

November 21, Volume 23, Issue 19

First Presbyterian Church

FOCUS

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

In This Issue

Reflections	Page 2
The Season of Advent	Page 3
Coming Up in Worship	Page 4
Advent Candle Lighting	Page 4
November Worship	Page 4
Information @ Church	Page 5-14
In November	Page 15
Praises and Prayers	Page 15
Electronic Ways to Keep in Touch	Page 15
Contact Us	Page 16

3rd Sunday
November

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Reflections

Transitional/Interim Pastor Nominating Committee

The Ministry Information Form, which describes our church and what we are looking for in a transitional pastor, was presented to session for approval. Session approved the form as did the Winnebago Presbytery Commission on Ministry. The contents of the form were then entered into a computer database that is managed by the Presbyterian Church, USA. The computer program searches for pastors who have entered Pastor Information Forms (PIF's) into the same database and looks for matches. Six pastors were identified through this process as being possible matches for our church. One other candidate was brought to our attention directly through email.

The Transitional Pastor Nominating Committee has reviewed all of the applicants that have been received to date. Two of them were eliminated from further consideration for various reasons. Three of the applicants were chosen to be interviewed by the committee. Since then, one of those applicants withdrew his name from consideration. Currently two candidates are scheduled for interviews after Thanksgiving.

The interviews will be conducted using Zoom in a hybrid fashion, meaning some of the people involved in the interviews will meet in the church while others, including the candidates, will be connected to the meeting using Zoom. Worship Coordinator, Kris Bartelt has been instrumental in helping the committee set up this type of meeting.

The committee is hopeful one of the two candidates to be interviewed works out. If not, we will reconsider the other applicants or wait for more applicants to surface. There are 9 other churches in the Presbytery looking for pastors, so there are a lot of openings with relatively few candidates. We ask all to pray for the church so can find a suitable transitional pastor, in a timely manner.

Dave Erickson
Transitional Pastor Nominating Committee Chair

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28

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Advent Begins November 28

What is the true meaning of Advent?

Advent means 'Coming' in Latin. This is the coming of Jesus into the world. Christians use the four Sundays and weeks of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas.

What is the history and use of the Advent wreath?

The Advent wreath visually marks the time leading up to Christmas and symbolizes the increasing light as Christ draws near to us. The use of such wreaths began as a family devotional practice in German homes in the 1600s. Widespread liturgical use only dates to the middle of the 20th century.

Each of the four purple candles around the periphery of the wreath marks one of the Sundays in Advent; the white Christ candle in the center is lit on Christmas Eve. Some Advent wreaths include a pink candle. This custom can be traced to medieval practice that set aside the third Sunday in Lent (and later, Advent) as an occasion of joy and a respite from the rigors of the penitential season.

Over the years, some have attached particular interpretations to individual candles, such as shepherds, angels, wise men and Mary; or hope, faith, love and joy. Far more important than any direct correlation of a candle to a special meaning, however, is our growing celebration of Jesus' birth and anticipation of Christ's coming again.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/faq/faq-signssymbols/>

*The true light that gives light to
everyone was coming into the world.*

John 1:9

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Coming Up in Worship

11.21.2021 Rev. Paul Zoschke
Christ the King Sunday

Rev. Paul Zoschke has been a parish pastor since 1966. He has served churches in Racine, WI and Rochester MN, Chaplain at Mayo Clinic, and as a Correctional Chaplain at Kettle Moraine.

11.28.2021 Rev. Mary Balson
1st Sunday of Advent

12.05.2021 Rev. Richard Moore
2nd Sunday of Advent
Communion Sunday

12.12.2021 Rev. Mary Council-Austin
3rd Sunday of Advent

12.19.2021 Rev. Paul Zoschke
4th Sunday of Advent

12.24.2021 Lay Leaders
Christmas Eve

12.26.2021 Rev. Dan Schultz
1st Sunday of Christmas



Virtual livestream worship,
at 10:00am, can be found here:
<http://firstpreswausau.org/>



Advent Candle Lighting

An Advent sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex and online starting November 7.

You can sign up online for:

IN-PERSON [here](#) or

VIDEO [here](#).

It is our hope to create a short Advent devotion each week. It would be available on our website as well as our YouTube Channel.

November Worship



Our Sunday morning schedule will be as follows:

9:00am In-Person Worship
First Presbyterian
Church - Fond du Lac

YouTube Worship is available [here](#). It is "live" at 10:00am on Sunday morning. The same link provides previously recorded worship services.

This is what in-person worship looks like, right now, at First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac:

- Masks are required to protect those who are unvaccinated.
- Physical Distancing is maintained
- Nursery care is not available

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Serving Team Report - November 2021

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

Clothing for Afghan Refugees -

Fort McCoy is hosting almost 13,000 Afghan refugees. There is an [Amazon Wish List](#) for things they need to be prepared for our Wisconsin winters.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Alternative Gift Fair -The

Alternative Gift Fair offers us the opportunity to reach out to our community, and the world. We are able to share God's love by giving to those who are in need. This year we will emphasize: [St. Katharine Drexel Shelter](#), [Sleep in Heavenly Peace](#), and [Water Mission](#). Materials explaining the important work that is accomplished through these organization will be presented during Advent.

Loaves and Fishes - On Monday, December 13 our church will prepare a meal for families in need. The success of this mission relies solely on volunteers. If you would like to help, please contact Lisa Warntjes or Jennifer Zander. We would love your help!

Christmas Joy Offering - This offering will be taken at Christmas time. It supports Presbyterian Mission efforts.

Feed My Starving Children -

Planning is underway for an April 2nd MobilePack event. A "Have a Heart" campaign will be conducted in February to raise funds that will purchase ingredients and cover expenses for the food pack.

November 22 - Thanksgiving Mission 2021

For many years, our Thanksgiving Mission has been to provide food for individuals and families who receive services at the Fond du Lac County Department of Community Programs (DCP), the local public mental health center (459 East 1st Street).

The people we serve have been diagnosed with what is known as "severe and persistent" mental illness. Almost all our recipients live at the poverty level. They live on SSI and Medicaid benefits. Some families have children.

We shop for the usual Thanksgiving fare, of course. Once we've shopped, we go to DCP, sort everything, bag it up and label it. The thank you notes we receive are overwhelmingly touching.

This year \$500 has been set aside by Session, to help purchase the food. To cover the rest of the cost of the "Food Bags", monetary donations would be greatly appreciated. Envelopes are available on the table outside the sanctuary. Please remember to indicate "Thanksgiving Bags" on them.

The shopping date is Monday, November 22 at 9:00am, at Festival Foods. There is a [Sign-Up sheet](#) in the Narthex, for those who are interested in helping. It is a blessing to participate in the joy and success of this special mission.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Ellen McMeen :
920. 922.6865

November 24 - PYA Virtual Discussion & Game Night



Join us Wednesday, November 24 at 7:30pm on Zoom We will check in and celebrate the season with fellowship and games.

A Zoom link will be emailed to PYA. Contact Jennifer if you have any questions or need a Zoom link.

November 28 - IN-PERSON



Join us on Sunday, November 28, as we begin the Season of Advent.

- 9:00am IN-PERSON Worship
Lighting the HOPE candle
- 10:00am IN-PERSON Advent Activities
Crafting for everyone
- 10:00am IN-PERSON Advent Study
"Advent in Plain Sight"

No ZOOM Education & Coffee Hour.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

December 2 - Christmas Poinsettias



Once again, First Presbyterian Church is planning on adorning our sanctuary with lovely poinsettias. It is exciting to think about worshipping at church, this Christmas season!

A small poinsettia (4-5 blooms) will be \$15.00. A large poinsettia (8-10 blooms) will be \$25.00. Orders are due by December 2. The order will be placed on Monday, December 3.

The Deacons will purchase the poinsettias through Altrusa International of Fond du Lac (a service organization). Altrusa will buy them at Haentze Floral. There will be no delivery fee as the Deacons will pick up the plants.

An order form will be available in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact the Deacons or the church office.

December 5 - Hope Lutheran Church Christmas Concert

Hope Lutheran Church (260 Vincent St., Fond du Lac) invites the public to its 62nd Annual Christmas Concert.

Featured groups include choirs, handbells, worship teams, and brass.

Refreshments will follow the 4:00pm concert. No admission charge, however a free-will offering will be taken.

If you need more information please call: 920-922-5130.

Where Hope Lutheran
When December 5
Time 10:40am *or*
4:00pm



ATTENTION All Knitters and Crocheters

We are looking for people to make scarves for our college students. We are also looking for people to make prayer shawls.

If you would like to help, please contact Jennifer:
jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

2021 Virtual Cookie Walk

The Deacons are once again sponsoring a Virtual Cookie Walk. All monies received help to increase the Deacon's Compassion Fund. The Compassion Fund is used to help meet a serious emergency need of an individual or family who has an established relationship with First Presbyterian Church.

A recipe booklet of **The Deacon's Favorite Recipes for Special Occasions** will be available to anyone who donates to the Compassion Fund. The recipes will include appetizers, candy, quick breads, tortes, and cookies.

Please click [here](#) to make an electronic donation. You can also drop a check off in the church office or mail a check to the church in care of the Deacon's Compassion Fund (1225 Fourth St., Fond du Lac, 54935).

For a donation of any amount, the Deacons you will receive a copy of the **Deacon's Favorite Recipes for Special Occasions!** You may also request last year's booklet of the **Deacon's Favorite Christmas Cookies Recipes**. You may choose to receive the recipes electronically or in printed form.

To receive the recipes in early December, please complete the form below by November 30, 2021.

2021 Virtual Cookie Walk

Name _____

Compassion Fund Donation \$ _____

_____ Click [here](#) to donate electronically.

_____ Donate by check (write Compassion Fund on the memo line)

First Presbyterian Church,
1225 4th Street
Fond du Lac, 54935

Please send me:

_____ **2021 Deacon's Favorite Recipes for Special Occasions**

_____ **2020 Deacon's Favorite Christmas Cookie Recipes**

Choose the format in which to receive the recipes:

_____ Electronic - Email Address _____

_____ Printed Booklet - Street Address _____

Kindly make your Compassion Fund donations by November 30.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

1

Six Week Advent/Christmas Study Series

The goal of this study is to focus on spiritual lessons and recognize how the ordinary can reveal the extraordinary presence of God in our lives.

Advent in Plain Sight: A Devotion through Ten Objects by Jill J. Duffield

Join us on this Advent journey in one of the following ways:

1. Self-guided: Read through each daily devotional and answer the related reflection questions during your personal quiet time.
2. With a Sunday Morning Group on Zoom: Join the group to discuss the reflection each week's scriptures and read the devotionals throughout the week.
3. Join us in the evening on Zoom each week to discuss and engage with others doing this study from various locations.
4. Form a group: Gather some of your friends and family to create a group where you can read and study together throughout the advent season at a time that works best for you.

Advent in Plain Sight: A Devotion through Ten Objects

IN-PERSON GROUPS

Sunday 10:00-11:00am
November 28
December 12 & 19

Wednesday 10:30-11:30am
December 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29
January 5

ZOOM GROUPS

Sunday 11:15am-noon
December 5

Sunday 10:30-11:30am
December 26

Sunday 11:15am-noon
January 2

Tuesday 7:00-8:00pm
November 30,
December 7, 14, 21 & 28
January 4



Christians Serving, Learning and Loving



This year we will sponsor **55 recipients**, mostly children and their family members. We will continue our shared mission with the Open Circle Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Church.

Two things to remember:

1. We will continue the virtual sign-up process.
2. Our delivery date to Head Start will be Monday, December 13th.

Here's what to do:

- Signing up is easy, needing only name and phone number. Access the list of gift items via our website:

www.fdlpresbyterian.org

- New this year, someone will be available on Sundays, with a computer, to help navigate signing up and choosing gift recipients.
- Pay particular attention to the number(s) and letter(s) on the tags you choose (like 2B or 51C, etc.). Write the number and letter in **BIG** print and attach them **SECURELY** to your gifts. This information is extremely important, as it identifies the gift recipient. Do this before delivering your gifts to church.
- Enjoy your shopping. Involve your children. (We have been told, on the news, that some toys will not be available. Just do your best.)
- Gifts should be unwrapped.
- Donations of wrapping paper, tape and bows are also appreciated.

Decorating the Angel Tree

Once you sign up for your gift, either virtually or at church, choose an available ornament and attach it to the Angel Tree. We will “dress the tree” together to express our joy in giving to Head Start children and their families.

Delivery Options

- 1) Bring your unwrapped gifts and put under the tree, as usual.
- 2) Drop-off your gifts at the church on **Friday, December 10 from 5:00-6:00pm** or **Saturday, December 11 from 10:00-11:00am**.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving



Volunteer Opportunities

1. Help prepare the bags with their identifying duct tape colors and numbers/letters which will be used for delivering gifts.
2. Help deliver the bags to Head Start on Monday December 13, usually at 9:00am.

Please Remember

The gifts that are on the children/family lists are suggestions. The parents give the information to the Head Start staff. The gifts are specific things the children would like, so we are not guessing. You do not have to purchase everything that is listed.

Always Important...

Our Head Start Angel Tree remains a way that we continue our journey to be people who treasure "serving, learning and loving." We have been blessed to be able to brighten the lives of children and families in Fond du Lac, for decades, while rejoicing in the process of giving to others.

Questions?? Call Mary Ellen at 920.922.6865



Loaves and Fishes

December 13

We will be serving a carry-out meal at Loaves and Fishes again on Monday, December 13 from 4:00-6:00pm. If you are available to help prepare, serve, or clean up after the meal, please contact the office. Dessert donations are always needed for the meal. Desserts can be brought to First Presbyterian Church until Monday, December 13 at 3:00Ppm. Thank you to everyone who can help us serve the community in need. Contact the church office if you would like to help us on December 13, or if you have any questions



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Christmas Joy Offering

November 28-December 19

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities, as well. This offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.



Save the Date Fond du Lac MobilePack

Saturday, April 2, 2022

So much changed in 2020–21, however Feed My Starving Children’s commitment stayed true to feeding God’s children - hungry in body and spirit. We are excited to announce **Saturday, April 2, 2022** is the date of next the Fond du Lac MobilePack.

Your efforts and contributions are even more critical in these unprecedented times.

Undernourished children are more susceptible, than ever to infectious diseases, like COVID-19. At this point, the global pandemic, and its economic impact, have left 265 million people on the brink of starvation.

Please include our event number 2204-051SC to your donations to ensure that they will be added to **our** pack on April 2, 2022.

You can submit donations electronically at [FMSC https://www.fmsc.org](https://www.fmsc.org), or you can mail donations to:

Feed My Starving Children
(ATTN: MobilePack #2204-051SC)
401 93rd Avenue NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Please make checks be payable to:
FMSC, memo line MobilePack #2204-051SC



Christians Serving, Learning and Loving



Alternative Gift Fair - Water Mission

The Serving Team has chosen Water Mission, a non-profit Christian based organization, as one of the three organizations to support as part of the Alternative Gift Fair.

The need for safer water is enormous. Currently, 2.2 billion people (about one-third the world's population) lack access to safe water. In Africa, women spend 200 million hours per day walking for water. One person dies every 37 seconds from water-related illnesses. Children miss 443 million school days, every year, because of the global water crisis.

Water Mission has been providing sustainable safe water solutions since 1998. This organization has served more than 7,000,000 people, in 57 countries, providing them with lasting safe water solutions. They have received a four-star (the highest possible) rating from Charity Navigator. This rating is based upon transparency, financial stability, and most importantly, the percentage of donated funds that are used to carry out their mission (as opposed to administrative costs).

Please consider this organization as a Christian alternative to the exchange of presents during the Christmas season. You can watch a brief video about Water Mission [here](#). You can donate electronically [here](#), or You can mail your donation to church, drop it off in the church office or donate [here](#).



Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Alternative Gift Fair

Please click on the mission title to get more information on each charity.

Sponsored by The Serving Team -

We want to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community, our country, and the world.

A big part of our work is enabling members of our church and community to serve others.



[Water Mission](#)

Water Mission can provide safe water solutions to individuals and communities around the world. When we work together, everyone can enjoy safe water for the rest of their lives! Please donate and see the impact your gift can make!



[St. Katharine Drexel Shelter](#)

St. Katharine Drexel Shelter will provide a safe and structured living environment for singles and families experiencing homelessness. Once in our stable environment, they will have access to programs and support that offer short-term crisis intervention and long-term goal planning with the ultimate goal of self-sufficiency.



[Sleep in Heavenly Peace](#)

Sleep In Heavenly Peace is a national nonprofit with chapters spread across the United States and into Canada. Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a registered 5019© (3) non-profit driven by volunteers. The volunteers building beds and deliver them to children in need. **All donations will be used to help Fond du Lac children.**

You can mail your donation to church, drop it off in the church office or donate [here](#).

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving



Liturgist opportunities are always available! You can review the liturgist schedule [here](#).

Please contact Kris Bartelt, if you are able to help. You can email her here:

Kris Bartelt, Worship Coordinator
musicministryfpc@gmail.com



Communion Servers are needed. This is a once-a-month commitment. At this time, we have one opportunity available in December.

You can check the communion schedule [here](#).

If you have any questions please contact:

Kris Bartelt, Worship Coordinator
musicministryfpc@gmail.com



Ushers and greeters are always needed. These roles serve a spiritual purpose and are a vital part of our ministry.

Please click [here](#) to sign up to be an usher or a greeter. You can also sign up in the church office.

If you have any questions please contact:

Kris Bartelt, Worship Coordinator
musicministryfpc@gmail.com

Thank you for your consideration.



Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

In November

Deacon

Les Mier
lmsrtrains@gmail.com

Elder

Laurie Leestma-Christie
lleestmarnccm@gmail.com

First Presbyterian Focus

Please send submissions for the
Newsletter to:

fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org.

Prayers* and Praises

The Family of Steve H.
Ollive B.
Bob B.
Pam C.
Bonnie H.


Pat D.
Gib D.
Arnold L.
Ruth S.
Lincoln D.
Jesse F.
Silas W.
Jane D.
Joyce J.
Jerry and Mary H.
Chastity G. and Joan S.

Prayer Partners

Send prayer requests to
fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org

Rejoice: The gift of growing
together in the body of Christ.

*Names will remain on the prayer list for
2 weeks. Please contact the office if a name
should be on the list for a longer length of time.



Protect From COVID-19.

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine adds one more layer of protection.



A safe and effective vaccine to protect
against COVID-19 is now available.
Learn more: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines)

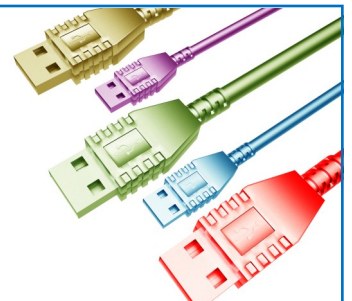
Electronic Ways to Keep in Touch

Website www.fdlpresbyterian.org

Facebook First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac

YouTube First Presbyterian Church Fond du Lac

Zoom There is more information on our website: www.fdlpresbyterian.org



Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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first presbyterian church fond du lac