

From the Pastor...

February 2025 Newsletter

There are times that you like a show so much that you go and see it again. Same thing with restaurants; it was good, so you go there again. There are times that it is just as good as last time, but sometimes repeat performances can be a letdown. That second time around just doesn't live up to the memories. I know that has definitely happened with me when I look back at sermons to see what I said previously (so I don't say the same thing that I did last time); I wonder, "How the heck did I preach that drivel?"

This past year, however, Living Hope has made a repeat performance and it was a smashing success. The gifts and offerings that you all gave the church was above and beyond our expenses. In 2024, more than \$6,500 was given or was earned on investments over and above that what we spent when we consider it on a cash basis. This cash basis means that we pull out the depreciation that we took on our property investment here at Dickson Hollow and remove any money that was given as a memorial. This "cash basis" gives us a more complete picture of how we are meeting our financial obligations.

In 2024, session decided that any year we have a surplus on a cash basis we will give 90% of that to mission partners. That meant in 2024 we gave away \$12,000 of our 2023 surplus to our mission partners so they could help move folks in need.

This year, 2025, we are able to designate an extra \$6,000 to mission giving. The Mission Committee will decide who these extra funds will go to and we will continue to invite our mission partners to come and share with us the wonderful work that your generosity is making possible. *Continued....*



Thank you all for your generosity this year to Living Hope's mission and ministry. Your gifts, however large or small all contributed to the abundance that we have. We are thankful that this generosity is making it possible to contribute to Christ's mission in this world through our mission partners. May we continue to bless others and find ourselves blessed as well.

In Christ, *Will*

Questions about Presbyterians

1st and 3rd Thursdays at 1:30 pm

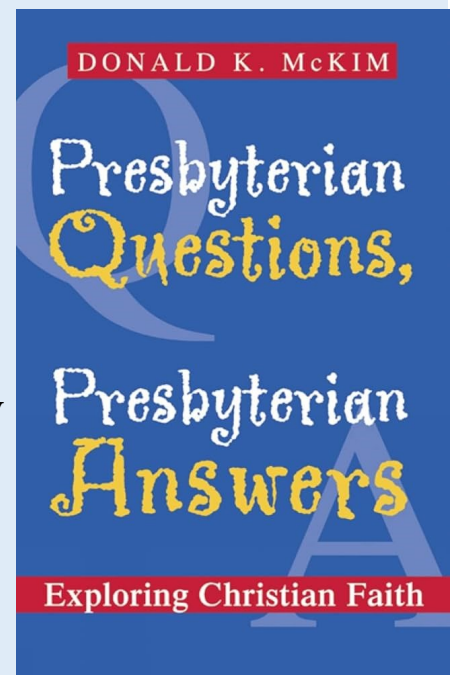
Our spring Adult Study Series will focus on what does it mean to be Presbyterian. We are using *Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers* by Donald McKim as our jumping off point for this series.

Over the course of seven session, we will look at the history and governance structure of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Presbyterian understandings of the Bible, who God and Jesus are, what the Holy Spirit does and how humanity responds, what is salvation and how the church participates in that, worship and sacraments, and what the Christian life should look like and how God's reign over the universe is envisioned.

We will update the schedule when we have added in the first class we had to miss. The printed listing stays in the same order, just dates will change.

Here are the first three class readings:

- Feb 6 - Presbyterian History and Heritage, Polity
Chapters 1 and 13 [pg 1-10, 103-111]
- Feb 20 - Bible - Chapter 2 [pg 11-20]
- Mar 6 - God and Jesus Christ - Chapters 3 and 4 [pg 21-36]





We are a connectional church...connected in faith to God – Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Jesus taught us that prayer connects us to the Divine...and to each other.

Each month we list our faith community. Every family has a date when we ask you to hold them in prayer.

February Prayer Calendar



A PAW-SITIVE IMPACT ON WAUKESHA COUNTY PETS

(An article from the Waukesha Food Pantry we support)

The pet program started with a can of spaghetti and meatballs. In 2023, one of our clients came into the pantry and asked Christine Dierbeck, one of our volunteers, if we had pet food for her dog. Christine said that we didn't have dog food at the pantry. The client said she was worried she was going to have to surrender her beloved dog, but she could not afford her own food, let alone food for her pet. She said she would see if her dog would eat a can of spaghetti and meatballs from the food that she was receiving and that might stave off the surrender process for another week. That heartbreaking story is the reason the pet program started--to prevent four-legged family members from being surrendered because the family is going through a tough time.

Although the client did not know at the time, she was talking with a volunteer who had her own dog and who knew the importance pets have in maintaining a person's physical and mental well-being. That is when Christine and her sister Su Dierbeck started the pet program to gather food for our clients four-legged family members so everyone in the family can eat.

Since June 2023, The FOOD Pantry Serving Waukesha County has had an active pet food distribution program so all members of our client's household, whether they are two-legged or four-legged, have access to food. Here's how the program works: Families who are already receiving food assistance from the pantry ask for the type of pet food they need (cat or dog) and the number of pets that they have, and a volunteer provides them with the food during their weekly visit. Although the pantry does not track the number of animals it is serving, we know this program has been helpful for many of our clients. In 2024, the pantry distributed over 26,785 pounds of pet food valued at \$81,200 to our Waukesha County pets!

The pet food program is made possible through generous donations from local non-profits and businesses including Humane Animal Welfare Society of Waukesha (HAWS), Elmbrook Humane Society, Pet Supplies Plus of Waukesha, and Pet Supplies Plus of Brookfield. This program is also possible because of two dynamic sisters Christine and Su Dierbeck who combined have provided over 209 hours in volunteer time last year to gather pet food, treats and toys from pet stores and humane societies for client distribution.

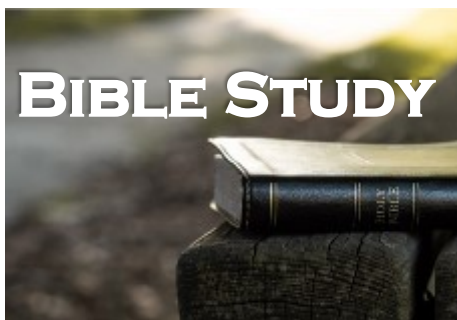
Per the HAWS Executive Director Maggie Tate-Techtman, "At HAWS, we've recognized an increased need in our community and recognize a responsibility to care for not only the animals in our care but also support animals in the community and ensure pets stay with their people. In our current fiscal year, we've recognized a 14% increase in pets being surrendered. We know that many families are facing difficult choices while navigating cost of living; while we continue to expand our services to support our community of pets, we are proud to partner with The FOOD Pantry Serving Waukesha County to keep pets and people together."

How you can help:

While people food is our primary mission, if you have an extra bag of unopened/unexpired cat or dog food that you would like to share, it can be dropped off at door #5 at The FOOD Pantry Monday-Friday from 8:30 am-4:30 pm.

FEBRUARY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2 10 AM Worship with Communion 	3 9:45 AM Bible Study—CH 	4	5	6 1:30 PM - Questions about Presbyterians 	7 8	1
9 10 AM Worship 11 AM Annual Meeting	10 9:45 AM Bible Study—CH	11	12	13	14	15
16 10 AM Worship	17 9:45 AM Bible Study—CH	18	19	20 1:30 PM - Questions about Presbyterians 	21	22
23 10 AM Worship	24 9:45 AM Bible Study—CH	25	26	27	28	1 March
2 10 AM Worship with Communion 	3 9:45 AM Bible Study—CH 	4	5  ASH WEDNESDAY 6:30 PM Worship	6 1:30 PM - Questions about Presbyterians 	7	8



Monday Bible Study

Mondays at 9:45 AM

Join us for a discussion about the coming Sunday's lectionary readings either in-person in Fellowship Hall or watch on Channel 966.

Feb 3	Luke 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11	for Feb 9
Feb 10	Luke 6:17-26; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20	for Feb 16
Feb 17	Luke 6:27-38; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	for Feb 23
Feb 24	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36	for Mar 2



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday - March 5.

Please join us for worship at 6:30 pm.

LIVING HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Treasurer: Steve Sinner

Church Musician: Teresa Ledford

2025 Session Members: Karl Bertram, Michael Brady Joe Fresch, Kathryn Fresch, Curtis MacDonald, Mike McBride and Marcia Sinner

2025 Deacons: (A-D) Ann Tennyson
(M-R) Karen Stephan -Co-Moderator

(F-H) Ken DeBoer
(S-T) Martin Gahle

(I-L) Cherie Andrus – Co-Moderator, Secretary
(V-Y) Jan Isbister At Large - Kathy Mathews