



FOCUS

July-August 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:
Rev. Kathleen Owens

Clerk:
Gale Oakes

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

This is Our Time

One day, more than 25 years ago, I found myself wandering through the tumbledown landscape of the camp owned by the Presbyterian Church in Cuba. It was the end of the 1990s. Support from the Soviet Union had ended with that system's collapse. The economy was in free fall. Hurricanes had ravaged the island. American sanctions – a half century old - continued to drive deprivation.

We spent a day at the camp and found it to be in tough shape. Trees down. Buildings damaged. No clean water. Intermittent electricity. Storm debris strewn across the grounds. Few resources.

While walking through the camp, I found a little handwritten sign tacked to a tree. *Habra tiempos mejoer, pero este es nuestro tiempo.* There will be better times, but this is our time.

During a time when nothing seemed to offer a way forward, someone had proclaimed their trust in a God who will not be overwhelmed or defeated by this world. That sign reframed a reality defined by chaos and despair and saw it, rather, as a time to hold fast to the assurance that God will never leave us.

There will be better times, but this is our time. Rather than be undone by the challenges of our time, why not embrace them as opportunities to live faithfully and do our part to transform the world for the sake of, and in the name of, Jesus, whom we follow.

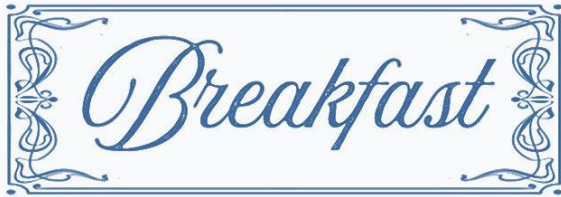
I will take you as my people, and I will be your God.

(Exodus 6:7)

Adapted from an essay by Rev. Dr. Tim Hart-Andersen in *The Presbyterian Outlook*



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Saturday, July 18
and
Saturday, August 8

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

RSVP to Roy or sign up
 on the sheet in the concourse.



Did you know?

A Presbyterian pastor, John Witherspoon, was the only clergyman to sign the Declaration of Independence!

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday

9:30am - 1:30pm

Wednesday

10:30am - 2:30pm

July Birthdays

- 1 Kris Tracey
- 2 Debbie Doshier
- 8 Bonnie Savonne
- 11 Melanie Klump
- 12 Marcia Holman
- 12 Stella Engebregtsen
- 23 Otty Schaefer
- 27 Jennifer Jones

July Anniversaries

- 16 Sandy & Don Weigt
- 25 Bill & Marcia Holman

August Birthdays

- 6 Cecilia Martinez
- 8 Lenore Mercer
- 11 Bill Holman
- 19 Janice Krall
- 27 Jane Williams

August Anniversaries

- 11 Gale Oakes & Dale Buske
- 31 Vicki & Gerry Klump

The deadline for article submissions for the September issue of the FOCUS is August 24, 2026.



The HighPoint church Youth Group is doing their Mission to Madison this year from **July 13-July 16**. This year, as in past years, they have volunteered a day to do projects for our church.

In previous years this involved spreading mulch, weeding and painting/staining of the garages, outdoor signs and benches. We felt there was less of that to do this year and **they have agreed to make their services available to our congregation members** who could use help.

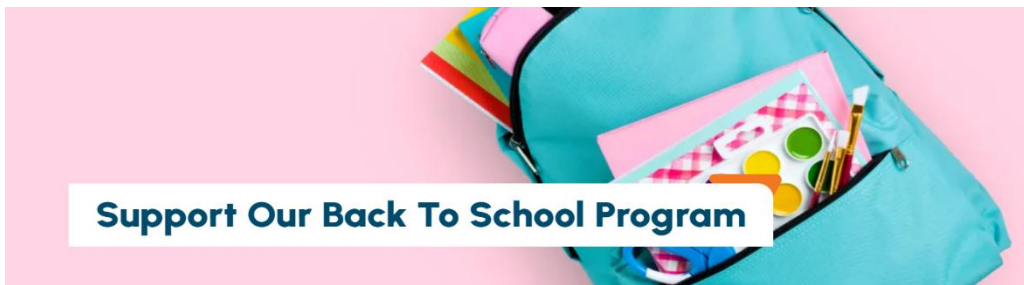
These are 5th and 6th graders usually numbering 5 or 6 kids plus an adult. Usually one group works in the morning 9-11:30 and the other in the afternoon 1-3:30. They would be able to do yard work and general projects.

If you have anything you would be interested in having them do, let Gerry Klump know.

Please remember their age and the skill level they will have. We will provide them with water and a snack, but if you wish to give them something as well it would certainly be appreciated.

Access to your home would only be needed in case of bathroom break.





Help kids be ready for the first day of school.

We are grateful for the way our community comes together to make sure kids from 4K to college have what they need to start school ready to learn. Each year, our Back to School program provides backpacks and supplies to more than 550 students. This effort would not happen without financial support and donations from individuals, organizations, and businesses and the work of our many volunteers!

We're accepting donations of NEW school supplies **June 1–August 12, 2026 at the WayForward Distribution Center, Monday–Friday, 9 am to 4 pm.**

- Backpacks – sturdy bags designed to last the year (see [buying guide](#) for details)
- Dry erase markers
- Crayola thin or wide markers – 10-pack
- Highlighters
- Composition notebooks – wide ruled
- Spiral notebooks – wide and college ruled in assorted colors
- 1-inch binders and binder dividers
- Poly pocket folders without prongs – assorted colors
- Earbuds or headphones
- Loose leaf paper – wide & college ruled
- Graph paper – loose leaf & notebooks
- Crayola colored pencils – 12 pencil pack
- Post-it notes – 3×3
- Ruled index cards – 3×5
- Sharpies (black) – ultra-fine & fine
- Pencil pouches and boxes
- Glue sticks

Buying Guide: Check out our [school supply list and backpack buying guide](#).

Shop Online: Purchase items easily online from our [Amazon Wishlist](#).

Donate funds to [help kids start the school year ready to learn](#) with supplies, nutritious food, and stable housing.

Questions about supporting Back to School? Contact Jill Bradshaw, Community Engagement Manager, jill@wayforwardresources.org or (608) 836-2751.

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 and spices
- ✓ Variety of pastas and sauces
- ✓ Vegetable oil
- ✓ Baking items (flour, sugar, oil, baking soda/powder)
- ✓ Snack items (fruit snacks, granola bars, etc.)



August Presbytery Meeting



Date: Saturday, August 15

Theme: Worship and Unity

Location: Bread of Life, 2155 University Ave. Dubuque, IA

Format: In-person only

Childcare: Ages 10 and under. Request at least 2 weeks ahead

CommunicationAssistant@wpcdbq.org or **(563) 583-1729**

Hotel: It's a busy August weekend in Dubuque, so we've secured a group rate of **\$209/night** at the **Holiday Inn** for August 14 and/or August 15. Reservations must be made by **July 15** to ensure this rate. Book using **[this link](#)**, or call the hotel at **(563) 556-2000** and mention John Knox Presbytery!

- Holiday Inn: 450 Main St. Dubuque (**[Google Maps](#) / [Apple Maps](#)**)

Dubuque is a great little river city, and we hope you'll plan to stay and explore a bit while you're there! A few additional lodging options and fun things to do around town are included in this **[visitor guide](#)**. Worth a look if you'd like to make a weekend of it!

What to expect:

- Worship woven throughout the day, not just at the start—with a look at why we worship the way we do
- Music front and center
- Highlights from this year's General Assembly
- **Afternoon panel:** Bread of Life leaders on how two congregations became one — what worked, what was hard, and what it means for unity across the presbytery

This one's worth the trip. More details and registration coming soon. See you in Dubuque!

Putting the “Connect” in Connectional Church

From General Assembly to the Synod of Lakes and Prairies to John Knox Presbytery to all of our congregations, we support each other in ministry through our per capita dollars and mission pledges. We heard about several of those connections at the May presbytery meeting.



Ruling Elder **Laurie Jones** and Teaching Elder **Tammy Rider** represent John Knox Presbytery at the synod level and attended the synod meeting in late April. Their report was shared at our last presbytery meeting. **Synod School** (July 26-31) is one of the gems of our synod’s ministries. Classes from congregational leadership to line dancing...you can find something to learn at Synod School! You can find more information in the Synod School article and website below. We also heard about the grant opportunities our synod is offering to congregations. Learn more below or on the [Synod website](#). Thanks to Laurie and Tammy for keeping us connected!

Our presbytery and all of our congregations connect with the General Assembly as well. Our last presbytery meeting included a commissioning service for those who will be representing us at **General Assembly** (June 22-July 2) in Milwaukee: Teaching Elders **Dan McCurdy** and **Jo Wiersema**, Ruling Elders **Tom Stovall** and **Melissa Schmidt**, Youth Advisory Delegate **Katherine Barden** and Alternate **Sara Tonje**. An event of this magnitude takes a lot of planning. Helping to make this year’s General Assembly gathering productive and memorable is our own **Stacy Cavanaugh**. She’s been working for months as part of a team to plan the entire event. Many thanks to Stacy and to all of our delegates as they participate in the work of the General Assembly!

All of this, the meeting of the General Assembly, the work of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and all we do in John Knox Presbytery would not be possible without the faithful contributions of per capita dollars and mission pledges of our congregations. Thank you for your continuing support of all we are accomplishing as a “community of communities”!



227th General Assembly offers meaningful worship for assembly-goers and beyond

The in-person assembly will include four worship services, plus opportunities to worship in local churches



Many assembly participants danced between worship and plenary during the 226th General Assembly in 2024. Photo by Rich Copley

June 26, 2026 Layton Williams Berkes Presbyterian News Service

Hundreds of Presbyterians are descending on Milwaukee for the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s 227th General Assembly. The national biannual gathering represents the denomination's highest governing body, and the primary focus of the week-long event will be discussing and voting on dozens of items of business submitted by presbyteries and others from all over the country. The decisions made by the assembly will shape the denomination in the years ahead.

However, matters of governance are not the only meaningful work assembly participants will have the chance to participate in. The week will also offer [multiple opportunities for worship](#) both during the assembly sessions themselves and within congregations on Sunday morning, both locally and across the country.

The Rev. Dr. David Gambrell, Associate for Worship within Presbyterian Life & Witness, noted that "the whole assembly will be steeped in worship from the online committee meetings to Sunday morning in local congregations to services that take place throughout the week of plenary."

The General Assembly Worshipping Planning Team, which includes Gambrell and the co-moderators of the 226th General Assembly — the Rev. CeCe Armstrong and the Rev. Tony Larson — has spent the months leading up to the assembly working to organize four worship services that will take place throughout the week.

Each of the services is grounded in the assembly's theme of "Persevering toward Wholeness" which was chosen by the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly and Executive Director of PL&W, the Rev. Jihyun Oh, as well as the image of the tree of life, with leaves "for the healing of the nations" (Rev. 22:2). Worship will include "passionate preaching, stirring song, fervent prayer, and inspiring testimony to the healing and reconciling work of Christ among us." Three of the services will feature different preachers, with a fourth service centered on prayer.

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Emphasizing the important role of worship in the assembly, Gambrell said, "We are gathering as the body of Christ, and it's important for everything that we do to be grounded and centered in an encounter with God in Christ ... **We come knowing that God is already there and that Christ is ready to meet us in unexpected and transforming ways.**"

Excerpted from the *Presbyterian News Service*.
Copies of the full article are available in the concourse.



Updates from GA 227

Overture on reviewing the restructuring of World Mission sees a substitute motion adopted by GA227

The motion calls for a commission to, among other things, review decision-making processes and actions taken

Assembly addresses ordination, AI, Christian nationalism and a new confession

Young adults and veterans help shape debate

Morning plenary brings celebrations, somber remembrance and a whole lot of ORD-07

Amid ongoing review of the Ordination Task Force report, the assembly's first substitute motion stirs up very Presbyterian excitement

GA commissioners and advisory delegates put in a bit of overtime Monday night

Constitutional items are settled, and work on the Ordination Task Force report gets started

Overtures on racism, gender-affirming care are approved Monday

Commissioners to the 227th General Assembly discern items of business from the Racial Justice and Gender and Sexuality Justice Committees

CITY OF MADISON - COMPOST FOOD SCRAPS

City of Madison FREE food scraps drop off at neighborhood farmers' markets schedule:

Eastside Farmers' Market

- *Dates:* April 28 to October 27, 2026
- *Hours:* Tuesdays, 4:00 to 7:00pm
- McPike Park - 202 S. Ingersoll Street

Westside Community Market

- *Dates:* April 11 to October 31, 2026
- *Hours:* Saturdays, 7:00am - 12:30pm
- University Research Park - 505 S. Rosa Rd

South Madison Farmers' Market

- *Dates:* May 19 to October 27, 2026
- *Hours:* Tuesdays, 2:00 to 6:00pm
- Madison Labor Temple - 1602 S. Park Street

Capitol View Farmers' Market

- *Dates:* May 27 to October 14, 2026
- *Hours:* Wednesdays, 3:00 to 7:00pm
- 5901 Sharpsburg Drive – Near City View Park



DALE HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5501 University Ave.
Madison, Wisconsin 53705



JULY CALENDAR

- 05 Worship
- 07 Choir 6pm
- 12 Worship / Book study class
- 14 Choir 6pm
 Property & Finance 7pm
- 18** Church breakfast 8:30am *
- 19 Worship / Book study class
- 26 Worship

***Date change**



LITURGISTS

- July 5: Barb Fleishman
- July 12: Verena Straubhaar
- July 19: Gerry Klump
- July 26: Janice Krall