



The Network

Winnetka Covenant Church
1200 Hibbard Rd • Wilmette IL 60091 • 847.446.4300

April, 2014

April 4 & 11
Lenten
Meditations
(art & music)

April 17
Maundy Thursday
Service

April 18
Good Friday
Concert

April 20
Easter Sunday

May 3
Rummage Sale

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A Prayer for the Pleasers



Art by
Greta Eanes

I think
if Jesus were here, in body, and with shape
in my life and in its parts
he would sit, hands folded, and he would watch.

I wouldn't know what to do with him, really.
I would listen to him
and try to be transformed.

I know he would bring people to him.
Our house would always be filled.
He would talk about things I want to understand
And my friends would ask questions and talk
of life beautiful with theology and grand ideas,
And my words
They would stutter and be confused.
I would trip over concepts
And I would decide that maybe
I should keep my thoughts to myself.

I think
if Jesus were here, in body and shape
in my life and in its parts
he would sit, hands folded, and he would watch.

I would run
To do "the right things."
I would worry and try to hide
Those lines on my forehead
And that anxious heart of mine.

I would try to be near him,
But if he asked me things,
I would be afraid
that my lack of knowledge
would turn him away.
And OH!
How I wanted him to never turn away!

I think
if Jesus were here, in body and shape
in my life and in its parts
he would sit, hands folded,
and he would watch.

And I would watch him.
I would wonder what he thought
What he thought about me.
All my confused mishaps and struggles...
They were what made me
I would be sure of it.

My mis-thoughts and words
through them,
My selfish actions and ...
My ... not enough.
He would know them, I was sure.
And ... I wouldn't be
Worth his time.

(cont'd p. 2)

A Prayer for the Pleasers (cont'd from p. 1)

This strange, embodied heart of mine
 In pain and desperation
 Would there pour
 a jar of perfume over his head and feet.
 And I would feel the other's whispers
 And my heart would twist at things
 I hadn't considered and I would pretend
 to be fine.

When risks taken turned in pain
 of perceived rejection,
 I would define more that I couldn't say or do
 and I would become contained
 in a small box of my own making.

Whispers.
 Unconsidered ideas.
 Heart twisting.
 Shrinking into the box.
 The smell of wasted perfume.

But I think
 if Jesus were here, in body and shape
 in my life and in its parts
 He would sit me down
 In a chair
 On our rickety porch over the river and
 he would bring out two cups of something warm
 And tell me things I couldn't dream
 Or frame in my small mind
 Or in my weary heart.

With animated, unfolded hands
 Rattling the cups of tea,
 Drops of chai scattered on the wood table,
 I think,
 And eyes with truth and grace,
 He would tell me
 About myself
 The ways he made me
 How he knows what I mean
 when I say things and do things
 And what I long for

And he would say,
 "Why do you think I don't like you?
 Or think I don't see you?
 Or know you?
 Or have futures for you too?"

"I made you,"
 He would lean in and say,
 "So stop ...
 Trying to be the others
 With their questions
 And finely woven answers,
 Their experience and their plans ...

Children's Rotation Sunday School

"Holy Week: Gospel Comparison"

April 27, May 4, 11, & 18
The Church Year
 (details next month)

April 6:
Disciples' Drama: Kids will enact
 the different events from Jesus' trial
 through the resurrection in a melo-
 dramatic style; very fun and inter-
 active.

April 13:
Where in the World Is?: Kids
 will learn the story of how Jesus
 washed the feet of his disciples.
 They will participate in a foot-
 washing service and ponder how we
 express our faith through service to
 others. They'll make personal ser-
 vice banners to take home or deco-
 rate washcloths to give to a home-
 less shelter.



Adult Sunday School

April 6 & 13 - Finding Our Way Through Lent Andrea Johnson, leader

Discover a meaningful Lent through thinking and feeling, listening and speaking, being still and being active.

April 27 & May 4 -

Grab a cup of Starbucks and join the continuing conversation about the life of our church, this time in a café atmosphere around tables centered on key questions about "connectedness" within our congregation and with our community. Everyone's participation is valued and important and will make a difference. The ideas generated from these conversations will be used by our church leaders to form next steps for ministry.

And bring what I call you to bring,
 Be true to how I made you,
 For without that,
 What will this world come to?"

"And I like you ... ok?"

I think
 That's what Jesus would say
 if he were here, in body, and with shape
 in my life and in its parts.

By Ellie ver Gowe
 WCC Youth Volunteer

Music Notes

“Surely he hath borne our griefs and carries our sorrows.”

April 6 we will feature the new anthem provided from Vivian Edstrom as a Memorial to Cully, who sang for so many years in choir until his last year. A beautiful setting of “Nearer, My God, To Thee,” with piano and cello accompaniment, we look forward to sharing it to honor Cully’s faithful life of service.



April 17, Maundy Thursday, we will sing selections from the Lloyd Larsen’s Tenebrae service “The Shadow of the Cross” with dramatic narrative. Songs will include “We Remember You,” “O Jesus I Have Promised,” and “O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go.”

Thank you to the artists who have contributed such stunning pieces displayed in our narthex to inspire contemplation of the Lord’s work for salvation of all. Please take time for some personal reflection at one of the several events we offer in this holy season.

Dawn Pegis

We observe Lent as we prepare to celebrate Easter

Bread for the Journey

As we journey toward the cross with Jesus this Lent, he provides us with the spiritual sustenance we need.

Come. Gather around the sacred table.

Lenten Communion, Prayer & Reflection - Each Wednesday in Lent, beginning March 12, 7:00-7:45 in the sanctuary.
Scripture. Silence. Music. Spiritual practices. The Lord’s Supper.

Lenten Meditations

For “come and go” to view art and meditate silently in the sanctuary and narthex,
we continue “Friday Lenten Meditations” from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

April 4 - Mary Beth Molenaar (piano)
Dominic & Dimitri German (baritones)

April 11 - Donna Kuhel (piano)
Arthur Nelson (baritone)

Edens Brass - Karen Griffen (trumpet), Mary Gingrich (horn), Colleen Riordan (trombone)

Maundy Thursday Worship Service - April 17, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Concert - April 18, 7:00 p.m.

On Good Friday we present two fitting works.

First, the string quartet of Franz Joseph Haydn in 8 movements, “*The Seven Last Words*,” by our own Dawn Gingrich (violin) and Jon Pegis (cello), with Jon’s siblings, Monica (violin) and Matthew (viola) Pegis. Monica attended the New England Conservatory in Boston, along with Dawn Gingrich. They have since played together in alumni chamber events. Monica currently lives in Boston. Matt is violist in the West Florida Symphony in Sarasota. This marks the first time Jon has played publicly with Monica and Matt, his youngest siblings.

John Carter’s “*The Seven Words*” will feature our choir, organist Joshua Smith, Lydia Stalker (soprano) and our music interns, Dimitri German (baritone) and Steven Braun (tenor)

Easter Sunday - April 20

**8:30-10:00 a.m. - Pancake breakfast, provided by the Sr. High Youth Group,
to benefit their summer mission trip to Madison**

10:30 a.m. - Prelude music begins

10:45 - Easter Sunday worship service

Trustee News

The Winnetka Covenant Church financial summary through February 2014:

As of the end of February, 2014, we have started the year 2014 in a very good financial position! Thank you for your response and support to our mission as we start 2014.

Our financial summary is highlighted below.

» YTD Financials

- o General Fund Giving through February 2014 - \$199,429
 - Receipts to date are 30% ABOVE planned budget.
- o Expenses are 6% above 2014 planned budget (mostly due to our cold and snowy winter).
- o General Fund cash still behind from 2013 year closing. However, overall cash totals are 63% higher than 2013. We are well funded for our planned capital projects.

Comparisons to Prior Year and Budget:

	2014 Actual	2013 Actual	%	2014 Bud.	%
General Fund Receipts	\$ 199,429	\$ 147,679	135%	\$ 153,516	30%
Expenses	\$ 187,815	\$ 179,679	105%	\$ 177,606	106%
Net Operating Income / (Loss)	\$ 11,614	(\$ 32,000)			

	<u>2/27/2014</u>	<u>2/28/2013</u>
General Fund Cash	\$(55,031)	\$(24,637)
Building Fund	3,050	3,050
Exchange Fund	105,329	76,157
Depreciation Set Aside	40,885	40,865
Memorial fund	230,526	103,425
Petty Cash	<u>125</u>	<u>125</u>
Total	\$324,884	\$198,985

» Capital Projects

- o WCC front sign has been installed. Signage by the office door to come. Landscaping and lighting will start in the Spring
- o WCC playground to be started in the Spring

The WCC Board of Trustees financial reports and meeting minutes can be provided by the church office. Please contact Roger Schmitt, WCC Treasurer, or Kelly Quackenbush, Financial Secretary with any questions.

Are you ever the last person leaving a meeting? Please remember to turn off lights as you leave the room, check hallway lights when you are leaving the building and lock doors. We can all help control the costs and keep the church safe.

Some of us prefer to read things on paper, some of us prefer to read things on a screen. If you would prefer to receive your monthly Network by e-mail, please contact Joan Wallgren (wccjoanwallgren@gmail.com) to be switched to the e-mail list.

Reminder: Winnetka Covenant participates in the every member plan for the Covenant Companion, providing subscriptions at a cost of \$18.00 to each WCC member family. We appreciate being reimbursed for the cost of your subscription if you are able. Reimbursements can be made online or in the weekly offering (note Companion on the memo of your check).

Youth Ministry Dates for April

- Sr. High League (6:30 Sunday nights) - April 6, 13, & 27 (begin Rummage Sale setup)
- Junior High Youth Group (during Wednesday night activities) - April 9, 16, 23, 30
- Coffee (High School, after school) - April 9, 16, 23, 30
- Holy Week - April 13-20 (Easter = no high league)
- Jr. High Video Scavenger Hunt - Sunday, April 13 after church, including lunch. Pick up at WCC at 3 p.m.

Rummage Sale - Saturday, May 3

The annual rummage sale is an event which is a win-win in so many ways. It benefits members of the congregation by giving them the incentive to clean house and donate items which they will never use again and clothes that don't fit. It benefits the church body by giving us a couple of weeks to come together and work side by side, getting to know each other better in the process. It benefits the many people in our society who need to have places to shop for low-cost items of good quality. Last, it benefits the youth group as they prepare to take a mission trip this summer to work in ministry in Madison, Wisconsin.

Details about the sale -

Items may be dropped off on the gym stage beginning Monday, April 21. Please **pre-sort** as much as possible and **label bags** as to content. It's helpful if you can **bring your hanging clothes on hangers**. There will be two scheduled days where pick-up of larger items will be offered - dates and times for that will be forthcoming. Volunteers are needed for the week of and the day of the sale. A signup board will be available next Sunday. Proceeds from the sale will benefit this summer's mission trip and the general fund.

We will be starting set up on Sunday evening, April 27th. It would be great to have a lot of helping hands on deck that night and throughout the week!

Upcoming Events

Bach Week Festival

Once again this year the Bach Week Festival is partnering with North Park University for a wonderful series of concerts.

- Friday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m., in Nichols Concert Hall, Evanston
- Friday, April 25 at 10:00 p.m., Candlelight Concert at Nichols Hall Lobby, Evanston
- Friday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m., at North Park's Anderson Chapel
- Sunday, May 4 at 2:30 p.m., at North Park's Anderson Chapel

Information about all of these concerts, including prices and ticket ordering details at bachweek.org or by calling 800-838-3006.

Camping Trip - August 1-3 - Save the date

Do you like to go camping? Let's spend some time together in the woods!

We've got a group campsite reserved in Kettle Moraine State Forest (only an hour and a half away!) for August 1-3 and we'd love to have you join us. If you don't own a tent, we can locate one for you borrow. Look for more details soon. If you have an interest or any questions, please contact Linnea Johnson.

Open to anyone and everyone! Get it on your calendar now before your summer starts filling up.

Women's Ministries Notes

Following are ongoing groups for the women of the church. They all welcome new participants at any time.

Quilters, Knitters, etc. -

Meet on the **second Thursday of each month** for fellowship and service. Watch the weekly bulletins for details and location of the meeting.

Sharing Group -

We cordially invite all WCC women to join us on the **fourth Thursday of each month at 12:00 noon** for lunch and fellowship. We will meet on **April 24** at Baker's Square. You'll enjoy the fellowship! Call Marian Eckhardt with questions.

Stitch and Study -

Stitch and Study, combining Bible Study, prayer, conversation, and craft/needlework projects, meets on the **third Tuesday of each month** at the home of Marilyn Nelson at 7 p.m. We are using the texts for the coming Sunday as a resource for the study. New participants are always welcome to come for the study and conversation, with or without a project. **The April meeting will be on the 15th.**

Thursday Bible Study -

Thursday afternoon Bible Study meets intermittently. Contact Claire Macfarland for information.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study -

Tuesday morning Bible Study class is currently studying the book of Isaiah. As always, study begins at 9:30 but you are welcome to come early for coffee and conversation. Contact Joann Larson with any questions.

Save the dates:

All ladies of the church are invited when we give bridal showers for our young adults. This is a wonderful way for our church to show our love and support as couples embark on an exciting new chapter of their lives. Two upcoming showers to put on your calendars are:

- Thursday evening, May 15, shower for Sarah Whims and Colin Quackenbush
- Saturday morning, June 7, shower for Erin Isaacson and Matt Lewitke

Wedding Shower for Christy Bouris and Andy Meyer: A Charity Shower - April 6, 6:30 p.m. in the Upper Room

Christy and Andy write:

"Thanks for celebrating with us! We are truly blessed with an abundance of generous friends within our church family. As our lives come together, we realize that we already have much of what we need. In light of that, we invite you to give a gift from our "charity registry." We are aware this is a unique type of registry, so here are some logistical details. Stop by the wedding tree in the narthex to pick up a tag/card. Each tag will have information about the gift. Simply "wrap" the tag (if it is a monetary donation) or the item, and bring it with you to the shower on April 6th. Thank you for the love and support you have showered on us all along."

The couple has "registered" with Covenant Harbor, Covenant Point, and World Relief. Questions? Please contact Kitti Steiner.

Men's Ministries News

Men's Retreat - Sixty men from WCC and a number of other Chicago churches met at Covenant Harbor March 14 to start the annual three-day Men's retreat. Discussions centered around living a whole life, especially connecting our beliefs, values, and passions. Good fellowship, good food, and powerful singing opened the doors to the personal renewal that is part of the Easter season.

We continue the exchange and the spiritual growth in the **Men's Fellowship** which meets on the first three Saturdays of each month at 8:00 a.m. in the Prayer Room. All men are invited to participate. It's worth getting up for!

Men's Work Crew - Painting parties, carpentry projects, and service projects are a regular part of the Men's Ministries. Workers will be recruited as the needs arise. Watch for an e-mail notification.

Men's Share and Support - If you're expecting a medical procedure, test, treatment, or new medication, get connected to someone who's been there and done that. Pastor Hawkinson will try to link you to someone with experience to share and who can help turn anxiety into anticipation. Men willing to share and support can also contact Pastor Hawkinson.

A Just Harvest Community Kitchen

Join the kitchen crew as they prepare food for the Just Harvest - April 3 & 17, starting at 1:00

Mailbox

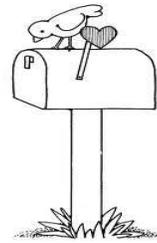
Our Heartfelt Thank You!

We are so grateful for the prayers, loving comments, and cards from our friends at WCC during the latter stages of our daughter Kim's pregnancy and after the birth of our grandson, Ezra, who was diagnosed with Trisomy 21 (Downs Syndrome), a genetic disorder.

Kim and Ben, together with the rest of the family, have moved from initial grief (including the "Why us?" question), to gratitude and to affirming that God is with us in this as we have welcomed and embraced Ezra with all our hearts. Kim and Ben see Ezra as a gift from God and accept the challenges (known and unknown) that lay ahead.

During this intense time, the prayers and loving comments of Pastors Peter, Andrea, Art, and Christy, together with those from our friends in the congregation were profoundly encouraging and strengthening. Being on the receiving end of intercessory prayer from our faith community is a powerful blessing. We ask for your continued prayers for Ezra, for Kim and Ben, and for their whole family (including us) as we move forward trusting God and asking for "Grace to trust Him more."

*With gratitude, Tom & Judy Ebright,
together with Ben & Kim Falconer*



Dear Friends,

Thank you for the beautiful cyclamen plant with its ruffled edges and two-toned colors, sent to me recently following surgery.

I am so happy to be part of this wonderful church family.

Vernelle Bristol

Dear Winnetka Covenant Church family,

We wanted to write and say thank you for the generous Christmas gift you gave us. God is so good and knows what we need exactly when we need it. Thank you for your generosity and support. We are so thank for your church!

*Many blessings,
Julio, Katie, Sam & Ben Isaza*

Family News

Congratulations and best wishes to:

- **Jon Fogel and Jess Carley**, on their recent engagement. They are planning a fall wedding.
- **Ben & Kim Falconer**, on the birth of Ezra Watts Falconer, born Saturday, February 22 in Michigan. Tom & Judy Ebright are the grandparents.
- **Ian & Emily Chernisky**, on the birth of Magnus Timothy Chernisky, born February 26 in Denver, Colorado. Magnus weighed 4 pounds, 8 ounces and is the grandson of Tim & Kris Johnson.
- **Bill & Erika Milbratz**, on the birth of Eleanor May Milbratz. She was born Tuesday, March 11, weighing 7 pounds, 8 ounces. She joins her twin sisters, Esther and Sarah at home. Her grandparents are Peter & Eleanor Milbratz.

Delegates are needed for the Central Conference Annual Meeting, to be held April 24-26 at Northwest Covenant Church in Mt. Prospect and the **Covenant Annual Gathering**, this year held at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare, June 26-29.. Contact the church office or the Nominating Committee for more information.

Learning Made Fun!

Spring and summer registration has opened for Creative Kids Corner enrichment classes and camps held here at WCC. Linda Kusel, Director, church member and award-winning educator invites you to visit:

creativekidscorner.org for Music & More-Preschool Extension (Tues), Cooking for Life & Love (4-13 yrs), School Holiday Classes and Summer Camps (30 mos - 13 yrs). Looking forward to answering any questions you may have.

Contact info@creativekidscorner.org or (847)933-0672.

Winnetka Covenant Church Network

1200 Hibbard Road
Wilmette, Illinois, 60091

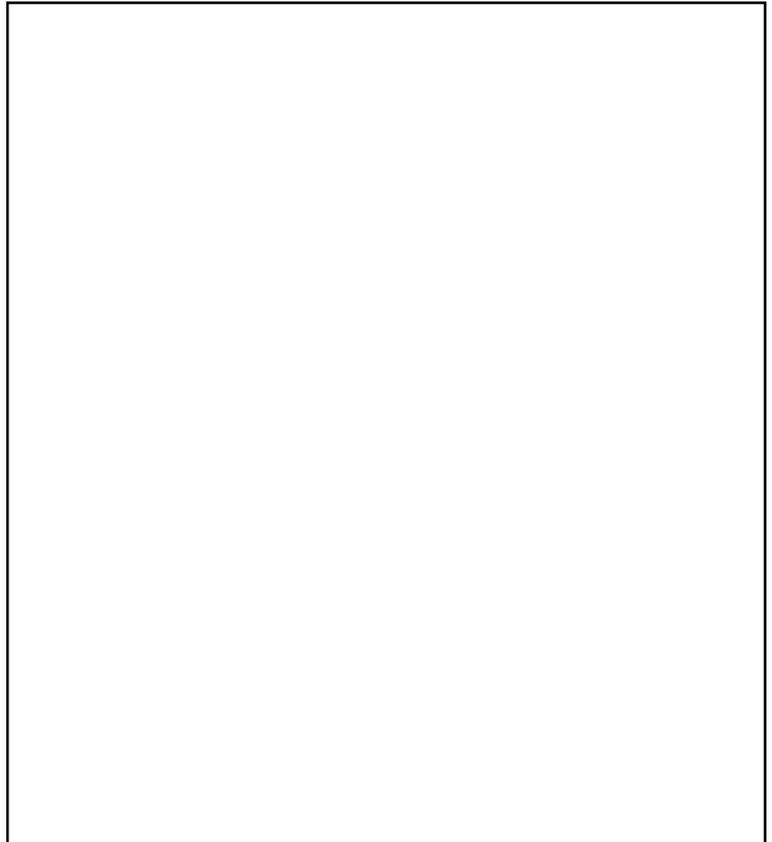
847-446-4300
www.winnetkacovenant.org

Our Mission

To be a Christian community and to proclaim
the gospel, Worshiping together in love,
Nurturing people in faith,
serving others as Christian disciples,
And building a world of justice and hope
in the name of Christ.

Guidelines for Loving Relationships

We hold grace as our highest value.
We practice honest, open, direct communication.
We speak the truth in love and listen in love.
We believe the best about each other, valuing
others above ourselves, as Christ does.
We allow room for mistakes, acknowledging that
mistakes are part of the growth process.



Anyone Up for Adventure?

**Escape with us! Vacation Bible School 2014:
June 16-21, 6-8 p.m.**

We're planning a great Vacation Bible School week in the Wilderness, where we'll join Moses as he and the Israelites escape Egypt and travel to parts unknown—trusting in God all the while!

Our goal is to reach 70 children with God's love at our Wilderness Escape event. How can you help?

Join the Wilderness Escape Team!

We're currently seeking adults who want to have a great time helping kids deepen their faith in God by using their gifts in one of the following roles:

- Fun & Games Leader
- Drama Team (Moses & Malachi)
- Tent Crafts Leader
- Baker's Tent Snacks Coordinator
- Tribe Leaders – adults and teens welcome
- Registrar
- Publicity Coordinator
- Decoration Coordinator

Visit the Wilderness Escape Job Fair in the narthex after morning worship to see job descriptions and to apply. (Early applications will also be accepted--contact Pastor Andrea anytime!)

