

March 1 Volume 25, Issue 3

First Presbyterian Church

FOCUS

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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Additional News, Updates and General Information
can be found on our website: www.fdlpresbyterian.org.



February Session Highlights

This year's confirmation class attended a portion of the February Session meeting. They were there to learn about how Presbyterian meetings work and why we do some of the things we do. The class will attend one more Session meeting before they get confirmed. The purpose of the second meeting is to provide an opportunity for Session to examine the confirmands. It is always a pleasant experience when confirmands attend session meetings.

Session approved the replacement of the amplifier for the sound system. The old amplifier was 25 years old and started showing signs of failure. The project was not to exceed \$1400.

Session also approved the transfer of \$7,000 from the Endowment Education Fund to the church's checking account to fund a projector project for the Fellowship Hall.

The collection of the One Great our of Sharing offering was approved and will take place on April 2, Palm Sunday.

A progress report was heard from the Pastor Nominating Committee. They have made great headway! It is expected that Session will be approving their Ministry Information Form in the very near future. This would then enable the PNC to start advertising the pastoral opening in the Presbyterian Church's database.

Even if everything goes extremely well, it appears very likely that an installed pastor will not be here soon. With Pastor Ken's last day approaching quickly, (April 9), a small task force was created to work with Winnebago Presbytery personnel regarding pastoral supply after Pastor Ken leaves. Most likely, preaching will be done by an assortment of pastors. This could last several months.

Session encourages members to contact Session with their thoughts and ideas regarding this upcoming transition.

Prayerfully submitted,

Dave Erickson
Clerk of Session



LENT
Forty Days of Renewal

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

March Affirmations from Pastor Ken

“For All the Saints . . .”
(How would we measure up?)



Last month, my Focus article was on how to make this Holy Season of Lent more meaningful. (You can find the [article here](#).) This month, I want to briefly mention some important saints who are often recognized during Lent.

Presbyterians do not have saints. Any miracles attributed to mortals are done through mortals but by God alone. Likewise, we do not need to pray to saints. Jesus alone ensures God hears our prayers.

But while we don't venerate them, we know there is merit in learning the lives of those who have been important in the history of Christianity. Here are just a few that I greatly admire and who are often celebrated this month.

Perpetua was a young noblewoman who lived in Carthage (modern Tunisia) in the 3rd century. **Felicity** was her slave. Both women had recently converted to Christianity, despite protests from Perpetua's father. When even the local magistrate could not convince them to recant, they were condemned to death.

“The Passion of Perpetua and Felicity” is the story of their imprisonment and death. (“The Passion” was one of my required readings in seminary. You can learn more about it online.) It largely depends on Perpetua's own diary of that period with a posthumous description of their death during the games held to celebrate the Roman Emperor's birthday. The diary details their sufferings and mistreatment and how conditions improved after Perpetua bribed a guard to move them to another part of the prison. Four men died with them. One had simply gone to the magistrate and declared himself a Christian. But the other three were still novice Christians, catechumens, who had not even been baptized.

“The Passion” tells us that when their time came, the martyrs were scourged by the gladiators. Then, the men were set on and killed by a lion, a bear, and a leopard. Perpetua and Felicity were gored by a wild cow. Wounded but not dead, the two ladies shared the kiss of peace and were then killed by the sword.

Christians suffering so greatly for their faith are, mercifully, rare these days. But stories like these remind us of what our ancestors in faith endured. How would we measure up? Is our faith as important to us as theirs was to them?

Another, though very different, saint is **Pope Gregory I**, commonly referred to as **Gregory the Great** (d. 604). Gregory was born into a noble, politically connected family in Rome. When he was about 30, he left Rome to become a monk. Later, he was pressed into service as a papal ambassador. Upon the Pope's death, Gregory was elected to the Papacy.

Gregory was a very competent administrator with a vision for the future. He sent the first missionaries to England to convert the Anglo-Saxons. He combated the Arian and Donatist heresies that were popular in his time. Gregory reformed and standardized Christian worship.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

March Affirmations from Pastor Ken (continued)

Gregory was also a gifted writer and, seemingly, a musician as well. Gregory wrote a number of liturgies for various occasions and a Life of St. Benedict. He also introduced what we call Gregorian Chant. For those who venerate the saints, he is recognized as the saint of musicians, singers, students, and teachers. No less a student and teacher than our own John Calvin,; he called him 'the last good Pope.'

Gregory could have used his time as Pope to do what other Popes had done: amass luxuries and live profligately. Instead, Gregory took the skills he had and worked hard to build up God's Kingdom on Earth. None of us are likely to ever become Pope, but do we have a vision for God's Kingdom? Are we using our skills to build it up?

While Presbyterians do not recognize anyone as a saint, we know it is important to know our past, both as Presbyterians and Christians. By learning the lives of the saints, we draw inspiration and hope for our own time and ministry.

May God bless us, and may we serve as well and faithfully, as God blessed Perpetua, Felicity and Gregory.

God's peace to us all,
Pastor Ken

THANK YOU!

First Presbyterian Church
raised:

\$1,167, 218 food items and 127 lbs. of food

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.



TACKLE HUNGER

February 13, 2023



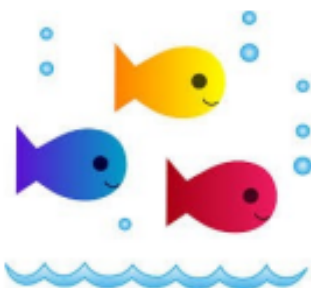
Alison Reese
Executive Director
Tackle Hunger: Home of the
Super Bowl of Caring



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Fishing Derby



The One Great Hour of Sharing offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. Funds from the One Great Hour of Sharing collection are divided between the Presbyterian Disaster Fund, The Hunger Project, and Self Development of People.

February 26 –April 2, 2023

Be ready to bring in your "catch" on Palm Sunday, April 2nd for weigh in and judging.



Prize Categories

Heaviest Fish

Cutest Fish

Most Creative Fish Name

Most Active Fish

Longest Tail

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TUBING
FUN



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TUBING FUN CONTINUED



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Information @ Church

Thank You - on behalf of
Souper Bowl of Caring



tacklehunger.org

Thank you for your generous donations! We collected 218 items -127 pounds! The food was promptly delivered to the Fondy Food Pantry.

We also collected over \$1,167 in cash donations. Outstanding!

Thank you for helping our youth to serve the community in need.



Thank You -
from Kay Mullins

I want to thank you for your prayers and cards of support during my recent hospital/rehabilitation stay.

It is good to be home to continue my therapy in the comfort of my own surroundings.

Your concern for my health continues to bless me. I will not forget the kindness you have shown to me.

Kay Mullins

March 5 - Communion Sunday



9:00am
Sanctuary & Live-streamed

You can join the live-stream worship [here](#).

Through March 26 - Lenten Lunches! Sundays 11:30am



There are attendance and food sign-up sheets at the Welcome Center.

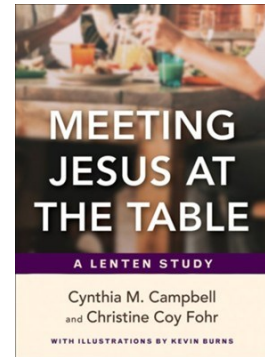
- On the *attendance sheet*, sign your name and number of people in your group for each week you plan to attend.
- On the *food sign-up sheet*, please indicate if you plan to bring a main dish, side dish or dessert.
- You *do not* need to bring food to join us for lunch. Just bring yourself!

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Loving Team:

Nancy Hilbert, Melissa Hierl,
Laurie Christie or Deb Cooley

We hope you can join us!!

Through April 26



"Meeting Jesus at the Table" A Lenten Study

by Cynthia M Campbell and
Christine Coy Fohr

Jesus imparts wisdom as he shares the wine, and grants forgiveness as he distributes the fish. This eight-chapter resource provides biblical insights along with thought-provoking queries regarding our own time: who do we invite to Sunday dinner and who gets left out.

Books are available in the church office for \$12.

Wednesday Mornings

In-Person Through April 26
(not April 5) Led by
Jennifer Zander

Sunday Mornings

Hybrid Through April 30
(not April 9) Led by
Pastor Ken Locke

Chapter 1 Dining Alfresco
Chapter 2 The Welcome Table
Chapter 3 Surprised by Grace
Chapter 4 Relationships and
Reciprocity
Chapter 5 Excuses and
Invitations
Chapter 6 Hospitality and
Discipleship
Chapter 7 A Meal of Memories
Chapter 8 Easter

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Information @ Church

March 8 - Women in Faith



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

Join us on Wednesday, March 8, from 5:30-7:30pm. We will share a light meal, followed by a fun time of fellowship and crafting.

Following dinner, we are making decorative bars of soap. We will have supplies available. Women In Faith meets once a month and is open to women of all ages. Everyone is welcome. See you there! Bring a friend!!

Please contact Jennifer if you have any questions.



March 9 - 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 9
Open	4:30-6:00pm
Donation	\$25.00 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 the application at:
www.rubyspantry.org.

March 10 - Organ Concert

What	David Hein
When	March 10
Time	7:00pm
Where	Church of our Saviour

As part of our Performing Arts Series, David Hein will present an organ concert at Church of Our Saviour 363 S. Main St. on Friday, March 10 at 7:00 p.m.

David directs the Alverno College Choir and teaches courses in their music program. He is principal organist and sanctuary choir accompanist at the United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay.

He is also the artistic director of Our Voice Milwaukee Chorus. David was formerly an assistant professor of music at Marian University and artistic director of the Fond du Lac Children's Chorale. All are welcome! There will be a free-will offering.

March 17 - Cribbage



Fellowship Hall
7:00-9:00pm

Join us for Cribbage! You're invited for a fun-filled evening of cribbage. If you don't know how to play, we will be happy to teach you! Bring your own beverage; snacks will be provided. We hope to see you there!

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March 19 - Cello Concert

What Cello Recital
When March 19
Time 4:00pm
Where former St.
Patrick's Church
(FDL)

The cellist is Taide Prieto, visiting professor at Lawrence University. She will be accompanied by Francisco Fernandez. For more information, please click [here](#).

March 22 - Bingo



Day Wednesday
Date February 15
Time 6:30pm

Click [here](#) to register. A ZOOM link will be emailed to you from Breeze!

April 1 - Feed My Starving Children



Meals are needed now to help people in [Ukraine and surrounding areas](#). You can submit donations electronically at the [Feed My Starving Children FDL MobilePack website](#). You can also donate online on the [church website](#). It's important to include our event number **2303-030SC** to your donations. This number ensures that your donation will be added to **our** pack on **April 1, 2023**.

Our goal for the April 1 MobilePack is to pack 108,864 meals at a cost of \$32,000 utilizing 500 volunteers! We have already raised \$7,000 towards this goal!

There are two ways that you can help with the MobilePack campaign - with a monetary donation and/or volunteering your time to pack the meals. Each meal costs 29 cents so every donation makes an impact. A donation of \$106 will feed a child for an entire year!

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 give generously.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

April 2 - One Great Hour of Sharing



One Great Hour of Sharing gifts never fail to bring life and hope. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, the three Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are:

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- Presbyterian Hunger Program
- Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People

All three programs provide people with safety, sustenance and support.

The funds are allocated as follows:

- 32 percent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- 32 percent to Self-Development of People
- 36 percent to the Presbyterian Hunger Program

For more information you can click [here](#) or [here](#).

Fishing Derby - turn April 2



Do you know about our Fishing Derby? Banks are available at the Welcome Center, along with fun activities to do while you are decorating and filling your fish. We can't wait to see how you have decorated them and see how full they are! Your Fish Bank donations help support One Great Hour of Sharing. You can read more about it [here](#).

April 15-16 - Model Train Show



Is anyone interested in being a part of the train show? If you have a train that you would like to display, you don't have to own a layout. We will help you set up your display.

Join the fun filled weekend and help support our PYA. They will be selling food to raise funds for their mission activities.

Please let the church office know if you would like to participate or contact Les Mier (920-517-3901) or Dennis Thompson (920-948-2147).

We are celebrating our
TWENTIETH YEAR
of having the train show at
First Presbyterian Church!

April 16 - Bible Workshop

April 23 - Bible Presentation

It is our tradition, at First Presbyterian Church, that our grade-school students, (third grade and above) receive a Bible of their own. It is a gift from our church community. The Learning Team has set the following expectations to encourage all families to use their Bible at church and at home:



1) We encourage students to attend Sunday School classes at 10:15am on Sunday mornings. Sunday School is designed to teach Bible knowledge and skills on how to use the Bible.

2) We encourage all Parents/Guardians to attend a Bible Workshop Class **with their student** on April 16, 2023, at 10:15am.

3) Bibles will be presented in worship on Sunday, April 23, 2023.

If your child is new to the church and has not received a Bible or if you have questions, please contact Jennifer in the church office. You can also contact any member of the Learning Team.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

April 2 - Pastor Ken's
Farwell Celebration

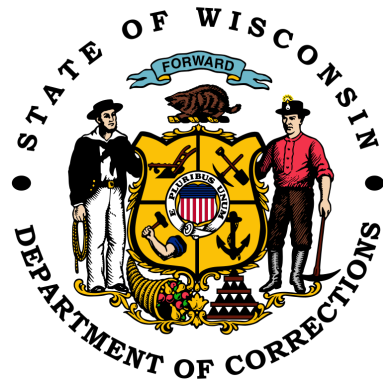


Pastor Ken's Farwell
Celebration is being
planned by the Loving
Team. It will be held April
2nd following worship.

We are going with a FISH
theme! The main entree is
fish tacos. Side dishes and
desserts are welcome.

Watch your Wednesday
Updates for more details.
If you have any questions,
please contact Nancy
Hilbert.

Loving Team



Taycheedah Correctional Institu-
tion provides Community Service
Programs to help foster successful
reentry for the individuals who
have been in custody.

The program helps individuals use
their crafting skills to make items
for those in need in our community.

You can donate extra crafting
supplies such as quilting and
crochet patterns, buttons, fabric,
thread, markers paint brushes,
yarn, etc. If you have any questions
please email:

Cassandra.Wegner@Wisconsin.gov.

First Presbyterian Church is collecting
yarn. There are baskets, outside of the
church office, for your donations.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	Feb 28	1 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 10:15 AM Lenten Book Study-In Person 4:30 PM Hand Bell Practice; Music 7:00 PM	2 1:00 PM Serving Team 2:00 PM Personnel Team via Zoom	3	4 9:00 AM Table Tennis
5 9:00 AM Worship-In Person and Live Stream on Zoom 10:15 AM Fellowship Time 10:15 AM Growing Connections In- +3 more	6 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Deacon Meeting; Parlor	7 7:00 PM Confirmation Class	8 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 10:15 AM Lenten Book Study-In Person 4:30 PM Hand Bell Practice; Music +2 more	9 10:45 AM Loving Team via Zoom	10	11 9:00 AM Table Tennis
12 9:00 AM Worship-In Person and Live Stream on Zoom 10:15 AM Fellowship Time 10:15 AM Growing Connections In- +3 more	13 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Feed My Starving Children Planning Meeting	14 7:00 PM Confirmation Class	15 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 10:15 AM Lenten Book Study-In Person 4:30 PM Hand Bell Practice; Music 6:30 PM	16 1:00 PM Growing Connections Planning Meeting	17 7:00 PM Cribbage	18 9:00 AM Table Tennis 11:00 AM Robotka Baby Shower; Fellowship Hall, Kitchen
19 9:00 AM Worship-In Person and Live Stream on Zoom 10:15 AM Fellowship Time 10:15 AM Growing Connections In- +3 more	20 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Hybrid Session Meeting	21 9:00 AM FDL Quilters	22 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 10:15 AM Lenten Book Study-In Person 4:30 PM Hand Bell Practice; Music +2 more	23 Presbytery Meeting 9:00 AM Finance Team Meeting; Parlor	24 (8:00 PM) Boy Scout Troop 702 LockIn	25 9:00 AM Sunset Stitches 9:00 AM Table Tennis
26 9:00 AM Worship-In Person and Live Stream on Zoom 10:15 AM Fellowship Time 10:15 AM Growing Connections In- 6:00 PM Boy Scout	27 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	28 7:00 PM Confirmation Class	29 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 10:15 AM Lenten Book Study-In Person 4:30 PM Hand Bell Practice; Music Room	30	31 FMSC MobilePack	Apr 1
2	3	Notes				

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

In March

March Worship



Sunday Morning

9:00am In-Person Worship
Live Stream via ZOOM

- Masks are **no longer** required.
- Physical distancing is **no longer** required.
- Nursery is available. Children must be supervised by a parent or guardian. Nursery care is not provided by the church.



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

Thursday
9:00am - Noon

Friday
Closed

Deacon of the Month

Deb Spoerke
debra.spoerke@yahoo.com

Elder of the Month

Jim Dassow
jnjdassow@gmail.com



We are looking for people to be liturgists. It's a wonderful way to participate in worship.

You can sign up [here](#).

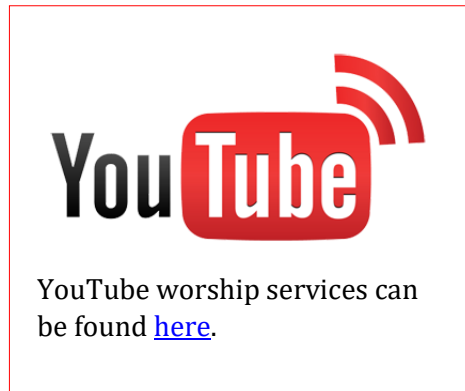
Prayers* and Praises

Brian Conran
Gary Grasse
Pat Dilling
Gib Dilling
Arnold Leestma
Jesse Fisher
Silas Willey
Jane Devine
Jerry and Mary Heider
Chastity Geisthardt
Joan Steininger
Kay Mullins
Lynn K.
Carol Wetzell
Sheryl Brown

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.



First Presbyterian Focus

Please send submissions for the Newsletter to:

fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org.

Electronic Ways to Keep in Touch

Website	www.fdlpresbyterian.org
Facebook	First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac
YouTube	First Presbyterian Church Fond du Lac

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