



Spirit Inspired  
Worship



## History in the Making

September 20, 2023

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September 20, 1873 - The New York Stock Exchange was forced to close for the first time in its history as a result of a banking crisis during the financial Panic of 1873.

September 20, 1973 - The much-hyped "Battle of the Sexes" took place in the Houston Astrodome as tennis player and women's rights activist, Billie Jean King, defeated self-styled male chauvinist Bobby Riggs in three straight sets. Riggs, a retired tennis champion, had been critical of the quality of women's tennis.



September 20, 1989 - F.W. De Klerk was sworn in as president of South Africa. He began an era of reform aimed at ending apartheid and was succeeded by Nelson Mandela.

We often think of history as long-past and, perhaps, trivial to who we are now. Yet, as dutiful Presbyterians, we record our history in the making. We take careful minutes. We document our events in photographs and newsletters. History is not just what happened long ago. We are making history as we go.

At our upcoming Presbytery Gathering on September 26, 4 pm at Sun Valley Presbyterian Church in Beloit (registration is now open!), we are pleased to welcome David Staniunas, Records Archivist, who will give a brief update on the services – dare I say, MINISTRY – of the Presbyterian Historical Society. Often behind the scenes, PHS enables the Presbyterian Church to record its history, not just for ourselves but for people who are researching historical events and information from all over the world.



Also at our upcoming Gathering, we will celebrate a transition in the Presbytery as Chris Halverson retires. She has been my go-to historian for all things involving the Presbytery. Her 18 years of connection to us and her keen mind for holding information and relationships has made her an invaluable resource. As many of you know, Chris is also the keeper of family history, sharing the stories of her grandmother's life and death under the Nazis. She recounts that story, with her sisters, across interfaith lines and, more recently, international borders.

Chris' gift to the Presbytery, however, is not simply what she recalls about the past. She has been committed to making history in the moment that will, years from now, reflect positively on the church. Chris draws from the tragedies, joys, and experiences of our past to change the future. She has a deep passion for justice, which has led her to gently question how we do what we do as the church. Chris cares about inclusivity and pays attention to whose voice is not heard at the table. God has given Chris the special ability to see and care for "the least of these," and we are blessed that she chose to use these gifts with the Presbytery. In her tenure with us, Chris has made us better, and history will reflect her contributions long after we're all gone. May her example also inspire us to make history that lives out the Gospel. Thank you, Chris! May you love every minute of retirement!