

# SPRING NEWSLETTER

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Reminder: If you listen to the office answering machine, please be sure to write the messages down so Tina can return the calls. Thank you!

You can email the church office at anytime with questions or concerns.

We love pictures!!! Email churchofc@hotmail.com with any church pictures!!!



You Are Invited To  
First Presbyterian Church

## FRIENDSHIP DINNER

11:15AM -12:30PM

**SUNDAY APRIL 12**

**FOOD | FREE | FUN  
FELLOWSHIP**

BBQS, SALADS,  
CHIPS & DESSERT

Everyone is welcome!

## DATES TO NOTE:

Palm Sunday: Palm Parade:

**March 29**

Maundy Thursday Service with

Holy Communion: **April 2**

Easter Sunday with Guest  
Speaker Andrew Stephens:

**April 5**

Friendship Dinners:

**April 12 & May 10**

Youth/Senior Sunday: **May 10**

## OFFICE HOURS

Tue & Thur: 11am-2pm

Fri: 8am-2pm

Mon & Wed: CLOSED

# THANK YOU



Dear Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church,  
Thank you for the wonderful farewell service on January 25th. Thanks to all the work Julie Rienstra and Tina Halvorson put into the program. Thanks to Simon Danielson for playing the trombone and to the choir for dedicating a song to Pam and me. Thanks for the delicious meal and cake. Thanks for the cards, plants, flowers, gifts and kind words of encouragement. I am very thankful for the 23 1/2 years I had with you.

May God bless all of you!

In Christ's love,

Pastor Scott Prouty

The Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys cordially invites you to attend the Installation Service of the Rev. Scott Thomas Prouty to the congregations of The First Presbyterian Church of Brewster, The First Presbyterian Church of Round Lake, and Westminster Presbyterian Church of Worthington.

The service will be held on April 19, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Round Lake, 301 Rohrer Street.

A meal will be served after the service.



## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

*What does the Lord require of you?*

# ...to do justice

*humbly with your God.*

Micah 6:8

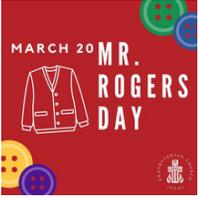
*Responding to Christ's call to ministries of  
compassion for the world's most vulnerable.*

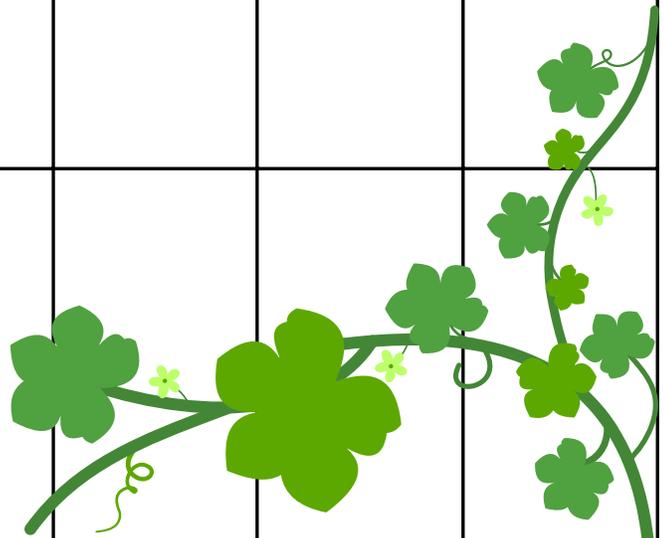


HOPE RESTORATION SOUTH SUDAN

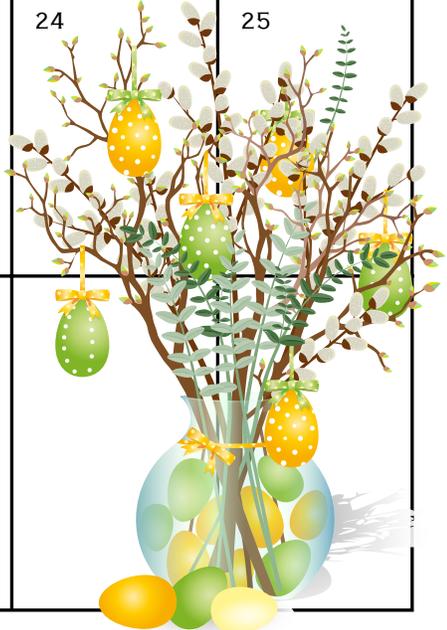


# March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 SUNDAY SCHOOL CHOIR PRACTICE WORSHIP WEEKEND FOOD BAGS: PALMER	2 BOY SCOUTS USE OF CHURCH	3	4 BIBLE STUDIES PIECEMAKERS YOUTH CLUB	5	6	7
8 SUNDAY SCHOOL CHOIR PRACTICE WORSHIP: HOLY COMMUNION FRIENDSHIP DINNER	9 BOY SCOUTS USE OF CHURCH	10	11 BIBLE STUDIES YOUTH CLUB DEACON MEETING	12	13	14
15 SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFIRMATION CHOIR PRACTICE WORSHIP WEEKEND FOOD BAGS: QUACKENBUSH	16	17 CHIMES DEADLINE RUBY'S PANTRY SCOUTS BOARD MEETING 	18 BIBLE STUDIES PIECEMAKERS YOUTH CLUB	19	20 	21
22 SUNDAY SCHOOL CHOIR PRACTICE WORSHIP SESSION MEETING	23 BOY SCOUTS USE OF CHURCH	24	25 BIBLE STUDIES YOUTH CLUB	26	27	28
29 SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFIRMATION CHOIR PRACTICE WORSHIP WEEKEND FOOD BAGS: QUACKENBUSH	30 BOY SCOUTS USE OF CHURCH	31				



# April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 BIBLE STUDIES PIECEMAKERS	2 MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE - HC	3	4 USE OF CHURCH
5 Easter Sunday with Andrew Stephens Choir Practice Worship	6	7	8 BIBLE STUDIES YOUTH CLUB DEACON MEETING	9	10	11
12 SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFIRMATION CHOIR PRACTICE WORSHIP FRIENDSHIP DINNER WEEKEND FOOD BAGS: TIFFANY FAMILY	13 SCOUTS USE OF CHURCH	14	15 BIBLE STUDIES PIECEMAKERS YOUTH CLUB	16	17 USE OF CHURCH - OVERNIGHT	18 USE OF CHURCH
19 SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFIRMATION CHOIR PRACTICE WORSHIP	20 SCOUTS USE OF CHURCH	21 RUBY'S PANTRY SCOUTS BOARD MEETING	22 BIBLE STUDIES <b>EARTH DAY</b>	23	24 	25
26 SUNDAY SCHOOL CHOIR PRACTICE WORSHIP WEEKEND FOOD BAGS: ANN & DORIE	27 SCOUTS USE OF CHURCH	28	29 BIBLE STUDIES YOUTH CLUB	30		



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>May</b>					1	2
3 SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFIRMATION CHOIR PRACTICE WORSHIP	4 SCOUTS USE OF CHURCH	5	6 BIBLE STUDIES PIECEMAKERS YOUTH CLUB	7	8	9
10 YOUTH/SENIOR SUNDAY SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFIRMATION CHOIR PRACTICE WORSHIP FRIENDSHIP DINNER WEEKEND FOOD BAGS	11 SCOUTS USE OF CHURCH	12	13 BIBLE STUDIES YOUTH CLUB DEACON MEETING	14	15	16
17 CHOIR PRACTICE WORSHIP	18	19 RUBY'S PANTRY SCOUTS BOARD MEETING	20 BIBLE STUDIES PIECEMAKERS	21	22	23
24 CHOIR PRACTICE WORSHIP	25	26	27 BIBLE STUDIES	28	29	30 USE OF CHURCH
31 CHOIR PRACTICE WORSHIP						



# SERVE YOUR CHURCH

---

## USHERS

**MARCH** HEAD USHERS: HEAD USHER: LEON KING

USHERS: NICK & KATHERINE BROZEK, MARK OJA, RICK & LINDSEY KRAMER, JULIE FIALA

**APRIL** HEAD USHER: BRUCE TIFFANY

USHERS: LAURA KOHLER, DON & LORRIE QUINN, KIM MCKAY, KEVIN MCKAY,  
DAVE DANIELSON

**MAY** HEAD USHER: RHONDA JOLDERSMA

USHERS: MICHEAL JOLDERSMA, TOM & BARB STOUGH, SHAWN & LEANN CORDER,  
DONAVON SHARPE

---

## COMMUNION SERVERS

**March:** Head Server: Adrienne Danielson

Servers: Leon King, Dave Danielson, Tony Miller, Bob & Sonya Alexander,  
Nancy Miller

**April:** Head Server: Stephanie Klavetter

Servers: Scott & Laura Kohler, Mike Benson, Nancy Miller, Dan Tiffany,  
Rhonda Joldersma

**May:** Head Server: Gene Schultz

Servers: Nick Brozek, Nathan Stephans, Shawn Corder, Scott Goodyear,  
Paul Hagen, Becky Schultz

---

## GREETERS

**March Deacon of Month:**

Adrienne Danielson

1 Abby Palmer

8 Nick & Katherine Brozek

15 Matt & Kimary Tiffany

22 Rick Hauge

29 Nancy Miller

**April Deacon of Month:**

Shari Fuhr

5 Merlin Goudy

12 Don & Lorrie Quinn

19 Julie Rienstra

26 Kim McKay

**May Deacon of Month:**

Laura Kohler

3 Bob & Sonya Alexander

10 Dan & Maria Alexander

17 Bruce & Ann Tiffany

24 Dale & Sandy Starr

31 Lynnnda McNelly

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL SERVICE

# BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

## March

1<sup>st</sup>: Kaden Hicks, Jacob Gertsema,  
Sydney Gerstema, Logan Moore

2<sup>nd</sup>: Deidra Zaske

3<sup>rd</sup>: Stephanie Klavetter,  
Denise Kaupang, Alex Tiffany

7<sup>th</sup>: Matthew Prouty

8<sup>th</sup>: Kim Becklund

9<sup>th</sup>: Doreen Steenblock,  
Becky Bruns

10<sup>th</sup>: Rachel Karnitz

11<sup>th</sup>: Stephen Dording,  
Pam Iverson, Ryan Rohlik

13<sup>th</sup>: Amber Rohlik, Jackson Plotz

14<sup>th</sup>: Dan Kohler,  
Courtney Siegfried

15<sup>th</sup>: Tara Steinkrans, Fran Hauge,  
TJ Juell

16<sup>th</sup>: Ella Fuhr, Stacie Hicks,  
Derek VanderLinden

21<sup>st</sup>: Beau Stough

22<sup>nd</sup>: Jonathan Sweetman

**Kyle & Stacie Hicks**

**Don & Lorrie Quinn**

24<sup>th</sup>: Aubrie Milhausen

25<sup>th</sup>: Simon Danielson

27<sup>th</sup>: Brenda Becklund

## April

2<sup>nd</sup>: **Scott & Nikki Warner**

3<sup>rd</sup>: Judy Curtis

5<sup>th</sup>: Bunny Nolting, Diane Davis

7<sup>th</sup>: Amanda Milhausen,  
Chip Nearing

**Pete & Dody Fuhr**

11<sup>th</sup>: Kay Jensen, Bob Rebstock,  
Jenny Jansen

13<sup>th</sup>: **Michael & Rhonda  
Joldersma**

16<sup>th</sup>: Matt Tiffany, Mike Bentson,  
Linda Boyer

17<sup>th</sup>: Cassi Juell

19<sup>th</sup>: Elizabeth Prouty,  
Gene Schultz

20<sup>th</sup>: Don Dagner, Garter Wittman

21<sup>st</sup>: Leon King

22<sup>nd</sup>: Faith Bruns

25<sup>th</sup>: **Butch & Faythe Amberg**

27<sup>th</sup>: Logan Garman

**Gene & Becky Schultz**

28<sup>th</sup>: Nathan Jacobson

29<sup>th</sup>: Paige Paplow,  
Kathy Peterson, Eliza Bentson

# BIRTHDAYS/ ANNIVERSARIES

## May

1<sup>st</sup>: Kory Schneider

2<sup>nd</sup>: Sue Nearing, Henry Bentson,  
Lois Tiffany, Anika Martin,  
Owen Mathiowetz

3<sup>rd</sup>: Mark Oja, Brandy Toomer

4<sup>th</sup>: Nathan Prouty

**Gerry & Deb Hess**

8<sup>th</sup>: Lauren Karnitz

**Winston & Rosie Venable**

9<sup>th</sup>: Ryan Becklund

11<sup>th</sup>: Brennen Fuhr, Greg Dording

13<sup>th</sup>: Savannah Kleinhuizen,  
Dallas Kleinhuizen

18<sup>th</sup>: Joyce Goodyear,  
Larry Wessels

19<sup>th</sup>: **Bruce & Ann Tiffany**

20<sup>th</sup>: **Dave & Corrine Gertsema**

22<sup>nd</sup>: Dan Fuhr, Jim Palmer

25<sup>th</sup>: Preston Brozek

28<sup>th</sup>: **Brandy & Jeff Toomer**

30<sup>th</sup>: Lucas Fuhr



During our Friendship Dinner on February 8, Pastor Tim Olsen led a table discussion on Soil Conservation and & Soil Health. Pastor Olsen is a retired Presbyterian minister who is a member of the Evangelical Environmental Network. He speaks extensively on Soil conservation and believes that Soil conservation is scripture based.

There was a lot of discussion around the table with various views shared. Bruce Tiffany talked about and shared photos of their minimum tillage field operations along interesting information about their cover crop seed business.

# *Susan Jean (Graham) Osborne,*

passed away peacefully Monday, March 9, 2026 at Methodist Hospital in Rochester after a battle with cancer.

Susan “Sue” Osborne was born and raised in Rochester, MN, the daughter of Eileen (Kroll) and Neal Graham. She was one of seven children, with two sisters and four brothers. She remained close with her siblings throughout her life, cherishing family gatherings and always making time for those she loved. Sue treasured time spent with family and valued the deep bonds they shared. She graduated from Mayo Senior High in 1979. Sue became a legal secretary working for Olmsted County District Court after graduating from Rochester Tech. She went on to earn her degree in elementary education and, eventually, her master’s degree in education from Southwest State University. Sue started her 32-year teaching career at St. Edwards in Minnesota, moving to the Echo Elementary School as a Title One and Gifted Coordinator.

She then worked for the Redwood River Education district serving multiple schools as gifted coordinator. She taught at Redwood Area Schools teaching grades 1, 2, 3 and 5. Sue was team lead for the MN Department of Education and coordinator for the MN Academic Triathlon. She ended her career as Technology Integration Specialist. Sue loved her many students and colleagues. Volunteering was close to her heart, a love Sue learned from her father. She was a Sunday school teacher. Sue was instrumental in bringing Ruby’s Pantry to Redwood Falls. She set up the food backpack program for students at the elementary school and worked with the Middle School teachers to set up classroom snack shelves. She also volunteered with the Redwood Area Food Shelf. Sue facilitated Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library Book program, which provides free books for area children. Sue was blessed by the birth of her daughters, Shelby and Samantha, and eventually her grandchildren Camron and Ella. Her children and grandchildren were the most important thing in her life. They brought her much happiness and joy.





## Todd Peterson

passed away peacefully Monday, December 15, 2025, surrounded by his wife, daughters, and several grandchildren.

He spent his final moments holding hands with his wife and listening to his family remember and play the music he shared with them over the years.

Todd Willard Peterson was born on October 20, 1941, to Dr. Willard and Irma (Simmons) Peterson in Minneapolis, MN. He was 5 years old when the family moved to Willmar, MN. Todd cherished his memories of growing up in small town Minnesota and talked often of those times with fondness and love – often reflecting about a childhood where he had freedom to roam, and always enough friends for a pick-up baseball game in a vacant lot in the neighborhood or a game of pool at Art’s Pool Hall. Of course, Todd was the organizer and there were a few stories of broken windows in nearby houses! In his adolescence, Todd became an active hunter, fisher, and devoted conservationist – passions that stayed close to his heart his entire life. He attended Willmar High School and was a tri sport athlete, served on the Student Council and was Class President. After high school, Todd attended the U of M and was a member of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity. He graduated in ‘65 with a BS in Recreation Management.

Todd met Kathy Lumbar in September 1971, in Minneapolis. They were married November 17, 1972, and immediately moved to Redwood Falls. Todd continued his career as Personnel Director for Control Data Corp later Zytec Corp from 1970-1987 and was self-employed as a Management Consultant and Trainer 1987-2006. Todd spent 8 years on the Redwood Falls City Council and was proud of bringing the council up to date in understanding and holding to the tenants of the City Charter and playing a major role in helping the City find the funds to help build the Redwood Area Community Center. Todd and Kathy enjoyed nothing more than summers at the cabin and especially loved when family and friends could join them. In summer, Todd spent as much time as he could fishing, planning fishing trips, or taking his grandchildren and friends fishing. The best days were the ones when he would fly fish on the Straight River near Osage, MN. In fall, he could be found in the empty corn fields of MN, IA and SD pheasant hunting with his dog and buddies. During his down time, he could be found reading books, magazines, and his computer...always trying to explore and understand the world around him. When high school class reunions started, he became “President for Life” and was expected to MC all class reunions, an activity he dearly loved. Most importantly, Todd was always available to help his grandchildren, often dropping what he was doing to give them a ride. He shared his wisdom and love of music with them on these drives.

**The Executive Presbyter of MN Valleys took on some great topics recently. She gives some great information. If you have anymore questions, feel free to reach out to the Presbytery.**

## **Owning your Church**

Dear Presbytery Family,

There are a couple of questions that I am asked on a regular basis. So, I'm thinking maybe these are things many of us wonder about! I know I have wondered about both during my years as a Presbyterian! Question #1: Why does the Presbytery own our church building? And Question #2: Why do we have to pay per capita? Are you ready? Let's take a look!

### **Why does the Presbytery own our church?**

Sometimes when people ask this question, myself included through the years, we are imagining the Presbytery as some external entity – people in an office somewhere making arbitrary decisions. To answer this question, we must start by remembering the actual definition of a Presbytery.

My friends, the Presbytery is all of us! It is every member of every Presbyterian (USA) church in this geographical region called The Minnesota Valleys, as well as the ministers who serve the churches. There are just shy of 5,000 of us. We are the Presbytery. We are forty-nine different congregations. So, when we ask why the Presbytery owns the church, we are really asking why we all own each other's buildings. Why do we share these properties in common?

The reason begins with the theology of what it means to be a connectional church. Our Book of Order reminds us that “the congregation is the basic form of the church, but it is not of itself a sufficient form of the church. Thus, congregations are bound together in communion with one another, united in relationships of accountability and responsibility, contributing their strengths to the benefit of the whole, and are called, collectively, the church. (G-1.0101) The children's song, “I am the church. You are the church. We are the church together,” kind of sums this up. We don't own our own church as if we are building a monument for our ancestors or ourselves. We own each other's churches, we own all the churches together, so that we can keep our focus on the fact that each church is simply a conduit of God's love, grace, compassion, mercy and kindness for the world. We all draw from the same well – that well of Living Water – and that is always the focus. Instead of calling this “owning” a church, we call it holding the building “in trust” for the use and benefit of the congregation and the larger church.

An example that might help is that of a farmer irrigating a field. The farmer wants every row of crops to be watered, so she sets irrigation pipes to cover the whole field. We are grateful for the pipes, but the focus is the water and the field! So it is with the church. We are the irrigation pipes that need to water this geographical region called The Minnesota Valleys. We must get the living water from the well into every community. Every church is a pipeline of that water. And we care for all the pipelines together because we don't want any community to be in drought. We have a united mission: to water the whole field.



Continue....



**The Executive Presbyter of MN Valleys took on some great topics recently. She gives some great information. If you have anymore questions, feel free to reach out to the Presbytery.**

Continued...

I imagine 150 years ago or so, when many of our churches were being planted, pastors and people living in an area decided to start a Presbyterian church because they imagined their community would be better if it had one! They donated their resources: finances, labor, know-how to erect the building, and then they kept donating their time, talent and treasure to maintain the building and to care for their community. They were in it for the good of the whole – that the Presbyterian denomination could have its unique positive impact in the communities of The Minnesota Valleys.

It isn't that we think being Presbyterian is the only way to go. We recognize and partner with other denominations and value all Christians working together! But we think being Presbyterian is a good way to go. We think we have something of value that is uniquely ours, to contribute to the greater good. Perhaps at the center of that uniqueness is the idea of being a connectional church. We take very seriously this idea that Christ is the head but all of us together are the body – the hands and feet, the eyes and ears of our Savior. We work together as churches in unique ways, like sending commissioners to Presbytery meetings so we can make our decisions together and by sending our pastors and elders to serve on various committees and commissions, so we share the work, and every church gives input. We endeavor to protect the mission and welfare of every church by keeping watch over one another and offering support and encouragement. The congregation bears the primary financial burden for its conduit of God's love and grace, its pipeline, its building – but we do that, so the work is shared, distributed among all, for the sake of the greater good.

That's what keeps the Presbytery functional. We each do our part, watching after our church, but we share a common life and mission, a greater purpose than any one church can fully represent alone. We hold each other's buildings in trust because we are in this together. It helps to have a stake in each other's work. We want each other to succeed, and we are personally invested in that success through this shared ownership. We are the church together!

Together in Christ,  
With courage, devotion and good spirit as a colleague,  
Rev. Beth Buckwalter-Miller



**The Executive Presbyter of MN Valleys took on some great topics recently. She gives some great information. If you have anymore questions, feel free to reach out to the Presbytery.**

## Per-Capita

Dear Presbytery Family,

As promised, this week I am turning my attention to another question I am frequently asked when I visit our churches:  
**“Why do we pay per capita?”**

In the PC(USA) per capita is a way of sharing the cost of being a connectional church – that is, a denomination where congregations, presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly all share in governance and mission together.

Per capita is a set amount of money per church member that each congregation pays every year to help fund the work of the larger church. It’s not a “tax” but a shared covenant responsibility – a recognition that every member participates in the wider ministry of the denomination. It funds things like administrative support for presbyteries and synods, meetings of committees, commissions and governing bodies, training and resources for ministers, clerks, and elders, ecumenical and constitutional work (like maintaining the Book of Order), and the cost of representation and decision-making at the General Assembly. In short, it supports the infrastructure that allows the church to be Presbyterian, where decisions are made together through elected representatives.

Per capita, at its heart, expresses connectionalism: we’re not just local congregations doing our own thing but part of a larger body. It ensures equity: every congregation, large or small, helps sustain the shared mission and governance. And it keeps mission offerings and gifts free to go directly to programs and ministries, not administration.

While not every church may do this, it is customary to ask church members to contribute their own per capita dollars. In 2026 we are proposing a per capita rate of \$47/member. This would be \$3.92 a month. If every church member could set that aside, either by dropping it in the offering plate each month or saving it to pay in a lump sum of \$47, we would all cover the cost of our own per capita. I can’t think of much I get for only \$3.92/month! It seems like being a part of this connection church is worth that amount! I know I’m biased, but I would ask you to consider it. You might dig into the resources that are available to you from the denomination, at no additional charge. Maybe you will find a newsletter or podcast that feeds your soul. Maybe you’ll enjoy the free downloadable version of our Book of Order or Book of Confessions (if it doesn’t sound like a great read on its own you could try it as a cure for insomnia – ha!), you might find that joining one of our Lunch & Learns, or letting us send you to a cool event, like General Assembly or some other conference, makes it feel even more worth your while! I think that as you dig into the denomination and take advantage of more of what is there for you, you will be astonished that you get all of that for only \$3.92/month!

Continued...





# Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys

**The Executive Presbyter of MN Valleys took on some great topics recently. She gives some great information. If you have anymore questions, feel free to reach out to the Presbytery.**

## Per-Capita

Continued...

Here are some links you might check out to increase your bang for your buck from your per capita dollars.

For Spiritual Growth and Connection

- Daily Devotions: [d365 Daily Devotionals - devotions 365 days a year](#) These are simple, meditative and beautiful.
- Daily Lectionary Readings: [Daily Devotion | Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#)

For Understanding our Connectional Church

- Matthew 25 initiative resources: free videos, study guides and stories of congregations living out the gospel through building congregational vitality, eradicating poverty, and dismantling racism.

[Matthew 25 | Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#)

- Being Connected and Polity Resources: Free short videos and articles that explain how sessions, presbyteries, synods and GA work together – great for officer training.

[Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#)

[Churches and Church Leaders | Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#)

For Congregational Education and Communication

- Presbyterians Today Magazine: Most articles and special issues are online for free – topics on faith in daily life, social issues, and creative ministry ideas.

[Presbyterian Mission Agency Presbyterians Today Magazine | Presbyterian Mission Agency](#)

Book of Confessions and Book of Order (free online)

- [2025\\_0724 Book of Order Interactive 2025-2027.pdf](#)
- [Microsoft Word - File 01 Front Matter.doc](#)

Keep reading the Valley Bridge. We post information about resources you'll find helpful, announcements about things coming up here, and helpful links all the time. Being a part of a connectional church brings so much to each of our doorsteps, and each of our congregations! Thank you for your per capita dollars that make so much possible!

Together in Christ,

With courage, devotion and good spirit as a colleague,

Rev. Beth Buckwalter-Miller



# Skating

# Party

