



FOCUS

May 2024

Daleheightschurch.org

A Message from Pastor Roger

How Time Flies!

We've all heard the saying, "Time flies when you're having fun!" That saying certainly applies to my decade of service as your pastor at Dale Heights. It was almost a decade ago when the Pastor Search Committee interviewed me and then, with the Session, hired me to serve as your Stated Supply Pastor, beginning on Sunday July 27, 2014. This past Sunday, April 28, I notified Session that **I have decided to retire on Sunday, July 28**, marking 10 years of service with you.

When I accepted this wonderful assignment as your pastor, I was first of all humbled that you would entrust your pastoral leadership with an aging Baptist preacher with next to no knowledge of Presbyterian policy and pastoral responsibilities. I'm grateful for your trust that I would not lead you too far astray from your usual practices. As I took the helm of leadership I determined not to be a radical change agent, but rather to fall into line with your time-honored traditions. As I told your Pastor Search Committee in a brief sermon on pastoral leadership from 1 Peter 5, my desire was to be a serving leader, seeking to balance my part time investment into caring for the needs of the people, preaching the word and leading worship faithfully, and attending to administrative/organizational responsibilities as necessary.

Although my decision was not prompted by the current Project Regeneration (a season of evaluating the church's trends and options for maintaining a healthy congregational life in light of a growing financial deficit and declining membership), my retirement will nevertheless be a factor in how the church decides to utilize its resources as Session and Property and Finance decide options for the future, which include positive signs of new and unique opportunities. Whatever is proposed for the future of Dale Heights, I urge all of you to remain faithful to one another and to the direction and leadership God provides for the days ahead.

(continued)

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

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)

I will always treasure memories of your love and kindness through these years. In all my decades of pastoral ministry, I have never served a church that consistently shows such love and harmony with one another, along with kindness and warmth toward all visitors and newcomers. I will always treasure the experiences of pastoral care with you, including ministry to the bereaved, the sick, and those deeply troubled and in need of encouragement and prayer. You will always be in my memory and in my heart. Although I will not be able to worship with you, I will indeed continue to pray for you, and I trust that you will pray for Jan and me as we seek a new church home and further avenues of service.

Three months remain until my final Sunday, July 28, which will mark the completion of a decade as your pastor. So, you'll have to continue to endure me until then, when we will say "good bye," trusting in the grace of God to keep us on our journey to the heavenly city.



Breakfast

The Dale Heights breakfast group will be hosting

MOTHER'S DAY breakfast

Saturday
May 11, 2024.

Serving will begin at 8:30 am.
The suggested donation is \$4.

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

Church Office Hours:

9:30-1:30

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.



Birthdays

- 5 Paul Holland
- 11 Hannah Eldridge
- 15 Dagmar Bartels Krause
- 16 Maggie Rogers
- 24 Jim Tracey
- 29 Roger Roberts



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

Rehearsals are held on
Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

May 8, 22 and 29



The deadline for article submissions for the June issue of the FOCUS is May 24, 2024.

THURSDAY, May 2, 2024



Project Regeneration:

The **Session** as well as the **Property and Finance Committee of Dale Heights** have now gone through the second meeting of the Project Regeneration process.

We **ask for your prayers for us** as we go through this process looking for what is God's mission for Dale Heights and what is he calling us to be.

The [outline](#) of the process can show you what we are doing.

The explanation of what is being done can be found here: "[What is God Calling Your Church To Do?](#)"



LIFT UP THE WORD
LIGHT UP THE WORLD

2 SAMUEL 22:29-31

THE 73rd ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024

For you are my lamp, O Lord, and my God lightens my darkness. For by You I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him.

2 Samuel 22:29-31



[Click here for the 2024 National Prayer](#)



John Knox Presbytery Meeting - May 21, 2024

Meeting Call

In accordance with the Form of Government, G-3.0304, and the Bylaws of this Presbytery (I.F.1.), the Stated Clerk issues a call for the Stated Meeting of John Knox Presbytery to be held on Tuesday, 21 May 2024, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in-person at First Presbyterian Church, Waunakee and by Zoom. Pre-meeting fellowship will begin at 9:00 a.m.

[View the Official Call Here](#)

Additional Information

Important things to note for this meeting:

- This meeting will be "**hybrid**" - both in-person and on Zoom. We encourage all who are able to attend physically to do so. Even if you come physically, you must register online.
- Lunch will be reserved and paid for as part of the electronic registration process. If you have any dietary restrictions, you can note that on the registration form.
- Anyone wanting **child care** must notify the host church no later than 13 May 2024. Without reservations, child care cannot be guaranteed. Please call 608-949-9445.

Registration in advance is required, whether you are attending in-person or electronically, so that we can plan to accommodate everyone. 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. **Registration will close Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 8:00 p.m.**

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

As usual, the Presbytery Meeting papers will be posted on the John Knox Presbytery website at www.jknox.org, at the bottom of the page, linked as "**JK Presbytery Meeting Login**." A password is required to access the papers and will be supplied to you in a registration confirmation email. Each item will have the date it was posted included. When all papers are posted, a PDF file that combines all of the documents will be posted to the same page under "JKP Meeting Packet." Additionally, there will be a Google Drive Folder available, in case you are having difficulties with the website.

If you have any problems or questions with the registration process, website, or Google Drive Folder, please contact JKP Senior Administrative Assistant Miranda Halsey via miranda@jknox.org or 920/428-5158.

*The website, and any attachments thereto, may contain privileged and confidential information and is intended only for use by the current voting members of the John Knox Presbytery. You are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this material and/or attachments thereto, is strictly prohibited by unauthorized persons. Should other non-voting individuals request information, please have them contact Stated Clerk Alyson Janke at 608/296-2096 or email at alysonjanke@yahoo.com.



For many practicing Jews and Christians, Sabbath rest is an essential practice to "tend the fire within."



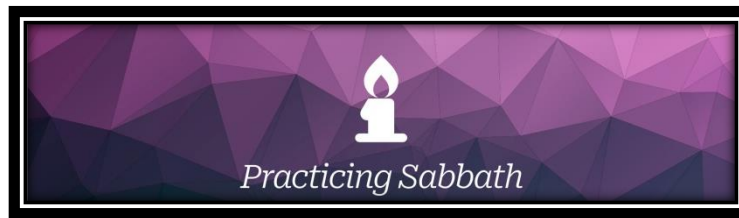
Biblical scholar **Rev. Renita J. Weems, Ph.D.** is an American Protestant biblical scholar, theologian, author and ordained minister. She is the first black woman to earn a Ph.D. in Old Testament studies in the United States.

She recalls the Sabbath of her childhood:

Once upon a time Sunday was a special day, a holy day, a day different from the other six days of the week.... This was a time when [Black] people like those I grew up with still believed that it was enough to spend six days a week trying to eke out a living, ... fretting over the future, despairing over whether life would ever get better for [us]. Six days of worrying were enough. The Sabbath was the Lord's Day, a momentary cease-fire in our ongoing struggle to survive and an opportunity to surrender ourselves to the rest only God offered. Come Sunday, we set aside our worries about the mundane and renewed our love affair with eternity....

Our working-class hearts were ultimately fixed on one thing alone. Sunday held out to us the promise that we might enter our tiny rough-hewn sanctuary and find sanctity and blessing from a week of loss and indignities. Remembering the Sabbath where I grew up involved delighting oneself for a full twenty-four hours, ultimately in good company, with fine clothes and choice meals. The Sabbath allowed us to mend our tattered lives and restore dignity to our souls. We rested by removing ourselves from the mundane sphere of secular toil and giving ourselves over fully to the divine dimension, where in God's presence one found "rest" (paradoxically) not in stillness and in repose but in more labor—a different kind of labor, however. We sang, waved, cried, shouted, and when we felt led to do so, danced as a way of restoring dignity to our bodies as well. We used our bodies to help celebrate God's gift of the Sabbath. For the Sabbath meant more than withdrawal from labor and activity. It meant to consciously enter into a realm of tranquility and praise.

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After a week of the body toiling away in inane work and the spirit being assaulted with insult and loss, Sunday was set aside to re-cultivate the soul's appreciation for beauty, truth, love, and eternity.

Weems acknowledges that Sabbath is difficult to maintain, but can be a healing balm if practiced:

The Lord's Day allows us to bring our souls, our emotions, our senses, our vision, and even our bodies back to God so that God might remember our tattered, broken selves and put our priorities back in order. The Sabbath makes sure we have the time to do what's really important and be with those we really care about.

I miss the Sabbath of my childhood. I miss believing in the holiness of time. I miss believing there was a day when time stood still. There's virtually little in this culture, and hardly anything in my adult comings and goings, to serve as a timely reminder of how precious time really is, to remind me of sacred moments.

The June FOCUS will offer more Sabbath information from a Presbyterian Women's Horizon Bible Study.



*Remember the sabbath
day, to keep it holy.*

Exodus 20:8 (KJV)



Your support prevents eviction and provides food access



When Carlito first heard about WayForward, he and his wife, Erin, were out of options for how they would continue to pay rent and have enough food to eat.

A temporary job Carlito was working had come to an end. Meanwhile a more permanent one he had targeted for his next step was so far not offering him full-time hours, so he worked when he could. One day, Carlito almost ran out of gas to get to work before he could afford to fill up the tank again. In the middle of this stressful run of events that followed the loss of regular income, two women he knew told him WayForward might be able to help. Carlito was skeptical. “That doesn’t exist,” he told them.

Still, the couple reached out and connected with WayForward, where a case manager worked with them to provide one-time eviction prevention funds to cover their rent and allow them to stay in their home. They also began visiting the food pantry to help fill the gaps in their budget and have appreciated choosing from a variety of proteins that they ration carefully — from chicken to chorizo to bacon. “Those are staples for our dinners for six days,” he says.

Carlito says the experience has changed his life. He’s never felt more welcomed than he does at WayForward by staff and volunteers. Rather than judgment, he feels support. “You’re sustaining us and you could care less about our race, religion, or political affiliation,” he says. “Working with WayForward was purely a lifeline. It gave me hope in humanity.”

 Shop our [Amazon](#) wish list!

Names changed to protect privacy

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.



Let's talk **SOS: Saving Our Songbirds**

- **Thursday, May 30, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**
- **6:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.** Enjoy a loop of great local bird video footage
- **6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** Presentation and Q&A
- Sequoya Library, 4340 Tokay Blvd., Madison 53711
- *Presented by Lisa Gaumnitz, from **SOS Save Our Songbirds***

Join us to learn:

- 🐦 What native plants, shrubs and trees are recommended here in Wisconsin for their pollination and shelter properties.
- 🐦 How we can protect our songbirds by reducing deadly dangers of glass windows and doors.
- 🐦 That most coffee is grown in ways that destroy migratory songbird habitats. In fact, vast swaths of forest have been cleared where many Wisconsin songbirds spend their winters.

Major bird and nature conservation organizations launched **SOS Save Our Songbirds** in March 2023 to raise awareness of birds' dire situation and spur action at home.

By providing basic Wisconsin-tailored information, hands-on events, discounts and supplies, we're helping people make small changes at home to give birds the habitat they need year-round and reduce window threats.

Together, we're saving Wisconsin songbirds one yard, one window, and one cup of coffee at a time!

This event is co-hosted by the MHCA Green Team and Sequoya Library.

SAVE WISCONSIN'S VANISHING SONGBIRDS

jkpilling@yahoo.com



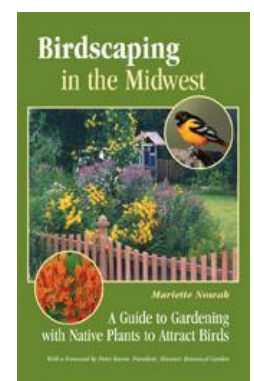
If you'd like to support our songbirds, first and foremost, having appropriate feeders with appropriate seed and protection from critters (here's looking at you raccoons!), such as a baffle, is a great way to start. I have had the best luck going with the professionals at Wild Birds Unlimited (WBU) on Old Sauk Rd. in Middleton. Many native songbirds are remarkably fussy about what they eat, so I've learned the hard way to pay a bit more but get fresh, targeted seed and feeders from Wild Birds Unlimited, which also hosts a lecture series on a range of bird-related topics.

But don't stop there. Birds also need to drink and to bathe throughout the year. So, a heated birdbath is a good way to go. Or you could get a traditional birdbath and add a de-icer in winter. Local options for a heated bird bath include Farm & Fleet and WBU. There are countless options online in a range of styles and price points.

Another great resource is SOS Save our Songbirds. Their top three tips are: (1) add native plants for birds, (2) reduce window threats, and (3) buy bird-friendly coffee. Lots more information is available on their website: www.sossaveoursongbirds.org/ In a nutshell, by planting native, you'll get more beneficial insects, which pollinate our food supply and feed the birds, and so on up the food chain – to us!

SOS also provides native plant lists: www.sossaveoursongbirds.org/free-native-plant-guide and an excellent handout by Wisconsin bird and native plant expert and author Mariette Nowak, "Beyond the Bird Feeder: Creating a Bird-Friendly Yard with Native Wisconsin Plants."

Mariette Nowak also wrote *Birdscaping in the Midwest: A Guide to Gardening with Native Plants to Attract Birds* (The University of Wisconsin Press, 9/2012), uwpress.wisc.edu/presskits/Nowak_Birdscaping.html, which has lots of color pictures and gives practical advice on using native plants, shrubs and trees to create habitats for hummingbirds, bluebirds, wintering birds, migrant birds, and birds that frequent prairies, wetlands, lakes, shrublands, and woodland, among other topics – and boxes, misters, perches – to support bird life.



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If you're looking to support birds, Cornell Lab of Ornithology (www.birds.cornell.edu/home/) has excellent guidance and resources, including guidance for K – 12 educators and for families (Science & Nature Activities for Cooped Up Kids and Nature Quests for Families) and on feeders, birdhouses, etc.



If you want to help nesting birds, do provide any of the following:

- ✓ Dead twigs or leaves
- ✓ Dry grass (make sure the grass hadn't been treated with pesticides)
- ✓ Feathers
- ✓ Plant fluff or down (e.g. cattail fluff cottonwood down)
- ✓ Moss
- ✓ Bark strips
- ✓ Pine needles

Do not provide:

- ✗ plastic strips
- ✗ tinsel
- ✗ cellophane
- ✗ aluminum foil
- ✗ dryer lint



Do provide nesting material in any of the following ways:

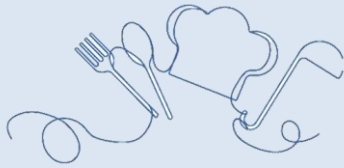
- ✓ in piles on the ground (works well for leaves and twigs)
- ✓ in clean wire-mesh suet cages or in mesh bags hung on tree trunks, fence posts or railings
- ✓ pushed into tree crevices
- ✓ draped over vegetation
- ✓ in open-topped berry baskets
- ✓ spiral wire hangers made especially for putting out nest material



**We hope that some of these resources will allow you to reconnect with the natural world -
*right in your own backyard.***

- Jenny Pilling & Wendy Weber, Midvale Heights Green Team

PRES HOUSE



Pres House is looking for a chef! \$22/hour

Help us provide gracious welcome at Pres House Apartments by feeding our residents!

Pres House Apartments hosts a monthly Community Dinner to feed 80-100 residents and students.

The chef would be responsible for purchasing and preparing food for each monthly dinner, and the time commitment is 10 hours per month.

Compensation is \$22/hour.

Interested?

Questions?

Contact manato@preshouse.org.



GILDAGRAM



Outdoor Adventure Day for All Ages (Open to the Public)

Location:

Gilda's Club Madison
(7907 UW Health Court, Middleton)

SATURDAY, MAY 4

1-3 p.m.

[A Moment of Magic](#)-UW Madison chapter and outdoor club, [Wisconsin Hoofers](#) have partnered with **Gilda's Club Madison** to provide a day of adventure for all ages.

Join in the fun, interacting with characters while learning how to cook tin foil dinners over a campfire, set up a tent, tie knots, bike repair, play cornhole, do arts and crafts, and so much more.

Invite your friends, family, and neighbors, and be sure to register!

Questions?

Contact Elizabeth at
Elizabeth@gildasclubmadison.org
or call 608-828-8875

Click [here](#) to register

DALE HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5501 University Ave.

Madison, Wisconsin 53705

MAY CALENDAR

- 05 Sunday Worship/communion
- 11 Mother's Day breakfast 8:30 am
- 12 Sunday Worship
- 14 Property and Finance meeting 7:00 – 8:30 pm
- 19 Sunday Worship
- 26 Sunday Worship
- 27 Memorial Day

Liturgists

- May 05 Janice Krall
- May 12 Verena Straubhaar
- May 19 Marcia Holman
- May 26 Jim Fleischmann

