

December 24, 2023; 9:00 am
Fourth Sunday of Advent - LOVE

We Gather Together

Welcome to our Service of Worship. Whether you are with us in person, joining us live on ZOOM or watching several days from now, we are glad you are here. We extend a special welcome to our visitors. For those in person, please use the time before worship to fill in the Friendship Pad in your pew.

Gathering Music: *please join in singing the following Christmas Carols*

PH 14 Savior of the Nations, Come vs. 1 -3

PH 20 Watchman, Tell us of the Night vs. 1-2

PH 8 Lift up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates vs. 1 & 3

Welcome & Announcements

Kristina Arellano

Ringing of the Bell and entrance of the Light of Christ

Lighting the Candle of Love

Darci Beachy & Lincoln D.

We light this candle in Hope.
We light this candle for Peace.
We light this candle in joy!
We light the candle with love.

Hear God's love for his people from Isaiah 7:10-14

Let us pray:

God of hope, Prince of Peace,
Jubilee Judge, and Lord of love,
Your goodness is beyond our wildest imaginings.
You give us more than we can think to ask,
Coming to us with impossible possibility
In the union of flesh and spirit.
Teach us to love this world and all people
as you love us in Jesus Christ, our Lord.
God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.

***Sung Response: GTG 88** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vs. 1-4

Carol Wetzel, Cantor

Call to Worship (2 Samuel 7, Luke 1:47-55, Luke 1:26-38) *Kristina Arellano*

Host of Hosts, from sunrise to sunrise,
and generation to generation, we are your people.

You have been with us wherever we have gone.

You will be with us wherever we may go.

You planted us in a land flowing with milk and honey,
then you planted our salvation in Mary’s womb.

**Jesus, who is the Christ, is planted firmly
in each one of us.**

Our souls magnify the Holy One.

Our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior.

***Call to Confession** (Luke 1:47-55)

Kristina Arellano

Compassionate, Forgiving God,
we trespass on your mercy
and take your favor for granted.

We think only of ourselves.

We forget the lessons
of those who came before us,
and ignore our responsibility
to those who will follow us.

We grow proud and seek power.

We do not see the destruction of our actions
and how it distances us from you.

**We do not recognize our hunger for what it is,
or where it leads us.**

We grow faint.

Bring us home to you, Merciful Father.

Silent Confession

(In the silence of our hearts we confess our sins to God.)

***Words of Assurance** (Luke 1:47-55)

The Holy One forgives and bestows favor on each of us, even and especially when we are lowly in spirit.

We are blessed from generation to generation by the Mighty One, whose strength and mercy are forever. Let our souls rejoice in God!

From "The Abingdon Worship Annual" edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu, Copyright © Abingdon Press.

***Sharing God's Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you! **And also, with you!**

(Please share the Peace of Christ with those around you using the ancient formula 'The Peace of Christ.' 'And also, with you.' Please be mindful of those who do not wish to shake hands or be too close. We encourage you to use this time to send a text or emoji to someone who cannot be here.)

***Sung Response: GTG 113** chorus only "Gloria"

God's Word Is Proclaimed

First Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 (page 281 in the pew Bible)

Second Lesson: Romans 16:25-27 (page 165 in the pew Bible)

Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:26-38 (page 56 in the pew Bible)

Handbells "O Come All Ye Faithful"

*Handbell Choir
arr. by John Behnke*

Children's Time

Jennifer Zander

Sermon: "Home for the Holiday"

Pastor Dan Schultz

***Sung Response: GTG #82** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

We Respond to God's Word

Offering: "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks/How Great Our Joy"

Kristina Arellano

***Offertory:** PH 53 "What Child is This" vs. 3

***Offertory Prayer**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy Kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.

***Sung Response:** GTG 123 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude: "Aberystwyth"

arr. by Healey Willan

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FB First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac
YT First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac

Voice 920.922.0425

January Deacon of the Month
Linda Neville

January Elder of the Month
Brian Conran

This Week at Church

Sunday	12.24	Fourth Sunday of Advent
9:00-10:00am	Worship	Pastor Dan Schultze Lighting the Candle of Love.
10:15	Fellowship Time	Christmas Traditions
6:00-7:00pm	Christmas Eve	Traditional Christmas Eve service. We will light the Christ Candle.
Monday	12.25	Merry Christmas! Church office will be closed.
Tuesday	12.26	The church office will be closed.
6:00pm	AA Meeting	
Wednesday	12.27	
8:00-9:00am	Men's Breakfast	
5:30-6:30pm	Finance Team	
Saturday	12.30	
9:00-12:00pm	Table Tennis	
Sunday	12.31	
9:00-10:00am	Worship – Chaplain Darren Beachy	
10:15am	Fellowship Time	
10:20am	Growing Connections - Star Words or Gifts Intergenerational Activities	
Monday	01.01.2024	
	Happy New Year!	
	Church Office will be closed.	

Looking Ahead

New Year's Day	January 1	Church Office will be closed.
Loaves & Fishes	January 3	Church of Peace
Worship	January 7	Rev. Andy Sonneborn Baptism of the Lord
Women in Faith	January 10	
Worship	January 14	Chaplain Evan Stark
Worship	January 21	Pastor Craig Alwin
Annual Meeting	January 28	

PRAYERS

Brian C.	Marie L.
Pat D.	Jolene S. – Sister and her husband
Gib D.	Lynn K.
Arnold L.	Ashley K.
Jesse F.	Cathie
Liam A.	Dick S.
Burt M.	Mike S.
Cathie	Dale F.
Chastity G. and Joan S.	Maryann C.
Sandy T.	All the countries affected by unrest, violence, and war.

If you have a pastoral concern, that happens after office hours, please leave a voice mail message, on the office phone, (920.922.0425). We will direct your call to the appropriate person, the following day.

E-Giving

Consider giving electronically. It's easy, convenient, and secure. You can sign-up on our website www.fdlpresbyterian.org. Click on 'Giving'. (You can change your giving at any time.) We are so very thankful for those of you who tithe or give regularly to our church. Your contributions help us do God's work.

Please take a moment to thank those who help make our service run smoothly. Because of them, we can worship God well.

Weekly Statistics

DATE	ATTENDANCE	WEEKLY INCOME	NOTES
December 17, 2023	98 IN THE SEATS	\$1,594.00	OFFERINGS/TITHES
12/11--12/15/2023		\$2,641.00	VANCO-ONLINE OFFERINGS
		\$4,235.00	TOTAL INCOME FOR THE WEEK
12/17/2023	6 HOUSEHOLDS		6-HOUSEHOLDS VIEWED THE ZOOM SERVICE FOR 12/17/2023

Poinsettias

In Memory

Dan & Sue Baker

Kevin & Kim Braatz & Family

Sheryl Brown & Family

Trista Bubolz

Henry Chang

John & Laurie Christie

Hierl Family

Jerry & Nancy Hilbert

Bonnie Hughes

Larry & Sandy Johnson
Lee & Phyllis Munson

Wendy Johnson

Laiten Family

Debby & Andy Lorenz

Larry, Carol & Bob Merrill

Larry, Carol, Bob, Tami, Grace
& Sophia Merrill

Kay Mullins

Jolene & Heather Schry

The Shawn Willey Family

Scott & Jennifer Zander

Camdon, Bud, Kathy, Ken & Rick Baker,
Bill Sr., Clair Ann, Bill Jr., & Terry Rowe

Junie Braatz & Debbie Braatz

Ray, Carol, Terry & Heath Farr
Don & Dorothy Brown

Raymond & Dawn Michels
Tom & Joanne Karuhn

Jong Chen

Corliss Christie & Tom Leestma

Sue (Oma) Hierl

Kevin

Jack Hughes & Other Family Members

Harold & Bette Munson

Roy Johnson & Other Loved Ones

G. Ward Laiten

Our Parents:
Earl & Elain Bond/Emil & Grace Lorenz

Bob & Eileene Merrill

Jeffrey L. Merrill

Rhonda Mullins Brewer

Rick Schry, Bowe & Barbara LeFevre

Silas Willey

Our Loved Ones

In Celebration

Jim & Judy Dassow

Laiten Family

Carol & Lew Smith

Debra & Brad Spoerke

Family and Friends

Marie Laiten

Our Congregation

The Beauty of Life