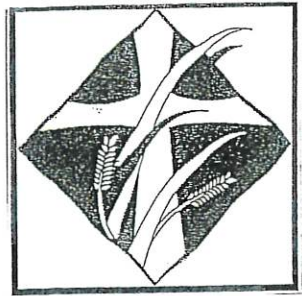




October, 2026

The Prairie Press



Volume 19, No. 2

Come One, Come All—There's Fun For All!!

RPPC Holiday Bazaar
Friday, Nov. 6 and Saturday, Nov. 7
NEW TIMES—8:30 to 2:30

Helpers of all kinds are needed!!!
WORKERS, COOKS, BAKERS, and BUYERS.
 Check out the sign-up sheets—and sign up for as much as you can.

CHURCH FAMILY:
Monday, Nov. 2/
Tuesday, Nov. 3/
Wednesday, Nov. 4—Bazaar set-up—
 decorating and putting out merchandise.

We'll start at 9:30. Bring a lunch.



Oct. 24 is the fall inside Clean-up day—help us bring Bazaar stuff down from up-stairs.

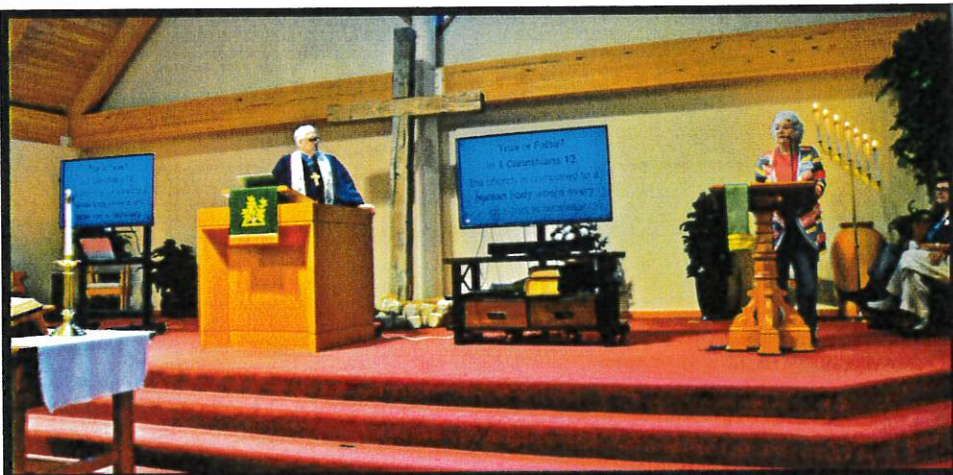
ACTUAL SET-UP DAYS:
MEN, MEN, MEN

Sunday, Nov. 1,
 after Worship—set up tables, grids, and put away chairs.

Sunday, Nov. 22,
 after Worship—put away grids, tables, and set up chairs.

This effort needs all hands on deck!!! We have loads of fun and love working with and getting to know each other better.

Be sure to be a part of this wonderful fundraiser. We'd love to have you with us!



Our most recent experiment of using visual technology during Worship has involved two screens. Rev. Bruce is seeking reactions and thoughts from the congregation.

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Stewardship: Every Piece Matters

by Rev. Bruce

As we enter the stewardship season, our theme reminds us of a simple but powerful truth: Every piece matters.

The Apostle Paul teaches us that the church is like a body—many members, each with different gifts, yet all essential to the whole. (I Corinthians 12:12-27)

Every piece matters; your piece matters. What you may think is insignificant, God sees as vital.

When each piece is offered faithfully, the body grows strong and the ministry of Christ flourishes at RPPC.

The Lord invites us to work together as one body with our time, talent, and treasure. Stewardship asks for us to make a whole-life offering of what God has entrusted to us.

Some of us give through leadership, teaching, music, hospitality, or prayer. Others give through hands-on service, quiet acts of caring, or the financial resources that sustain our shared mission.

Each piece fits together to make a masterpiece. Every piece mat-

ters.

On Sept. 20, we distributed our Stewardship Campaign devotional. We pray that these daily reflections will guide you in considering how God has called us together and shaped us to serve in being the body of Christ.

On World Communion Sunday, we will distribute our pledge cards along with the Time & Talent Survey, inviting everyone to consider how they will participate in the ministry of the church in 2027.

Completed cards and surveys are due Oct. 11. We hope an increase in pledges will make the budget easy to fund all of God's ministry and mission in 2027. We also hope each person finds a way to serve Christ with their God-given time and talents.

The Body of Christ only grows when everyone offers their best in response to the Lord's Love. We want RPPC to flourish next year and forever. That can only happen when everyone does their part by serving faithfully and sharing God's Grace, as explained by Paul in I Corinthians 12.

As you pray and reflect over these next few weeks, remember: Stewardship is not about filling a quota—it is about offering your piece of the puzzle so that God can create something beautiful through all of us.

When every piece is placed with love and intention, the picture of Christ's church becomes clearer, stronger, and more vibrant.

- Together, we build;
- Together, we serve;
- Together, we give;
- Because every piece matters.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Bruce

Pastor's Schedule

Rev. Bruce will observe the Sabbath on Oct. 2, 9, 15, 23, and 30. He will be on study leave Oct. 16-18.

Preaching Schedule

**Oct. 4 (Proper 22),
19th Sunday
After Pentecost,
Communion Sunday**

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20;
*Matthew 21:33-46; Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80: 7-14; **II Philippians 1:1-9.

"To All The Saints"

**Oct. 11 (Proper 23),
20th Sunday
After Pentecost**

Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; **Philippians 4:1-9;
*Matthew 22: 1-14; Isaiah 25: 1-9; Psalm 23.

"Keep On Doing"

**Oct. 18, 21st Sunday
After Pentecost,
Elder Chris Zhe,
Guest Speaker**

*Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

"Living With Weeds"

**Oct. 25, 22nd Sunday After
Pentecost (Proper 25),
Reformation Sunday,
Communion**

Deuteronomy 34: 1-12; Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17; I Thessalonians 2:1-8;
**Matthew 22: 34-46; Leviticus 19: 1-2; 15-18; *Genesis 12:1-9.

"Faithful Reformation"

**Thank You For Giving
To The Lord**

(Continued on page 5)

How To Contact Us

The Prairie Press is a publication of the congregation of the Rock Prairie Presbyterian Church.

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Janesville WI 53546

(608) 752-1172

office@rockprairiechurch.org

Visit our web site at
rockprairiechurch.org

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

Wonderful! We truly appreciate this kind gift!

Coming together to give—it's one of the most powerful ways to show our vulnerable neighbors they matter.

Your recent compassionate gift of \$500 is making a lasting impact on the families served by Twin Oaks Shelter for the Homeless.

Twin Oaks Shelter provided safe shelter, stability, and hope to 251 individuals in 2025, including 124 children.

With the support of donors like you, we were able to meet the unique needs of our community's most vulnerable neighbors.

This included assisting two veterans, addressing the complex barriers faced by 17 individuals experiencing chronic homelessness, and offering compassionate support for survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, stalking, or human trafficking.

Our staff remains committed to reaching out to those who face a state of uncertainty, unsure of where to turn when they cannot afford rent, utilities, or food.

Your contribution makes this possible. As we build towards the future, thank you for being there for our neighbors in need and for the hope they are now able to feel.

With gratitude,

Marc Perry
Executive Director
Community Action Inc. of
Rock and Walworth Counties

Dear Editor:

For a number of years, I have set up a barrel behind the maintenance building at Johnstown Cemetery to catch rain for the use for visitors in watering live plants at grave sites.

Does anyone use the water? Please let me know.

Will Everts

(608) 752-9307

Dear Readers:

Chris and I will be travelling to Italy in October (and recovering from the inevitable jet lag), so if you have anything for the November PRAIRIE PRESS, please get it to Sandi in the church office on or before Oct. 15.

Ciao!

Chris and Ed

Letter Policy

The PRAIRIE PRESS welcomes letters from our members and friends.

We will print them all, as space permits.

Send or email or drop off your letter to the Church office,
attn: **The PRAIRIE PRESS**

Reminders Of Upcoming Events:

Puzzle Rally

When Oct. 10, 10 am—2pm

Where: Fellowship Hall

**Details: —Teams of up to 4
—\$10 per person
—Snacks and beverages included
—Prizes for 1st and 2nd places**

**Book your table now
(there is a 10-table limit) @
(608) 752-1172 or
office@rockprairiechurch.org**

Church Outdoor Clean-Up Day

Weather permitting, a clean-up of the church grounds will take place starting at 9 am on Saturday, Oct. 10.

Bring your favorite lawn or garden tool (or they will be provided.)

No skills necessary—we're looking for people who are willing to work (and have fun doing it!)

Please continue to collect aluminum cans.

Drop them off in the bins behind the partition near the main entrance.

The cans are recycled regularly, and the money is sent to the Living Water Mission.

The requested items for the Food Pantry Cart for September are boxed stuffing/boxed mashed potatoes.

Let's fill up the cart and help our less fortunate and struggling neighbors as we show God's love by sharing our own blessings.



October 2026

November 2026

October 2026

Su	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mo	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Tu	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
We	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Th	29	30					
Fr							
Sa							

Su	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mo	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Tu	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
We	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Th	29	30	31				
Fr							
Sa							

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 27	28	29	30	Oct 1 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	2	3
4 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY 10:30am WORSHIP/Communion 11:45am Fellowship	5	6 9:30am Bible Study 5:45pm Mission Committee Meeting 6:30pm Christian Ed Committee Meeting	7	8 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	9 10:30am Prairie Pals	10 9:00am Outside Fall Workday 10:00am Jigsaw Puzzle Rally
11 10:30am WORSHIP	12 3:00pm Finance Committee Meeting	13 9:30am Bible Study 3:00pm B&G Committee Meeting	14 3:00pm Personnel Committee Meeting 6:30pm Outreach & Communication Committee Meeting	15 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	16	17
18 10:30am WORSHIP	19	20 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Session Meets	21 1:30pm Deacon Meeting	22 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	23 6:30pm PJ Party & Trick or Treat Inside church	24 9:00am Inside Fall Workday 5:00pm Fall Hurrah Tailgate Party
25 10:30am WORSHIP/Communion 11:45am Souper Sunday Fellowship	26	27 9:30am Bible Study	28	29 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	30	31

Kennedy Paull, Madison Sarbacker Shine In National Meet

by Kristin Paul

Two of our own Rock Prairie youth just returned from a very successful trip to Harrisburg, PA, for a national 4-H dairy judging contest.

Kennedy Paull and Madison Sarbacker, both Milton High School sophomores, made up half of the Rock County team that represented Wisconsin 4-H at the All-American Dairy Show Invitational Youth Dairy Cattle Judging Contest.

The team earned the invite by placing 2nd in the senior competition at the state 4-H Dairy Judging Contest held in late August.

Less than three weeks later, Kennedy and Madison were joined by two teammates from the the Orfordville Parkview School District and two coaches, and they were off to Harrisburg.

If you are curious what a dairy judging contest is all about, here's the scoop.

Dairy judging is an educational competition and evaluation pro-

cess where participants visually inspect and rank groups of dairy cattle based on the animals' physical traits of six dairy breeds, structural conformation, and functional ability to produce milk.

Judges and contestants evaluate animals against a breed ideal, focusing on four main categories: udder, dairy strength, feet and

legs, and frame.

There are four animals in each class, and the state and national contests include 10 classes (typically five or six different dairy breeds are represented), and four sets of oral reasons.

Participants have 15 minutes to evaluate the class and take notes be-

fore the next class enters the show ring. After all 10 classes are placed, participants have the difficult task of preparing for oral reasons.

For oral reasons, they stand before an official judge and speak for two minutes to defend the logic behind their placing, ideally without using any notes.

Reasons need to be clear, concise, and use correct terminology

to describe the animals and justify the placings.

If this sounds nerve-wracking, it is! Contestants receive individual scores for their placings and reasons, and the scores are combined for a composite team score.

As the day closed out in Harrisburg with a banquet, the Rock County 4-H team emerged victorious, winning the overall high team for the 4-H contest and placing in the top five for all breeds and oral reasons.

Individually, Kennedy placed first and Madison placed fifth, which is a huge accomplishment but even more impressive since it is the first year they are competing at the senior level.

Congratulations to the team for doing a great job representing Rock County and Wisconsin 4-H.



The winners proudly display their awards after their competition in Pennsylvania.

Rev. Bruce . . . (Continued from page 2)

With our Reformed Tradition, our view is that everyone has a piece of the puzzle. Every member can serve Christ. We give thanks for those who . . .

- Brought mac & cheese for the food pantries;
- Cleaned the gutters and downspouts;
- Cleaned out the Christian Ed room of items no longer used;
- Presented the napkin folding for Prairie Pals;
- Installed the new bricks in the Memorial Garden;
- Organized and helped with the tree trimming and shrubs;
- Organized the Sundae Sunday on Rally Sunday;
- Organized and folded brochures for the Stewardship campaign;

(Continued on page 7)

Choir Loft Renovations Take Shape Over Summer

Following a survey of the congregation, a decision was made to change the direction the choir faced so they could be heard, and hear each other, better.

Work on reconfiguring the choir seating area has been ongoing during the summer.

The final step was the positioning of newly-acquired risers in late

September.

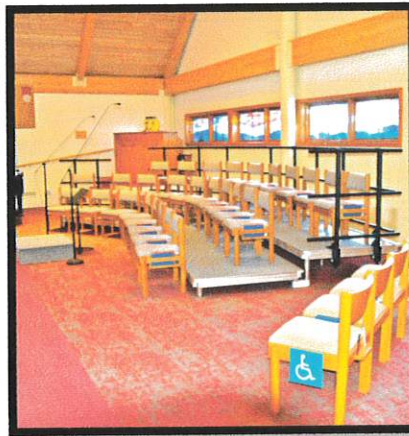
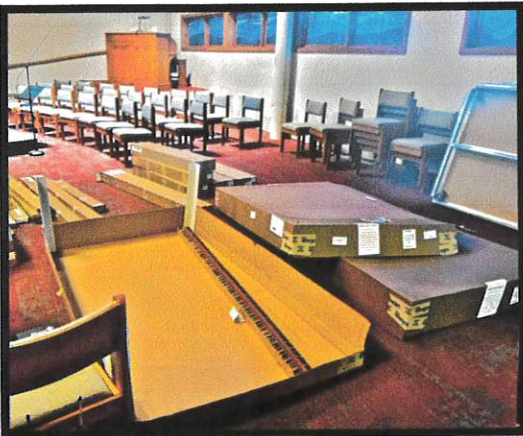
The first step was removing the former levels, which faced the front of the church. That involved removing the carpeting and the wooden substructure.

When the choir returned from their summer hiatus on Sept. 13, they performed on bare concrete. By the next Sunday, the new carpeting had been installed.

The risers arrived and were installed the following week, and the new look was on display during Worship on Sept. 27.

Choir Director Krista Jones said, "We are extremely grateful for the generous gift that has allowed us to redesign the choir loft in the Sanctuary.

"By having the chairs arranged in a more traditional choir arrangement on the risers, choir members are better able to hear the singers in their sections and the singers from other sections—this enhances the full sound of the choir in the Sanctuary," she added.



The choir performed for the first time on their newly-installed risers during Worship on Sept. 27.



by Frank Liston

Beneficiary Gifts

In past Legacy Corner articles, we have addressed one of the most efficient ways to make a charitable gift to the Legacy Fund: name the Legacy Fund as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy.

To make this gift, you simply complete a beneficiary form, which you can obtain from your insurer. You can designate the beneficiary to receive all or a percentage of the death proceeds.

Once you complete this form and return it to your insurer, it becomes part of your estate plan. So you will want to be sure to check with your financial planner and/or attorney before you initiate this action.

Once this action is in place, be aware that it takes precedent over anything your will states regarding who are beneficiaries of your life insurance policies.

Sometimes, people make the mistake of making changes in their will as to who is to receive their life insurance benefit upon their death but do not make a change of beneficiary with the insurer.

If a person's will does not agree with the beneficiary on record with the life insurance company, the beneficiary listed with the insurance company will be the recipient of the payout.

Final Summer Worship Special Music



Sylvia O'Connor and Cindy Riley



Krista Jones



Krista also presented the sermon one summer Sunday.

Rev. Bruce . . . (Continued from page 5)

- Present Kids' Kirk each week.
- Helped unload and assembled the new choir risers.

Together, when every piece of the puzzle is in place, God is glorified.

Bible Study— Tuesday Mornings

The Tuesday morning Bible Study meets at 9:30 for an hour. We hope you will join us.

If you would like to be notified of any changes to the schedule, email Rev. Bruce at

rev.rppc@gmail.com
and he will notify you.

October Birthdays

Sept. 25 (Oops!) Joanne Shields

Oct. 9 Kay Ward

Oct. 10 Kristin Schultz

Oct. 11 Bob Paull

Oct. 30 Kathy Crandall

Sundae Sunday: Everyone's Favorite!

by Julie Engebretson

Our "Rally Sunday" kickoff for a new year of Bible Class and Sunday School was celebrated on Sept. 13.

To add to the excitement, the

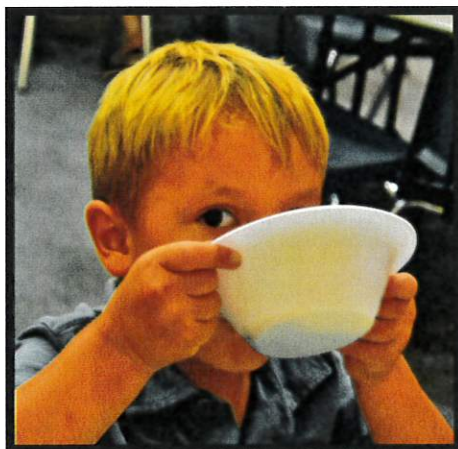
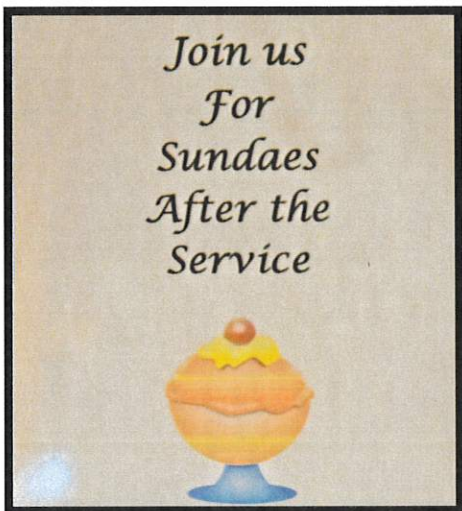
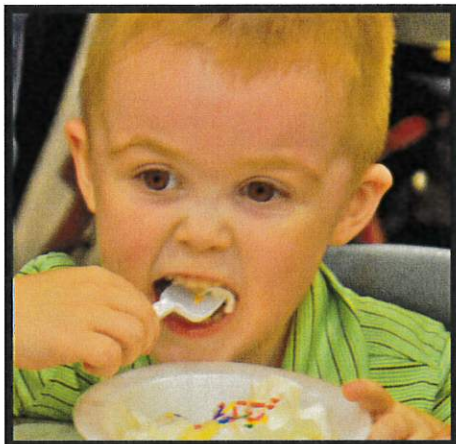
Fellowship Committee scooped up Sundae Sunday!!

They offered chocolate swirl, strawberry swirl, and classic vanil-

la ice cream as a delicious base for the delectable creations.

Then consumers could build it up with yummy things like wafers, M&M's, sprinkles, pecans, cherries, syrups, and whipped topping.

It was a great way to spend a little extra time with our church family as well as pump us up for a new year of learning more about Jesus.



Local Author Inspires Prairie Pals Group

by Cathy Wagner

She came and she moved us all so deeply.

Becky Kordatzky graced our Prairie Pals get together recently with her life story. And what a story it is!

Becky is a long-time Milton resident and teacher who has served on the Milton Library Board and at the Milton Youth Center.

Becky spent her working years teaching her “wonderful” eighth graders, year after year. “My eighth graders were my joy and inspiration!” she says.

Then retirement came, and she felt compelled to write for her family, especially for her grandchildren. So she became an author.

She has had two books published, along with some other pieces. Her first book was a tribute to her sister who was fighting pancreatic cancer. It is entitled *Loving Him More Through Darkest Valleys*, and it explains the challenge of dealing with a “genetic marker”—Lynch Syndrome—that she shares with her sister.

Becky herself, over the years, has battled and overcome seven different kinds of cancer. There is an amazing story of determination, hope, and love.

“As the sisters challenged cancer, their faith provided stability and hope; cancer could not extinguish their love and joy,” wrote a reviewer.

Her second book was about her family, spurred on by letters that dated back as far as 1901. It is entitled *Rebecca of Hickory Point Farm*.

“Twenty-five-year-old Fred Wil-

son, eager for adventure, dreamed of owning a cattle ranch and being

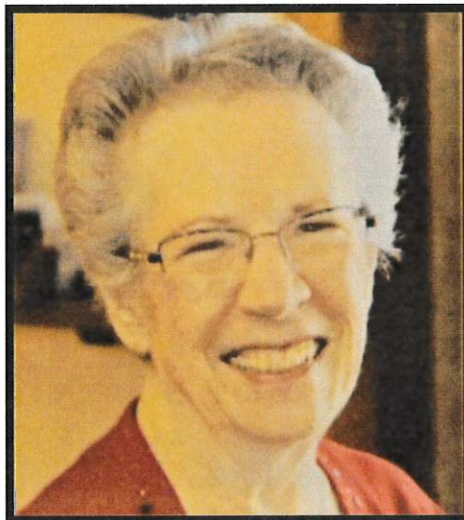
a cowboy,” says the intro to this inspiring tale that started at the turn of the last century.

“Join Rebecca, Fred’s granddaughter, as she shares his journey via letters he sent and received . . . Let the themes soak into your heart—family, friendship, and growth of love,” the reviewer encourages the reader.

Becky says her zest for life and her love of God grows stronger, and, as listeners, we found her view of life having Jesus as her guide was inspirational and infectious.

Her talk was an inspiration to all of us in attendance—we felt absolutely blessed to hear her share her story.

Her books are available at local bookstores and on line.



Becky Kordatzky



The Sacrament of Communion is observed monthly at RPPC, although not necessarily on the first Sunday of the month. It is scheduled taking into account the appropriateness of a particular Sunday. You can check the PRAIRIE WEEKLY on-line or Rev. Bruce’s column in The PRAIRIE PRESS for more specific information every month.

RPPC Friends Help Marti, Will Everts Celebrate

A celebration honoring two of our favorite friends at RPPC, Marti and Will Everts, was held after Worship on Sept. 7 in the Fellowship Hall.

Will just turned 91 and the two of them arrived at their 65th anniversary on Sept. 2.

Our Fellowship Committee provided a beautiful cake along with

beverages for the gathering of over 60 people.

"We chose to celebrate our birthday/anniversary weekend

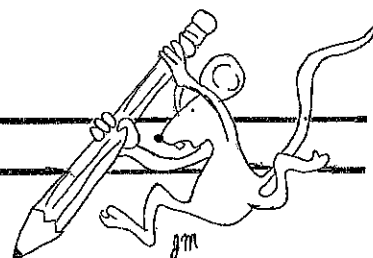
with our many friends at Rock Prairie," said Will.

"It turned out just as planned, with the cake, a ton of cards, and many well-wishes.

"A big thank you to so many people who pitched in to help make it a memorable day!" he added.







The Church Mouse

Dear Friends,

Maybe there is something going on in your life this month that you could use some help with. Possibly there is a passage below that might speak to your heart. I'll be praying for you.

(Even More) *Bible* Emergency Numbers

If your pocketbook is empty . . . Psalm 37
 If you are discouraged about your work . . . Psalm 126
 When you are experiencing sorrow . . . John 14
 When you have sinned . . . Psalm 51
 When you are worried . . . Matthew 6:19-35
 When you grow bitter and critical . . . 1 Corinthians 13
 When you prepare to travel . . . Psalm 121
 To get along with your fellow man . . . Romans 12
 If people seem unkind . . . John 15

+ + + + +

—The Church Mouse

(This is a "Church Mouse" taken from the archives of over 30 years of columns printed in The PRAIRIE PRESS. I will be reprinting these old but still relevant and meaningful pieces until someone from the congregation comes forward and volunteers to carry on the tradition of The Church Mouse.—Ed's note)

Please deliver by Oct. 2, 2026
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