



# Voice of the Servant



# 2024

## Points of Interest:

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- ⇒ State Farm Donations, Pg 2
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- ⇒ Session Minutes, Pg. 4-5



## Mission Statement

**Empowered by the Holy Spirit through every aspect of our lives, we strive to become more like Christ. Our purpose is to praise and worship God, support each other as a family, and reach out to others to spread the good News of our salvation through Jesus Christ!**

Church Family and Friends,

Thanks to all of you who contributed your answers and ideas in response to the questions posed by our elders last month. We were elated to find over 30 cards in our suggestion box! Thanks, too, for all of you who attended our after-church pizza fellowship where we shared all the responses. We titled our work together, "Discerning God's Vision for Our Church."

Our commitment to be a Matthew 25 church means that we focus on meeting the needs of our community. Please be our eyes and ears and let us know of needs in our community so that we can be responsive to them.

*<sup>40</sup> "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40*

As a church we are blessed with many resources, gifts, and talents that we can use to further Christ's work. God has well equipped us for doing His work.

*<sup>10</sup> Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. I Peter 4:10*

Some of your suggestions focused on nurturing relationships. Watch for an invitation to meet for coffee.

*<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:5*

Many of your ideas were related to ways we can serve. We affirmed the idea of offering a free noon meal or a Saturday breakfast. Let us know if you would like to help.

*<sup>7</sup> Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people. Ephesians 6:7*

The bulk of your responses highlighted acts of evangelism. One simple thought was to make yard signs with simple sayings. Please send us your sayings.

*<sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20*

Your Session will continue to use your feedback as part of their process to discern God's vision for our church. They have already approved offering 10 youth scholarships to summer camp at Stronghold and partnering with the First United Methodist church to provide a Vacation Bible School the end of July.

By grace together,  
Laurie Walker  
Covenant Pastor





Kurt Bruno and Alyson from State Farm, dropped off a generous amount of non-perishable food items for the Micropantry. Free photos with the Easter Bunny in exchange for non-perishable foods was offered.

Thank you to all at State Farm and those who participated in the photos.

*Thankyou*

Thank you Sandy, Kay, Nancy, Tess, Corinne and Larry for helping sort and bag the fresh produce.



## Easter Flowers Purchased in Memory and Honor of Loved Ones

Art Beck	In memory of Marjorie Beck
Joyce Burrigh	In memory of loved ones
Jessica Cox & Fam.	In honor of all the people who pointed us towards Christ
Bob & Peggy Etheridge	In memory of John Burrigh
Carol Erwin	In memory of family and friends
Kevin & Ann Goy	In memory of Bettie Swanson, Ann's godmother who passed 2-19-24 at 105 years young.
The Lewis Family	In memory of Margo Lewis
Karen Menzel	In memory of parents, Clyde & Eldora Walker, husband Jim Menzel
Sandy Rebholz	In memory of Ray Rebholz
Ray & Faye Smith	In memory of loved ones
Joanne Wacker	In memory of John Wacker
Pastor Laurie Walker	In memory of parents and sisters



## Micropantry



### Canned Meats

Chicken breast  
Tuna  
Vienna  
Chili with meat  
Canned ham  
Canned Beef

### Canned Vegetables

Green beans  
Corn  
Carrots  
Spinach  
Potatoes

### Canned Fruit

Small snack size fruit  
Fruit cocktail  
Pineapple  
Peaches  
Pears  
Mixed veggies

### Other

Soups  
Instant potatoes  
Rice  
Seasonings

## Fresh Produce Sorting

### Tuesdays Produce

April 9  
April 23  
May 7  
May 21



If you are able to help sort fresh produce at 11 AM or maintain the Micropantry, please sign-up.

## Online Giving



### \*WAYS TO VOLUNTEER\*

- ⇒ Donate food items for Micropantry.
- ⇒ You can sign-up to fill the pantry
- ⇒ You can help sort fruit and vegetables every other Tuesday
- ⇒ Help with monthly newsletter
- ⇒ Pick-up food from Hands of Hope
- ⇒ Unload and stock food items from Hands of Hope

## Hands of Hope (pick up dates)

April 5 (no pick-up), April 19

May 3, May 17

If you are able to go to Joliet any of these dates and pick up free food for our pantry, please sign-up



## Weekly Coffee Hour

Please consider hosting coffee hour after worship on Sundays. Bring a simple dessert, make coffee, pour juice. Cheese and crackers are supplied by the Fellowship Committee.

**The sign-up is on the wall outside the Kitchen.**

## April Coffee Hour

April 7

April 14

April 21

April 28

Joni Bratney

## Second Sunday Breakfast

April 14, 9 AM

**Please bring a breakfast goodie or dish to pass.**

We will provide drinks and table service.

If you have questions, please contact Diane Moore.



## Session Highlights

March 12, 2024

The Session of Mendota First Presbyterian Church met for their regular March 2024 meeting on Tuesday, March 12 at 7 PM at the church and via ZOOM. Present were Elders Jessica Cox, Andra Goy, Diane Moore, Sandy Rebholz, Gary Stevens, and Kim Van Rheenen (also Clerk of Session); and Moderator Pastor Laurie Walker. Excused were Elder Bill Bratney and Treasurer Peggy Etheridge. A quorum of Elders was present. Also present were guests, Julius and Helen Hagan.

Pastor Laurie opened our meeting with a devotion based on John 14:6. We are looking to find a way – Jesus is The Way. She then led us in an opening prayer.

**Adoption of the Agenda and Reading and Approval of the Minutes:** The agenda was adopted by unanimous consensus. The Clerk noted 3 corrections to the minutes 1) In the Pastor's report, she will be back in the pulpit March 24, 2) In the Mission Report, correct the spelling of "Ondrea" Ward, 3) The Blanket Sunday offering brought in \$185. Gary made a correction to the Property and Maintenance Report—Mortenson Roofing will replace 6-10 tiles at the bid cost. Any other tiles will be at an additional cost. With these corrections, Diane made the motion to approve the minutes, Gary seconded the motion, and it passed.

**Calendar:** Communion will be served April 7. The calendar was approved by unanimous consent.

**Missionaries Julius and Helen Hagan joined us via ZOOM** to update us on their ministry efforts in Belgium. They thanked us for our financial and prayerful support of their Cup of Cold Water ministry. Currently, they are working with about 140 Ukraine refugees helping them find housing, education, and jobs. They shared that their most important needs at this time are 1) a bus/van to transport the refugees. They are currently raising support for the purchase. They are still about \$9000 short of the purchase price. 2) seeking monthly stipend support from churches they are hoping to raise partnership contributions to support them in their work. 3) They are working to create refugee jobs – possibly establishing a coffee shop in their town in Belgium. Need to raise money for rent and getting the business established. 4) Our prayers are vital to their continued ministry.

**PNC Report:** Pastor Laurie reported that she is our COM representative. She plans to meet with our PNC and, with Session's guidance, help us determine what we can sustainably afford for a pastor's salary. At our current status, we could sustainably afford approximately \$25000/year without using our reserves.

**Presbytery Report:** The next meeting will be a hybrid meeting on May 14.

**Communications:** from Donna 1) Are there plans for a Maundy Thursday worship service? – none There will be an ecumenical Good Friday Worship service at 7 PM at Zion United Methodist Church. There will be an ecumenical choir for the service. Anyone wishing to sing with the choir is invited to come to practice at 6 PM at Zion prior to the service. 2) She requests to switch her April Fridays off – Work the 26<sup>th</sup> and have the 19<sup>th</sup> off – okay 3) needs help folding the newsletters – put an appeal in the newsletter 4) still having issues with guest pastors getting their info to her too late in the week – thankfully, Pastor Laurie will be back in the pulpit soon, so this will become a non-issue

**Clerk's Report:** Will be out of state for the next Session meeting April 9. Requests a Clerk Pro Tem.

**Financial Report:** Printed report submitted shows income was higher than expenses for the month. Jessica made the motion to receive the report into our records. Sandy seconded the motion, and it passed.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Laurie reported 1) She met with Mendota Area Ministerial Association (MAMA). They will meet the first Tuesday of each month. Plans are formulated for an ecumenical Good Friday worship service at 7 PM at Zion United Methodist Church. 2) Mendota First United Methodist Church is interested in having a Micropantry. We have no problem with them having, despite reports to the contrary. It will provide more opportunities to serve the people of Mendota. 3) Cathy Burke from Mendota First United Methodist and Jessica Cox are organizing an evening VBS for the community. It will be held July 29 through August 2. More details will be shared as they become available. Volunteers will be needed in many areas. 4) Pastor suggested offering camp scholarships for Stronghold camps again this year. Jessica made the motion to offer 10 scholarships this summer, utilizing funds in our scholarship-designated accounts. Kim seconded the motion, and it passed. The availability of the scholarships will be posted on the Micropantry Facebook page and in the Micropantry. 5) Pastor visited Joyce, LaVerle, and Art and will soon meet with Ev. 5) Our May 19 worship service will be dedicated to the memory of Don and Carol Gooden. It will be advertised through the church Facebook page. 6) Our brainstorming meeting to reveal and discuss the ideas submitted for church service and strengthening ideas submitted on index cards will be following worship on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Budget and Stewardship:** We currently have \$146000 in a general savings account. Treasurer Peggy would like to move \$100000 to CDs for a higher rate of interest. There is a 6 month CD paying 4.55% interest and a 10 month CD paying 4.6% interest currently.

Diane made the motion to authorize Peggy to move \$50000 to the 6 month CD and \$50000 to the 10 month CD.

Andra seconded the motion, and it passed.

**Christian Education:** Lessons are ready and we are blessed to have willing teachers.

**Property and Maintenance:** 1) Gary has signed the contract and put down the deposit for roof repairs. 2) The required fire extinguisher inspections have taken place. 3) The east rain gutters are rusted through and not connected to downspouts. The gutters above the Jesus in the garden stained glass window are completely rotted through and have bird nests in them. Gary will get estimates for new rain gutters and downspouts on the east side of the church.

**Personnel and Pastoral Relations:** topics covered in Communications

**Worship and Music:** 1) Bill has all the Sundays covered for pulpit supply. 2) Jacob Schmitt is considering joining the rotation for pianists. Discussion revealed that Melissa Blum's brother, Greg Archer, also plays the piano. We could investigate the possibility of his willingness to play.

**Evangelism, Outreach, and Missions:** 1) AED pads can be ordered on Amazon.com at a savings over what we currently pay. 2) A newly-formed 4-H group would like to borrow 2 tables and 15-20 chairs for a one-time use. Session granted their request. 3) One Great Hour of Sharing is our current mission focus. Two video clips were sent to Andra to promote this offering, but they were not able to be shown on our screen in the sanctuary. Andra will look into this.

**Fellowship and Parish Life:** Diane is grateful to be back and thankful for all who have covered for her while she was unable to be with us.

**Memorial Committee:** no report

**Deacons:** no report

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

Sandy made the motion to adjourn, Gary seconded the motion, and it passed. Pastor Laurie closed our meeting with prayer.

Session's next regular meeting will be April 9 at 7 PM at the church.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Marie Van Rheenen, Clerk of Session

## Per Capita

**2024**

Per Capita  
is \$43.00

Per Person  
Per year

It has been said that **per capita** apportionment is like a utility bill. Just as we pay for heat, light, water, and telephone in order to remain connected to the utility systems and benefit from the services provided, we also pay per capita so that the Presbyterian system can function on behalf of all of us. It is the necessary linkage in our connectional system.

The payment of the per capita apportionment can be seen as a sign of healthy relationships within the church, giving tangible witness to the unity and wholeness promised to us in Jesus Christ, and is a way of sharing the costs that equitably belong to the whole Presbyterian Church.

# APRIL



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>  April Fool's day	<b>2</b> 12:30p MAMA	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:30p Webelos	<b>5</b> Office Closed <b>No HOH Pick-up</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 10a Worship In-person & Facebook live (Pastor Laurie) 11a Fellowship	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 11a Produce Sorting  7 PM Session	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:30p Webelos	<b>12</b> Office Closed	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9a Second Sunday Breakfast 10a Worship In-person & Facebook live (Pastor Laurie) 11a Fellowship	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6:30p Webelos	<b>19</b> 9– Noon Office Hours  HOH Pick-up  3p Unload and stock HOH foods	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 10a Worship In-person & Facebook live (Pastor Laurie) 11a Fellowship	<b>22</b>  EARTHDAY INVEST IN OUR PLANET	<b>23</b> 11a Produce Sorting	<b>24</b> <b>Newsletter            Deadline!</b>	<b>25</b> 6:30p Webelos	<b>26</b> Office Closed	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10a Worship In-person & Facebook live (Rev. Spaulding) 11a Fellowship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				



## April Birthdays

04 Diane Moore  
09 Melinda Stephenson  
10 Kenny Van Rheenen  
10 Corinne Shotliff  
14 Madra Fischer  
15 Sandy Rebholz  
15 Eve McNutt  
25 Chuck Baumann

## April Anniversaries

2 Kevin & Ann Goy  
23 Bill & Ola Ennenbach

## Sunday School Teachers

Teaching materials are provided.

07  
14  
21 Joni Bratney  
28

## Pianists

07 Laura Sutton  
14 Peggy Etheridge  
21 Peggy Etheridge  
28 Peggy Etheridge

## April Lectionary Readings

**April 07**—Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 3; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

**April 14**—Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; Isaiah 6:1-9a; Psalm 40:1-5; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

**April 21**—Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; Zechariah 10:1-12; Psalm 80: 1-7; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

**April 28**—Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; Exodus 19:1-6; Psalm 118: 19-25; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

## Pulpit Supply

07 Pastor Laurie Walker  
14 Pastor Laurie Walker  
21 Pastor Laurie Walker  
28 Rev. David Spaulding

## Ushers/Communion

07 Carol Erwin, Kay Christen  
14 Karen Menzel, Faye Smith  
21 Ron and Melissa Blum  
28 Sandy Rebholz, Fay Smith

## Continued Prayers

Angie (Faye Smith)  
Art Beck  
Barb Christopher  
Debbie Goffinet (Sandy R)  
Dixie Tonozzi  
Dorothy Becker  
Dr. Charles Lewis  
Ev McNutt

Finley Walker  
Janet Sutton  
Jason  
Jim Reilly  
Lu Zeinert  
Mike Boyle  
Pam Schmidt  
Pat Schmidt

Sarah Arter  
Sandy & Donald Schultz  
Tim Rebholz  
Tim Sondgeroth  
Trisha Smith  
Julius Hagan—Belgium  
Ministries  
Kenyan Missionaries





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Label

**Sunday Morning Worship 10 AM:** In-Person and [www.facebook.com/fpcmendota](https://www.facebook.com/fpcmendota)

**Sunday Fellowship 11 AM,  
Second Sunday Breakfast 9 AM**



**Join Zoom Meetings & Gatherings:**  
[https://us05web.zoom.us/j/994 465 263](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/994465263)  
pwd=zF6RMy  
Or dial in for voice only: 1-312-626-6799  
**Meeting code: 994 646 5263**  
**Password: zF6RMy**



**2024**

