I recently read an article by Kara Root. She’s a pastor of a small, old congregation that has found new life and vitality. What’s their secret? They stopped having worship services every Sunday. A few years ago they made the decision as a congregation to embrace the Sabbath and practice it communally.

Actually, the secret was a process of intentional discernment — exploring the question: Who are we now, and who are we called to be for this time and place? This meant grieving and letting go of the way things were in the past — when the congregation was ten times the size it is now and much younger. But it also meant letting go of all the messages that we’re bombarded with that tell us how we should be doing church in order to be “successful.”

Instead, they asked: Where is God already moving in and among us? How do we already embody the mission of God here and now? A new understanding of identity became centered in worship, hospitality, and Sabbath. They recognized and celebrated all the myriad ways they worship and experience God’s presence — and while sitting in a pew on Sundays made the list, it isn’t by any means the only way. They learned hospitality is the practice of intentionally living inside God’s abundant welcome, and welcoming others authentically and mutually. But the big shocker was Sabbath.

Sabbath, they discovered, is a revolutionary, counter-cultural practice that reorients us to God’s presence and prominence in our lives and the world. It helps us notice and remember whose we are — that we belong to a living God for whom resting is part of creating, and whose Spirit is moving in our lives and the world, even when we are too distracted or busy to notice. And Sabbath reminds us who we are — individually and communally. We are created in God’s image, set free to live out our particularity instead of being enslaved and defined by production or consumption.

For several months they read about Sabbath. They retreated with some Sabbath-keeping nuns, and had lots of discussions about the needs in their busy communities and their own lives. And they asked themselves: How can our life and faith come from our being and not our doing?

Thus began an experiment of keeping Sabbath as a community, an experiment that has altered them remarkably. On the first and third Sundays they worship on Sunday mornings in all their Presbyterian glory. On the second and fourth weekends they meet Saturday
nights by candlelight and harp, and sink into Sabbath rest together. The “preached word” takes many forms, looser in format than the Sunday sermons, and often very interactive. They hold silence each week, two whole minutes that sometimes stretch into eternity, but which have become life-giving. Simple, Taizé-like music is woven throughout the service, and they center worship around shared prayer (something that has invaded their Sunday morning services as well). Their Saturday worship continues with a communal meal — lingering together around warm food and conversation. Then they go home.

And on Sunday, they spend the day in Sabbath. Here and there, all over the city, individuals and families purposely stopping. The guidelines they give themselves are to try to do nothing from obligation, to pay attention to the struggle to stop and offer even that as a gift of gratitude, to get outside some, to play some, to do something that gives delight. To be with others if we’re alone a lot. To be alone if our lives are crowded. To make the day different than our ordinary days. To pay attention to what our souls need. And to rest.

Practicing Sabbath in this way has infected their whole communal life. Session meetings are full of worship, they retreat more as a community, they remind each other to rest, they say “no” more, and “yes” more too. Sabbath is continuing to teach who they are and remind them whose we are. And their one-year experiment has become a way of life for their church community.

Her article is inspiring. Where is God already moving in and among us? How do we already embody the mission of God here and now? We need not look to other churches to see what they are doing. We are not called to become something other, something foreign to who we are, something like the way things are over there. God is here, in our midst, working with us at Kettle Moraine Presbyterian. God calls us to keep our focus on what he is doing among us and join in with God’s movements. From there, new growth, according to his guidance, rises up.

God’s peace, Pastor Matt

SESSION NOTES:

Kim Koski (Clerk of Session) 262-966-2455 / dkoski@wi.rr.com

Session will meet Thursday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m.

“Joy to the world, the Lord has come . . . .” The Christmas season is upon us and there are many festivities planned! Hanging of the Greens and Advent-ures in Crafting were successfully cared off on November 26, which gets us all in the Christmas mood. The Cookie Walk will be Saturday, December 3rd, with proceeds going to Dr. Denny’s Milwaukee Medical Mission. The Angel Tree will be up soon, giving us an opportunity to share our blessings with a child in need. Join in and enjoy the season!

There were no motions from the November 17th Session Meeting.

The Deacons will be in charge of the Sacrament of Holy Communion on December 4th. Please let Sherry Edlhuber or Duane Koski know if you or someone you know would like a home communion visit.

Enjoy the Peace which is found in the Presence of God!

Blessings, Kim Koski, Clerk of Session
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS / LEADERSHIP:

CLERK OF SESSION: Kim Koski (Clerk of Session) 262-966-2455 / dkoski@wi.rr.com
BUDGET & FINANCE: Larry Lemmenes (chair) 262-966-2189 / llemmenes@wi.rr.com
BUILDING & GROUNDS: Hans Guderyon (chair) 262-352-3788 / guderyonh@gmail.com
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Jan Mahaney (chair) 262-367-6929 / jimmjanmaha@yahoo.com
MISSIONS/EVANGELISM: Phyllis Warden (chair) 262-646-3873 / flipwarden@hotmail.com
WORSHIP: Kitty Schultz (chair) 262-966-7059 / kitty1948@att.net
TREASURER: Scott Meyer (chair) 262-397-8365 / smeyer374@gmail.com
PERSONNEL & STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEES: responsibility of Session
NOMINATING: Phyllis Warden (chair) 262-646-3873 / flipwarden@hotmail.com

DEACONS’ CORNER: Sherry Edlhuber (chair) 262-367-4634 / jsedlhuber@yahoo.com

NEXT MEETING: Monday, December 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room

FELLOWSHIP HOUR: Fellowship time after church can only happen if people sign up to help. Please check the bulletin board in the fellowship hall for any open dates. You don’t need to provide a feast, just some cookies and juice. You will then need to clean up afterwards, just wash the cups and clean up the kitchen.

DEACONS: Sherry Edlhuber, Sandy Flatt, Diane Kallas, Duane Koski, Frank McLeod, Jean Mickler, Judy Warner & Lisa Weatherbee.

WOMEN’S MEETINGS

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN:
Next Meeting: Monday, December 5 at 9:30 a.m.

WOMEN OF FAITH:
Next Meeting: Thursday, December 15 at 12:30 p.m. Bring a sandwich!
WORSHIP COMMITTEE:
Kitty Schultz (chair) 262-966-7059 / kitty1948@att.net
Next Meeting: Wednesday, January tba at 3 p.m.

**SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 / 4:30 p.m.  
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 / 10 a.m.  
CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 / 10 a.m.  
CAROL STORIES

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8 / 10 a.m.  
CHILDREN’S PAGEANT

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**DECEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS**

Dec. 4 - 2nd Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

Dec. 11 - 3rd Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

Dec. 18 - 4th Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve
Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day
Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2(1-7) 8-20

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**Practices are on Wednesdays**

Handbells (4 pm):
Emily Guderyon (262) 719-2909

Choir (5pm):
Stephanie Flessert (262) 966-0863

Guitar Group: as needed

Talk to Emily or Stephanie about joining any of these groups. Or volunteer to provide special music some Sunday! We always welcome new musicians of all ages!

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EARLY MORNING PRAYER GROUP
Meets every Thursday at 6:30 a.m.
All are encouraged to join in.
KMUPC MONTHLY LUNCH:  Wednesday, December 7 at Noon

All are invited to this fellowship meal sponsored by the Thursday Morning Prayer Group. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. A free will offering will be collected.

BOOK CLUB:

Stephanie Flessert (coordinator)   262-966-0863 / slflessert@yahoo.com

Tuesday, February 21 p.m. at 3:30 p.m. at Sherry Edlhuber’s home

Our book club doesn’t meet during the holidays (too busy) or January (too cold). Plus we are missing so many of our lovely snowbird members!

Our next book is “The Secret Keeper” by Kate Morton. There are multiple copies in all different formats in the library system. Please let Sherry know whether you plan to attend.
DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

5 Jennifer Kollath
   Andrew Mahaney
   Ralph Mickler
   Thomas Van Roo
9 Elizabeth Lee
   Jared Lindquist
11 Hans Guderyon
   Kathy Lembke
12 Nick Flatt
14 Earl Warden
16 Lori Voelker
   Olivia Voelker
20 Jean Mickler
   Greg Rudy
26 Roxanne Baumann
31 Sara Glass

SNOWBLOWING NEEDED: Sarah Mertins is looking for someone to snowblow her dad’s (Jerry Moulton) driveway and sidewalk when it snows; they need to keep it clear for the visiting nurse who is caring for Jerry. They have their own snowblower and Sarah will pay for the help. Jerry lives just a little west of the church on Hwy. K (across from the cemetery). If you can do the job or know someone who might be interested, please contact Sarah at 262-646-8458 or 262-993-2943.

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Items for our newsletter are due Tuesday, December 20.

PRAYER REQUESTS
Please contact Donna Anderson to have requests put on our e-mail and phone prayer chains. Donna’s cell phone number is (262) 391-8736. Or e-mail her at: ddanlw@aol.com. Members may also submit prayer request through our website: www.kmupc.com.

PIGGLY WIGGLY RECEIPTS
Please bring in your Piggly Wiggly store receipts and put them in the bin, bottom left corner of mailboxes near front door. We trade them in for a percentage in cash!

MINISTER’S OFF DAY
Mondays are Pastor Matt’s off day. He is accessible by cell phone, in case of emergencies. Texting him is best:
   608-921-1029.

CHURCH MAILBOXES
If you would like a mailbox, please see Stephanie Flessert, church secretary.
## KMUPC December Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, December 1</strong></td>
<td>6:30 am Morning Prayer—N</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, December 2</strong></td>
<td>2–9 pm Cookie Drop-Off at church</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, December 3</strong></td>
<td>8 am-Noon Cookie Walk—FH &amp; N</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, December 4 (Communion)</strong></td>
<td>10 am Communion Worship Service—S</td>
<td>FH</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, December 4 (Communion)</strong></td>
<td>10:15 am Sunday School—LL</td>
<td>LL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, December 4 (Communion)</strong></td>
<td>11 am Coffee Hour—FH</td>
<td>FH</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, December 5</strong></td>
<td>9:30 am PW Meeting—FH</td>
<td>FH</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, December 6</strong></td>
<td>6 pm Confirmation Class—MR</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, December 7</strong></td>
<td>12 pm Fellowship Lunch—FH</td>
<td>FH</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, December 7</strong></td>
<td>4 pm Handbell Practice—S</td>
<td>S</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, December 7</strong></td>
<td>5 pm Choir Practice—S</td>
<td>S</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, December 8</strong></td>
<td>6 pm Guitar Practice—S</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, December 8</strong></td>
<td>6:30 am Morning Prayer—N</td>
<td>N</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, December 9</strong></td>
<td>6-8 pm Angel Tree Delivery Party—Palmer Street Church, Milwaukee</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, December 11</strong></td>
<td>10 am Worship Service—S</td>
<td>S</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, December 11</strong></td>
<td>10:15 am Sunday School—LL</td>
<td>LL</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, December 11</strong></td>
<td>11 am Coffee Hour—FH</td>
<td>FH</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, December 13</strong></td>
<td>6 pm Confirmation Class—MR</td>
<td>MR</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, December 14</strong></td>
<td>4 pm Handbell Practice—S</td>
<td>S</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, December 14</strong></td>
<td>5 pm Choir Practice—S</td>
<td>S</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, December 15</strong></td>
<td>6:30 am Morning Prayer—N</td>
<td>N</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, December 15</strong></td>
<td>12:30 pm Women of Faith—FH</td>
<td>FH</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, December 15</strong></td>
<td>6:30 pm Session Meeting—MR</td>
<td>MR</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, December 18 (Christmas Music Sunday)</strong></td>
<td>10 am Worship Service—S</td>
<td>S</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, December 18 (Christmas Music Sunday)</strong></td>
<td>10:15 am Sunday School—LL</td>
<td>LL</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, December 18 (Christmas Music Sunday)</strong></td>
<td>11:15 am Coffee Hour—FH</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, December 19</strong></td>
<td>6:30 pm Deacons Meeting—MR</td>
<td>MR</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, December 20</strong></td>
<td>6 pm Confirmation Class—MR</td>
<td>MR</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, December 20</strong></td>
<td>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, December 21</strong></td>
<td>5 pm (Possible) Music Practice—S</td>
<td>S</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, December 22</strong></td>
<td>6:30 am Morning Prayer—N</td>
<td>N</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)</strong></td>
<td>4:30 pm Worship Service—S</td>
<td>S</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day)</strong></td>
<td>10 am Worship Service—S</td>
<td>S</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day)</strong></td>
<td>10:15 am Sunday School—LL</td>
<td>LL</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day)</strong></td>
<td>11 am Coffee Hour—FH</td>
<td>FH</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, December 27</strong></td>
<td>6 pm Confirmation Class—MR</td>
<td>MR</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, December 28</strong></td>
<td>5 pm (Possible) Music Practice—S</td>
<td>S</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, December 29</strong></td>
<td>6:30 am Morning Prayer—N</td>
<td>N</td>
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</table>

## Location Key

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CR</td>
<td>Choir Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MR</td>
<td>Meeting Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO</td>
<td>Pastor’s Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FH</td>
<td>Fellowship Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LL</td>
<td>Lower Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>Narthex</td>
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<td>O</td>
<td>Church Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PWP</td>
<td>Presbyterian Women Pavilion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
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</tbody>
</table>