



FOCUS

February 2024

Daleheightschurch.org

A Message from Pastor Roger

People of Great Love

Dale Heights Staff

Pastor:

Reverend Roger Roberts

Treasurer:

Wendy Weber

Music Director

Alissa Freeman

Accounts Manager:

Dawn Westhoff

Office Manager:

Deb Hughes

Custodians:

Felipe Ruiz

& Lily Fabella

Grounds Keeper:

Rob Carpenter

Valentine's Day is a popular celebration, with billions of dollars spent in the US alone for cards, chocolate candy, and frequently expensive gifts exchanged between good friends, spouses and other lovers. It's a celebration of love.

Of all people, we who are followers of Christ are to be people of love. The love that's on display in Scripture is the love of God for his creation and especially for humankind, created in his image and created to receive and return his love. The Greeks used four distinct words for love, including family-type love, brotherly love, erotic love and the word that is almost exclusively used in the New Testament—agape love. Agape is the love that God has portrayed for us through his seeking after us and restoring us to himself in an intimate relationship of trust and self-giving. Agape love is sacrificial involvement in meeting the needs of another, regardless of that person's deserving or willingness to respond in kind. It's a lot like God's grace, which we all desperately need but could never deserve, and is succinctly and profoundly summarized in a Bible verse many of us memorized in childhood: John 3:16.

Whatever routine you might have for regular Bible reading or meditation, I recommend that all of us at Dale Heights focus on reading, re-reading and reflecting upon the great Love Chapter of the Bible, 1 Corinthians 13. This great, poetic passage is often read at weddings, but it's not to be reserved just for nuptial ceremonies. It's a great challenge to us to realize that without this God-like love, our church life, worship, community service, and even our Christian profession of faith amount to zero (See verses 1-3 in this chapter. The remaining verses describe love as the basis of every other Christ-like virtue, and is the one virtue that will remain for eternity).

I invite you to join with me, during this Valentine's month of February, to focus on and celebrate love. I'm grateful for the love of God that has called and rescued me and that daily sustains me, even when I'm oblivious to and ungrateful for his love. I'm grateful for the love of my wife, my Valentine Jan, which strengthens and encourages me. I'm grateful for the love of children, grandchildren and dear friends, some made long ago and my many friends at Dale Heights.

Let's look for opportunities to share and show God's love, not just to those who love us in return, but to those who may be unable or unwilling to return our love. And agape love doesn't necessarily call for heroic actions or expensive gifts, but can be expressed in almost hidden ways. As the late saint, Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, "I don't do great things. I do small things with great love." Let's seek to be God's people of great love.

Session Members

Moderator:

Reverend Roger Roberts

Clerk:

June Zeeh

Edi Chan (2023)

June Zeeh (2024)

Open (2024)

Verena Straubhaar (2025)

Gerry Klump (2025)

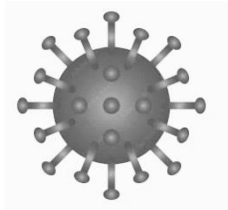
FEBRUARY

Breakfast

The Dale Heights breakfast group will be hosting the monthly breakfast on Saturday, February 10, 2024. Serving will begin at 8:30 am.

The suggested donation is \$4.

RSVP to Roy L. if you have not already done so.



COVID tests:

Please remember free home COVID tests are available by ordering from the U.S. Post Office website at USPS.com. Kits and shipping are free and they are mailed right to your home.



Office hours:

Church office hours are
9:30-1:30

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

February Birthdays

3 Marlowe Elizabeth Eldridge

4 Madalitso Wright

18 Jan Roberts



We invite all who are interested to participate in the choir. Rehearsals are held on **Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.**

February 7, 14, and 21

March 6, 13, and 20

April 3, 10, and 17

The deadline for article submissions for the March issue of the FOCUS is February 26, 2024.



Outreach News February 2024

Short and sweet this month!

Thank you, Dale Heights, for your generous donations of time, monetary and otherwise and your support of the Outreach Committee in 2023! All donations are much appreciated!

We will once again be hosting a Sunday evening meal for UW students (and others who are welcome as well). Come join us for a great evening!

Pres House Dinner - February 18, 2024

- 3:45 set up for dinner
- 4:30 Worship Service
- 5:30 Serve and enjoy the supper (The students are great!)

If you are interested in assisting with meal preparation, set up at Pres House, and/or serving, please sign your name on this form on the sideboard in the Concourse or let Wendy know. If you have questions, please speak with or call Wendy Weber 608-332-4925. Thanks!

Brownies (we need 4 dozen)

2 gallons of milk (one chocolate, one 1 % white)

2 gallons of ice cream

Hosting and serving – set up at 3.45 and/or serving at 5.30

Wendy will prepare the meal on Friday, Feb. 16 at 10 a.m. at the church. **Let her know if you would be available to help for two hours.** The menu is the same – sloppy joes, pear salad, three-bean salad to accommodate vegetarians, potato chips, veggies and dip, brownies and ice cream.

If you're interested in making a \$ donation, please see Wendy.
You may write a check to the church or pay in cash and note Pres House.



There's no easier way to stock the pantry!

Shop from your phone and make a difference today!

We get pretty excited at WayForward when Amazon deliveries show up! That's because we never know what people will send us from our online wish list to stock the pantry.

Shopping our Amazon wish list is the easiest way to help us provide access to nutritious food and personal care essentials for people in our community. You don't have to leave the house — or even your couch — to do it!

[SHOP THE WISH LIST](#)

Last month, our pantry had more than 9,000 visits, a number that has tripled over the last two years. More people are relying on our pantry to stretch their budgets and continue to make rent and provide other basic needs for their families.

With your support, we can continue to meet the need. It's as easy as 1-2-3, as you can see in our latest [TikTok](#) video.

Follow us there or on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [LinkedIn](#) to learn more about our work to build food and housing security in our community.

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)

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.

Creating food security & housing stability

WayForward Resources (formerly Middleton Outreach Ministry) provides access to nutritious food for people throughout Dane County and support that helps people stay in their homes in Middleton, Cross Plains and west Madison.



**UPPER
HOUSE**

Announcing Miroslav Volf

February 7, 2024

Upper House is pleased to welcome Miroslav Volf, author, theologian, and public intellectual, to Madison. Volf is known for his clear articulation of a generous, humble Christian perspective on important questions related to the human experience, faith, culture, and politics – nationally and internationally. We hope you will join us for his free public lecture and (separate) lunch conversation with anthropologist and author Christine Jeske.

Miroslav Volf is the Henry B. Wright Professor of Systematic Theology and Founding Director of the [Yale Center for Faith & Culture](#). He is also an author of acclaimed books, including *Free of Charge:*



Giving and Forgiving in a Culture Stripped of Grace; and *Exclusion and Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation*. A member of the Episcopal Church in the USA and the Evangelical Church in Croatia, Professor Volf has been involved in international ecumenical dialogues (e.g., the Vatican’s Pontifical Council for Promoting

Christian Unity) and interfaith dialogues (Common Word) and was an active participant in the Global Agenda Council on Values of the World Economic Forum. A native of Croatia, he regularly lectures across the globe.

“What does it mean to love someone?” Public Lecture by Miroslav Volf

7:00 - 8:30 PM | Upper House

REGISTER

Drawing on biblical themes and stories of The Good Samaritan and The Widow’s Offering, Volf will speak to love’s generous practicality, its incomparable power to confer value, nobility, and beauty on others, and its active refusal to respect boundaries born of prejudice.

If you are seeking a fresh vision of love and its outworking in a society grappling with division and disenfranchisement, or if you desire deeper understanding of what it means to love your neighbor as God’s Great Commandment exhorts, you will be in good company. This event is open to all and will feature dessert, the lecture, and Q&A.

Forgiveness, Justice, and Reconciliation – A Lunch Conversation with Miroslav Volf

12:00 - 1:30 PM | Upper House

\$10 Lunch Only | \$25 Lunch + Book

REGISTER

Why would we consider forgiving someone who has deeply harmed us? Where might forgiveness eventually lead us—individually and even corporately—if we pursue it?

During this lunch conversation, Miroslav Volf will share his own story of forgiving a crime against a family member. He will also address the nuances and implications of forgiveness and justice for reconciliation (at the national level) with [Christine Jeske](#), an Associate Professor of Anthropology at Wheaton College.

JOHN KNOX PRESBYTERY MEETING

February 17, 2024

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 Meeting of John Knox Presbytery to be held on Saturday, 17 February, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m. by Zoom technology. More information about this meeting will be announced as the meeting date approaches.

Advance registration is required to receive the invitation to the meeting.

Registration

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwudu-gqj0tE9BACnzE66K9NQLCPBqYKIym>

- Invitations to the meeting will be sent in advance of the meeting. Please contact the Presbytery Office if you are not on the list to receive an invitation.
- If you are attending the meeting, you will register online, in advance.
- If you will not be present, please email the stated clerk (alysonjanke@yahoo.com), or snail mail to Alyson Janke, N7603 County Road M, Westfield, WI 53964.
- The following sessions may enroll two elder commissioners each: Madison, Covenant and Waunakee, First.

Attest: Alyson A. Janke
Stated Clerk

THE HEALTHY AND FAITHFUL CLIMATE

CORNER

RECYCLE
BETTER



Have you ever paused at the recycling bin and wondered if what you're throwing out is actually recyclable, or what will happen to it after it's picked up? You're not alone! In the City of Madison about **12.8%** of what goes into recycling bins is actually trash, and about **13%** of material in the Dane County landfill could be recycled. Recycling keeps valuable material out of the landfill, saves energy and money, and avoids the environmental impact of extracting new materials.



Did you know?

There's no national recycling standard -- looking to national resources or product labels for answers to your questions can be misleading. Check your local guidelines!

[City of Madison](#)

[City of Middleton](#)

[City of Monona](#)

[Village of McFarland](#)

[City of Fitchburg](#)

[City of Stoughton](#)

[City of Verona](#)

[City of Sun Prairie](#)

DALE HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5501 University Ave.

Madison, Wisconsin 53705

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 04 Sunday Worship/communion
- 07 Choir rehearsal 7:30 pm
- 10 Family Breakfast – 8:30 am
- 11 Sunday Worship
- 13 Property and Finance meeting 7:00 – 8:30 pm
- 14 Choir rehearsal 7:30 pm
- 18 Sunday Worship
- 21 Choir rehearsal 7:30 pm
- 25 Sunday worship

Liturgists



- February 04 Marcia Holman
- February 11 Jim Fleischmann
- February 18 Janice Krall
- February 25 Roy Lembcke