

The Friendly Communicator

March 2026

A Word from the Pastor

We have entered the sacred season of Lent—a forty-day journey of prayer, repentance, reflection, and renewed devotion. Lent is a season that slows us down, calls us inward, and gently urges us toward the cross. It invites us to walk more intentionally with Christ, who challenges our comfort by saying: “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me” (Luke 9:23).

Lent calls us to deeper, more discerning discipleship. Just as Christ faced temptation in the wilderness—resisting the lure of worldly power and prestige (Matthew 4:1–11; Luke 4:1–13)—we, too, must examine how we may be tempted to place our trust in worldly security rather than in God alone. In that spirit of reflection, our Board of Christian Education is presenting the series *“What is Christian Nationalism?”* during coffee hour. Part 2 will be held on March 1st, and Part 3 on March 22nd. This series, created by the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, invites us to think faithfully and critically about where our ultimate allegiance lies. This timely study helps us reflect on the relationship between faith and civic life through a Baptist lens that values both religious freedom and Christ-centered discipleship.

Our Lenten season is not only about self-reflection. On March 15th, following worship, the men’s group will host their annual **Spaghetti Dinner**, with all proceeds supporting area food pantries. This meal is both fellowship- and mission-focused, so invite your friends and neighbors. We also look forward to the rescheduled 3G’s **organ concert**, now on March 26th. Music has a unique way of preparing our hearts for worship and drawing us closer to God.

Toward the end of the month, our hearts turn toward **Holy Week**, with Psalm Sunday on March 29th. This is the most sacred week of our Christian year. From the shouts of “Hosanna!” to the solemn shadows of Gethsemane, from the silence of the tomb to the promise of resurrection, Holy Week stands at the center of our faith story. This **Maundy Thursday**, April 2nd at 6:30 p.m., we will gather for a special evening service to remember how Jesus took on the role of a servant, washing his disciples’ feet as they partook of the last supper. It is here that Jesus gave the commandment: “Love one another. Just as I have loved you” (John 13:34). We are especially grateful that members from FBC Waukesha will be joining us here for this meaningful time of worship and communion.

As we continue through these forty days, may our worship be deeper, our prayers more honest, and our service more generous, as we continue to make Christ known beyond our walls.

With grace and peace,

Pastor Stephen

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January 2026 Financial Income Report

General Receipts

Envelopes	\$6945.71
Loose Offerings	53.00
Church School	52.00
Birthday	70.00

Total **\$7,120.71**

Miscellaneous Receipts

Pow wow	0.00
MMCC	400.00
Initial Offer	30.00
Deborah's House/tattoo removal	197.00

Total **\$627.00**

Communion Offering

Fellowship Fund	125.00
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Total **\$125.00**

Memorial Fund

0.00

Total **\$0.00**

Mission Offering

RMMO	70.00
One Great Hour Sharing	.00
Grand Avenue Club	150.00
Milwaukee Community Crossroads	200.00

Total **\$420.00**

Deposited Total **\$8,292.71**

Suggested items for the third Sunday (March 15th) food and hygiene collection for the Milwaukee Community Crossroads are **beans dry/canned & razors/shaving cream**. Please place your donations in the bins inside the office door entrance.

March Birthdays

- 1 Adell Kupka
- 3 Dianna Brophey
- 4 Antonio Wothe
- 7 Karrie Napier
- 11 Isaac Byleen-Hernandez
- 14 Kathy McDonald
- 19 Rosemary Valdes
- 20 Kim Drost
- 29 Mary Schecher

If we have inadvertently missed your special day, please accept our apologies, and let the office know so we can change our records.

Good Samaritan Outreach

The March Communion Offering is designated for the Good Samaritan Outreach Center. Located on 59th and Burnham. Their main mission is to provide food and clothing to all who stop by. Your support is crucial to their mission.

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Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee's March Luncheon/Lecture Series: The Peace and International Issues Committee invites you attend the following series throughout the month of March. In person lunch and speakers will be hosted at **First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee (1342 N. Astor St., Milwaukee)** from **11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

\$20.00 - Each in-person lunch session (or \$90 for all five in-person, remote access included in-case you are not feeling well). Lunch includes a simple buffet-style primarily vegetarian meal.

\$25.00 for only Remote Access for all sessions

***Register online:** <https://www.interfaithconference.org/2026-tuesdays-in-march>

March 3 - Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Pastor First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee

Reverend Jennifer Nordstrom has served as the Senior Minister of the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee for nine years, where she preaches, teaches, and organizes for social justice, and recently became the Chair of MICAH's Religious Leaders Caucus. She is a contributor to several anthologies and the editor of the book *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class and the Environment*. Prior to ministry, Jennifer was a social justice organizer working at the intersections of gender, race, militarism, and the environment.

March 10 - Rev. Dr. Demetrius Williams, Professor of Comparative Literature and Religious Studies Department of World Languages and Cultures at UWM, and Pastor of Community Baptist Church of Greater Milwaukee

Dr. Demetrius K. Williams was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Dr. Williams received a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in Comparative Religion in 1986, a Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.) in scripture and interpretation in 1988, and a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) in pastoral care and counseling and scripture and interpretation in 1990, both from Harvard Divinity School. He completed a Doctor of Theology degree (Th.D.) in New Testament and Christian Origins also from Harvard Divinity School in 1997. Besides service to the faith community, Dr. Williams has written numerous articles in New Testament Studies and in African American Biblical Interpretation. He is currently working on his latest project, *Black Preaching: White Backlash, Black Indifference—Hope for the Future* (Orbis, 2026).

March 17 - Rev. Dr. Kerri Parker, Executive Director of Wisconsin Council of Churches & Adjunct Professor, University of Dubuque Theological Seminary

Rev. Dr. Kerri Parker has served in Wisconsin as a nonprofit and community leader for nearly 30 years, the last 15 of which have been as ordained clergy in the United Church of Christ. Her ministry has been marked by a passion for social justice, storytelling, and fostering imagination in times of crisis.

March 24 - Rev. Ricardo Martín, Pastor of Saint Adalbert Parish and Vice Chancellor Archdiocese of Milwaukee

The Rev. Ricardo Martín is the pastor of the largest Hispanic parish in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. He was born in Barcelona, Spain; he moved to Milwaukee in 1997 to enter Saint Francis Seminary. He was ordained in 2003, completing his studies with a thesis on Malcolm X. He obtained a license in Canon Law (J.C.L.) by the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. in 2012. He has been at Saint Adalbert Parish since June 2023.

March 31 - Bishop Paul Erickson, Greater Milwaukee Synod ELCA

Bishop Paul Erickson has served as bishop of the Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA, since 2016, and he is active in advocacy and public witness. He has been a pastor since 1989 and has served congregations in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

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Men's Fellowship

SPAGHETTI DINNER



11:30 am, Sunday, March 15, 2026

Adults: \$12.00 Children under 12: \$6.00

**Good food with a great purpose with
\$\$\$\$ going to local food pantries.**

Golden Guys and Gals

The church organ has been repaired and the concert originally scheduled for February 12 has been rescheduled: The 3Gs (Golden Guys and Gals) will meet in the church sanctuary at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, March 26, to enjoy an organ concert performed by Mary Schecher. The theme of the concert is *LOVE*. Please sign up in the foyer of the Education Wing.

After the concert, we will adjourn for lunch at Su Plus Two Fusion Cuisine, 7335 W Greenfield Ave. We will sit in the semi-private dining area and order from an extensive menu that features Mexican, Thai, and Italian dishes in addition to soups, salads, wraps, and omelets. Free parking is available behind the restaurant--the back door is surrounded by a beautiful mural.

Annual dues for 2026 remain a bargain at \$5.00 per person. Our treasurer, Kathy McDonald, will be happy to accept and record your payment at the lunch on March 26.

Also, please mark your calendar for 7:00 pm, Friday, April 17, when the 3G's will go to the musical *Catch Me If You Can* at West Allis Central High School, 8516 W Lincoln Ave. Look for further details in the April Communicator.

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What are we doing here?

When we gather on Sunday morning for worship, do you ever wonder what we are doing? I know you recognize that we sing and pray and read, but what does it mean? Well, on any given Sunday we do the following:

PRAISE – we praise God for all he has done in the past. We also praise God for what he will do today and in the future. This is a posture of trust.

PRAYER - we express our adoration, we pray to God with thanks, confess our shortcomings, and share our concerns for ourselves and others. This is a posture of submission.

PROCLAMATIOIN – we proclaim the goodness of our Lord in word and song. The word of God is revealed to us in the sermon and sealed in us through the songs. This is a posture of transformation.

All of this is done so that we might live the gospel in our everyday lives. It is a gospel that call us to serve others as Jesus outlined in Matthew 25:35-40. This is a posture of faith.

Join us next Sunday as we praise, pray, and proclaim!

Mary Schecher

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The Bells Go “On the Road Again”

At the invitation of Kathy McDonald, the Jubilation Ringers performed a concert at Deer Creek Village in New Berlin for the seniors who live there. Not only is Kathy a resident there but so is former bell choir member Jane Cordie. They, along with the attentive crowd, listened as the ringers opened with the upbeat “Festival Fanfare.” Mary discussed each number before it was played.



The fanfare was followed by such selections as “How Great Thou Art,” “O God Our Help in Ages Past,” “In Joyful Praise,” and “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us.” Director Mary Schecher and Tami Keinert played a lovely duet of “Praise Him! Praise Him!” and the evening concluded with a joyous rendition of “Amazing Grace,” in which the audience joined along in singing.



A splendid time was had by all! (Photos courtesy of Kathy McDonald)