

## Shepherding the Flock – For the April 10 Connector

Pastor Will's devotional was based on Psalm 13, 2 Corinthians 8 and a reading from Biblical Theology by C. Clifton Black. The theme, going into Holy Week, was "the persistence of wounds" or lament. 2 Corinthians 4:11 says "for we who live are always delivered unto death on account of Jesus, that the life also of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh." Lament is a signature theme of every life in Christ. Ignoring, or passing quickly over, Good Friday in a rush to get to the celebration of Easter stills the voice and value of lament.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Will.

A motion was made and approved unanimously to adopt the agenda.

### **Report of the Clerk | Elder Lolly Lawrence**

The first congregational listening session is planned for April 19. The theme is Outreach and Community Presence. The Adult Bible study will be canceled for this week. The meeting will be held in Fellowship Hall following the service, starting at 10:45.

Shared a booklet and flyer about the Presbytery's Synod School.

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

- Will offered thanks for all the prayers and support from the Session and the congregation on his daughter Iris' recent illness and hospitalization. He requests continuing prayers for Iris and for their daughter arriving this July.
- Pastor Will will be preaching a series of sermons, this spring through late June, on question one from the Heidelberg Catechism:

#### ***LORD'S DAY 1, HEIDELBERG CATECHISM***

##### ***What is your only comfort in life and in death?***

*That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death— to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.*

*He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.*

*Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.*

##### ***What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?***

*Three things:*

*first, how great my sin and misery are;  
second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery;  
third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.*

- He will again take a break from preaching this summer from the end of June through the second Sunday in August. He is lining up preachers to cover those Sundays. He will continue to be in the office and working through summer, but using the time, in part, to prepare for fall. He thanks the Session and congregation for allowing this preaching break.
- Given that Pastor Ben will be on sabbatical from September through December, we'll be looking at providing some pastoral support at about 10 hours a week.
- Tuesday Bible studies will continue through April 7.
- Recognized Pastor Ben's anniversary with thanks for all Ben's contributions to FPC.

### **Consent Agenda – M/S/A Unanimous**

#### ***Clerk of Session***

Approve minutes from 2/24/26 regular Session meeting

Approve minutes from 3/1/26 called Session meeting

Approve minutes from 3/8/26 congregational meeting

Accept Cindy May's resignation from the deacons

#### ***Finance***

Policy on Protection and Access to Congregational Giving Information

Giving Data Confidentiality & Use Expectations

Note Endowment Trustee Meeting Minutes 2/23/26

Reactivate the choir special fund to help track Easter flowers and other things

### **Discussion Items | Finance, Clerk of Session, Fellowship Team**

#### **Finance | Monty Cordell**

Per the financial summary,

- Revenue and expenses including Jan and Feb are about equal.
- Feb was also nearly the same difference between budget and actual for revenue and expense, as it was in January (~11k in Jan and ~3.5k in Feb).
- Budgeted cash position is below forecast. We will need to work on this, since we need to make up \$102k - \$132k by the end of the year.

Reviewed goals and recent actions:

- \$30k growth in the congregation (20+ net new households)
- \$10k reengage dormant members (5+ of 156 households)
- \$10k more giving options (i.e., year-round stewardship)

- \$5k use more special funds (shift expense from GF to SF where possible)
- \$45k reducing costs (5% or more)

Discussed a contingency plan, if we should run into shortfalls this summer.

### **Clerk of Session | Lolly Lawrence**

Asked for Session's thoughts on a process for updating membership rolls. The Book of Order says that after two years of inactivity, members should be removed from the rolls. Even if we remove people from membership, we may want to keep them on the mailing list so they receive the Connector and other communications. A more refined process will be proposed at an upcoming Session meeting.

### **Fellowship | Krista Wallace**

- **Women's Night** - Help spread the word about the upcoming event, Women's Night (Women's Mixer), the evening of **Friday, April 24** in the Fellowship Hall. Jamie Roberts will be our leader throughout the evening as we get know the women and friends of FPC a little more. We're looking to host multiple generations and hoping members bring a friend. Snacks will be provided.
- **"Faith & Family Night" at the Mallards Game** - Fellowship and Family Ministry, with Angela Himegarner, are partnering up to help bring FPC to a Mallard's Game. Our church will offset the entrance fee; members and their friends will pay \$15 and FPC will pay \$15. Registration will take place online and flyers to advertise this event will be sent out shortly.
- Session decided that Fall Kick-Off will take place on September 13, 2026.

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

Musical Pathways approached us about FPC renting building space to for-profit organizations. Research on this topic has shown there are potential tax status implications for a church to rent space to a for-profit entity. There are many variables that go into determining the details of tax implications, and all sources highly recommend consulting with a tax professional who specializes in these areas. Session has previously discussed looking into additional revenue sources including renting of unused space. So, in addition to the Kindermusik request, this tax implication information would be necessary if we are going to actively look to rent space in general.

Session approved engaging a tax consultant to fully understand the Church's position to rent to a for-profit business. Prior to hiring a consultant for a fee, we will check with the Presbytery to see if they have free advice or resources or see if we could find a member of the congregation that would offer free services for this tax consulting.

### **Adult Nurture & Spiritual Growth | Jim Fitzgerald**

- Will extend Tuesday morning Bible Study @ M-N-M's Coffee House by one week (until 4/7). Pastor Will is leading the study on John's Gospel.

- Adult Sunday School class (Life Compass) will be completing their study “John- Life in His Name” by Kyle Idelman on 3/22. A new 6-week study, “Tame Your Thoughts” by Max Lucado, will go from 4/12 through 5/17/26. This class will take a break over the summer months and resume in mid-September.
- The Women’s Light Team (3/25) and Men’s Group (3/18) will be sponsoring the congregational dinners after Lenten mid-week services.

### **Nominating Committee**

To date, the 2026 Nom Com Team has met twice in our effort to begin the nominating process and to identify/discuss new Elder & Deacon candidates we will bring forward to the congregation for election in June 2026. We will be nominating four Elder roles (Adult Nurture, Fellowship, Stewardship & Student Ministry) along with 3-5 Deacon roles, and four congregational at-large roles. Our goal is to have candidates determined/committed by late April- early May. Thanks to Jamie Roberts for her research on deacon terms.

### **Building & Grounds | Ryan Horst**

- Furnace was replaced for office conference room recently. Budget included money for HVAC replacement, but is now mostly used up for the year. Pray for no additional HVAC issues!
- Planning to get carpets cleaned this spring. Initial plan is to clean Narthex, Chapel, gathering space, and education wing entrance to the gathering space.
- Updating Musical Pathways summer 2026 contract. Will have updated agreement for Session approval in April.

### **Fellowship | Krista Wallace**

- Lenten meals have been tremendously successful! These events have blessed our church and its members and friends in so many ways. Not only have we received large numbers attending these evenings but we have blessed the deacons with meals to deliver to families in need who can’t make it. I can’t thank each sponsor group enough for providing their help and service to our church.
- There will be something special for Mother’s Day (May 10), Confirmation Sunday (May 17) and Father’s Day (June 21).

### **Finance | Monty Cordell**

- The endowment committee met with the Presbyterian Foundation to discuss legacy planned giving ideas, to help restart the program at FPC.
- Starting to plan the next audit and review accounting questions.
- Reworked the electronic payment monthly review process and we will be implementing this with the treasurer and/or counters.
- Published the actual YTD Revenue and Expense chart in the Connector.

## **Mission**

- Connected with the Executive Director of Waunakee Neighborhood Connection, to learn more about their programs and explore opportunities for FPC to support their work. Began coordinating a Minute for Mission for an upcoming Sunday service.
- Continued collaboration with the Waunakee Ecumenical Board on their Easter Bag project.
- Scheduled a phone call with The Road Home to learn more about their program and identify ways FPC can offer support.

## **Stewardship | Barb Cash**

On 2/23/26 the Legacy Planned Giving Committee met virtually, including members from the Presbyterian Foundation. They gave us many good ideas to implement ahead of a "Planned Giving Sunday," May 3, 2026.

## **Worship and Music**

- Purple hymnals have arrived. Sam wrote an article in the Connector about them. We had them available for viewing after service on Sunday, 3/20. The Worship and Music Committee will switch the hymnals out on Wednesday, 3/25. The old hymnals will be available for people to take home after 3/25; we will set aside the ones that were dedicated in memory of someone for any family members who want to take those home.
- Jamison organized a Good Friday Cantata here at FPC at 7pm on 4/3.
- We are having two services on Easter Sunday (8am and 9:30am). There will be communion at both services.
- The choir sold 70 plants for their fundraiser!
- Music Director Search Committee update: We have the job description and position summary created. We are currently working to post the position to our website and various hiring platforms. We hope to have the position posted in mid-April.

## **Personnel | Rick Mueller**

Brought the Family and Medical Leave Policy for initial review.

## **Pastor's Moment | Ben Ehrets**

- Susan Larson's funeral will be held at FPC on March 28
- Pat Koranda has passed away; funeral will be held the week following Easter
- Had about 14 hospital visits in the past month
- Checking in with Service families
- Supporting the Lenten meals with participation in the service and meals
- Prepping for the Cantata