

From the Pastor...

Mid June - Mid Aug 2026 Newsletter

In a couple of weeks, the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) will convene here in Milwaukee for its week of in person meetings. As you might guess from the number of meetings, the General Assembly has been meeting for a long time. For over two hundred years, the meetings were annual, and, since 2004, they have been every other year.



In these meetings each presbytery (regional governing body) sends congregational elders and ministers as delegates to meet in committees, make recommendations about changes to the rules of the church, interpret doctrine, and work to focus the mission of the denomination for the coming two years. The committee work will start online the week of June 22nd and the in-person meetings will begin on the following Sunday. On June 28th, we will welcome some of the delegates to our worship service as will many other congregations in the Presbytery of Milwaukee.

This is one part of our connectional church denomination. Presbyterians recognize the local congregation as the primary building block of the church, but also believe that it is not the complete expression of the church. The complete expression of the church recognizes that Christ is present when we meet together beyond our individual congregations and have many different voices participating in the conversation. Presbyterians have the chance to do that at least four times per year at presbytery meetings, twice a year at synod meetings (the synod is the regional gathering of a group of presbyteries, ours being the Synod of Lakes and Prairies that covers from Wisconsin to Nebraska and the Dakotas), and biennially at General Assembly.

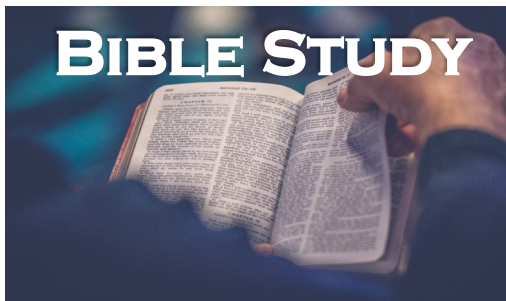
Part of that connectionalism that Presbyterians embrace also means that we share the costs for these governing bodies. Each congregation is assessed a dollar amount per person on the roles at the end of the previous calendar year (per capita) which helps to support the joint mission and ministry for the entire church.

For example, in 2026, congregations in the Presbytery of Milwaukee were assessed \$11.26 that goes to the General Assembly, \$5.50 that goes to the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and \$26.66 that goes to the Presbytery of Milwaukee. That means for each person who is a member (not anyone who just attends the congregation or is an affiliate member) Living Hope pays \$43.42 to help support the work of these various governing bodies that contribute to the health and well-being of congregations across the country.

The session would like to thank all those who have donated to cover the per capita associated with their membership (42% of you already have) or to pay for other member's per capita. We would also ask that each member who has not already done so consider adding \$43.42 to the amount that they have pledged to help us offset this cost (30 % have pledged to do so and additional 28% are not able to due to life or financial circumstances). If this is not something that is manageable for your finances, please don't worry about it. If you are in a place that you can help cover some other people's per capita, we would also appreciate that. Please know that we will cover the entire cost as part of our connectional church, but having the extra \$1,867 that we send on to support these bodies of the church will help us to do more for our ministry and mission here at Living Hope.

The connectional church is a good thing, and we will have the opportunity to be part of that on June 28th and in the coming months as years as our Presbytery and Synod continue to work together for the mission and ministry of Christ's church as expressed in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Will



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.

June

- June 15 No Bible Study [at home reading Matthew 14:22-33]
June 22 Matthew 10:40-42; Romans 6:12-23 for June 28
June 29 Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30; Romans 7:15-25a for July 5

July

- July 6 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23; Romans 8:1-11 for July 12
July 13 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-45; Romans 8:12-25 for July 19
July 20 No Bible Study
July 27 Matthew 14:13-21; Romans 9:1-5 for Aug 2

August

- Aug 3 Matthew 14:22-33; Romans 10:5-15 for Aug 9

JUNE/JULY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
14 10 AM Worship - 11:10 AM - Sandwich Making for Guest House	15 No Bible Study	16	17	18	19	20
Will is on vacation this week thru Sunday, June 21						
21 10 AM Worship Guest Preacher Rev. Susan Sytsma-Bratt	22 9:45 AM Bible Study	23	24	25 10-11 visitation 11 Service for Ginny Maurer @ Wisconsin Memorial Park	26	27
28 10 AM Worship - General Assembly Worship 11:30 AM - Lunch GA	29 No Bible Study	30	1	2	3	4
5 10 AM Worship with Communion  	6 9:45 AM Bible Study	7 Home Communion	8	9 Finance Meeting TBD	10	11
12 10 AM Worship 11:10 AM Session	13 9:45 AM Bible Study	14	15	16	17	18

JULY/AUG 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
19 10 AM Worship	20 No Bible Study	21	22	23	24	25
Will is on vacation this week thru Sunday, July 26						
26 10 AM Worship - Guest Preacher 11:10 AM Coffee Hour	27 9:45 AM Bible Study—CH	28 	29	30	31	1
2 10 AM Worship with Communion 	3 9:45 AM Bible Study—CH	4 Home Communion	5	6 9 AM Finance	7	8
9 10 AM Worship	10 9:45 AM Bible Study—CH	11	12	13	14	15
16 10 AM Worship	17 No Bible Study	18	19	20	21	22



Our July/ August Mission project is collecting classroom and individual school supplies for Starms Early Childhood School, a K3-K5 school in Milwaukee. Look for more information in the bulletin starting in Late July. Lists will be slightly different this year - focusing on things that went over SUPER well last year and what new items they could use this year. School starts on September 1.



Food Pantry Sundays

July 5 Aug 2 Sept 6

Our food pantry collection bin is now inside the church office hallway. You can give a monetary donation any Sunday. Thank you!

LIVING HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Clerk of Session: Kathryn Fresch

Treasurer: Steve Sinner

Church Musician: Teresa Ledford

2026 Session Members: Karl Bertram, Diane DeBoer, Dorothy Dieter, Michael Brady, Joe Fresch, Kathryn Fresch, Mike McBride and Marcia Sinner

2026 Deacons: Ann Tennyson, Ken DeBoer, Cherie Andrus – Co-Moderator, Secretary
Karen Stephan -Co-Moderator, Martin Gahle, Jan Isbister