



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

The Network

March, 2017

March 1

Ash Wednesday

March 14

Interfaith Event: The Status of Women

April 2-9

Family Promise

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“The Free Gift, The Suffering God”

But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. (Romans 5:15)

Soon we will begin reading the passion story together. If we listen carefully, the growing cry of the world as our Lord Jesus suffers is simple and clear: **“Save Yourself!”** This is what Jesus must do according to the world to prove his claim to be the Son of God. Messiah. This is what a God of power and might, after all, would do.

It was Jesus’ first temptation he received while he was still damp from baptism’s glory. **“Save Yourself!”** His answer was that he couldn’t, he wouldn’t turn away from the mission for which he was sent. Nevertheless, Satan got into human beings as surely as Jesus was God in human form. Everyday was an opportune time. And though God, Jesus was fully human, and so to not listen to the world’s relentless call had to be excruciating. In this sense Jesus suffered and died (to himself) all his life. There must be an intriguing reason!

During his final days in Jerusalem, the old cry came from everywhere. From the Sanhedrin, and Pilate, and Herod, from the growing, raging crowd. From the soldiers beating him, and nailing him, and watching him die, and from those criminals with whom he hangs as he suffocates. **“Save Yourself!”**

Think during this Lenten season, just think about how different our reality would be, past, present, and future, had Jesus said “Yes”. And wonder in the love that drives him forward into unimaginable pain and suffering. For he will not save himself. He suffers and dies with a humanity longing for salvation on his mind. He looks out over his crucifiers and speaks a blessing of forgiveness. He will not save himself, and in so doing saves us. Jesus saves us! Through the suffering and death of His own Son, the grace of God defeats our sin and death. We are saved through the One who will not save himself. His dying “Yes” is God’s merciful yes spoken to humanity, once and for all.

The world in large part continues now as it did then to pity the poor soul who claimed to be God but could not save himself, and ended up a criminal on a cross. Indeed, as Paul says, the message of the cross is foolishness, except for us who live into the holy story of God coming in Jesus, who could certainly save himself, but does not, will not, because God has in mind to save us instead!

Humanity has always lived with the sin that makes us know we need salvation, and here salvation is! Jesus Christ, God’s Son, on a cross, crucified for the sins of the world, mercy abounding to the many. How will you live into this blessed and excruciating news? His “Yes” is for your saving, your life made new. It is for this, for you and for me he suffers and dies.

Peter Hawkinson

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

February 26, March 5 & 12: "The Last Supper"

Workshops:

Faith Today: Children will have a discussion with one of our pastors about what Communion is and what it means. Parents are welcome to join!

Grace Notes: Children will use music and movement to understand the Last Supper and Communion

Disciples' Drama: Children will participate in a readers' theater of the Last Supper

March 19: All Church Sunday School hour focusing on "Refugees"

March 26, April 2, April 9: "Palm Sunday"

Workshops:

Kingdom Characters: Children will create "rally" signs for the parade as Jesus enters Jerusalem

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

Disciples' Drama: Children will use drama to learn why Jesus humbled himself and became a man

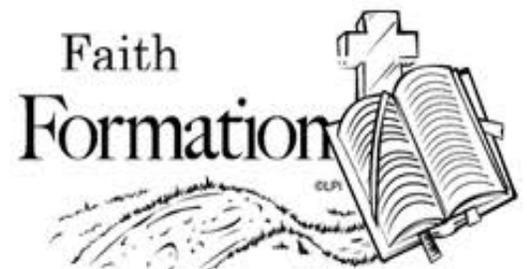
Adult Sunday School

I Was a Stranger and You Invited Me In: Welcoming the Refugee

March 5: John Barcanis, Executive Director at World Relief Chicago, will lead us in exploring the biblical mandate to welcome and care for the refugee.

March 12: Sara Aardema, Director of Volunteer & Church Engagement with World Relief Chicago, will lead us in exploring the realities of refugees in our world and how our congregation might engage in authentic, reciprocal ministry within Chicago's refugee and immigrant community.

March 19: Understanding the Refugee Journey," an all-church, all-ages event, 9:30-10:30 a.m. In small groups, we will visit stations with a variety of activities to help us learn about and imagine the experience of refugees.



On Wednesday, March 8, at 6:30 p.m., we will have our next monthly discussion time in relation to the issue of LGBTQ inclusion. We will hear personal stories from our congregation. Dinner will be at the usual time (5:45-6:30) and children's programs will be led by North Park students so all can participate in the discussion. Choir will rehearse at 8:00.

Music Notes

For families with young ones, WCC's Children's Choir rehearses every Wednesday evening from 5:15-5:45. We welcome any and all children from ages 4 through 5th grade to come join us in weekly singing. Each week we have vocal warmups, note reading, and learning fun new songs. New singers are welcome, so come make music with us!



On Sunday, March 12, the women of the adult choir will sing while the men are on retreat. To those of you ladies who love to sing but aren't regularly choir members, we invite you to join us! Come to choir rehearsal Wednesday, March 8 at 8:00 for the rehearsal prior to Sunday (there will be no rehearsal Wednesday March 1 due to Ash Wednesday). We hope to see you!

Dimitri German

Opportunities for Involvement

Wednesday Night Book Group – Disunity in Christ: Uncovering the Hidden Forces that Keep us Apart by Christena Cleveland. Discussion led by Christine Moolo and Val Hausman, this book helps us discover the hidden reasons behind conflict and divisions within the body of Christ. Books available in class.

Memoir Group Welcomes Men and Women to Get Their Stories on Paper

The Month Memoir Writing Group that meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in the church library is open to everyone ... men included. This month we meet on March 14th. The topic, in light of the program in our church later the same evening, is “were you ever discriminated against because you were a woman? Do you experience discrimination, in any form, now?” For men, “do you treat women as equals? Have you always treated women as equals? If not, why ... and what changed your mind?” As always, you can feel free to choose your own topic. Questions? Call Judi Geake or Joann Larson.

A One-Time Saturday Morning Experience

For: EVERYONE who has read the Sensible Shoes trilogy - whether or not you have been in one of the discussion groups!

When: Saturday, March 11, 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Narthex

What: A brief history of the four main characters in the series followed by a discussion of the final chapter in book 3, *Barefoot*, and a personal message from author Sharon Garlough Brown as to what led to that conclusion.

Sports Opportunities

Feeling the need to get active in the cold winter months? There are several sports opportunities happening at church. They are:

Volleyball – Coed adult volleyball every Monday from 6:30 to 9:00 (arrive when you can, leave when you need to). All levels and ages of players are welcome, from high school and up. Contact Kurt Zitzner for information or to get on the e-mail reminder list. We share childcare duties so kids are welcome.

Basketball – Men's basketball on Tuesdays at 7:00 and Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. Contact John Couleur for information.

Would you prefer to read your Network on your computer?

Everyone has their own preferences regarding how they access their news and reading materials. If your preference is to get it on your computer or mobile device, please contact Joan Wallgren (wccjoanwallgren@gmail.com) to be put on the e-mail list for the Network. We want to make sure everyone is getting in the format they are most likely to read.

Mission Opportunities

A Just Harvest –

March 2nd and 16th at 1:00 p.m., cooking in our kitchen. New participants are always welcome to join the cooking crew. On the 16th 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 repack food at the Greater Chicago Food Depository on the 3rd Saturday of each month, 9:00 – 11:45 a.m. (Note the new time.) Our next volunteer day is **Saturday, March 18th**. **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. Watch for sign-up opportunities soon. Contact Joan Wallgren with questions.

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

Jam for Bread is the annual fundraiser for the Friendship Center. Ticket sales will begin the middle of March. More details will be publicized when they are available.

Tutoring Program –

If you would be interested in joining a tutoring program, the Friendship Center has been partnering with Peterson Elementary School for 25 years to provide tutoring to students in need of one-to-one help. Peterson Tutoring at North Park Covenant Church meets every Monday of the school year, except when North Park University is on break. The afternoon session is from 4:00 to 5:30 pm and is for students in grades 1 to 4. The evening session is from 6:30 to 8:00 pm and is for students in grades 5 to 8. We have some mixture of grades in each session due to sibling groups. It is one to one tutoring which helps caring relationships to develop. Peterson has a multi-cultural service area and many of our kids in tutoring have parents who speak little English. It is a wonderful way to connect with people new to the Chicago area and to make a difference in the life of a child. Questions can be sent to Ruthanne Werner, wnw716@aol.com.

Opportunity for prison ministry – Book Donations for Stateville:

North Park Theological Seminary offers regular courses at Stateville Correctional Center for campus students and incarcerated students. Those who are incarcerated cannot afford books and would gratefully receive books for the spring course, “Justice and Beloved Community.” In addition, North Park is working on building their theological library, and titles for that will be periodically added to this amazon wish list. If you’d like to contribute to this ministry and purchase one or two books for them, please use this link, and they THANK YOU for your generosity!

https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/27HIWNIDLWXOY/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_4

Youth Opportunities

1. Sr. High Youth Group – Sundays, March 5, 12, 19, and 26, from 7-9 p.m., at church.
2. Jr. High Youth Group/Confirmation – Sundays, March 5, 12, 19, and 26, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., at church
3. Sr. High After-School Coffee – Wednesdays, March 8, 15, and 22, 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? Christy is back from maternity leave so you can direct your questions to her.

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. Current North Park students will serve as mentors to participating students, providing insight on how to thrive at the college level.

North Park University has educated generations of students passionate for a life of significance and service. We are at the forefront of science education as this generation seeks truth in all aspects of life.

Please tell everyone in your personal circles with any connection to high school students (teachers, volunteers, parents, youth pastors...) about Summer Science Academy!

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).

Application Deadlines

Priority Registration: May 1, 2017. Final Registration: June 1, 2017

Seminar with Dr. David Davidson – Tuesday, March 21st, 1:00 p.m.

“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”

Everyone interested in their hearts is invited to this timely program (given recent events in our congregation). It will be hosted by The Next Chapter (Recently Retired Women). Invite your family and friends.

Dr. David Davidson, MD, Medical Director of the Cardiovascular Institute Wellness Program at NorthShore University HealthSystem, will provide tips for maintaining a healthy heart and an [update on heart health research](#). He will advise us on how personalized medicine capabilities are being used to analyze DNA for potential heart health risks and help determine which medications work best for each person. The program will include time for your questions.



Dr. Davidson earned a BS in psychology from Northwestern University, and his medical degree from Rush University Medical Center. He completed his fellowship in cardiology at The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. He was recruited to NorthShore to help build a preventive cardiology program. Dr. Davidson focuses on cholesterol management, cardiovascular wellness, weight loss and prevention of heart disease. He is involved in several clinical trials with a focus on cholesterol related medications. Dr. Davidson is board certified in Internal Medicine, Cardiology, Lipidology, and Nuclear Cardiology. He is a diplomate of the National Lipid Association and a member of the American College of Cardiology.

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.). The **March meeting will be on the 10th**. 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.

Memoir Group – Getting Our Family Stories on Paper – See announcement below on this page.

Next Chapter (formerly Recently Retired Women) – This month we will host the **March 21st seminar on Heart Health** (details on page 5). We will also announce a new service opportunity we can do as a group ... having fun in the process. 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!

Bridal Shower – Saturday, April 15th

All women of the church are invited to a bridal shower for Sabina Fischer and 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.

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.

MEN'S RETREAT – March 10-12, Covenant Harbor Bible Camp in Lake Geneva, WI (sponsored by Lumunos)

Essentialism and the Prophet – Jeremiah at the Men's Retreat – Lumunos retreats are like halftime of a game: They provide an opportunity to step back, look at your life, and readjust so you can focus on what is most essential. But in our version of halftime, rather than Mike Ditka screaming, you will find yourself surrounded by a band of brothers who listen, support, and encourage you.

For our theme this year we focus on Jeremiah, the "God Revealing Companion." (Eugene Peterson) While sometimes he can sound a little like Mike Ditka, his story will help us focus on some faith basics like hope, trust, discernment and focusing on what truly matters. Along with Jeremiah, we will explore "essentialism," which provides a set of tools designed to help busy people focus on what is most important. You will leave with new practices to help focus your life, and the most important takeaway of all: A future with hope (Jeremiah 29:11). Registration link on the church website.

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 **March 23rd** 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 **March 21st**.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study – We begin again on **Tuesday, March 7**. Our study will be Revelation, Chapter 18, Babylon's Judgment. Revelation has a great finish. Welcome back as we complete this fascinating study. (Contact Joann Larson, for information).

Mailbox

Dear WCC Friends,

Words are not adequate to express our gratitude for all the prayers, visits, dinners, cards, and phone calls during Dwight's heart attack and open heart surgery. Special thanks to Pastors Peter, Andrea, and Art for your visits at the hospital and home. We have felt so much love, support, and concern from our extended church family! You have made a huge difference in his recovery, and we are so thankful for each and every one of you. When Dwight feels stronger, we will join you back at church. Until then, thanks again!

Dwight & Susan Samuelson

Dear Winnetka Church Friends,

We are deeply grateful for your prayers and your concern for my dad, Paul Johnson, throughout his health struggle over these past three months. Thanks, too, for the many cards and words of comfort we received following Dad's home-going on January 10th. Though it has been a few years since my parents have been able to visit, they consider WCC their second church home, in part because of the many friendships they have enjoyed over the years.

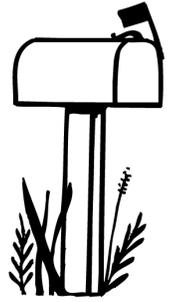
So thank you for coming alongside us during a difficult time; our shared faith is the solid rock on which we stand.

Robin & Mike,
Liesel and Anni Magnusson

Dear Winnetka Covenant Family,

We are so pleased to send you a greeting from Medellin. We want to convey our sincere gratitude for your on-going partnership with us in Colombia. We also want to thank you for the generous Christmas gift you gave our family. You have blessed us!

Much love,
Julio, Katie, Sam & Ben Isaza



Dear Friends,

I would be remiss if I did not thank you for your generous Christmas gift – the \$50 Visa debit card!

I was able to purchase gifts for a few friends who help me quite a lot throughout the year – they have done so for many years and most of the time, I could never afford Christmas or birthday gifts, even though they buy them for me!

Your gift made my Christmas and theirs happier!
Again, THANK YOU!

Blessings,
Ms. Maria Jilly

Family News

Congratulations and best wishes to:

- **Chant & Diana Sayavongsa**, on the birth of their daughter, Georgia Adalise Teruel Sayavongsa on Thursday, December 29. Georgia was 6 lb., 15 oz. and 19 inches long at birth. She joins her siblings, Abigayle, Chant, and Ysabella at home.

Rummage Sale

It hardly seems possible, but it's not too early to start thinking Rummage Sale!! This year it is scheduled for Saturday, April 29. While we won't be calling for volunteers for a while yet, now is the time to think about what you have to donate. As you begin 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.

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.

The Status of Women: Have We Come Far Enough?

What the Sacred Texts Teach

The New Trier Multifaith Alliance (formerly Winnetka Interfaith Council) will soon be sponsoring another of its unique forums exploring the sacred texts of the Abrahamic religions.

This third forum—entitled *The Status of Women: Have We Come Far Enough? What the Sacred Texts Teach*—will feature Dr. Thomas Mockaitis, as moderator, and four panelists: Ms. S. Valerie Dana, J.D., Bahá'í; Ms. Hind Makki, Muslim; Rev. Heath Howe, Christian; and Rabbi Emily Segal, Jewish. The forum will be held on Tuesday, March 14, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Winnetka Covenant Church, 1200 Hibbard Road (at Illinois Road), in Wilmette. The forum will be free and open to the public.

Panelists in the March 14 forum will select passages from their sacred writings to support their perspective on the status of women. Written questions from the floor will be welcomed and shared by the moderator during the last segment of the forum. Hospitality and light refreshments will be offered afterwards.

The New Trier Multifaith Alliance, which fosters respect and understanding among Faiths, has been a source of positive interfaith relations for 50 years in the Winnetka area. The recent joining of additional Faith communities in the New Trier area made the adoption of a new name, indicative of the expanded reach of the organization, timely.