



Winnebago Presbytery News & Notes

DECEMBER 15, 2023

Presbytery News

Prayers for Advent...

*Long-awaited Savior,
you are the promise of the prophets,
and we are witnesses to your work -
vision, movement, healing,
music, new life, good news.
Enlighten and enliven us,
send us out to spread the word
so that all may see and hear
and know and believe
that you are the coming of God,
the Messiah.*

Matthew 11:2-11

NEXT PRESBYTERY MEETING

February 22

Hybrid via Zoom & In-Person
at First Presbyterian Church,
Neenah at 10:00 am

Registration to Launch January
12 & Close February 20

Warm Wishes for a Merry Christmas & Holiday Notice from Staff

As the joyful holiday season approaches, we want to extend our heartfelt wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with love, peace, and joy.

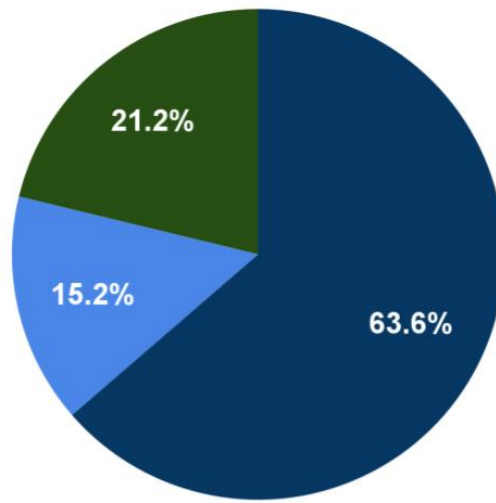
In the spirit of the season, we would like to inform you that our office will be closed for the holidays from December 25th through January 1st. In the event of an emergency, please contact **Dave Colby** directly.

We appreciate your understanding during this festive time. May your Christmas be filled with warmth, laughter, and the company of those you hold dear!

December 1 N&N Interactive Question Results

We wanted to know, **"With Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday this year, what is your congregation planning?"**

See how your response compares to other members'!



- Follow usual Sunday morning AND Christmas Eve schedule
- Worship in morning, but reduce afternoon/evening
- Not have Sunday morning worship on Christmas Eve

Transitional General Presbyter Dave Colby's Fox Valley Visit

Hoping to help set the stage for a meaningful celebration of Pastor Bill Kamke's dedicated service to the Green Bay community, Rev. Dave Colby delivered a sermon at Wequiock Presbyterian Church. They prepare to bid farewell to their long-time pastor, Bill Kamke, who is embarking on a well-deserved retirement at the end of the year.

Additionally, in the spirit of unity and camaraderie, Dave extended fellowship beyond the sanctuary. He gathered with pastors from De Pere, Green Bay, Athelstane, and Wausaukee over a hearty meal in downtown Green Bay. We can't help but delight in how connections in Winnebago Presbytery are able to transcend congregational boundaries through the commitment of serving communities and a shared journey of faith.



Members of Wequiock Presbyterian Church gather to practice their Christmas pageant.

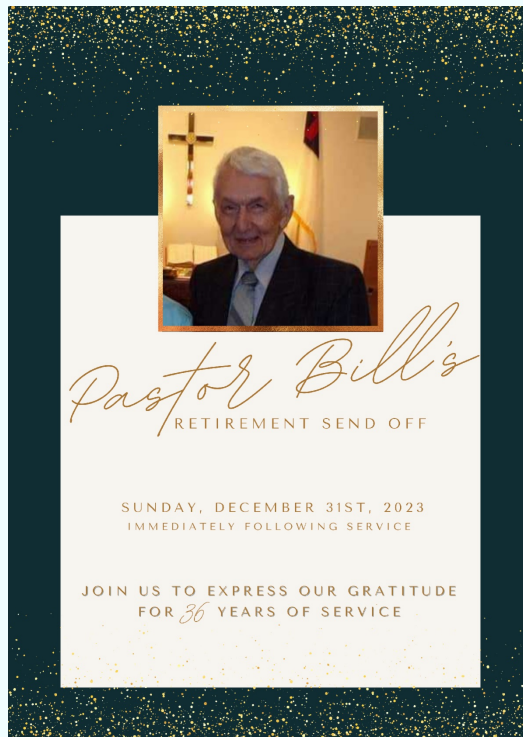


Members of Wequiock Presbyterian Church pose in front of their historical stained glass windows.

Invitation to Celebrate Retirement of Pastor Bill Kamke of Wequiock Presbyterian Church

Members of Winnebago Presbytery are invited to attend the retirement send off for Pastor Bill Kamke on Sunday, December 31, 2023 following their usual service.

Join Wequiock and Winnebago Presbytery in expressing gratitude for 36 years of service to their congregation!



Congratulations to the Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin & First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac

The Rev. Dr. Craig has officially accepted a pastoral call at First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac. May the path ahead be filled with grace, fulfillment, and countless moments of joy as you shepherd the flock entrusted to your care. We eagerly anticipate the positive impact you will undoubtedly make in the lives of those you serve.

Congratulations, Craig & FPC Fond du Lac!



Round 2: Upcoming Website Launch

We are excited to announce that Winnebago Presbytery will again be attempting to launch a new website on December 18th. During this time, the website may take up to 48 hours to fully propagate, and there could be brief email issues.

If you experience any delays in receiving email responses, we kindly ask for your patience. If your matter is urgent, please consider reaching out directly via phone call to the person you are trying to contact.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support!

*New Website
Coming Soon!*



Ecumenical Partners Updates

United Church Camps, Inc.

Note from UCCI Executive Director Jim Schleif

[...] Yes, Advent is here, and Christmas is a mere [10] days away. The Hebrew prophet, Isaiah opens Advent with a plea for God to tear open the heavens, get down here, and make things right! In Mark's gospel, Jesus states, *"But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven."*

Welcome to Advent and the tension between these apocalyptic images and the trust that we also put in Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. I am profoundly grateful that by Christmas, Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love win out.



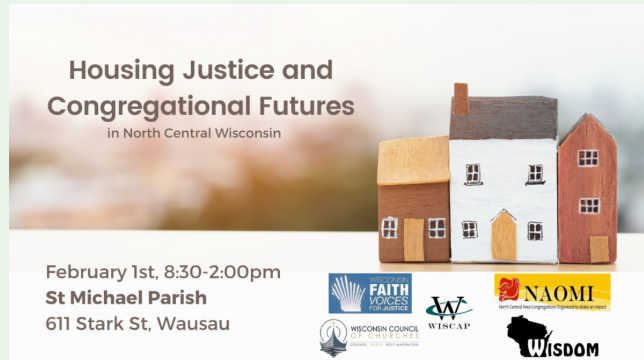
In many ways, the challenges that UCCI has faced in recent years resonate with this same tension between 'the end is near,' and the trust in God's presence among us as we strive to further the ministry of unconditional love and extravagant hospitality in God's creation.

I express my deepest gratitude to those who have responded with gifts to UCCI through our **Ignite Generosity** year-end appeal. We have truly been blessed with some large gifts that encourage each of us to contribute in a meaningful way. [...]

I am also excited to share that registration for 2024 events will be opening soon. We are opening registration in segments to allow our staff to be better able to support your needs. More detailed information about the 2024 schedule of events and registration is [\[here\]](#). We eagerly look forward to sharing time in our sacred spaces next year! [...]

Wisconsin Council of Churches

Upcoming Event: Housing Justice and Congregational Futures - February 1st, 8:30-2:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Parish in Wausau



The way we gather is in a season of transition. Many faith communities have large buildings that were used in an era when congregations were larger and had busier schedules with events happening throughout the week. Some believe that they may conclude ministry in that place in the next 5-10 years. It is time for us to re-examine our buildings and ask how they can continue to serve our communities.

One widespread community need across Wisconsin is safe, affordable housing. [... What would it] look like if faith communities used our assets such as buildings, people, and faith that calls us to love our neighbor [and] to advocate for housing justice in our cities[?]

Faith communities in north central Wisconsin are invited to join together to share, listen, and dream about how they could have an impact on their communities through housing justice.

[Read More](#)

Samaritan Counseling

The Importance of Belonging By Amy D'addrio, MS, SAC, CSW Wellness Screen Director

For most people the holidays are the happiest time of the year! The holidays often offer opportunities to spend time with family and friends. As social beings, most of us find joy in coming together



Being with others tends to foster a feeling

of belonging. **Research shows our**

perception of belongingness

improves our sense of wellbeing. As a mental wellness program, belongingness is a feeling Wellness Screen asks about every time a student is screened.

The feeling, "I am not alone," physically or emotionally is a protective factor for our mental health. Conversely, a lack of belongingness may contribute to feelings of anxiety and depression. According to the Interpersonal Theory of Suicide, offered by Dr. Thomas Joiner, et. al.,

thwarted belongingness may even be a risk factor for suicide.

As we plan to gather, it is important to consider ways to foster your sense of belonging[.]

[Read Steps Here](#)

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Denominational News

Follow Christ's Lead This Advent Season

Every year, society expects us to celebrate the holiday season even bigger and better than years before. This year, coming together to reclaim Advent and Christmas can be both humbling and fulfilling. As we

excitedly await the birth of Christ, it's important to remember the reason for the season: the newborn Servant of All, the perfect gift.

With Christ at the center this holiday season, we can follow in his example of servant leadership by serving our brothers and sisters in faith. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we are able to support those in our community and give them the gift of hope.

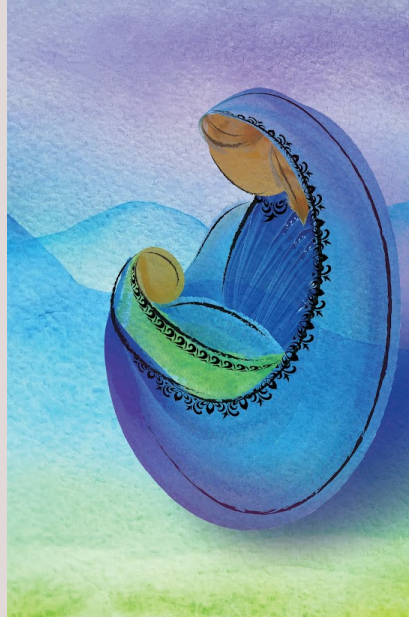
Gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering help the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions provide critical financial assistance to eligible church workers and retired pastors and their families in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The Christmas Joy Offering also supports the education and development of our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. These schools are dedicated to creating opportunities and environments for students built on a foundation of Christian values. The Offering benefits Menaul School and Presbyterian Pan American School, two secondary schools that ready students for a path of higher learning, as well as Stillman College, where graduates are prepared for lives of leadership and service.

By supporting the Christmas Joy Offering, you share in the hope of Christ and celebrate his leadership by providing support to our church workers, racial ethnic young people, and their families.

Please give generously:

- Through your congregation
- Text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999
- presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy



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

Winnebago Pulpit
Supply



John Knox Pulpit
Supply

Employment
Opportunities



Milwaukee Pulpit
Supply

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

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