



FOCUS

October 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)

Stewardship: Honoring God with What We've Been Given

Stewardship is more than giving—it's a way of life! As believers, we are called to be faithful caretakers of all that God has entrusted to us: our time, talents, finances, and even our church building and community.

Scripture reminds us that everything belongs to God:

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."

—Psalm 24:1

Whether it's serving in ministry, supporting missions, or simply showing up with a willing heart, stewardship is how we live out our gratitude and trust in Him.

Let's remember:

- **Giving is worship.**
- **Serving is love in action.**
- **Caring for our church is honoring His house.**
- **Reaching out is sharing His grace.**

What has God placed in your hands—and how are you using it for His glory? Whether it's a skill, a resource, or simply time to listen, every gift matters. Stewardship isn't about how much we have, but how faithfully we use it. Let's be intentional, generous, and joyful in all we do.

A Prayer for Stewardship

LORD, thank you for the gifts you've placed in our hands. Teach us to be wise and joyful stewards of all you've entrusted to us. May our giving reflect your generosity, our service reflect your love, and our lives reflect your glory. Help us to build your kingdom with open hands and faithful hearts. AMEN.

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

October

Breakfast

The Dale Heights monthly breakfast will be held on:

**Saturday
October 17, 2026.**

Serving will begin at 8:30 am.

The suggested donation is \$5.

RSVP to Roy if you have not already done so.

October Birthdays

06 Wendy Weber
08 Barb Davidson
31 Barb Fleishman

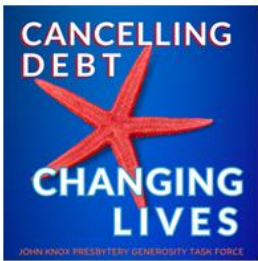


Church Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday 9:30a-1:30p
Wednesday: 10:30a-2:30p



*The deadline for article submissions for the
November issue of the FOCUS is October 26, 2026.*



The Starfish Campaign for 2026 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

Nobody decides to rack up medical debt on purpose. It can start by taking a child to the emergency room, being injured in a car accident or receiving a cancer diagnosis. It's not a choice. When the bills start to show up, there's no way families can continue to provide basic needs and pay the medical bills. A family's life gets turned upside-down. Their credit rating tanks, making it much more difficult to get a car loan or rent an apartment. Doctor's appointments are postponed or people simply stop going. They ration their medications instead of taking them as directed. The stress, anxiety and depression they face affects their mental health. These symptoms often go on for years as collection calls and letters bombard their everyday lives. They want to pay the bills but there just isn't enough income.

The dollars we give to the Starfish Campaign will cancel the debt, restore credit ratings, relieve stress and change

thousands of lives. Our mission partner, Undue Medical Debt, is critical to the impact our ministry has. They are able to buy debt in large bundles, millions of dollars at a time, for pennies on the dollar. They use donations like ours to cancel debt by at least one hundred times face value. That's how \$5 becomes at least \$500, how \$100 becomes at least \$10,000. In the first four years of this ministry, we've seen that, on average, a \$20 donation will remove the medical debt that sends a family's life out of control. That is flat out amazing!

This is why we do what we do. This is the ministry God has called us to undertake as a presbytery, a community of communities. We've already helped 14,530 families and this year, we will help thousands more. We invite every worshipping community in John Knox Presbytery to be a part of what God is doing in our midst.

The Starfish Campaign is receiving contributions through Sunday, October 18.

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



How to Vote in the November 3rd General Election

At the Wisconsin Council of Churches, we often speak of the importance of connecting "Jesus and Justice in Public." We know that the Church has a deep history of healthy engagement in the political sphere and want to help encourage Christians to be part of a healthy civic life...On a very basic level, both ["politics" and ...civic engagement] are about community and how we are in community with each other - an essential reality of the life of faith. – Excerpt *Jesus and Justice in Public – A Study-Action Guide* by the WCC



How to Vote

Go to the Wisconsin Voter Information site at <https://myvote.wi.gov> to vote by absentee mail, to find your polling place, to register to vote and see a sample ballot.

Photo identification is required. To find out what forms of photo ID are allowed, how to obtain a free photo ID if you don't have one, requirements for absentee voting, etc., call your local elections official or visit <https://elections.wi.gov/photoid>

What is on my Ballot?

Local Issues

- Sheriffs, Clerks of Court, Referendums
- ✓ State
 - Governor, Lt Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer
 - Members of the Assembly and some State Senators
- ✓ Federal
 - Representative to Congress
- ✓ 3 Constitutional Amendments (see reverse for more info)

How do I learn more about candidates?

The League of Women offers vote411.org where you can enter your address and view candidate information personalized for your ballot.

View your ballot and find your polling place at www.myvote.wi.gov

Constitutional Amendments

There are three constitutional amendments on the November ballot. They ask questions about:

- ✓ The Partial Veto
- ✓ The Freedom to Gather in Places of Worship During an Emergency Referendum
- ✓ Wisconsin Governmental Entity Discrimination Prohibited

The Wisconsin Council of Churches has theological reflections and resources to better understand these amendments. The WCC has taken no stand on how to vote, but offers these resources that reflect the diversity of our membership for your prayerful discernment.

View the resources at:
www.wichurches.org/amendments2026



Love Your Neighbor in an Election Season

The WCC has created resources for congregations to engage in faith and democracy work and explore how to better love our neighbors in this election season. Resources include:

- A Church Democracy Pledge
- A Faith & Democracy email list
- Resources to celebrate Love Your Election Worker Sunday on October 18
- Guides about the 3 constitutional amendments
- Educational resources about elections
- A Poll Chaplain Program
- And more!

Learn more at:
www.wichurches.org/elections

loving your neighbor
IN ELECTION SEASON
WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES





Tuesday, October 27, 6-8 pm

**Sequoia Library Meeting Room
4340 Tokay Blvd Madison**

Join Director of the Marquette Law School Poll Charles Franklin as he discusses the political landscape a week before the fall election. He will examine current public opinion in the top races and the issues influencing our votes.

Sponsored by *Midvale Heights Community Association*, this presentation is free and open to the public. Registration is not necessary and it will also be accessible via Zoom via the library.

See <https://www.midvaleheights.org/event-details/mhca-annual-meeting-2026> for more details.



Start your day inspired on **October 8, 2026 at 8:00 am.**

We're excited to announce that our
Homes for Families Fundraising Breakfast
will take place:

- **Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2026
- **Location:** Alliant Energy Center
- **Time:** 8:00am – 9:00am
- This event is **FREE**

This special morning brings together community members, local leaders, and friends of The Road Home to celebrate the impactful work being done to support families experiencing homelessness in Dane County.

Guests will enjoy a delicious breakfast, connect with like-minded supporters, and hear powerful stories from the families we serve. Your participation helps us continue providing safe, stable housing and the resources families need to thrive.

To learn how you can join in on the conversation,
please visit www.trhome.org/breakfast



Madison church plans rebuild, over 100 rent-restricted apartments

By Will Briggs | Sep 24, 2026

A west side church plans to add more workforce housing to Madison as the congregation plots a new course for its own future.

Dale Heights Presbyterian Church is proposing to demolish its existing sanctuary along University Avenue and construct around 110 rent-restricted apartments across three new buildings.

The revamp of Dale Heights' grounds would take place in two stages. First, Madison's Threshold Sacred Development would construct a four-story, mixed-use building at the corner of University Avenue and Norman Way, with ground floor community space, residential amenities and around 45 apartments above.

Both Dale Heights and Madison Sah Lang Church, which has been sharing the existing building, would have separate gathering spaces. Rather than pew-lined sanctuaries, the two spaces would have an open concept to better allow use by community groups.

"It will be stackable chairs because we'd like to be able to use that space also as community space," Gerry Klump, a Dale Heights congregation member who sits on the church's governing board, said at a recent public meeting. "That's one of the other things we wanted to try and do with this change is to give community space as well as housing."

Once the first building goes up, the developers would tear down the existing church building to make way for two residential facilities, with around 30-40 apartment units in each. One would be along University Avenue to the northwest of the mixed-use building, with a plaza area in between and pedestrian access from the street. The other facility would be toward the center of the existing lot.

Rent for the apartments, ranging from studios to two-bedroom units, would be set at around 70% of area median income, or about \$64,000 per year currently.

"You're talking about teachers, nurses, Kwik Trip managers — those people that are needing a place to live and finding it very difficult," Klump said in an interview. "You've got a lot of development going up. It's still not enough for the housing in the community."

Parking access for the property's residents and visitors would be off Norman Way, with both surface and underground spaces. The church's two existing memorial garden spaces would be preserved, providing green space and continuing the tie between the congregation and the bigger property.

“We've felt from the beginning with (Dale Heights') leadership that we'd really like to preserve those at all costs,” said Jake DeHaven, Threshold's design lead. “That's really offering this opportunity to have these fairly well-established, really beautiful, high canopy parks and little gardens around with this development.”

In embarking on the redevelopment process, Dale Heights joins a growing number of churches in the Madison area transforming existing facilities into housing and community space. As with other congregations, Klump said the church, founded in the 1950s, faces more building maintenance and repairs as attendance has declined since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially as members have aged or moved away.

By 2023, the church's financial estimates showed it would only be able to continue in its current form for another six or seven years, and needed six-figure roof and chimney repairs would have put more strain on an existing budget deficit. The situation prompted church members to embark upon an intensive discernment process.

“The whole focus was on what is God calling Dale Heights Presbyterian Church to be?” Klump said. “We know what we are right now, but what are we supposed to be? So when we looked at the problems that we have in Madison, there's a severe shortage of housing in all income levels, and we have this big

property here that is not being used for anything.”

Several residents at the recent public meeting expressed concerns about the project. Traffic, including more cars potentially trying to turn left onto University Avenue, was an issue for some neighbors.

City planner Chris Wells said he would reach out to the Traffic Engineering department for more information on its plans, noting the two proposed entrances off Norman Way came at the department's suggestion. City Council member John Guequierre, who represents the area, added that reconstructing nearby portions of Norman Way is in the city's long-term transportation plan and he hopes the section by the new development could be added to that process.

Michael Carlson, Threshold's development manager, lamented that addressing car traffic is usually one of the hardest aspects of planning a new development, due to America's more auto-centric infrastructure compared to other countries.

“We share concerns about traffic and the impact of cars on the built environment,” Carlson said. “It's something we talk about all the time. Frankly, it frustrates us as developers because of the cost obligations and also the space obligations, and it imposes real constraints on how you might otherwise think about a site. We looked

at probably a dozen different approaches toward how to manage cars and the housing of cars on this site.”

One neighbor expressed fatigue with the amount of development occurring in Madison.

“I appreciate Dale Heights and your thought put into this,” Nancy Price said. “But as a neighbor, I’m extremely concerned by the development. If you ask me, I don’t think we need more housing, but we see these developments going up everywhere. I don’t know. It just seems like overkill.”

For Dale Heights members, though, the decision to redevelop in this way was deliberate. By choosing to change now, they envision having more agency in the process and addressing a need in the community rather than waiting and having the land be sold to a big developer.

“It came down eventually to: This is what the reality is. If we’ve got five years, and if we do nothing at the end of those five years, what is going to happen?” Klump told the Cap Times. “Things are going to change. Do you want to have some control in that change? And that’s where we finally got people to work through that fact. Dale Heights is not the building. Dale Heights is the people and the memories you have, and it’s that connection that’s important.”

Dale Heights’ plans would require approval from the city, with the process yet to kick off. Klump said the “hopeful” timeline for the project would see crews break ground on the first building in the first half of next year, with the goal of occupancy by the middle of 2028.

[Will Briggs](#) is the housing and transportation reporter for the Cap Times. Will writes about housing, transportation, development and more related to growth in the Madison region. Email story ideas and tips to wbriggs@captimes.com.



What I tell elderly Christians in troubled times

by **Brenda Monroe Moten**

Published in the *Presbyterian Outlook*: March 3, 2026 | Updated: May 21, 2026

Most Tuesday mornings and Sunday afternoons, I lead worship at a care facility in Madison, Wisconsin. The congregation is almost entirely White. Most are in their 80s and 90s. Some have dementia. Some are sharp as tacks. All of them are closer to glory than I am.

I am 73, Black, and Presbyterian. I recently buried my father, who was a few weeks shy of stepping into his 100th year of life. He remembered things I only read about. Now he is gone, and I find myself becoming the elder — the one who carries the memory forward.

This is what I'm thinking about when I stand before the saints on Tuesday mornings: **What do you preach to people who are dying when so much else feels like it is dying too?**

They ask me for comfort in their own ways. Not always with words. Sometimes it's in their eyes when I arrive — a weariness that isn't just physical. They watch the news. They've watched it for decades. Some of them remember when it looked like this before.

They lived through things I only learned in books. And now, at the end of their lives, they are watching it again. The lies told from high places are repeated until repetition passes for truth. The cruelty dressed up as strength. Journalists arrested for the crime of bearing witness. Dissenters

treated as enemies. The vulnerable were made more vulnerable by the very people who swore to protect them. They have lived long enough to recognize the pattern — and long enough to know what it costs when the church stays silent.

What do I say to them?

I do not say, "It will be okay." I don't know that. Neither do they. We are not children, and this is not a bedtime story.

I do not say, "You won't have to see the worst of it." That is not a comfort. That is an abandonment. And besides — some of them already saw the worst of it, decades ago, in other forms.

What I say is this: *God is faithful.*

Not "everything happens for a reason." Not "God is in control" in the way that flattens mystery into formula. I say: God is faithful. Which means: God does not abandon. God has never abandoned. Not in Egypt. Not in Babylon. Not in the Jim Crow South. Not in the nursing home. Not now.

I say: *You have been faithful as best you can.* Perhaps not doing everything right, but when you knew better, you did better. And with time and experience, your faith increased.

I say: *The story is not over.* You will not see the end. Neither will I. Moses didn't see

the Promised Land. He saw it from a distance, and then he died, and Joshua carried it forward. That is how it works. That is how it has always worked. We are all mid-story. The question is not whether we see the ending. The question is whether we are faithful in our chapter.

And then I say: *You are not alone.*

This is the part where I see them breathe. The isolation of dying is profound. The isolation of dying while the world feels like it's unraveling is worse.

They need to know – we all need to know – that the communion of saints is real. That the church is not just the people in this room, but the great cloud of witnesses. That my father, who just stepped into glory, is part of that company now. That they will be too.

That the story belongs to God, and God is not finished.

I am a Black woman preaching in White spaces. I have been doing this for years. I have learned that faithfulness looks different depending on where you stand. For some of my congregation, faithfulness means reckoning with things they never had to see before — or things they saw and didn't name. For me, faithfulness means

staying in the room. Staying in the work. Staying even when I am tired.

We are all being asked the same question right now: Will you stay faithful when you cannot see how it ends?

The saints in the care facility are teaching me the answer. They show up on Tuesday mornings and Sunday afternoons. They sing the hymns. They listen to the sermon and say their Amens. They speak about their joys and concerns. They pray. They let me pray over them. And at the end of each service, they sing enthusiastically, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." They hold my hand with trembling fingers and say, "Thank you for coming."

They are dying. And they are faithful.

I think that's the only sermon any of us need right now.

So I carry it back with me — out of the care facility, into the parking lot, into a world that is asking all of us the same question it asks them. You do not have to see how it ends. You do not have to fix it. You have to be faithful in your chapter. Show up. Stay in the room. Sing the hymn, even off-key.

The God who holds the whole world in his hands is holding your part of it, too.

Brenda Monroe Moten is an ordained Elder, Bible teacher, and Christian writer with a lifetime of ministry experience. She holds certificates in Biblical Studies, Congregational Leadership and Bible and Ministry from Moody Bible Institute and University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, and has served as an Engle's Fellow of Princeton Theological Seminary.

The poster features a decorative border with autumn-themed elements like leaves, flowers, and berries. At the top center, the year '2026' is displayed in white on a dark teal oval background. Below this, the church name 'Glenwood Moravian Church' is written in a dark green, bold font. The main title '40th Annual German Dinner' is prominently displayed in a large, red, stylized font, with a small orange flower icon above the word 'Annual'. The date and time 'Saturday, October 17 4:30-7:00 pm' are in a dark green font. A line of text states 'Carry outs available – Call 233-8709'. A request to bring canned goods is written in a bold, italicized dark green font. A description of the food is provided in a standard dark green font. The ticket prices are listed in a bold dark green font. The address is at the bottom in a standard dark green font. A red apple illustration is located in the bottom right corner.

2026

Glenwood Moravian Church

**40th Annual
German Dinner**

Saturday, October 17

4:30-7:00 pm

Carry outs available – Call 233-8709

***Please bring a canned good to support
local food pantries***

Delicious, authentic German food including
spaetzle, sauerbraten, rotkraut, beans, red
cabbage, and apple dessert!

Live music, bake sale, fun and fellowship

\$23/Adult Children 12 & Under \$8

725 Gilmore St, Madison, WI 53711



Presbyterian
Peace
Fellowship

Count Me In!

No single step can solve our gun violence crisis. It will take many steps in combination, such as ...

10

**Ways America
Can Prevent Gun
Violence**

1. **Require background checks for all guns sold, including at gun shows**
2. **Ban assault weapons.**
3. **Require safe storage of firearms when not in use.**
4. **Restore federal funding for gun violence research on causes and solutions.**
5. **Ban bump stocks & other accessories that make firearms more lethal.**
6. **Make gun violence a public health issue.**
7. **Ban large-capacity ammunition magazines.**
8. **Make gun trafficking a federal crime.**
9. **Lift the blanket immunity of the gun industry.**
10. **Implement Gun Violence Restraining Orders, allowing the courts to remove firearms from those who are a danger to themselves or others.**

A Presbyterian Prayer for Action

(Adapted from an Overture to the 223rd General Assembly PC(USA))

Gracious God, whose mercy never ends, whose Spirit brings the Kairos moment for change: We confess our past willingness to abide the deaths of over one million, six hundred thousand souls lost to gun violence since 1968: the children, the parents, the distraught, as well as millions more injured, ruined, orphaned, widowed. Help us to comprehend this carnage and not become numb.

We call upon you, LORD; we have nowhere else to turn. Galvanize all of us, every congregation in the Presbyterian Church. Wake us up in our pews and our lives; do not let Christ find us asleep on this watch. Rather, LORD, grant to our church members, both those of us who own guns and those of us who do not, a unity of purpose to change the national debate on gun violence. Show us the path.

At all the places where you are proclaimed, give us courage to stand against principalities and powers. Grant us the joy of using the gifts that you provide – energy, intelligence, imagination and love – to help our communities and our nation heal from this tragedy and sorrow. In Christ's name we pray, **Amen.**

CONQUER YOUR LEAVES

Protect our lakes,
help pollinators,
and defend your
lawn by following
this guide.

WHY IT MATTERS

Keep Our Lakes Clean

Leaves contain phosphorus and other nutrients. When rain falls on leaves in the street, it makes a nutrient-rich runoff – like a leaf tea – that goes to our lakes. This “leaf tea” causes toxic algae blooms and other problems in our lakes.

Good for Pollinators

Caterpillars, bumblebees, and other beneficial insects like fireflies use leaves kept on our lawns as cover to stay safe throughout the harsh winter months.

Valuable to Your Garden

You can use your leaves as mulch, or you can turn your leaves into compost with the right mix of materials and tools.



CLEAR THE GUTTER



The biggest impact you can have is raking leaves from the gutter before rainstorms. Doing this prevents leaf tea from being made.



Leave the Leaves

If about 20% of your lawn is covered with leaves, you can just leave the leaves where they fell. They will decompose on their own and give beneficial insects additional spots for cover during the winter months.



Mulch the Leaves

Around 50% of your yard is covered in leaves? Try mulching. Keep the leaves whole and use them like mulch around your garden. Remember, mulch should be around 2 inches deep. Or, just use your lawnmower to move leaves right where they fell to add nutrients to your lawn.



Compost the Leaves

Mix three parts fall leaves to one part grass clippings or other greens in a container. Add the right amount of water. And in time you will have compost. Free guides with more details on how to make the compost are available at libraries and from the Streets Division's website.



Follow City Collection Rules

After you've mulched all you can mulch, composted all you can compost, and left all you can leave, it's time for city collection. Place your leaves out for pickup on a set-out date for your home or take your leaves to a drop-off site. Set-out dates and rules are available on the Streets Division's website.

Leaf Resources

More information about how to manage your leaves, from composting guides to collection guidelines, can be found on the Streets Divisions' yard waste website.

Contact Info

Streets Division East: 608-246-4532
Streets Division West: 608-266-4681
streets@cityofmadison.com
cityofmadison.com/YardWaste

Gas Prices Killing You & Your Family Budget?

We Can Help You Save Money!



Drive \$mart Wisconsin Meet

Proven...Not Promised. D\$W has been teaching \$mart Eco-Driving skills for over 20 years, and they can help you get 10-30% better mileage in your current vehicle, immediately. Learn \$mart Driving skills that will improve your mileage, lower your gas costs, and help you become a safer driver at the same time.

Don't believe this? Come check us out.

There will also be a Diverse Electrified Vehicle Display at the church, featuring hybrids, plug-in hybrids, and battery electric vehicles, and you can talk with the owners about any questions you have about the benefits of going electrified.

Free and open to the public, Saturday, Oct. 3, from 10 to 2

Middleton UCC Church, 645 Schewe Road



Click For more info: <https://mailchi.mp/drivesmartwi.com/64th-dw-meet-agenda-5869361?e=0328e98c6b>

DALE HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5501 University Ave.

Madison, Wisconsin 53705

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 04 Worship – K. Owens – *Communion*
- 08 Choir practice 12n
- 11 Worship – S. Nuernberg
- 13 Property & Finance 7p
- 15 Choir practice 12n
- 17 Church Breakfast 8:30a
- 18 Worship – M. Krichko
- 25 Worship – B. Moten

Liturgists

- October 4: Janice Krall
- October 11: Verena Straubhaar
- October 18: Carey Fleischmann
- October 25: Jim Fleischmann

