

November 7, Volume 23, Issue 18

First Presbyterian Church

FOCUS

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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1st Sunday
November

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Reflections

Transitional/Interim Pastor Nominating Committee

Romans 8:28 KJV

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

The Transitional/Interim Pastor Nominating Committee has been working very hard. Members of this committee include:

Don Vahlsing - Elder
Jim Dassow - Elder
Jolene Schry - Deacon
Dave Erickson – Member-at-large
Kristina Arellano -Member-at-large

The committee has been working on completing the Ministry Information Form (MIF). This 10-page document describes our church and what we are looking for in a transition/interim minister. After Session and Presbytery approval, the information from the MIF will be posted on the PCUSA Church Leadership Connection (CLC). This system will match pastoral candidates seeking calls based on position type, experience level, salary, language, geographical choice, and leadership competencies based on information provided on the MIF. Prospective transition/interim pastors will use the form to help him or her determine whether God is calling them to serve our church. The committee will interview candidates whose names are forwarded to the committee from this program. (There are currently nine churches in the Winnebago Presbytery who are actively searching for pastors.)

All the acronyms and titles used during this transition process are confusing. Here is a short list of some of the terms you have or will be hearing:

Teaching elder/head of staff – Also known as senior pastors. All ordained ministers of the word and sacrament, in a church, are teaching elders. Session members are ruling elders.

PC(USA) – The Presbyterian Church (USA), the denomination to which First Presbyterian belongs.

Presbytery – The local governing body for PC(USA) churches in our area. We belong to the Winnebago Presbytery. Our pastors are members of the presbytery, not First Presbyterian Church.

TPNC – Transition/Interim Pastor Nominating Committee, chosen to discern God’s call regarding the next transition/interim pastor (teaching elder/head of staff) for First Presbyterian.

COM – Committee on Ministry, the Presbytery committee that works with us during the interim time and approves the Mission Study Report, the MIF and the call that will be extended to our next pastor.

MIF – The Ministry Information Form, which is used by our denomination to list information about First Presbyterian and the job description for the senior pastor (teaching elder/head of staff) position.

PIF – The Pastor Information Form is like a pastor’s resume.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Transitional/Interim Pastor Nominating Committee (Continued)

Like all pastors, Transition/Interim Pastors offer their congregations:

- Worship leadership and preaching
- Pastoral care
- Work with the Session to provide for the life and ministry of the congregation
- Administrative work including supervision of other staff
- Staff support for programs and committees of the congregation

In addition, a Transition/Interim Pastor leads a congregation during the transition time after an installed pastor has departed, helping the congregation prepare to welcome the leadership of a new installed pastor. Interim/Transitional Pastors understand the dynamics of a congregation in transition, including feelings of grief, loss, and, sometimes, relief or anger.

Please take time to pray for the Transition Team as they work hard for our congregation. Pray for our church. Pray for patience. The search process can be long. It is hard for people doing the work. It is also difficult for those who must wait without knowing exactly what is going on.

Pray that we trust our leadership as the process takes place.

In Christian Love,
The Pastor Transition Team
Jodi Anderson, Mary Bacon, Deb Cooley and Les Mier

**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**

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Coming Up in Worship

11.14.2021	Rev. Mary Balson
11.21.2021	Rev. Paul Zoschke Christ the King Sunday
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
12.24.2021	Lay Leaders Christmas Eve
12.26.2021	Rev. Dan Schultz 1st Sunday of Christmas

If you have any questions, please contact
Kris Bartelt @ musicministryfpc.com



Advent Candle Lighting

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

Please indicate if you are planning to light the candles at our in-person 9:00am worship service or would rather do a video recording to upload on our YouTube channel.

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.
- Social Distancing is maintained
- Nursery care is not available



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

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

November 10 -
Women in Faith



A friend is someone who reaches for your hand but touches your heart.

Join us for fun and fellowship on Wednesday, November 10 from 6:30-7:30pm. We will be meeting, in person, in Fellowship Hall.

We will check in with each other and share some fun fall/ Thanksgiving crafts.

We hope you can join us! If you have any ideas for future meetings, please let us know. If you have any questions, contact Jennifer.



November 11 - Ruby's Pantry



DRIVE-THRU DISTRIBUTION

- Food distribution will take place at **GRACE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**. Please enter on the **EAST** side. Park on the South side of the building.
- Online registration is available [here](#). Please arrive at your appointed time.
- All guests must enter the building to register and receive their pick-up number.
- Further instructions will be available, once guests have registered.
- Two food shares are allowed, per vehicle.
- Trunk must be empty
- Food will be loaded into trunks by our volunteers
- Do not bring boxes, bags, etc. for food
- Bathroom facilities are not available to the public

Where	Grace Christian
When	November 11
Open	4:30-6:00pm
Donation	\$22.00 Cash Only

If you have any questions contact Grace Christian Church at:
920.923.5292 or
rachelrudzik@gccfdl.org

If you are interested in volunteering, at Ruby's Pantry please complete an application at:
www.rubyspantry.org.



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.



ATTENTION All Knitters and Crocheters

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

If you would like to help, please contact Jennifer:

jjzander@fdlpresbyterian.org.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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.

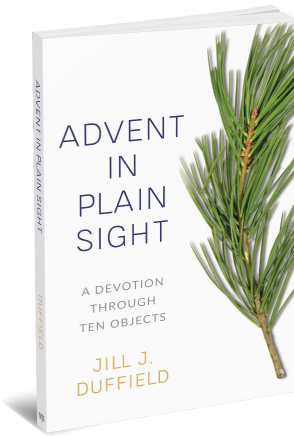
The shopping date is Monday, November 22 at 9:00am, at Festival Foods. There is a [Sign-Up sheet](#) in the Narthex, for those who are interested in helping. It is a blessing to participate in the joy and success of this special mission.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Ellen McMeen :
922. 922.6865

JOIN US FOR A SIX-WEEK ADVENT & CHRISTMAS STUDY SERIES *Advent in Plain Sight: A Devotion through Ten Objects* by Jill J. Duffield Starting November 28th through Jan 2nd

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.



At Christmas, God came into our ordinary world in the form of a child, and still today, God is at work through the ordinary stuff of life, if we train our eyes to see. The book, *Advent in Plain Sight*, draws readers’ attention to ten ordinary objects that appear in the biblical narratives of messianic prophesy and incarnation. Through focusing on these objects, we can see the near kingdom of heaven on earth and ponder what that divine proximity enables and asks us to do and be.

This year our church will use the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany to facilitate conversation and connection to each other and the meaning of this time in the church year. The goal of this group study will be to focus on spiritual lessons and recognize how the seemingly ordinary can reveal the extraordinary presence of God in our lives.

[Click Here to Complete an Interest Survey](#)

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving



Our Yuletide mission began sometime in the 1990s. We have been blessed to continue this tradition, uninterrupted, even through the Covid epidemic!

In 2020, we had to change the way we organized our Angel Tree project. We went virtual!! We still had our sign-up process, but it was quite different. Thanks to Deb Zorn, we were able to put our requests in the newsletter with sign-up opportunities on the web. The unwrapped gifts were delivered to the church on two specific dates. Volunteers retrieved the gifts from car trunks and took them to Fellowship Hall. The gifts were immediately placed in well-organized, labeled bags and delivered to Head Start on Monday morning. The process was highly successfully.

This year we have **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 14th.

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.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving



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 decorate the tree together to express our joy in giving to Head Start children and their families.

Delivery Options

1. Bring your unwrapped, appropriately marked gifts and put them under the tree, as usual.
2. Drop-off your gifts at the church on Friday or Saturday evening, December 12 or 13, specific times to be determined later.

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 14, 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 in brightening the lives of children and families in Fond du Lac, for decades, while enjoying and rejoicing in the process of giving to others.

2021 Virtual Cookie Walk

Your generous donations help support the Compassion Fund .

For your donation, you will receive a copy of our Cookie/Appetizer recipes. You can elect to receive just the new recipes for 2021 or the entire booklet of recipes from 2020 and 2021. You can mail your donation to church, drop it off in the church office or donate [here](#).

Donations are due by November 30.

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.

1 Peter 4:10

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.

REMINDER

BE HEALTHY, BE CLEAN			
CLEAN & DISINFECT			
SOCIAL DISTANCE			
PICK-UP & DELIVERY			

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

In November

Deacon

Les Mier
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Elder

Laurie Leestma-Christie
llestmarnccm@gmail.com

First Presbyterian Focus

Please send submissions for the Newsletter to:

fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org.

Prayers* and Praises

Steve H.
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.
Granddaughter of Andy & Debby L.

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)

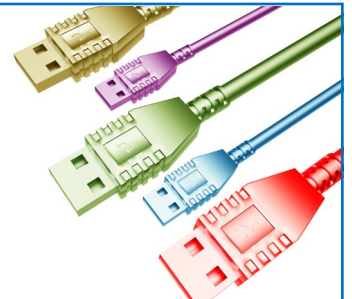
Electronic Ways to Keep in Touch

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

Church Staff

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Deb Zorn
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Social Media and Website



First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac

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first presbyterian church fond du lac