



The Ambassador

DELTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Words From Wendy

When we had the Blessing of the Animals on October 1, I was making mental notes throughout the service. It was our third time doing it, and each year we have handled things a little bit differently. I was evaluating how the changes we had made had worked, and what could be improved for 2024. At some point, I realized that I'll be retired next year!

As retirement looms, I'm beginning to think more seriously about what that will look like. We are staying here in Lansing, and I look forward to having time to complete various projects around the house. We traded in our pop-up camper for one that will be easier to set-up and pack-up. I'm looking forward to more camping and exploring new areas.

I'm also realizing that I can't predict exactly what will happen in retirement. Will I be healthy enough to go camping and hiking? We have a new dog and two new cats! How will they handle camping? (What was I thinking when I said yes to two new cats?) How will Lena handle the less structured life that retirement brings?

As I look at all the possibilities and realize they may not work out, it is easy to worry. For the last 38 years, my life has had a particular rhythm. July is vacation. September is busy with the start of church programs. I need to work ahead for December, so I don't have to work the week after Christmas, but will be prepared to lead worship that Sunday. Holy Week is a busy time. Life is easier when I plan worship themes ahead of time. I need to be far enough ahead on the work to handle a funeral.

When I look back on 38 years, I realize I have seen a lot of change during my time in ministry. I've reached the age where colleagues and I are known to say things like, "Do you remember when?"

There has been one thing I've known through the changes and challenges of ministry: God has always been with me. That's one thing that will not change with retirement. God isn't retiring. We are all living with uncertainty about the future and what it will look like. There is one thing that is still certain: God will be with us. God will guide us and give us the resources to live out God's call to us. God's presence is the stability, and the certainty, that carries us through the changes and uncertainties of life.

Living into Our Vision

I have welcomed the return of fellowship meals. I enjoy sitting around the table with all of you in a less formal setting. It is a gift to hear your challenges and triumphs.

As we sit around the tables and share a meal, we are also sharing Christ. We are sharing the love and support of being brothers and sisters in Christ. We are truly listening to one another. We are living into our vision as we share Christ among us and enjoy doing it. Our next fellowship meal will be December 3 following the Hanging of the Greens. It will be a soup and salad luncheon, so we invite you to sign up at the commitment center to bring a soup, a salad, bread, or a dessert.



*Words
From
Wendy*



Delta Presbyterian Church

Strengthening Christ in us
Sharing Christ among us
Showing Christ around us

www.deltapresby.org

From the Session

Congregational Meeting: The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, November 19, following worship. We will be voting on the pastor's terms of call for 2024 and electing elders and deacons.

Get involved! We ask that you prayerfully consider taking on a role at the church. Talk to a committee moderator to learn more about what the committees do:

- **Resources:** Doug Dykstra
- **Spiritual Life:** Sue Settle
- **Property:** Frank Jackson
- **Mission:** Sharon VanCourt
- **Personnel:** Nancy Ellis



COMMITTEES

Spotlight on Mission

Thank you for all the winter coats! They will keep children warm this winter. They are being distributed through schools and other organizations. For Christmas we will be adopting a family or two. We will let you know as soon as we receive specific information. Until then, you can donate canned goods and other items that do not require refrigeration.

Office News

We have a new Administrative Assistant! Shelly Shinevar started on Halloween. She has a degree in English and Dance Education from WMU, and has worked a variety of jobs over the years. She lives in Grand Ledge and will be taking Eatan to get here. For now, her schedule is Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9 to 3. If you are in the area, stop by and welcome her to Delta.

The office will be closed on Thursday and Friday November 23 & 24, for Thanksgiving.

Strategic Planning Update

The Strategic Planning Team had their second meeting with the Project Regeneration Team from the Presbyterian Foundation on October 25. We reviewed the 2022 Church Giving Analysis for Delta Presbyterian and the Church Assessment and Recommendation reports prepared by the Project Regeneration Team. We are still digesting the information received in the survey and will provide an update on the results at a later date.

We discussed our thoughts and reflections on the ideas for moving the church forward presented in the book Sailboat Church. The discussion was followed by instructions for the "forty days of prayer and discernment" for the Holy Spirit to guide the Strategic Planning Team and the congregation in planning the future of Delta and what our ministry should look like. We are now in the midst of 40 days of prayer. During this time we are not meeting or discussing the possibilities. We are individually prayerfully considering seven high-level options for Delta's future direction. We will meet again in December to process what we have heard as we have prayed and listened to God.

The Strategic Planning Team requests you join us in prayer as we progress in seeking the future of the ministry at Delta. If the Spirit speaks to you, please pass the message along.

Financial Update (from the Resources Committee)

As of the end of September:

Pledge Receipts: Sep \$8,715, YTD \$112,612

Budget \$141,500 = 79.6% Results: Total Receipts \$9,241, Expense \$11,027, deficit of \$(1,785)

YTD results = Receipts \$119,014, Expense \$127,167, deficit of \$(8,153).



Thank you to everyone who has returned their estimate of giving. If you haven't, you can bring it to worship on Sunday or mail or drop it off to the church office.

Cause to Rejoice!



Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Philippians 4:4

God continues to be at work in and through us as we seek to serve God in our community. There is always cause to rejoice!

We rejoice in the hiring of Shelly Shinevar as our new Administrative Assistant.

We rejoice in your generous donations of coats for those in need.

We rejoice in the ongoing work of the Strategic Planning Team.

We rejoice in the help that Fran and Ellen provided in the office while we searched for a new Administrative Assistant.

We rejoice in our successful participation in the Trick or Treat Trail

We rejoice in the return of the Fellowship Meal.

We rejoice in the return of the choir.

We rejoice in the growing use of our building.

We rejoice that ministry continues!

What gives you cause to rejoice around Delta? Let us know and we will include it here next month.

Worship

Sunday, November 5, 2023
23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 14:13-33
Watch, Learn, Participate in
What God is Doing

Sunday, November 12, 2023
24th Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 43:1-3a
Matthew 28:1-5
Be Not Afraid

Sunday, November 19, 2023
25th Sunday after Pentecost
Bible Distribution
Psalm 16
Mark 9:19-29
Turn Your Worries & Hopes
into Prayers

Sunday, November 26, 2023
Christ the King Sunday
Matthew 28:16-20
God's Got Our Backs

SESSION

Class of 2023
Doug Dykstra
Chuck Jennings
Sue Settle
Nancy Ellis

Class of 2024
Meredith Jackson

DEACONS

Class of 2023

Maureen Dykstra	Bonnie Reemsnyder
Trudie Frick	Jane Thomas
Geri Jennings	Art Kelley

Birthdays

Nov 1	Betty Karelse
Nov 8	Gary Reemsnyder
Nov 10	Mary Meier
Nov 13	Ethan Woloszyn
Nov 15	Mark McElwee
Nov 23	Chuck Wilbur
Nov 30	Jane Elsinga



Fall Back

Remember that Daylight Saving Time will end November 5. Remember to set your clocks back an hour, and enjoy the gift of an extra hour of sleep.



Celebration Choir

What a great job the choir members did on Sunday, October 15! Our next Sunday to sing this fall will be on November 19. We will meet at 9:30 am on Sunday, November 12, in the choir room to go over parts. We will meet again at 9:30 am on Sunday, November 19, and perform on that Sunday. The music is in the choir room, near the church mailboxes. If you would like to sing and haven't been notified, please contact me at 517-323-4231. Thank you. Ellen Jackson



Let Us Pray

Pray for the people in the Gaza strip, and for Hamas and Israel, that they may work together for peace and justice for all. Also pray for the following people: week of October 29: Vicki Zaikowski, Mengyao (Chloe) Zhao, Jeff and Sandy Akright, Don & Betty Aschom; week of November 5: Pat Baker, Bob & Wendy Benezette, Steven & Jackie Bishop and family; week of November 12: Mark Bradley, David & Holly Brock, Georgia Brown, Bob & Jan Buchanan; week of November 19: Kerri Buchanan, Denise Colosky, Jim Constandt, Jim & JoAnn Dexter; week of November 26: Donna Dickert, Lisa Dingwell, Doug & Maureen Dykstra, Stacy Elliott & family.



Prayer Care November, 2023

Holly Brock, health concerns
Mary Ann Martin, health concerns
Jack Keys, pain
Shirley Twichell, health concerns, cousin of Denise Colosky

Continuing Prayers November, 2023

Susan, Pat Baker's niece, cancer
Sharon Davis, son, Ali, poor living conditions, friend of Jon Vogler
Jennifer Grover, sister of Richard, recovery from cancer
Barry, motorcycle accident, health concerns
Lisa Dingwell, health concerns
Donna Dickert, continuing health concerns
Mark Reed, friend of Mary Ann Martin, colon cancer
Nate Batterbee, Nancy Ellis' grandnephew, recovery from massive stroke and heart surgery
Sue Keys, continuing recovery and adjustment from broken arm
Flora Gilbert, health concerns
Kathy Peters, at Masonic Home, Alma
Sharon McPherson, health concerns
Adam LaPratt, son of Roger & Holly LaPratt
Holly LaPratt, health concerns



November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:30 Prayers and Squares	2	3	4
5 23rd Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship Change for Change Communion <i>Daylight Saving Time Ends</i>	6 12:30 pm Spiritual Life 1:30 pm Prayer Shawl 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts	7	8 9:30 Prayers and Squares	9	10	11 Veterans Day
12 24th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship	13 1:30 pm Prayer Shawl 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts 7 pm Resources	14	15 9:30 Prayers and Squares	16	17	18
19 25th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship 11 am Congregational Meeting	20 1:30 pm Prayer Shawl 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:00 Session (Zoom)	21	22 9:30 Prayers and Squares	23 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed	24 Office Closed	25
26 Christ the King/Reign of Christ 10am Worship	27 1:30 pm Prayer Shawl 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:00 OCD Support	28	29 9:30 Prayers and Squares	30		

Updated Calendar

Check out the church website for an up-to-date calendar at www.deltapresby.org. Thanks to Art for his work keeping it current.

The Ambassador

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October 26, 2023

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Wendy S. Pratt
Admin. Assistant: Shelly Shinevar
Clerk of Session: Meredith Jackson
Treasurer: Bill Stirling
Auditor: Joe Frick
Financial Secretary: Fran Johnston
Accompanist: Mengyao Zhao (Chloe)
Adult Choir Dir.: Ellen Jackson
Website Coordinator: Art Kelley



***"We are ambassadors for Christ, God making
His appeal through us." II Cor 5:20 .***

We're on the Web!
www.deltapresby.org

Announcements

Let Us Know. When you have prayer requests, would like a visit, are going to be out of town, or have a change in your contact information, please email the office at office@deltapresby.org or call and leave a message on voicemail.

Ambassadors. Delta's newsletter, The Ambassador, is sent out once a month. If you are currently NOT receiving this newsletter by email and would like to, please let the office know and we will put you on the email list.

Communication. We will be posting important updates on our website: www.deltapresby.org and on our Facebook page. If you have not liked our Facebook page yet, please do so that you will be able to see the updates. If you are not currently receiving updates by email and would like to, please email office@deltapresby.org and let us know. If you no longer want to receive email and prefer to receive news and information via U.S. Mail, please call the office and leave a voicemail if the office is closed.

Contributions. If you are not attending worship, please mail or drop off your offerings to the church. Twice a month, Jim Constandt and Fran Johnston will come in to take care of them and get them deposited.

Website Calendar. If you have events that need to go on the website calendar, please let Art Kelley know.

Papergator. Feed our Papergator! The paper, books, and cardstock are recycled, and the church is paid for the amount collected.