

The Friendly Communicator

March 2025

A Word from the Pastor

Our Congregation's Values:

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| 1. Community (belonging, fellowship, togetherness) | 4. Care for each other |
| 2. Worship | 5. Mission work (time, talents, & offerings) |
| 3. Music | 6. Welcoming the stranger |

As we wrap up our 70th anniversary celebration of our sanctuary's stained-glass windows, the church council and I are excited to introduce a new focus for discussion as a congregation. Each month, we will highlight one of our six core congregational values that we identified last fall, which are listed above. This month, we will begin with the value of **Community**. In the book of Acts, we see the early church living in a powerful example of community: "All the believers were together and had everything in common" (**Acts 2:44**). This sense of solidarity is the model we aim to live by, offering each other mutual support, encouragement, and love as we grow together in Christ.

Community is more than just gathering together in the same space; it is about forming deep, meaningful connections that reflect Christ's love for each of us. The apostle Paul writes in **1 Corinthians 12:27**, "Now you are the Body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." This reminds us that each person plays a vital role in the life of the church, and it is only through our connection to one another that we fully experience the richness of God's presence in our lives. As we strengthen our bonds in community, we create a space where everyone can thrive, be encouraged, and feel truly at home in the family of God.

This month, I invite us to reflect on the role of community in our lives.

- Where do you experience a sense of belonging (both inside and outside the walls of our church)?
- Which groups help to ensure that community happens here? And are they appropriately supported in their efforts?
- In what ways can you contribute to building a stronger, welcoming fellowship?
- And how can we ensure that our church is a place where *all* are loved as part of God's family?

Thanks to each of you who contribute to making our church not just a building, but a true community. Whether you are working diligently behind the scenes or are quick to offer a warm smile and a listening ear, your kindness, hospitality, and sincerity help create an environment where others feel seen, loved, and welcomed.

In Christian unity,
Pastor Stephen

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January 2025 Financial Income Report

General Receipts

Envelopes	\$8,248.00
Loose Offerings	89.00
Church School	137.25
Birthday	40.00
Total	\$8,514.25

Miscellaneous Receipts

Initial Offer	47.00
Pow wow	50.00
Total	\$97.00

Communion Offering

Fellowship Fund	195.00
Total	\$195.00

Memorial Fund

Grosz Memorial	1,000.00
	1,000.00

Mission Offering

One Great Hour of Sharing	50.00
Retired Ministers & Missionaries	70.00
Grand Avenue Club	150.00
Milwaukee Christian Center	150.00
Total	\$420.00

Deposited Total **\$10,226.25**

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1	Adell Kupka
3	Dianna Brophey
4	Antonio Wothe
7	Karrie Napier
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.

Baptism Class

You are welcome to join the class even if you are already baptized or a member. The class will meet in the church parlor at 9:15 am on Sunday, March 2, to discuss Our American Baptist Heritage, and on Sunday, March 16, to discuss Worship.

Good Samaritan Outreach

The March Communion Offering is designated for the Good Samaritan Outreach Center. Located on 59th and Burnham, Good Samaritan Outreach served over 6,000 children, adults and seniors in 2024. Their main mission is to provide food and clothing to all who stop by. Your support is crucial to their mission.

Suggested items for the third Sunday (March 16) food and hygiene collection for the Milwaukee Christian Center are **beans/dry or canned** and **razors/shaving cream**. Please place your donations in the bins inside the office door entrance.

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Men's Fellowship

SPAGHETTI DINNER



11:30 am, Sunday, March 16, 2025

Adults: \$10.00 Children under 12: \$5.00

Good food with a great purpose with \$\$\$\$ going to our new stained glass window and the food pantry of Apostle Presbyterian Church.

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As of the writing of this article – February 20, 2025, there are 28 days until spring. We all know that nothing magical will happen on March 20th, but that day serves as a symbol of our hope – hope for warmer weather, more sunshine, and the beginning of growth.

Looking forward is a big part of our lives. We look forward to seasonal changes, birthdays, holidays, new jobs and homes, and a host of other life happenings. As Christians we look forward to a time when “every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord.” Phil. 2:10-11.

As Christians, looking forward shouldn’t be a waiting game but a game in which we participate fully. As we look forward, we work for justice in our community through our mission partners. We share the gospel in our daily lives, sharing the message that we “have a hope and a future.” Jer. 29:11 We look forward to heaven but know that God calls us to gather together, here and now, to “live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them.” 1 Cor. 7:17

I recently saw this quote “There is a reason the windshield is bigger than the rearview mirror.” That says it all – let’s keep looking forward in faith as we encourage others to share our hope and our message. Let’s use our gifts as we gather together to encourage each other as we praise and thank God for all our blessings.

Mary Schecher

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Dear Congregation:

The season of the America for Christ Offering is here again! This year's campaign theme, "Grace upon Grace: Grace in Times of Turbulence," is inspired by Ephesians 4:32 [NIV]: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." This passage stresses the importance of letting go of anger and moving forward with love. As Matthew 6:14-15 reminds us, our heavenly Father will forgive us if we forgive others. God's love for us, even in times of despair, never wavers.

AFC 2025 Fundraising Goal

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is promoting the 2025 America for Christ Offering (AFC 2025), which aims to raise \$1,000,000 or more to support American Baptist missions and ministries across the United States and Puerto Rico. Our church's goal is \$1,200 to go toward that goal.

AFC 2025 Promotional Window

ABHMS is allowed three months (January-March) to actively promote AFC 2025 through various forms of outreach, including email communications, phone calls, and church visits. However, our church can promote AFC 2025 locally throughout the year.

How to Give to AFC 2025

You can give at the church during our weekly services or make an online donation at abhms.org/AFC at any time.

How AFC 2025 Funds are Used

Gifts to the AFC Offering support American Baptist regions, churches, and community partners across the United States and Puerto Rico by funding grants that ABHMS awards for a variety of purposes, including:

- Creating new, innovative ministries
- Developing church leaders
- Aiding children who are impoverished
- Supporting the work of chaplains and spiritual caregivers
- Promoting discipleship
- Preserving critical American Baptist spaces
- Making higher education more affordable through scholarships

In addition:

- Our church is eligible to apply for grants and our church members for scholarships.
- ABHMS retains no AFC Offering funds for operations or overhead.

AFC 2025 will empower us to provide "Grace upon Grace." I am asking you to join me in giving generously to help us reach our goal as we partner with ABHMS to provide support and share the Good News!

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2025

Please give today! | www.abhms.org/afc

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Historical Reflections: 2025 WINTER ACTIVITIES

The 2025 Winter period was here with snow on the ground and some temperatures below zero. Never-the-less, Church activities have continued, They are Tuesday's Bible studies, collection of socks for the homeless, contributions of items such as



rice and beans to the Milwaukee Christian Center and the Wisconsin Baptist local churches support of the Saint Ben's food program when there are five Thursdays in a month.

New activities occurred. We have had a series of meetings concerning our faith, service and Baptism. We managed to combine an old and a new program on January 30th when that group met at Saint Ben's at 930 west State Street, learned about Saint Bens

mission and then assisted in serving the evening meal.

Brother Larry spoke to the FBC Baptism Class about the history of St. Ben's, the Catholic faith, and the Ugandan martyrs. Stanley Holl, Addison Wood, and



11 others from FBC helped to serve the Community Meal. Youth from MCBC, including Abraham, Ba Tun, Jonah, and Fibi (all former FBC Camp Scholarship

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recipients), served alongside their friends from FBC. (MCBC, which used to worship in our facilities, now worships at the Underwood facilities in Wauwatosa.)



On February 19th, nine 3Gs had a lasagna lunch at church and traveled to Clement Manor and sat in a large room. A man wearing old clothes, a wig and a funny shaped hat stood up and said, "Hi,



I am George Washington, I was born February 11, 1732....." Of course, he attracted the attention of the audience of mostly senior citizens who cannot remember their cell phone number but remember Washington was born on February 22. Yes, after his birth, our calendar was changed by 11 days. [11+11=22]



He spoke for about



an hour with very few looks at his notes. George introduced his wife Martha who told us how George had helped raise her children as if they were his children. A very good presentation. There also was a display of books and documents.



This is the 105th of periodic historical articles.