
The Presbyterian Post

November 2024

The Lighted Cross

The lighted cross on the top of the church building is a comforting site for many. It serves as a beacon of hope for those viewing it from a hospital room or driving down 4th Street. It is a more recent addition to the church building.

Winifred Caramanidis recently shared the story of how the cross adorning the top of our church building came to be.

The lighted cross on top of the Sanctuary was a gift from G. Ward and Marie Laiten. Ward was a pilot who found comfort in the sight of a cross on top of a church, as it reminded him of being guided home. Ward and Marie had hoped to place a cross on the church, but Ward passed away before it could happen. In his honor, Marie and the family chose to donate the cross. Permission was obtained by the Session, a structural engineer was consulted, and the cross was designed by Flyway Sign & Lighting.

The cross measures 12 feet by 6 feet and has a reverse LED light channel. It was installed in the spring of 2014 and dedicated on May 11, 2014. Ward and Marie hoped the cross would be a symbol of hope for everyone, whether traveling on the ground or in the air. You can see more pictures and information in the Narthex display.



Surviving the Holidays

The holiday season is here, bringing a focus on family, traditions, social events, and cheer—all of which can trigger difficult emotions. Whether it's your first, second, or tenth holiday without your loved one, the emotions that arise in the coming days can catch you off guard.

Just as road signs help navigate unfamiliar paths with rough patches and curves, "Surviving the Holidays" provides guidance for this holiday season. You will find support and direction to navigate the holidays in a healthy way.

This resource offers encouragement and practical tips for the days ahead. With these tools, you can not only survive the holidays but also approach them with a sense of peace and assurance.



First Presbyterian Church 1225 4th Street Fond du Lac
To Register: 920.922.0425 or fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org



Thanksgiving is nearing, and we're excited to continue our mission of providing holiday food bags for individuals and families at the Fond du Lac County Department of Community Programs (DCP) who have at least one member with a mental health diagnosis. The individuals we serve face severe and persistent mental illnesses. Some attend the Day Treatment Program, while others find support through Outreach

Workers in the community. All recipients rely on SSI (Supplemental Security Income) and Medicaid, living at or below the poverty line in various housing situations.

Our mission ensures these individuals and families receive food not only on Thanksgiving but also for leftovers, lightening their burdens in a meaningful way. We lovingly pack bags with Thanksgiving staples like turkey, canned goods, potatoes, rolls, and desserts, each accompanied by a heartfelt note wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving from First Presbyterian. In 2023, we provided food for 10 singles and 4 families, totaling 15 individuals (8 adults and 7 children).

If you'd like to join us in this uplifting work through shopping, transporting, sorting, or bagging, please sign up on the Welcome Center in the Narthex. You can also make a financial donation to support this mission. Please mark your monetary gift accordingly and place it in the offering plate or drop it off in the church office. Hope you can join us on Monday, November 25th at 9 AM at Festival Foods. For questions, contact the church office or Mary Ellen.

**November 3 - 9:00am
Worship with 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](#).

**Don't forget to set
your clocks
November 3**



**BACK ONE HOUR ON
SATURDAY NIGHT!**

**November 3 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.

**Congregational Meeting
November 10 at the close
of worship**



There will be a congregational meeting to approve the 2025 Terms of Call for Pastor Craig.



We are going to rake lawns for people who need help on November 10. If you are in need of assistance with your lawn, please contact the church (920.922.0425) or

jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org

Everyone is welcome to help. If you would like to help raking please RSVP to Jennifer

jzanderfdlpresbyterian.org

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
NOVEMBER ADULT GROWING CONNECTIONS
SUNDAYS 10:15-11:15AM

November 3 Sermon Discussion

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November 10 Life in South Africa

Join us as Elfrieda and Gerhard Pretorius share about life in South Africa.

November 17 Adult Day Service

Come and learn about a valuable resource in our community: Adult Day Services, sponsored by SSM Health. If you have a loved one who needs care or supervision during the day, we invite you to attend and learn more about the services they offer.

November 24 Gratitude and Traditions

As we approach the season of Thanksgiving, it's the perfect time to reflect on the importance of gratitude in our lives. Join us as we take time to appreciate the blessings in our lives, thank God for all that we have, and share with others your favorite holiday traditions.

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)



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, Nov 10

SPIN- Serving People in Need
11:15 Quick Lunch-pizza

11:45– 2:45pm SPIN

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 jzanderfdl@presbyterian.org

Sunday, Nov 17

11:30 am -12:45 pm Lunch and Planning Happy Birthday Jesus Party

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.

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.

November 13 5:30-7:30pm Women in Faith

If you are interested in meeting new people and having an enjoyable time, check out the Women in



Faith gathering on Wed, Nov 13 from 5:30-7:30 pm. We will share a light potluck meal and then enjoy fun fellowship time with a craft activity. The meal sign up is on the Welcome Center in the Narthex or click here for [a Food Sign-Up Sheet](#). For the craft we will create snowmen. Please bring a glass saltshaker, and hat/

mittens. Everyone is welcome, feel free to bring a friend. Contact Jennifer or Jolene with any questions.



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)

TV

Channel 2 WBAY
Channel 5 WFRV



November 15 7:00-9:00pm Cribbage

Join us for an exciting game of Cribbage on November 15 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.

November 14 - 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	November 14
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.

Welcome New Members



Richard and Trista B
Evan and Jessica S
Taylor D and Bennot D



November 24 - Alternative Gift Fair

The First Presbyterian Church Alternative Gift Fair is an easy and meaningful way to bypass the annual stress of holiday shopping and “stuff” accumulation. Instead, you can honor friends and relatives by donating to causes that fit in their values.

What’s more, the Alternative Gift Fair provides critical support to six ministries important to the outreach and mission of our church:

- Heifer International
- Feed My Starving Children Fond du Lac MobilePack
- Samaritan’s Purse-Funds to go to hurricane relief
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance-Funds to go to the Southern United States
- St. Katharine Drexel Shelter
- Damascus Road Project

Giving alternative gifts simplifies Christmas with gifts that give hope in our community and throughout the world.

How Does it Work?

We will be offering information regarding each of these organizations during "Moment of Mission" during worship services in November and December. There will also be a display in the Narthex with information regarding each of these organizations.

Beginning November 24 and running through December 29, information will be available in the Narthex highlighting the work of the four organizations featured in this year’s Alternative Gift Fair.



<https://standrewslebanon.org/online-alternative-gift-fair-options/>

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**



Peace & Global Witness Offering

The Peace and Global Mission Offering was received on World Communion Sunday, Twenty-five percent of the the offering stays in our local community and the balance of the funds go to the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

The Serving Committee discussed which local charity to support with 25% of the funds collected for the Peace and Global Mission offering. It was decided that this year, the chosen charity would be the Damascus Road Project.

The Damascus Road Project is a 501(c)(3) organization that operates locally to assist individuals who have been victims of human trafficking.

The final donation amount will be announced once all contributions have been collected. Thank you to everyone for your generosity in donating.



First Presbyterian Church Blood Drive

Thank you for your support of the First Presbyterian Blood Drive on Oct 14. We had 12 Donors that will help 36 patients in Wisconsin.

thank you!

Warming Shelter Meal

We will be preparing a meal for the warming shelter on Thursday, December 5. The warming shelter is located at 73 E. 1st Street, Fond du Lac.



We will serve 30 people for dinner and morning snack. Food, in disposable

containers, needs to be at the shelter between 5:00 pm and 5:15pm. The shelter has their own serving utensils.

A sign-up sheet is located at the Welcome Center, in the Narthex.



The Coats for Kids box is overflowing. Thank you to all who donated!!

Hope on the Block



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

Loaves and Fishes

Where: Church of Peace 158 S. Military Rd

When: December 18 Time: 4:00 - 6:00PM

We will be serving a carry-out meal Loaves and Fishes again on Wednesday, December 18 from 4-6pm 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.

Desserts can be brought to First Presbyterian Church until Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 3pm.

We will be sharing hats, gloves, scarves, underwear and socks with meals. Those items may be dropped off at any time on the tree in the narthex. Thank you to everyone who can help us serve the community in need.

Contact the church office if you can help us out on the 18th or if you have any questions.

Lanyard Sale

The Worship Team purchased lanyards and gave one to each new driver that was recognized at the outdoor worship service in September. The lanyards are also given to new members and to college students.

There are extra lanyards so if you would like to purchase one for \$5, please contact anyone on the Worship Team or the church office.

Monies go toward banner stand materials and in-ear monitors.

Thank you for your support.

November 28 -

Happy Thanksgiving

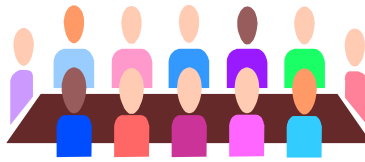
We are so very thankful for you. Enjoy your day with family and friends.

The church office will be closed.

SCAM! Alert!

Caution: In today's digital world, scam emails and phishing attempts are common and can seriously threaten your online security. It's essential to remain vigilant when you receive emails from unfamiliar sources to protect your personal information and privacy.

The New Freedom Group



For over 10 years, the AA group has been meeting at the First Presbyterian Church. In-person meetings take place every Tuesday evening at 6 PM.

The fourth Tuesday of each month is designated as an Open Meeting, and there is an Open Speaker Meeting every quarter in March, June, September, and December.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Les M. or contact 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



Congratulations to our 50 Year Members

Kathy G. and Mary B.

Angel Tree Gift Giving

Our Yuletide mission to support children and families at our local Head Start began in the 1990s. Through the year, we have continuously provided clothing, toys, household items, and gift cards. Last year, we shared gifts with 42 children and a single parent.

This year, the Angel Tree and gift list will be available on Sunday, November 17th. We will once again use an online sign-up for gifts. You can access the sign-up via the computer in the Narthex, and the link will also be included in the Wednesday Updates. If you need assistance, please contact the church office.

The gifts listed on the request slip are suggestions for what you might want to purchase for your recipient. You are not required to buy everything listed. The Head Start staff provides these options, so if one toy is unavailable, there are additional choices listed to ensure the child receives gifts that match their interests. Please be mindful of age-appropriate gifts.

If shopping is not convenient for you, consider making a monetary donation. These can be given directly to the church through the offering plate, the church office, or electronically. Please label these donations as "Angel Tree." Monetary contributions will be used to purchase gifts from the Angel Tree list.

Unwrapped gifts should be placed under the Angel Tree with the appropriate label (letter/number) securely attached. Labels will be available near the Angel Tree for this purpose. Please return all unwrapped gifts by Sunday, December 15th.

There are many opportunities to help:

- Set up tables and organize sorting of gifts.
- Sort and organize gifts to be taken to Head Start.
- Label, check, and pack gifts.
- Deliver gifts to Head Start on December 15th or 16th.

The Blessing of the Gifts will take place at the end of worship on December 15th. This is a wonderful way to celebrate the blessings we receive when we give gifts, both to the Christ Child and to children in need of love. Thank you for your continued support of our community through this meaningful mission. Each year, families express their gratitude for our generosity and care.

Thank you,
The Serving Team

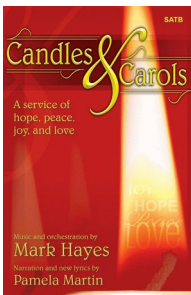


Christmas Cantata

It is not too late to join in the fun experience of singing in a Christmas Cantata.

This year we are rehearsing on Sunday afternoons at 3pm in Fellowship Hall.

The Cantata is entitled "Candles and Carols" by Mark Hayes. Our director is Devin Scherck and our accompanist is Kristina Arellano.



Come be a part of this joyful event. Performance will be Sunday, December 22 at 3pm in the afternoon.

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.

Christmas Poinsettias

Remember to honor and remember loved ones and special people in your life this Christmas season by sharing a Christmas poinsettia.

A small poinsettia is \$15 and a large one is \$28. These beautiful flowers are a symbol of the holidays and serve as a lovely reminder of our loved ones' presence in our lives. They will be a part of our beautifully decorated sanctuary during the holiday season.



Order forms are available in the narthex. Orders are due by December 1 to be included in the Christmas Eve Bulletin. Poinsettias can be picked up following the 7 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service.

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.

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.

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

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Jennifer Zander

Director of Christian Education

jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org

Kris Bartlett

Worship Coordinator

kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org

Mary Robotka

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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

November

Deacon of the Month:

Judy Dassow

Elder of the Month:

Todd Hayes



Poinsettia Order Form

Poinsettias will be ordered for the holiday season and placed in the sanctuary. Please return your form and payment to the church office. Orders must be received by December 1.

Name _____

Email _____

· In Honor of _____

· In Memory of _____

· In Celebration of _____

_____ Small Poinsettia \$15.00

_____ Large Poinsettia \$28.00

_____ Yes _____ No I will be picking up my poinsettia after 7pm Christmas Eve worship.

Office

Date Paid _____ Amount _____

Cash/Check _____ Pick Up: Y N

