

LIVING WATERS

Manitowish Waters Community Presbyterian Church

May 2025

Going All In

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, [Jesus] saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. (Matthew 4:18-20, NRSV)

These days, many congregations (including ours) are struggling with questions of “engagement.” As churches notice dips in attendance, volunteerism, and pledging, we are all trying to find new ways to get people more actively engaged in ministry. Within our Presbyterian tradition, involvement in the life of the church has always been seen as “a joy and a privilege” on the one hand, and “a commitment” on the other. Enjoying the privileges of faith and engaging the duties of faith are two sides of one coin. “A faithful member,” our Book of Order says, “promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ’s Church” (G-1.0304).

The decision to engage is as old as the church itself. When Jesus called the first disciples on a shoreline in Galilee, Peter and Andrew were at work. They were fishermen, and they worked hard every day just to keep their families fed and a roof over their heads. In a subsistence economy, fishermen did not just abandon their nets on a whim and leave them in a wet, sandy heap. But that is exactly what they did. Although the NRSV says that they “left” their nets to follow Jesus, the Greek word for “left” has a more nuanced connotation that is lost in the English translation. The very same word is used in other parts of the Bible to describe the premature end of a marriage. So, when Matthew says Peter and Andrew left their nets behind, the evangelist is actually saying that they divorced their nets. They abandoned them, forsook them, cut them off, and walked away. There was never an option to just commit a little bit to Jesus, but then go back to work. The decision to follow Jesus was a decision to go “all in,” even if it meant leaving a great deal behind.

God may not be calling you to take a leave of absence from your job as Peter and Andrew did. But God is calling us all to engage. In the life of faith, the greatest blessings follow the greatest commitments, and the most fulfilling spiritual journeys are reserved for those who are willing to engage with their whole selves. In this Eastertide, may we as individuals, and as a congregation, commit ourselves to new levels of engagement in Christ’s Church... and dare to discover where God may be leading us next.

Peace,

Rev. Eric

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Food Pantry Sunday				1 Men's Bible Study 8am Women's Fellowship Bible Study 9:30am	2	3 Fleaazaar drop offs begin now! Contact the church to volunteer
4 SHOW AND TELL VISITORS RECEPTION	5	6 Grief Support 11am	7 Bell Choir 1:30pm Youth Group 3:45pm	8 Men's Bible Study 8am Sermon on The Mount Study 12:15pm	9	10 9 am to noon Fleaazaar drop offs
11 DEACONS MEETING Mother's Day Tea Party	12	13 Grief Support 11am	14 Bell Choir 1:30pm Youth Group 3:45pm	15 Men's Bible Study 8am Women's Fellowship Missions Projects 9:30am	16	17 9 am to noon Fleaazaar drop offs
18 SESSION MEETING	19	20 Grief Support 11am	21 Bell Choir 1:30pm	22 Men's Bible Study 8am Sermon on The Mount Study 12:15pm	23	24 9 am to noon Fleaazaar drop offs
25	26	27 Grief Support 11am	28 Bell Choir 1:30pm	29 Men's Bible Study 8am	30	31 9 am to noon Fleaazaar drop offs

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

REMEMBER THERE ARE 3
WAYS TO DELIVER YOUR
OFFERING:

- 1.) In person on Sundays
- 2.) Online: www.mwcpc.org
- 3.) Snail mail to MWCPC:
PO Box 69
Manitowish Waters, WI
54545



Website: www.mwcpc.org

Phone: 715-543-2998

Email: mwpcchurch@gmail.com

Hours 9am - 12pm ~ Mon - Fri

-- ATTENTION --

WE ARE STILL SEARCHING FOR A
CHILD CARE PROVIDER FOR
SUNDAYS!

Please call the office for the job
description and any questions! We
are looking forward to offering this
for families in our community.

Don't forget to check out our
website!

www.mwcpc.org

This is where you'll find our
digital calendar – regularly
updated

As well as other important
information

Here are the upcoming events! Add them to your calendar:

May 11th – *Mother's Day brunch served by youth group*

June 11th – *Tom's Community Table meal in Minocqua*

June 23rd – *Enjoy a double header: We'll meet at Rocky Reef in Woodruff and continue on to Lake Tomahawk to watch Snowshoe Baseball.*

July 16th – *Fleazaar!*

July 27th – *Church Picnic at Lions Pavillion.*

August – *Music in the Park – we will again be serving and selling food*

September 7th – *Dungeons and Dragons at church!*

October – *(date tbd) Car Rally!!!*

Saturday Oct. 18th - Food 4 Kidz at LUHS

November 2nd – *Ice Cream Social and movie after church*

December – *Christmas Sing-Along. Enjoy singing classic Christmas carols along with sweet treats*

Pantry Line Up

Boulder Junction	Mercer Area	Lakeland Area
1 st week 3:30 - 5 pm	Tuesdays/Fridays	Tuesdays
2 nd week 10 - 11:30 am	11am-1pm	8:30-11:30am
(All Thursdays) Every	Wednesdays	Thursdays
other week schedule	3:30-6pm	3:30-6pm

> BOULDER JUNCTION

> countertop cleaner, floor cleaner, kitchen disinfectant wipes, glass cleaner, dish soap, and Bathroom cleaner. Contact our own Kris Nelson 715-892-2163.

> MERCER

> Contact Julie Brownwell 630-207-5471

> LAKELAND

> 3X clothing, shampoo and shower essentials. They would also like fresh produce from your gardens! Contact Nan Bloch 715-356-9410

\$1 donated to the food pantry buys \$8 worth of groceries and goods !!!

Thank you for your continued support!

This Month's Volunteers – We Thank You

DATE	Announcements	Liturgists	Counters	Greeters/Ushers
4 th	Mary Watkins	Carol Brewer	Kathy Kieper, and Carol Stone	Galen and Julie Brownwell
11 th	June Rojahn	Kay Suffron	Mid Sharpe, and Jeff Krans	Jeff and Kay Krans
18 th	June Rojahn	Beth Kost	Renee Whirry, and John Hanson	Carol Brewer and Rose King
25 th	TBD	Carol Brewer	Hope Dougherty, and Vince Hoehn	Skylar Moon Family

**LET'S CELEBRATE THESE DAYS
WITH OUR FELLOW MEMBERS**



Anniversaries:

- 2nd – Ron and Rosemary King
- 6th – Mark and Marla Suckow
- 25th – Jay and Helyn Woolf

Birthdays:

- 5th – Mark Suckow
- 5th – Mary Schilling
- 9th – Kieth Kost
- 10th – Mike Speer
- 10th – Mary Koster
- 11th – Amanda Semmerling
- 11th – John Williams
- 11th – Jacqueline Williams
- 12th – Tom Cervenka
- 13th – Daniel Meier
- 15th – George Nash
- 21st – Cash Jacobs
- 21st – Helen Erickson (100th Birthday!!!)
- 22nd – Steven Lee
- 28th – Vivian Callender

Grief Support Group

Grief is a journey that can be difficult to navigate throughout our lives. Each 1-hour session begins and ends with prayer and can include additional tools and resources that deal with grief. Each session, we gently walk with participants on a path where healing can begin or continue, hope is renewed, and love endures. Participants are free to share their experiences or say nothing at all. This group is open to all, regardless of church or religious affiliation. All sessions will be at 11 am in the Fireside Room. For any questions, please contact Pastor Eric Peterson at pastorericpeterson@gmail.com.

Week 3- May 6th, Week 4- May 13th, Week 5- May 20th

Week 6- May 27th, Week 7- June 3rd, Week 8- June 10th

NOTICE FROM YOUR CLERK OF SESSION

To all of our church family,

Our Session members are starting a Q & A section in our newsletters: called 'Ask an Elder'!

All of you have an opportunity to get your questions answered. You can email Hope Dougherty, Clerk of Session, your questions and she will get it to the pertinent Elder, who will send me the answer. I will compile the questions and answers in an article and submit it for the newsletter. If your questions are after the deadline for submitting articles, they will be in the following newsletter. Let's find some unity.



NOTICE FROM YOUR CLERK OF SESSION (Continued)

Your Session has been diligently working to make sure all voices have been heard. Some of this year's decisions were:

- Session voted to rent the basement of our Church to Little Forest Day Care, thereby opening up a solution to our community's childcare needs.
- Session voted to incorporate wine into special Communion Services, such as Easter and Christmas.
- Session approved a Thrift Store Task Force to serve under the Missions Committee. We applaud those who served on it and created an excellent presentation. Following discussion, it was decided to table it.
- Rev. Eric has asked that each Session committee chair come up with a fundraising plan and Christian Education and Membership teamed up for our first Bingo Game, which was a fun event.

Please check out the "Ask an Elder" article. Anytime you would like something clarified, just reach out to me and I will send it to the appropriate Elder and the answer will be in the next newsletter. This is going to be a useful resource for us all. ~ Peace and blessings, Hope Dougherty, Clerk of Session

Helpful Tax Tips

Many of us contributed to our IRA's and 401k's, building a nest egg for retirement. Since the money is invested before taxes and grows tax free, it creates an I.O.U. to the Internal Revenue Service and to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. One way to avoid taxes when withdrawing money from an IRA or 401k, is to contribute it to a not-for-profit organization, such as MWCC. This can be done after reaching an age of 70.5 years old. You simply need to work with the organization that manages your IRA or 401k and arrange a direct contribution. The contribution must go directly from the financial organization to the church.

This can be helpful when you reach the age of Required Minimum Distributions. When you reach this age, you are required to make withdrawals from your IRA on a schedule determined by the government. Withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income. By working with your financial institution and making a donation directly to the church, you satisfy part of your Required Minimum Distribution without paying state and federal taxes.

Youth Group

No news right now, but I hope that next month we can share some great pictures from Easter, their delightful and meaningful puppet shows, and even another surprise!

Thank you for everyone who volunteers during the week to help teach our young hearts and minds about the love and care that comes with a relationship to God. If you'd like to help out with any Youth events, please contact Stephanie at 715-904-0052, or her email smcclellanmw@gmail.com



FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS (FFB) - A note from Laurie Timm

The Annual Vision Walk is coming up. Members of the congregation and the Missions Committee have supported me so much in my efforts through the years to raise money for the Foundation, and I wholeheartedly thank you!

The FFB is the leading non-governmental entity in the world providing funding exclusively for research to find cures and treatments for blinding degenerative retinal diseases. Clinical trials in all stages are finding successes. Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP) is the disease my husband, kids and grandkids suffer from, which is one of the many diseases being researched.

This is the 20th anniversary of the Walk which will be held this year on June 1st. They are hoping for record breaking donations. I can accept donations at any time, and can continue through the month of June. Cash or checks made to FFB may be given to me at church, or you may choose to visit my Fundraising Page for an online donations at: <https://give.fightingblindness.org/singingforFFB>

You may go to fightingblindness.org to find a multitude of information about the organization as well about the different diseases their research will help. Thank you! - Laurie



Big congratulations to Nan and Dan Bloch for celebrating 60 beautiful years together!

We thank you for sharing this occasion with the congregation!



SHOW AND TELL

At long last, let me release you from the pins and needles you've been on with some welcome news... We're so excited to share that Eric Koster has agreed to host the next Show & Tell presentation on May 4! He plans to tell us a little bit about his own journey and what got him interested in working with stained glass and then walk us through the process of creating a unique work of art. If we're really good, he might even share with us some helpful resources and/or info on local classes. You won't want to miss this event!

Looking ahead, we also hope you'll plan to join us on June 22 (back to the fourth Sunday of the month). And then, we'll take the month of July off (with Fleazaar prep and a church picnic planned for the Sunday we'd normally meet) and reconvene on August 3 and again on Aug 31. Will we learn about brewing beer? Outlaws in the Northwoods? Old-growth Forests? Stay tuned....! ~ Heather Suffron

Tom's Community Table Update:

Have you been counting the minutes until we get to provide a yummy meal for community members again? I know I have! ;)

If you recall, last year, we hosted a spaghetti dinner with Farm Share in February. This year, I fought hard to get us scheduled during a different time of year to try to open up the volunteer opportunities to more people, so mark your calendar for Tuesday, June 10. We're working with Holy Family Catholic Church. We'll be serving hotdogs and hamburgers, potato salad, fruit salad, baked beans, and a variety of desserts (cookies, cupcakes, brownies, etc). MWCPC is responsible for providing the hamburgers and hotdogs, fruit salad, and three different desserts (2 dozen each). Holy Family will bring the buns, beans, potato salad and three desserts, as well.

Are you already wondering how you can help? I've got good news... There will be plenty of opportunities! I'll plan to provide a sheet in the narthex in early May so people can sign up to provide some of the food and/or help out at the event. Apparently, it's notoriously difficult to gauge how many people to expect, since it depends on so many different factors - weather, what other events are happening in town that week/night, menu selection, etc. Last June, they fed a total of 67 attendees and provided 12 to-go meals. I think we're supposed to tentatively prepare for approx 100 people. The meal is served at 5:00pm and is a wonderful chance to connect with others and make new friends. If you are willing and able to help out on June 10, we'll plan to arrive around 3:30pm and leave after the dining room and kitchen have been cleaned (between 7:00-8:00pm). Many hands make light work! Looking forward to seeing you there!

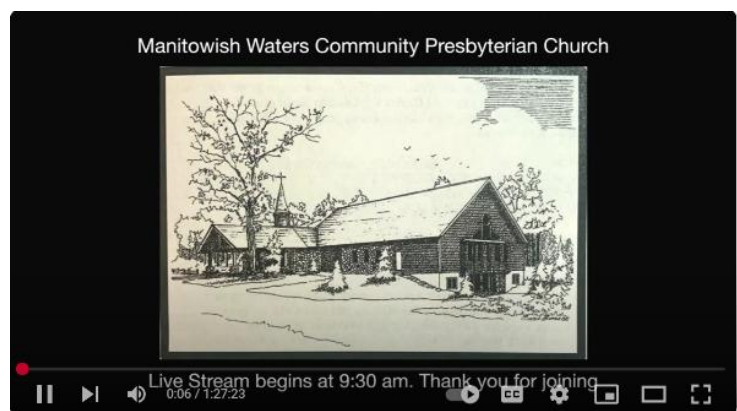
~ Heather Suffron

Livestream of Sunday Services Now Available

If you are away from Manitowish Waters, or kept at home due to illness or bad weather, you can watch the Sunday Church Service live at 9:30 a.m. Go to the church YouTube page, which you can find by going to YouTube.com and searching for Manitowish Waters Community Church. You can also go to the Watch Online area of the church website, and click on the YouTube logo: <https://www.mwcpc.org/watch-online>

On Sunday morning, when you click on the link for the week's service, you will see this image:

Simply stay online and you will soon be able to see and hear the beginning of the church service. It is very nice to experience the worship service in real time. It makes it feel more like Sunday worship when listening at the normal worship time, knowing that everyone else is worshipping!



You can find the order of worship on the church website: <https://www.mwcpc.org/watch-online> Press the blue button at the bottom of the page to see the worship folder and follow along with the congregation.

The recording of the service will be there as usual for viewing after the service.

MWCPC CARING CORNER

Together we want to keep these members in our prayers and let them know that they are remembered, valued, and loved.

Jean Eales
c/o Country Terrace
8730 Packing Plant Rd
Minocqua WI 54548

Molly Moll
c/o Careview Health & Rehab
9969 Old Highway 70
Minocqua WI 54548

Helen Erickson
Apt. S134
125 Cedar Ridge Dr
West Bend WI 53095-3673
Birthday: May 21

If **you** would like your contact information shared, please let the office know, and we will add your information to an upcoming CARING CORNER.

Additionally this month, we are feeling the immense loss of so many dear friends who have passed away recently:

Richard "Dick" Indermuehle



Joe Sanks



Bob Bridges



Chuck Behnke



Our community grieves with the families of these beloved men. We are sad to lose them and send each of their families prayers of comfort and peace.

Your Deacons



OUR ANGELUS BELL CHOIR

- We hope you enjoy watching our group play every few Sundays! We enjoy playing for you, and for our worship of God Almighty.

- Pictured from left to right: Mid Sharpe, Heather Suffron, Kay Suffron, Mary Watkins, Helyn Woolf, Joan Galloway(Front. Our dedicated director), Kris Nelson, Glen Wildenberg, Lois Bauers, Char Glashagel, Tom Erickson, and Jay Woolf!

Spring Gathering and Annual Meeting

Galatians 3:28 "We are all one in Jesus Christ."



**Presbytery of Northern Waters
Presbyterian Women
Friday May 16th, 6:30 pm Pizza
Saturday May 17, 2025, 9:30 am – 2 pm
First Presbyterian Church,
2112 Rudolph Road - Eau Claire, WI 54701**

Road trip time, ladies! Grab a friend or two and a motel room.

Program

R.E.D. - Racial Equity Dialogue

Presented by Louise Van Poll

PW Moderator of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies

R.E.D. Teams "work for justice and peace" using dialogue as a tool for building relationships among and between women from different racial ethnic groups and backgrounds.

This event is open to all women of the church, regardless if you belong to a formal PW group in your church. Come and meet or reacquaint with women from our Presbytery. Please join us for an evening of fellowship on Friday, and our annual meeting on Saturday with worship, our featured program, lunch, and business meeting.

*A special offering will be received at this meeting for **Iglutheca at Pine Ridge, SD**, an organization whose mission is to provide a pathway for homeless Lakota people out of addiction and poverty.*

*Also bring your **Least Coin and Birthday Offering** if you are participating in those.*

Registration is \$8.00 for lunch on Saturday.

RSVP by Friday, May 9th

Email Rebecca at First Presbyterian Church: office@fpcec.org

Or call 715-832-1011

We will need your name, phone number, what church you are from, how many will be attending on Friday and Saturday, and if anyone will need gluten-free or vegetarian meals.

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee would like to thank these members for their donations of Easter lilies to enhance our sanctuary for Easter worship:

- Galen and Julie Brownwell in memory of Julie's father, Bob Henry.
- Bob and Judy Dannenberg in honor of their first grandchild.
- Denise Goldsworthy in memory of Mark Goldsworthy and Kevin Watkins.
- Kris Nelson in memory of her parents, Wanda and Harold Nelson.
- Dan and Adele Duranso, in honor of the elder generation who taught us His way.

Thank you all! - Kathy Kieper on behalf of the Worship Committee.

FLEAZAAR NEWS

Well, here we are, it's May. That means fishing opener, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, sand gnats, maybe mosquitoes And Saturday Donations! It's all hands on deck Saturdays from 8:45 or so until about 12:15. We are confident the donors will be lining up and we need to be ready to sort, box, stack and stash all those treasures to sell them in July. Please help as you are able.



We have an eye-catching new poster design, thank you Stephanie McClellan, and posters are printed and available on the table in the narthex. Please grab some and put them up wherever you and other people frequent- grocery stores, libraries, gas stations, laundromats, boat places, repair shops, bars and restaurants, realty offices.

Folks, this is getting serious. Dave Vogt announced his retirement as head of security right after last year's sale. We have been asking since then for a replacement. Now is the time. We need to hear from someone who is willing to take on this important job. Lots of people have filled shifts in the past and probably will be willing to do it again. Dave will offer his advice and expertise. This is the perfect opportunity for someone who wants to help in a less physically demanding role. Please contact Denny Kieper or Tom Henning ASAP.

Thank You, Denny and Tom, Fleazaar co-chairs and Kathy, Secretary

Women's Fellowship News

Women's Fellowship hosted what we considered to be a very successful Easter Brunch, we hope that all who attended enjoyed it too. Many thank you's are in order- Thank you to everyone who donated pastries to round out the meal, you were very generous and we had enough extra to cover a second Sunday of Fellowship. Thank you to the people who donated fruit platters, it was gobbled up. THANK YOU! To everyone who helped us with clean up!

Our May Bible Study meeting will be May 1st the final session in this year's study titled Let Justice Roll Down. Meetings begin at 9:30. After the meeting, at noon, we will making more pies for Fleazaar, join us for fun and conversation and while we actually get work done. We have a good start and are ready to start accepting donations of pie filling. Please, no rhubarb this year, we have plenty in the freezer from last year's bumper crop. May 15th will be our missions work meeting. We hope to get some Little Dresses for Africa kits assembled for all you sewers. In the meantime there are lots of school bag kits waiting to be sewn. We also continue to welcome components for the Hygiene kits and Kids Kits, please be sure to check the lists for the new components.

As we move into summer our schedule will change and our Fleazaar prep workdays will be more frequent. Be sure to look for updates in the June newsletter.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Kieper

From your Session

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of your session members. We welcome your call.

Office Hours: 9am - 12pm / Monday-Friday / 715-543-2998
(feel free to leave a message)

Email: mwcpcchurch@gmail.com **Website:** www.mwcpc.org

Pastor Eric Peterson: pastorericpeterson@gmail.com



SESSION MEMBERS and OFFICERS

Vince Hoehn (Treas.): 715-904-1025
Hope Dougherty (Clerk): 715-543-2669
B Dannenberg: 262-758-0301, K Nelson: 715-892-2163
D Goldsworthy: 715-891-0921, S Goulet: 715-388-0477
D Kieper: 715-476-2196, J Patterson: 715-892-3065
T Henning 815-790-8213, L Billhymer 847-875-0017
K Suffron: 715-686-2668, G Whirry: 608-617-3627

DEACONS

Sue DeVan: 321-377-3180
Joan Galloway: 715-543-8010
Beth Kost: 715-490-5419
Heather Suffron: 734-834-0669
Ruth Stober: 715-904-1399

Living Waters May 2025

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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