

March 6, Volume 24, Issue 05

First Presbyterian Church

FOCUS

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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1st Sunday
March

Look for exciting changes in the communication activities of First Presbyterian Church!

We are moving to one newsletter a month. The next newsletter will be available on April 1. It will be jam-packed with information about faith, worship and possibilities.

As of March 9, Worship Opportunities will be called Wednesday Updates. Every update will have announcements, worship information and links to special material. Pastor Ken will provide us with a short devotional, every week, as well. Wednesday Updates will be in your inbox by 4:00pm.

March 29 - Deadline for information to be in the April 1 newsletter.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Annual Statistical Report

Every year, Presbyterian churches must file a statistical report with their presbyteries. Typically, the Clerk of Session is responsible for this, and he/she gathers information from church staff and Session minutes to complete the report. The report for 2021 was recently completed and reviewed by session at the February meeting. Some highlights from the report are shared here.

Membership – Total membership decreased from 322 in 2020 to 318 in 2021. We added 7 members through confirmation but lost 11, 2 due to death and 9 members were deleted at their request. There were no baptisms. Weekly worship attendance was estimated to be 75, counting both in-person worship and on-line attendance. In comparison, the church averaged 121 in attendance (before Covid) in the previous year.

Christian Education – The report shows that Sunday School attendance by the youth is down compared to 2020. Approximately 40 youth were involved in Christian Education in 2020 comparing to 24 in 2021. Adult involvement remained relatively constant.

Finances – Annual income rose over 17% in 2021 to \$381,503. Expenses rose over 18% to \$388,083. Annual mission giving rose from \$21,373 to \$35,562.

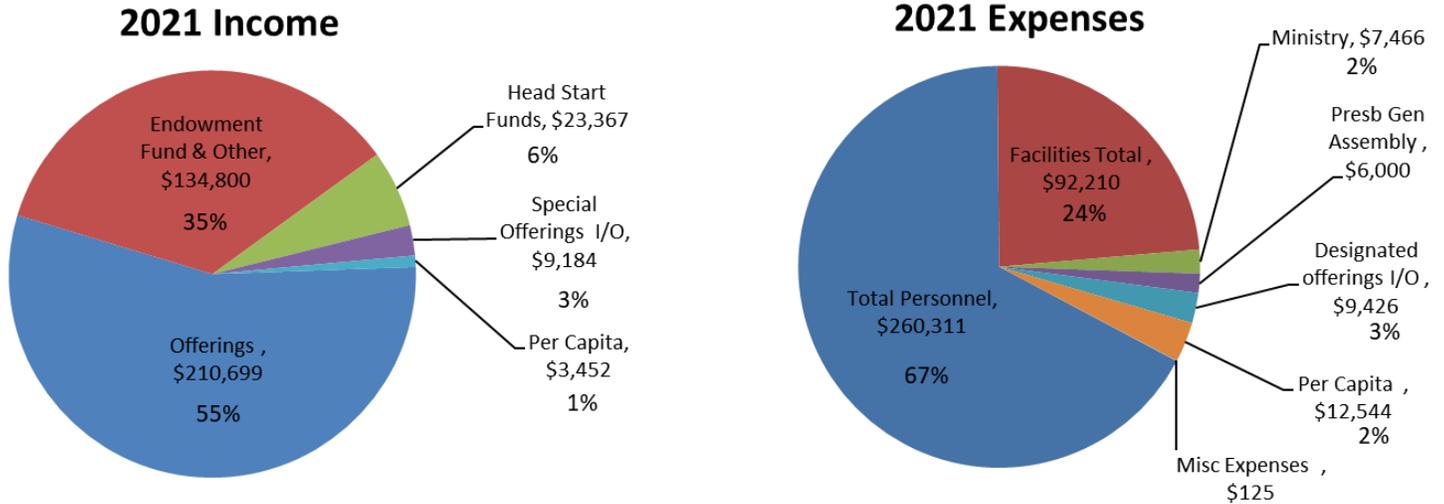
Overall, the church is fairing pretty well, considering the Covid pandemic. It is hopeful that, as we move forward, some of the numbers in worship attendance and Christian education involvement rebound to pre-pandemic levels or even surpass them.

Dave Erickson
Clerk of Session



Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Monthly Financial Update from the Financial Team



Total Income for 2021 - \$381,502
Total Expenses for 2021 - \$388,082
Deficit of -\$6,580

We ended 2021 in a good financial position even though we had a deficit of **-\$6,580** Income vs. Expenses. Our Assets were up to \$336,164.

There have been some concern are that our pledges and offerings are down 15% for the last couple of years. Also, we never receive enough funds to cover our Per Capital expense to the Presbytery which has been down 72%.

Looking forward to 2022, our Fiscal year started in July 2021. At this time, we are still way behind to our budget on offerings by 24%. Expenses are in line, except for facility cost which is up \$15,000.

We plan to replace the church roof this summer at an estimated cost of \$125,000. We're planning on that work to start in June. In April, our plan is to start a financial campaign called "Raise the Roof" to help off-set funding for the roofing project.

John Neville
Treasurer

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

My Beloved –

If you worshiped with us yesterday, Ash Wednesday, you were invited to receive the Sacrament of Communion. If you worship with us this coming Sunday, the 1st Sunday of Lent, you will again be offered the Sacrament of Communion.

As Reformed Christians, we recognize two sacraments as “purveyors of divine grace, visible manifestations of God’s invisible love”. Our sacraments were instituted by Jesus and are available to all people. That is a primary difference between our understanding of sacraments and those of some other faith communities. Marriage, for instance, is not for everyone. Likewise, not everyone is an ordained priest.

The first sacrament we observe is the sacrament of Baptism. In baptism we are formally adopted into the faith community as children of God. In baptism, we celebrate what we already know to be true, that God reaches out to us in love long before we even know what love is. When we baptize children, those assuming parental responsibility for them take the appropriate vows on their behalf, promising to raise them in the faith until such time as the children can confirm those vows for themselves.

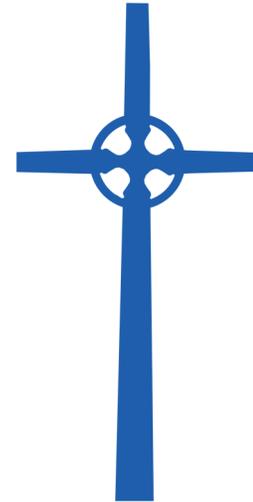
Our second sacrament is Communion, often called The Lord’s Supper or The Eucharist (from the Greek word for ‘Thanksgiving’). Whereas baptism is only done once, communion can be celebrated much more often. John Calvin, the father of our Reformed theology, encouraged communion as often as every Lord’s Day. Most Presbyterians celebrate the sacrament once a month and on special occasions.

Whereas baptism is the sacrament of welcome into the faith and is celebrated individually, communion is the sacrament of nourishment and is always celebrated communally. In communion we are lifted up into the heavenly realms and experience, together, the life of the saints in full fellowship with God. By receiving the sacrament, we are nourished and strengthened to go into the world and live our lives of faith - the faith in which we were baptized.

I hope that you will avail yourself of communion whenever it is offered. Saints and sinners alike are invited to the holy table. No one asks questions or judges our lives. We are all welcome to enjoy God together.

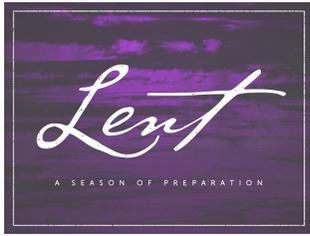
Thanks be to God!

God’s Peace to All,
Pastor Ken



Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Lenten Journey - Available Now



During Lent we plan to be the hands and feet of Christ by offering a visual reminder, in the form of a membership card, to Christ's body.

"Member of Christ's Body" cards are available at church or you can print your own [here](#). We encourage you to read the Gospel of Luke during this Lenten season. You can keep track of what you read on the back of the membership card.

This year we are also excited to be offering an interactive calendar. Each day will have a word of the day and a suggested activity to help us be the "hands and feet of Christ."

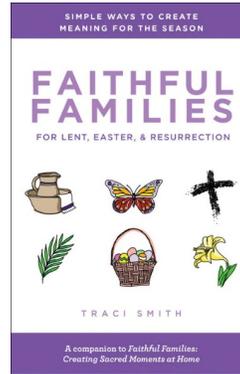
The calendars will be available electronically as well as printed so all may participate at any time and from any place. Please click [here](#) for the Lenten Journey Calendar. New information will be available each day.

We encourage you to submit pictures of yourself and your family doing the calendar activities so that we can share them on Facebook and in the newsletter. Submit your pictures to:

fdloffice@firstpresbyterian.org

We can't wait to see and hear about your Journey through Lent!

Faithful Families



Looking for ways to strengthen and grow in your relationship with God as a family?

Faithful Families for Lent, Easter, and Resurrection by Traci Smith, offers many thoughtful and engaging suggestions for families and/or individuals.

You can find a few of these activities in our interactive Lenten Journey Calendar.

We have several copies of *Faithful Families for Lent, Easter, and Resurrection* in the church library. Pick up a copy today.

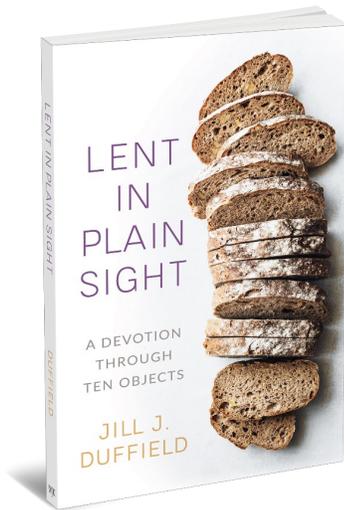


1 Corinthians 12:12 For just as the body is one and has many member, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Through April 20

**JOIN US FOR A SEVEN-WEEK
LENTEN STUDY SERIES BASED ON**
Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion through Ten Objects
by Jill J. Duffield



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

- **Self-guided:** Read through each daily devotional and answer the related reflection questions during your personal quiet time.
- **Group Discussion:** Join a group to reflect on each week's scriptures and read the devotionals throughout the week.

In-Person Group

Wednesday March 9-April 20 10:30-11:30am

Zoom Group

Wednesday March 9-April 20 7:00-8:00pm

Please click [here](#) to reserve a book and schedule your preferred time.

God is often at work through the ordinary: ordinary people, ordinary objects, ordinary grace. Through the ordinary, God communicates epiphanies, salvation, revelation, and reconciliation. It is through the mundane that we hear God's quiet voice.

The book, *Lent in Plain Sight*, draws readers' attention to ten ordinary objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem.

This year our church will use the season of Lent 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 to recognize how the seemingly ordinary can reveal the extraordinary presence of God in our lives.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Fond du Lac MobilePack

Friday and Saturday, April 1-2, 2022
Fond du Lac Fairgrounds Rec Building

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 **Friday and Saturday, April 1 - 2, 2022** as the dates of the next Fond du Lac MobilePack.

Your efforts and contributions are even more critical in these unprecedented times. At this point, the global pandemic, and

its economic impact, have left 265 million people on the brink of starvation. (Undernourished children are more susceptible to infectious diseases, like COVID-19.)



Feed My Starving Children resumed MobilePack events in June 2021, with new safety protocols in place. There is a health screen questionnaire, and physical distancing and masking requirement. You will be assigned to a small group and will stay with that same group during the entire process from orientation, to packing to the closing prayer.

Due to these new safety protocols, we have changed our regular packing schedule. The schedule this year will be:

- **Friday, April 1** Set Up and MobilePack
3:30-5:00pm Set Up
6:00-8:00pm Packing Session
- **Saturday, April 2** MobilePack and Clean Up
9:00-11:00am Packing Session
12:30-2:30pm Packing Session
3:00-5:30pm Clean Up

Our goal for 2022 is to pack 101,088 meals! The cost of these meals is \$25,000. Each meal costs about 25 cents so every donation makes a huge impact. A donation of \$88 will feed a child for an entire year. At this point, we have raised \$5,000 towards our goal.

During the month of February, churches throughout our area are participating in the **Have a Heart Campaign to raise the \$25,000 needed for this year’s Fond du Lac MobilePack.** Take one of the hearts and a self-addressed envelopes from the tree in the narthex, enclose your donation. You can drop it in the offering plate, in the church office or mail it to FMSC. You can also **donate** electronically at the [Feed My Starving Children FDLMobilePack website](#) or on the [church website](#). Please include our event number **2204-051SC** to your donations to ensure that they will be added to **our** pack on **April 1-2, 2022.**

Volunteering your time, to help pack the meals, is another way you can help MobilePack. **Five hundred fourteen volunteers are needed to pack all the meals!** Volunteer sign-up is open to the public (online) on Tuesday, March 1. In past years, the volunteer slots went quickly so be sure to register early! **You can also reserve your spot by signing up [here](#).** Jennifer will then take care of your online registry.

We hope that you will join us in “being the Church” as we love others in Jesus’ name and partner with Feed My Starving Children to turn “Hunger into Hope.”

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Information @ Church

March 10 - Women in Faith



Day **Thursday**

Date **March 10**

Time **6:30pm**

Join us for fun and fellowship on **Thursday, March 10** at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

We will check in with each other and create kindness rocks. Kindness rocks are a way to leave inspirational messages to others.

You will hide your rock for others, in the community, to find. The finder of the rock can either take the rock home or hide it again!

We hope you can join us! Contact the church office if you have any questions or have suggestions for future meetings.

March 10 - Ruby's Pantry



- 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	March 10
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.

March 20 - Discovery Time Returns



On Sunday, March 20, Discovery Time (Children's Sermon) returns during in-person worship!

During the worship service, children will be invited to come forward (or remain in the pews) for a short message connected to the scripture lesson and sermon for the day.

As a reminder, worship folders, filled with activities, are available for the children, in a basket at the back of the sanctuary during each worship service.

March 27 - Church of our Saviour Organ Concert

Thomas Heidenreich will present an organ concert at Church of Our Saviour on Sunday, March 27 at 3:00 p.m. Thomas is the organist and choir director at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Fond du Lac and the chapel organist at the Nashotah House Theological Seminary. There will be a free will offering. Everyone is welcome!

Mr. Heidenreich is a Doctor of Musical Arts candidate at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music. He anticipates his degree in May 2022.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

April 6 - Loaves and Fishes



Mark your calendars, we will be serving Loaves and Fishes again on Wednesday, April 6 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 and appreciated for the meal.

April 20 - Bingo



We will not be having Bingo in March, so that we may participate in the Wednesday evening Lenten Activities.

The next Bingo is scheduled for April 20, 6:00 to 7:00pm.

April 22-23 - 2022 Model Train Show



The model train enthusiasts of the First Presbyterian Church are planning our 19th Model Train Show on Saturday, April 23, from 10:00am to 4:00pm and Sunday, April 24 from 9:00am to 2:00pm.

We would like to know if anyone from the church would be interested in participating in the train show and would like to display their train items. You don't have to have a layout to take part.

Please contact:

Les Mier
920-517-3901

Dennis Thompson
920-948-2147

You can also contact the church office if you are interested or if you have any questions.

Blessing Gifts for our College Students

On February 20, the gifts for the college students were blessed, during worship.

Please continue to hold these students in your prayers as they grow in their faith and expand their horizons.



Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

March Worship



Our Sunday morning schedule is as follows:

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

First Sunday of the Month
9:00am In-Person Communion
10:30am ZOOM Worship and Communion

YouTube Worship is available [here](#). Please note that the service is not "live."

This is what in-person worship looks like:

- Masks are **no longer** required.
- Physical distancing is **no longer** required.
- Nursery care is not available.



YouTube worship services can be found [here](#).



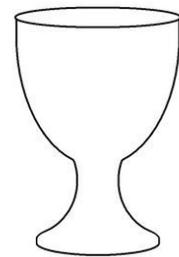
LITURGISTS



Monday - Wednesday
9:00am - 5:00pm

Thursday
9:00am - Noon

Friday
Closed



COMMUNION SERVERS

Inclement Weather

Please check one the following resources for weather-related cancellations of Worship Services or church activities.

Church Website
www.fdlpresbyterian.org

Internet
www.kfiz.com
(KFIZ Radio)

Radio
97.7 WFDL

TV
Channel 5 WFDL




USHERS GREETERS

If you would like to be a:

- Liturgists
- Communion Server
- Usher/Greeter

Please contact Kris:
musicministryfpc@gmail.com

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7p-8p Ash Wednesday	3 6:30p-7:30p Serve Team via Zoom	4	5
6 9a-10a In-Person Worship (1st Church--Sanctuary) 10:15a-11:15a Youth Financial Class on Zoom 10:30a-11:15a Zoom Worship-FPC Fond du Lac 11:15a-12p Coffee Hour/Education Hour on Zoom 4p-6p Boy Scout Committee Mtg In-Person (Parlor)	7 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting 1p-2:30p Deacon Meeting	8 Int'l. Women's Day	9 10:30a-11:30a Lenten Study-In Person 7p-8p Lenten Study on Zoom	10 6:30p-7:30p Women in Faith In-Person	11	12
13 Daylight Saving Begins 9a-10a In-Person Worship (1st Church--Sanctuary) 10:30a-11:30a Coffee Hour/Education Hour on Zoom 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Mtg	14 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting	15 6p-7p Learning Team Meeting	16 10:30a-11:30a Lenten Study-In Person 7p-8p Lenten Study on Zoom	17 Saint Patrick's Day	18	19 8:30a-4p Sunset Stitches
20 Spring Begins (Northern Hemisphere) 9a-10a In-Person Worship (1st Church--Sanctuary) 10:30a-11:30a Coffee Hour/Education Hour on Zoom 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Mtg	21 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting 6:30p-7:30p Virtual Session Meeting	22	23 10:30a-11:30a Lenten Study-In Person 7p-8p Lenten Study on Zoom	24 World Tuberculosis Day 9a-11a Financial Team Meeting (Parlor) 5p-6:30p Loving Team via Zoom	25	26
27 9a-10a In-Person Worship (1st Church--Sanctuary) 10:30a-11:30a Coffee Hour/Education Hour on Zoom 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Mtg	28 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting	29	30 10:30a-11:30a Lenten Study-In Person 7p-8p Lenten Study on Zoom	31	Notes:	

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

In March

Deacon

Linda Neville
jneville@charter.net

Elder

Jim Dassow
jnjdassow@gmail.com

First Presbyterian Focus

Please send submissions for the
Newsletter to:

fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org.

Prayers* and Praises

The Kuhnert Family (Friend of Laurie C.)
Brian Conran & Family
Pete Radlund
Jessica Burmeister
Gary Grasse
Bonnie Hughes
Pat Dilling
Gib Dilling
Arnold Leestma
Ruth Smith
Lincoln Deanovich
Jesse Fisher
Silas Willey
Jane Devine
Jerry and Mary Heider
Chastity Geisthardt
Joan Steininger

Prayer Partners

Send prayer requests to:
fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org

*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.

THANK YOU!
First Presbyterian Church
raised:
\$750 and 308 food items

Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need. Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

SUPER BOWL OF CARING
tacklehunger.org

February 13, 2022

Alison Reese
Alison Reese
Executive Director
Souper Bowl of Caring

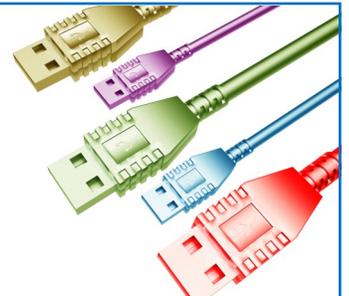
Electronic Ways to Keep in Touch

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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Social Media and Website



First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac

www.fdlpresbyterian.org

first presbyterian church fond du lac