



FOCUS

October 2024

Daleheightschurch.org

Dale Heights Staff

Pastor:
(vacant)

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:
(vacant)

Clerk:
June Zeeh

June Zeeh (2024)
Wendy Weber (2024)
Verena Straubhaar (2025)
Gerry Klump (2025)
Edi Chan (2026)
Gale Oakes (2026)

Practicing stewardship

How do we develop and maintain a culture of stewardship and generosity in times like these? We embrace the unwavering, core principle for stewardship and generosity: God's love.

God is love. God's love is his gift to us. God's love is his message to us in Jesus Christ. The church of Jesus, the hands and feet of Christ in this world, are called to be one with God in this love. Receiving God's love, and in turn sharing this abundant love in abundant ways with one another and our neighbors, is how the church exists as the church. There is no other way to be the church of Jesus.

Love is the Way, the Way of Jesus.

Everything is to be compelled by the love of Christ Jesus. Every year is to be stewarded with this love. Love is to be the center of all thinking, planning, praying and neighboring. Even in the face of flat and declining church budgets, the love of God continues to compel the hands and feet of Christ. God's love is abundant and the opportunities to share it are abundant.

Trust in the love of God.

How do we trust in the love of God? We give our lives over to it. We put it into practice. We share it with the world as Jesus did. We love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. (1 Peter 4:10)

Excerpted from an essay by Sean Mitchell in the Presbyterian Outlook

October

Breakfast

The Dale Heights monthly breakfast will be held on:

Saturday
October 12, 2024.

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

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



OCTOBER

Birthdays

6 Wendy Weber
31 Barb Fleishman



We will be coming in to our annual Stewardship time in about a month. Please start thinking of the blessings you have been given as we enter this time of crisp mornings, leaves changing, and apple- and pumpkin- flavored delights.

God is pure light,
undimmed by darkness
of any kind.

1 John 1:5

Church Office Hours:

9:30-1:30

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

**The office will be closed
October 8-10 for vacation.**

The deadline for article submissions for the November issue of the FOCUS is October 28, 2024.

Project Regeneration

September 15, 2024

A well-attended potluck was held followed by a presentation on our **Project Regeneration**: history, methodology, analysis results and current status.

Major points were that we are not alone in financial stress and in small membership. While our attendance percentage of membership was high, our annual median giving rate was \$230 lower than what the Foundation leadership says is necessary for long term survival of our congregation. This is especially true when 2/3 of giving to our church comes from 5 families and 90% comes from those 70 and older.

As we move forward with trying to find what God is calling Dale Heights Church to be and what is its mission, Session has set a calendar of events to help the congregation in its decision.

October 13, 2024

There will be an informal congregational meeting after church to take questions and comments that you have, based on the information that was shared at the September 15th potluck.

If you wish your questions and comments to be anonymous, then please write your thoughts down and

they can be put in the envelope on the church office door, the collection plate or given to a Session member.

Also in October we are looking to host a non-church stakeholder such as our alderperson, Spring Harbor Neighborhood Association, neighbors and neighboring businesses for a short talk on how the church fits in the lives of our community.

Starting **December 29, 2024**, we will have a short “Minute for Mission” that will be a brief summary of a chapter from *The Sailboat Church* book we are using to help us in this project. Summary questions from the book will be included in the bulletin and the weekly e-news for you to use in helping you gather your thoughts.

March 9, 2025

With the start of Lent, we will ask all of you to participate in the 40 days of prayer as outlined in the *Sailboat* book so we can all make a decision on our future direction at a Called Congregational meeting on **Sunday April 27, 2025**.

We have several copies of *The Sailboat Church* books still available in the church office for anyone who would like one.



Spotlight on Rev. Kathleen Owens

Rev. Kathleen Owens currently works for the Center for Clergy Renewal at Holy Wisdom Monastery, a ministry supporting pastors of all Christian denominations.

Kathleen is ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

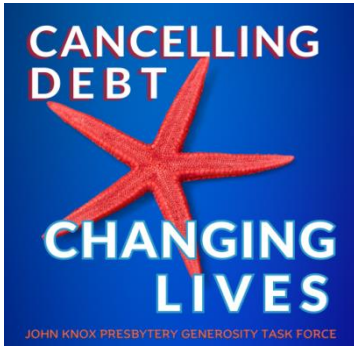
She lives in Verona with her husband, two children, three forever cats, and an ever-revolving door of foster cats.

We are fortunate to have had Kathleen as guest preacher at Dale Heights several times already. She will be preaching again this Sunday, October 6, for World Communion Sunday.



Celebration of World Wide Communion Sunday was adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1936. Churches in other denominations were invited to celebrate with us from the beginning, but it wasn't until 1940 when the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) promoted extending the celebration to a number of churches around the world that the practice became widespread.

Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world, demonstrating that the church founded on Jesus Christ peacefully shares God-given goods in a world increasingly destabilized by globalization and global market economies based on greed.



John Knox Presbytery is a community of communities, centered in Jesus Christ, linked to one another, and boldly responding to the Spirit's call to join God's mission.

It's time for the **Starfish campaign!** That beautiful starfish was chosen to represent our Presbytery's fundraising ministry to cancel medical debt. We won't be able to raise enough money to cancel all of the medical debt that's out there. **But we can make a difference in the lives of many families.** In only two years, the congregations of John Knox Presbytery have contributed just over \$47,000. That amount has been able to cancel **\$5,832,268.74** in debt for 4,761 families. This is an amazing ministry!

Our ministry partner, Undue Medical Debt (formerly RIP Medical Debt), purchases large bundles of medical debt from hospitals and collection agencies for pennies on the dollar. This allows every dollar we send them to cancel at least \$100 of medical debt. **So even a small amount will make a huge difference.**

There are two important dates to remember for the 2024 Starfish Campaign. The culmination of our fundraising time is on **Sunday, October 20**. The other date to remember is November 15. That's the day that all contributions need to be at the Presbytery office.

A \$10 donation will cancel \$1,000 of medical debt for a family.

Donate online at jknox.org. For questions or anything else you need, contact the Generosity Task Force at jkpgenerositytaskforce@gmail.com.

Together, we can help thousands of families again this year!





WayForward Resources will not be holding their *Winter Wishes* program this year due to overwhelming food demands. Here are some other ways for you to participate with the holiday season gift-giving for those in need, if you feel inclined.

An update on our Winter Wishes program

New ways to share JOY this holiday season

We recently made a difficult decision that we want to share with you because you have been such a strong supporter of Winter Wishes — **we will not be offering our Winter Wishes holiday gift card program this year.**

With the large increase in demand for food and housing in our community, **we need to focus our financial and staff resources on making sure families can stay in their homes and have enough to eat.** As you likely know, visits to our food pantry have tripled over the last two years, as has the amount of money we have to spend on food to keep up with the demand. The number of households that receive financial assistance each year from WayForward has increased by 90% since 2019. **We still need your help** — so please consider directing any support that would normally go to Winter Wishes toward our other programs.

We still have opportunities for you to engage your members in meaningful ways and also share joy this holiday season. This year the opportunities will be focused on food.

HOLIDAY BAKING BASKETS

Put together a basket or box of **shelf-stable and non-perishable essentials** for holiday baking.



All baskets should contain: **flour, white sugar, brown sugar, powdered sugar, baking soda, baking powder, salt, vanilla, and vegetable oil.** Consider personalizing your baking basket with a couple of add-ons such as: decorating sugars or sprinkles in a variety of colors, spices like cinnamon and nutmeg, cocoa powder, baking mixes, canned frosting, food coloring, packets of instant yeast, cookie cutters, oven mitts, spatula, a cookie sheet, or a rolling pin. Have fun and make it festive!

(continued on next page)



*You can also help families have the food they need at the holidays by **making a financial donation** so our food pantry can purchase enough butter, milk, eggs and other perishable items needed for holiday baking and meals.*

HOLIDAY RECIPES

We'll share favorite recipes and stories from both pantry guests and volunteers leading up to the holiday season, along with ways you can donate the ingredients needed to make them. We'll include items on our Amazon Wish List and update you via our email newsletter and social media.

More details to come on how you can help us build community and share traditions and joy with one another!

If you have questions or **want to learn more about how you can get involved**, contact Community Engagement Manager Jill Bradshaw, jill@wayforwardresources.org or (608) 836-2751.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission!



DALE HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5501 University Ave.

Madison, Wisconsin 53705

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 06 Sunday Worship
- 08 Property & Finance 7pm
- 09 Choir practice 7:15pm
- 12 Church breakfast
- 13 Sunday Worship
- 16 Choir practice 7:15pm
- 19 Westside Warblers 11am
- 20 Sunday Worship
- 23 Choir practice 7:15pm
- 27 Sunday Worship



Liturgists

- Oct. 6. Roy Lembcke
- Oct. 13. Gerry Klump
- Oct. 20. Otty Schaefer
- Oct. 27. Wendy Weber

