

Information @ Church

October 2024



Congratulations Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin on celebrating
18 years of Ordination.

Keep givin' em Heaven.

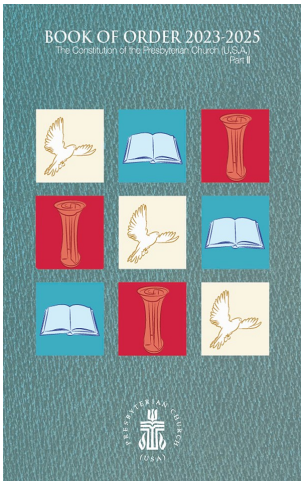
Your Session met for a training retreat on Saturday, August 3rd. One of the main discussion areas was about the structure of our Teams going forward. I have heard much inconsistency and confusion about how we are to be living out the current team structure of the church. The Book of Order does not use the term “teams” within the Presbyterian Church, only committees and commissions are recognized.

G-3.0109 Committees and Commissions (Book of Order)

Councils may designate by their own rule such committees and commissions as they deem necessary and helpful for the accomplishment of the mission of the church, and may create such structures jointly with other councils, in consultation with the next higher council. In appointing such committees and commissions councils shall be mindful of the principles of unity in diversity consistent with the provisions of this Constitution (F1.0403, G-3.0103).

A committee shall study and recommend action or carry out decisions already made by a council. It shall make a full report to the council that created it, and its recommendations shall require action by that body. Committees of councils higher than the session shall consist of both ministers of the Word and Sacrament and members of congregations, in numbers as nearly equal as possible.

A commission is empowered to consider and conclude matters referred to it by a council. The designating council shall state specifically the scope of the commission’s powers and any restrictions on those powers.



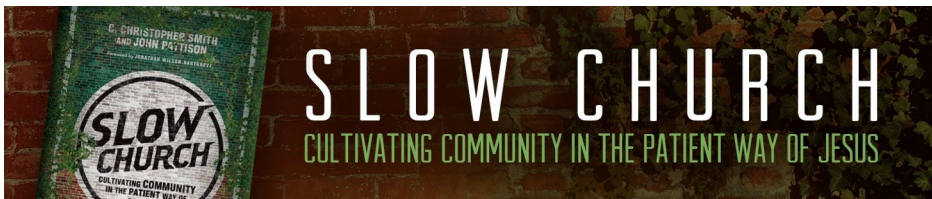
I presented two possible structures, one showing how things are currently functioning and another showing the way it was originally planned to be following the Lombard Peace Process event. The strengths and weaknesses of both structures were discussed, and your Session decided to not make a hasty change and postponed any action until the September Session meeting.

At the September 16 regular Session meeting there was further discussion. ***It was moved, seconded and ordered to stay functioning as we currently are but to re-label all current teams as committees and enter into a time of discernment with the congregation regarding the mission of FPC in order to determine how the church should best be organized.***

I am working on what the details of this time of discernment might be. It will be rooted in scripture, structured by our constitution, and fleshed out according to our local context. I am thankful for the great foundational work that has already been accomplished through the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center process in 2016-17 and the Congregational Mission Study in 2022. During this next time of discernment, I’m expecting grace will be offered to those of us who use the terms “Team” and “Committee” interchangeably, knowing the underlying meaning of either one is the definition of “committee” as stated in our constitution, the Book of Order.

Serving Together in Christ,
Pastor Craig





Book Study – “Slow Church”

SLOW CHURCH: Cultivating Community in the Patient Way of Jesus

By C. Christopher Smith and John Pattison

All are still welcome to join the Slow Church book study! We have only covered the first few chapters, and it will be easy to catch up. Here are some key points quoted in the book for you to get a glimpse of the seeds that are being planted.

The International Slow Food Movement was formed as an act of resistance against fast life... inspired by a rally against the opening of a McDonald’s near the Spanish Steps in Rome... Slow Food has inspired other Slow campaigns. (12)

There are four dimensions of the “McDonaldization” of the church: efficiency, predictability, calculability, and control - or at least the illusion of control. (13-14)

Slow... is about making real and meaningful connections – with people, culture, work, food, everything. (13)

Many churches, particularly those driven by church growth, models, come dangerously close to reducing Christianity to a commodity that can be packaged, marketed, and sold. Instead of cultivating a deep, holistic discipleship that touches every aspect of our lives, we’ve confined the life of faith to Sunday mornings, where it can be, kept safe and predictable, or to a “personal relationship with Jesus Christ,” which can be managed from the privacy of our own home. Following Jesus has been diminished to a privatized faith rather than a lifelong apprenticeship undertaken in the context of Christian community. (14)

Slow Church... is a way of reimagining what it means to be communities of believers gathered and rooted in particular places at a particular time. (15)

Slow Church is more than a consumerist experience. It goes beyond just offering people a safe haven on Sunday morning from the storms of fast life. Slow Church is a way of being authentically connected as coproducers to a Story that is as big as the plant (bigger) and as intimate as our own backyards. (20)

You can’t franchise the kingdom of God. (41)

The primary work of Slow Church is not attracting people to our church buildings, but rather cultivating together the resurrection life of Christ, by deeply and selflessly, loving our brothers and sisters, our neighbors, and even our enemies. (33)

Members often feel tremendous pressure to conform to the mold of model Christian carefully prescribed by the leadership and church culture. These churches almost always have a “come and see” mentality that limits church life to the four walls of a sanctuary rather than a mission that moves into the neighborhood. (49)

As Leslie Newbiggin and others have noted, the emphasis in scripture is not on numbers but on faithfulness. (50)

What we’re advocating is that we live more deeply into the ordinary patterns of our lives, considering and talking with others in our church about how and why we do the things we do. (Slow Church study guide, 48)

October 6 - 9:00am World Communion Sunday

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 first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world.

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](#).

October 6 50 Year Member

Join us in celebrating of our 50 year members Mary B. and Kathy G.! That is fifty years of faith, service, and friendship.



We are so thankful to have them be a part of our congregation!
Please join the reception following the worship service.

October 6 10:15-11:15am 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.

October 6 Peace & Global Witness Offering



The Peace and Global Mission Offering was created in 1980 to support efforts of the Presbyterian church USA to live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking as part of our faithfulness to God.

The offering is usually received on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday in October. A portion of the offering stays in our local community and the balance of the funds go to the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and other initiatives. This offering provides a way to contribute to the work of peacemaking in our community, region and world.

There are envelopes in the pews to be used for donations. If you donate by check please indicate in the memo "Peace and Global Mission offering. You can also donate by going to the church's website.

fdlpresbyterian.org/giving/



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

OCTOBER ADULT GROWING CONNECTIONS SUNDAYS 10:15-11:15AM

October 6 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.

October 13 Organizational Structure

Join members of the Session for a discussion the structure of our "teams" and how we work together to live out our calling to be the body of Christ at this time and place.

October 20 Make a Difference a Stitch at a Time

The Incarceration and Rehabilitative Programs offered at the Taycheedah Correctional Institution will be shared at the October 20 Growing Connections offering. Programs from community service to trauma informed care will be discussed. Come learn about Wisconsin's only female correctional facility in Fond du Lac County and how you can help make a difference a stitch at a time.

October 27 Reformation Sunday

Presbyterians celebrate their faith tradition on Reformation Sunday, which falls on the last Sunday in October. This day is celebrated by Presbyterians to mark the beginning of their faith and the posting of Martin Luther's 95 thesis on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany, in 1517. Come join the discussion and learn more about Martin Luther and John Calvin and how the Protestant way of thinking challenged the status quo of the existing church.

Confirmation Class

Our 2025 Confirmation Class will begin this month. We have four eighth-grade students starting this exciting first step in their faith journey.

When children are baptized, the congregation and parents agree to raise the child as a follower of Jesus Christ. Now these young people are exploring that decision for themselves. Please keep the class in your prayers as they begin their faith journey.

Sunday School 10:15-11:15am



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

Sunday School – PreK-12th grade classes use the curriculum *Feasting on the Word*. The curriculum aligns with the lectionary, allowing the classes to explore the same scripture passages that are read during the church service on that day.

- Nursery (Infant through age 3)
- Primary (Preschool to 2nd Grade)
- Grade School (3rd to 5th Grades)
- Middle School (6th to 8th Grades)
- High School (9th to 12th Grades)



BLOOD DRIVE

GIVE THE GIFT OF BLOOD THIS FALL

Fall Into Giving

First Presbyterian Church BLOOD DRIVE!

**Monday
October 14**

2:00 pm – 6:00 pm



LOCATION:

First Presbyterian Church Hall
1225 4th St., Fond du Lac

DONATE & RECEIVE: As a thank you, all attempting donors with a valid email will receive a \$5 off \$15 Cousins Subs coupon.

MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT: Appointments are highly encouraged. Secure your spot by visiting the link below, scan the QR code, or call 877.232.4376:

tinyurl.com/2dwps33z



versiti™

Blood Center of Wisconsin



Give blood by 10/16 to be entered into our America's Superstar Ticket Sweepstakes for a chance to win 2 floor tickets and a \$500 Visa gift card to Taylor Swift's Eras Tour*: Versiti.org/AmericasSuperstar
Terms & conditions apply.

October 9 Women in Faith 5:30-7:30pm

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, October 9th from 5:30-7:30 pm. We will share a light meal and then enjoy some fun fellowship time with a craft activity. The meal will be a Sandwich Bar. Bring your favorite sandwich fixings, side, or dessert to share. For the craft we will create fall cards and decorations.

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 Women in Faith “Jean” Trees.

October 18 7:00-9:00pm Cribbage

Join us for an exciting game of Cribbage on October 18 at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.



It will be an evening filled with fun, friendship, and fellowship. Please bring your favorite drink and get ready to enjoy complimentary snacks.

Never played before? No problem! Our seasoned players will be on hand to guide you through the game. Don't miss this perfect chance to learn a new pastime while mingling with new friends.



Cuba Mission Trip Experience

We were blessed to hear Kat Alwin share her mission trip experience to Cuba with us in August. You can learn more about her mission experience through this [article published in the Florida Baptist Convention](#).

October 10 - 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 1596 4th St, Fond du Lac, WI
When	October 10
Open	4:30-6:00pm to Volunteer
Donation	\$25.00 Cash Only

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.



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, Oct 6

11:30 am – 1:00 pm Lunch and Activities

Spaghetti is on the menu for lunch.

Sunday, Oct 20

11:30 am -12:45 pm Lunch and Activities

1 pm Volunteer at the Woodlands

Woodlands Building 77 Wisconsin American Drive at 1-2 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 the PYA permission slip for the Woodlands if you have not already returned to Jennifer.

Sunday, Oct 27

TBD Depending on “Nature” SPIN

Or Nov 10

Serving People in Need

We are going to rake lawns for people who need help. If you are in need of assistance with your lawn, please contact the church (920.922.0425). Everyone is welcome to help. If you would like to help rake please RSVP to Jennifer jzanderfdlpresbyterian.org so that we can make plans.

Saturday, Nov 2

Fright Fest Great America TBD watch for more information

Saturday, October 26

Trick-or-Treat at Woodlands!

Parade your Halloween costumes for the Senior Citizens at Woodlands Senior Park!

Bring your friends and parents, too! Halloween Candy



will be provided in the Dining Rooms from 12:15 pm to 12:45 pm.

October 27 11:30 - 2:00pm Deacon Training

Pastor Craig and Deacon Co-Moderators Amber and Judy will lead training for current and newly elected Deacons.

The office of Deacon is a ministry of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ. Our Deacons have many wonderful ways in which they live this out in our community.

Please pray for them, that they may care for our congregation.

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.



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



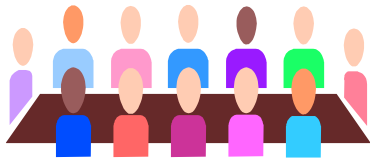
Many thanks to those of you who donated to the "Back To School Shop." Through your generous donations, the church was able to send \$1425.00 to the organization. Along with other churches and area businesses, "Back To School-FDL" was able to help 2,429 youth this year. Thanks again for donating to this worthy cause.

thank you!



Place New and Gently Used Coats in the Collection Box in the Narthex. Coats for children and adults are needed.

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.

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

Prayer Requests

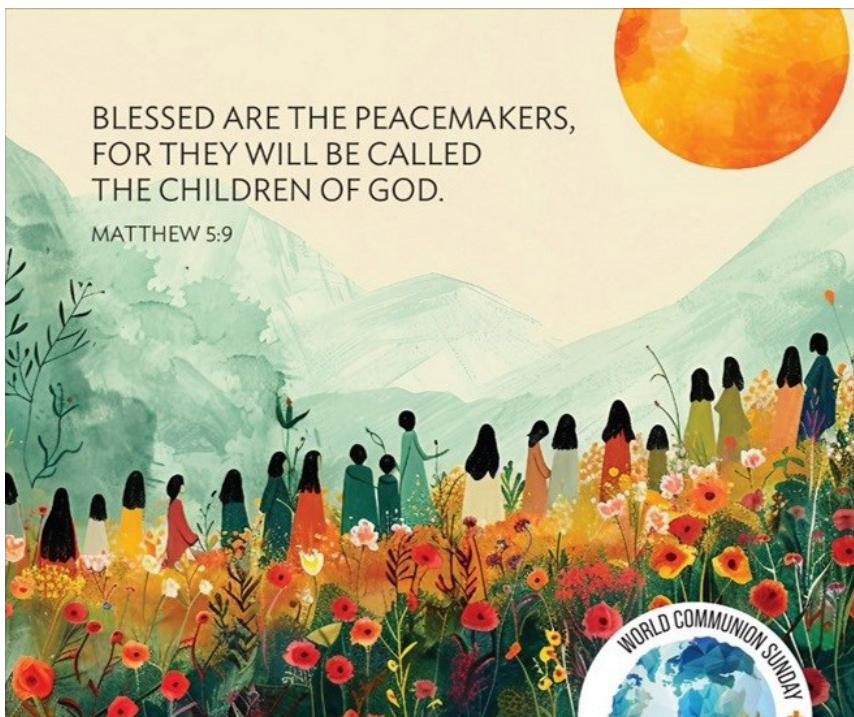
If you or someone you know would like to be added to our prayer list, please [click here](#) to complete an online form. or contact the church office.



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.



Caution: In today's digital world, scam emails and phishing attempts are prevalent and can pose a serious threat to your online security. It's crucial to be extremely vigilant when encountering emails from unfamiliar sources to safeguard your personal information and privacy.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

**Offering collected through
October 6.
Please give generously.**

25% of the offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community.

25% of this offering goes to our mid-council to join with other congregations to support peacemaking work in our region.

50% of this offering supports the work being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

 PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION
SEPTEMBER 8- OCTOBER 6, 2024

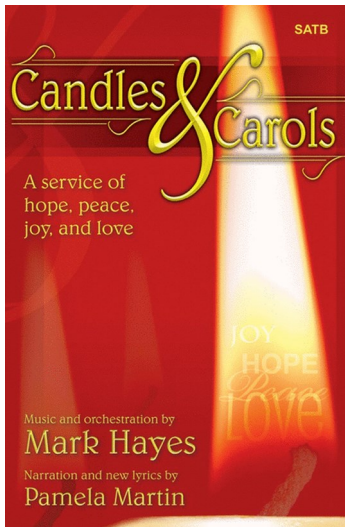


Peace begins with each of us.

Christmas Cantata

At present we have 18 people signed up to sing in the Christmas Cantata entitled “Candles & Carols” by Mark Hayes.

Rehearsals are set to start on Sunday afternoon on October 27 at 3:00pm.



For more information and our sign-up form see our website post by clicking here <https://fdlpresbyterian.org/2024/09/10/christmas-cantata-2/>

Books, CDS and mp3 files will be available starting October 6.

Any questions please contact our Worship Coordinator at kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org

Christmas Eve Services

On Tuesday, December 24 we will have two services.

Worship Committee is planning a family-oriented service at 5:00pm which will include First Presbyterian’s version of the Moravian Love Feast with milk and cookies.

Our second service at 7:00pm will be a more traditional service with lessons and carols.



Wreath Sale

Boy Scout Troop 702 will be selling Christmas Wreaths in the month of October for delivery around Thanksgiving.



The proceeds from the wreath sale will be used to support troop activities and equipment.

Information and order forms are in the church office. Adorn your house with a beautiful wreath and support Troop 702.

Christmas Karaoke

Between the two Christmas Eve services from 6:10 to 6:50pm Worship Committee is planning an OpenMic/Christmas Karaoke time in Fellowship Hall. This event will begin with the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus together.

Perhaps your son/daughter/grandson/granddaughter is learning Jingle Bells on kazoo, we would love to hear it.

A sign-up sheet will be made available for anyone wishing to play or sing Christmas music (piano will be available).

Time between selections will be Karaoke Christmas Music sung by all. Watch for more details as the time draws near.

Wednesdays 4:00-5:00pm Handbells



Handbells practice on Wednesday from 4:00pm to 5:00pm in the music room off the narthex. For any questions or more information please contact Joanne jomarchionda@me.com.

GETTING CONNECTED:

Office Phone

920.922.0425

Office Email

fdlooffice@fdlpresbyterian.org



Website

www.fdlpresbyterian.org



Breeze Subdomain:

FDLFirstPresb



Facebook

[First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac](https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchFondDuLac)



YouTube

[First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac](https://www.youtube.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchFondDuLac)

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin

pastor@fdlpresbyterian.org

Jennifer Zander

Director of Christian Education

jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org

Kris Bartlett

Worship Coordinator

kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org

Mary Robotka

Financial Assistant

mrobotka@fdlpresbyterian.org

VOLUNTEER STAFF

John Neville

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

October

Deacon of the Month:

Amber Summeril

Elder of the Month:

Larry Johnson