

Information @ Church

September 2024

Prayer

In the midst of several recent conversations, I have heard people longing for us to have a more structured prayer ministry. The comments have ranged from formal prayer chains to prayer services to officially training Stephen Ministers. I truly believe that a thriving congregation is intentional about maintaining a very robust prayer ministry.

One [blog article from Breeze](#) (our church's database software company) shared the story of a large congregation that "had hosted a 4am Tuesday prayer service since its inception, and it was surprisingly very well attended. Yes, you read that right – 4am." While not everyone might be excited to gather weekly at 4am, prayer is important, even critical! Jesus regularly went off alone to pray to his Father. The disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, and he answered (see Matthew 6 and Luke 11.)



There are already many ways we engage in prayer. We have a prayer list in the bulletin and newsletter for people to be in prayer for one another. Every church meeting opens and closes with prayer. Some members meet during the week in various locations around Fond du Lac to pray. And, you may have noticed, each Sunday a small group of people, including those leading worship that day, gather by the sanctuary entrance about 8:50 am to pray for the service.

If the Holy Spirit has been placing a passion for prayer on your heart, and you are willing to commit to regularly meeting to pray, please let me know so together we can discern what intentional prayer ministries God might be calling us to explore and embrace.

In Christ,

Pastor Craig



Book Study – “*Slow Church*”

Pastor Craig invites you to join him for an 11-week book study using “*Slow Church*” by C. Christopher Smith and John Pattison. Although this book was published a decade ago, it has only increased in relevance as our society continues to speed up and is increasingly encouraging a hyper-individualist perspective. *Slow Church* has become a staple in theological classrooms and has helped many congregations become more attentive to God and re-discover the life-giving power of cultivating authentic community.

These 90-minute gatherings will be hosted at church on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 pm and Wednesday mornings from 10:00-11:30 am. They will start on September 17/18 and run through the last week of November. Each participant will need a copy of the book – a limited number of copies are available in the office.

For more information, please talk with Pastor Craig.

Confirmation Class 2025

The Confirmation program here at First Presbyterian Church is open to all youth 8th grade and above. This is an exciting step in one’s faith journey. When children are baptized, the congregation and parents agree to raise the child as a follower of Jesus Christ. Now it is time for these young people to explore making that decision for him or herself. The congregation, represented by their parents, Faith Partners, and the teaching team, will support, guide, and pray for them as they seek an understanding of what it means to be an **active Christian**. At the end of the process, the confirmand will express their faith in an individual statement of faith and may request the status of active member from the Session.



If you are interested in finding out about this program please join us in an informational meeting on **Wednesday, September 25 at 7pm.**

We will talk about the expectations of the class.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer or Pastor Craig.

Pennsylvania Church Offers Community a ‘Fresh Start’

The local laundromat was Linda’s chapel. It was where she first shared a prayer concern that had been weighing heavily on her mind — and on her family’s heart — to say nothing of their budget.

At the time, Linda was dealing with stage 4 cancer.

She confessed to the pastor and volunteers from the [Presbyterian Church of Waynesboro](#), Pennsylvania, who were gathered around Linda and her daughter, “Since I got sick, my washer and dryer can’t handle the volume of blankets and bedding.”

The cost of doing laundry was driving Linda’s family and other families deeper into poverty. And so began the church’s “Fresh Start: Loads of Love” laundry outreach program, funded in part by a grant received from the [Presbytery of Carlisle](#)’s portion of the [Peace & Global Witness Offering](#). [The presbytery grants](#) empower congregations and individuals to become peacemakers in their communities and in the world.

Traditionally received on World Communion Sunday, the Peace & Global Witness Offering is unique in that half of it is directed to peacemaking and global witness efforts at the national church level to address critical justice issues around the world. Twenty-five percent is retained by our congregation for peace and reconciliation work, and twenty-five percent is kept by mid councils for similar ministries on the regional level.

“The Waynesboro church’s laundry outreach program exemplifies the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s longstanding commitment to peacemaking,” said the Rev. Wilson Kennedy, the PC(USA)’s associate director for Special Offerings and Appeals. “Even the simplest tasks, like washing clothes for those on the margins of our communities, helps sow seeds of peace like Jesus commands us.”

And following Jesus’ commandments is integral to the mission of “Fresh Start.”

The Rev. Caroline Vickery says, “We know that Jesus makes it clear that how we treat the vulnerable is how we treat Jesus. Most of our members are college-educated, literate and middle-class. Our laundry outreach has put them in touch with a world whose hardships they’re unaware of. It comes as a shock for people to realize how costly doing your laundry can be and to know that people can’t use their SNAP benefits to buy detergent, cleaning supplies or personal hygiene items. Not being able to keep yourself clean robs people of their dignity. There’s something restorative about knowing that people will be able to be their best selves. That’s why we call it ‘Fresh Start.’ It’s a chance to start over.”

“There are many other small churches who want to improve the lives of people in their communities so that the love of God can be made visible through their ministries,” Vickery said. “By giving to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, people can help other small churches make God’s love real — in their town and around the world.

And as we always say, when we all do a little — it adds up to a lot! Please give generously.

Let us pray~ God of Peace, even the simplest acts of love and care for another person are counted as peace to you. Thank you for showing us the way of peace in the person of Jesus, and walk with us as we work to sow seeds of peace in our world through our gifts. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

SEPTEMBER GROWING CONNECTIONS - ADULT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAYS 10:15-11:15AM IN THE PARLOR

September 1 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.

September 8 Alternative Gift Fair

Growing Connections will be offering information on the Alternative Gift Fair. This is your opportunity to learn about the program and give your input regarding the programs you would like to see supported. Three are picked, one local, one national and one international. If you have a charity or community program of interest to you, please join us to share your thoughts.

September 15 Slow Church

Pastor Craig will share a brief introduction of the upcoming 11-week book study using *"Slow Church"* by C. Christopher Smith and John Pattison. Although this book was published a decade ago, it has only increased in relevance as our society continues to speed up and is increasingly encouraging a hyper-individualist perspective. Slow Church has become a staple in theological classrooms and has helped many congregations become more attentive to God and re-discover the life-giving power of cultivating authentic community.

September 22 Marshfield Church

Growing Connections will have presenters from the First Presbyterian Church of Marshfield here regarding their recent installation for solar panels at their church. They will discuss the project installation, financing the project as well as the expected outcome from this project on September 22, 2024.

September 29 Lighted Cross

The Lighted Cross on the top of our church building is a comforting site for many. For those viewing it from a hospital room or driving down 4th Street, it serves as a beacon of hope. It is a more recent addition to the church building. Join Winifred Caramanidis as she shares the story of the Lighted Cross adorning the top of our church building.



**September 1 - 9:00am
Worship /Communion**

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

All who accept the invitation to the Table are welcome. The meal is provided, not because we have earned the right to eat and drink with Jesus, but simply as an act of divine love.



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

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

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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. Come join the discussion in the Parlor.

Church Office Closed
Monday, September 2



**September 8 10:15-11:15am
Alternative Gift Fair**

Growing Connections will be providing details about the Alternative Gift Fair. This is your chance to get information about the program and provide your input regarding the ministries you would like to see supported. Generally three organizations will be chosen: one local, one national, and one international. If you have a charity or community program that interests you, please join us to share your thoughts.

**September 8 10:15-11:15am
PYA Youth Group Planning**

Youth and Adults are welcome to join the discussion and planning for the PYA (Presbyterian Youth Association aka Youth Group)

PYA is open to all youth grades 5 to 12. Bring your ideas and your calendars.

**September 11 5:30-7:30pm
Women in Faith**

If you are interested in meeting new people and having an enjoyable time, you might want to check out the Women in Faith gathering on Wednesday, September 11th.



We will share a light meal and then enjoy some fun fellowship time with a craft activity. Salads are on the menu. Bring your favorite salad and recipe to share.



For the craft we will create Denim Angels and Trees. Please bring old jeans if you have them. We have foam cones. RSVP so we will have supplies available.

Women in Faith meets once a month for an evening of fun, devotion, and games or crafts. If you can bring a dish to pass, if not just bring yourself and join the fun. The group is open to women of all ages, and everyone is welcome, so feel free to bring a friend along!

September 15 10:15-11:15am Kick Off Sunday

Join us for an exciting "Kick-Off" Sunday as we mark the beginning of an inspiring and faith-filled year of Sunday School. There will be engaging activities for the whole family along with valuable information about upcoming events.

Our theme for the year is "F.R.O.G: Fully Rely on God," and it will guide our activities throughout the year.

We need your help for this year of Sunday School. It's easy and enjoyable to get involved! You don't need teaching experience or extensive knowledge of the church to join our team. Many find that teaching enhances their understanding of the Bible and our faith. It's a wonderful opportunity for parents to share experiences with their children, and for adults who don't usually work with children to gain a fresh perspective on life.

We are looking for Teachers/ Assistants for various groups:

Nursery (Infant through age 3)

Primary (Preschool to 2nd Grade)

Grade School (3 to 5 Grades)

Middle School (6 to 8 Grades)

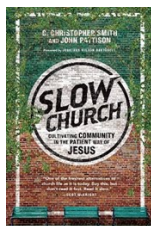
High School (9 to 12 Grades)

Your involvement will make a meaningful difference in the 2024-2025 school year.

September 15 10:15-11:15am Slow Church

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September 15 1:00-2:00pm PYA at the Woodlands

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!



Sunday, September 15 from 1:00-2:00 pm PYA will volunteer at the Woodlands Senior Center. Weather Permitting we will walk around the pond.

Meet at Woodlands Building (77 Wisconsin American Drive) from 1:00-2:00pm. Parents can pick up at the same location (77 Wisconsin American Drive) at 2:05pm. Remember to bring a permission slip. Contact Jennifer with any questions.

September 18 4:30-5:30pm Handbells



Handbells will start this fall on Wednesday, September 18th at 4:30pm They will meet in the music room off the narthex. For any questions or more information please contact Joanne jomarchionda@me.com.



**Where: Church of Peace
158 S. Military Rd**

When: Sept. 18

Time: 4 – 6 PM

Join us as we serve the Loaves and Fishes meal on Wednesday, September 18 from 4-6 pm. If you can help prepare, serve, or clean up, please reach out to the office. Dessert donations are always needed. Thank you for helping us serve the community in need.



Hope on the Block

Donations are always welcome for this volunteer organization.

Non-perishable Food

Toilet Paper

Toothbrushes/Toothpaste

Shampoo/Conditioner

Body Wash/Soap

Sunscreen

Deodorant

Feminine Care

Tissue

First Aid / Band Aids

Chapstick

Combs/Brushes/Hair Ties

Every Wednesday - Men's Breakfast



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



Enjoy a relaxed atmosphere with a freshly brewed cup of coffee in hand and good friends gathered around the table. It's the perfect way to kick off your Wednesday.

September 20 7:00-9:00pm Cribbage



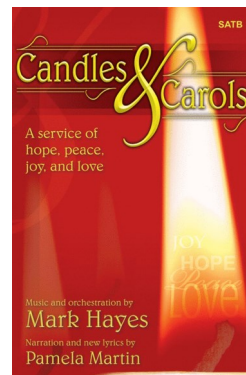
Get ready for an exciting game of Cribbage on September 20th at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Join us for an evening filled with fun, friendship, and fellowship. Bring your favorite drink and get ready to enjoy complimentary snacks.

Don't worry if you've never played before - our experts will be there to teach you! It's the perfect time to learn a new pastime and make new friends.

Christmas Cantata Candles & Carols by Mark Hayes

Depending on interest and willingness to commit. Plans are being made for the Christmas Cantata this year to take place on Sunday, December 22nd at 3pm. Rehearsals will begin on Sunday, October 27 through Sunday, December 15th from 3:00 – 4:30pm.



MP3s or CDs will be available to each part. To sign-up, please click on the link below. Warm-ups will include learning 4-part harmony for the opening Christmas Carols for our Advent Services. An additional opportunity will be assisting in leading at least one of our Christmas Eve services. Rehearsals and performance are open to all members and non-members, ages high school and above.

If you have any questions please contact
Kris Bartelt, Worship Coordinator
kbartlet@fdlpresbyterian.org

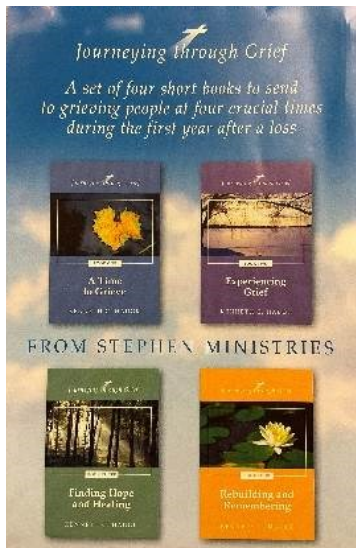
To sign-up please click [here](#).

To share the sign-up form copy and paste this link
<https://fdlfirstpresb.breezechms.com/form/5c2491>

Journeying through Grief

Journeying through Grief is a set of four short books to send to people at four crucial times during the first year after losing a loved one.

The easy-to-read chapters are written in a warm and caring style. The books are written to connect with the reader's journey through grief, sharing helpful insights about grief, biblical truths, and stories that provide comfort and reassurance.



A copy of the books is available for checkout in the Narthex just outside the Parlor. If you would like more information, please contact the church office or a member of the Loving Team.

Prayer Requests

If you or someone you know would like to be added to our prayer list, please [click here](#) to complete an online form. or contact the church office.



Prayer request cards are available in the Prayer Box located in the Narthex, in the church pews, or online ([click here](#)). You can place your prayer request in the offering plate or the lock box at the church office door. For electronic prayer requests, please complete the form and click submit.



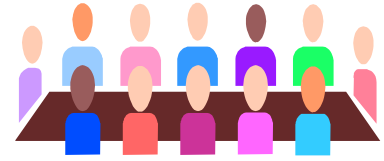
thank you!

Thank you to those who remembered me with prayers, cards, food, visits and phone calls as I was recovering from my knee surgery.

Recovery is going well and I'm looking forward to being back in church.

Judy Dassow

The New Freedom Group



For over 10 years the AA group has been meeting in the First Presbyterian Church. In Person meetings are held on Tuesday evenings at 6pm.

The 4th Tuesday of the month is an Open Meeting. There is an Open Speaker Meeting every Quarter March, June, September, & December.

Alcoholics Anonymous®

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to Les M. or the church office.



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.

Sunday, September 15

We'll be outdoors in the pavilion!

9:00am – Worship Service
Blessing of the New Drivers
Dedication of the Parking Lot

10:15am – Fellowship Time and Activities



Outdoor Worship Service



Outdoor Fellowship Time

Sunday, September 15 following worship service

The Loving Team will provide a special treat as a heartfelt thank you to all who have contributed to make our time together each week meaningful.

Hope you can join us!

GETTING CONNECTED:

Office Phone

920.922.0425

Office Email

fdlooffice@fdlpresbyterian.org



Website

www.fdlpresbyterian.org



Facebook

[First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac](#)



YouTube

[First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac](#)

CHURCH STAFF

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Treasurer

Judy Dassow

Assistant Treasurer

Dave Weber

Custodian Assistant

DEACONS

Judy Dassow*

Gail Kamphuis

Orv Kamphuis

Stuart Kastein

Mary Ellen McMeen

Kim Miller

Kay Mullins

Phyllis Munson

Wendy Peachey

Carol Smith

Lew Smith

Amber Summeril*

* denotes Deacon Moderators

ELDERS ON SESSION

Dave Erickson

Clerk of Session

Mary Bacon

Deacons, Personnel,
Presbytery Delegate

Susan Baker

Worship

Laurie Christie

Serving, Nominating

Debbie Cooley

Loving

Todd Hayes

Learning, Nursery

Larry Johnson

Buildings & Grounds

Joanne Marchionda

Worship Team, Nursery

Terry Rehn

Buildings & Grounds

Mike Warntjes

Endowment, Finance,
Personnel

September

Deacon of the Month:

Lew Smith

Elder of the Month:

Mike Warntjes