

FIRST PRES NEWS

monthly

VOLUME VI | JUNE 2026

A note from pastor...

This June my thoughts remain in Cuba and with the hunger of our friends, siblings in Christ and fellow humanity. On a tour of Matanzas, the associate pastor, Yaremis, bought Deb two volumes of poetry by Matanzas' own Nicolas Guillen. Guillen remains one of Cuba's most beloved poets. This poem about building a wall may strike some of us as problematic in our context, but I have been considering it a prayer for the people of Cuba.

For us to build this wall,
bring me all the hands:
the black their hands black,
the white their hands white.

Aye,
A wall that stretches
from the beach to the mountain,
from the mountain to the beach,
there over the horizon.

—Knock, knock!
—Who's there?
—A rose and a carnation
—Open the wall!
—Knock, knock!
—Who's there?
—The colonel's saber
—Close the wall!
—Knock, knock!
—Who's there?
—The pigeon and the laurel
—Open the wall!
—Knock, knock!
—Who's there?
—The scorpion and
the centipede
—Close the wall!

To the heart of a friend,
open the wall;
To the poison and the dagger,
close the wall;
To the myrtle and mint,
open the wall;
To the snake's teeth,
close the wall;
to the nightingale in the flower,
open the wall.

Let us raise a wall
putting together all the hands
the black, their hands black,
the white, their white hands.
A wall that stretches
from the beach to the mountain,
from the mountain to the beach,
there over the horizon.

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On the Longest Day of the Year

There is comfort in knowing
that every year
since the earth was made
there has been
a longest day of the year—
a day when half of all life
wakes to an abundance of light
and then in that moment
of greatness leans again
toward the dark.

There is comfort in knowing
the light comes, the light leaves,
the light comes, the light leaves,
comfort in knowing
all the light that is
reaches toward us,
whether we can see it or not.
It is simply a matter
of staying out of our own way,
and if we can't do that,
well, that is what patience is for.

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June Birthdays

- 5 Teddy Vollman
- 8 Don Tobias
- 9 Jordan Rowland
- 10 John Rowland
- 12 Dave Holle
Kathy Wortley
- 13 Mary Bernstein
- 19 Judy Rowland
- 20 Sue Pehlivanian
Ko Kryger
Pam Wahlen
- 21 Meg Daniels
- 23 Darren Utley
- 24 Emma DeGroot
- 25 Mark Paffrath

June Anniversaries

- Jim & Bonnie Eastman
June 22, 1963
- John & Linnea Brooke
June 12, 1965
- Bill & Blanche Gunderson
June 29, 1968

Greeters

- 7 John & Linnea Brooke
- 14 Larry Dickerson and Sharon Campbell
- 21 Ken Schacht and Steve Simpson
- 28 Dave Easley and Alan Galle

Ushers

- 7 Bev Eifert and Ginny Holle
- 14 Bud Eastman and Katie Humphrey
- 21 Nancy Reeser and Linda Schubert
- 28 Jerry & Nancy Ritters

Liturgists

- 7 Evelyn Alumbros
- 14 Josh Utley
- 21 Shelley Maurer
- 28 Sharon Campbell

Fellowship

- 7 Ginny Holle and Sharon Campbell
- 14 Bev Eifert and Deb Yale
- 21 Ken Schacht and Jen Severson
- 28 John & Linnea Brooke



We invite you to join us on **Thursday, June 4th at Noon** as Music & More kicks off its 33rd summer series with featured performers: pianist/vocalist Carolyn Wehner; Riley Saenim - a multi-time Wisconsin state champion in the National Endowment for the Arts' Poetry Out Loud competition; and Waiting for Eddie band.

The series of ten FREE Thursday noontime concerts will continue each week through August 6th. The concerts are just an hour long, fast-paced, and fun for all ages! The full schedule is available on the church website:

<https://firstpresracine.org/music-more/2026-music-more-schedule>

An offering will be accepted each week to benefit Health Care Network and the Women's Resource Center. From the very first season, Music & More has given back to the community in the form of unrestricted grants to local non-profit organizations.

Please consider making a donation to show your support for this outstanding program! It's easy to donate online with a credit card using PayPal at firstpresracine.org/donate, or send a check to the church. Donations may be given IN HONOR or IN MEMORY of someone, or to mark a special occasion. Donations in any amount are needed to pay for musicians, advertising, and the Summer Finale celebration. Thank you!

Additional parking may be available in the Living Light Community Center lot adjacent to the church. Please avoid parking in numbered or reserved spots for the noontime concerts as they are rented.

Volunteers are needed throughout the season. Please contact Georgia Hall at 262.308.1883 or ghall33@yahoo.com for information about ways you can be involved.

CELEBRATING 33 YEARS!



Music & MORE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES 2026

FREE THURSDAY NOON CONCERTS • CLASSICAL – CONTEMPORARY – JAZZ – FOLK
JUNE 4 – AUGUST 6, 2026 • NOON – 1PM



JUNE 4

Carolyn Wehner
Riley Saenim
Waiting for Eddie Band

JUNE 11

Spirit of Racine Music Makers
Nancy Maio Trio
The Prairie School Jazz Combo

JUNE 18

Jillian Bruss & Friends
Jim Sodke
Mark Paffrath & Liz Steffensen

JUNE 25

Sweet Melody Strings
Dean Gunnarson
Bouterse-Alumbreros Family

JULY 2

Lucy Garrigan
Monte Bedford & Fumi Nakayama
Randy & Charlotte Bush

JULY 9

Leila Mayew
Suzanne Geoffrey
Corynn Latta

JULY 16

Lynda Schlitz Ensemble
Zachary Scot Johnson
Corporate Downsizing Quartet

JULY 23

Flute Choir
Sharon Adel
Amy Maack & Band

JULY 30

Alexander VanDeLoo
Fumi Nakayama
Jack Grassel & Jill Jensen

AUGUST 6

Cecilia Andersson
Jessi Kolberg
Mary Skop

..... *Summer Finale Concert*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14 AT 7PM

The Jelly Rolls Ragtime Band • Bob Benson & Friends

EARLY BIRD TICKETS \$15; \$20 AFTER 08/07/26



An offering will be received to benefit local agencies.

June Notes for Mission Initiative

SUNDAY, JUNE 21ST: Last day to contribute to OGHS/Hand of Hope. As of May 27th, we have received \$6565!

Thank you all who have contributed! If you have not yet, please consider a donation to help support these worthy causes:

- ◇ Royal Family KIDS Camp
- ◇ Women's Resource Center
- ◇ Cuba Partners Network
- ◇ One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

You can give securely on-line by visiting our website at firstpresracine.org, choose "Donate", click on the PayPal icon and choose OGHS/Hand of Hope. Checks can also be added to the offering collection on Sundays (made out to First Presbyterian Church with a note in the memo area OGHS/Hand of Hope).

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: Our Wednesday Food pantry service continues to provide vital emergency food to our neighbors in need. We have seen a greater number of new clients and increasingly have more un-housed individuals seeking food assistance. Thank you to the many wonderful volunteers who pick up food, meet deliveries un-pack food, and to those who generously fill our donation box.

Donations of the following items are always needed for those without access to a kitchen:

- ◇ Canned Proteins Pop-top cans of Vienna sausages, Spam, or chunk chicken. Tuna in pouches or cans.
- ◇ Granola or Protein Bars: Soft or chewy preferred
- ◇ Crackers: Peanut butter or cheese-filled sandwich crackers, saltines
- ◇ Ready to Eat meals (Ravioli, SpaghettiOs, Mac-n-cheese, etc.)
- ◇ Protein shakes or Ensure
- ◇ Peanut butter
- ◇ Small cookie packs
- ◇ Fruit or pudding cups

With love and gratitude,

Mission Initiative



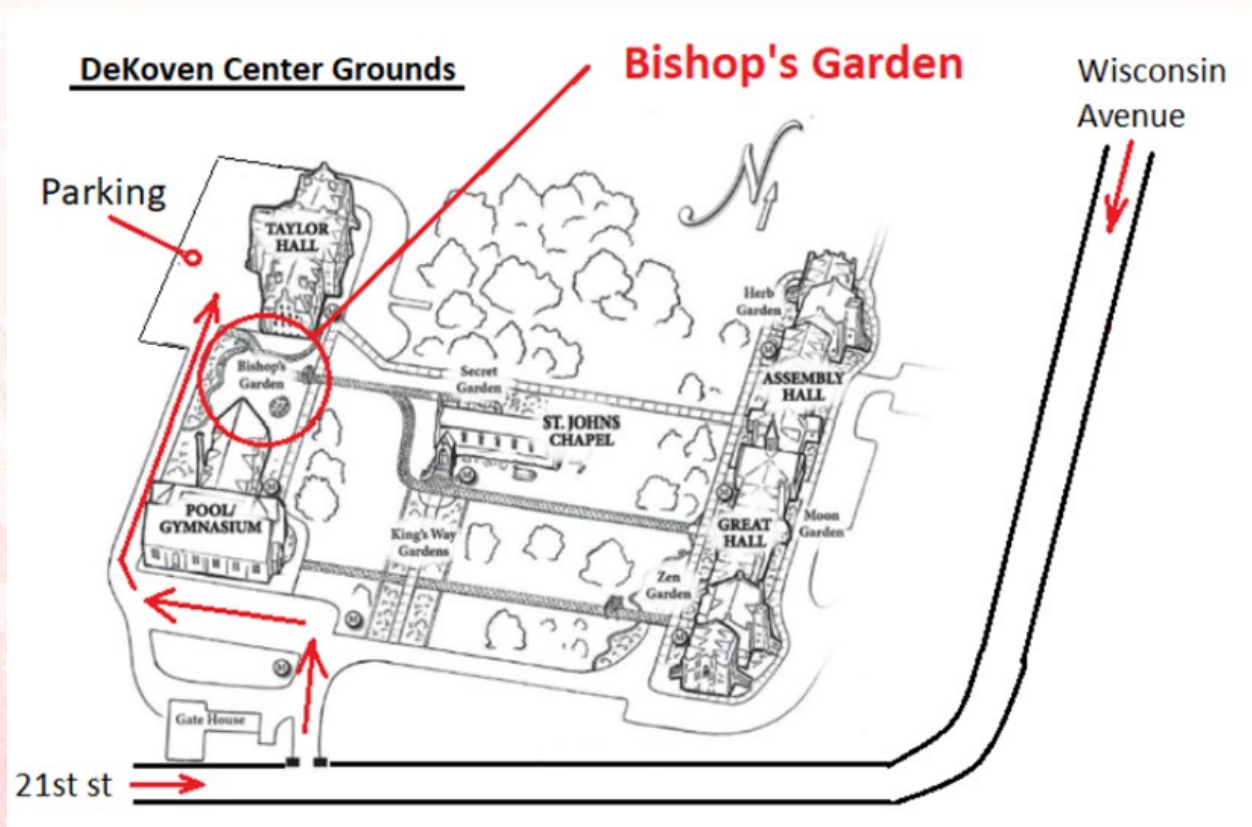
Worship in the Park and Picnic

You Are Invited to Join Us!

Sunday, July 12TH—Worship begins at 10:00^{AM}
DeKoven Center - Bishop's Garden
2000 Wisconsin Avenue, Racine

Picnic will follow directly after worship.
Please bring a dish to share and your lawn chairs!
The Deacons will provide pulled pork and baked beans.

*In case of inclement weather, look for an email announcement
on moving to the church basement.*



Art of Urban Sketching

A class taught by Kathi Wilson, Urban Sketch Artist
Thursday, June 4th in First Pres Chapel Gallery
10:00 – noon / \$25 - cash or check (bring to class)
Register: urbansketchersracine@gmail.com

In this class all supplies will be provided, and you will learn the basics of watercolor painting and linework with micron pens. You will try different paint brushes and learn to mix colors ... and voila, you will create your own urban sketch of colorful tulips!

Urban Sketching has become a global phenomenon! People who love community, love to travel and try a new adventure are welcome with no experience necessary. In fact, it's fun to be a beginner! A sketch is what you see and what you want to capture in your drawing ... the experience of smells, the sounds, the people, the world around you!

Really “seeing” a scene is what an urban sketcher takes pride in as we capture the essence in our sketchbooks. It's detail ... always on location, not from photos or memory. We carry a small backpack with a travel size palette of watercolors, sketchbook, and a satchel of micron pens, pencils and brushes. The simpler the better! Sketch anything, anywhere, anytime.



A Prayer for Every Day

Let me breathe only grace today, only
that which slows, steadies,
softens, sparks

only that which permits
and pardons and points
to the blossoms inside the broken,
the poetry inside the pain, the nourishing
newness inside the now

Let me breathe only grace
today, only that which invites
me to speak my very own
language for as long as I have breath,
only that which hums:

You can.
You will.

Let me breathe only grace today, only that which notices the tired
and says, lie back, Love—rest
for as long as you need to. It's not
about how much you do
but how full you are.

And, my God, how beautiful you are when you are full.

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