



The Presbyterian Church, 123 West Hill Street, Wabash, IN 46992-3049
www.wabashpresbyterian.com | office@wabashpresbyterian.com | 260-563-8881

PASTOR'S DESK

Dancing with God

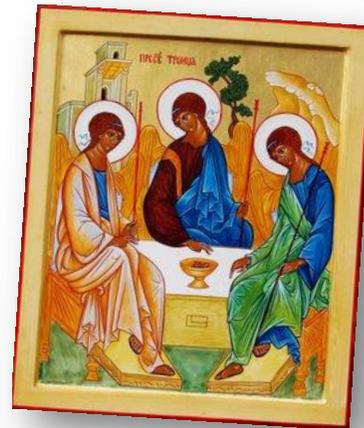
By Rev. Jonathan Cornell

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (John 17:21-22)

I was sitting at Modoc's Coffee on a Tuesday morning talking with someone who will be doing work for us at the church. The conversation veered when he asked this question: What's your market, and who are you trying to reach?

The question, though on the surface appeared to be a simple one—*Why, everyone, of course*—stopped me in my tracks momentarily. *I...uh. We...uh. God...uh. That is a really good question.*

If you take a step back from the biblical narrative, beginning in Genesis and culminating in Revelation, what you will see is story after story of a God whose people are totally unique and diverse. God's people are like snowflakes: no two are alike. That same God



reveals himself as loving, merciful, and full of grace. And because we're all snowflakes, God makes himself real and visible to us in more than just one way.

We stand in a long line of people who believe that God is uniquely distinct in three members, but singular in God's identity. We call this God's triune identity, the Trinity. Much of the church has affirmed their faith in this idea since the fourth century.

But what is the Trinity? We say nearly every week that I believe (Latin: Credo) in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but why? What does it mean, and why does it matter that we believe in a Trinity? Why not just say we believe in God? Or we believe in Jesus? Depending on your preference, you might prefer the mystical holy otherness of God, or perhaps you're a pragmatist and prefer the tangible, hands-on approach of Jesus of Nazareth, a living and historical person.

And what about the Holy Spirit? This is one Presbyterians and others who stand in the historical tradition of the Protestant Reformation often scratch their head over.

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Dancing with God (con't)

Over the next 5 weeks, we are going to be wrestling with a couple of questions: What is the Trinity, and why does it matter that we think of God as 3-in-1?

I think this question sends us back to the initial query: "Who are we trying to reach?" Our desire at Wabash Presbyterian Church is to be a place where people of all ages, stages and walks of life find shelter, nourishment, and the invitation to live into God's presence, purpose, and power in their lives. We grow into our God-breathed purpose as a community by becoming more intentionally Trinitarian in our life together.

Eastern Orthodox Christianity offers a beautiful interpretation of this relationship, using the image of a dance. The life of the Trinity is characterized not by self-centeredness but by mutually self-giving love. When we delight and serve someone else, we enter into a dynamic orbit around him or her. We center on the interests and desires of the other. That creates a dance, particularly if there are three persons, each of whom moves around the other two. So it is, the Bible tells us. Each of the divine persons centers upon the others. None demands that the others revolve around him. Each voluntarily circles the other two, pouring love, delight, and adoration into them.

I believe that the more we individually and as a community experience the unique character and qualities of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (or God the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer), the more faithfully we will be able to see our calling to pursue the 3-in-1 God together.

Jonathan

Pastor Jonathan
Email: jonathan@wabashpresbyterian.com



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays:

- 1st – Ron Rider
- 7th – Howard Middleton
- 12th – Deni Yaggi
- 19th – Lois Dickinson
- 21st – Jackie Hipkind
- 23rd – Connie Squires
- 23rd – Julie Chowning
- 25th – Jean Scales
- 25th – Christian McAllister
- 25th – Brandon Moore
- 26th – Charles Ravenscroft

Anniversaries:

- 2nd – Gene & Sue Rose
- 7th – Ware & Maggie
Wimberly
- 10th – Ron & Faith Rider
- 19th – Dan & Carol Early
- 23rd – Dennis & Cherry
Gray

Is your birthday or anniversary missing from our list? Let us know!

Access Pins 4 Pencils Fundraiser

On Sunday, July 11th from 11am-5pm, the Access Youth Center is hosting a fundraiser called Pins for Pencils. Proceeds will help provide school supplies for back-to-school backpacks.

WPC will be forming a team of bowlers. Cost and commitment details are available through the office. We are hoping to have a team of bodacious bowlers knocking down pins and raising up money to support our friends at the Access Youth Center.

Community & Missions

*Loving people
with the heart of Christ
in the heart of Wabash*

Stock Certificate Sale

**Benefiting Our Mission Trip
to West Virginia
(June 14-20th)**

Some in our church family would like to be in the group going to West Virginia in June, but are not physically able to or have time constraints that prevent them from going.

The Mission Committee is offering an opportunity for everyone to have a stake in the trip. The committee is selling shares of "stock" in the mission trip. Stock buyers may purchase as many one-dollar shares as they wish.

Stockholders will be entitled to receive:

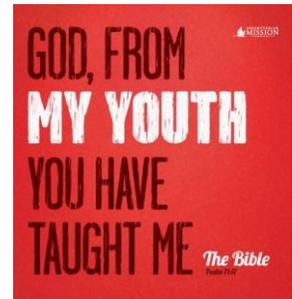
- 1) A "Stock Certificate"
- 2) A postcard from the work location
- 3) An email or text from the work location with photos (if technology allows)
- 4) An invitation to be one of our honored guests at a post-trip "Ice Cream Social and Media Show"
- 5) The knowledge that their stock purchase made the trip possible

Stock shares will be available for purchase after church each Sunday in the month of May.

Pentecost Offering

Sunday, May 24th

The Pentecost Offering was established in 1998 as one of the four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA). A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children.



A special thing about this offering is that we get to keep a portion of it to support a youth organization right here in Wabash. So, where, specifically, does our offering go?

- 40% – Access Youth Center
- 60% – Presbyterian Mission Agency

Thank you for your support of the Pentecost Offering.



Thumbtack Initiative

Say hi to Thumbtack. Thumbtack represents the important things we attach to the corkboards of our lives, things we want to remember. Thumbtack helps keep events and activities front and center.

This summer, you are invited to put your "name in the hat." Groups of 3-4 households will be assembled for meal gatherings at a pre-designated host home. These gatherings are an opportunity for our church to grow with one another, bringing together households, and bridging the generational spans and membership histories. All are invited to participate. Only those who agree in advance to host will be asked to host a gathering.

Gatherings will take place in June, July, and August (schedules permitting) and will be scheduled by each individual group. We will kick off the launching of our Summer Thumbtack Initiative at Worship in the Park on Sunday, May 31st. For more information contact Pastor Jonathan.

May Church & Community Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Church Women United (9am @ College Corner Brethren)	2
3 Graduation Breakfast (8:30am) Sunday School (9am) Worship (10am) & Fellowship Hour (11am) <i>*Loose Offering: FISH</i>	4 "Odd Couple" Bible Study (9am)	5 YMCA's Learn with Me (10am-noon) WPC & WCC's Prayer Vigil (3pm-3am @ Hesychia House) Night of Worship (7pm @ Hesychia House)	6	7 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER YMCA's Learn with Me (10am-noon)	8	9
10 MOTHER'S DAY Sunday School (9am) Worship (10am) & Mother's Day Reception (11am)	11 "Odd Couple" Bible Study (9am)	12 YMCA's Learn with Me (10am-noon) ROMEO Men's Lunch (12:30pm @ Ugalde's) Missions Team (6:30pm)	13 Worship Team (Noon @ Twenty)	14 YMCA's Learn with Me (10am-noon) Buildings & Grounds (7pm)	15	16
17 Sunday School (9am) Worship (10am) & Fellowship Hour (11am)	18 "Odd Couple" Bible Study (9am)	19 YMCA's Learn with Me (10am-noon)	20	21 YMCA's Learn with Me (10am-noon) Session (7pm)	22	23
24 Sunday School (9am) Worship (10am) & Fellowship Hour (11am) <i>*Pentecost Offering</i>	25 MEMORIAL DAY Office Closed	26 JULIET Women's Breakfast (8am @ Ugalde's) YMCA's Learn with Me* (10am-noon)	27	28	29	30 Church Wide Clean Up Day
31 Worship in the Park & Church Picnic	<i>*Learn with Me's last meeting is Tuesday, May 26th. Then they will be taking a break for the summer.</i>					

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Loose Offering | FISH

The Loose Offering that is collected on May 3rd will be donated to the FISH Food Pantry. The mission of FISH is to provide food for families and individuals in need, along with encouragement and assistance in obtaining permanent help.

Mother's Day Reception

Sunday, May 10th, Fellowship Hall

Please stay after service as we host a special celebration in honor of the mothers in our church.

Church Wide Clean Up Day

Saturday, May 30th

Potential projects include: painting, putting up blinds in the Christian Ed building, clearing out storage areas, and cleaning the kitchen, choir rehearsal room, and balcony. There will be something for everyone!

Membership Class

June 7th, 14th, 21st, 8:45-9:45am

Are you considering membership at WPC? We invite you to participate in a 3-week exploration class covering the values, history, and mission of this church. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

Church Women United

Friday, May 1st, 9am, College Corner Brethren Church

The 2015 theme is "Companions on a Journey" and the May theme is "Journey of the Caregiver." Support is important for all who struggle caring for the needs of others. Jami Bartell of Millers Merry Manor will be the speaker. Fellowship of the Least Coin will be part of the service and women are encouraged to bring their "least coins" as representation of prayers offered during the year for peace and justice in our world.

Kroger Community Rewards – Thank you!

Thanks to all of you who signed up for our Kroger Community Rewards program. For our first quarter, we raised \$295.87 for the church! If you haven't signed up yet, it's not too late. Contact the church office for details.

Financial Report

	<u>March</u>	<u>Total 2015</u>
Income:	\$31,254	\$104,534
Expenses:	<u>41,983</u>	<u>128,026</u>
Balance:	-\$10,729	-\$23,492

God's tithe and our offering support the ministry programs and outreach ministry of our congregation. May your faith lead your giving.

Feed Our Community

FISH Donations

You are always encouraged to bring canned/dry goods for the FISH food pantry and drop them off in any of the boxes throughout the church. This month, we are collecting rice, crackers, and pudding.

SCRIP Gift Cards – Great for graduation gifts!

Buy your gift cards from us at the normal price, and we receive a portion of the proceeds. It's that easy! To see a complete list of the cards available, go to shopwithscrip.com/Shop/Product/BrandCategoryList. Just be sure to order through the church office!



April Session Minutes

- We are exploring children's ministry options for preschool/early elementary school students when Godly Play is not in session.
- We will be hosting the Presbytery meeting in November.
- We will be hiring an engineering firm to help with long-term care of our buildings. A grant may help cover cost.

DIG DEEPER

A Holy Awareness

By Kari Lee Otto

“Do you hear that?” my daughter asked with a look of wonder on her face.

“Hear what?” I whispered, leaning in conspiratorially. I figured she was just playing one of her games and, hey, I wanted to play, too!

Then she started singing like she was echoing someone else, “Jesus loves me, this I know.”

I sat back, bewildered. “Do you hear someone singing that?” I asked. She nodded, her eyes open wide in excitement. Problem was, our Bible songs video was turned off and we were the only people in the house! While it very well could have been her active imagination at work, I couldn’t help but wonder if her ears and heart were tuned to something happening in the spiritual realm that I just didn’t hear.

Attentive Souls

If I’m completely honest, I think that’s one of my biggest fears: that I’m missing out on what God is doing around me. I can be pretty oblivious sometimes. I’m too much like Balaam: I can’t see the angel standing right in front of me, even though my donkey can (see Numbers 22:22-31). Elisha’s servant can join our little small group of distracted disciples; he couldn’t see that the mountain around their home was filled with a spiritual army (see 2 Kings 6:15-17).

What does it take to cultivate that awareness in my heart and soul? I think one of those things is practicing what Jean-Pierre De Caussade calls the Sacrament of the Present Moment. Many of you have heard of Brother Lawrence’s *Practicing the Presence of God* (which is also an essential practice



here). But practicing the present moment is slightly different.

“In *The Sacrament of the Present Moment*, Jean-Pierre De Caussade advises that if the duty of the present moment is to read your Bible, then do it. But if the Spirit is leading you in the present moment to go fix supper for the community and you stay in your room reading the Bible, that is sin” (Richard Foster, *Life With God*).

Practicing the Present

Do you have any idea how hard this is? When I’m hungry for some quiet alone time with God but my daughter is crying out for attention, I really have to pause and ask Him which need to meet at that exact moment. (I know, I know... that makes me sound like a horrible mom.)

Practicing the present moment requires a continuous awareness of God’s presence in my life and an unrelenting passion to remain in His will. I so often fall short of this, but oh, how I long to be in that place where I can see my Lord and hear Him speak to me. And that is my prayer for you, as well.

O God, open our eyes that we may see (2 Kings 6:17).

Kari



Kari Lee Otto
Email: office@wabashpresbyterian.com

Photo (Top of Page) Credit: Filip Ologeanu

Wabash Presbyterian Church
123 West Hill Street
Wabash, IN 46992

Phone:
260-563-8881

Office Hours:
Mondays-Fridays
8:30am-12:30pm

Email:
office@wabashpresbyterian.com

Website:
www.wabashpresbyterian.com

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/
wabashpresbyterian

**Loving people with the
heart of Christ in the
heart of Wabash**

New Member Class



3 Week Class
June 7th, 14th, 21st
8:45-9:45am

Come Find Your Place

A poster for 'Night of Worship 2015'. The background is a teal color. On the left, the year '2015' is written vertically in large, light blue numbers. In the center, there is a white acoustic guitar. To the right of the guitar, the words 'Night of Worship' are written in large, white, sans-serif font. Below this, the text 'Hesychia House • Tuesday, May 5th, 7pm' is written in a smaller white font. At the bottom, it says 'A Service from Wabash Christian & Wabash Presbyterian' in an even smaller white font.

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