

## From the Pastor...

January 2025 Newsletter

In a couple of weeks, on January 12th, we will celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. On that Sunday we remember how Jesus went to John at the Jordan and was baptized. That day we will also remember our own baptisms and the call from God that comes through baptism. Additionally, we will witness to seven individual's response to God's call that comes through their baptisms. During our worship service that day we will either ordain and install folks or just install them since they have previously been ordained as elders or deacons.

In the Presbyterian Church we recognize two sacraments, baptism and communion. We do both because Jesus did them and commanded us to follow his example. We do communion many times over our lives, but baptism we do only once. Baptism is an outward sign of an inward reality, just as communion is. The actual waters of baptism don't really cleanse us of our sin, but points to a deeper reality that Jesus' life, death and resurrection provide that cleansing for us. When we are baptized, however, we (or our parents) recognize that something has changed in our lives; we recognize God's call on our lives and desire to respond to that with joy and faith. Our lives as Christians are rooted in our baptism. So, on January 12th, we will remember that important day in our lives, even if we don't remember it ourselves, since we were too young.

*Continued....*



We will also ordain and install elders and deacons to service on Session and the Board of Deacons respectively. This time of commitment and vows is an offshoot of baptism. We believe God calls all people to ministry and there are many different types of service. Some people are called to serve in leadership either as an elder, helping to make decisions about the life of the congregation, or a deacon, providing for the care and nurture of God's people. To recognize these particular types of service, we, as a congregation, enter into a covenant to support those taking on leadership roles and, for those leading, to serve with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

I hope you will join us on January 12th for this time of remembering Jesus and our baptisms as we move into ministry in 2025.

In Christ,

*Will*

## Thank you!

Dear Friends at Living Hope,

I want to take a moment to thank you all for the kind gifts you gave me on the occasion of my 20th ordination anniversary. The leather portfolio is already being put to good use for all kinds of meetings and note taking. The gift card to Amazon is slowly being used to grab a book or two here or there for pleasure or even a little further learning. I also appreciate the gift made in my name to The Guest House. Even more precious, is the way you continue to welcome me into your lives and share in the joy of life lived together as siblings in Christ. I look forward to continued ministry with you all for years to come.





## 2024 Mission Offerings

In 2024, you gave to the following PCUSA offerings and the Food Pantries ( PLUS all of the food you donated weekly)

\$1,875 - One Great Hour of Sharing

\$1,060 - Pentecost

\$1,025 - Peace and Global Witness

\$1,310 - Christmas Joy

\$3,160 - split between the Food Pantries in Waukesha and Menomonee Falls



### Member/Affiliate Conversation - Sunday, January 19

If you are a regular attender here at Living Hope, but have a congregation that you have been a member at for a long time and don't want to change your membership, you can become an Affiliate Member of Living Hope.

Affiliate membership recognizes the relationship that you have with Living Hope without having to give up the relationship that you have with your congregation. Unfortunately, being an affiliate member doesn't allow you to serve on the session (church board) or as a deacon, but there are many other ways that you can get involved here at Living Hope.

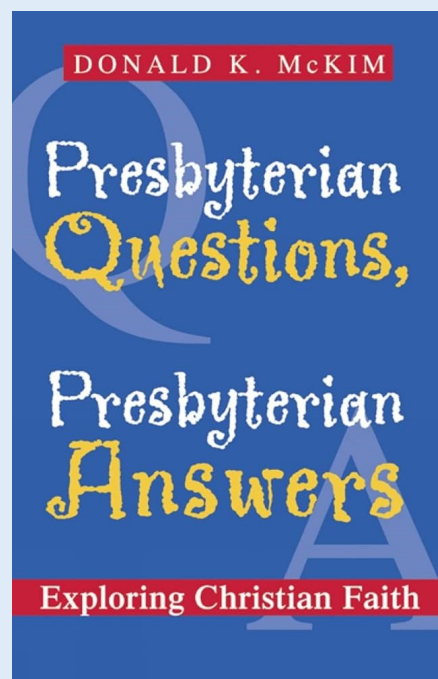
If you have questions about or are interested in Affiliate Membership, please talk with Pastor Will or one of the members of the session. If you decide that you would like to join as an affiliate member, we will send a letter to your home congregation letting them know about your desire to become an affiliate member and that we are here to help them as they continue to care for you as a member of their congregation. We will also have a new members/affiliate conversation January 19 after worship, where we will talk more about what it means to be a Presbyterian and also go over the details of both full membership and affiliate membership.

## Questions about Presbyterians

Thursdays at 1:30 pm

Starting January 23rd, our spring Adult Study Series will focus on what does it mean to be Presbyterian. We will use Donald McKim's 2003 edition of *Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers* as our jumping off point for this series. The classes will meet on the first and third Thursdays at 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall and will be available on channel 966 in Dickson Hollow and our YouTube streaming service. Over the course of seven sessions, 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.

Copies of the book will be ordered ahead of time for interested participants. Because of the age of the book, copies will be previously used. If you are interested in receiving a copy, please sign up on the sheet with the ushers to reserve your copy. Please note you do NOT need to have a book to participate in the class. Additionally, you do not need to attend all of the sessions, since they will not build on one another, but they will be recorded for later reference.





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.

## January Prayer Calendar

# JANUARY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>29</b>  <b>10 AM Lessons and Carols</b> 11:05 AM Coffee Hour	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>  Office closed	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5 Epiphany</b>  <b>10 AM Worship with Communion</b>  	<b>6</b>  9:45 AM Bible Study—CH	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12 Install/Ordination</b>  <b>10 AM Worship</b> Minute For Mission - AGAPE House	<b>13</b>  9:45 AM Bible Study—CH	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  9 AM Finance	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>  <b>10 AM Worship</b> 11:10 AM New Member and Affiliate Conversation	<b>20</b>  9:45 AM Bible Study—CH	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  1:30 pm - Questions about Presbyterians  	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9 AM Mission Mtg <b>10 AM Worship</b> 11:10 AM Session/Deacon Joint meeting	<b>27</b>  9:45 AM Bible Study—CH	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1 February</b>



## Average December Attendance

In person: 39  
Zoom/livestream: 7

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Total Average Attendance: 46

We cannot track who watches on Ch 966.

## The Care and Concern of the Congregation is with:

### 2025 Session

Karl Bertram, Michael Brady, Joe Fresch,  
Kathryn Fresch, Curtis MacDonald, Mike McBride and  
Marcia Sinner

### 2025 Deacons

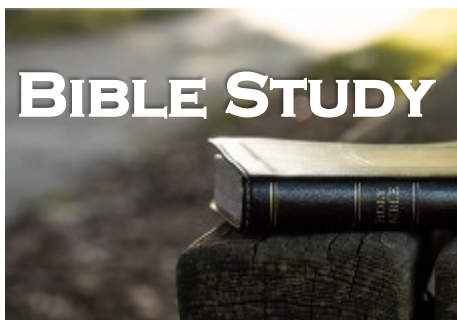
Cherie Andrus, Ken DeBoer, Martin Gahle, Jan Isbister,  
Kathy Mathews, Karen Stephan, Ann Tennyson

Thank you to Diane DeBoer and  
Tom Tennyson for serving as  
deacons for the past six years.

Thank you to Steve Sinner for  
serving as Treasurer in 2024.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE - As of November 30, 2024

									Fav/(Unfav)
					Actual		Budget		Variance
Total Income - YTD					\$146,159.16		\$ 112,915.00		\$ 33,244.16
Total Expense - YTD					\$169,785.51		\$ 152,515.00		<span style="color: red;">\$(17,270.51)</span>
Net Income - YTD November 30, 2024					<span style="color: red;">\$(23,626.35)</span>		<span style="color: red;">\$ (39,600.00)</span>		\$ 15,973.65
Unrestricted Funds as of November 30, 2024					\$330,172.25				



## 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.

Jan 6	Isaiah 43:1-7; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	for Jan 12
Jan 13	Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11	for Jan 19
Jan 20	Luke 4:14-21; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	for Jan 26
Jan 27	Luke 4:21-30; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13	for Feb 2

### Save the Date

#### Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 9

Following Worship - Zoom and in person

## LIVING HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

W156 N4881 Pilgrim Road, Menomonee Falls WI 53051

[www.LivingHopePCUSA.org](http://www.LivingHopePCUSA.org)

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Will Houts

Email: [Pastor@LivingHopePCUSA.org](mailto:Pastor@LivingHopePCUSA.org)

Office: (262) 599-8340

Cell: (262) 949-1830

**Administrative Assistant:** Lisa Quinn

Email: [Office@LivingHopePCUSA.org](mailto:Office@LivingHopePCUSA.org)

Office: (262) 599-8341

**Clerk of Session:** Kathryn Fresch

**Treasurer:** Steve Sinner

**Church Musician:** Teresa Ledford

**2024 Session Members:** Karl Bertram, Michael Brady Joe Fresch, Kathryn Fresch, Curtis MacDonald, Mike McBride and Marcia Sinner

**2024 Deacons:** (A-B) Tom Tennyson (C-F) Ann Tennyson (G-K) Diane DeBoer

(L-O) Cherie Andrus – Moderator

(P-R) Karen Stephan

(S-Z) Kathy Mathews