



FOCUS

October 2025

Daleheightschurch.org

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)

It's that time of year when we begin to reflect on all that we are grateful for in the past year and start making plans for a new year ahead. As you reflect on these things in your personal, professional, and family life, please also include your spiritual life and church community.

**Please consider making a pledge for 2026
as a sign of your commitment to the future.**

You can act on that commitment in several ways:

1. Participate regularly in worship.
2. Participate in conversations in which we work to discern the future of Dale Heights. Share your insights thoughtfully and prayerfully.
3. Volunteer your time and talents when needed.
4. Pray for Dale Heights, both the people and the institution.
5. Make a financial pledge for 2026

While we need your pledge to budget for our expenses (salaries, utilities, building maintenance, worship supplies, etc.), the real value of your pledge is as a sign of your commitment to God's work at Dale Heights for the year ahead.

Pledge cards will be mailed soon and, whatever the amount, please prayerfully consider making a financial pledge for the coming year.

**In the weeks ahead, may you find your heart overflowing
with gratitude and your spirit filled with hope
for the future that lies ahead.**

October



Breakfast

The Dale Heights monthly breakfast will be held on:

Saturday
October 11, 2025.

Serving will begin at 8:30 am.

The suggested donation is \$5.

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

October Birthdays

06 Wendy Weber
08 Barb Davidson
31 Barb Fleishman



On Sunday, October 5, Christians from all over the globe will celebrate

World Communion Sunday

a day to remember that we are united as one body in Christ, no matter where we are.

Observed on the first Sunday in October, this day calls the Church to be the **universal, inclusive** Church.

The day was first observed by Presbyterians in 1936, adopted by the Federal Council of Churches in 1940, and shortly thereafter observed in Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren churches.

Almighty God, from the ends of the earth you have gathered us around Christ's holy table. We come to feast together. Have mercy on your church, troubled and divided. Renew us and make us one. AMEN.

-Andy Langford

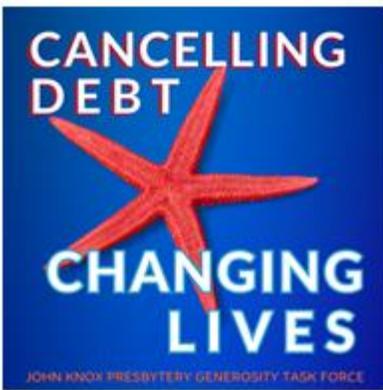


Church Office Hours:

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



The deadline for article submissions for the November issue of the FOCUS is October 27, 2025.



The Starfish Campaign for 2025 is underway!

"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

--Matthew 22:37-39

The Starfish Campaign is a ministry of hope. **In 2024, churches and members in John Knox Presbytery raised just over \$40,000.** If we had only been able to remove that amount of medical debt for struggling families, it would have made a difference in several lives. God has led us to a significantly greater impact by connecting us with a non-profit organization called Undue Medical Debt. **We sent our \$40,000 to them and it grew to a phenomenal \$5,306,408.27 and eliminated the medical debt of 4,726 families in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin!**

One of the questions the Generosity Task Force receives most often is, "How does Undue Medical Debt do it?" Undue Medical Debt understands the medical debt industry forward and backward. They purchase debt in large bundles from collection agencies, hospitals and physicians groups, buying millions of dollars of debt at a time for a fraction of its face value. What happens next makes their focus unique. Rather than try to collect the debt, Undue Medical Debt solicits donations and uses contributions like ours to cancel it. Because the debt is purchased at pennies on the dollar but cancelled at full face value, Undue Medical Debt can make every dollar they receive do the work of at least \$100.

The Starfish Campaign is receiving contributions through Sunday, October 19.

Financial gifts can be made through your congregation. This "loaves and fishes" ministry does amazing things with every donation. **In the first three years of this ministry, it has been our experience that a \$20 gift to the Starfish Campaign will be enough to cancel the entire medical debt for the average family we help.** If able, please give generously so more families will find the hope our ministry provides!

Contact the Generosity Task Force anytime at jkggenerositytaskforce@gmail.com

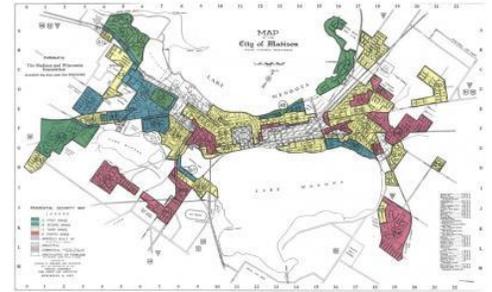


"You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."

--John Bunyan

Unjust Deeds: The History of Racial Covenants in Dane County with Dane County Historical Society

Sequoia Library
Meeting Rooms A and B Combined
October 6 | 6:30 - 8pm



Historical Presentation

For most of the 20th century, racial covenants were an insidious tool used nationwide to segregate whites from Blacks and other minorities in America's burgeoning suburbs and residential neighborhoods. Racial covenants were clauses inserted into property deeds to prevent non-Whites and non-Christians from buying or occupying land. Although no longer valid or enforceable, they can still be found in the land deeds of almost every American community, including Dane County.

Racial covenants were made illegal with the passage of the Fair Housing Act in 1968. Nevertheless, their impacts are pervasive and still with us today. This program, presented by local historian Rick Bernstein, will explore the history of racial covenants in Dane County and nationwide. Throughout the month of October, you can also learn about this through the traveling exhibit which you can view at the Library.

More about the Presenter: Rick Bernstein, a graduate of Cornell University's Historic Preservation Planning program, worked for nearly 30 years for the Wisconsin Historical Society's Division of Historic Preservation and Local History until he retired in 2019. Since then, Rick has worked part-time as the Dane County Historical Society's Executive Director. DCHS was established in 1961 to promote Dane County's history and to manage an archival facility at the Lussier Family Heritage Center in Lake Farm Park.

This program is made possible thanks to support from Beyond the Page, National Endowment for the Humanities, Madison Community Foundation, the Evjue Foundation, Dane Arts, and Dane County Department of Planning & Development.

Current Action

There will also be an opportunity to take action: Does your house have a discriminatory covenant on your deed? If so, come by and file state form "Discharge and Release of Discriminatory Restriction Affecting Real Property." Dane County property assistants and notaries will be here to help and validate your documents, and will take the documents to the Register of Deed for you. Document recording fees are waived thanks to a grant from the Wisconsin Realtors Association Foundation.

To look up your property and see if this applies to you and for more information, visit [Prejudice in Places](#).

This is a project of the County Executive, Board of Supervisors, Planning & Development, and Office of Equity & Inclusion. This project is supported by WI Act 210 and Dane County Resolution 2024-305.

Registration is appreciated but not required. Click the "learn more and signup" button to register.

[**Learn More and Signup**](#)



A Dane County project



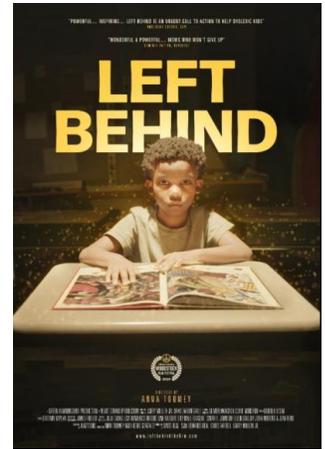
Dyslexia Awareness Month: Left Behind (2025) Documentary Screening & Talkback

Sequoia Library

Meeting Rooms A and B Combined

Oct 15 | 5:30 - 7:45pm

Join Madison Public Library and the Children's Dyslexia Center of the Madison Area for our annual celebration of October as Dyslexia Awareness Month!



A light pizza dinner will be served starting at 5:30pm, with a free screening of the documentary *Left Behind* (2025, 75 minutes) beginning at 6pm. The film will be followed by a short talkback moderated by Kelly Kuenzie, Director of the Children's Dyslexia Center-Madison and featuring Dr. Barb Novak, Director of the Office of Literacy at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction with Krissy Wick, Director of Public Services at Madison Public Library. This event is especially for parents, caregivers, educators, elementary school and older youth, and community members. Families are especially welcome, and kids 8 and up can take a break from the program in the children's area of the library as needed, where an instructor from The Curious Crafter will also host a free scrapbook bookmark-crafting station from 6-7pm.

Please note: this program is not recommended for children age 7 and under.

Registration for this event is appreciated but not required—please call 608-266-6385 or click below to register. Please contact librarian Abigail Ryan (ryana@madisonpubliclibrary.org) with any accessibility or dietary requirements 1 week before this program. CDC tutors may also receive one continuing credit with a one page response paper for this event.

[Learn More and Signup](#)

Film Synopsis:

"Approximately 200,000 New York City public school students are dyslexic, yet there is no public initiative that provides the specialized skill and care necessary for these learners.

Frustrated that they had to remove their own kids from the public school system, a group of determined moms band together to do something that's never been done before – open New York City's first public school for dyslexic students. The journey is not a smooth ride, and they face both institutional and personal hurdles as they try to upend a system.

A new mayoral candidate bolsters their fight after he reveals his own dyslexia. But will they be able to convince a bureaucratic education system to overhaul outdated politics to ensure a brighter future for the city's dyslexic youth?" - leftbehindthefilm.com



LUSSIER
COMMUNITY
EDUCATION CENTER

building community. creating opportunities. enriching education.



You're invited!

**The LCEC's Annual Harvest Celebration will be held
Thursday, October 16, 6-8pm.**

- Celebrate 17 years in this building and all 45+ years of our history
- Enjoy great food and kind friends from every generation
- Connect with Executive Director Arturo Ambriz and current staff
- Let us thank you in person for your support!

This evening is the LCEC's gift to you. Please plan to attend as our guest.

[RSVP to HARVEST Celebration HERE!](#)

An Invitation from Sun Prairie United Methodist Church

MICHAEL HILLESTAD **CONCERT**



It's Sunday! Come-A-Singing

Come one, come all to an old fashioned hymn sing led by musician Michael W. Hillestad. Everyone is invited to join in song and community. While there will be selections previously made, requests will be taken at various points throughout the festivities. Come sing, or listen, to your favorite hymns with masterful accompaniments provided by Michael on either the piano or organ.

This exciting event will be held from 1:30 to 2:30 pm on Sunday, October 26 at the Sun Prairie United Methodist Church which is located at 702 North Street in beautiful Sun Prairie, Wisconsin.

A free-will donation will be collected that will go toward the food pantry at Cardinal Heights Middle School. You may also bring nonperishable food items as donations.

Thank you so much for any small donation you might give - we truly appreciate it!



Leave fallen leaves, twigs, and brush alone to make snug winter homes for pollinators.

FALL YARD CLEANUP: Less means more for pollinators

As the leaves begin to turn and eventually fall and your flowerbeds start to fade and wither, you might be starting to think about fall yard cleanup. Before you ready your rakes and sharpen your pruners, the DNR and our partners at the Wisconsin Bumble Bee Brigade and Xerces Society ask you to keep those tools in the shed and “let things go” a bit over the fall and winter months.

Allowing all the plants in your yard to go through their natural cycles without human intervention means less work for you while providing critical overwintering habitat for bugs and other native critters. Any patch of yard, no matter the size, can be a self-sustaining and extremely biodiverse ecosystem unto itself if left to its own devices.

Here are **four simple things** you can do to protect pollinators and countless other species that rely on them:

1. **Save the stems.** Many insects, including native solitary bees, bundle up in the tiny cavities of flower stems and lay their broods of eggs. Hold off on cutting down stems until March, if at all, and try to leave at least 12 inches of the stem intact when pruning to maximize insect survival and reproduction rates. The unsightly stems will be covered up with fresh growth in no time!

2. **Leave the leaves.** Epic leaf piles are satisfying, we know, but letting the leaves settle where they drop is the best thing you can do for both insects and soil health. A thin layer of leaves provides essential cover, food and insulation for insects trying to make it through the colder weather.
3. **Start a brush pile.** Create the ultimate bug paradise by collecting felled sticks and other woody material in a single spot anywhere in your yard — and once in place, do not disturb! This pile of organic material is a treasure trove of resources for motivated insects and nest-building birds, and it can serve as home sweet home for many backyard species, including chipmunks and rabbits, not to mention thousands of bugs.
4. **Avoid using pesticides,** including fungicides, herbicides, insecticides and other chemical treatments. Letting your yard go *au naturel* as much as possible keeps all creatures great and small happy and healthy.



Bonus: Consider planting late-blooming native plants.

Want to continue enjoying your garden later in the season? Plant asters, goldenrod and other late-flowering native plants to keep the color going. Fall is the perfect time to plant native flowers. To help insects and wildlife, select native plants that combine to provide blooms from April through October.

Taking these actions can make a big impact for our tiny friends. By turning even one corner of your yard into an insect oasis, you're contributing to a more biodiverse community of which we are all a part.

DALE HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5501 University Ave.

Madison, Wisconsin 53705

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 02 Choir practice 12:30p
- 05 Worship – K. Owens – *Communion*
- 09 Choir practice 12:30p
- 11 Church Breakfast 8:30a
- 12 Worship – S. Nuernberg
- 14 Property & Finance 7p
- 16 Choir practice 12:30p
- 18 Westside Warblers 11a
- 19 Worship – M. Schmidt
- 26 Worship – M. Schmidt
- 30 Choir practice **6pm**

Liturgists

- October 5: Roy Lembcke
- October 12: Marcia Holman
- October 19: Gerry Klump
- October 26: Melanie Klump

