

## Shepherding the Flock from the December Session Meeting

Pastor Will's devotional was based on Luke 2:8, and also a poem by Howard Thurman entitled The Work of Christmas, relating to the story of John William Harris, who undertook the work of Christmas with small things that ultimately made a huge impact in the people's lives. We were encouraged to plant seeds of good works, even if we may not see the fruit.

### **Pastor's Moment | Pastor Will Wilson**

- Wrapping up the Advent Bible study
- Presided at funerals for Helen McVicar and Mary Lalley. Provided pastoral care to the families.
- Officer training with Leslie Strangfeld, mission elder elect
- Working with budget and stewardship teams
- Preparing for Christmas eve
- Will preside at an upcoming funeral in Sun Prairie
- Communion served on December 7, 2025

### **Mission Elder-Elect Examination | Pastor Will Wilson with Leslie Stangfeld**

- Leslie was asked to describe her faith journey and highlight sections from the Book of Order and the Book of Confessions that are particularly meaningful to her, as they relate to her mission elder elect role. Session approved sustaining the examination of Leslie Strangfeld for the role of mission elder.

### **Consent Agenda - M/S/A all, unanimous**

- Approve termination of membership for Jenny and Bill Ripley
- Approve recurring payments for 2026
- Approve 2025 audit report for annual report
- Confirm Philip Greenwood to join the Endowment Committee, replacing Tony Tomaselli, whose term ended in September of 2025.
- Approve student Winter Retreat Jan 30-Feb 1 in Lake Geneva

### **Discussion Items | Finance, AN&SG, Clerk of Session**

#### *Finance*

There was a significant amount of discussion and session action related to budget for 2026, adjustments to giving for 2025, and a gift from a donor and how to apply it.

FPC received a gift of \$100k from a generous donor. \$97k will be applied to Pillars and Pathways, with the remaining \$3k used toward the Christmas offering for staff bonuses, according to the

donor's request. We are allowed to pull a maximum of 20% from the endowment fund, every 2 years. Proposing to pull some funds out of the endowment for Building and Grounds, and some to fund the new music director position.

Pastor Will asked that the minutes reflect his, and the sessions', gratitude for the gift, which will be used to pay down the current parking lot loan and allow us to retire it much sooner than previously planned.

Session approved using a portion of the endowment fund for seed for 2026 salary/benefits for the new music director and to apply a Pillars and Pathways match for building and grounds, assuming approval by the endowment fund trustees.

Session approved changing the terms of the current parking lot loan end date to extend for one year, from June 2027 to June 2028, reducing monthly payments to \$1400. The loan will be paid off in June 2028.

- Note: This provides the ability for the Pillars and Pathway campaign to cover loan payments with future recurring contributions. Extend loan to June 2028 when the P&P campaign ends. It also removes the balloon payment in June of 2027 and pays off loan in 2.5 years, freeing up \$22,000 GF budget per year. Reduces overall interest payments by \$35,000+.

Session approved, for 2025, to direct 10% of actual pledged income to mission giving. The mission tithe of 10% for 2026 will also be applied to actual pledged income. 20% of the resulting mission giving will be directed to student mission.

For the 2026 Presbyterian members' dues (per capita), the payment to the Presbytery will be based on 200 active members.

Session approved the summary 2026 budget presented on 12/16/2025, assuming a general fund carryover of \$44,000 or more. If the carryover is less than \$44,000, session agrees to make further adjustments to make up for the difference.

Session members were asked to review the 2026 budget and, if items were not needed until Q3 or Q4, to adjust expenses to late in the year to help with cash flow.

#### *Adult Nurture and Spiritual Growth*

Need to select 2 current elders to serve on the 2026 nominating committee. Session selected Ryan Horst and Leslie Strangfeld. Lolly Lawrence will follow up with deacons. Note: Elders ending

terms in 2026 are Emily Bauer, Barb Cash, Krista Wallace and Jim Fitzgerald. Deacons ending terms in 2026 are David Good, Sharon Mikkelsen, and Beth Mueller.

#### *Clerk of Session*

Need to determine the date for the January-February congregational meeting, with an eye to when budget can be completed. Session selected February 1 and agreed to change the date of the January session meeting to January 6.

#### **Adult Nurture & Spiritual Formation | Elder Jim Fitzgerald**

- FPC Adult Advent Study (“Mary - mother of Jesus”) is being led by Pastor Will through 12/21. Study is averaging 25 people through two weeks.
- Adult Sunday School will resume on 1/11/26. We will combine the two classes into one at that time. The adult class will move their meeting time to start at 10:45 AM due to the one service time change to 9:30 AM.

#### **Building and Grounds | Elder Ryan Horst**

- Continuing to address broken/maintenance items as needed.
- Working on getting grout cleaned in bathrooms.
- Working on putting together long-term needs assessment for large building/grounds items.

#### **Fellowship | Elder Krista Wallace**

- Purchased new dish drainers, a few new utensils, and a new roasting crock for basement kitchen.
- Lynda Ferris-Olson has offered to make a cake for the Nativity service on Dec 21.
- Had initial discussions about Lenten dinners on Wednesdays.
  - February 18 - Ash Wednesday (no dinner)
  - February 25 - Dinner (Light team)
  - March 4 - Dinner
  - March 11 - Dinner
  - March 18 - Dinner
  - March 25 - Dinner
  - April 1 - Holy week (no dinner)
  - April 5 – Easter 14

### **Mission | Elder Elect Leslie Strangfeld w/Interim Mission Leaders Jim Fitzgerald and Kyle Halweg**

- Welcome Leslie Strangfeld, new Missions Elder elected at 11/16/25 congregational meeting!
- FPC concluded charitable food drive for Waunakee Food Pantry on 11/23. In total our congregation filled/donated five shopping carts of much needed groceries to the Waunakee community ... thank you!
- FPC is sponsoring Giving Trees for two community ministries (Waunakee Neighborhood Connections and Shelter From The Storm) through 12/21/25.
- We continue to provide monetary donations to several preselected community/national/international ministries as previously planned through year end 2025.

### **Stewardship | Elder Barb Cash**

- The term “Per Capita” was changed to “Presbytery Member Dues” and the dues amount for 2026 has been confirmed at \$45.00/per member

### **Worship and Music | Elder Amy Lewis**

- Search Committee for the new Music Director position has been formed. Jamie Roberts (Chair), Amy Lewis, Sam Robinson, Katrina Aderman, Greg Tardiff and Connie Pelton. The first meeting was on 12/7/25. Next meeting won't be until January 2026.
- There will be a 4 PM service on Christmas Eve with communion. Joyful Noise will be playing at this service. There will also be a 7 PM service (no communion) where the choir and a string quartet will be leading musical worship.
- Will not proceed with the Poinsettia fundraiser this Christmas but anticipate holding a spring flower fund raiser for Easter.

### **Deacon Report**

- Care Packages for Members and Affiliates who are away from home: 30 boxes were sent! Stuffed boxes on November 9 – thank you to our many volunteers. Shipped boxes on November 10.
- Project CONNECT: We continue to provide rides for people ad hoc
- Hammers with Halos: Have helped with several smaller projects as well as moving some furniture.
- Prayer Shawls: 4 quilts/shawls were blessed. Lori Knott made prayer squares for those times when there aren't “major” events; Deacons will distribute.