



# The Ambassador

DELTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Words From Wendy

When have you encountered God in a powerful, unexpected way? This year during Lent we are looking at people in the Gospel of John who had surprising encounters with Jesus. Some of them were people that a religious man in Jesus' time would not have associated with, such as a Samaritan woman, or a man born blind. We will also hear from Judas Iscariot and Martha, a sister of Lazarus. Join us on Sunday morning at 10:00 or watch it on our webpage ([www.deltapresby.org](http://www.deltapresby.org)) later in the week.



Words  
From  
Wendy

## Living into Our Vision

I always like to see the ways in which you share Christ among us. I see it in the conversations on Sunday morning as you seek updates on challenges people have. I see it in the hospitality you show visitors. I see it in the ways you support one another in times of grief. We truly are living into our vision of sharing Christ among us.



### **Delta Presbyterian Church**

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

[www.deltapresby.org](http://www.deltapresby.org)

## In a World of Disaster, Hunger, and Oppression

Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. We participate in this offering during Lent. Our gifts improve life for people around the world and here in the United States.

## Strategic Planning Team

After going through the Project Regeneration program with the Presbytery Foundation and the 40 days of prayer and discernment process, the Team believes we are being led by the Spirit to proceed toward a shared pastor model. Two churches each hire the pastor part-time with the two parts equating to a full time position for the pastor. This is NOT a merger but a collaboration where each congregation contracts the pastor.

We are excited with the possibilities this would create for both congregations and are exploring sharing a pastor, Ben Rumbaugh, with Dimondale First Presbyterian.

Our Strategic Planning Team met with Ben and seven members of Dimondale's Session on Monday, February 19 to begin exploring the feasibility of moving to a shared pastor model and what opportunities that will create for both congregations. All three parties are excited and decided to continue exploring where the Spirit is leading us and what this model would look like.

Nothing is certain at this time as there are many details yet to be discussed to make anything happen. Our Team requests your prayers as we continue our exploration. There will be a more in-depth update at the March 24 Congregational Meeting with a question and answer session to be included.

## Daylight Savings Time

Spring ahead! Daylight savings time begins on Sunday, March 10. Remember that in the spring we lose an hour. Change your clocks so you won't be late!



## Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation will take place on Sunday, March 24 following worship. Items on the agenda include receiving the Annual Report (which will be available by March 17), the Annual Meeting of the Corporation, electing a Nominating Committee, approving Wendy's retirement at the end of May, and receiving a report from the Strategic Planning Team with a Question and Answer period following.

## Court of Honor

The Eagle Court of Honor has been referred to as Scouting's greatest moment. On Sunday, March 17, the Boy Scouts will have a Court of Honor at which two of the scouts will be honored for receiving scouting's highest rank, Eagle. This will follow our service and is scheduled to begin at 11:00. The congregation is encouraged to attend in support of the new Eagle Scouts and the entire scouting program here at Delta.



## Maundy Thursday

We will celebrate Maundy Thursday at 7:00 pm on March 28. We have invited Dimondale to join us.

On the first Maundy Thursday, the night Jesus was to be arrested, he gathered with his disciples in an upper room to celebrate the Passover. Every year religious people celebrated the Passover, which reminded them of God delivering them from slavery in Egypt and leading them to the Promised Land. This meal, called the Seder, included specific foods that served as reminders of what God had done in the past. They dipped parsley or celery in salt water to remind them of God's promise of new life in the Promised Land and the tears they cried during slavery. They ate unleavened bread to remind them that their ancestors had fled in such haste that they didn't take time to allow the bread to rise before baking it. Jesus gathered with the disciples that night to remember God's deliverance from slavery in Egypt into the Promised Land,

Jesus added to the meal and transformed it into what we remember on Maundy Thursday. He lifted the bread as a reminder of his body, which he would give for us on the cross the next day. He shared the cup as a reminder of the new covenant that would be made through the spilling of his blood during the crucifixion.

When we gather on Maundy Thursday this year, we will remember. We will remember God's deliverance from slavery in Egypt and from sin and death. Join us as we share in the Lord's Supper and remember.

## Good Friday

We have been invited to share in Good Friday worship at First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale at 7:00 pm on March 29. On Good Friday, we remember Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. We are reminded of his suffering and death as we await the Good News of Easter morning.

## Easter Breakfast

Again this year we will have a Continental Breakfast before the Easter worship service. We will have various pastries, fruit, juice, coffee, tea, and water. The breakfast will begin at 9:15 am. Thank you to the Deacons and Spiritual Life Committee for providing the food.



## Easter

Join us as we celebrate Easter at 10:00 am on Sunday, March 31. We will have food and fellowship prior to the service (9:15 am). We will celebrate Christ's triumph over death with butterflies and by flowering a cross. Join us as we celebrate the most important day of the Christian year.

## Spotlight on Mission

Thank you for your donations of food and monies for the Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church, Dimondale. In March we will be collecting Personal Needs and Toiletries.



## 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 after worship on Sundays.

## Financial Update (from the Resources Committee)

Here are the January Financial Results:

Pledge Income: \$19,512, 15.2% of 2024 pledge total

Total Income: \$20,453, 14.8% of 2024 Budget total

Total Expense: \$14,028, 9.8% of Budget total



## 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 successful Fellowship Meal we shared on February 18. Our next meal will be Wendy's retirement dinner on May 19.

**We rejoice** in the deer on our property. It is wonderful to see these animals in our suburban setting.

**We rejoice** in the faithful work of the Strategic Planning Team. They have spent many hours seeking God's guidance and exploring options for Delta's future. We rejoice that they are now focusing on working with Dimondale.

**We rejoice** in the support we have received from the Presbyterian Foundation and their Project Rejuvenation and our liaisons with the Presbytery of Lake Michigan who have provided guidance on the process.

**We rejoice** in our new Administrative Assistant, Gayle Thorne, who comes to us with a great deal of experience, including working in a church office during a time of transition.

**We rejoice** that Shelly Shinevar has found a new job as an Administrative Assistant with the Lansing Fire Department.

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



## Birthdays

Mar 2	Jack Keys	Mar 21	Bill Stirling
Mar 3	Nancy Ellis	Mar 24	Sharon VanCourt
Mar 4	Mary Jarrard	Mar 26	Bonnie Reemsnyder
Mar 7	Georgia Brown	Mar 26	Lena Pratt
Mar 10	Denise Colosky	Mar 28	Frank Jackson
Mar 15	Wendy Benezette	Mar 31	Doug Dykstra
Mar 19	Roger Small		



### **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

## Worship

**Sunday, March 3, 2024**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

John 4:5-42

**A Samaritan Woman  
Encounters Christ**

**Sunday, March 10, 2024**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

John 9:1-41

**A Man Born Blind Encounters  
Christ**

**Sunday, March 17, 2024**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

John 11:1-45

**Martha Encounters Christ.**

**Sunday, March 24, 2024**

**Palm/Passion Sunday**

Matthew 21:1-11

Matthew 26:1-25, 36-56,  
27:1-10

**Judas Encounters Christ**

**Thursday, March 28, 2024**

**Maundy Thursday**

Exodus 12:1-14

Mark 14:12-26

**Communion**

**Sunday, March 31, 2024**

**Easter Sunday**

John 20:1-18

**Mary Magdalene Encounters  
Christ**

## Retirement Gift Fund

Session has established a Retirement Gift Fund for Wendy's upcoming retirement in May. If you wish to contribute, please designate your donation as "Retirement" on the check memo line or envelope. Donations can be placed in the offering plate on the table in the narthex, mailed to the church or dropped off at the office. Thank you.

## 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 March 3: Ed Troshak, Jack & Sharon VanCourt, Jon Vogler; week of March 10: Chuck Wilbur, Dan & Anna Marie Woloszyn and family, Vicki Zaikowski, Mengyao (Chloe) Zhao; week of March 17: Jeff & Sandy Akright, Don & Betty Aschom, Pat Baker; week of March 24: Bob & Wendy Benezette, Sharon Bills, Steven & Jackie Bishop and family; week of March 31: David & Holly Brock, Georgia Brown, Bob & Jan Buchanan, Kerri Buchanan.

## Prayer Care March, 2024

Judy Noble's wife, Pat Mahoney, died Feb. 19 from dementia, Bob Noble's sister-in-law

Sharon VanCourt, recovery from hip replacement surgery

Joanne Keys, broken leg, sister of Jack Keys

Bud Keys, dementia, brother of Jack Keys

Amy Lewis, housing concerns, daughter of Denise Colosky

Brian and Verna Batterbee, Nancy Ellis' nephew and his wife, health concerns

Holly Brock, health concerns

## Continuing Prayers March, 2024

Mary Ann Martin, health concerns

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



## Per Capita

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.





# March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>Lent</b> 				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 3rd Sunday in Lent 10 am Worship  Change for Change	<b>4</b> 1:30 pm Prayer Shawl 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>5</b> 7 pm Strategic Planning Committee at Dimondale	<b>6</b> 9:30 am Prayers & Squares 10 am Property Team 7:00 pm Adult Scouts Meeting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Presbytery Kalamazoo First
<b>10</b> 4th Sunday in Lent 10 am Worship  <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>	<b>11</b> 12:30pm Spiritual Life 1:30 pm Prayer Shawl 4:00 pm Resources 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:30 am Prayers & Squares	<b>14</b> 6:30 pm Annual Music Recital—Linda Abar	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 5th Sunday in Lent 10 am Worship 11 am Boy Scout Court of Honor	<b>18</b> 1:30 pm Prayer Shawl 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Session (Zoom)	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:30 am Prayers & Squares	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Palm/Passion Sunday 10 am Worship Annual Congregational Meeting	<b>25</b> 1:30 pm Prayer Shawl 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm OCD Support	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:30 am Prayers & Squares	<b>28</b> 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Communion	<b>29</b> 7:00 pm Good Friday Service at Dimondale	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> Easter Sunday 10 am Worship						

## Updated Calendar

Check out the church website for an up-to-date calendar at [www.deltapresby.org](http://www.deltapresby.org). Thanks to Art for his work on keeping it current.

# The Ambassador

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**March 1, 2024**

## CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Wendy S. Pratt  
Admin. Assistant: Gayle Thorne  
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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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.