



Winnebago Presbytery News & Notes

February 20, 2026



Presbytery News

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Matthew 4:1-4, NRSV

Lent is a period of forty days – like the flood of Genesis, Moses’ sojourn at Sinai, Elijah’s journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah’s call of repentance to Ninevah, and Jesus’ time of testing in the wilderness. The Sundays in Lent are not counted among the forty days, as ever Lord’s Day is a celebration of Christ’s resurrection. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and concludes at sunset on Holy Saturday, at the start of the Great Vigil of Easter.

(from the Book of Common Worship, Westminster John Knox Press, 2018, p. 233)

NEXT PRESBYTERY MEETING



Thursday, February 26,
2026, virtual only,
starting at 10 a.m.

**REGISTER TO
ATTEND**

Please be sure to register
by Wednesday, February
25.



Winnebago Presbytery Meeting - February 26, 2026

In accordance with section 4 of the Standing Rules (4.3), Winnebago Presbytery will meet in a stated session on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Registration for this meeting is required will close on Wednesday, February 25, 2026. If you would like to request to be excused, an option for that is available on the registration form.

Upon registering, you will receive a confirmation email with Zoom details. Meeting papers will be posted by the Monday prior to the meeting.

If your session has asked you to be a voting commissioner, please select "RE Commissioner." (The RE stands for Ruling Elder)

[REGISTER TO ATTEND](#)

Annual Congregational Checklist Documents

As we move through the month of February, we're grateful to see Annual Presbytery Checklist items beginning to arrive from many of our churches—thank you for your diligence and care in attending to these details.

This is a gentle reminder to review the [2026 Annual Presbytery Checklist](#) and note the upcoming due dates. By this time, we should have received your Contact Information Form, Mission Pledge Form, Quarterly Per Capita payment information, and the names of Elders for Communion Authorization.

We understand that gathering and submitting this information takes time, especially alongside your many other responsibilities in ministry. If you need a little extra time, that is completely understandable. Please just [email Cindy](#) to let her know your anticipated timeline or if you need any assistance—we're here to help. Thank you for your continued partnership and faithfulness. And, please refer to the Annual Presbytery Checklist for other required forms/items and their corresponding due dates.

2026 Leadership Retreat – “The Sailboat Church”

Forest Larger Parish Lakewood is pleased to invite you to their 2026 Leadership Retreat on Saturday, March 28, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The theme, The Sailboat Church, is inspired by the book of the same name by Joan Gray. Throughout the day, we will explore what it means to let the Holy Spirit guide and empower your congregations—learning how to discern where God is leading and how to faithfully respond together.

The retreat will include:

- Boundary Training that fulfills PC(USA) requirements
- Breakout sessions for Elders, Deacons, and Clerks
- Time for conversation and shared learning
- A closing worship service
- Lunch and snacks!

This retreat is open to all church leaders, as well as members who feel called to grow in leadership—even if they are not currently serving in an official role.

Forest Larger Parish Lakewood is also happy to share that several neighboring congregations have already committed to joining them for this day of fellowship and growth, including Athelstane, Wausaukee, Menominee, Pioneer (Marinette), and Oconto. We look forward to learning and worshiping together.

There is no cost to attend, but reservations are required. To register, please contact the Forest Larger Parish Lakewood office at 715-473-3603, Lori Brooks at 715-618-2219, or Suzanne Bell at 715-850-2488.

We hope you will join them for this meaningful time of renewal, connection, and shared ministry.

Installation Service for Greg Braatz

All are invited to gather for worship at [First Presbyterian Church in Oconto](#) on Sunday, March 1, at 10:30 a.m., as Greg Braatz is installed as a Commissioned Ruling Elder for pastoral service. The church is located at 133 Jackson St. in Oconto.

This special service marks an important milestone in Greg’s journey of faith and leadership. Greg previously served as a Commissioned Ruling Elder at his home church in Appleton, where he led worship once a month, taught Adult Education classes, and coordinated outreach programs. Following his retirement from that role, he continued serving through the Presbytery by assisting small churches without the leadership of a Minister of the Word and Sacrament. In that capacity, he provided pulpit supply, moderated session meetings, and helped sessions discern their direction for ministry.



Please join FPC-Oconto if you can for this joyful occasion as we give thanks for Greg’s faithful service and pray for the ministry that lies ahead. All are welcome.

Join us

(from wherever you are)

in praying for our world

(God knows we need it!)

March 6, 2026

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Please pray with Christians in 170 other countries for world justice and peace.

The theme for 2026 is “I will give you rest.” (MATT 11:28)

Reclaiming Balance and Belonging

A Workshop for Single Parents

Facilitated by: Keri Gretebeck, Samaritan Resident

March 21, 2026; 8:30am to Noon

Samaritan's Mary Beth Niehaus Community Room

1205 Province Terrace, Menasha

\$25/person and includes a light breakfast and lunch

[REGISTER HERE](#)

If cost is a barrier, please email

sanderson@samaritanfoxvalley.com for scholarship information.



“Single parents frequently navigate immense responsibilities without the recognition or support they deserve. This event reflects our commitment to building a supportive community for individuals who may lack consistent emotional or social support. Our vision is for this seminar to grow into structured therapeutic groups in fall 2026, offering continued connection, growth, and empowerment,” Keri Gretebeck, LPC-IT

Reclaiming Balance and Belonging is a morning created just for single parents, offered on National Single Parent Day. Join us for this half-day workshop designed specifically for single parents who want to strengthen their emotional well-being, reconnect with themselves, and build meaningful community.

Through practical tools and gentle guidance from Samaritan Resident Therapist Keri Gretebeck, you will learn how to ease stress, reduce guilt and shame, rebuild confidence, and navigate the complex realities of single parenting. You will also meet other single parents who understand your journey and can offer support.

Wonder Weekend at Moon Beach!

May 22 to 25, 2026

Wonder Weekend is an extended Memorial Day weekend retreat at Moon Beach designed to give rest and rejuvenation to families with special needs. Originally started as an event for Miracle League of the Lakeshore, this weekend will offer opportunities to enjoy the best parts of camp and a supportive community. Enjoy the beauty and sacredness of Moon Beach while having the time of your life!



Visit the [United Church of Camps Moon Beach website](#) for details and to register!

Winnebago Presbytery encourages everyone who feels called to attend church camp to do so. If financial assistance is needed, participants are first encouraged to check with their local church. In addition, scholarships are available to youth and adult members of Winnebago Presbytery for any Presbyterian camp, including Pilgrim Center and Moon Beach. Please visit our [website](#) to access the scholarship application under the tab Resources - Grants and Scholarships - Summer Camp Scholarship Application Form or [click here](#).

The Wisconsin Council of Churches (WCC) is a network of Christian churches and faith-based organizations committed to working together across our many differences. Exercising holy imagination, we help one another make courageous choices that lead toward peacemaking, social and economic justice for Wisconsin's most vulnerable residents, the vitality of the church, and the well-being of our neighbors. The Council connects 23 Christian traditions, which have within them approximately 2,000 congregations and over one million church members. For resources and more information about the WCC, see [Wisconsin Council of Churches](#).



Giving Thanks for the Life of Gert Walsh

Winnebago Presbytery gives thanks to God for the life of Gert Walsh, who was involved in Presbyterian mission and ministry and with Presbyterian Women in Winnebago Presbytery and Synod of Lakes and Prairies. Her full obituary can be [read here](#).

ThedaCare At Home Seeks Volunteers

ThedaCare At Home, a partner of Froedtert and Holy Family Memorial, is seeking hospice volunteers in the Neenah, Appleton, and Green Bay areas to assist in caring for terminally ill patients and their families. Visit their [website](#) to view opportunities or contact Shana Farrell at 920-422-7593.



Congregational News

First Presbyterian Church - Fond du Lac

Seeking Part-Time Music & Worship Coordinator



First Presbyterian Church of Fond du Lac WI is seeking to hire a person to join our staff to humbly nurture the spiritual life of the congregation through music and worship ministry. This is a part-time hourly position, averaging about 25 hours per week. A full job description is available on our church website www.fpcfdl.org.

Check out FPC FDL's new website: www.fpcfdl.org!



Denominational News

One Great Hour of Sharing resources now available

The One Great Hour of Sharing special offering is an important way Presbyterians work together to do good in the world. Winnebago Presbytery congregations are strong supporters of this offering! A [Leader's guide](#) filled with print and social media resources is available!

A New Worship Support Option for Congregations

Many churches today are doing their best with limited time, limited staff, or during seasons of transition. Some are between pastors. Some rely heavily on volunteers. Others are simply tired—and wondering how to keep worship meaningful without stretching people too thin. Firebird Spirit's Worship Supply Kit (WSK) was created by with those realities in mind. The Worship Supply Kit is a ready-to-use Sunday worship resource that Presbyterian churches can turn to when they need extra support. It provides the pieces for a full worship service—music, scripture readings, prayers, and a sermon—in a way that is flexible and easy to use. There is no single “right” way to use it. Some congregations choose to watch the complete worship video together. Others download just the music. Some ask local members to read the scripture, prayers, or sermon. Others mix and match—using only what they need that week. In short: take what works for your congregation, and leave the rest.

To learn more about Firebird Spirit resources, check out these [short videos](#). Or visit their [website](#) and look for Worship Supply Kit – Firebird Spirit, Hope Generator for Communities, Congregations and Individuals.



Partner Links

Presbyterian
Church (U.S.A.)

Synod of Lakes &
Prairies

Wisconsin Council
of Churches

Presbyterian
Women (National)

Synod of Lakes &
Prairies
Presbyterian
Women

United Church
Camps, Inc.

Board of
Pensions

Samaritan
Counseling



Resources

[Employment Opportunities](#)



Winnebago Presbytery | 181 E. North Water St. Ste. 207 | Neenah, WI 54956 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!