



FOCUS

April 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

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)

Great Expectations

When we look at the first Easter, we see that everyone except Jesus had expectations that were not fulfilled.

Peter expected to remain loyal to Jesus.

King Herod expected Jesus to perform a miracle.

Pilate expected the mob to free Jesus rather than Barabbas. (Luke 22–23.)

The *Jewish leaders* who orchestrated the crucifixion of Jesus expected that the disciples would try to steal his body (Matthew 27).

The *women* who came to the tomb expected to anoint a dead body with aromatic spices (Luke 24).

God exceeded all expectations at Easter.

Jesus, through death and resurrection, created a bridge between humanity and God so that we may join God in joyful fellowship.

We cannot reach God through our own efforts — by being good enough or earning our way.

But God created a wholly unexpected way of salvation.

We can come freely into God's presence because of what Jesus has done.

*Why do you look for the living among the dead?
He is not here; he has risen!* - Luke 24: 5-6 (NIV)



Adapted from an essay by Jo Len Everhart for the Upper Room

April

Breakfast

The Dale Heights monthly breakfast will be held on:

**Saturday
April 11, 2026.**

Serving will begin at 8:30 am.

The suggested donation is \$5.

RSVP to Roy if you have not already done so.



Church Office Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday

9:30am - 1:30pm

Wednesday

10:30am - 2:30pm

Birthdays:

7	Bill Mercer
10	Ndazona Ndafooka
13	Alissa Freeman
22	Gale Oakes
23	Leon Bernido
30	Gerry Klump

CHOIR

We invite all who are interested to join us.

Thursday, April 2: 11:30am

Sunday, April 5: 9:15am

Thursday, April 9: 12:30pm

Sunday, April 12: 9:15am

Thursday, April 16: 12:30pm

Sunday, April 19: 9:15am

Thursday, April 30: 12:30pm

Sunday, May 3, 9:15am

The deadline for article submissions for the May issue of the FOCUS is April 27, 2026.


Covenant Presbyterian Church
Learning God's Love. Living God's Love.

Holy Week

MAUNDY THURSDAY | APRIL 2
WORSHIP @ 7:00PM

GOOD FRIDAY | APRIL 3
WORSHIP @ 12:00PM

EASTER SUNDAY | APRIL 5
WORSHIP @ 9:00 & 11:00AM

326 S Segoe Road
Madison, WI 53705



**All women of the church are cordially invited to the
John Knox Presbyterian Women 2026 Spring Gathering**

9:30 a.m. - Saturday, May 2

**Hosted by Community Presbyterian Church PW
106 S. Reynolds St., Postville, Iowa**

***“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and
all these things will be provided for you.” - Matthew 6:33***

Our program will be presented by Midwest Mission Bible Training Center, a long-term and faith-based recovery program located in Cresco, Iowa. We will collect donations of “essentials” for the Mission ... toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, trash bags, laundry soap, dish soap, shower gel, deodorant, or pantry shelf staples (canned goods, pasta, cooking oil, etc.).

Our day will also include Dedication of the Birthday Offering and a service of communion worship.

The Postville church is wheelchair accessible and has an elevator. Lunch cost is \$8. To assist the with planning, **please RSVP by Friday, April 24** by calling or texting 563-419-7371 or email **ripleyjb56@gmail.com**. (Indicate if you have any dietary restrictions.)

A Zoom option will be available for those unable to join us in person; include your email address to request the link.

THE UPPER ROOM®

Under His Wing

A devotional and follow-up written by Melissa Levi for the Upper Room

About a month ago, one of my chickens went missing. I looked for her, but she was nowhere to be found. I was sad about it because she was friendly and a good egg-layer.

Two weeks later as I was leaving for work, there she was — sitting on the front porch. Reaching down to pet her, I gave her a little scolding for scaring me. Just then, a little yellow head popped up out of her feathers. The tiny creature tilted its head and peeped at me. Then another head popped out. Then another. There were five chicks all tucked up warm and safe under the generous cover of the hen's feathers. I gathered them up and took them to a safe spot and fed them. Over the next few days, I loved watching the attentive and patient mother hen tend to her tiny chicks. When it was time to rest, she would sit down and open her wings for the chicks to rest under.

Every time I watched the hen invite her babies to shelter in her feathers, I was reminded of Psalm 91. We can find peace and rest in the refuge that God offers us. Sometimes we forget that no matter what fear or weariness weighs us down, God is waiting for us to accept the invitation to come and find refuge and peace under his wings.

It has been some time since I wrote the devotion about my missing hen, Haley, and the surprise of her five little chicks tucked safely beneath her wings. Since then, those chicks have grown, changed, and found their own rhythms, as all living things do. And so have I.

Life in the months since that devotion was written has brought its own mix of unexpected moments—some joys, some challenges, and a few situations where I wasn't entirely sure what God was doing or how things would turn out. Isn't that how life tends to be? We take a few steps forward, feel the winds shift, and suddenly realize how exposed we feel.

What has continued to stay with me, though, is the image of those little chicks running under Haley's wings whenever something startled them. Even as they grew braver and wandered farther, they never stopped seeking her covering. And she never stopped offering it.

I think that's what I've been learning anew: **Spiritual growth doesn't mean we stop needing God's shelter — only that we learn to return to it more quickly.**

As those chicks grew, they never outgrew their mother's protection. Just like them we, never outgrow God's love, refuge, or willingness to cover us with peace. There have been moments this past year when fear whispered loudly, or worry crept in quietly—times when weariness made everything feel heavier than it should. But each time God reminded me that his wings had not moved. God's invitation had not changed.

In Psalm 91, we're told that God's faithfulness is our shield—not our own strength, resilience, or ability to keep everything in order. *God's* faithfulness. And that truth has carried me through more days than I can count.

Maybe you are walking through a season that feels uncertain or overwhelming. Maybe you're venturing into something new, dealing with something difficult, or trying to rest in a place that doesn't feel peaceful yet. Wherever you are, remember this: **You have a place under God's wing—a place of refuge, comfort, and steady love. It is still open; it is still offered; it is still enough.**

Let's keep choosing day by day to run back to the One whose care never fails us.



A chick from Melissa's devotion



Ensuring Food Access for Our Neighbors in Times of Change and Uncertainty

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known as FoodShare in Wisconsin, helps nearly 700,000 residents in our state – including children, older adults, veterans, and people with disabilities – access essential nutrition. It also strengthens our communities and economy by increasing spending at local stores and farmers' markets. When the fall federal shutdown delayed SNAP benefits, putting families' ability to feed themselves at risk, our community responded to ensure no one went hungry. During this time of uncertainty, WayForward's food pantry saw a **surge in demand**, including distributing nearly **13,000 pounds** of food in a single day – our highest this year – and 171 new households signing up. Even before this, demand was at a record high in our 45+ year history.

Thanks to our generous community, donations of food and funds kept WayForward's pantry stocked so our neighbors would have access to enough food during the SNAP delay. Together, we collected **87,851 pounds of food** (the equivalent of **67,111 meals**) from drop-offs, food drives, and our online wish list between October 21 and December 8 – **nearly triple** the amount donated during the same period last year. We could not have accomplished this without the partnership of the City of Middleton, Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District, Middleton Chamber of

Commerce, and Downtown Middleton Business Association in leading the Community-Wide Food Drive. This collective effort truly shows the impact we can have when we work together to create food security – and how together we can make it through tough times.

As we look to the future, there is still a lot of uncertainty affecting food security. Approximately 43,700 Wisconsinites will face new barriers to retaining their SNAP benefits due to expanded federal work requirements and bureaucratic hurdles introduced by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. About half of these previously exempt recipients will be "at immediate, high risk of losing benefits," according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. For the first time, parents caring for children aged 14+ and adults aged 55-64 must work, volunteer, and/or participate in a work-training program for at least 80 hours per month to remain eligible. As a direct result of these changes, thousands of Dane County households that depended on SNAP will need to rely more on local sources of support, such as the WayForward Resources Food Pantry. No one should have to choose between rent and groceries. We believe that together, we can create stability in our community, even in the midst of uncertainty around us.

A SEASON OF GIVING



\$123,874

contributed during
GivingTuesday by 179 donors



\$45,000

raised from the Holiday
Art Market at FCI, with
approximately 1,500
people attending



67,389

total pounds of food and
860 Thanksgiving basket
items were given out by
our food pantry between
November 18 and 24.



525

Holiday Baking Baskets were distributed to
individuals and families visiting our food pantry

thank you



We strive to meet the needs of our community by providing essential items to those who shop the food pantry. We understand the significance of having a well-stocked pantry, and we constantly work towards ensuring that everyone has access to nutritious meals. To better serve you, we have compiled a list of our top 10 most needed items. These items are crucial in meeting diverse dietary requirements and ensuring a balanced diet for individuals and families who access food from our pantry. By donating these items, you can make a significant impact and help us provide access to a variety of foods.

- ✓ Cereal
- ✓ Canned fruit and vegetables
- ✓ Canned proteins (tuna and chicken)
- ✓ Canned hearty soups and stews
- ✓ Rice
- ✓ Condiments
- ✓ Spices
- ✓ Variety of pastas and sauces
- ✓ Vegetable oil
- ✓ Baking items (flour, sugar, oil, baking soda/powder)
- ✓ Snack items (fruit snacks, granola bars, etc.)

Let's Talk about Invasives

(like Creeping Bellflower, Creeping Charlie, Goutweed)

with **Matt Wallrath**

Thursday, April 2, 2026

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Sequoia Library Rooms A and B

4340 Tokay Blvd, Madison

Be sustainable and bring your flask!

Matt will talk about some of the worst offenders in our gardens - creeping bellflower, creeping Charlie, goutweed (bishop's weed) and more. What about trees and shrubs? What is beautiful yet harmful and what is recommended to plant instead? What might be the economic and environmental impact of invasives?

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/wifdn/learn/invasive-species-i-d-and-impacts/>
Wisconsin Regulated Invasive Plant Identification Resource Page



Photo (c) Katy Chaka

Creeping bellflower may be pretty to look at but bad news in your garden or yard!

Bio: Matt is happy to continue his career as a conservationist with UW-Madison as of May 2023. A Milwaukee-born and Wisconsin-educated ecologist, he started working in the environmental field in the Pacific Northwest when he served two terms as an AmeriCorps member doing wetland habitat restoration with the Washington Conservation Corps. Matt also served with the Washington State Department of Ecology, and taught outdoor education on Orcas Island in the Salish Sea. There he owned and operated his own landscape contractor company, helped found the Orcas Island Youth Conservation Corps, and served as an appointed Commissioner for the San Juan County Land Bank. Matt completed a professional M.S. in Environmental Conservation in August 2018 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Nelson Institute and then worked for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. When Matt is not at work, you will find him teaching modern board games, on the Ultimate Frisbee field, hiking, canoeing and playing the tuba!



DALE HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5501 University Ave.

Madison, Wisconsin 53705

Happy Easter!

APRIL CALENDAR

- 02 Choir practice **11:30am**
- 05 Easter - Sunday worship
- 09 Choir practice 12:30pm
- 11 Church breakfast 8:30am
- 12 Sunday worship
Book study class 11:30am
- 14 Property & Finance
- 16 Choir practice 12:30pm
- 19 Sunday worship
- 26 Sunday worship
- 30 Choir practice 12:30pm

Liturgists

- April 5: Edi Chan
- April 12: Melanie Klump
- April 19: Barb Fleishman
- April 26: Wendy Weber

