

Information @ Church

May Deacon of the Month
Gail Kamphuis

May Elder of the Month
Sue Baker

May 1, 2024

Declarations from Pastor Craig

May 19 is Pentecost Sunday, the day the church retells the testimony of the Holy Spirit coming on the disciples with mysterious power. *Please wear red to worship that Sunday.* Many refer to Pentecost as the birthday of the Church, and have put too much focus on what we've called the "results" of that moment: "God brought about three thousand people into the community on that day" (Acts 2:41b CEB). We have failed to focus on the command Jesus gave to the disciples in preparation for this event: "Look, I'm sending to you what my Father promised, but you are to stay in the city until you have been furnished with heavenly power." (Luke 24:49 CEB) This was the focus of our worship on April 14th – *Waiting and Watching*. In that sermon I said, "Waiting and watching is a way of being together as persons, attending to one another, listening to God's stories, listening to each other's stories, our stories of loss and death and turning them over to God." This will be a recurring theme this summer. As the staff and leadership teams are starting to plan for the summer events it will be helpful to reflect on where God has been leading us so far in our shared journey.

One of the foundational aspects of my sermons, and hopefully my life in general, is an increasing awareness of how we all frame our lived reality, how we view our lives. It should be less about what you or I do (human agency) and more about what God is doing (God's agency.) We tend to view the church and our faith lives through categories created by modern science, sociologists, and psychologists. We also tend to view life as being transactional in nature, which then turns people and relationships into commodities to be traded or controlled. We have become unfamiliar with the biblical categories of being God's people, humbly living together in community. Even the biblical concept of community has been lost to the self-serving perspective of our modern world. (Stay tuned! This will be the focus of our May 12 worship.)

In our journey together so far, we've named the importance of keeping our focus on God's promises and regularly engaging with one another and God's word. God's love is encountered through moments of pain and suffering and we need to learn to recognize "resurrection encounters" in the everyday and ordinary. This includes learning how to share our stories of fear, pain, grief, and loss; how to embrace our mortality and celebrate death that brings forth new life through God's transforming power; how, through confess we can turn our "little death experiences" over to Christ in exchange for new life.

We've been reminded that encountering God's love is experiencing the mystery of God's transcendence, the mystery of God's inbreaking presence, through the experience of being ministered to by another. The key to being able to understand the mysteries of God and the mysteries of being God's people is in our connections to one another and to God. This will be the focus of our worship services as we close out our journey through the Easter season, celebrate Pentecost, and prepare for all God is preparing for us this summer. I hope you will continue to gather together for worship to deepen our connections and enrich our life together.

In closing, I leave you with the words of Hebrews 10:19-25 (CEB): "Brothers and sisters, we have confidence that we can enter the holy of holies by means of Jesus' blood, through a new and living way that he opened up for us through the curtain, which is his body, and we have a great high priest over God's house. Therefore, let's draw near with a genuine heart with the certainty that our faith gives us, since our hearts are sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies are washed with pure water. Let's hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, because the one who made the promises is reliable. And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near."



May 19 - Calling All Graduates!!!!

On Sunday, May 19th, we will be recognizing our graduates, both high school and college. Join us to add your blessing and congratulations, to the students as we celebrate this important event in their lives.

Please let us know if you are graduating so that you may be included in this special service. Please call the church office at 920.922.0425 and let us 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!

May 12th

Mother's Day - celebrate mom with your family.

May 15th 4:00-6:00pm

Loaves and Fishes - Church of Peace (158 S. Military)

If you are available to help prepare, serve, or clean up after the meal anytime between 4:00-6:00pm contact Jennifer. We want to make sure that we have enough volunteers.

May 19th 1:00 -2:00pm

Volunteer at the Woodlands -We will play Bingo!

Woodlands Building (77 Wisconsin American Drive). Parents can pick up at the same location at 2:05pm.

Please let me know if you are planning to attend or if you have any questions.

Please bring the PYA permission slip for the Woodlands if you have not already returned to Jennifer. (Remember you only need one slip through June.)



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.



DID YOU KNOW?

The loose money in our offering plate goes towards our Radio Ministry.

May 5 - Worship /Communion



As is our custom, on the first Sunday of the month, we will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion.

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

May 8 - Women in Faith

If you're interested in meeting new people and having a good time, you might want to check out Women in Faith on Wednesday, May 8 from 5:30-7:30 pm.

We will share a light meal and then enjoy some fun fellowship time with a craft activity. We are having a Salad Potluck. If you have time, you can bring a dish to pass.

We have two craft activities for the evening: a snappy hand towel (please bring a kitchen hand towel) or a hand labyrinth.

Women in Faith meets one evening a month from 5:30-7:30pm. It is open to women of all ages, and everyone is welcome. Bring a friend for even more fun! See you there!



May 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.

Where	Grace Christian 1596 4th St, Fond Du Lac, WI
When	May 9
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.

May 15 - Loaves and Fishes



Join us in making a difference in the lives of those in need by volunteering for the Loaves and Fishes meal on Wednesday, May 15. We will be serving meals from 4:00-6:00pm at the Church of Peace (158 S. Military Road).

We need volunteers to help us prepare, serve, and clean up after the meal. If you have the time and energy to spare, please consider reaching out to the office to sign up.

We are also accepting dessert donations for the meal. Every contribution counts, so if you're able to provide desserts, please bring them to the First Presbyterian church before 3:00pm on May 15th.

Thank you in advance to everyone who can help us serve the community in need. Together, we can make a meaningful difference and impact the lives of those in our community.

May 17 - Cribbage



Join us for Cribbage on May 17. 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!

May 19 - Growing Connections

Asylum: The Changing Face of Migration to the US

What is happening at the border?

What is causing migration, and how can we have a productive national conversation on this crucial topic?

In "Asylum: The Changing Face of Migration to the US," Kat Griffith will present a four-part narrative. She will:

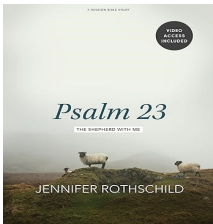
1. Provide a brief history of migration in the last 30+ years, using data from Customs and Border Patrol (expect to be surprised!).
2. Share stories of asylum seekers she has known and worked with.
3. Provide scenes from the southern border.
4. Give a snapshot of migration patterns today and the policy challenges we face.

Kat has a diverse background, including many years as a Spanish-English interpreter for immigrants and asylum seekers, a number of years living and working in Latin America, and a background in public policy, economics, and communications.

During the presentation, there will be opportunities to discuss what our faith asks of us, and how to discuss this issue respectfully despite political differences.



Tuesdays - Through May 21 - Bible Study



Join us for "Psalm 23, The Shepherd with Me" bible study by Jennifer Rothschild. There are more than seven sessions! You'll gain fresh insight and encouragement from Psalm 23.

Please purchase the book, with video access, from your favorite vendor. (It's available on Amazon and other vendors, as well.)

When Tuesdays 5:45 – 7:00pm
Through May 21

Where ZOOM

A link will be sent on Tuesdays earlier in the day. The meetings will be recorded.

If you have any questions, contact Wendy Peachey: vickrn@hotmail.com or 920- 296-0240 (text or call).

May 22 - Mental Health Presentation



May is Mental Health Month. NAMI Fond du Lac and the Fond du Lac Police Department are hosting a presentation featuring the Police Department's Co-Response Team. The Co-Response Team is comprised of a mental health professional and police officer. Together they respond to individuals in our city who are in crisis and in need of mental health resources.

The presentation will be held on Wednesday, May 22, at the City of Fond du Lac's PD's Community Room at 6:00pm. If you are interested in attending, please contact Mary Ellen.

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

May Adult Growing Conncetions

May 5 Sermon Discussion

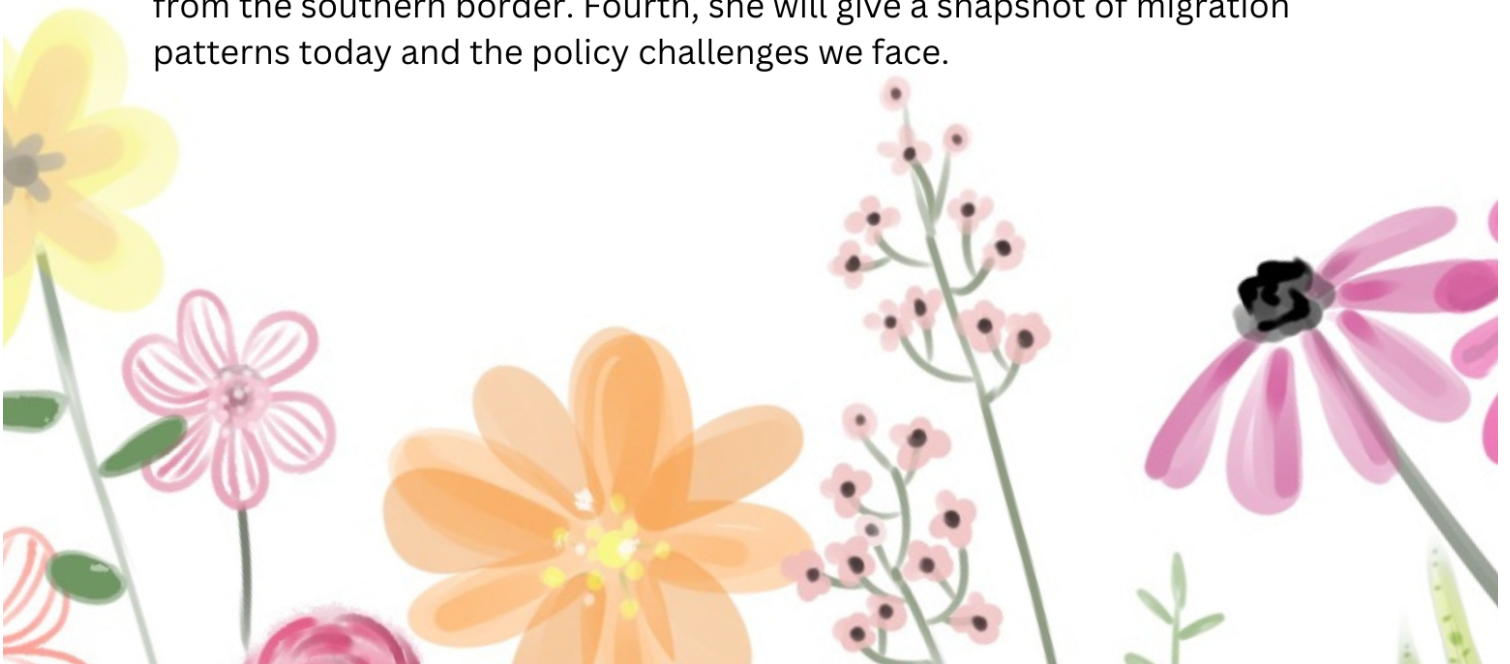
Sermon Discussion is an opportunity for discussion of the scripture passages. Facilitators help to create an atmosphere where participants can explore their thoughts and feelings about the issues and topics presented by the scriptures of the day. Anyone who wants to enjoy an open and caring environment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

May 12 Celebrating Women

On May 12th, we will celebrate the special women in our lives! All of us have a special woman, mother, grandmother, favorite aunt, or friend in our lives who has truly made a difference to us or inspired us in some way. We would like to hear your 'story' and honor these women. Bring a picture, if you like, or just come to share your story as a tribute to each of them. Please join us, during Fellowship time, on this special day!

May 19 Asylum: The Changing Face of Migration to the US

What is happening at the border? What is causing migration, and how can we have a productive national conversation on this crucial topic? In "Asylum: The Changing Face of Migration to the US," Kat Griffith will present a four-part narrative. First, she will provide a brief history of migration in the last 30+ years, using data from Customs and Border Patrol (expect to be surprised!). Second, she will share stories of asylum seekers she has known and worked with. Third, she will provide scenes from the southern border. Fourth, she will give a snapshot of migration patterns today and the policy challenges we face.





Thank You for Your Support of the FMSC MobilePack Event

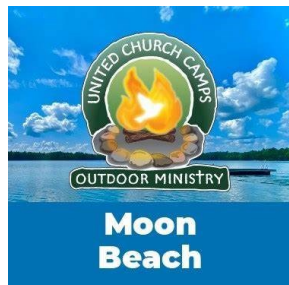
The community-wide MobilePack event was a huge success! Over 12 churches in the Fond du Lac area came together to raise funds and pack food for those in need in faraway places. We want to express our sincere gratitude to all those who participated, whether it was through prayer, donations, or your helping hands. Through your generosity, God's faithfulness has been evident.

We're pleased to announce that we packed a total of 139,192 meals, thanks to the efforts of 500 volunteers (including 49 from the First Presbyterian Church!). These meals will feed 362 children for an entire year.

- 360 Boxes – That's 77,760 meals that will feed 213 kids for a year. They went to Nicaragua with the FMSC partner Cross Catholic (<https://crosscatholic.org/>)
- 252 Boxes – That's 54,432 meals that will feed 149 kids for a year. They went to Togo with the FMSC partner Reach Now International. Reach Now International reaches orphans, refugees, internally displaced people, those affected by war, governmental situations, poverty, persecution and other natural conditions and calamities with the gospel and practical help. RNI has distributed FMSC meals in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central America, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East to serve these populations. You can read more [here](#).

We met our fundraising goal of \$38,800, which will cover the cost of food ingredients. You heard God's call and responded overwhelming. We praise God for this. Thank you! Any additional funds we received will be used for the 2025 MobilePack.

We're grateful for the opportunity we had to come together as a community and serve God by working to feed children around the world. We ask that you continue to pray for the safety of those who will deliver meals to FMSC partners around the world, and for guidance and protection for those partners of FMSC who will go to great lengths to get the food to the people and communities who need it most. Lastly, please continue to pray for the children who will receive the meals, that this food replenishes their bodies and spirits.



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 (available in the church office or on Presbytery [website](#)) leaving the "amount your church can pay" line blank. Drop it off 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.

Camp scholarships are also available from First Presbyterian Church. First Presbyterian 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. 6

Wishing Kris the very best as she transitions to a new chapter in her life.

Update from Kris

As I journey into semi-retirement, I wish to express my thanks to all of you for the kind words and the renewal of commitment between us as we move forward. The month of May was granted as a transitional time off that will allow time for Personnel to sort through the process of job descriptions and for me to explore various ways churches are engaging members in worship as well as personal reflection and renewal.



Ongoing Fellowship 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).

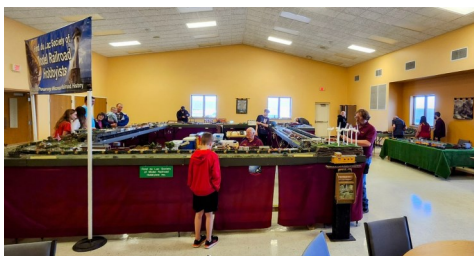
It's a relaxed atmosphere with coffee in hand and friends around the table. It's a great way to start your Wednesday.

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 Joanne M.

Train Show Thank You!



PYA would like to thank those who supported the train show fundraiser on April 13-14. We appreciate your generosity in purchasing food and making donations. We raised \$263.07 to help support youth missions.

We would also like to thank the youth and parents who helped serve, cook, and clean. Thank you also to Anderson family, Clarenbach family, Hayes family, and the Klopp family. A special thank you to Mary R., Jolene S., and Jennifer for making sloppy joes and bakery items.

Again, thank you for all your support of our youth activities. We are so appreciative!

Thank You - Nursery TV

A special thanks to Ruth Holstein for her approval and support to purchase the TV in the nursery.

Money from the Steve Holstein Memorial Fund was used to buy it.



Thank You - Mulch Distribution

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who participated in spreading mulch throughout the church grounds on Monday, April 22. Thirteen people turned out with rakes, shovels and even a tractor. All this help totaled well over 30 volunteer hours.

A special thank you goes to Orv Kamphuis who provided his tractor. We worked hard but it was also a great time of fun, fellowship, and fresh air.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help beautify our church grounds:

Orv Kamphuis
Larry Johnson
Ray Timm
Linda Neville
Ken Preuss
Wendy Peachey
Jolene Schry
Bill Kuespert
Paul Zoschke
Ted Miller
John Christie
Les Mier
Dave Weber

Building and Grounds Committee



Women in Faith Craft Project

Dragonflies made from Wire Whisks - Very Clever



May 9 - Women's Night Out



The guest speaker won't be available.

PAVE the Way

The beginning of the 'Pave the Way' project. Trenching under the parking lot to insure that rain water and melting snow flows away from the building and the pavement without covering the parking lot causing unnecessary wear and tear.

Paving is expected to begin the about the tenth of June.

PAVE the Way Donations

