no special events are planned here, they've requested to practice indoors at WPC.

SAT. A.M. WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY /BREAKFAST May 11th

8:30 a.m. breakfast followed by the lesson. All Women of the church are invited! Please **RSVP to Eileen G.** so she can bring enough study materials.



Diabetic Support
Group

first Thursday monthly

4:30 p.m.

Arvada Presbyterian Church
David Reed
5592 Independence St.
Questions? 303-422-3463

**LAST REGULAR 8:30 AM CHOIR PRACTICE—
May 12 until 9/19.** Happy Summer Break! See you in September.

May 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
This summer if there are no scheduled meetings and it's rainy, Centennial State Pipes and Drums will meet Sunday afternoons here			3:30pm Mission Committee 4:00 pm Wyatt Johnson's Senior Recital, Denver School of the Arts Concert Hall <i>No more Ridge Ringers practice. Happy Summer Break!</i>	11:30-1:30 Jeffco Together Colorado Faith Leaders Table 4:30 pm Diabetes Support group at Arvada Pres.		9:00-Noon CHURCH Clean Up Day (rain makeup 5/18)
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am Church School for All Ages 10:00 am Worship (Communion, Installation & Nametag) 11:10 Fellowship Time 11:20 AED Training 11:30 Youth Group Lunch	1:30-3:00 pm Elder Training	8:30 am 4-F Come for Food, Fun, Fellowship & Fixin'! 10:45 am staff meeting 7:00 pm Pipers Practice		5:30 pm Elder Training and Light supper 7:00 pm Session Meeting 7:00 pm Citizens for a Healthy Wheat Ridge in Fellowship Hall	9:30-2:00 pm China Painters 5:30 pm Session Party at Laura's –spouses invited also	8:30 am Sat. AM Women's Breakfast /Bible Study
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15	16	18	18
8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am Church School for all ages 10:00 am Worship 11:05 am Fellowship Time/Mission Bake Sale	6:00 pm Finance & Administration	4:00-5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 DSA Farewell Concert At their school 7:00 pm Pipers Practice	WPC June Newsletter articles due 1:00 pm WPC Bridge Group host Betsy S.	7:00 pm Thursday Book Group at Joan P.'s Reading: <i>The Once and Future King</i> by T.H. White		
19 Youth Sunday	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:45 am Church School for all Ages 10:00 am Worship Wilbur Sunday 11:10 am Fellowship Time /Reception for grads		7:00 pm Pipers Practice			Church office closed 5/28-6/10 Church office open afternoons 1:30-4:30 Mon. – Thu.	
26 Outdoor Worship 9:30 am Worship 10:35 am Fellowship Time 11:05 am-Deacons No Single Ladies Lunch this month	27 Memorial Day Church office closed	28 Church office open 1:30-4:30 pm 5:30 Presbytery Assembly at Arvada Presby. Church 7:00 pm Pipers Practice	29 Church office open 1:30-4:30 pm	30 Church office open 1:30-4:30 pm	31 Church office closed (also Fri. Jun. 7)	

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