

LIVING WATERS

Manitowish Waters Community Presbyterian Church

February 2025

The Depth of Love

When February rolls around, a lot of us become preoccupied with Valentine's Day — the grand celebration of love, romance, and the relationships that deeply connect us to a particular person.

St. Valentine was an ancient martyr from the time of Rome. Imprisoned for being a member of the people of the Way (now called Christianity), he began a correspondence with the jailer's daughter, leaving notes for her outside his cell to which she replied with clandestine notes of her own. They were never a couple in any way you or I might think of them, but their secret letters expressing concern, care, and compassion became the model on which the modern practice of exchanging valentines came to be.

In our time and place, we tend to flatten profound things like love, reducing this emotion that has the power to bind one human being to another into a witty phrase printed on a cheap card. The ancient martyr and his friend found something more, something lasting, something transforming. Most of us will never experience the loneliness or isolation of a prison cell. Most of us will never face the fear of realizing that our time is running short and that someone is going to close the book on our lives. Valentine did, but in the midst of his suffering, he found someone and something to support him, make life brighter, and to make even his diminishing days meaningful.

That offers us the means by which to make this month something more than it appears to be. We have an invitation to connect deeply with someone else, perhaps someone with whom we share space, but have grown casual in how we treat them, not fully appreciating all they are. Maybe we can connect to someone going through a hard time, trying to endure a crisis or tribulation. Maybe we can connect with someone who just needs a friend and the reassurance that they are not all on their own.



In so many different ways, we can express the Gospel in the way we speak to one another, work with one another, walk with one another, or acknowledge one another. In so doing, we bring love in its deepest meaning to light. We offer a counter to the shallowness that robs so much of its depth, power, and grace.

In so many ways, we offer the world a glimpse of the power of love as Jesus presented it. May we use it, sending a valentine to the world around us.

Peace,

Rev. Eric

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Visitors Reception	3	4 11 am Grief Support (The last for Winter)	5 1:30 pm Bell Practice 3:45 pm Youth Group	6 8 am Men's Bible Study 9:30 am Women's Fellowship - Bible Study	7	8
9 Deacons Meeting	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 HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY EVERYONE 	15
16 Session Meeting	17	18	19 1:30 pm Bell Practice 3:45 pm 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	

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

49th Annual 8th Grade Dinner

February 7th –

Turkey Dinner, Desserts, and Raffles!

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
5 th 3:30 - 5 pm	Tuesdays/Fridays	Tuesdays
12 th 10 - 11:30 am	11am-1pm	8:30-11:30am
19 th 3:30 - 5 pm	Wednesdays	Thursdays
26 th 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 Renee Whirry 608-697-9518

> MERCER

- > Cream soups, broths, cereal and cooking oil in small bottles
- > Contact Julie Brownwell 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

Seeking Childcare Providers

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.

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 MWPC 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!

This Month's Volunteers – We Thank You

DATE	Announcements	Liturgists	Counters	Greeters/Ushers
2nd	Kay Suffron	Stephen Russell	Carolyn Pfeiffer & Mid Sharper	Eric & Mary Koster
9th	Kath Wilson	Allison Sharpe	Hope Dougherty & Vince Hoehn	Cyndie Beckerleg & Ken Middleton
16th	Tom Erickson	John Hanson	Kathy Kieper & Lois Bauers	Kay & Heather Suffron
23rd	TBD	Mary Watkins	Caleb Stemmons & Vince Hoehn	Bill & Margo Perkins

LET'S CELEBRATE THESE DAYS WITH OUR FELLOW MEMBERS

Anniversaries:

Mark and Dawn Halliburton – 2nd

John and Kay Suffron – 4th

Mark and Marjean Schuelke – 10th

John and Hope Dougherty - 14th

John and Ann Wilson – 14th

Birthdays:

Chrystel Paulson 1st

Lee Leeder 3rd

Helyn Woolf 4th

Journey Jacobs 8th

Mary Watkins 10th

Dave Vogt 13th

Glen Wildenberg 14th

Parker Sharpe 15th

Thomas Larum 16th, Liliana Gindorff 16th

Mason Pronath 17th

Kristin Semmerling 20th

Maren Moll 22nd, Susan Glynn 22nd

Carol Bohlin 23rd

Steve Jacobs 25th

August and Angus Callendar 26th

Kadence Knipp 27th



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

From the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Website:

Our hearts are with all our siblings who have been affected by the devastating wildfires that have affected thousands of people and multiple communities across California. The PC(USA) affirms our commitment to accompany those affected by this disaster.

As people of God, once again we are called to stand with our neighbors. Please give generously to the Church's recovery efforts, both short- and long-term.

To give by phone, call 800-728-7228, ext. 5885. To send a check, please designate where you want your gift to go on the memo line and mail to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

P. O. Box 643700

Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

To give online, go to

<https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/disaster-assistance>



Here's a THANK YOU to each and every one of you!

It has been a wonderful experience serving you throughout the years. I thank those of you who surprised me with a memorable gift of kind words during the January 5th worship service. I was humbly touched not only with the warmth of the words said but with the cards and the gift!

MWCPC means a lot to me not only because it is my place of worship, but also because of all the members and friends that attend. Throughout my journey here I've seen and heard many, many good things come about because of these people. We all worked together through hard times and then the many, many good times. We've cried and laughed together knowing that God is always there for and with us.

With this - I thank everyone for their friendship throughout my 28 years as your Administrative Assistant, the 8 years serving as your Clerk, and as a member since 1974. I treasure the adventures that came my way and look forward to different adventures to come. I have been proud to serve you and our church!!!

And, as adventures continues for me in other ways, FYI I'm not moving away, new memories and adventures will be well taken care of with Administrative Assistant Skylar Moon (and Huntley), and with Hope Dougherty as your new Clerk.

- God Bless you all! Lois Bauers



Fleazaar Notices –

McNaughton Crew: Any of you who have worked with the McNaughton men know what a contribution they make to the setting up and clean-up for Fleazaar. Normally, there is a charge for their time and work. We have been exempted from paying the years they have worked with us. We have been told we will need to pay this year at a rate of \$4.00/man/hour. This would mean a maximum of \$320 per day for the crew or a total \$620 for both days for the approximately 10 men. We are proposing we ask our Fleazaar family to sponsor a man or 2 or partially sponsor someone if that is better for you. That would mean a contribution of \$32 would sponsor a man for one day.

We will be following up with more information.

If you have questions or ideas, please contact either Denny Kieper or Nan Bloch

SNOW REMOVAL VOLUNTEERS



In the following weeks we will need helpers to shovel! Mostly on Sundays, and Wednesdays. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for Sundays. If you volunteer, please check in on the Wednesday that week as we have a lot of traffic with classes and Youth Group! Snow thrower, shovels, and ice melt available in the church entrance!

Thank you for anyone who is able to volunteer!

Little Forest School Daycare Update

We are thrilled to share the latest developments regarding the Little Forest School Daycare. Significant progress has been made in preparing the facility for the children and staff, ensuring a smooth and efficient transition. Little Forest Daycare has begun moving their equipment and supplies into the lower level of our church. They anticipate start-up of service to the community in mid-March, pending licensing and staff hires.

Session approved the naming of a task force to oversee the move-in process and contractual agreement with LFS. Members are Hope Dougherty, Tom Henning, Stephanie McClellan, Deane Galloway, John Tegtmeier, and Bob Dannenberg, reflecting Christian Education, Finance, and Building & Grounds. The task force's next meeting with LFS representatives is February 9.

- Bob Dannenberg



Youth Group News –

Pictured here, our faithful youth are making crafts about the body of Christ!

We could still use some volunteers to help teach on Wednesdays as subs! Please contact Stephanie McClellan, 715-904-0052 or stephanietralongo@yahoo.com

or call the office if you can volunteer!



Notice from Membership/Communication:

The Membership/Communications Committee has some fun events scheduled for the coming months including a games and pizza party and an evening out at a local restaurant. Watch for details in the coming months.

Many of you have asked who is planning the fun activities of 2024. This Committee has! If you'd like to a part of brainstorming and planning we'd love to have you join us. New ideas are welcome. **Events >>**

On a more serious note, most of you are aware that we had to withdraw \$50,000 from our investment portfolio to cover last year's expenses. One of those expenses was a \$38 per person charge from the Presbytery. Last year that amount totaled about \$6,000. Your regular offering is not used to cover this expense. We'd appreciate everyone paying their share of this fee. You can put a check in the weekly offering plate or pay it online. Thank you.

News on our Thrift efforts:

The Thrift Store Task Force held their first meeting in the middle of January. We hope to have a report to Session ready by mid-March.

The purpose of the task force is to determine whether or not a thrift store is a viable and wise option for our church. We will look at the cost, the expected income, staffing, risks, etc.

We are well aware that everyone loves Fleazaar and we have no wish to interfere with this event. Again, we'd like to remind everyone that our current financial position cannot be sustained and we must find additional sources of income.

We ask that everyone keep an open mind and wait for the recommendations from the task force.

- Susan Goulet

Great Lineup of Fun Events for 2025

Details to follow via email and announcements in church.

February 13th – *Dinner out at a local restaurant – time and place to be determined. Let's support our local economy and have fun enjoying each other!*

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

March 9th – *Pizza lunch and board games after church.*

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.*

With these events, we spread the love of Jesus and provide the community with good clean fun!

Women's Fellowship News

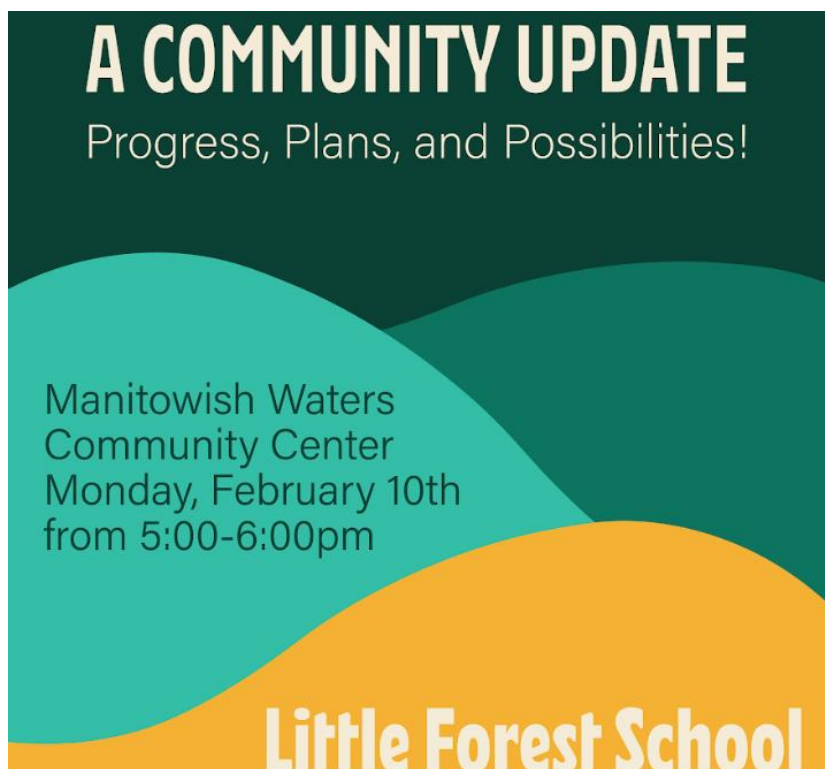
First off, we have a new moderator. Susan Goulet has opted to step down because of multiple other commitments here at the church. So you'll be hearing from me for a while. Our new winter pie making venture will start on Thursday, February 6 at noon. For now, it will be just the first Thursday of the month at noon. Stay tuned as more dates may be added. Whether you have helped with pie making in the past or not, if you enjoy working with flour and fruit and good conversation come join us. We promise, the fellowship is more intense than the labor.

Before pie making on the first Thursday of each month is our Bible Study led by Fr. Bill Radant. We use the Presbyterian Women's study, this year is titled Let Justice Roll Down. We are learning a lot about environmental issues and particularly how a lot of what humankind has done to Creation disproportionately affects disadvantaged populations. And, even if it's a little, what we can do to help correct the problems. Study starts at 9:30, come earlier if you want chit chat time. Study is followed by treats, a short business meeting and sharing time. It's a great way to connect with other women of the congregation.

Our mission projects continue. We always need items for the School and Hygiene Kits, the lists of needed items are on the baskets on the narthex table. Also on that table you'll find kits for the Little Dresses for Africa and Britches Boys. The britches(shorts) pattern has been modified by our own Mid Sharpe and we are using woven fabric not t-shirts so it is much more user friendly.

We also meet on the third Thursday of each month at 9:30. We have a business meeting, treats of course, sharing time, and work on the mission projects. Some women prefer only the Bible study, others prefer the nuts and bolts of the alternate meeting. That's fine. Please consider joining us!

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Kieper



< Looking forward to an Update

Looking for an understanding of the new Child Care program that will be taking off in the next month or two?

Join the community meeting to see what's new and what it's going to be like!

We are so thankful to help the community by sharing our space with Little Forest School, for the time being.

Check it out!



THE POWER OF INCLUSION & ACCESSIBILITY

Saturday
February 22nd, 2025

Free Workshop

WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN WHEN THE CHURCH PROCLAIMS ALL ARE WELCOME?

9:30-10AM

REGISTRATION & GATHERING

10:00AM-2:30PM

WORKSHOP

*Lunch provided
(free will donation)

**SNOW DATE: APRIL 5TH, 2025*

*In the chance of inclement weather the workshop will
be rescheduled for April 5th, 2025*

Speaker

Laura Foote



What does it mean to be inclusive?

How do we show love and encourage belonging?

How do we practice hospitality if there is a set of stairs leading to the front door and someone using a wheelchair rolls up? This workshop will have an inward (personal) and outward (communal) focus in order to better understand the power of accessibility, and how in turn that will make way for belonging and discipleship.

[Register By February 14th, 2025](#)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2112 RUDOLPH RD, EAU CLAIRE, WI
(715) 832.1011 / office@fpcec.org / www.fpcec.org

**Funded by: Presbyterian of Northern Waters Grant*

REGISTER
NOW!



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
Lois Bauers (Clerk): 715-904-3105
B Dannenberg: 262-758-0301, H Dougherty: 715-543-2669
D Goldsworthy: 715-891-0921, S Goulet: 715-388-0477
D Kieper: 715-476-2196, J Patterson: 715-892-3065
J Sanks: 715-543-2229 K Slemmons: 715-439-5528
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
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Living Waters February 2025

MANITOWISH WATERS COMMUNITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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