



# FOCUS

November 2025

Daleheightschurch.org

## Volunteerism Counts as Stewardship

### Dale Heights Staff

Pastor:  
Pulpit Supply

Treasurer:  
Wendy Weber

Music Director  
Dr. Alissa Freeman

Accounts Manager:  
Dawn Westhoff

Office Manager:  
Deb Hughes

Custodians:  
Felipe Ruiz  
& Lily Fabella

Grounds Keeper:  
Jaime Bucholtz

### 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)

**Volunteers are the backbone of most non-profits**, including our Presbyterian churches. On any given day, church members and others give their time to assist with the church's landscaping, bookkeeping and budgeting, newsletters and community relations, and more.

Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, **what are you doing for others?**"

Yet surprisingly, many people don't consider volunteering at church as a form of stewardship. It's actually a key component of giving to the church. **"Time and talent" are essential elements of the stewardship.**

In 2024, each volunteer hour was valued at \$34.79, according to Independent Sector and the Do Good Institute at the University of Maryland. **Few churches** (including ours) **would make it through a budget year if they had to purchase all the services provided by volunteers, who are a critical spoke in the wheel of stewardship.**

Volunteering, which can be seen as servant-leadership, is connected directly to our faith in Jesus, the one who came not to be served, but to serve.

*Written by John C. Williams*

John C. Williams is a 30-year member at Sea Island Presbyterian Church in Beaufort, South Carolina. Adapted from [www.Presbyterianfoundation.org](http://www.Presbyterianfoundation.org)

**Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.**

**1 Peter 4:10**



## Breakfast

The Dale Heights monthly breakfast will be held on:

Saturday  
November 8, 2025.

Serving will begin at 8:30 am.

The suggested donation is \$5.

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

### November Birthdays

15 Brad Harris  
16 Ian Rogers  
30 Abigail Rogers



### Church Office Hours:

9:30a-1:30p  
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday



*The deadline for article submissions for the December issue of the FOCUS is November 24,*

## **Stewardship is more than just money.**

**As we enter our Stewardship drive period, please remember that time is also a gift that we can use. There are volunteer opportunities for everyone, regardless of age, physical ability, and time issues.**

**If you would like to volunteer, please mark it on your pledge card or contact a Session member or member of the committee you are interested in helping. (See next page). Stuffing envelopes can also be God's work.**

### **Some volunteer opportunities at Dale Heights for you to consider:**

#### **SUNDAY MORNING GREETER**

Greet and welcome all who come to worship with us.

#### **SUNDAY MORNING READER:**

Read Liturgy and Scripture during worship.

#### **SEASONAL HELP NEEDED:**

Lenten Readers

Advent Readers

Help decorate the sanctuary for Easter and Christmas by signing up to purchase Easter flowers and poinsettias.

Assist with the hanging and unhooking of the greens during the Christmas season.

#### **STEWARDSHIP:**

Contribute of your time, talents and resources to the church. Volunteer to serve on one of our committees.

#### **COFFEE HOUR**

Help during Fellowship to provide a welcoming atmosphere for all.

Come early to brew coffee and help set up for Fellowship. Assist with cleanup and dishwashing afterwards.

#### **MONTHLY CHURCH BREAKFAST**

Help prepare and serve breakfast on the second Saturday of each month. Assist with cleanup afterwards.

#### **RIDES TO CHURCH**

Help provide rides to and from church for those who wouldn't be able to get there otherwise.

#### **HOME COMMUNION / VISITORS**

Volunteers visit the sick or homebound, offer prayers, comfort those who are grieving, and provide communion to members at home who cannot attend services. Instruction and supplies are provided.

#### **OUTREACH AND MISSION**

Assist with preparation of meals for Pres House students when needed.

Assist with fundraising efforts for church programs and missions.

Events: Help with greeting and/or serving when Dale Heights hosts special events (for example: Church Women United programming).

#### **BUILDING SUPPORT**

Assist with the general upkeep and maintenance of the building by completing minor repairs or maintenance.

#### **TECHNICAL SUPPORT:**

Assist with media production when needed (cameras, sound, lighting, projection, etc.).

## Dale Heights' Committees and Ministry Teams for 2025:

### **Session:**

Gerry Klump (2025)  
Verena Straubhaar (2025)  
Edi Chan (2026)  
Gale Oakes, Clerk of Session (2026)  
Barbara Fleishman (2027)  
Wendy Weber (2027)

### **Nominating:**

Edi Chan (Session Rep)  
Roy Lembcke  
Jim Tracey  
June Zeeh

### **Care and Fellowship:**

Verena Straubhaar  
Edi Chan

### **Outreach and Mission:**

Barb Fleishman  
Edi Chan  
Jamie Engebregtsen  
Melanie Klump  
Gerry Klump & Roy Lembcke  
(WayForward representatives)  
Gale Oakes  
Wendy Weber, chair

### **Personnel:**

Edi Chan  
Gerry Klump  
Jack Rose

### **Security:** (ad hoc)

Roy Lembcke  
Jim Tracey  
Jack Rose

### **Worship and Music:**

Janice Krall  
Melanie Klump (chair)  
Verena Straubhaar (Communion & Fellowship)  
June Zeeh (ushers and liturgists)

### **Property and Finance:**

Gerry Klump  
Philip Krause  
Roy Lembcke, chair  
Wendy Weber

Click [here](#) to see a brief description of the responsibilities of each Committee/Ministry Team.

This list is also posted on the bulletin board outside of the church office.





### **Project Regeneration**

On Wednesday, October 29, Wendy, Roy and Gerry met with Mark Elsdon and worked out the **Rooted Good** grant application form for the \$20,000 grant for the possible property redevelopment feasibility study. We hope to hear from them before year end.

### **Memorial Gardens Policy**

Session has been reviewing the policies and practices for the Memorial Gardens and has approved the current following guidelines. The Memorial Gardens ad hoc committee are reviewing these and mapping the gardens.

**-Who has access-** Any member of Dale Heights Presbyterian Church or spouse of anyone already honored in the Memorial Garden may have their ashes spread in the existing gardens or have an approved planting as a memorial. We will also be looking to add a formal category "**Friends of the Church**" for anyone not a member but who has an extended history of involvement with Dale Heights who could also request access to the garden. This is a formal change to the bylaws to be voted on at the January Congregational meeting. This affiliation would be based on continuity and longevity with a presence within the worshiping congregation at Dale Heights. This category is extended by invitation or request, subject to approval by the Dale Heights Session.

**-Plantings-**Any planting memorial must fit the garden plan and be approved by Session. The cost of the planting and any future replacement must be paid for by the requesting party. Contact information should be provided to the church for any replacement notification. Replacement will only be done by paid approval of the contact.

**-Signage-**Requesting party will pay for the approved signs and any future replacement. We also want to emphasize that the Memorial Gardens are not a cemetery. These are special places to be maintained and not developed if possible. Continuing control of these areas are only possible as long as we control the property and the church is in existence. That is why we would not sell the property but are considering redevelopment that continues to give us that control.



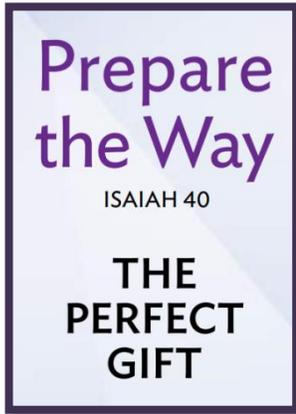
Veterans Day occurs on November 11 every year in the United States in honor of the **“eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month”** of 1918 that signaled the end of World War I, known as Armistice Day. In 1954, President Eisenhower officially changed the name of the holiday from Armistice Day to Veterans Day.

**Veterans Day commemorates Veterans of all wars.**

**Veterans Today:** The military men and women who serve and protect the United States come from all walks of life; they are parents, children, grandparents, friends, neighbors and coworkers, and are an important part of their communities. Here are some facts about the Veteran population of the United States:

- 🇺🇸 10 percent of living Veterans are women.
- 🇺🇸 5.9 million Veterans served during the Vietnam War.
- 🇺🇸 7.8 million Veterans served in the Gulf War era.
- 🇺🇸 933,000 Veterans served during the Korean War.
- 🇺🇸 Of the 16 million Americans who served during World War II, about 119,550 were still alive as of 2023.



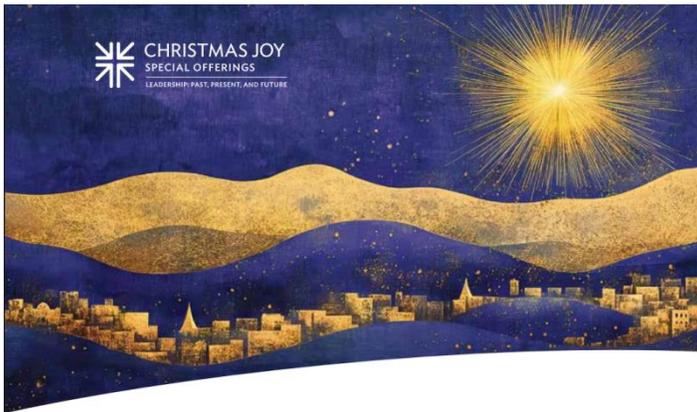


# Christmas Joy Advent Offering 2025

**November 30 – December 21**

The prophet Isaiah gives those listening to him a very particular task to **prepare the way** for the coming Messiah, the person we know as Jesus. Isaiah proclaims that to prepare the way is to make highways easily navigable, fill in valleys, flatten hills, level the ground, make the

earth smooth. Then, and only then, will God's glory be revealed, and this will cause all humanity to see that God has spoken to us. Your gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering combine with gifts from thousands of congregations throughout our denomination to do our part to repair the world and to ensure our siblings have the tools they need to flourish. Your gifts prepare the way for the God we know in Jesus Christ, the child whose birth we celebrate.



**THE PERFECT GIFT** When Jesus was born among us, he came as a helpless baby destined to bring joy, peace and salvation to his people. This child, God's Word made flesh — fully human and fully God — became one of us. One with us. One among us. In all of our vulnerabilities, struggles and triumphs, Jesus became one of us — leading us, knowing us, connecting us to himself and to each other, and offering us his gift of eternal life.

The perfect gift. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us — past, present and future — who have pointed us to God. We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us but who now find themselves in critical financial need. We honor and celebrate emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping Communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much. Jesus' example as a child born to be among us and lead us to eternal life provides a pattern for us to follow as we celebrate those who have led us in the past and will lead us into the future. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we come together to support past, present and future leaders, embodying God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ.

**There will be more to come during Minutes for Mission and in the December Focus about The Christmas Joy Offering. Don't forget to pick up the Advent devotional issue to guide you through our Advent and Christmas season!**

# Donations to Food Pantries

We as people of faith are concerned with food stability. To be food secure, a population, household or individual must have access to adequate and nutritious food at all times. We know that food stability may presently be of great concern for many (and that may include us at Dale Heights), Children, elderly people and those who lack the means to have basic needs met are at risk of losing access. We can help and it is beneficial to our society as a whole. Ensuring social equity regarding food satisfies human needs for children, the elderly and more, which benefits society.

**With that said, here's another timely and well-received gift idea to promote sustainability...**

With the holidays approaching you may once again hear, "Don't buy me anything!" or maybe, "I don't want a thing!" Now may be just the time to connect the need around food security and a desire to buy a gift or do something for someone!

Please consider giving a donation to one of the following or other organizations in memory of, or in honor of someone. This is a very timely and important gift to those who may now truly find themselves in need of assistance. It's easy and probably the most impactful gift you could give!

- ♥ WayForward in Middleton [www.wayforwardresources.org](http://www.wayforwardresources.org)
- ♥ The River Food Pantry [www.riverfoodpantry.org](http://www.riverfoodpantry.org)
- ♥ Badger Prairie Needs Network [www.bpnn.org](http://www.bpnn.org)
- ♥ Second Harvest [www.secondharvestsw.org](http://www.secondharvestsw.org) - This organization collects and distributes food more cheaply for and through a network of partner agencies like the above three pantries.
- ♥ Feeding America [www.feedingamerica.org](http://www.feedingamerica.org). Feeding America is a nonprofit network serving 200 food banks around the United States and Second Harvest is one of those food banks!

**And here's to you for your wonderful generosity!  
May all be filled and food secure!**





## **Leon Bernido's December 2025 Mission Trip to The Philippines**

In a phone conversation with Leon, he explained about travelling to The Philippines at Christmas for the first time in many years. As you know, we have offered supplies which people appreciate and need. Backpacks are very helpful and important for students and people in their daily lives. He also mentioned that he would like to take toothbrushes as well.

We would like to send heavier, durable and longlasting backpacks so please consider a donation and Outreach will make the purchases. How about we set a goal for three backpacks and 25 toothbrushes? Maybe you even have a few toothbrushes on hand, which you have received from your visit to the dentist over the years?

Please consider either donating money for a backpack or toothbrushes in memory or in honor of someone. What a wonderful gift of faith they would be!

Leon will not only be taking backpacks and toothbrushes in addition to his personal items, but he will also be taking his mother's ashes to be dispersed there. His mother, Dina Young, died on October 8, 2025 at the age of 94.

**Peace and prayers be with you, Leon, and your family.**

**May we at Dale Heights also send prayers and love along with Leon as the two travel home together.**

The Mission and Outreach Committee



## **REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR**

**Each day add an item to a box.**

**After the holidays, donate the items to WayForward Resources to help start the New Year off right for local families.**

- December 1 – Spices**
- December 2 – Cereal**
- December 3 – Flour**
- December 4 – Sugar**
- December 5 – Cooking Oil**
- December 6 – Baking Soda**
- December 7 – Baking Powder**
- December 8 – Coffee**
- December 9 – Tostada shells**
- December 10 – Snack Items (fruit snacks, granola bars, etc. )**
- December 11 – Quick/rolled oats**
- December 12 – Condiments (any kind)**
- December 13 – Menstrual products (pads)**
- December 14 – Toilet paper**
- December 15 – Hearty soups**
- December 16 – Canned chicken**
- December 17 – Canned tuna**
- December 18 – Canned corn**
- December 19 – Canned green beans**
- December 20 – Canned tomatoes**
- December 21 – Canned fruit**
- December 22 – canned mixed vegetables**
- December 23 – Spaghetti sauce**
- December 24 – Box of crackers**

**<https://www.wayforwardresources.org/>**

**Donations accepted Mon-Fri between 9 am and 4 pm**

***Gracious God, please bless the lives and bodies of those receiving these gifts. May they be nourished by the food and by your love and presence.***

**AMEN**

**Before we offer a *garden-related holiday gift idea*, here's a garden reminder for fall:**

### **Leave a Brush Pile**

Leaving brush, cut-off stems and branches AKA "yard waste," provides habitat to a number of species from a range of bees to swallowtail butterflies to luna moths to stick insects.

Other critters - okay, some are a bit annoying - chipmunks, voles, and squirrels, along with amphibians and reptiles such as salamanders and snakes, also reside in brush piles. If you're not a fan, think of them as raptor protein.



Also, old chipmunk, mice or rabbit nests provide nesting space for bumble bees, which are struggling with the lack of available housing in Madison and beyond!



### **Next:**

**Do you want to make the holiday gift giving simpler and more sustainable?**

**Consider giving specific garden-related gift certificates from local native nurseries (and others which sell native plants and services) which support local ecosystems by providing food and habitat wildlife.**

- Bee Balm Wildscapes ([www.beebalmwildscapes.com](http://www.beebalmwildscapes.com)) Ask Melissa about a gift certificate for native garden design and installation!
- Good Oak Ecological Services ([www.goodoak.com](http://www.goodoak.com)) Good Oak provides services in support of ecological land management and sustainable landscaping.

- K&A Greenhouse ([www.kandagreenhouse.com](http://www.kandagreenhouse.com)) has a native plant list.
- Landscape Designs, Inc. ([www.landscapedesigns.bz](http://www.landscapedesigns.bz)) in McFarland.
- Riley Native Plant Nursery ([www.rileynativeplants.com](http://www.rileynativeplants.com)) Based in Verona, they sell native plants (local, ethically sourced, pesticide-free) and organic vegetables.
- Tend Native Plants ([www.tendnativeplants.com](http://www.tendnativeplants.com)) - A woman-owned business out of Blue Mounds, Tend sells pollinator-safe, ethically sourced, local native plants (straight species only) and offers native plant advice (consultations).
- Two Ferns ([www.twofernsmadison.com](http://www.twofernsmadison.com)) is a woman-owned Madison nursery selling native perennials, an annual tree and shrub order option, as well as convenient plant kits.

### **Not actually local, but let's say local enough...**

- Prairie Nursery ([www.prairienursery.com](http://www.prairienursery.com)) Excellent...check it out!
- Prairie Moon Nursery ([www.prairiemoon.com](http://www.prairiemoon.com)) Great online catalog!

### **Let's not forget these other great local businesses for plants of all sorts, gifts, gift cards and more:**

The Bruce Company ([www.brucecompany.com](http://www.brucecompany.com))

Fitchburg Farms ([www.fitchburgfarms.com](http://www.fitchburgfarms.com)) Check out their holiday classes!

Jung Garden Center ([www.jungseed.com](http://www.jungseed.com)) A long-time favorite.

Klein's Floral and Greenhouses ([www.kleinsfloral.com](http://www.kleinsfloral.com)) Always beautiful.

Schönheit Gardens ([www.sglgardens.com](http://www.sglgardens.com)) Take a stroll and see all the beauty their garden center offers.

The Madison Greenhouse Store ([www.madisongreenhousestore.com](http://www.madisongreenhousestore.com)) Retailer on Willy Street selling plants and supplies aimed at urban and greenhouse gardeners, plus some décor items.

Or just another idea...maybe a National Geographic subscription for the family or for the kids? Check out the possibilities! [www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com)



**DALE HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

5501 University Ave.

Madison, Wisconsin 53705

**NOVEMBER CALENDAR**

- 02    Worship – K. Owens – *Communion*
- 06    Choir practice 12:30p
- 08    Church Breakfast 8:30a
- 09    Worship – M. Schmidt
- 11    **Veterans Day**  
Property & Finance 7p
- 13    Choir practice 12:30p
- 16    Worship
- 23    Worship – M. Schmidt
- 25    Choir practice **6pm**
- 27    **Thanksgiving**
- 30    **Advent Sunday** - Worship

**Liturgists**

- November 2:    Wendy Weber
- November 9:    Barb Fleishman
- November 16:    Otty Schaefer
- November 23:    Carey Fleischmann
- November 30:    Edi Chan

