



FOCUS

July/August 2024

Daleheightschurch.org

A Message from Pastor Roger

A Final Farewell

The time has come for me to write my final FOCUS article as Pastor of Dale Heights Presbyterian Church. When I accepted this ministry opportunity in July of 2014 I did so with enthusiasm and also with a bit of trepidation. Having been a lifelong Baptist and served within my denomination since my ordination in 1967, I approached this new opportunity with the question in the back of my mind, "Can you teach an old dog new tricks?"

Thanks to your kindness, helpfulness and patience, I was able to make the adjustments and accommodations necessary to do the work of pastoral care, preaching and administrative oversight. I'm grateful to all of you long-time Presbyterians for your guidance and understanding, as I followed guidelines for a different way of doing things, whether in worship planning or church polity (not to mention preaching shorter Presbyterian sermons!).

The highlight of my 10 years with you has been the rich fellowship and special connections during times of ministry, such as during illnesses and bereavement. Even during the COVID "shutdown" we stayed connected through phone calls, which continued to be a main way of connecting and ministry. I've also been encouraged by your words of appreciation for my preaching ministry of the Word, which has always been a personal priority.

Let me close by a word of commendation to you dear people. I can say the following, what I never could say during the decades of my ministry in previous churches: I have never heard any of you say an unkind word to or even about one another. I have observed only mutual kindness and also total commitment to care for each other. Whatever the shape of your future as a congregation, our God will honor and bless you for your mutual love.

My wife and I were blessed by your friendship and thoughtfulness, and will always love and pray for you, wherever the Lord leads us in the days ahead.



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:
Brian Lorey

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)



Breakfast

The Dale Heights breakfast group will host the monthly breakfast on:

Saturday
JULY 13, 2024.

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

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



July Birthdays

- 1 Kris Tracey
- 2 Debbie Doshier
- 8 Bonnie Savonne
- 11 Melanie Klump
- 12 Marcia Holman
- 12 Stella Engebregtsen
- 13 Margie Shumate
- 23 Otty Schaefer
- 27 Jennifer Jones

Anniversaries

- 16 Sandy & Don Weight
- 25 Bill & Marcia Holman



August Birthdays

- 6 Cecilia Martinez
- 8 Lenore Mercer
- 11 Bill Holman
- 19 Janice Krall
- 23 Sam Roecker
- 27 Jane Williams

Anniversaries

- 11 Gale Oakes & Dale Buske
- 31 Vicki & Gerry Klump



Church Office Hours:

9:30-1:30
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.



The deadline for article submissions for the September issue of the FOCUS is August 27, 2024.

\$1 million grant to promote outreach

Goal is to get beyond church walls in 'post-Christian' area

The Bible Belt Madison is not – nor would most people in the politically liberal city aspire to be anything like it.

But Madison's status as one of the most "post-Christian" places in America is part of what has a group of Christian leaders looking to the area as a kind of laboratory for how Christians across denominations can engage with their communities when the people in those communities aren't exactly "church people."

With the help of a nearly \$1 million grant from the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. – the charitable arm of drug-making giant Eli Lilly – "**Awaken Dane**" has recruited 40 churches in Dane County and equipped them with the tools needed to "discern God's Spirit at work within their local communities, even beyond church walls," according to a Nov. 9 press release from the Wisconsin Council of Churches.

"This is a disruptive time for the whole religious landscape," said Christopher James, one of the project's leaders and a professor at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa – not just because of how COVID-19 has curtailed worship, but because the rising number of people unaffiliated with the Christian tradition presents challenges that "call for something as dramatic as the Reformation."

It won't be clear for a while what discerning "God's spirit" will mean when it comes to the day-to-day operations of Dane County's Christian churches and what their members actually do to live out their faiths, but James was clear that **Awaken Dane** is not envisioned as another "holy huddle," in which churches look inward for answers about their faith and their missions.

The question for "church people," said Kerri Parker, executive director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, is "am I focusing on myself or am I focusing on God?"

And focusing on God means focusing on the community outside of the church, she said. **"The church is at its best when it's not there for itself."**

In addition to the WCC and the Dubuque Theological Seminary, **Awaken Dane's** two other partners are the Collaboration Project, a Madison-based initiative to foster cooperation among Dane County churches, and Upper House, a Christian meeting center on the UW-Madison campus that hosts talks on a variety of issues from a Christian perspective.

Awaken Dane will include monthly pastor education, monthly congregational small group gatherings led by pastors, and semi-annual large group gatherings to help church leaders understand prevailing social and cultural trends, especially in Dane County. Some of the grant could be used for specific community or charitable projects later in the process.

The fruit of justice will be peace (Isaiah 32:17)

General Assembly and the shaping of our witness

This article is about the work of the Presbyterian Mission Committee which is approved by General Assembly.



“Live into Hope”

Presbyterians from churches all over the country will gather June 25-July 4, 2024, for the **226th General Assembly** in Salt Lake City, discerning, according to our ecclesiology, the leading of the Spirit for our times as we consider how we organize our life and witness as the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). As part of that, we will consider many overtures (proposals) from presbyteries putting forward issues and concerns that they believe the Church should be speaking out on or acting on today.

Much of our work in World Mission is shaped by the decisions General Assembly takes on these overtures.

At the 225th General Assembly in 2022 (General Assemblies are held every two years), the Assembly encouraged us to stand with and advocate for our global partners in situations of conflict; recognized that Palestinians live under a system of apartheid and called upon us “to seek appropriate ways to bring an end to Israeli apartheid”; and made a number of recommendations on our support for the Democratic Republic of Congo, supporting human rights in the Philippines, responding to the human needs of those affected by violence in Cameroon, responding to the situation of depleted uranium in Iraq, ending the siege in Gaza, responding to the needs of the people of Syria, advocating for a Korea Peace Treaty, expanding our engagement with Eastern Europe, promoting peace in Ethiopia and denouncing the Russian military invasion of Ukraine. General Assembly also directed us to explore a “global covenant” to facilitate ecumenical cooperation with global partners who are ministering alongside us in the U.S. with their diaspora communities here, made a number of recommendations on the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers, and called upon us to integrate concerns about and responses to climate change in our global relations.

(continued on next page)

This is a substantial agenda, which we have faithfully followed and will be reporting on at this Assembly, having woven it into our routine work of journeying with partners across the world, much of which is reflective of these concerns. Listed like this, they remind us how widespread and deep are the troubles of this world, and how we need to be showing up for our neighbors as Matthew 25, in its telling of the judgment of the nations, shows us. With more justice in this world, we can also discover peace, and with peace we can all flourish.

At the time of writing, it is too early to know exactly what issues will come up at this year's General Assembly. For sure, though, there are plenty that deserve our attention at this time. We are ready to respond as part of our commitment to stand in solidarity with our partners as we journey with them and they with us, and as they share in our concerns about life here in the U.S., which is a whole other story that General Assembly will no doubt also be speaking to.

The Rev. Philip Woods is Presbyterian World Mission's associate director of global strategy and program.



School's out, but we need backpacks!



Help kids be ready for the first day of school!

School is out for summer, but we're already gearing up for another year of our Back to School Program! Last year WayForward provided backpacks and supplies to more than 600 students from 4K to college. Your support is what makes it possible for them to start the school year with the essentials they need to succeed.

We can accept donations of NEW school supplies through August 9.

Backpacks – PLEASE SEE BUYING GUIDE ON NEXT PAGE!

Dry erase markers

Crayola thin or wide markers – 10-pack

No. 2 pencils

Pens (blue and black)

Highlighters

Composition notebooks – wide and college ruled

Spiral notebooks – wide and college ruled in assorted colors

Poly pocket folders without prongs – assorted colors

1-inch binders and binder dividers

Earbuds or headphones

Loose leaf paper – wide and college ruled

Graph paper – loose leaf and notebooks

Crayola colored pencils – 12 pencil pack

Post-it notes – 3x3

Ruled index cards – 3x5

Sharpies (black) – ultra-fine and fine

Protractors and compasses



BACKPACK BUYING GUIDE

MIDDLE + HIGH SCHOOL



- 32 liters and larger or 17-20 inches tall (bags can be a bit smaller for middle school)
- Look for heavy duty, supportive straps
- Avoid laptop-style bags and stick to backpacks that can also hold binders and books
- Popular brands: Jansport, Nike, Adidas, High Sierra, Under Armour

3RD-5TH GRADE



- Sporty brands like Jansport, Nike, Adidas, High Sierra, Under Armour
- Variety of colors
- Some character bags, particularly video-game related, are popular

4K-2ND GRADE



- Character backpacks
- Brighter colors
(NOT solid black, blue or gray)

Check out our Back-to-School [Amazon Wish List](#) to buy school supplies and see the kind of backpacks we need!



June 25, 2024

This morning, a coalition of more than 30 Dane County food pantries, **including WayForward**, released a letter to the community, sounding an alarm about the rising demand for assistance and the need for both immediate community support and longer-term solutions to fill the gap. Please read and share this message with your networks!

Dane County, we need your help.

As Dane County food pantries, we serve thousands of people in our community each day. Our shared mission is to make sure our neighbors don't face hunger.

But we are facing a serious challenge.

Visits to many of our food pantries have more than doubled in the past two years. We know some of the reasons why. Food prices are higher and rent is rising more here than anywhere else in the country. Federal assistance that helped people make ends meet during the pandemic is gone. We are also the fastest-growing county in Wisconsin. **Nearly 13% of kids in Dane County were food insecure in 2022, up from 7.5% in 2021** — and that was before our food pantries started seeing drastic increases in demand.

We're also spending more on food than ever before.

The options we have to keep our shelves stocked continue to shift and are more limited than they were just a few years ago. Buying food in bulk is more expensive now and our traditional suppliers of free food can't keep up with the demand. Permanent changes to the food system over the last few years mean there is less surplus available for our food pantries.

These trends make it challenging to keep food on our shelves.

Food pantries have worked hard to stretch our resources, space, and teams as far as possible. The pressure will rise in the coming weeks as kids have less access to free food with schools out for the summer.

You can help.

Making a financial donation to your local food pantry enables them to purchase needed food. We welcome food drives and volunteers, too. We know there is no quick or easy fix to food insecurity and the structural and economic factors that drive it. So we urge our local, county, state, and federal officials, as well as other community leaders, to help find long-term solutions to food insecurity. We can't do it alone.

This is a critical moment for us to come together for our neighbors.

When our community supports local food pantries, we are stronger. With access to food, kids can learn, families can work, and seniors can stay healthy. It will take all of us to meet this challenge and make sure our neighbors don't experience hunger. We are committed to doing all we can. We are asking you to join us.

Continued on next page...

In partnership with you,

Allied Food Pantry
Babies & Beyond of WI, Inc.
Badger Prairie Needs Network
Bayview Community Center Pantry
Catholic Multicultural Center
Community Action Coalition for South
Central Wisconsin
Deerfield Community Center
East Madison Community Center
Extended Hands Pantry
Fountain of Life Covenant Church
Good Shepherd Food Pantry
Goodman Community Center's Fritz
Food Pantry
Grace Food Pantry
Great Lakes Dryhooch Madison
Heights Unlimited Community Resource
Center (Mazomanie)
Islamic Community of Madison
Kennedy Heights Food Pantry
Lakeview Food Pantry
Lussier Community Education Center
- Food Pantry
Mission Nutrition DeForest
Neighborhood House Community Center
Food Pantry
Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Mt. Horeb
Oregon Area Food Pantry
OutReach LGBTQ+ Community Center
Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern
Wisconsin
Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Madison
Food Pantry

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Food Pantry
Stoughton Food Pantry
Stoughton United Methodist Church
Food Pantry
Sun Prairie Food Pantry at Sunshine Place
The Keep Food Pantry
The River Food Pantry
Vivent Health Food Pantry
Wauwaukee Food Pantry
WayForward Resources
Willy Street Pantry at the Social Justice
Center





You're Invited! **Odyssey Farm Tour** in Sun Prairie

Sustain Dane is partnering with Odyssey Farm to host a farm tour on **Wednesday July 17 from 6:00—7:30 PM** at Odyssey Farm in Sun Prairie. We will focus on connecting sustainability enthusiasts and learning about Ryan Erisman's farm operations and how they strive for sustainability.

Join us at Odyssey Farm in Sun Prairie to see the integration of grass-fed beef, pastured pork, and feed crops all raised in rotations. We will discuss what different sustainable, regenerative, and organic practices may look like in practice and the opportunities for environmental benefits and public health.

We welcome those interested in engaging in conversation that weaves our understanding of nature into how we eat, work, and live.

Where: Odyssey Farm, 5586 County Hwy N, Sun Prairie, WI 53590

When: Wednesday, July 17 from 6:00—7:30 PM

What: networking and farm tour of Odyssey Farm

Schedule

- 6:00—6:30 PM Arrival and networking
- 6:30—7:30 PM Odyssey Farm tour

This event is free and open to the public.

Capacity is limited due to parking restrictions. Please use Sun Prairie's park and ride to carpool if possible. The tour will be outdoors with uneven terrain, so please wear appropriate shoes. No pets allowed.

RSVP

Invitation to Praise Break at Fête de Marquette



La Fête de
Marquette

The organizers of the **Fête de Marquette** are thrilled to announce that this year's event will feature a special Praise Break set. We would be honored if your congregation could join us for this inspiring and joyous celebration.

Please find the event details below. We encourage you to share it with your members and anyone who might be interested in attending.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to celebrating with you!

Fête de Marquette Invites Area Churches to Join the Celebration MADISON, WI — May 29, 2024



Fountain of Life Church Choir



The Campbell Brothers

Fête de Marquette warmly invites the local faith community to join in the festivities of this year's festival, running from **July 11-14**. This vibrant cultural event offers a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, music, and celebration. A special highlight for our Christian friends will be the Praise Break featuring the soulful Campbell Brothers and the inspiring Fountain of Life Church Choir, set to perform on **Saturday, July 13th from noon to 3pm**.

The **Campbell Brothers**, known for their electrifying "sacred steel" music, bring a powerful mix of gospel and soul that uplifts and inspires. Their unique sound has been a beacon of joy and praise across the country, and their performance promises to be a moving experience for all attendees. Complementing this will be the **Fountain of Life Church Choir**, whose harmonious voices and heartfelt worship will resonate deeply with the audience. Their performance is a testament to the spirit of community and faith that Fête de Marquette celebrates.

Fête de Marquette is more than just a festival; it's a celebration of community, culture, and togetherness.

With **free admission, a variety of food vendors, and activities for all ages**, it's a perfect event for families and church groups to enjoy a day of fun and fellowship. Additionally, all proceeds from Fête benefit low-to-moderate income programming at the Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center.

We look forward to sharing this joyous occasion with you and hope you'll join us in celebrating the rich tapestry of our community.

For more information, please visit <https://www.fetedemarquette.org/>.





Unlike other treatments, blood cannot be manufactured — it can only come from volunteer blood donors. Help can't wait, and we can't provide our lifesaving services without YOU!

Join us this summer at the **24th annual Beach Days Blood Drive** at the Sheraton Hotel, 706 John Nolen Drive.

Wednesday, July 3 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Heroes come in all types and your blood type is needed this summer!

All presenting donors at this blood drive will receive a RED CROSS UMBRELLA, FANDANGO MOVIE TICKET, BEACH TOWEL and a \$10 FOOD FIGHT RESTAURANT GROUP GIFT CARD, while supplies last!* In addition, all presenting donors will receive a FREE ALL-DAY WATER & THEME PARK TICKET TO MT. OLYMPUS IN WISCONSIN DELLS and a FREE GRANDSTAND TICKET TO A FUTURE MADISON MALLARDS BASEBALL GAME, while supplies last. (Redemption dates to be determined based on availability.) Enjoy great refreshments too!

Summer can shake up normal routines, but the need for blood and platelet transfusions doesn't take a summer break. Blood donations often take a dip around the Fourth of July holiday too! Appointments are critical for people waiting for lifesaving care and donating blood is a simple act of kindness with a huge ripple effect. You are the best defense against a blood shortage!

Will you be a LifeSaver and donate July 3rd?

To make an appointment, click here: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=beachdays>
OR go to www.redcrossblood.org and enter **Sponsor Code: beachdays**.
Walk-ins welcome!

Michelle Meekma-Yaun | Donor Recruitment Account Manager

American Red Cross Blood Services

North Central Blood Services Division

Badger Hawkeye

4860 Sheboygan Ave, Madison WI 53705

(608) 513-2155 (c) | michelle.meekma-yaun@redcross.org



We can help bring our songbirds back by taking these three important actions at home:

Plant

Add a few native plants that are good for birds

Protect

Reduce deadly window threats*

Purchase

Buy bird-friendly coffee

Reasons to Landscape for Birds

Small 'islands' of habitat can provide food resources to birds, particularly during migration.

- ❖ **Habitat loss is the single most important cause of the decline of species. Your yard, whatever its size, can offer habitat for birds.**
- ❖ **Many birds seldom or never use feeders, preferring natural foods.**
- ❖ **Feeder birds get only a relatively small portion of their nutrition from feeder food, especially during the critical nesting period.**
- ❖ **Native landscapes help sustain many other attractive species, including butterflies, moths, beetles, and the plants themselves.**



Asclepius tuberosa
In Wendy Weber's
garden!

* <https://www.sossaveoursongbirds.org/reduce-window-threats>



66% of us drink coffee daily yet we're often unaware that most coffee is grown in ways that destroy migratory songbird habitats.

Vast swaths of forest have been cleared in coffee-growing areas in Central and South America, where many Wisconsin songbirds spend their winters.

The good news is some coffee is grown better for birds. Here are some options:



Bird-Friendly[®]
certified coffee is
the gold standard

The **Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center** developed their Bird-Friendly[®] coffee certification in the 1990s to help protect bird habitats. Farms receiving the certification plant their coffee under a canopy of diverse trees and are required to farm organically, including without using synthetic pesticides.

Coffee carrying the Bird-Friendly[®] seal meets the highest environmental standards and is the best choice to help birds. Purchasing it online <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/buy-bird-friendly-coffee-online> and getting a regular subscription will be the easiest way to do this.

Birds & Beans Coffee is a popular Bird-Friendly[®] certified coffee and an SOS Save Our Songbirds partner. Order online at <https://birdsandbeanscoffee.com>



USDA Organic
certified coffee is
a good choice and
widely available
in local retail
stores.

Coffee typically can't be farmed without shade in an organic system. So, if it's organic certified by the USDA, it's probably got some shade and native vegetation that support birds and other wildlife in addition to being farmed free of synthetic pesticides.

USDA organic certified coffee is widely available at local stores and coffee shops in many Wisconsin communities. Look for the USDA certified organic label or ask the barista at your favorite local coffee shop for the organic brew.

Whole Foods Market Organic Early Bird Blend can be found online and at Whole Foods in Madison. **The packaging was redesigned in 2023 to remove the Bird Friendly[®] seal but the coffee retains the certification.*

**A VERY
BIG
THANK YOU!**

To the volunteers from High Point Church
who recently helped us with the beautification of
Dale Heights' grounds!



Sing-along with the Westside Warblers!

DALE HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5501 University Ave.

Madison, Wisconsin 53705

JULY CALENDAR

- 03 Choir practice 7:30 pm
- 07 Sunday Worship
Session 11:20 am
- 13 Church breakfast 8:30 am
- 14 Sunday Worship
- 17 Choir practice 7:30 pm
- 20 Westside Warblers 11:00 am
- 21 Sunday Worship
- 28 Sunday Worship
Church Potluck

Liturgists



- July 7: Roy Lembcke
- July 14: Marcia Holman
- July 21: Janice Krall
- July 28: Barb Fleishman