



The Ambassador

DELTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Words From Wendy

It seems like each day there is more troubling news about what is going on in the world. There is more violence between nations and various groups. There are deeper divisions, with some advocating violence to address them and many naming those with whom they disagree as "evil", refusing to even talk to them. There are growing concerns about climate change and the upcoming elections.

In the midst of growing anxiety, I remind you:

- Our security comes from God.
- Remember that we are all children of God and treat one another accordingly.
- Pray for those you have the most trouble with, not to tell God how to fix the situation, but to lift them up to God so you can let go of your desire to change them. As you pray for them, it becomes easier for you to love them.
- God offers us a peace that is beyond all understanding. Claim it and offer it to a hurting world.
- God always wins.

Living into Our Vision

On the Sunday after Holly LaPratt's death, I asked those who were willing to help to gather up front following worship to coordinate the work that needed to be done to host her memorial service. Most of you gathered up front and volunteered for everything needed.

I was very impressed and grateful. You were planning to share Christ's love with a grieving family. That is truly Delta at its best, and one of the times I am most grateful to share in ministry with you.

Worship During Lent

We will mark the beginning of Lent on Sunday, February 18. This year we will be focusing in on individual encounters with Christ.

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|----------------------------|---|
| Sunday, February 18 | Satan Encounters Christ |
| Sunday, February 25 | Nicodemus Encounters Christ |
| Sunday, March 3 | A Samaritan Woman Encounters Christ |
| Sunday, March 10 | A Man Born Blind Encounters Christ |
| Sunday, March 17 | Martha Encounters Christ |
| Sunday, March 24 | Judas Encounters Christ |
| Thursday, March 28 | Maundy Thursday Communion |
| Friday, March 29 | Good Friday Service at Dimondale Presbyterian |
| Sunday, March 31 | Mary Magdalene Encounters Christ |



*Words
From
Wendy*



Delta Presbyterian Church

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

www.deltapresby.org

Strategic Planning Team

The Strategic Planning Team has been exploring and pursuing the options that were suggested by the Congregational Survey results. The team is very grateful for the participation and responses from the congregation. The responses from the survey were beneficial as the initial steps in planning for Delta's future. Upon reviewing the survey responses, it was apparent that the congregation was open for the consideration and exploration of various paths for the future. Thus, the survey served as a valuable resource for this journey. The next step was the team completing the Presbyterian Foundation Project Regeneration, which involved reading The Sailboat Church and committing to the 40 days of prayerful consideration of where God may be leading us. This experience deepened the team's commitment to listening and prayerfully considering what God's plan may be. The Strategic Planning team is currently working on concrete options with the belief that God is in the lead. As the Strategic Planning Team continues on this journey, we rely on our guiding principles: "God is for us; God is at work in us, through us, and around us; and God's got our backs".

The Congregational Survey results are available:

1. On Delta's website: www.deltapresby.org
2. On the Commitment Center
3. If you have questions or have trouble obtaining a copy, please speak to one of the Strategic Planning Team Members: Doug Dykstra, Art Kelley, Nancy Ellis, Bonnie Reemsnyder, Chuck Jennings, Jim Dexter, Jane Thomas, Betty Gaffney, Sue Settle, Jon Vogler, or Meredith Jackson.

Spotlight on Mission



Thank you for the socks you brought for our Toasty Toes campaign in January. Are you interested in helping determine the mission projects we support? Do you have ideas for new mission opportunities? Gather with us up front following worship on Sunday, February 11.

February Fellowship Meal

We will share a fellowship meal on Sunday, February 18. We will have a potluck, and a sign-up sheet is available at the Commitment Center.



Opportunities to Serve



We are in need of volunteers to serve in a variety of tasks. Check out the Commitment Center to see what the opportunities are. Currently, sign-up sheets include:

- Serving as greeters on Sunday morning.
- Providing food for the fellowship time following worship.
- The Mission Committee: meeting following worship on February 11.

Financial Update (from the Resources Committee)

Preliminary 2023 results:

Pledge Receipts: YTD \$148,649, Budget \$141,500 = 105.0%

2023 Totals: Receipts \$158,168, Expenses \$173,229, deficit of \$(15,061).

January 2024

Pledge Receipts: \$16,882, Budget \$128,442 = 13%

Total Receipts: \$17,434.



Cause to Rejoice!



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

We continue to rejoice because God continues to work in and through us.

We rejoice in the congregation's support for the LaPratt family.

We rejoice in the continuing hard work of the Strategic Planning Team.

We rejoice in God's ongoing guidance during times of change and uncertainty.

We rejoice in the people who are willing to step up and help out when things don't go exactly as planned.

We rejoice in your ongoing support of Delta, with both your time and your money.

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

Worship

Sunday, February 4, 2024
5th Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 40:21-31
Mark 1:29-39
Seek and Trust

Sunday, February 11, 2024
Transfiguration of the Lord
Communion
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9
Waiting

Sunday, February 18, 2024
1st Sunday in Lent

Matthew 4:1-11
Satan Encounters Christ

Sunday, February 25, 2024
2nd Sunday in Lent
John 3:1-21
Nicodemus Encounters Christ

Sunday, March 3, 2024
3rd Sunday in Lent
John 4:5-42
A Samaritan Woman Encounters Christ



Sunday, March 10, 2024
4th Sunday in Lent
John 9:1-41
A Man Born Blind Encounters Christ

Sunday, March 17, 2024
5th Sunday in Lent
John 11:1-45
Martha Encounters Christ.

SESSION

Class of 2024

Doug Dykstra	Chuck Jennings
Nancy Ellis	Art Kelley
Meredith Jackson	Sue Settle

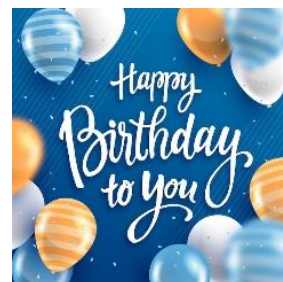
DEACONS

Class of 2024

John Elsinga	Ginny Noble
Geri Jennings	Bonnie Reemsnyder
Mary Jo Kelley	Jane Thomas

Birthdays

Feb 1	Eli Bishop
Feb 1	Jackson Bishop
Feb 7	Julianne Hebert
Feb 8	Wendy Pratt
Feb 27	Mary Ann Martin
Feb 28	Brad Venman



Let Us Pray

Amid escalating tension with Iran, let us pray for peace. Continue to hold the people of the Ukraine, the Israelis, and the Palestinians in your prayers. Also, pray for the following people: week of February 4: Gary & Bonnie Reemsnyder, Read & Sharon Ross, Ann Ryan; week of February 11: Mike & Cindy Schilling, Paul Seppala, Bill & Sue Settle; week of February 18: Shelly Shinevar, Roger & Janet Small, Bill & Laurie Stirling; week of February 25: Margaret Strange, Ralph & Susan Swan, Jane Thomas.



Prayer Care February, 2024

The family of Holly LaPratt, Holly passed away on January 27th
Amy Lewis, housing concerns, daughter of Denise Colosky
Brian and Verna Batterbee, Nancy Ellis' nephew and his wife, health concerns
Holly Brock, health concerns
Pat Baker & family, death of Pat's niece, Susan

Continuing Prayers February, 2024



Shirley Twichell, health concerns, cousin of Denise Colosky
Lisa Dingwell, health concerns
Donna Dickert, continuing health concerns
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
Mary Ann Martin, health concerns

Per Capita

As Presbyterians, we are a part of a denomination that has different levels of church structure. We are members of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, which is part of the Synod of the Covenant, which is part of the General Assembly. To support the ministry of these different levels of government, we pay per capita, an annual per member apportionment assessed by the General Assembly, the Synod, and the Presbytery to enable Presbyterians mutually and equitably to share the ecclesiastical and administrative costs of sustaining our witness to Christ, as a sign of the covenant that binds us together. The Per Capita amount for 2024 is \$40.05 per member. You can use the special envelope that is in your envelope packet or just mark the memo line of your check "Per Capita". Your support of the per capita frees up money for other ministries.



February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 5th Sunday after Epiphany 10 am Worship Change for Change	5 12:30pm Spiritual Life 1:30 pm Prayer Shawl 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	6	7 9:30 am Prayers & Squares 10:00 am Property Team	8	9	10
11 Transfiguration of the Lord 10 am Worship Communion 11:00 Mission Meeting	12 1:30 pm Prayer Shawl 4:00 pm Resources 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	13	14 Ash Wednesday 9:30 am Prayers & Squares	15	16	17
18 1st Sunday in Lent 10 am Worship Annual Reports Due Fellowship Meal	19 1:30 pm Prayer Shawl 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Session (Zoom)	20	21 9:30 am Prayers & Squares 3:00 pm Deacons	22	23	24
25 2nd Sunday in Lent 10 am Worship	26 1:30 pm Prayer Shawl 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm OCD Support	27	28 9:30 am Prayers & Squares	29		

Updated Calendar

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

The Ambassador

Delta Presbyterian Church
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E-mail: office@deltapresby.org

February 1, 2024

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.