

LIVING WATERS

Manitowish Waters Community Presbyterian Church

March 2025

Reflecting Inward in Lent

Forty days plus Sundays. That's the duration of the season we call Lent. Following the Council of Nicaea in the year 325, the bishops called for a church-wide period of preparation that would precede the celebration of the Easter Vigil. The length of this period would mirror the forty days that Jesus spent being tempted in the wilderness. Sundays would be excluded from the count, presumably because each Sunday can be considered a "little Easter" of its own.

Regardless of how you choose to mark this season – by giving something up, giving something away, giving something back, or giving some other part of you to God – this is a time for you to ponder what it really means to be you. God created you to fill a place in this world that no one else can fill. There has never been anyone quite like you, and there never will be again. As pastor and author Frederick Buechner has written, "During Lent, Christians are supposed to ask one way or another what it means to be themselves."

As you engage in this holy discipline, perhaps some of Frederick Buechner's questions will serve as a helpful guide:

"If you had only one last message to leave to the handful of people who are most important to you, what would it be in twenty-five words or less? Of all the things you have done in your life, which is the one you would most like to undo? Which is the one that makes you happiest to remember? Is there any person in the world, or any cause, that, if circumstances called for it, you would be willing to die for? If this were the last day of your life, what would you do with it?"

In his book, *Listening to Your Life*, Buechner says, "To hear yourself try to answer questions like these is to begin to hear something not only of who you are but of both what you are becoming and what you are failing to become. It can be a pretty depressing business all in all, but if sackcloth and ashes are at the start of it, something like Easter may be at the end."

What if we try to restore balance in our lives, to walk the trails for exercise, or stop a few minutes to marvel at rivers, trees, lakes—the beauty around us? Or to be intentionally friendly and kind with everyone that we meet, and see the risen Christ in the face of every person around us?

Peace,

Rev. Eric

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 2nd - Food Pantry Sunday!						1
2 Visitors Reception Thrift Store Update/ Informational Meeting	3	4	5 1:30 pm Bell Practice 3:45 pm Youth Group 5pm Ash Wed. Supper with Service @ 6pm	6 8 am Men's Bible Study 9:30 am Women's Fellowship - Bible Study	7	8
9 Deacons Meeting Bingo Day! Funds Support Christian Ed.	10	11	12 1:30 pm Bell Practice 3:45 pm Youth Group	13 8 am Men's Bible Study 12:15 pm Sermon on The Mount Study	14	15
16 Session Meeting	17	18	19 1:30 pm Bell Practice NO YOUTH GROUP	20 8 am Men's Bible Study 9:30am Women's Fellowship - Missions	21	22
23 Show and Tell	24	25	26 1:30 pm Bell Practice 3:45 pm Youth Group	27 8 am Men's Bible Study 12:15 pm Sermon on The Mount Study	28	29
30	31					

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

** I would like to include some pictures of nature in April Newsletter!**
 Send me (Skylar Moon) some photos of our winter wonderland the last few months so we can reminisce as Spring comes to fruition!

Website: www.mwcpc.org

Phone: 715-543-2998

Email: mwcpchurch@gmail.com

Hours 9am - 12pm ~ Mon - Fri

Pantry Line Up

Boulder Junction	Mercer Area	Lakeland Area
5th 3:30 - 5 pm	Tuesdays/Fridays	Tuesdays
12th 10 - 11:30 am	11am-1pm	8:30-11:30am
19th 3:30 - 5 pm	Wednesdays	Thursdays
26th 10 - 11:30 (All Thursdays)	3:30-6pm	3:30-6pm

As the weather cools, the needs of our 3 pantries increase. Please help when you can. **On the 1st Sunday of each month, we will have a box and bank in the narthex for your donations.** Donations at other times can be placed in the Food Pantry basket in the back of the fellowship hall. **Here are some of their needs:**

> BOULDER JUNCTION

- > Volunteer treasurer, 6-8 hrs./month, and money for meat
- > Contact our own Kris Nelson 715-892-2163.

> MERCER

- > Cream soups, broths, cereal and cooking oil in small bottles
- > Contact Julie Brownell 630-207-5471

> LAKELAND

- > Money for meat, unused personal care items (not hotel samples) soaps and detergents, cleaning supplies, coats, sleeping bags, shoes and purses, size 2x clothing. Contact Nan Bloch 715-356-9410

Did you know... \$1 donated to the food pantry buys \$8 worth of groceries and goods ?

REMEMBER THERE ARE 3
 WAYS TO DELIVER YOUR
 OFFERING:

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



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
 Regarding our ministry

HELP WANTED

Our faith community would like to provide child care during our worship services for infants and small children. The personnel committee has developed job descriptions for a child care provider as well as a child care assistant volunteer (who would be paid a stipend). The work expectation would be for 2 hours per service which includes preparation and clean up time.

If you know of any individuals who enjoy being with children and might be interested in one of these positions, please have them contact the church at 715-543-2998 for more information.



This Month's Volunteers – We Thank You

DATE	Announcements	Liturgists	Counters	Greeters/Ushers
2 nd	John Hanson	Caleb Stemmmons	John Hanson & Vince Hoehn	Stemmmons Family
9 th	Helyn Woolf	Stephen Russell	Hope Dougherty & Vince Hoehn	Knipp Family
16 th	Bob Burton	Linda Billhymer	Renee Whirry & Lois Bauers	Deane and Joan Galloway
23 rd	Deane Galloway	Galen Brownnewell	Kay Suffron & Mid Sharpe	Burns Family
30 th	Denise Goldsworthy	Debby Patterson	Mid Sharpe & Lois Bauers	McClellan Family

LET'S CELEBRATE THESE DAYS WITH OUR FELLOW MEMBERS

Anniversaries:

Bob and Judy Dannenberg
Married on March 1st

Birthdays:

3rd – Jay Williams
4th – Sue Patterson
12th – Sharon Bridges
13th – David Frandy
13th – John Wilson
14th – Mikayla Cayo
14th – Leslie Cervenka
16th – Bill Perkins
16th – Freda Masar
17th – Julie Rued
19th – Pat Barofsky
26th – Susan Rueger
26th – Carole Berglin
29th – William Kauffman
30th – Chuck Behnke



For your convenience I have listed here the Session Members, their positions and emails –

John Tegtmeier: jtegtmeier@aol.com
Co-Chair Finance/Stewardship

James Patterson: jamespatterson5@gmail.com
Co-Chair Finance/Stewardship;
Co-Chair Administration/Personnel

Denny Kieper: kiep53@yahoo.com
Co-Chair Fleazaar

Gary Whirry: whirrga@gmail.com
Co-Chair Buildings and Grounds

Denise Goldsworthy: northwoodsrealestate@hotmail.com
Co-Chair Administration/Personnel;
Co-Chair Membership/Communications

Kay Suffron: jksuffron@yahoo.com
Co-Chair Worship

Susan Goulet: graciemay777@gmail.com
Co-Chair Membership/Communications

Bob Dannenberg: dannen104@aol.com
Co-Chair Buildings and Grounds

Linda Billhymer: lindabillhymer@gmail.com
Chair Missions

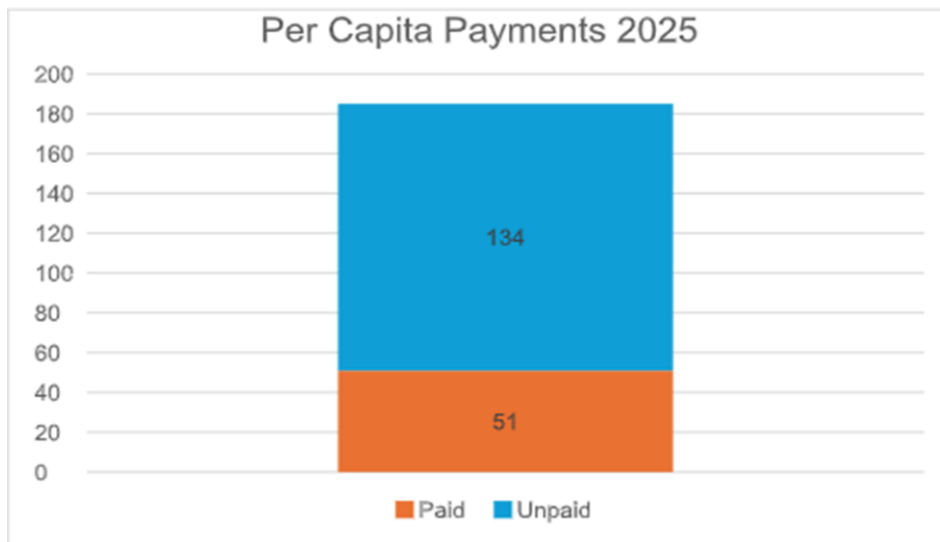
Tom Henning: thenningsattic@gmail.com
Chair Christian Education;
Co-Chair Fleazaar

Kris Nelson: kknelson00@gmail.com
Co-Chair Worship

Please reach out to them, as needed for their respective positions, for any questions!

Per Capita Apportionment

Every church is apportioned a share of the expenses of the presbytery, the synod, and the General Assembly, for ecclesiastical purposes. The apportionment is \$38 per person and must be paid by our church at the spring meeting of the presbytery. Every member needs to make an offering specific to this. There is a special envelope for this in your box of envelopes. You can also simply write a check to MWCPG and put Per Capita on the memo line. We need everyone to chip in for this so that we can maintain our good standing within the presbytery and the national church. Please pay your \$38 apportionment as soon as possible!



News on Finance and Investments

For many years the Community Church investment portfolio has been self-directed. The finance committee members drew upon their own research and expertise to arrive at investment decisions, which were then recommended to Session, who in turn directed the Treasurer to implement those decisions. Overall, our self-directed strategy has worked very well. However, we can't be sure that will always be the case. Perhaps there is something we can do as good Stewards that will better discharge our fiduciary duties.

*In consideration of that question, the finance committee and Session have decided to move our financial investments out of Vanguard and E*Trade and into the hands of investment professionals. The company chosen is the New Covenant Trust Company, a subsidiary of the Presbyterian Foundation. NCTC is a bank and trust, not a brokerage. They do not charge any commissions. They do, however, charge management fees.*

Investment decisions are now made by professional portfolio managers. A Statement of Investment Policy, approved by Session, is to be drafted to guide the managers as they tailor and rebalance the portfolio to our needs and desires. On our end this new structure will facilitate the refinement of our own policies, as well as the development of an investment roadmap to guide future finance committees and Sessions.

We have established two accounts: a long term investment account and a much smaller short term reserve account. The investment account may be very occasionally drawn upon for capital improvements or extraordinary expenses – essentially an endowment fund. The reserve account will serve to provide a ready source of funds should our bank balance dip uncomfortably low from regular operations. For security, all withdrawals may only be made through the Trust Department and will require two authorized signers and phone call confirmations.

On behalf of your finance and investment Stewards, Vince Hoehn, Treasurer

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
*First Presbyterian Church,
2112 Rudolph Road - Eau Claire, WI 54701
715-832-1011*

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

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 and our featured program.

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

Please bring your Least Coin and Birthday Offering from your local church. Registration is \$8.00 for lunch on Saturday.

RSVP by Friday, May 9th

Email Shannon: yourmusicmom@charter.net

Or call Rebecca at First Presbyterian Church: 715-832-1011

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

Your Loose Coins Add Up!

In 2024, your loose coins came to a total of \$1175. The Mission committee was able to round up the loose coin offering to \$2000, allowing us to donate \$500 each to the Mercer Food Pantry, the Boulder Junction Food Pantry, the Lakeland Pantry and DOVE.

Thank you to all congregation members for your loose coin offerings!



From your Worship Committee:

The poinsettias at Christmas made our worship space so festive and beautiful. Looking ahead to Easter you will again have the opportunity to enhance our space, by purchasing Easter lilies. From the same grower as the poinsettias, the plants will be 6" size pots with multiple blooms. They are \$15 each. Order forms will be on the narthex table. You can pick one up and return it to the office with your payment. By March 23rd please. If you are not able to pick up the form you can call Skylar in the office and place your order with her and then send a check. -Thank you!

Women's Fellowship News:

We are continuing our PW study "Let Justice Roll Down". Our study meeting for March is Thursday, March 6th, 9:30 in the Fireside Room. Pie making is scheduled for after that meeting, approximately 11:30. There is a signup sheet on the narthex bulletin board. It's hard to have too much help, if the slots are full we'll find a job for you!

Our missions meeting for March is Thursday, March 20th, 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. We will be focusing on assembling dresses and britches kits for you eager sewers. Again, we welcome any women of the congregation to join us, on a regular basis or as you can. Try us, you might like us.

Women's Fellowship will be hosting a simple soup supper on Ash Wednesday. Chicken noodle soup and bread before the service. Check elsewhere in the newsletter, the website and weekly bulletins for exact time.

You may have noticed a basket on the tables during fellowship hour. Feel free to drop a dollar, or more if you see fit, into that basket. Donations will be used to cover the cost of our coffee and other kitchen supplies.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Kieper

New members:

Two familiar faces were introduced to the congregation on February 9th. Beth Dahlmeier and David Schultz have already jumped in and become active in our church. Beth has been an active volunteer in the Fleazaar Art Tent for years and David has been an active Fleazaar volunteer since retirement, too. Dave and Beth most recently lived in The Cities with Beth working as a med tech and Dave in the grocery business, an employment he held during his high school and college years. Together they raised their son who still lives in the Twin Cities. Dave grew up in Minneapolis while Beth grew up Ironwood. Beth always knew she wanted to retire to the family cabin on Clear Lake. It has been in her family since 1956.

One of their hobbies is foreign bike trips. This Fall they biked through Croatia; but they have also biked in Italy, Scandinavia, the Netherlands, France, Spain, Portugal and other places. If you haven't met Beth and David yet, introduce yourselves and enjoy talking with them. We also welcomed Allison Sharpe! Hopefully in the next newsletter we may have her biography to share with you!



Show & Tell

Last we checked in with each other, Tom Henning treated us to a scrumptious family recipe for Stollen at the end of January. He also shared a little bit of family history with us. We baked. We laughed. We cried. We ate! And I'm fairly certain Tom's dad was enjoying the show from the best seat in the place! Thank you, Tom, for putting the time and effort into making it such a special experience for us! What will you bake for us next year? ;)

As I type this, we're a couple days away from Jim Bokern regaling us with stories from the Northwoods' moonshining past! It will surprise no one that Jim was a history teacher in his former life. How lucky we are to have the opportunity to take advantage of his expertise and soak up some fascinating stories along the way! And I have it on good authority that Jim is considering treating us to a presentation on the old growth forests in this area later in the year, so be on the lookout for that, along with another presentation from Kay Krans, who will help us unfold a mystery from the past.... oooh! We will also welcome Tom Erickson back for another Great Books discussion! Other potential upcoming topics include stained glass projects, the development of cranberry bogs in this region, and a beer-making tutorial! Phew!

In the near future, mark your calendars for March 23, when Sheri Smith will talk to us about her experience with weaving!

We are truly blessed to have such fascinating members and friends of our congregation willing and able to share some of their passions with us!

Unless otherwise noted/announced, our Show & Tell events meet in the Fireside Room at 10:45am (ish) after the Worship Service on the fourth Sunday of the month. Please join us! ~ Heather Suffron

Our Faithful Youth

Here are some pictures from the valentine's games the kiddos played a few weeks ago! The kids had fun playing games and decorating cookies while learning about God's love. YG is so thankful for Adele Duranso's help while Mrs. Helyn is having a great vacation. Thank you to everyone who has offered to help us out while she is away!

We'd like to schedule some Angie Visits for this spring, if you are interested in hosting one or more of our YG classes please let me know. You can call/text, 715-904-0052, or email me, smcclellanmw@gmail.com, with dates that work for you.



Update from the Thrift Store Task Force

Please plan to stay after church on Sunday March 2nd to hear from the Thrift Store Task Force. The Task Force has created a presentation that outlines their findings and recommendations. We will either meet in the Fellowship Hall or the Sanctuary. Mark your calendar for March 2nd at 11:00 a.m.

All voices are welcome to share their opinions with respect to each other and the church. A zoom invite will also be sent out for those who cannot make it to the meeting!

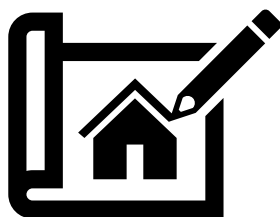
Task Force members include Cindie Beckerleg, Linda Billhymer, Bob Burton, Susan Goulet, John Hanson and Tom Henning.



Introducing the MWCPCC CARING CORNER

Are you a once-active member or friend who now has limitations (temporary or permanent) that have reduced your involvement in church? If you would like to receive cards and/or calls from your friends at MW Community Presbyterian Church, please let the office know, and we will add your contact details to our newsletter's CARING CORNER.

- Your Deacons



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering takes place during Lent. You will find special envelopes in the pews starting in early March. This offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. OGHS is the single, largest way Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. OGHS funds are split between three areas:

- 1. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) – Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters and as they support refugees.*
- 2. Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) – Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation and address the systematic causes of poverty.*
- 3. Self-Development of People – Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice.*

The offering can be made via the envelopes you find in the pew or online via pcusa.org/give-oghs.

Please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing!

ASH WEDNESDAY

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall at 5:00 p.m. on Ash Wednesday, March 5th. We will have a supper of Chicken Noodle Soup, crackers and bread. At 6:00p.m. we will have the Ash Wednesday service, which will include the imposition of ashes.

Free Money!

This is a reminder that if any of you are Thrivent members in any way, investment accounts or life insurance, you are entitled to 2 Action Team grants per calendar year. The grants are for up to \$250 each and can be used for a variety projects within the church, want to buy a banner or sign for Fleazaar?, sponsor a youth group outing?, buy supplies for mission kits?, just ask. The form is super easy to fill out on the Thrivent website. I've honestly never heard of anyone being denied. They really want members to use this generous program. *If you have questions, ask your Thrivent agent or me, Kathy Kieper*

Fleazaar News

It's getting closer! And there are several things we can start getting in place now to make May through July easier...

First off, we have great news: Tom Henning has agreed to serve as Fleazaar co-chairman. Yay! Tom has shown such exemplary ability as the Antiques and Collectibles captain that he earned this promotion. Sorry, no increase in pay.

We are still looking for additional ideas for nonprofit entities who can make use of some of our leftovers. Please contact one of us with specific contact information for any group you have contacted that is interested. Free stuff at the end of Fleazaar!

We have a couple of important job positions available. Dave Vogt informed everyone last year that he is retiring as Head of Security. We're confident that he is willing to impart his years of knowledge as to how to fill all those shifts with whomever steps up to succeed him. Carmen Farwell is also expressing that she would like to retire as Captain of the Toys Tent. What could be more fun? Carmen has a great volunteer crew and she is also willing to share her vast management skills in getting all those fun items displayed and SOLD. So, if you like to feel important and you're looking for a great job with no pay but great benefits, let us know. We know it will be competitive but we promise to find the most qualified applicants.

We had a Fleazaar meeting regarding moving the tent supplies sometime in May into a tent in front of the church wall on the east side. This will give room for the second barn which will hold the Collectibles/ Antique Department this year. We are having the Little Forest School use our church basement for their day care facility until they have their new building up and running. Just being a good neighbor.

We will be purchasing a new tent which is well needed by the furniture area.

Till next time!

Fleazaar Co-Chair – Tom Henning

Great Lineup of Fun Events for 2025

Details to follow via email and announcements in church.

March 5th – *Ash Wednesday Soup Supper. Enjoy a deliciously simple meal before the Ash Wednesday service.*

March 9th – *Pizza, bingo and prizes! – to Benefit Christian Education*

April 20th – *Easter Brunch. Delicious breakfast casseroles and yummy side dishes will be served after the Easter Service.*

May 11th – *Celebrate Mother's Day with the lovely food, tea and décor that has become an annual tradition!*

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 (date TBD) – *Music in the Park – we will again be serving and selling food*

September – *Pontoon Regatta*

October – *Car Rally*

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

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



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: mwcpchurch@gmail.com **Website:** www.mwcp.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 Billhymmer 847-875-0017
K Suffron: 715-686-2668, J Tegtmeier: 630-886-3802
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
Claudia Tegtmeier: 630-886-3802
Ruth Stober: 715-904-1399

Living Waters March 2025

MANITOWISH WATERS COMMUNITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PO Box 69
Manitowish Waters, WI 54545