



# FOCUS

February 2026

Daleheightschurch.org

## 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

Edi Chan (2026)  
Gale Oakes (2026)  
June Zeeh (2027)  
Wendy Weber (2027)  
Gerry Klump (2028)  
Melanie Klump (2028)

## Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

A man in Mark 12 asked Jesus, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

Jesus answered, "The first is 'Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one; you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this: **'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'** There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:29-31

The second of the greatest commandments according to our LORD Jesus Christ is to love your neighbor as you love yourself. Each person God created is called to love. God created us in His love and for love. To genuinely love others, we must also value ourselves.

Why would God call us to love ourselves? First, God wants us to not just know, but to live as children of God. With God and through God, we can know we are loved by our creator, just as we are. That is not to say we couldn't improve in areas, but God loves us in our best of days, and most particularly in our worst of days.

This love of self comes not from what we do or how we look, but from realizing we are deeply valued and loved by our Creator. And realizing that every human on God's green earth has the same promise.

So, we can love those who seem unlovable, seeing the reflection of God's love in everyone. Maybe we can care enough about them to help them see how greatly they are loved by God as well.

God wants his love for us to flow through to others who may not know.

*Give thanks to the God of heaven; his love is eternal.*  
- Psalm 136:22

*Adapted from an essay by Rev. Susan Vergeront*

# February

## Breakfast

The Dale Heights monthly breakfast will be held on:

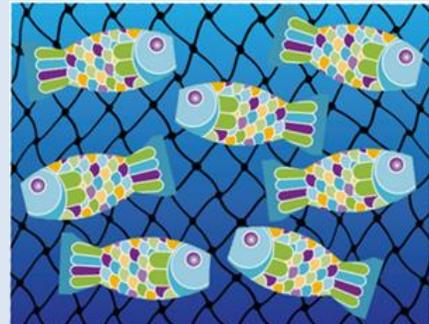
**Saturday  
February 14, 2026.**

Serving will begin at 8:30 am.  
The suggested donation is \$5.

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



Lent is Wednesday, February 18 - April 5.  
Join in and pick up a copy of A Sharing Calendar for Lent 2026 and a colorful Fish Coin Box in the concourse! The boxes are even cuter and more colorful this year.



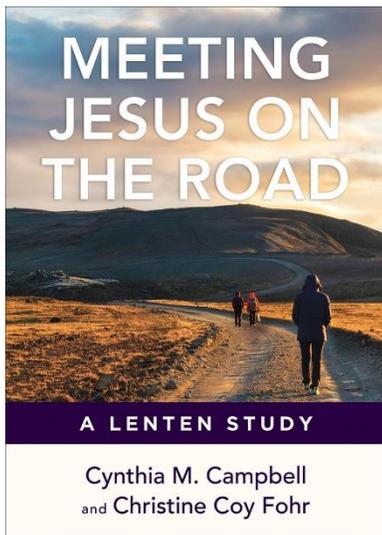
**Church Office Hours:**  
**9:30-1:30**  
**Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday**

*The deadline for article submissions for the March issue of the FOCUS is February 23, 2026.*

## Upcoming Book Study

Melissa Schmidt will lead a Sunday morning book study on *Meeting Jesus on the Road* by Cynthia M. Campbell and Christine Coy Fohr.

- February 22, March 1 and March 8
- 11:30 a.m. downstairs in the Round Table Room near the kitchen
- **If you have not already done so, let Gale, Wendy or Deb in the office know ASAP so we order enough books...the church will pay for the books. Thanks Dale Heights!**
- Come even if you don't want to read the book and/or show up even if you run out of time to read it!
- We promise you won't have to talk if you don't want to and....there are no assignments (other than the suggested reading, quizzes or tests!)



Take a meaningful walk with Jesus this Lent that invites reflection, inspires spiritual attentiveness, and opens your heart to the many forms discipleship can take in daily life.

In *Meeting Jesus on the Road*, readers are invited to journey alongside Christ through the Gospel stories that define his earthly path. Gathering a group of disciples around him, Jesus travelled the region, teaching, healing, and proclaiming that the reign of God is at hand. He met them all with compassion. He brought them hope. From the Jordan River to the hills of Galilee and beyond, Jesus calls us—like the first disciples—to follow, listen, question, and grow.

Designed as a spiritual journey from the First Sunday in Lent to Easter, this Lenten study offers a meaningful way to engage the season through Scripture, reflection, and walking. Throughout, readers will learn that faith is not a sedentary thing, but a relationship with God that grows and changes over a lifetime. With pastoral insight, authors Cynthia Campbell and Christine Coy Fohr thoughtfully guide readers along the road. In each chapter they include:

- A passage from Scripture and meaningful reflections that connect Jesus' journey to your own life of faith
- Thought-provoking questions for small groups or personal reflection
- A "walking prompt" to deepen your Lenten practice through meditative walking

This study will help you hear Jesus' call with fresh clarity and respond with renewed purpose. Lent isn't just a season—it's a sacred invitation to walk more closely with the One who leads us toward life.



**ONE GREAT  
HOUR OF SHARING**

## **It's One Great Hour of Sharing**

***What does the Lord require of you? ... to do justice  
And to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.  
- Micah 6:8***

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees—serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent (Feb. 18–April 5), each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

Thank you for supporting One Great Hour of Sharing, an Offering that responds directly to the call to do justice in Micah 6:8.

**IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!**

# How Your *gifts* Are Used

## Disaster Recovery

The PC(USA) works with mid councils and churches to provide immediate support after natural and human-caused disasters. It also assists with long-term recovery efforts, connecting mid councils and churches with resources to help them rebound and thrive. This emergency ministry enables our congregations and mission partners to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic event.

### International Response

Ukrainian Refugees in Moldova  
Ghana - widespread flooding

### National

Puerto Rico - clean energy assistance  
Southern California.Wildfires...

## Hunger Relief

The PC(USA) works to alleviate hunger and eliminate its root causes, working through relationships and partnerships in the United States and around the world. As recognized by PC(USA) policies, hunger is an extremely complex phenomenon with economic, political, environmental and social causes. The PC(USA) seeks to find out why people are hungry and to encourage action that will help address the underlying causes.

### International Response

**Haiti** - empowered 125 farming families with legal, agricultural and community support to defend land encroachment  
**South Sudan** - supported women and girls about violence, vocational training, and economic self-sufficiency

### National

**Maskoke community in Alabama** - language program for the planet's only fluent-speaking Maskoke children on the planet and assisted their community to rematriate (restore) Maskoke homelands, and institute other green programs  
**Coalition of Immokalee Workers in Florida** - rights for farm and expand Fair Trade expansion workers

# How Your *gifts* Are Used

## Poverty

The PC(USA) is committed to eradicating systemic poverty and evaluating the forces that push people into poverty and keep them there. This is done by entering into partnership with groups of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people; interacting with presbyteries; helping to facilitate their work; and encouraging a deeper understanding and involvement of the Church in the process of self-development.

### International Response

**Panama** - women of La Victoria worked for clean and reliable water for 45 families from two Indigenous communities with a 25,000-liter tank built by skilled Panamanian workers, transported by skilled Panamanian drivers and installed by skilled Panamanian engineers.

**Panama** - a craft women's group teaches women to make a living making handmade crafts and to make money, which helps participants' mental well-being.

### National

**Lakota Lockup Project in Rapid City, South Dakota** - The Lakota LockUp Project's mission is to uplift and revitalize Indigenous people impacted by racialized mass incarceration, inequality, and addiction by applying culture, education, ancestral teaching, and innovative approaches to seek justice and healing. "Talking Circles" are a traditional native approach to healing and wellness that is also an ancient tool for bringing a degree of healing to the mind and spirit. They are safe spaces for community conversation for those affected by the criminal justice system to assuage their trauma.

**Taste of Peace "New Neighbors" (Ohio)** - This ministry helps refugee women market their sweet and savory treats to farmers market patrons and other customers in the Columbus area. The mission is to work with, assist, and provide equitable opportunities and enfranchisement to the local refugee population within the Greater Columbus area by providing the tools, resources, and opportunities to create economic stability and support for refugee women to be culinary entrepreneurs.

# How Your *gifts* Are Used

## IMMIGRATION/MIGRATION/REFUGEES

### *Ministry with the Least of These*

The work and ministry of PC(USA) offices, advocates, and partners enable the church to provide direct support to those navigating the complexities of the immigration system, advocate for compassionate and just immigration laws and policies, and collaborate with partners who directly respond to these critical and complex issues in a range of communities and settings. Through these ongoing efforts, the PC(USA) seeks to embody Christ's call to justice, compassion, and welcome for all who journey in search of safety and hope.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

The program of Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns accompanies all who wish to reflect on, live out, and act on economic and environmental decisions as part of their faith and values. The PC(USA) has created resources and presentations created for reflection on economic and environmental justice issues, including environmental racism.

<https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/>

## **Faiths Connect for Climate Action:**



Here's a great opportunity to join a zoom meeting to learn all about AI data centers and the buzz they are creating! It's this Thursday, Feb. 5, 7 - 8:30 pm and in the comfort of your own home!

***Hyperscale AI Data Centers in Wisconsin***  
**Thursday, February 5**  
**7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. CT**

**Come join *Faiths Connect for Climate Action*, and *Faith in Place*, at our "Hyperscale Data Centers in Wisconsin" webinar on February 5 at 7 p.m.**

Learn about the economic, health, and climate impacts of the hyperscale data center boom in Wisconsin and how you can take action at local and state levels. Faith communities have a unique role to play in helping to shape public conversations around this fast-moving technology, so we hope to see you there! Register with the link below to get the zoom link.

See you on Thursday!

*FCCA Leadership & The Faith in Place Team*

**To get the zoom link for this educational and informative meeting, visit this signup form: <https://forms.gle/NFEwtBvH5LdqB1nP6>**

## Sustainability Share Fair

Midvale Heights Green Team kicks off its 2026 Events Calendar with a Sustainability Share Fair – an informal gathering where community members, organizations and resources share their best practice for more sustainable living.

### Let's Talk and Learn at the Sustainability Share Fair

**Saturday, February 28, 2026**

**9:30 - 11:30 a.m.**

**Sequoia Library Rooms A and B**

**4340 Tokay Blvd. (At the corner of Tokay and Midvale)**

**Be sustainable and bring your own coffee mug!**

This event is an opportunity to bring our own ideas and get new ones, access resources, and ask and answer questions about how to be sustainable in new and fun ways.

There may also be some experts in our midst! Hint...Yes, Pantry Partners, formerly known as ReMitts will be there, and more! If you have wool sweaters, vests, interesting buttons, they welcome donations!





## ***A Message of Gratitude and Guidance from Our Clothing Center***

We want to begin by expressing our deep gratitude for your continued support of our organization. Your generosity enables us to serve our community in meaningful ways, and we are continually inspired by your commitment to helping your neighbors create stability.

Today, we want to share **an update about our clothing center and its impact**, while also asking for your partnership in ensuring we can continue to serve our community as effectively as possible.

### **How You Can Help: Please Review Our Donation Guidelines**

Over 600 households use the WayForward Resources Clothing Center each month. We are committed to continuing our free clothing center for as long as we can maintain the capacity to do so. To help us succeed, we're asking the community to carefully review our donation guidelines before bringing items to us.

#### **What We Gladly Accept:**

- Clothing and shoes\*
- NEW underwear
- Blankets\*
- Towels\*
- Sheets\*
- NEW pillows

*\*clean and in good condition (no rips or stains)*

#### **What We Cannot Accept:**

- Electronics and appliances
- Kitchen items (*dishes, glassware, silverware, pots, and pans, etc.*)
- Mattresses
- Used pillows
- Mattress pads
- Pre-worn underwear
- Lamps
- Furniture & decorative household items
- Toys
- Bicycles
- Baby products (*child car seats, highchairs, cribs, bassinets, etc.*)
- Medical equipment

We understand that many of these items are valuable and could benefit someone who needs them. If you have items from our "cannot accept" list, we encourage you to contact other local organizations that may have the space and mission to accommodate them.

## ***An update from Lannia Stenz, Executive Director/CEO of Gilda's Club***



**GILDA'S CLUB  
WISCONSIN**

An Affiliate of the  
**CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY**

For nearly two decades, Gilda's Club Madison has been a place of comfort, connection, and hope for people facing cancer and the people who love them. Our clubhouse in Middleton has welcomed thousands of children, adults, caregivers, and families who have needed a place where they could show up exactly as they are and know they are not alone.

Like so many organizations, we had to adapt in 2020 when the pandemic made it impossible to gather in person. What followed surprised us in the best way. Over the years since, more and more people began joining us through virtual programs and finding meaningful support with our community. Today, members participate from 36 counties across Wisconsin!

**As we look ahead to 2026, we want to share an important update that reflects the work we are already doing. In February 2026, Gilda's Club Madison will become Gilda's Club Wisconsin.**

**This change simply puts words to what has already been true.**

Our reach has grown far beyond Madison. Because there is no other organization like us in Wisconsin, individuals and families from every corner of the state turn to Gilda's Club for emotional support, counseling, education, and community. Some join virtual support groups. Others attend programs offered in partnership with the medical community. Many travel long distances to walk through the red doors of our Middleton clubhouse because they are seeking understanding during one of the hardest seasons of their lives.

**Our new name honors that truth.**

What is not changing is just as important. The Middleton clubhouse will remain our home, and our mission stays the same. We will continue to offer free emotional support to anyone impacted by cancer, at no cost and regardless of where they live in Wisconsin.

**What this change does reflect is our commitment to meeting people where they are.**

Cancer does not stop at city limits, and support should not either. By becoming Gilda's Club Wisconsin, we are acknowledging the many individuals and families who rely on us statewide. We are also creating space to strengthen partnerships, reach more communities, and reduce barriers for those who cannot easily access in-person support close to home.

Continued...

For our members, this means continued access to the programs you know and trust, along with new opportunities for connection through virtual and community-based offerings. For donors and volunteers, it means your generosity and time are supporting families across the state while still sustaining the clubhouse that started it all. For healthcare and community partners, it offers a clearer picture of the scope of our work and the people we serve.

**Most importantly, it means that no one in Wisconsin has to face cancer alone.**

This moment is possible because of you. Because of the members who walk through our doors and log in from home. Because of the volunteers who give their time and care so freely. Because of the donors who believe emotional support is an essential part of cancer care. Because of the staff who show up every day with compassion and purpose.

**Together, you built a community that grew one relationship at a time.**

As we move into 2026, we do so with deep gratitude and optimism. We are proud of where we began, inspired by how far we have come, and committed to continuing this work together.

**One mission. One community. Now statewide.**

Thank you for being part of Gilda's Club, today and always.



### [CONTACT US](#)

Connect with us to learn more about programs, volunteer opportunities, and more!

**DALE HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

5501 University Ave.

Madison, Wisconsin 53705



**FEBRUARY CALENDAR**

- 01 Sunday worship
- 05 Choir practice 12:30pm
- 08 Sunday worship
- 10 Property & Finance
- 12 Choir practice 12:30pm
- 14 Church breakfast 8:30am
- 15 Sunday worship
- 19 Choir practice 12:30pm
- 22 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent - Worship
- 26 Choir practice 12:30pm



**Liturgists**

- February 1: Wendy Weber
- February 8: Barb Fleishman
- February 15: Janice Krall
- February 22: Verena Straubhaar