

To Members and Friends of Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church,

Ruth: 608-577-5815 office@ocpchurch.com

Pastor Scott: 608-417-0231 pjscottmw@icloud.com



**Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour this
Sunday, March 12!**



**175TH ANNIVERSARY OF OCPC
MARCH 3, 1849 – MARCH 3, 2024**

The Session has begun planning for the 175th Anniversary Celebration of OCPC which will take place in 2024. This is in the early stages of development. We are hoping to put together a video presentation using digital photos and older photographs. If you are interested in helping plan the celebration, please speak with Mark Touhey.

OCPC Anniversary Trivia: Did you know Mare Stewart is related to the founding pastor, the Rev. William Cargen, M.D.



**MARCH 12
3RD SUNDAY IN LENT
WORSHIP
10 AM**

THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 12: This Sunday, we welcome to our worship and pulpit, the Rev. Brenda Lovick. Brenda while a Lutheran minister, is, like Pastor Scott, a graduate of

Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She has been a guest preacher for us before, and we are glad to have her back at OCPC. Brenda, in addition, to being an ordained ELCA minister is also a licensed marriage and family therapist. She recently opened a new counseling service here in Cambridge, Beloved Therapy. Please make her and her family feel welcome.

Pastor Scott has a Sunday off. Since Pastor Scott is taking the Sunday off, we will be unable to livestream the worship service on Facebook since we only are able to do so using his iPhone. Please join us for in-person worship if you are able. Our accompanist is Karen Brunk.

EARTHQUAKE RELIEF: In response to the recent catastrophic earthquake in Turkey and Syria, the Session of OCPC approved a gift of \$500 of our mission money to be sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). Mark Touhey shared with the Session that he and Judy had hosted an exchange student years ago from Turkey. They have remained in contact with her and have heard from her recently. But she and her family have many acquaintances in the affected area that they are unable to contact. Bud and Bobbi Rumpf also have lived in Turkey when they were teaching. So far, over 40,000 lives have been lost. The devastation is massive. In addition to the financial gift from OCPC, individuals who wish to make a financial gift to this relief effort, may do so through Presbyterian Church Disaster Assistance Agency listed below or by sending it to OCPC marked for earthquake relief. Thank you.



The scale of the disaster facing Syria and Turkey after the Feb. 6 earthquake is becoming clearer. The 7.8-magnitude quake and its aftershocks have left more than 11,000 people dead and thousands more injured; these numbers will rise as search and rescue continues. Buildings have been reduced to rubble, and roads and bridges have been severely

damaged, resulting in dangerous conditions for first responders. In some places, such as Aleppo, this destruction is compounding the damage of the now 11-year war in Syria.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted areas through long-standing partners in Syria, in addition to ACT Alliance members in Syria and Turkey, all of whom are already on the ground. PDA will remain active throughout the entire recovery process, accompanying our partners in the area as they determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for building and resilience.

Financial support for relief efforts can be made [online by clicking here](#), or by check made payable to OCPC with "Earthquake Relief" written on the memo line.

UPDATE ON THE BASEMENT: As was reported in our last E-news, the basement experienced very messy situation when the sewer backed up flooding a good part of the basement. Due to the nature of the flood waters, we had to call in ServPro, who removed all of the carpeting, along with some wood paneling, furniture and other various items. The basement is still being cleaned and is currently unusable. AA has moved their meeting upstairs for the near future. Our insurance will cover the cost of the damage. The Building and Grounds and Session will be determining what type of flooring we might want to use to replace the carpeting. We will keep you posted as we move forward.

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE JANUARY 2023

Ten questions you might want to ask about church finances, and ten feeble responses:

1. Finance sent out a letter in November with serious concerns about finances. Did the letter "work?"

It seems to have had a positive effect. We recently have been blessed with generous gifts!

2. So are we good now?

Nope. But we are feeling much more positive. The latest crisis is to replace the manse furnace, which failed at the worst possible time. While we have investment money, none is currently "available" to us. Years ago, Session wisely put limitations on how much investment money Session could spend. The purpose is to protect the principle, only spending the "profit." In recent years we took some of that "profit" to improve the manse. Then the stock market fell, causing the rest of the "profit" to disappear. Each of our investment funds is now down to its baseline. Session has nowhere to go to get funds without breaking its own rules and withdrawing principle. And no one wants to do that.

3. Haven't recent gifts solved the problem?

No, not entirely. Thanks to generous gifts, we finished 2022 in the black. We begin the year with the General Fund balance of only \$2,600. And then the manse furnace went out. We are still hurting right now.

4. So what is the solution?

The best solution lies in member giving. Another solution lies in the stock market. A good month or two on Wall Street would produce “profit” above our baselines, freeing up money that Session could withdraw. We can hope for that – but in the meantime we must depend entirely on member giving. Even if members don’t give more than they planned, giving earlier in the year may really help.

5. You make this sound temporary.

There are two separate issues. One is a current financial crisis that is pressing us now, but should prove temporary. Most of the factors that make up our budget are stable – manse income, non-member giving, etc. And we expect the stock market to recover eventually, restoring our ability to use investment income to supplement the budget. The second concern is long term. Declining member giving poses a real threat to our ability to sustain OCPC. Hopefully raising member awareness will help.

6. So did this crisis cause Session to make budget cuts for 2023?

You might think so, but no. It was discussed, and would have been justified. The problem? There is no fat in the budget. Every cut we considered would impact employees financially or detract from the quality of our services. We could not do that. Instead, we created a “faith” budget – acting with a belief that the money would be there somehow.

7. So no cuts whatsoever?

None. As a matter of fact, Finance Committee increased the budget by \$5,000. We increased Scott’s salary by \$800. We gave Ruth a bonus and expanded the hours paid to the cleaning service. We increased the budget to pay more to our musicians. In short, we did everything we could to keep OCPC as it is, or make it better. Perhaps we have a Finance Committee comprised solely of cock-eyed optimists.

8. So is this a balanced budget?

Not even close. The Finance Committee completed the “spending” half of the budget and then transformed into steely-eyed realists when creating the “income” half of the budget. Income projections were based on actual income from 2022. So the budget projects spending \$90,400, but only taking in \$67,700.

9. So the budget projects a deficit of \$22,700 for 2023?

Yes, odd as it seems. We want people to see exactly how serious the situation is. Member giving remains the key variable to the future of the church.

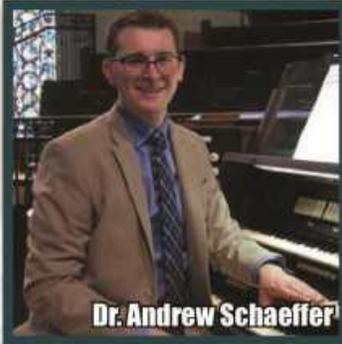
10. Why make an issue of this now? Why not wait to discuss this at the annual meeting, as we have in the past?

Session has already approved the budget, and the congregation deserves to know the details. We have moved the annual meeting to summer, yet people need to understand the situation now.

Historic Organ Recital

First Presbyterian Church of Waunakee, WI

Sunday, March 19, 2023 - 2 PM



Dr. Andrew Schaeffer

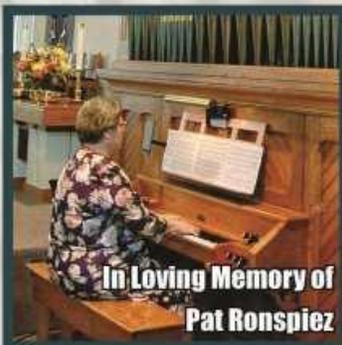
First Presbyterian will host an organ recital on Sunday, March 19, 2023 at 2 pm featuring highly regarded organist Dr. Andrew Schaeffer, Director of Music at the Luther Memorial Church in Madison, WI. The recital will be dedicated to the life and service of Pat Ronspiez who served as organist at FPC for 37 years.

Our historic 1873 Schuelke organ built in Milwaukee, WI and rebuilt by Wahl Organ Builders of Appleton, WI in 1992.



1873 Schuelke

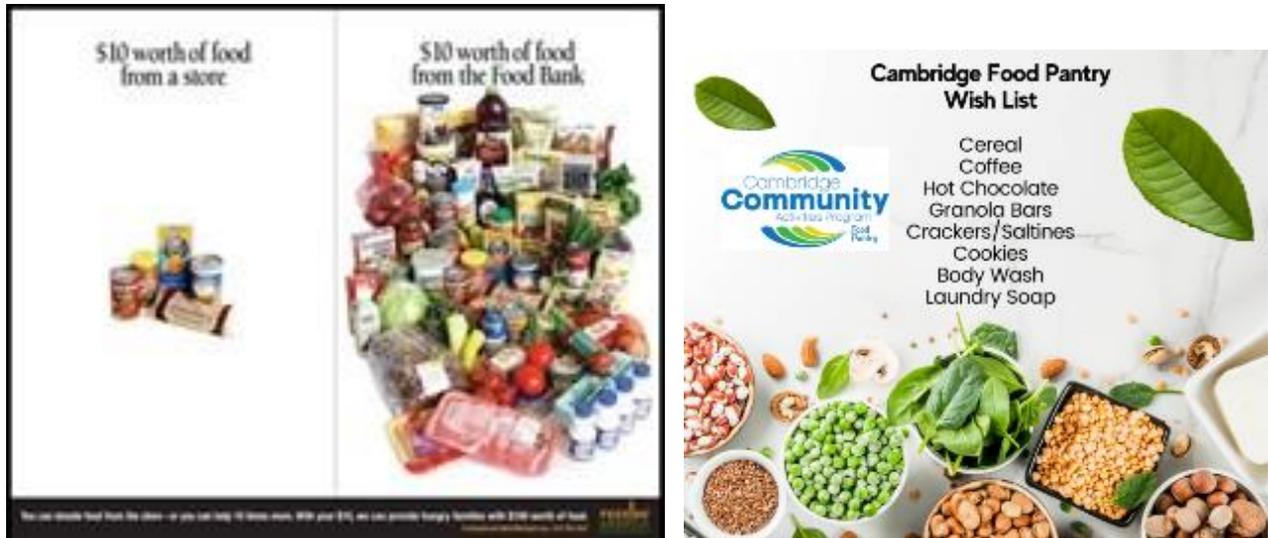
Dr. Andrew Schaeffer is the Director of Music at Luther Memorial Church, Madison, Wisconsin. A Chicago native, Schaeffer holds degrees from St. Olaf College, Yale University and a doctoral degree from the University of Oklahoma. Andrew's responsibilities include playing organ for Sunday services, directing the children, youth and adult choirs, various instrumental ensembles and overseeing the general music ministry of the congregation. He has been at Luther Memorial Church since 2018. Schaeffer is also editor-at-large of *The Diapason*, a nationally published organ and church music magazine.



**In Loving Memory of
Pat Ronspiez**

There will be a free will offering with 90% going to the Waunakee High School Music Department for the purchase of a new grand piano and 10% towards church mission projects.

Any questions should be directed to
Sam Robinson, Music & Worship Coordinator,
FPC of Waunakee, WI
srobinson@myfpc.org 608-949-9450



FOOD PANTRY WISH LIST: Soup (variety of canned soup), Corned Beef Hash, SpaghettiOs, Ravioli, other canned meals and pastas, Crackers (Saltines, Ritz, etc.), Baked Beans, Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Pancake Syrup, Shampoo and Conditioner, Men’s and Women’s Deodorant, Razors, Bath Soap, Laundry Soap, Toothpaste. Donation bin is located outside of the lower level middle school/food pantry entrance and monetary donations are gladly accepted via the Food Pantry website

<https://cambridgecap.net/programs/nutrition/food-pantry/> or by mail to P.O. Box 54, Cambridge WI 53523. Thank you!

DONATE ONLINE TO OUR CHURCH, Presbyterian Church of Oakland-Cambridge, using the app, **Vanco Mobile**. Search for “Vanco Mobile” in your app store (Vanco Payment Solutions). Once it’s installed, find us using our zip code (53523), and set up one-time or recurring payments, OR go directly to our donor page by using the QR Code below, or the link on our webpage, www.ocpchurch.com . Thank you! (You may also mail in your offering and pledge: **OCPC 313 E. Main Street, Cambridge, WI 53523.**)



MILESTONES

Birthdays

Mark Olson March 11
Charlotte Rumpf March 11
Mark Touhey..... March 16
David Homann March 24

Michele Kennedy March 27
Jim Schilleman March 28

Anniversaries

Joe & Jodi Kelter March 22

PLEASE HOLD THESE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN PRAYER THIS WEEK —

Julie Anderson
Linda Johnson
Jan & Nancy Kristiansen
Mardi Schilleman
Marilyn Schuster
Jenine Spack

The families of Lorin Fulton, Evelyn Reiner, Caleb Wipperfurth (CHS graduate who died of cancer), Jim Schilleman, Donald Hawkins and families who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

If you would like to be added to our weekly prayer list, please leave word in the church office or contact the pastor. Permission to be included in this publicly posted list has been obtained from those listed or their families.

STANDING DATES – These are regularly scheduled events

- Pastoral Office Hours – Generally 9:00 a.m. to Noon Wednesdays
- Business Office Hours – 8:00 a.m. to Noon Monday through Thursday
- Sundays – 10:00 a.m. Worship;
Communion first Sunday of each month
- Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. – AA

TELEPHONE/FAX: 608-423-3001 EMAIL: Office@OCPChurch.com or Pastor@OCPChurch.com

WEB: www.OCPChurch.com

 **Visit us on Facebook:** Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church