



FOCUS

November 2023

Daleheightschurch.org

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A Message from Pastor Roger

Dale Heights Staff

Pastor:
Reverend Roger Roberts

Treasurer:
Wendy Weber

Music Director
Alissa Freeman

Accounts Manager:
Dawn Westhoff

Office Manager:
Deb Hughes

Custodian:
Felipe Ruiz
and Lily Fabella

Grounds Keeper:
Rob Carpenter

Session Members

Moderator:
Reverend Roger Roberts

Clerk:
June Zeeh

Edi Chan (2023)
Bonnie Savonne (2023)
June Zeeh (2024)
Verena Straubhaar (2025)
Gerry Klump (2025)

November Is Pledge Month

In a long-ago pastorate, I was greeted by a young man who was obviously not of a disposition to compliment my annual stewardship sermon. Ours was the third church in succession he had visited in his exploring for a church to join, and his complaint was that in each of the sermons he had heard the topic was on the subject of giving. His "mistake" was in visiting during the time of the year when many churches were emphasizing financial support for their upcoming budget. But my reply to this young man should have been, after his hearing three sermons on giving, "Maybe God is trying to tell you something."

Sermons on financial stewardship are generally unpopular, sometimes due to their undo frequency, sometimes because of churches' poor management, or simply because they're based more on the need of churches rather than the teaching of Jesus, who said more about finances than anything except the kingdom of God. Our Lord knows the vital connection of the management of our possessions with our willingness to give to the cause of the kingdom and share with others out of our God-given abundance. God's will is to provide for his work, along with providing for our needs as we share out of the abundance he has entrusted to us.

This brings me to our annual stewardship emphasis, which will culminate on Pledge Sunday, Nov. 26. Because of our loss of income and our increased financial needs, our faithful giving to the Dale Heights budget is more important than ever. On this year's (appropriately!) Thanksgiving weekend Sunday we will have the privilege and responsibility to make our pledges during the offertory. A pledge is defined as "a solemn promise or undertaking," and the amount we pledge is an affirmation of our solemn promise that we'll give a certain amount to the cause of Christ through Dale Heights in 2024. Of course, because our pledge is to a God, who provides our needs, we may be able during the year to increase our giving beyond our pledge, and should our financial condition decline, both God and Dale Heights will understand the need to decrease our giving. But I ask you to join together with our church family in pledging what we believe God will enable us to give in 2024. I believe God IS telling us something! Let's be faithful!

Let's also welcome as our new Office Manager, Deb Hughes, who began her duties after the retirement of Donna Bucholz on Oct. 31. Thanks again to Donna for her good and faithful service, and a warm welcome to Deb.

Pastor Roger



November Birthdays

15	Brad H.
29	Tom J.

With Gratitude and Prayer

Thank you to everyone who took time to meet Gaia Magdalena Luczak, our International Peacemaker from Poland, earlier this month! She got to visit each of our five JKP regions to tell her story and help us reflect on what it means to be peacemakers in our lives and communities. Gaia Magdalena met with approximately 80 people within the JKP during her week-long visit.

Special thanks to Jessica Salt, our Regional Coordinator for Region 4, who presented the possibility initially and then led the organization and planning with great skill and passion; the other four regional coordinators (Kate Rupert, Grant VanderVelden, Mark Hoehne, and Dave Hankins) and Jeff Japinga, REP, for their help in planning her visit; and to the following ministries and leaders for hosting Gaia Magdalena:

A Presbyterian Special Offering is Coming Up in December!

Is it the Christmas Joy Offering or Peace and Global Mission? You choose!

We will offer one Minute for Mission specifically for the Christmas Joy Offering and one for Peace and Global Mission during the month of December and you will have the opportunity to hear and choose. It is after all Advent, which is accompanied by the Christmas Joy Offering. And yet, with wars and suffering in the news and on our hearts, what better time to hear about how Presbyterians can think about how we relate to peace in our world.



Once again, the Dale Heights breakfast group will be hosting the monthly breakfasts on **Saturday, November 18, 2023**. Serving will begin at 8:00 am.

The suggested donation is \$ 4. The sign-up sheets are on the table in the Concourse or contact Roy L. or the church office to RSVP.



The deadline for article submissions for the December issue of the FOCUS is November 21, 2023.

OUTREACH



Top 10 Food Donations

- Mac and cheese
- Hamburger or tuna helper
- Canned chicken or tuna
- Basmati, jasmine or white rice
- Masa
- Noodles (any kind)
- Pasta (spaghetti) sauce
- Canned beans (all varieties)
- Canned fruit (all varieties)
- Condiments (any kind)

Everyone who comes to the pantry has a story that is uniquely their own — what they all share is the increased stability that comes from access to nutritious food. Together, we're providing food to more people than ever before in our 40-year history. Demand has doubled in the last year due in part to pandemic-era food and rental assistance from the federal government coming to an end. In addition, the cost of housing continues to rise at record levels — a recent national study found that Madison has the fastest-rising rent of any major city in the United States.

GIVE WINTER WISHES

Support WayForward's holiday gift card program

There are two ways to support Winter Wishes: get matched to buy gift cards for one or more participants in the program or donate to help us buy gift cards. More than 1,700 people received cards from last year's program and we expect high demand again this year.

Reverse Advent Calendar

(Planning Ahead for Christmas!)



If you're looking for a great way to engage with your families this Christmas season by giving to others, you may want to use this Reverse Advent Calendar (nope, no little cute windows with chocolate behind them) as a guide instead for helping those who may need food assistance.

- This calendar is a shopping list for items needed at food pantries or simply use the WayForward most-requested list.
- How about taking your children or grandchildren to the grocery store each week and have them select the items on the list from the shelves? Or take yourself!
- There is no required item for a particular day, but it would be wonderful if you would pray for the unknown recipient as you put it in your collection box.
- At the end of Advent, take your food to a food pantry and know that your giving will be a blessing to many.
- There are copies of the Reverse Advent Calendar in the Gathering Space.

A Terrific Presentation and Yummy Food was in Abundance!

Thank you for attending the JustDane Potluck presented by John Givens and bringing all of the delicious food! It's good to be informed about an organization Dale Heights supports and great to gather around the table when fellowshiping together is a bonus.

Please give us ideas about future potlucks. Potlucks are a way for us to bring other people and the community together as well as offer us an opportunity to learn about living about our faith outside of the walls of Dale Heights. Thank you!



UPPER HOUSE

Q: What's unique about American Christianity?

A: "History will be our guide to separating fact from fiction."

— Dan Hummel, PhD, History

American society and culture have deeply shaped traditions of Christianity that have developed here since the 16th century. To make sense of American Christianity today, we'll unpack three, profound, historical and sociological influences: the trans-Atlantic origins of American Christianity; the legal disestablishment of religion and subsequent "marketplace" of religion; and ways Americans have boosted the development and growth of the global church in the 20th century. The history propelling these influences, as well as the tensions embedded within them, have made American Christianity distinct.

About Dan Hummel

Dan Hummel is the Director of University Engagement at Upper House, prior to which he held appointments at UW-Madison and Harvard University. The author of ***The Rise and Fall of Dispensationalism: How the Evangelical Battle over the End Times Shaped a Nation*** (Eerdmans, 2023) and ***Covenant Brothers: Evangelicals, Jews, and U.S.-Israeli Relations*** (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2019), Dan has written articles for the *Washington Post*, *Christianity Today*, and *Religion News Service*. He hosts Upper House's *UpWords* podcast, and co-hosts with John Terrill, PhD, *With Faith in Mind* — a new podcast that offers a thoughtful and faith-informed perspective on important issues and questions facing our society. His research has been published in *Religion & American Culture* and *Church History*. He earned his PhD in History from UW-Madison, as well as his MA in History and BA in History and Philosophy from Colorado State University.



Church Women United's World Community Day 2023

Friday, November 3, 2023 9:30 am, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 2019 Fisher Street, Madison. See poster on the Ladies' Ministry bulletin board.

Introducing Deb Hughes, new office manager:

Deb is a South Carolina native, and spent nearly 40 years in Michigan. She retired from MyMichigan Health (a healthcare organization headquartered in Midland, Michigan and affiliated with the University of Michigan) in December of 2020 and moved to Wisconsin to be closer to her grandchildren. As the children grew and time became available, Deb began to look for an opportunity to use her skills and "put her brain back to work."

REGISTER NOW

The Healthy and Faithful Climate Corner

Save the Date! Thursday, November 2 at 7 p.m.

The next quarterly Zoom meeting of Faiths Connect for Climate Action (FCCA) is November 2 at 7pm. We will hear about **shareholder** (yes, our churches have investments as well as individuals) **activism to direct corporations to be more moral, ethical, and sustainable**. FCCA brings together people of faith from many different faith groups to learn and share about how we can faithfully care for God's creation.

Christopher Cox, the Executive Director and **Natalie Wasek**, Associate Director of the Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investment (SGI) will be our speakers. SGI is a faith- and values-based coalition with more than 50 years of engaging corporations on behalf of people and planet. Their founder, Fr. Mike Crosby, filed the first ever shareholder resolution concerning climate change in 1997 with Exxon Mobil.

Please know that you may come for just the presentation and then leave!

Please contact Wendy W. by noon on November 1st at 11 a.m. to register.

Mark your calendars for future events:

Let's Talk Solar (so we understand or get them on the roof)

- Saturday, November 11, 10 – 12 p.m.
- Sequoia Public Library, 4340 Tokay Blvd., Madison
- Our speaker is **Jackie Harrison-Jewell from the Couillard Foundation** and there will be others to offer expertise in related matters
- Bring your own coffee cup or flask for coffee and donut holes

Sponsored by Sequoia Library and the Midvale Heights Green Team

City of Madison Sustainability Plans Survey

We are encouraged to participate in the City of Madison Sustainability Plans survey. At [City of Madison Sustainability Plans Survey](#), you will learn about the plan update, have an opportunity to share feedback on the draft themes and goals, and tell the city your vision for a sustainable future for Madison. Deadline is the end of November.

Pres House Worship Service and Dinner – Sunday, February 18

Submitted by Wendy Weber

John Knox Presbytery Meeting

In accordance with the Form of Government, G-3.0304, and the Presbytery Bylaws I.F.1., the Stated Clerk issues a call for the Stated and Annual Meeting of John Knox Presbytery and annual celebration of Holy Communion to be held on Tuesday, 14 November 2023, beginning at 9:30 a.m. This meeting will be "hybrid," that is held in person with an option to attend by zoom. The location of the in-person meeting has not yet been determined. Watch for e-mails with further details.

Advance registration is required, whether you are attending in person, or electronically.

Registration

Invitations to the meeting will be sent in advance of the meeting.

- If you will not be present, either in-person or electronically, please email the stated clerk (alysonjanke@yahoo.com), or snail mail to Alyson Janke, N7603 County Road M, Westfield, WI 53964.
- If you need child care, call the church by 7 November 2023.
- If you have special dietary needs, call the church by 7 November 2023.

The following sessions may enroll two elder commissioners each: Madison, Covenant and Waunakee, First.

Necrology

This is the meeting at which we recognize those ministers, ruling elders, and deacons who have died during the last year. If you have not already, please send the names, ordered ministry (ruling elder or deacon), and date of death along with the church name of those who have died since last 15 November to me by snail mail, email, or telephone by 13 November 2023: Alyson Janke, Stated Clerk; N7603 County Road M; Westfield, WI 53964 or alysonjanke@yahoo.com or 608-296-2096.

Communion

We will celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper during the worship service at this meeting. If you are attending electronically and want to participate, you should have elements with you.

Alyson A. Janke
Stated Clerk

DALE HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5501 University Ave.

Madison, Wisconsin 53705

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 05 Sunday Worship/communion
- 12 Sunday Worship
- 14 Property and Finance meeting
7:00 – 8:30 pm
- 18 Family Breakfast – 8:15 am
- 19 Sunday worship
- 26 Sunday worship

Liturgists

- November 05 Gerry K.
- November 12 Vreni S.
- November 19 Barb F.
- November 26 Jim F..