



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

The Network

April, 2017

April 9

Palm Sunday

April 14

Good Friday

April 16

Easter Sunday

April 29

Rummage Sale

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“Hope Growing”

“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. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.”

The other day I sat with an aged saint on a brisk and sunny spring afternoon. Ken Pearson, at 99, lives with intermediate level of nursing care as he moves between his bed and his easy chair in his studio apartment. His eyesight is almost gone, so dim now that he can no longer peruse his daily paper, his favorite hobby. His ears do for him almost as poorly. Ethel, his beloved wife, who filled his life with joy, died years ago. He talked about his childhood, and what it was like to grow up during the great depression. Sharp as a tack, still, he asked me to update him on the adventures of my kids. When I asked him how at this point in his life he was feeling, Ken said, “More than anything else, hopeful.” I thought he might say sad, or reflective, or even grateful ... but hopeful? I asked him why he felt that way, and he said, “because God has been good to me, and God will be good to me.” We prayed together – I for him, and he for me, and driving home, mesmerized still by his answer, prayed with longing to grow into such a faith.

Ken’s good sermon has me still wondering about how hope grows.

Growing older, I’ve got a bone to pick with St. Paul – tongue in cheek, one of a few – because it seems like as the years go by, hope grows, threatening even to rival love. And this is mystifying, because now in my mid-fifties I see more clearly, less dimly, that this life I have is fleeting, that time is on the move. Aches and pains grow. Both chronic and acute illnesses now are having their day. Time is spent saying farewell to children, and parents. Many sorrows of beloved friends fill up my heart. Days and nights find me reflecting on memories that lead to nostalgia. Yet, despite all these things, hope grows in me. Like so many spiritual things, it’s nonsensical, and I ask myself, what gives? How can it be?

There is this strange and wonderful, even defiant hope that grows in those whose life of faith is rooted in the Easter news of resurrection. Hope that grows doesn’t deny life’s aches and pains and sorrows and losses, but grows in and through them, anticipating the wonder of all that’s yet to be! And this growing hope blesses us on our way, even in life’s most challenging days. Plotting the resurrection, we live with hope, whatever else is going on. Former president of North Park College, Karl Olsson, said it like this: *“Those of us who confess Christ as Lord believe that in him in a special way history has become hope. Because of the character of God as revealed in Jesus, we have hope that both history and what lies beyond it will be stamped by the character of God. Hence even when we mourn about our own mortality or the frailty of the institutions and societies of which we are a part, we do not sorrow as those who have no hope.”* (Karl A. Olsson, “History as Hope,” *The Covenant Companion*, February 15, 1977, 29.)

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Christian Formation at WCC

Children's Ministry

Rotation Sunday School

In Rotation Sunday School, children age 4 through grade 5 focus on the same theme or Bible story over the course of four weeks in a different workshop each week. They explore the story through art, drama, cooking, games, video, and other workshops that help them engage with the story in different ways. Each class has an adult "Shepherd" who accompanies them through the year and builds relationships with the children. Schedules are posted around the church building so that you can easily know which room your child's workshop is in on any given Sunday.



2016-17 Theme: Witness to God's Presence

March 26 – April 9: "Jesus is the One! Palm Sunday"

Memory Verse: Mark 11:9, "Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

Workshops:

Thou Art: Students will create rubbings of palm branches to remind them of the story and its meaning.

Kingdom Characters: Students will learn the story of Palm Sunday and create a collection of large "Jesus Rally" signs that express key ideas in the story and the meaning of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem for us today.

Disciples' Drama: Through acting out the story, kids will learn why Jesus humbled himself and became a man.

April 23 -- May 14: "Paul on the Road"

Memory Verse: "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new."

Workshops:

MAD SCIENTIST: Kids will inflate a balloon (with displaced gas) to show the change in Paul's heart.

THOU ART: Kids will reveal light from darkness using Scratch Magic.

GOOD NEWS GAMES: Concepts of light, transformation, and trust will be used in Flashlight Tag, Freeze Tag, and a Trust Walk.

DISCIPLES' DRAMA: Kids will re-enact the conversion of Paul on the Road to Damascus.

Adult Sunday School

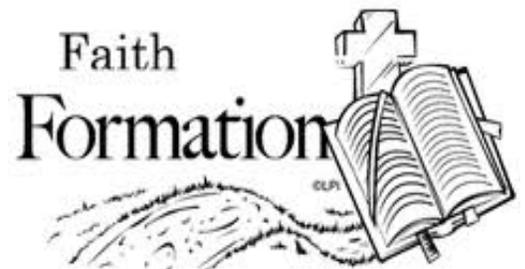
"Patterns of Presence" – April 2 & 9

Led by Kari Lindholm-Johnson, Artist-in-Residence at Swedish Covenant Hospital

Patterns can serve as a language to help us seek and center in God's presence. This class will actively use fractiles and the Fibonacci sequence as meditative tools, for creative endeavors and encountering others.

"Helping Without Hurting" – April 23 – May 14

Rethinking short-term missions to minister more effectively to those in poverty. A 4-week video/discussion series led by Christine Moolo and members of the pastoral staff.



Human Sexuality and the Church – next gathering Wednesday, April 5: 5:45 p.m. dinner, 6:30 gathering in the upper room. Pastor Hawkinson will reflect for a time on **the different ways we read scripture**, and then we will have time for conversation together. Children's programs will be led by North Park students so all can participate in the discussion. Choir will rehearse at 8:00.

Holy Week at Winnetka Covenant Church

Sunday, April 9 – Palm Sunday

9:30 Sunday School, 10:45 Worship

Wednesday, April 12

Open House at the home of Peter & Melissa Nelson (514 Maple Ave., Wilmette)
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

All are invited to this informal time of fellowship in the middle of Holy Week

Friday, April 14

Journey to the Cross: A Good Friday Walk for Families

9:30-11:00 a.m., at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Wilmette

This is the time of year when we walk that sacred journey with Jesus once again and tell our children and ourselves the story of the Cross. The Journey to the Cross is an interactive re-telling of the events of Holy Week, presented in an engaging and age-appropriate way. It is open to all children age 3 through 5th grade, accompanied by a parent or other caregiver. Older children and youth are welcome to help as "shepherds" or with art projects. This is an intergenerational, ecumenical event with our neighboring churches. Friends are welcome.

Any families from Winnetka Covenant Church who would like to attend are encouraged to gather at the WCC parking lot at 9:10 a.m. and we'll carpool over to St. Augustine's together. Then after the Journey to the Cross, we'll return to church to have lunch together and dye Easter eggs. If you'd like to participate, please R.S.V.P. to Pastor Andrea.



Friday, April 14

Good Friday Worship Service

7:00 p.m., at Winnetka Covenant Church

All are invited to come to the Tenebrae (diminishing lights) Service as we observe Good Friday together.

Sunday, April 16

Easter Sunday

Beginning at 8:30 and serving until 10:00 a.m., the youth group invites you to join us for our Swedish pancake breakfast.

There is no Sunday School this day. Nursery and 2's & 3's class provided during the worship service.

Easter Sunday worship begins with prelude music at 10:30a.m.

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Hope grows! Yet another gift of God for we who are Easter people. On the mantle over the fireplace in a friend's home, chiseled into a stone, are the words of the 14th century mystic Julian of Norwich: *"All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well."* Not because all has been or all necessarily is, not at all! But all shall be. The God of all things, who has loved us once and for all in Christ Jesus, promises us this. So Easter has come! And hope grows!

Wherever life finds you just now, may you find that your hope is growing.

Peter Hawkinson

Mission Opportunities

A Just Harvest –

April 6th and 20th at 1:00 p.m., cooking in our kitchen. New participants are always welcome to join the cooking crew. On the 20th we are also asked to send a crew to go to the Kitchen to serve. They depart from church at 4:30 and return at about 7:00. Contact Pastor Andrea to volunteer or with questions.

Greater Chicago Food Depository –

Volunteer to help repackage food at the Greater Chicago Food Depository each month, 9:00 – 11:45 a.m. (Note the new time.) Our next volunteer day is **Saturday, April 8th**. **Volunteers must register and sign up online ahead of time (<http://www.chicagosfoodbank.org/>).** Contact Pastor Andrea with questions or for help with signing up.

Family Promise Hosting Week –

We will have our next hosting week for Family Promise from April 2-9. Family Promise is a shared ministry of several area congregations. Temporarily homeless families spend a week at a time in one church, arriving for supper each night, spending the evening hanging out, sleeping overnight in the church, and then leaving each morning after breakfast. During the day, children go to school wherever they were before they lost their homes, and the parents either go to work or spend time at the day center in Evanston working with staff to secure employment and housing. We will need volunteers to prepare dinner and eat with our guests, spend time with them in the evening, and stay overnight at church and set out breakfast foods and still have a few volunteer slots open. Contact Joan Wallgren with questions or to volunteer.

Save the date – Jam for Bread 2017 – May 13 at the Dank Haus -

Jam for Bread is the annual fundraiser for the Friendship Center. Tickets are now on sale. Support the Friendship Center's ongoing food pantry operations by committing to joining in the fun on Saturday, May 13th. Your attendance helps feed more than 1500 people every month! Go to <http://tinyurl.com/JamforBread2017> for more information and to order tickets. Silent auction prizes are also being solicited if you have something to offer. They would appreciate commitments for auction items by April 15th. Contact Heidi Bush (Heidi@friendshipcenterchicago.org) to make a donation commitment or for more information.

No Hassle Meals – Meals at Home volunteers deliver freshly prepared meals to your door in Winnetka, Kenilworth and Glencoe. Diabetic, renal, and other medically prescribed diets are available in addition to general diet meals. Call to request information or to request delivery Monday-Saturday (any and all days) including holidays. 847-332-2678

Rummage Sale – Saturday, April 29, 8:00-2:00

Our annual Rummage Sale is almost upon us. As you are doing your spring cleaning, keep in mind that the Rummage Sale accepts everything from clothes to furniture, including toys, sporting goods, baby and children's equipment and supplies, books, household items, linens, jewelry, accessories, holiday items, etc. You get the idea. And don't forget the wonderful antiques and collectibles that are featured in the French Room. We aren't able to take large tube televisions or mattresses.

You may begin dropping your donations off on Monday, April 17. Throughout the week of April 17-23 your donations should be put on the stage of the fellowship hall. Tables will be set up labeled with different categories and it's very much appreciated if you can sort your items to the appropriate table. If you have large items that need to be picked up, there will be a couple of pickup times scheduled. Please call the church office to be put on the pick-up schedule.

We will welcome volunteers throughout the week of April 23-28 to help sort, fold, display, and price items. You may drop by at any time during the day or in the evening to help. On the day of the sale we need helpers all day to serve as cashiers, French Room attendants, sale monitors, bake sale attendants, lunch grillers, cleanup, etc. There will be opportunities to sign up for a shift doing your desired task.

We will also have a bake sale during the first couple of hours of the sale. We welcome any and all donations of baked goods for the sale. Please bring them by Friday with items individually wrapped.

Trustee Update

The Winnetka Covenant Church financial summary through February 2017:
As of February 28, our financial summary is highlighted below.

➤ YTD Financials

- General Fund Giving through February 28 - \$151,648 (3% less than 2016)
- Total receipts to date are 8% under planned budget; Expenses are under budget by 8%; Operating funds and cash are as planned.

Comparisons to Prior Year and Budget:

	2017 Actual	2016 Actual	%	2017 Budget	%
General Fund Receipts	\$163,254	\$169,299	96%	\$177,538	92%
Expenses	\$160,352	\$171,850	93%	\$174,323	92%
Net Operating Income/(Loss)	\$2,902	(\$2,550)			

	<u>02/28/2017</u>	<u>02/29/2016</u>
<u>Cash</u>		
General Fund	\$(57,301)	\$(45,291)
Exchange Accounts	89,585	68,075
Memorial/Bequest Funds*	45,877	49,486
	\$77,161	\$72,270
<u>*Investments</u>		
Memorial/Bequest Funds	\$ 85,772	\$94,238
Johnson/Gustafson Memorial	45,916	47,449
General Fund	0	519
Total	\$131,688	\$142,206

➤ WCC Projects and Special Needs

- Thank you for your continued financial stewardship. We are slightly behind in giving. Quarterly statements will be distributed in mid-April, please review these and help us catch up.
- All WCC members receive the Covenant Companion. It costs \$18 per subscription and is paid through the church. Please reimburse the church for this expense if you are able.

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

At the annual meeting of the church in February, the congregation voted to move ahead with the project to upgrade the audio-visual technology in the sanctuary. The voting was done in two separate votes. The first question was if we want to upgrade the technology to include retractable screens, which would be behind a valance when not in use, wall-mounted projectors on the back walls and a flat screen panel TV mounted on the wall behind the sound booth for the choir's viewing. This passed by a vote of 56-18. The second question was if we wanted one screen (next to the stained glass window) or two screens (the second screen behind the choir). When this vote was taken the vote was 47 votes for two screens and 23 votes for just one screen. The total cost of the project will be \$26,845 for the screens and projectors, etc., with additional cost for the building of the valances and work that will need to be done to expand the sound booth to accommodate additional equipment. There is already about \$9,000 which has been donated for this project that will help defray the costs.

Men's Fellowship

At 8:00 a.m., on the first three Saturday mornings of each month, the men of Winnetka Covenant gather to enjoy food, fellowship and discussion. The varied perspectives and faith expressions from diverse backgrounds and experiences create a wonderful discussion. Humor frequently seasons the conversation. We learn about each other; we learn from each other. Men of the church of any and every age—you are warmly invited to share in this rich fellowship. If you have questions about this gathering, please contact Paul Christmas or Royce Eckhardt.

Women's Ministries

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

Moms Together – Just a reminder that the Mom's group is now meeting the SECOND FRIDAY of each month (10:00-11:30 a.m.). Due to the second Friday of April being Good Friday, the **April meeting will be on the 7th**. Child care is available. Please join us any time you are able ... no need to be a 'regular' although several women are. Just let Judi Geake or the office know how many children you are bringing so that we can arrange to have enough child-care workers.

Next Chapter (formerly Recently Retired Women) – A questionnaire was recently sent out, looking for program ideas, timing of events, etc., to women who have expressed an interest in the group or were referred by a friend. If you are interested but did not receive a questionnaire, please stop by the office and pick one up. If you are not on the e-mail list but would like to be, contact Judi Geake. Are you still working but have a flexible schedule? You are welcome. We are a very 'loose' group of women. And yes, I know how that sounds!

Quilters, Knitters, etc. – Meet on the **second Thursday** of each month for fellowship and service. Watch the weekly bulletins for 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 27th** at Baker's Square. You'll enjoy the fellowship. Contact Marian Eckhardt with questions.

Stitch and Study - Stitch and Study, combining prayer, conversation, and craft/needlework projects, meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the home of Marilyn Nelson. New participants are always welcome to come with or without a project. This month's meeting will be **April 18th**.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study – There will be no meeting Tuesday, April 11 during Holy Week. Returning on **April 18** our discussion question will be, "How have you been taught to think about heaven and the afterlife?" We will conclude this amazing study of "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" on April 15. Questions? (Contact Joann Larson, for information).

Bridal Showers –

Saturday, April 15, 10:00 a.m. - All women of the church are invited to a bridal shower for Sabina Fischer, fiancée of Sean Kelly, to be held in the church narthex. This is a wonderful opportunity to show our love and support of this couple as they start a new chapter in their lives. Sean is the son of Sue and Bill Kelly.

Saturday, May 13, 10:00 a.m. – Please save the date for Kathleen O'Donovan's bridal shower. All are welcome as we celebrate with Kathleen and her fiancé, Salvatore LoGrasso. Kathleen is the daughter of Debbie & Martin O'Donovan

Youth Opportunities

1. Sr. High Youth Group – Sundays, April 2, 9, 23 & 30, from 7-9 p.m., at church.
2. Jr. High Youth Group/Confirmation – Sundays, April 2, 9, & 23, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., at church
3. Sr. High After-School Coffee – Wednesdays, April 5, 19 & 26, at 3:30 p.m.
4. Wednesday Night Homework/Hangout Times – Jr. High in the Youth Room, Sr. High in Christy's office

For more information and details about any youth group activities, please visit www.winnetkacovenant.org, then select ministries in the side bar and click on either junior or senior high to see a list of up-to-date happenings, including the link to the online calendar. Questions? Contact Christy.

On **Sunday, April 30, at 4:30**, this year's confirmation students will present their confirmation projects/papers. All congregation members are encouraged to come.

Summer Science Academy 2017

North Park University's Summer Science Academy provides hands-on courses for high school juniors and seniors (grade level as of Fall 2017). Students will have the opportunity to explore state-of-the-art facilities at the Johnson Center for Science and Community Life and learn from our full-time science professors. Courses are interactive and designed to introduce students to university science programs.

See Summer Science Academy [website](#) for specific course offerings, timing, fee, and other information, and to register. Questions? Email them to Dr. Yoojin Choi (yjchoi@northpark.edu).

Mailbox

Dearest Church Family,

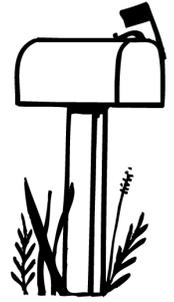
As Aidan and I celebrate a year from my surgery all we can think of is the gratitude we have for the prayers you have provided. You have each been a true source of strength and determination and an incredible foundation of love and support for our family. We have felt you embrace us and are truly blessed to be a part of such a loving and healing family. We will always be grateful for your presence in our lives.

With much love and thankfulness,
Nadia & Aidan Jimenez

Dear Church Family,

We are deeply grateful for your thoughts, prayers, and cards throughout Alice Wheeler's brief battle with cancer. She always enjoyed coming to WCC when in town, especially on Christmas Eve. It was a special place for her as it is for us.

Les, Rachel,
Macallister & Cassidy Rescorl



Family News

Congratulations and best wishes to:

- **Carly Favero & Art Shanks**, who were married on March 4. Carly is the daughter of Chris Favero and Jill Fleming.

From the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee thought it would be helpful to publish the names of all of the board and committee members. Keep this handy, and when you have a concern or suggestion you will know who to contact throughout the year.

Winnetka Covenant Church officers:

Chairperson Brian Madvig
Vice Chair Chris Christenson
Secretary Joan Wallgren

Christian Formation Board:

Kurt Peterson, co-chair
John Wallgren, co-chair
Jan Braun Eric Fogel
Steve Fogel Jon Heintzelman Jr.
Dave Johnson Lisa Magnuson
Mike Magnuson Bob Poor
Laura Werling Jennifer Zitzner

Diaconate:

Jan Annes, co-chair
Reed Brunzell, co-chair
Carl Balsam Carolyn Carlson
Norm Johnson Ruth Johnson
Richard Larsen Robin Magnuson
Kathy Messina Erika Milbratz
Maria Moreno Phyllis Morris
Steve Rhodes Jane Rivi
Dwight Samuelson Chant Sayavongsa
Richard Spears Kris Stenstrom
Steve Sudhoff

Missions Committee:

Cindy Buettgen, chair
Brian Bowen Terese Hunt
Cam Johnson Tom Johnson
Mary Beth Kovacic Carla Spellman
Mollie Sudhoff Pauline Wang

Nominating Committee:

Peter A. Nelson, co-chair
Rick Schultz, co-chair
Jed Bassett Val Hausman
Bonnie Hawkinson Kathleen Jenkins
Kat Knotts Meg Madvig
Colette Quackenbush

Outreach Committee:

Mary Beth Molenaar, chair
Patsy Carlson Chris Harper
Barbara Kazanjian Linda Kusel
Christine Moolo Mary Rhodes
Joshua Smith Laurel Thomas

Trustee Board:

Kurt Kovacic, chair
Kelly Quackenbush,
Financial Secretary
Tom Sharp, Treasurer
Barbara Blackburn Bob Braun
Cal Isaacson Phil Kazanjian
John Lindahl John Messina
Peter C. Nelson

Worship Committee:

Gary Isaacson, chair
Barbara Balsam
Nadia Jimenez
Linda Johnson
Paul Koptak
Thom Morris
Cathy Peterson
Kim Steiner
Kitti Steiner

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.

Music Notes

Benefit Brass, a 15-member group of professional brass players, will perform an exciting one-hour program of classic music for brass ensemble, including Jupiter from Holst's *The Planets*, renaissance music by Gabrielli, and *O Magnum Mysterium* by Lauridsen.

Benefit Brass, founded by Thomas Martin (one of our more recent new members), is a group of dedicated musicians who have recently graduated from or are currently music majors at Northwestern, DePaul, Wheaton, and Roosevelt Universities. They have been rehearsing weekly at WCC since last fall to present benefit concerts that will offer hope to the world.

Please support Benefit Brass in their first concert **Sunday, April 30th at 3 p.m. here at Winnetka Covenant Church**. This concert will benefit Family Promise and a presentation by Family Promise will be included. A free will donation to Family Promise is suggested. I heartily recommend this inspirational program for all ages. Please invite your friends.

Mary Gingrich, Advisor to Benefit Brass

WCC String Band

If you were in church on March 19 you had the good fortune to hear our new Winnetka Covenant Church String Band as they participated in the morning worship service. There is a good core group that is committed to playing together and they are looking for others who are interested in playing string band/bluegrass/gospel music together. They welcome anyone who plays a string instrument – guitar, ukulele, mandolin, banjo, fiddle, autoharp, dulcimer, dobro, charanga, etc.

They will plan to have open jam times on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday evening of each month from 8:00-9:00ish. The first jam session will be April 26th. Players are welcome to come to the jam sessions just for fun, fellowship, and practice. Those who wish to will have the opportunity to play for Sunday worship every couple of months.

For more information please contact John Wallgren or Paul Koptak.

