



THE WIND OF THE SPIRIT AT WEST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

WEST WINDS

27 Johnson Street, Peabody, MA

April 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Holy week was a time of deep spiritual reflection and Easter a joyous celebration. Jesus promised His presence to His followers after His resurrection both then and now in Matthew 28:20 and commanded them and us to be witnesses of His resurrection. The Church was born and immediately caught the attention of the surrounding world. The disciples were ready to do whatever Jesus told them. They knew that Jesus was the leader and they were the followers. We need to develop the same spiritual qualities that the disciples had in the first century. They were marked with humility, simplicity, boldness and obedience and so should we.



As we prepare for a new season of ministry please pray with our Pulpit Committee as they seek God's will for the selection of our new Senior Pastor. I have been sharing the need with our Pulpit Committee that our new Senior Pastor must fulfill the position description created by our Board of Deacons and Deaconesses. This is foundational for our Senior Pastor's calling and competencies. This is the description the Deacon's created, *"The Senior Pastor's role is primarily that of preaching and teaching the word of God, and shepherding the congregation and the Church Staff. His focus is to be on leading the congregation into Spiritual maturity and equipping them together for the work of ministry as The Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12 -16)."*

I have also shared the need that our next Senior Pastor be missional. This additional description has been added to our pastoral profile. The goal is to determine if the candidate has led an externally focused mission in the past and how might he approach the unique challenges of West Church reaching our community and the North Shore. The Pulpit Committee will explore past behavior of the candidates in leading mission as an indicator of future performance.

I have included the summary of a comprehensive survey conducted by The Cecil B Day Foundation. This study evaluated the health of many churches in our area with a specific focus on growth in evangelism and the role of the pastor in the process of reaching their local communities. I hope you will find it informative as well as give you insight into the term "missional" that you will hear as we talk about potential candidates. It will be very important for our next Senior Pastor to be missional and it is an important criterion that the Pulpit Committee is emphasizing in selecting a new Senior Pastor. West Church can learn a great deal from this research project in knowing what to do to reach our community.

Growing in Christ,
Pastor Gene

RATIONALE FOR THE SURVEY

The purpose of this project was to investigate a sampling of thriving New England churches known for their effective evangelism and discipleship strategies. This initiative grew out of the 2017 Barna Study, “The Spiritual Landscape of New England”, which highlighted evangelism as a weakness in New England, particularly among well-established churches. It also discovered that more recent church plants are growing and flourishing with measurable evangelistic results to show for their efforts.

SURVEY SUMMARY

EVANGELISM: It’s apparent that thriving churches have leaders who possess a passion and zeal for evangelism evident at the highest levels. This assures it will not likely slip to a lower priority or become eclipsed by competing programs and strategies for church growth. Thriving church pastors are strong communicators of vision and mission.

TEAM BUILDING: They are able leaders who will staff to their weaknesses with a penchant toward effective team-building. High energy and a capacity for learning are key leadership characteristics, and they build a culture in the church that is concerned about keeping the leadership pipeline full.

MULTIPLICATION: A multiplication strategy assures that these churches will continue to grow and expand to new sites. They are deeply dependent upon the Holy Spirit for guidance and will labor in prayer before large decisions are made.

EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH: Outreach beyond the walls of the church is stressed continually and strategies are in place to assure the church gathered can become the church scattered at appropriate times. They stress relational evangelism as a lifestyle among their congregants, but they’re not reluctant about making gospel invitations a regular component of their preaching.

METRICS: Metrics are important, and these pastors can produce vital statistics as evidence of the effectiveness of their strategies. When metrics show something isn’t working, they quickly assess and adjust as necessary.

COLLABORATION: Collaboration with other pastors, churches, and other Christian denominations is normal for these leaders, and they will continue to strengthen the body of Christ as they accomplish shared tasks with other brethren.

DISCIPLESHIP: Finally, accompanying effective evangelism is effective discipleship. These pastors and leaders understand the necessity for Christians to reproduce themselves as disciples who make disciples. They see these as two sides to the same coin as vitally necessary to fulfill the great commission.

The Cecil B. Day Foundation offers this report with the hope that churches and ministries throughout New England will see that thriving is a matter of understanding the culture and making changes where needed to bring the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to that culture.

New England has become a mission field, and effective missional strategies must be understood and employed. Churches failing to engage their local community and its unique challenges will continue to suffer decline. However, those willing to investigate and adapt the evangelism and discipleship strategies outlined in this report have a much greater chance of not only surviving but thriving in the coming years. May God’s grace and power be the preeminent forces for accomplishing His will for His Church!

The entire survey report is available in the office, by email request or online at the West Winds section of our website: www.westchurchpeabody.org/west-winds/



ROCK SOLID NEWS

Sunday, April 8 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Our Rock Solid Youth Ministry will be joining the youth of the Branch Church and Calvary Baptist Church for First Sunday Night (FSN), a monthly gathering of youth, on March 4 from 6:00-7:30 pm. First Sunday Night exists to provide a place for students to connect with friends and deal with real-life issues. We have great music, memorable activities and Biblical teaching that meets/challenges real life issues. First Sunday Night is for youth in grades 7-12 and meets at Covenant Christian Academy (83 Pine Street, Peabody).

AMIRAH MINISTRY

THURSDAY, APRIL 5 AT 7:00 PM

The Outreach Committee is asking that you join us as we hear from Heather Thornburg, Program Director of Amirah, who will be sharing about the realities of sex trafficking here in New England. We will learn not just about how this happens, but what we can practically do to be a vital part of the solution to bring healing and hope to those who had none. We will also hear about what life is like for a survivor at Amirah. We will be gathering in the Upper Room.

SPECIAL GUEST – APRIL 8

Dr. Dennis Reiter will return to preach during the morning Worship Service. His sermon, *The Right Way to Handle Wrongs*, will be from Matthew 18:15-20. There will be a joint Sunday School class for the adults and youth that morning in Lyons Hall. He will be addressing the subject "*Peacemaking Principles – Responding to Conflict Biblically*". All church adult leaders are encouraged to attend. His session will be recorded and available for those unable to attend.

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

Eligible student applicants must be graduating high school in 2018, active in West Church, and entering college or training school in the fall. Applications will be available in the church office must be submitted by Sunday, May 6.

SOFTBALL TEAM

Softball season starts at the end of April and runs through the end of July. We are currently looking for a coach and players. Anyone interested, contact the church office.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 9-13 - Grab your megaphones, lace up your cleats, tune up your horn, and get ready for Game On VBS!



It's time to gear up for the big game! July 9-13 at **Game On! VBS**, kids will realize that God has given them His ultimate playbook. He wants them on His team, training hard, celebrating salvation, and encouraging one another. With a fantastic theme verse from 2 Peter 1:3, we'll spend an exhilarating week at **Game on! VBS, Gearing Up for Life's Big Game**.

There's room for you on the **Game On Team!** In order to make this dynamic week possible, we need 85 Team Members. Please prayerfully consider how you might participate in VBS. God has already called 36 of the Team Members we need! There are many positions still open in most of the ministry areas of VBS.

Contact the church office to volunteer.



We cordially invite all Pioneer Girls,
parents, Gal Pals, families,
and friends to join us on
Friday, May 11 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm
for our Awards Night Celebration.

PIONEER GIRL NEWS

Due to so many snow cancellations on Wednesdays in the month of March, Pioneer Girl Sunday has been moved to Sunday, April 29. We hope that all of our Pioneer Girls and their families can join us on that special Sunday. We ask that the girls gather in Lyon's Hall at 10am. We'll enjoy baked goods and a display of crafts the girls have made throughout the year. The Pioneer Girls will then serve as the greeters by the sanctuary doors before the morning's 10:30am worship service. We hope all the girls will wear their Pioneer Girl sashes and come ready to greet with warm smiles and firm handshakes! We've been practicing a special song that the girls will sing for the congregation during the worship service. It's called *Pastures* and is a beautiful, heartfelt song that captures our Psalm 23 theme this year.

Spring is finally here and with it comes the GRAND FINALE to the Pioneer Girls' calendar year: ***Final Awards Night and the Sleepover...*** combined!

We look forward to honoring the girls for the work they have done throughout the year. At the conclusion of the Awards Night, Gal Pals, friends and family members will say "good night" and leave their Pioneer Girls at church to enjoy the annual Sleepover, full of games, crafts, snacks, laughter and surprises. Saturday morning, May 12, after a delicious pancake breakfast, the girls will be ready to be picked up bright and early at 8:00am. It will be a fantastic way to end a truly wonderful year of Pioneer Girls!

Please continue to pray for the Pioneer Girl ministry as we begin to wrap up our year together. God has blessed us all year long and we know He will continue to do so!

Happy Spring!

PIONEER GIRL APRIL CALENDAR

April 2: Leader/Committee Planning Meeting
April 4: Club
April 11: Club
April 18: NO Club – School Vacation Week
April 25: Club
April 29: Pioneer Girl Sunday



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www.facebook.com/westchurchpeabody

CONNECT WITH US

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APRIL 2018 WEST WINDS CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 EASTER SUNDAY	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:30am Prayer 9:30 am Worship	Haven From Hunger •3:15 Prepare Meal •5:00 pm Serve Meal 7:30 pm Pulpit Committee Upper Room		9:15 am WBS 3:00 pm CE Committee Meeting 7:00 pm •CSB: ALL 3 Groups •Girls' Growth Group •Pioneer Girls	7:00 pm Amirah House Information Night Upper Room	7:30 pm Home Fellowship Group Roy's Home	8:30 am GAiN Sewing Ministry 2's and 3's Classroom
8 COMMUNION	9	10	11	12	13	14
Dr. Dennis Reiter 8:30am Prayer 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 6:00 -7:15 pm First Sunday Night Youth Ministry Branch Church at CCA	7:30 pm Pulpit Committee Upper Room	7:30pm • Board of Deacons • Board of Trustees	9:15 am WBS 7:00pm • CSB: 2 Groups • Girls' Growth Group • Pioneer Girls			7:00pm Marriage Builders Teal's Home
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8:30am Prayer 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship *Worship Team 7:00pm Prayer Watch	PATRIOTS DAY OFFICES CLOSED 7:30 pm Pulpit Committee Upper Room		9:15 am WBS	7:00pm Missions Committee Upper Room	7:30 pm Home Fellowship Group Roy's Home	6:00pm SALT Lyons Hall and UR
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:30am Prayer 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	7:30 pm Pulpit Committee Upper Room	7:00pm Community Outreach Upper Room	9:15 am WBS 7:00pm •CSB: 2 Groups •Girls' Growth Group •Pioneer Girls	7:00 pm SS Teacher Training Upper Room		
29 PG SUNDAY	30					
8:30am Prayer 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	7:30 pm Pulpit Committee Upper Room					

←SCHOOL VACATION WEEK→