

Information @ Church

February Deacon of the Month
Mary Ellen McMeen

February Elder of the Month
Cheryl Clarenbach

February 1, 2024

Words from Pastor Craig -

It has been a wonderful start to serving as Pastor with you! My family and I are very thankful for the warm welcome you gave us and your helpful insights about the community. We look forward to hearing more suggestions of where to go and what to do. We are excited to experience all that Fond du Lac has to offer.

I have been busy getting to know the “ins and outs” of our church and meeting with the leadership. I am eager to get to know as many of you as possible, listening to your stories and learning all that God is up to in your lives.

I am also looking forward to journeying through Lent and Holy Week with you, and celebrating the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday.

I will be leading a Membership Class on the first three Sundays of March. We hope to welcome several new members on Easter Sunday. These classes are not just for “new” members, however. I hope to have some great input from many long-time members as we discuss our varied backgrounds, diverse interpretations of scripture, and yet focus on what it means to be an active Christian within the Reformed Theology of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in today’s world.

This spring, I also plan to have a Bible study. Watch for more details on that in upcoming Wednesday Updates, etc.

My goal is to be as available as possible, so please feel free to drop by the office. Or you can reach out to me to set up a time to meet. Thank you again for the amazing welcome!

Pastor Craig

February 4 - Worship /Communion



The Lord's Supper is the 'bread of life and the cup of salvation'. Join us for worship and communion this Sunday.

You can read more about Presbyterian Communion [here](#).

February 4 - Scout Sunday



February 4 is Scout Sunday. The Boy Scouts of America designates the Sunday before Feb. 8 (Scouting Anniversary Day) as Scout Sunday.

This is an opportunity for Scouts to publicly demonstrate the 12th point of the Scout Law: A Scout is Reverent.

All Scouts and Scouters are invited to participate by wearing the BSA field uniform to worship on Sunday.

Thank You - From Dick Sleder

Thank you! I greatly appreciate all your payers and the support I received during my recovery from the Covid virus and from hip surgery.

Dick Sleder

February 8 - 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

Where	Grace Christian 1596 4th St, Fond Du Lac, WI
When	February 8
Open	4:30-6:00pm
Donation	\$25.00 Cash Only

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

February 11 - Souper Bowl of Caring



tacklehunger.org

The PYA will be participating in the 34th Annual Souper Bowl of Caring on February 11th, 2024. In 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat."

Since then, more than \$193 million has been generated for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around the 'Big Game' into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving. Through this mission, people learn they can make a positive difference in the world as they collect food, raise money, and show caring and compassion in local communities across the country.

Over the years, our PYA has collected \$8,137 and donated 2395 food items in conjunction with Souper Bowl of Caring. What's more, ALL money and food collected will stay right here in the Fond du Lac, going directly to our Tackle Hunger Charity of Choice: the Fondy Food Pantry. Last year we donated 218 food items and \$1,167 to the pantry.

Share in God's love for our neighbors in need and give generously on Souper Bowl Sunday.



Bell Choir - February 11

We will hear the joyful bells play on February 11.

The Bell Choir rehearses every Wednesday at 4:30pm. Now is a great time to join the choir!



February 14- Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday begins the 40 day season of Lent. A journey from the ashes of death to resurrected life. A day of prayer and reflection.

We will begin this special day with the Imposition of Ashes. The ashes are a traditional sign of mourning and repentance. They are meant to remind people of their mortality.

Lent culminates in Holy Week. Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday being the most significant days. Lent ends on Easter Sunday when we commemorate the resurrection of Jesus.

12:00-1:00pm
Brief visit for the
Imposition of Ashes

6:30-7:30pm
Ash Wednesday Worship

Women in Faith

Because it is Ash Wednesday, Women in Faith **will not** be meeting in February.

See you **March 13** for more good food, fun crafting and good fellowship.

February 16 - Cribbage

Join us for Cribbage on February 16. We meet in Fellowship Hall at 7:00pm. Bring something to drink, snacks are provided.

If you don't know how to play, one of our experts will teach you! The beginning of a new year is a great time to learn a new pastime!

Fun, friendship and fellowship - now that's a winning hand!

Beginning February 25 - Lenten Lunches



What Sunday Lenten Lunches
When February 25 - March 24
Time 11:15am Fellowship Hall
(after Growing Connections)

**Please sign up at the
Welcome Center.**

Attendance

Please sign up if you plan to join us. (Name and number of people in your group for each week you plan to attend. If you forgot to sign up, you can still join us.)

Food

You are welcome to bring a main dish, side dish or dessert. (You do not need to bring anything to join us.)

If you have any questions, please contact: Nancy Hilbert, Melissa Hierl, Deb Cooley.

We hope you can join us!

February 28 - Loaves and Fishes



We will be serving Loaves & Fishes on Wednesday, February 28 from 4:00-6:00 pm at the Church of Peace (158 S. Military Rd). 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. Please bring desserts to the First Presbyterian church by 3:00pm on February 28.

Along with the meals, we will be sharing hats, gloves, scarves, socks and blankets. Those items may be added to the basket in the Narthex of First Presbyterian Church.

Thank you to everyone who helps us serve the community in need.

Please Be Advised:

Scam emails and phishing are an ever-present danger in our society.

Please be cautious when opening an email from a strange email address, or from someone you don't know.

PYA = Presbyterian Youth Association

Basic info: PYA is for students in the 5th-12th grade.

Purpose: To get to know Jesus Christ and have lots of fun!

February 4th

Souper Bowl of Caring

Announcement in Worship

February 11th

Souper Bowl of Caring- Moment for Mission

Collect offerings for the Fond du Lac Food
Pantry following worship.

February 11th 1:00pm

Volunteer at the Woodlands

Woodlands Building 77 Wisconsin American
Drive at 1:00-2:00 pm. (Parents can pick up
at the same location 77 Wisconsin American
Drive at 2:05 pm.) Please let me know if you
are planning to attend or if you have any
questions. Please bring a PYA permission
slip.

February 18th 1:00-5:00pm

Tubing at Sunburst -We will leave the
church parking lot at 1:00pm. Please
arrive by 12:45pm. We will leave
the Sunburst parking lot at 4:00 pm,
returning to the church parking lot at
4:45 pm.

Everyone (adults, youth, and kids)
is welcome to attend. Any non-PYA
children attending must be accompanied by
an adult.

**The cost is \$23 per person-
RSVP to Jennifer at the church office for
the registration link and information.**

February 18 - Tubing

PYA (First Presbyterian Church Youth Group) and Boy Scout Troop 702
will be Tubing at Sunburst on **Sunday, February 18.**

We will leave the **church** parking lot at 1:15pm and leave the
Sunburst parking lot at 4:00pm. We should return to the church
parking lot at 4:45pm.

Everyone (adult, youth and kids) is welcome to attend.

RSVP to Jennifer by Thursday, February 9th.
The cost is \$23.

(In case of inclement weather, we are rescheduled for Sunday, February 26th.)



Thank You - from the Angel Tree Team



Rejoicing for our Angel Tree Mission! Our Angel Tree is tucked away and the packages are safely delivered to Head Start. 2023 was joyous year for the kids and families who received our many gifts. Our congregation once again shared in their joy by giving so generously and lovingly to the children who benefit from them.

We had Families A through O. We had a total of 50 children: 22 girls and 28 boys, and one parent on our list. Every child, from 7 months to 17 years, had a request for fun things: toys, games, and learning/drawing projects. Dinosaurs were quite popular. Twenty-two girls and twenty-two boys had requests for shirts and pants, four asked for pajamas. Plus there were 19 requests for shoes, 7 for snow boots, 5 for coats, and one for snow pants. There were many other items, too many to list, all very much appreciated by parents and children.

Jenny Dehn, the Director at Head Start, stated “we can never tell you how much these gifts are appreciated. They make a BIG DIFFERENCE and bring so much fun for the kids and happiness for the parents too.” We feel the same. By sharing our love with Head Start children, at the time of the birth of the Christ Child, we receive blessings too.

Thank you for supporting the Angel Tree Mission again this year.

Alternative Gift Fair

The Serving Team would like to thank those who donated to the 2023 Alternative Gift Fair. Your gifts to each Mission follow:

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance - \$440
- St. Katharine Drexel Shelter - \$1070
- S.A.L.T. (Serving and Learning Together) School tuition for 2 students - \$245

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,
The Serving Team

Joy Offering

The Serving Team would like to thank those who donated to the 2023 Joy Offering. The amount donated was \$654.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

The Serving Team

Hats, Mittens, Gloves, Scarves, Socks, Blankets



We are collecting hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and even socks! Blankets have also been added to the list.

We will take them to Loaves and Fishes and the Warming Shelter.

It's cold in Wisconsin. Please help those in need to be a little warmer. The recipients are so very grateful.

We are accepting donations through February 28.



HOPE ON THE BLOCK

Hope on the Block is 100% volunteer run and relies on donations from the community. You can still donate to the organization. There is a donation box in the Narthex. Thank you for your continued support.



What is Per Capita?

In the Presbyterian Church USA system of governance, each member of the congregation is assessed a *per capita* amount to support the work of the church through its three governing levels.

The per capita money is divided as follows:

Winnebago Presbytery	66%
Synod of Lakes & Prairies	14%
General Assembly	20%

The *per capita* covers the cost of operating these three separate entities, various committees, and commissions, along with funding the annual General Assembly Meeting.

Our Session has supported this assessment as an appropriate way to assist in helping to meet the needs of our denomination.

The per capita for 2024 is \$38.00 per church member. First Presbyterian Church will pay this amount regardless of whether you contribute \$38.00. Please note that per capita is separate from your usual donation or tithe.

You can pay your per capita amount in the following manner:

Check (Write Per Capita on the memo line.)

Electronically (Click [here](#) to go to Online Giving.)

Thank you for prayerfully considering the opportunity to help First Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church USA system. We appreciate your support.

Feed My Starving Children

*Your donation will
make a huge
difference!*

\$106 feeds a child for a year
\$424 feeds a family for a year
\$2,255 feeds a classroom of
children for a year
\$12,000 feeds a village



Ongoing Opportunities

Every Saturday - Table Tennis

Don't forget! We have Table Tennis every Saturday from 9:00am-Noon. All skill levels are welcome.

Join us to get a little exercise and have a lot of fun.

Every Wednesday - Men's Breakfast

Every Wednesday, men of the church meet for breakfast at Pump 'n Pantry (329 W. Pioneer Rd., FDL).

It's a relaxed atmosphere with coffee in hand and friends around the table. Why not join the group?

Every Wednesday - Bell Choir Rehearsal

Every Wednesday, the Bell Choir rehearses at 4:30pm.

It's not too late to join them. If you have any questions please contact Joann M.

Inclement Weather

Please check one of 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 WFRV



Loaves and Fishes 2024

4:00-6:00pm

February 28

May 15

September 18

December 18

Blood Drive 2024

2:00-6:00pm

April 29

July 29

October 29

December 16

Growing Connections for February

February 4

Sermon Discussion

Sermon Discussion is an opportunity to discuss the scripture passages. Facilitators help to create an atmosphere where participants can explore their thoughts and feelings about the issues and topics presented by the scriptures of the day. Anyone who wants to enjoy an open and caring environment for exploring their faith is welcome.

February 11

Ronald McDonald House

Have you ever wondered why the church collects pop tabs? Join us to learn about the Ronald McDonald House. Collecting pop tabs is an easy way to help with their mission of reducing the burden of childhood illness on children and their families.

February 18

Intergenerational Activities

Daily Life Practices / Daily Habits

Pastor Craig will be sharing some insights he learned from his doctoral research.

February 25

Low Vision Awareness

February is low vision month. Join Brian Conran, MD, and Jodi Anderson as they provide information about low vision - causes and strategies to help prevent and cope with vision loss.



Homemade Brunch

February 18 11:00am-12:00pm

Tickets

Adults	\$7.00
Children (6-12 years)	\$4.00
Children (5 & under)	FREE

Tickets must be purchased on or before February 12.

Menu

Homemade Cinnamon Rolls
Homemade French Toast Strata
Fresh Fruit
Scrambled Eggs
Bacon/Sausage
Assorted Beverages
Coffee, Tea, Milk, Orange Juice

April 6 - Feed My Starving Children

Every year millions of children die from preventable diseases such as pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria, and malnutrition. Today, hunger still causes nearly half of the deaths in children under 5 years old.* This is heartbreaking. As followers of Christ, we are called to respond.



One way we respond is through a Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) MobilePack™. Once again, the event will be held at the Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds, on April 6. Our community will be responding to the cries of those in need by producing 132,192 nutritious meals for God's children around the world.

We invite you to join us! We're looking for 600 volunteers to pack meals and help us raise \$38,800 for our MobilePack event. Adults and children (5 years and older) will measure and scoop ingredients, seal bags and prepare boxes for shipping. To help us meet our \$38,8000 fundraising goal, please consider making a special offering. (Or check with us for creative fundraising ideas for groups or organizations). Registration will open on March 5 at give.fmsc.org/fdl

Submit donations on our website [here](https://give.fmsc.org/fdl) or at FMSC give.fmsc.org/fdl (find our event, click 'Get Involved' and 'Donate Now') or mail a check to:

Feed My Starving Children ATTN: MobilePack #2404-032SC
401 93rd Avenue NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

*(Checks should be payable to **FMSC**,
memo line MobilePack # 2404-032SC.)*

To learn more, please contact the Serving Team or Jennifer in the church office. Thank you for your heart to serve God's kids around the world.

[*UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2021 Edition](#)



The fund-raising campaign called "Pave the Way" (for our parking lot) is going strong. Check the poster, in the Narthex, to see our progress.

Remember:

- 50% of the cost is being requested from our members.
- 50% being is being covered by funds from Endowment.

Prayerfully consider donating to the campaign. A new parking lot will help our church look as beautiful on the outside as it does on the inside.

You can place your donation in the offering plate or drop it off in the office. (Please mark your gifts with "Pave the Way" so we can keep track of your donations.) You can also donate online [here](#).

May God's blessings be with everyone helping us achieve our smooth ride to and from our church each week.



Family and Youth Camp

Are you interested in attending a summer camp?

Daycholah Center (Green Lake) and

Moon Beach (St. Germain) are two great camps that offer a wide range of activities for people of all ages. Campers can enjoy swimming, canoeing, crafting, making new friends, and much more. If you want to learn more or register for the camp, you can check out the United Church Camps, Inc. website www.ucci.org.

If you wish to apply for financial aid, please fill out the Presbytery Campership Application. It is available in the church office or on Presbytery website <https://irp.cdn-website.com/e28033c9/files/uploaded/Camp-Scholarship-Application.pdf>. Please leave the "amount your church can pay" line blank. Drop off the form in the church office as soon as possible. The Presbytery may provide approximately one quarter of the cost. Our church's contribution will be determined based on the number of applicants.

Scholarships are also available from First Presbyterian Church. Our church has established a process for applying for a scholarship (campership) for Church Camps. Campership Applications are on the table outside the office or here [Campership Form](#). All campership applications must be submitted for consideration to the Campership Committee.

Please return all forms to the church office.

Star Words or Gifts

Is your Star Word visible for you to see each day? What have you learned about your Star Word?

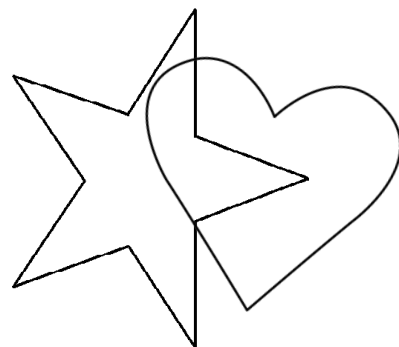
During Growing Connections, on December 31, we discussed and chose star words. As a reminder, January 6, is Epiphany - is a day in the liturgical calendar when we celebrate the magi's arrival to Jesus. The Gospel of Matthew tells us the arrival of the magi, a noble group of people, studied stars and knew when a new one appeared. The star guided them to the place of Jesus' birth.

The use of Star Words, also called "Star Gifts," is a prayer practice connected to Epiphany and the new year. This type of prayer practice has been growing in popularity, in Protestant churches, for more than a decade. Star Words are meant to direct us and guide our year - just like the bright star guiding the magi so many years ago.

The idea is that a list of intention words, or guiding words, are written or printed on paper stars. This activity allows us to pick out a star that will guide each of us throughout the coming year. Star Words can instantly make sense to us, or be a bit of a puzzle, or a mystery to us.

- Listen as people talk to you, as you watch TV/movies as you read, and pay attention to how, when, and how often your word comes up in the world around you.
- Look up your word. Write the definition in a journal if you're keeping one. Do any of the synonyms stand out to you for any reason?
- For February, cut out a paper heart and write your star word on that. Hang it where you see it often.

Do you still need to pick out a Star Word? Stop by the church office.



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MODEL TRAIN SHOW

An annual event - not to be missed!

April 13 10:00am-4:00pm
April 14 10:00am-2:00pm

Free Admission
Food sold by the First Presbyterian Youth