



## **WESTERN SPIRE**

### **AUGUST 2023**

What's in a flower? As the spring growing season has blossomed out all over, we were surrounded by the wonderment of floral of different shapes, colors, and fragrances. How did God come up with all these varied blossoms? How did God know to offer flowers as a gift to the world? How did God know to think of every tiny element of a blossom to become a source of regeneration? How did God know?

It's powerful to see the spring bulbs burst through the frigid soil to claim their place in the world. The blooms on the bushes share space with foliage that will remain after the blossoms are finished. We plant seeds with anticipation of flowers and veggies to be reaped come August and September. Visits to the garden shops are a celebration in color and design in hopes of how our gardens will become. This is all a spiritual celebration of renewing hope. Faith that renewal will come.

As Deacons, we celebrate flowers for a different reason. The flowers that we take from the sanctuary at the end of worship services, weddings, and funerals are blessed by those events, that communal moment in time. When we take these bouquets to shut-ins, the ill, those in nursing homes, and those that just need an uplifting moment, we are extending the blessings to them. We are bringing the community of our church and faith to those we visit. The flowers become a vehicle that reflects the power of our community.

When we offer the flowers upon our visit, we are allowing the recipient to feel connected when they might feel distant. We are communicating that they are treasured and not forgotten. When we bring flowers, we are simply telling them they are loved. They matter.

Some visits are just a meeting at the door with a greeting. Other times it is an opportunity for a conversation. A time to be there to hear their story. It's a time to extend a smile. It's a time to offer distraction if needed. Was this part of God's plan?

The Deacons delivered approximately 47 bouquets last year. Visits of grace.

## **And God Said**

by Mary Stevenson

I said, "God, I hurt."

And God said, "I know."

I said, "God, I cry a lot."

And God said, "That is why I gave you tears."

I said, "God, I am so depressed."

And God said, "That is why I gave you Sunshine."

I said, "God, Life is so hard."

And God said, "That is why I gave you loved ones."

I said, "My loved one died."

And God said, "So did mine."

I said, "God, it was such a loss."

And God said, "I saw mine nailed to a cross."

I said, "God, but your loved one lives."

And God said, "So does yours."

I said, "God, where are they now?"

And God said, "Mine is on My right and yours is in the Light."

I said, "God, it hurts."

And God said, "I know."

## Weekend Wellness Update

As you may know, Foodlink is no longer providing Weekend Wellness bags at a reduced cost. For about a year, Edie, the school, the Mission Team, Foodlink, and the Food Pantry have been talking about how we can continue the Weekend Wellness program.

In July, at the Food Pantry meeting, some decisions were made. Zion offered space to start a Weekend Wellness Room. Foodlink, LDS Food Storehouse, and volunteer donations will be used to fill the room with food that is taken by children. Several times during the year we will fill the bags as we did when the program first started. On Wednesdays, the bags will be delivered to the schools.

One of the changes Foodlink was hoping to provide food for the whole family on the weekend. The Food Pantry will provide an information sheet for each bag inviting the parents to come to the Food Pantry on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

We look forward to continuing the program as we have done it for several years. Watch for items needed for the bags, the dates you can come fill bags, and let Edie know if you want to deliver bags to the schools on Wednesdays.



### High School Graduate Spotlight: Emily J. McFarlane

Emily is a 2023 Pal-Mac graduate. She is the daughter of James & Cim McFarlane. Emily graduated Magna Cum Laude, as a HOBY Youth Leadership All-Star and was a member of National Honor Society. During Pal-Mac's Dollars for Scholars ceremony, Emily received the Agnes McLouth Griffith Scholarship, the Gareth D. MacKay Family Scholarship, and the Goldsmith Fund Scholarship.

Emily plans to attend SUNY Oswego to major in Creative Writing with an interest in Film & Cinema Studies and Astronomy while working in the Technical Theater Department.

Congratulations, Emily! We are very proud of you!



### High School Graduate Spotlight: Erika C. Mitchell

Erika is a 2023 Pal-Mac graduate. She is the daughter of Chris & Katie Mitchell. During Pal-Mac's Dollars for Scholars ceremony, Erika received the Lady Raiders Basketball Boosters Club Scholarship, the Terrance C. Leone Memorial Scholarship, and the Sapienza Family Scholarship. Erika was very active in Pal-Mac sports, too. She was named MVP in Volleyball. In Basketball, she was named the Ideal Teammate and received the All-League Sportsmanship Award. Erika was also recognized as a Scholar Athlete throughout the school year.

Erika plans to attend Monroe Community College to pursue nursing and has committed to play on MCC's Women's Volleyball team.

Congratulations, Erika! We are very proud of you.



## **Let Us Eat Cake and Celebrate!**

Special Coffee Hour on August 13, 2023

**Joy-Filled Fortieth Anniversary of  
The Rev. Dr. Nancy J. Farrell's Ordination**

Come to worship as we celebrate The Lord's Supper together with The Rev. Dr. N J F preaching. Then, we hope everyone will gather in Fellowship Hall for a special Coffee Hour.

Coffee Hosts: Wes and Janet Barager

We are marking the Fortieth Anniversary of Nancy's Ordination at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, August 14, 1983. At the time, her choir director, Morgan Simmons, was heard to comment, "God works in mysterious ways." Indeed!

Colors for our celebration:      Pink for Joy  
   Green for Growth  
   White for New Life in Christ

The amazing cake and cupcakes are from a new enterprise in our area: **Ladybug Bakery** Julia Friedman, pastry chef/ baker and Michelle Friedman. There will be fruit, nuts, and lots of fun. Come join us as we celebrate the sweetness of God's great work at Western Presbyterian. Soli Deo Gloria!



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

August 2	Dona Kadlecik
August 4	Samantha Teeter
August 6	Beverly Mouton
August 7	Janet Barager
August 14	Alexander Budziszewski
August 21	John Kadlecik
August 21	Anita Adams
August 21	Sharon Marr
August 23	Rena Haigh
August 23	Beverly Koeberle
August 25	Patti Squier

August 1	Morris & Tricia Owen
August 4	Michael & Jan Semans
August 16	Dale & Molly Budziszewski
August 26	Ray & Sharon Marr
August 28	Bill & Sara Bush

**If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the office at 597-9171 so we can add it to our list next time!**

**The team minutes received for July include:**

## Deacons Team Meeting Minutes

July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Present:** Sandy McMenamain, Randy Kennard, Nancy Talma, Sylvia Lyon, Patti Dlugosh, & Sara Bush

**In Support:** Linda Pulcini

### Meeting opening with lighting of the Christ Candle

1. **Faith messages found in the Bible** – What thoughts guide scriptures for cards?
2. **Approval of last month's minutes** *with below corrections Motion: Sylvia Second: Patti*
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Current balance – Sandy M.

a. Balances

	Deacons checking Account	WPC Budget Line Item
<b>Initial balance</b>	\$1001.29	\$500.00
Additions		
Deductions	-\$49.40	
<b>Ending balance</b>	\$965.89	\$500.00

Cards & labels

4. Sharing Correspondence: letter/cards – none received
5. Volunteers to handle Communion on **7/9/2023** – thank you for your assistance on Sunday.
  - a. Next Month – Communion is on 8/13 - job assignments to be made at next meeting.
6. **Update of Prayer Concerns:** Adds, Removals and Status
  - a. Break down the prayer list to enable the full team to gain status of names to enable a more active role of participation throughout the team and to lighten the load so that list is not the full responsibility of a single person.

### Group Prayer – Lord, hear our prayers.

2023 As of April, Counts taken from remaining elements during serving					
Month	Visits	Phone Calls	Cards sent and Email outreach	Communion Served	Communion Date
January	16	27	63	38	1/15/2023
February	7	19	68	42	19-Feb-23
March	6	20	64	39	12-Mar-23
April	6	11	56	57	9-Apr-23
May	13	10	41	48	15-May-23
June	9	10	55	45	11-Jun-23
July	7	14	69	35	9-Jul-23
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>304</b>	

S.S. created cards  
deliver 21 lilies / S.S. created cards

\* communions are now served with passing out the elements in a cup of juice and another for bread

7. **Visit/Calls/Card Counts** – plan to visit 3 shut-ins for Rev. Nancy and Sandy to serve communion.
  - a. **Rev. Nancy officiated over the funeral of James Kirchoff** – contacted through funeral home with service at funeral home and cemetery.

**Special Care mailings:** Current Roster: 24 names / cards sent out to offer support and prayer.

Monthly Notes: Bible verse 2 Corinthians 5:7 *“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”*

### Old Business:

1. Reports of Prayer List contacts



2. Session updates

- a. Congregational vote on 7/23 to enable remote worshippers to vote if and when we have a new pastor applicant – Discussion that a majority needs to be present to vote. An email to Janet Manktelow to ask what the membership of the church is and what is the count to ensure a majority is present. This discussion was driven by the realization that only 35 were present in worship last week. Would we have enough present to authorize the vote? Email to be sent to the clerk of session with this question.
- b. Review of budget and offer addition of Deacons as a line item- \$500, not \$600.

**New Business:**

- There has been a request to go back to using communion trays for the bread rather than using cups. The reason for this change is because the bread is dried out when served in the cups. With all other Covid protocols removed, this may be acceptable to return to pre-covid practices. \_ email to be sent to session members for approval.

Meeting **closed with prayer.**

**Next meeting** Tuesday 8/8/2023 @ 10:30 am -- SECOND Tuesday – see you then ← this is a date change.

Respectfully - Randy Kennard, Chairperson

Finance Meeting

May 17, 2023

10 am

Present: Alicia Lynch, Val Gendron, Bill Hassler, Eric Chapman, and Bill Bush

The committee welcomed the return of our snow birds and reviewed a summary of our endowment funds as well as updated the spreadsheet to reflect the current values. We also reviewed the financials as submitted by Eric. Our quarterly dividend is now at approximately \$50,000, largely due to the fact of the additional funds added by the Daniels endowment. The endowment distribution policy as revised May 2022 and approved by Session was also reviewed and the committee feels strongly that it does not need revision at this time due to the market conditions. The financial outlook for WPC is actually in a pretty good place right now - mostly due to the fact we have no minister, consequently, motion was made and seconded to recommend increasing this year's budget by \$18,500 for Mission, which will be reviewed again next year. This makes the budget for Mission to be \$25,000. for 2023. All were in favor.

We discussed Session's request for an audit. The experienced committee members (which is everyone but me) recommended that we have a review versus an audit. Reviews by an outside firm run roughly \$3,000 and audits run as much as \$10,000. Eric will contact Ryan at Howe and Rusling to ask if they have anyone they could recommend.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 11:30. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia M. Lynch

# PROPERTY MINISTRY TEAM - MINUTES

June 21, 2023  
WPC

Present: James McFarlane, Gary LaBerge, Phil Opdycke, Don Dantz

Absent:

Meeting Started at 6:30 pm

Still do not yet have a quote from Emcor regarding the updates/repairs needed on our boiler system (boiler leak, pilot, zone valves, breathers, etc). Gary had a walkthrough with Emcor and expects quotes by the end of the month. Expect to see two quotes since it may be more cost effective to replace the leaky boiler instead of disassembling and repairing the current unit.

The painting of the steeple has been completed and looks good. Had to replace a few of the slats.

Coating of the old bricks was completed at the same time as the steeple painting. Should prevent moisture absorption of the brick.

The Secured mailbox for financial secretary is installed.

Concrete replacement of part of front parking lot is scheduled for week of July 3 with one Sunday where it will not be usable. Currently plan on driveway not being available July 3<sup>rd</sup> thru July 13<sup>th</sup>.

With changes in meter reading requirements with NYSEG, we are still trying to find a simple, secure, and cost-effective way for meters to be read that does not require such a complicated process that Kathy has been forced to use this year. Property Team needs to call NYSEG directly and go thru our options if we can find a knowledgeable person to talk with. May need to have Gary and/or James are listed as authorized people on the account so we can call. Have discussed trying to create a secure path to the meters so we can give NYSEG non-business hour access to the meters and not interfere with emergency escape routes.

For lawn mowing we are considering hiring a student and providing the equipment. Could this be a liability or insurance issue for the church if we "contract" with the student?

Gary has updated the latching mechanism on the emergency food cupboard out front of the church.

At the time of meeting, Gary is planning to install AC units in office and Fellowship Hall by the end of the week.

Ceiling vents and fan for sanctuary have been opened by Gary.

Val has reported that there were financial secretary office keys located in the office and they are now missing? Property was only aware of Val and one person on finance having keys. The property team recommends replacing the current lockset with a number pad type of lock that does not need key and lock code can be changed as needed.

Still working on computer network remote access for financial secretary. Hope to have functional solution by the first week of July.

James to compile a list of issues with AV system and schedule time to meet with Applied Audio to discuss options to make system more reliable.

Next Meeting: Currently scheduled for 07/19/23 at 6:30 PM

The stated meeting of session of Western Presbyterian Church & Society, Palmyra, New York was called to order by the moderator, Reverend Susan Frost at 7:00PM in Fellowship Hall. The meeting was opened with the Lighting of The Christ Candle and prayer.

**9 Present:** James McFarlane, Alicia Lynch, Irene Fadden, Phillip Opdycke, Randy Kennard, Emily Hunt, Susan Leonard, Norman Underwood, Janet Manktelow

**0 Absent**

**0 excused**

**A quorum was present.**

Motion made by Norman Underwood seconded and carried to approve the agenda with the change of moving James to the top so he may then be excused.

James spoke about our church hosting counselors from Camp Whitman, June 23-24. They will be taking lifeguard training at the Pal-Mac pool. It would be much easier if they didn't have to drive back and forth to camp. They are just looking for a place to sleep.

- Motion made by Property Ministry Team allowing the Camp Whitman counselors to sleep in Fellowship Hall. Phil will stay with them Friday night and Janet will stay Saturday, per our policy of having a church member on site. Motion passed.
- Motion made by Property Ministry Team to have Brad Jacobs repair the front church parking lot for the quoted price of \$7,000. Motion passed.

**Clerks Report**

- Motion made by Irene Fadden seconded and carried to approve the minutes from the April session meeting with corrections.

Ministry teams were asked to volunteer to write the front page article for the Spire.

August- Randy Kennard  
September- Emily Hunt

**Financial Secretary's Report**

	<u>April 2023</u>		<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>YTD%</u>
	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>			
Receipts	\$29,906	\$69,740	\$147,077	47.42%	
Expenditures	\$7,561	\$30,779	\$139,546	22.06%	
<b>Total Receipts/Expenditures</b>	<b>\$22,345</b>	<b>\$38,961</b>	<b>\$7,531</b>		

- Motion made by Norman Underwood seconded and carried to approve the Financial Secretary's report with the correction of changing the month from March to April.

**Business of the Church**

**Elder Training**-Spiritual Leadership and Growth – Susan handed out some reading for us to discuss at the next meeting.

Devotions shared by Norm.

**Ministry Team Reports**

**Worship Ministry Team** – pulpit supply is going well, the pre-marital counseling for the Taylor Guerin wedding is being handled by Pastor Susan. She is willing to do the wedding on Oct. 21, if needed.

**Fellowship Ministry Team** -written report

**Deacons Ministry Team** – a written report was provided, they want everyone to lift up Tracy, Linda Pulcini’s daughter in prayer.

**Mission/Social Concerns Ministry Team** - they will not be holding a meeting in June or July. Everyone has expressed how impressed by all the projects the team is doing.

**Finance Ministry Team** – the team is looking into getting the books audited or reviewed.

- Motion made by the finance team to increase the amount Mission team will get by \$18,500 for the 2023 year. Motion passed.

This increase will be announced to the congregation.

**Christian Ed Ministry Team** – the youth led worship service was a big success. They are now working on VBS for this summer-they plan to return to serving lunch.

**Presbytery** -they met in person at Camp Whitman, it was the first in person meeting since Covid.

**Women’s Association** – the board is planning on doing an extensive kitchen clean up.

The next meeting will be held June 27, 2023

We will not have a meeting in July unless it is absolutely necessary.

Devotions for June meeting – Sue Leonard

- Motion made by Norman Underwood seconded and carried to adjourn with prayer at 9:00PM

Janet Manktelow

Clerk

## Our Prayer Concerns (updated July 19, 2023)

### Grieving:

Family & Friends of James Kirchhoff (requested by Rev. Dr. Nancy J. Farrell)

### Serving in the Armed Forces:

AJ Bliss, Adam Hill, Sarah Jagger, Joe Krebbeks, Josh Polle

### Others for whom prayers have been requested:

All caregivers, All those affected by natural disasters, All those who have been affected by the Coronavirus, All those who have no one to pray for them, All victims of violence, hatred and hunger, Ellen Avery, Jane Becker, Ed Cole, John Cook, Janet Hassler Costa, Gary Culver, Tracy D'Arduini & Linda Pulcini, Jim DePoint, Ron Desassure, Phyllis Dimitropoulos, Irene Fadden, Jonathan Groff, Marge Harloff, Russell Harris, Marge Hollingshead, Dave Jankowski, Linda Johnston & Pam, Mary Kay Jones, Roger King, Gary Lashway, Frank Lawrence, Tad Manske, Angelo Mascioli, Evelyn McDowell, Deb Merla, Mary Greenlaw-Meyer, Beverly Mikolon, Patrick Miller, Karley Mott, Tracy Murphy, Dawn VerStraete Nieskes, Pastor Nominating Committee, Bob Pringle, Courtney Sears, Doug Sloan, Fran Storm, Joan Verstringhe, Connie West

Please pray for those who wish to remain anonymous as they, too, need our prayers.

### Others for whom we continue to pray:

Kathleen Dougherty, Joan Durfey, Janet Haigh, Bobby Haurand, Paula Hemmings, Christine Stachecki Johanessen, Jessica Locey Otto, Sue Luechauer, Cim McFarlane, Wesley Pruitt, Wilma Redman, Kathy Rynders, David Squier, Marguerite Vizzini

### Congregation members in nursing homes or shut-in:

Beverly Koeberle, Rochelle Morse, Bev Mouton, Dorothy Schlee

Prayers of Intercession are offered each day by our Deacons.

To request prayer for yourself or another, please contact Randy Kennard, chair of Deacons, Sandy McMenamin, or Kathy in the Church office. Please remember that all prayer requests are automatically removed from the list after one month unless the giver specifically requests continuation.



# AUGUST 2023

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
		1 9-11:30 am VBS 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	2 9-11:30 am VBS 10 am Mission/Social Concerns	3 9-11:30 am VBS	4 9-11:30 am VBS	5 9 am to 3 pm Lions Club Meeting & Luncheon
6 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Rev. Dr. Nancy J. Farrell preaching	7	8 10:30 am Deacons 3:15 pm Worship 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	9 7 pm Boy Scouts FH	10	11	12
13 Communion & Cereal Sunday Rev. Dr. Nancy J. Farrell preaching Special coffee hour to honor 40 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Nancy's ordination	14	15 SPIRE DEADLINE 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	16 6:30 pm Property	17	18	19
20 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	21	22 SPIRE DEADLINE 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room 7 pm Session	23	24	25	26
27 13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  Fellowship meeting after worship	28	29 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	30	31		



## SEPTEMBER 2023

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
					1	2
3 14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	4 Labor Day Office Closed	5 10 am Deacons 7 pm Christian Ed. 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	6 10 am Mission/Social Concerns	7	8	9
10 Communion & Cereal Sunday	11	12 3:15 pm Worship 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	13 7 pm Boy Scouts FH	14	15	16
17 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	18	19 SPIRE DEADLINE 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	20 1 pm Women's Circle Bible Study FH 6:30 pm Property	21	22	23
24 17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost First day of Sunday School Welcome Back Picnic	25	26 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room 7 pm Session	27	28	29	30