



FOCUS

March 2025

Daleheightschurch.org

Dale Heights Staff

Pastor:
(vacant)

Treasurer:
Wendy Weber

Music Director
Dr. Alissa Freeman

Accounts Manager:
Dawn Westhoff

Office Manager:
Deb Hughes

Custodians:
Felipe Ruiz
& Lily Fabella

Grounds Keeper:
Brian Lorey

Session Members

Acting Moderator:
Kristin Frederich

Clerk:
Gale Oakes

Verena Straubhaar (2025)
Gerry Klump (2025)
Edi Chan (2026)
Gale Oakes (2026)
Barb Fleishman (2027)
Wendy Weber (2027)

God's Beloved Dust

The season of Lent begins with a necessary but unpleasant reminder:

"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Most of us who will hear this reminder of our mortality at the beginning of Lent are ordinary human beings living ordinary lives. And yet we believe that all people are treasured and held by the God who has created all things from the dust — galaxies strewn with stars, a biosphere of plant life, the fish of the sea, the birds of air, the beasts of the field, and us.

During the forty days of Lent, we prepare for the coming Easter season by taking time to reflect. We consider our lives and our relationships, our connection to all of creation, and our responsibility for a planet entrusted to our care. Some Christians choose to give up a creature comfort or two in order to be intentional about focusing on their relationship with God during this time. Others choose to take up a practice instead — giving weekly to a food bank or shelter, setting aside a specific time to pray or read Scripture, volunteering time at a school, or donating blood.

Lent is an invitation to be increasingly mindful of the commandments to love God and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Because, while it is true that we are dust and to dust we shall return, the lives we live in-between matter — and we believe that you and I, and all of us together, are God's beloved dust.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." -Matthew 22:37-40

Adapted from an essay by The Reverend Austin Crenshaw Shelley

March



The Dale Heights monthly breakfast will be held on:

Saturday
March 8, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

Serving will begin at 8:30 a.m.
The suggested donation is \$4.
RSVP to Roy L. if you have not already done so.



Birthdays:
15 Zenobia Brown
23 Don Weigt
28 Elizabeth Ndafooka

Anniversary:
19 Kris & Jim Tracey



Wednesdays from 7:15 – 9 p.m.

3/05/25

3/12/25

We invite all who are interested
to join us.



Church Office Hours:
9:00a-12:00n *
Monday through Thursday
**Temporary*



Covenant Presbyterian Church's
Ash Wednesday service
will be held on
March 5, at 7 pm.

326 S. Segoe Road, Madison

REMINDER:

Several copies of *The Sanctuary for Lent 2025* (Lenten devotional)
are still available in the concourse!

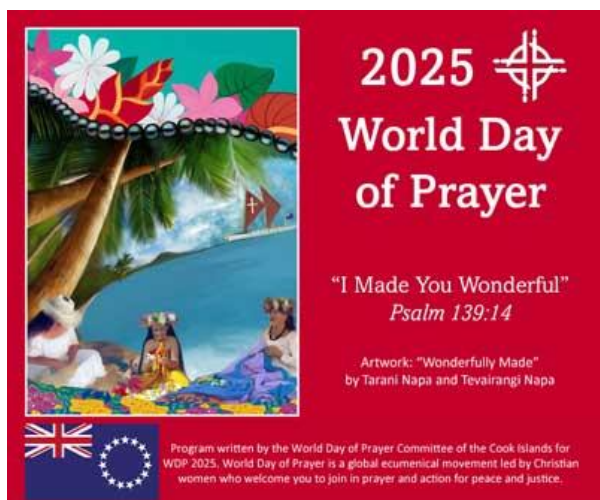
One Great Hour of Sharing is the single largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

A Minute for Mission will be presented for each of these three programs.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA)	PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP)	SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (SDOP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees • Receives 32% of funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed • Receives 36% of funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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





World Day of Prayer

ALL ARE WELCOME

Friday, March 7, 2025 - 9:30 AM

First Church of Christ Scientist
610 South Segoe Road
Madison, WI 53711

Our hosts will be providing a continental breakfast - pastries, coffee, juices, etc. starting at 9:00am for those attending in person who would like to share in fellowship ahead of the program.

Time: Mar 7, 2025 9:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82948665833?pwd=gkTiU049q1RdQP2vdbDUpTS59yVSH1.1>

Meeting ID: 829 4866 5833

Passcode: 123456

Or join by phone: Dial (312) 626-6799

Meeting ID: 829 4866 5833

“Sleep in Heavenly Peace”

*“In peace I will both lie down and sleep, for you alone,
Lord, make me dwell in safety.” Psalm 4:8*



**All women of the church are cordially invited to the
John Knox Presbyterian Women 2025 Spring Gathering
Saturday, May 3, at 9:30 a.m.**

**Hosted by Portage Presbyterian Church PW
120 W. Pleasant St., Portage, Wisconsin**



**NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!**

Program by Sara Shaver from Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Portage

<https://shpbeds.org/chapter/wi-portage/>
<https://www.facebook.com/SHPPortage/>

**Donations of new twin size sheets, pillows, and bedding items,
or monetary donations, will be collected at the gathering.**

The church is accessible and has an elevator. Lunch cost is \$8. To assist the Portage ladies with their planning, **please RSVP by Wednesday, April 23** by calling or texting 563-419-7371 or email ripleyjb56@gmail.com. (Indicate if you have any dietary restrictions.)

Thanks, and we look forward to seeing you!

**To read the full Spring 2025 newsletter of
John Knox Presbyterian Women, click [here](#).**



SENIOR BRUNCH

March 21 at 12:30 p.m.

Third Friday of each month

If you're a senior 55+ or enjoy spending time with seniors, please come to the LCEC for a **no-cost lunch and informative programming** on the third Friday of each month, 12:30-2pm.

No reservation required.





WayForward Resources would like to thank everyone at **DALE HEIGHTS for their support!**

Thank you from all of us at WayForward Resources for your continued generosity.

Since January of 2024, you have donated **over 300 pounds of food**. Your donations helped stock the food pantry's shelves, ensuring individuals and families facing hunger were able to access the nutritious food they needed.

Your support of the **Back to School program** meant that over 620 students started the school year ready to learn.

Your **financial support** of \$2000 has also played a crucial role in helping people find and keep stable housing, making sure they have a warm and safe place to sleep.

You truly made a difference and impacted so many people's lives during a time of unprecedented rise in demand for our services. We are grateful for your generosity and partnership in advancing WayForward's mission to create food and housing security.

Thank you for joining with us to build a strong community where everyone has the basic building blocks of stability to thrive!

FROM: Jill Bradshaw, Community Engagement Manager

Creating Stability in the Current Situation

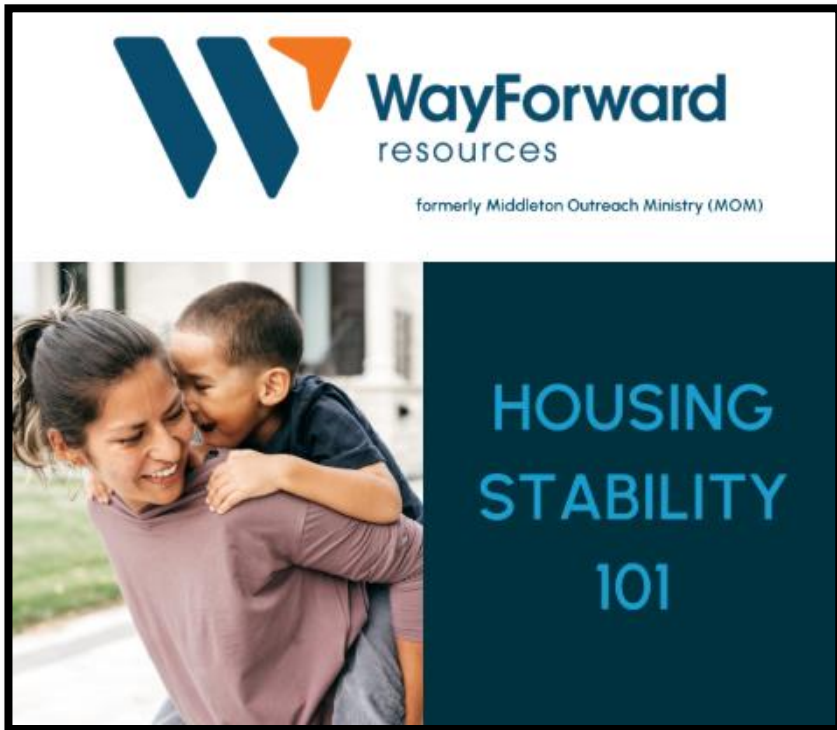
You have likely seen the announcement that the White House had directed the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to order all federal agencies to temporarily block activities associated with the obligation and disbursement of all grants, loans and other financial assistance in January. Since then, there has been a lot of confusion and uncertainty as this was paused and then possibly rescinded.

How would a federal funding freeze affect WayForward? WayForward receives funding from a variety of sources. The largest portion of our budget comes from individual donors. The second largest portion comes from private grant-makers. However, we do receive federal funding, particularly for our doubled-up housing program, Connections. Federal funds cover the majority of the expenses for this program. We are in communication with Dane County (who disperses many of these funds) and closely tracking this and other federal funding we receive.

Beyond the direct impact on our services, **we are concerned about the impact on other agencies who do similar work.** Many agencies who work with people experiencing homelessness receive a significant portion of their funding through the federal government. Decreasing assistance available through agency partners could increase the number of people seeking our services. As you know, we are already operating at capacity.

Thank you for all you do to create stability in our community.

[DONATE](#)



The lack of affordable housing in Dane County is a pressing issue in our community. Madison Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway **called a lack of housing the "defining problem of our region right now."**

And Madison Alder Tag Evers wrote that **"we need to see our city's housing crisis as a local emergency."**

As a regular supporter of our work, we are inviting you to join us for a special event to learn more about how the housing crisis impacts people in our community and how WayForward Resources is working to be part of the solution.

Tuesday, March 18, 2025
6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

The hour-long free session will include:

- An overview from WayForward Staff
- Q&A

Location:

WayForward Resources Distribution Center
3502 Parmenter Street, Middleton
(behind our main building at the back of the parking lot)

Please register at the link below to reserve your spot!

REGISTER



Help Stock Our Food Pantry: Items Needed!

Our food pantry needs regular restocking to ensure the people in our community have access to nutritious food. We're currently low on several staples, and we could use donations of:

- 1) **Hearty Soups**
- 2) **Spices**
- 3) **Sugar**

These items make a meaningful difference in helping families prepare satisfying, flavorful meals.

Donations can be dropped off during our regular office hours:
Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Buy items directly from our Amazon Wish List!
[Wish List](#)

Let's Talk Gardening with Native Trees and Shrubs



Dwarf bush honeysuckle with two-spotted bumble bee
(Photo: Susan Carpenter)

Susan Carpenter is joining us again and this event is to share with us the importance of planting native trees and shrubs in our gardens and yards. This act provides the best species for the wildlife we choose and cherish to maintain in a healthy ecosystem. Native trees and shrubs also complement other native plants in our beds and yards. She is a fantastic presenter! A time for Q&A will follow.

- Saturday, March 29 - 9:30 - 11:15 a.m.
- Sequoya Library, 4340 Tokay Blvd., Madison
- Please bring your own coffee mug or flask as a gesture of sustainability as you enjoy coffee with a snack.
- PS. This is a great way to spend a couple of hours on a Saturday morning!

Presented by the Midvale Heights Green Team in partnership with Sequoya Library



Susan Carpenter, Native Plant Garden Curator

Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education | UW-Madison Arboretum

Hometown: Madison, WI

Susan is the Native Plant Garden curator at the UW Arboretum. She works with volunteers to maintain and monitor a 4-acre garden representing the plant communities of southern Wisconsin and leads a conservation project studying native bumble bees, including the endangered rusty-patched bumble bee, *Bombus affinis*.

Planting a small tree or shrub now will create wildlife habitat, shade, color, and beauty in your garden for years to come.

DALE HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5501 University Ave.

Madison, Wisconsin 53705



MARCH CALENDAR

- 02 Sunday worship / Church potluck
- 05 Choir practice 7:15pm
- 08 Church breakfast 8:30am
- 09 Sunday worship
- 11 Property & Finance
- 12 Choir practice 7:15pm
- 16 Sunday worship
- 23 Sunday worship / Session meeting
- 30 Sunday worship



Liturgists

- March 2: Janice Krall
- March 9: Otty Schaefer
- March 16: Melanie Klump
- March 23: Roy Lembcke
- March 30: Wendy Weber