



FOCUS

March 2024

Daleheightschurch.org

A Message from Pastor Roger

March, a Month of Transition

Dale Heights Staff

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Reverend Roger Roberts

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Wendy Weber

Music Director

Alissa Freeman

Accounts Manager:

Dawn Westhoff

Office Manager:

Deb Hughes

Custodians:

Felipe Ruiz

& Lily Fabella

Grounds Keeper:

Rob Carpenter

As we approach the Spring Season, we have indeed been through numerous transitions in the weather. All sorts of records were broken in February, including the warmest days on record for several days. As I write this on the eve of the month of March, we've just experienced a 50 degree swing in temperature, from near 70 degrees yesterday to under 20 degrees this morning! Thankfully, the forecast is for the temperature to gradually return to those spring-like days we so enjoyed.

As true for the weather, so also Dale Heights Presbyterian Church has been experiencing change and transition, not as rapidly as the weather, but change nevertheless. As has been true for many churches in the PCUSA denomination, we have been experiencing a decline in our attendance, membership numbers and income. But despite this news, as your pastor, I want to encourage you that God is still at work through you faithful people and occasionally adds to our fellowship an additional couple, such as Jim and Carey Fleischmann, who bring new gifts and enthusiasm to our ministries.

To guide and encourage us in these days of transition, our denomination, the PCUSA, is reaching out to us through the Presbyterian Foundation, in a process called Project Regeneration, a consultative service to guide us through a process of self-study of recent trends and an in-depth look at the way forward for Dale Heights. Our Session and church officers have been meeting with foundation leaders, who are exploring avenues that might help us reverse downward trends and help us consider a strategic approach for the future. This project requires an extra time commitment of our Session and officers, with a series of meetings, book reading, and personal prayer and reflection. I believe this will be an invaluable experience of newly discovering God's great purpose for Dale Heights.

Our hope and prayer is that this spring season will represent a new beginning time, a significant transition from decline toward new life and growth, as we continue our journey toward Easter Sunday, March 31, the celebration of the "ultimate reversal," the Resurrection of our Savior, who has given us the ultimate regeneration of new life in him. Just like the new growth of springtime.

Think about it: *Jesus is risen!*

Session Members

Moderator:

Reverend Roger Roberts

Clerk:

June Zeeh

June Zeeh (2024)

Wendy Weber (2024)

Verena Straubhaar (2025)

Gerry Klump (2025)

Edi Chan (2026)

Gale Oakes (2026)

March

Breakfast

The Dale Heights breakfast group will be hosting the monthly breakfast on:

Saturday
March 9, 2024.

Serving will begin at 8:30 am.

The suggested donation is \$4.

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

Session

The next Session meeting will be held on Sunday, March 17, after church.



Church Office Hours:

9:30-1:30

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

March

Birthdays

23 Don Weigt

28 Elizabeth Ndafooka

Anniversaries

19 Kris & Jim Tracey

SING

We invite all who are interested to participate in the choir.

Rehearsals are held on

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

March 6, 13, and 20

April 3, 10, and 17

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



Outreach Committee March 2024

Thank you to those who assisted in any way with the Pres House meal on Sunday, February 18.

All assistance was greatly appreciated by those at Pres House and that assistance included cutting veggies, washing dishes, donating milk and ice cream, baking brownies, setting up, serving the meal and the wonderful fellowship together.

It all adds up to make it possible!



Lent is a time of reflection and yes, we've missed the beginning of it.

Think of it a little like binge-watching a whole season of a great show, but this would be speed reading good God work. It's generally very inspiring.

- Use the **Lenten calendar** to read and think about other people and situations accompanied by those cute cardboard fish. Pray about the subject and gratitude you feel and put a coin or two in the fish.
- Read the daily **Lenten devotional booklet** like we've had before. Please take one if you are interested. We did order fewer based on how many were taken during advent. I believe we can order more if necessary.



75
YEARS



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

These are the three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) occurring during Lent and a *Minute for Mission* will be presented for each of these three programs:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

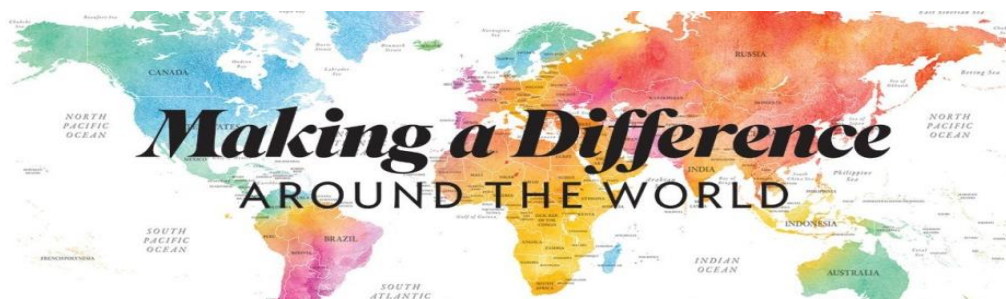
- Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after or in the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees
- Receives 32% of funds

The Presbyterian Hunger Program

- Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed
- Receives 36% of funds

Self-Development of People

- Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues
- Receives 32 % of funds



WEST SIDE WARBLERS

Irish Blessing for St. Patrick's Day March 17!



May the road rise to greet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
And may the Lord hold you in the palm of His hand.

Don't miss the West Side Warblers' sing-along:

On **Saturday, March 16th at 11:00 am**, Westside Warblers will meet at Dale Heights Church, in the lounge, and sing "Some Broadway Songs". Stay for a cup of coffee and a cookie!

If you want to practice and get in the singing spirit for March 16, don't miss the early March sing-a-long:

Come one, come all to the Middleton Senior Center,
7448 Hubbard Ave,
Monday, March 4th at 11:00 am.

Robert and Patricia will accompany us for some lovely Irish songs!



Here's a sample of an Irish song for you to sing, to get you in the mood for both:

When Irish eyes are smiling sure, 'tis like the morn in Spring.
In the lilt of Irish laughter, you can hear the angels sing.
When Irish hearts are happy all the world seems bright and gay
And when Irish eyes are smiling sure, they steal your heart away.

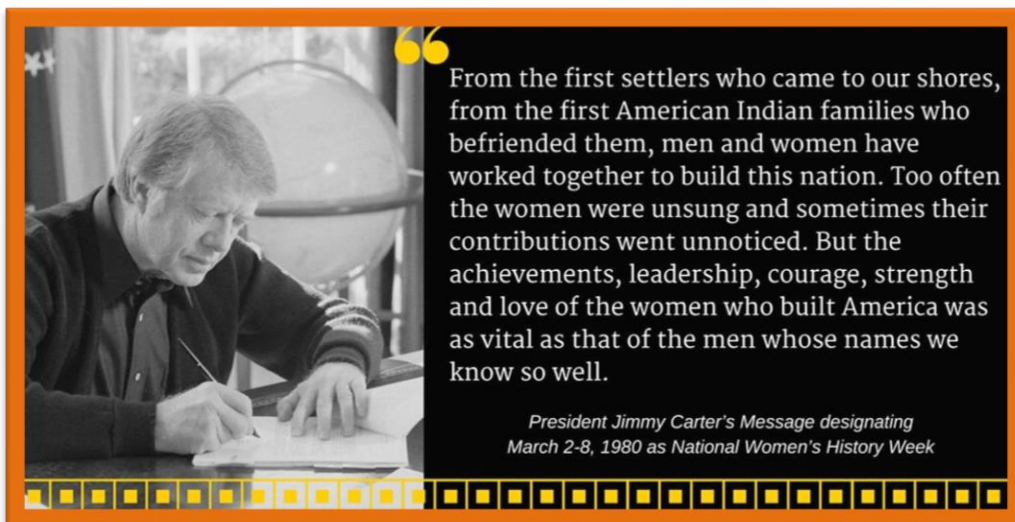
Deenah Givens from NewBridge Madison will be our special guest!
Hope to see (and hear) you there!

March is

**WOMEN'S
HISTORY
MONTH**

5 Facts About Women's History Month

1. Women's History Month can trace its roots back to 1857. During this time, women from various New York City factories protested poor working conditions.
2. The first Women's Day celebration in the U.S. was in 1909. However, the catalyst for Women's History Month began as a local weeklong celebration in Santa Rosa, California. In 1978, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women planned a celebration that corresponded with **International Women's Day**, and the movement took off across the country.
3. Women's groups and historians lobbied for national recognition in 1980. In February of that year, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8th as National Women's History Week.



4. In 1987, Congress designated the entire month of March Women's History Month.
5. **Dr. Gerda Lerner**, who was a key figure in the fight for this national observance, said: "Women's history is women's right."

**There's no easier way
to stock the pantry!**

**Shop from your phone and make a
difference today!**

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](#)

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)

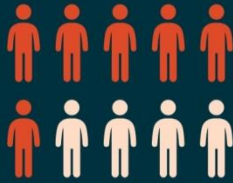
Demand has doubled in the last year due in part to pandemic-era food and rental assistance from the federal government coming to an end.

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.

Among Wisconsin
high school students
who are **food insecure**:



6 in 10 report
anxiety and
depression

source: Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health

Food insecurity tied to poor mental and physical health

Access to enough nutritious food is a critical piece of maintaining mental and physical health for children and adults. A [recent report](#) from the Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health found that among Wisconsin high school students who are food insecure, 6 in 10 report anxiety and depression, and 4 in 10 self-harm. WayForward partners with the Middleton Cross Plains Area School District's social workers and education foundation to provide students with food and personal hygiene items at school who need them.



A separate [analysis from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#) found evidence that an inability to get adequate food is shaving years off people's lives. Estimated life expectancy at age 50 was 32.5 years among individuals with full food security, compared with 29.9 years among adults with marginal food security, 30 years among those with low food security and 28 years among individuals with very low food security. WayForward's pantry is open five days a week to provide access to food for people who live in Dane County.



The Sustainability Corner

(All about doing better things for creation and people)

If you want to know what native gardens are all about and/or you are interested in creating your own, here are **two opportunities** you may be interested in!

Let's Talk Gardening with Native Plants with Susan Carpenter



This monarch caterpillar is doing what it is supposed to. It is feeding on its

host plant, butterfly weed (*Asclepius tuberosa*).

Susan Carpenter is the Native Plant Garden curator and gardener at the University of Wisconsin–Madison Arboretum. Since 2003, she has worked with students and community volunteers to maintain and monitor a 4-acre garden representing the plant communities of southern Wisconsin and has done much more in the area of Native Plant Gardening.

Susan is in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education | UW-Madison Arboretum and a Badger Talks presenter.



- **Saturday, March 16**
- **9:30 – 11:00 a.m.**
- **Sequoia Library, 4340 Tokay Blvd, Madison 53711**

Susan's Badger Talks presentation will center on native plants being the basis of sustainable, diverse, and beautiful gardens supporting pollinators, beneficial insects, and wildlife. These gardens thrive without fertilizers, pesticides, mowing, or supplemental watering.

We will share garden examples, plant sources, and practical tips for garden care. A Q&A session will follow.

Let's be a really sustainable Green Team and bring our own coffee mugs or flasks to enjoy with a snack!



Let's Talk Restoring Native Plant Habitats at Home



This talk is a great follow-up to the Saturday, March 16, *Let's Talk Gardening with Native Plants* presented by Susan Carpenter. This event is for those of you who want to learn more about native plants, getting help designing your garden and more.

Wild bergamot/bee balm (Monarda fistulosa)

- **Sarah Savage, owner, Tend Native Plants**
- **Talk: Helping Gardeners Restore Native Plant Habitats at Home**
- **Thursday, April 4**
- **6:30 - 7:30 pm**
- **Sequoia Library, 4340 Tokay Blvd., Madison 53711**

Sarah Savage opened Tend Native Plants in 2023 to help gardeners restore habitat at home. The small nursery in Blue Mounds specializes in pollinator-safe native plants for the Madison area. She will share some of the best native plants for small yards, how they support the local ecosystem, and tips for plant shopping.

Native Plant Garden Services — Tend Native Plants



*Presented by the Midvale Heights **Green Team** in partnership*

DALE HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5501 University Ave.

Madison, Wisconsin 53705

MARCH CALENDAR

03	Sunday Worship/communion
06	Choir rehearsal 7:30 pm
09	Family Breakfast – 8:30 am
10	Sunday Worship / DST begins
12	Property and Finance meeting 7:00 – 8:30 pm
13	Choir rehearsal 7:30 pm
17	Sunday Worship / Session to follow
20	Choir rehearsal 7:30 pm
24	Sunday worship
31	Sunday worship / Easter Sunday

Liturgists

March 03	Melanie Klump
March 10	Edi Chan
March 17	Verena Straubhaar
March 24	Gerry Klump
March 31	Marcia Holman

