

February 23, 2025; 9:00 am
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

We Gather Together

Welcome to today's Service of Worship. Whether you are with us in person, joining us live on zoom, watching on our YouTube channel, or listening on KFIZ, we are glad you are here. For those in person, please use the time before worship to fill in the Friendship Pad in your pew. We extend a special welcome to our visitors, and if you have not already received your welcome gift, please pick one up as you leave the sanctuary after worship.

Prelude: "Praise and Thanksgiving" *arr. by Dale Wood & Paul Manz*

Welcome & Announcements *Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin*

Ringling of the Bell and entrance of the Light of Christ

***Call to Worship** *Dave E., Liturgist*

Come and learn the ways of life.

We have come to follow Jesus.

Love your enemies, and do good to those who hate you.

We have come to follow Jesus.

Bless those who curse you, and pray for those who persecute you.

We have come to follow Jesus.

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

We have come to follow Jesus.

Come and learn the ways of life.

***Opening Prayer**

Inexhaustible source of love and life, be with us in our time of worship as we seek the love it takes to walk in the ways of your Son. Help us love our enemies and bless those who wrong us, for we cannot do so alone. Teach us the joy of treating others with all the same respect and goodness with which we hope to be treated. May our every word and deed make known that we are your beloved children and vessels of your love. Amen.

***Sung Response: GTG 702 "Christ Be Beside Me"**

Elise C. & Joanne M. Cantor

***Call to Confession**

Dave E.

The God revealed to us in the pages of scripture is a welcoming and inclusive God who directs us to love one another. We seek to remove all the barriers that keep us from that love. Come now to confess all that separates you from others and from God.

***Prayer of Confession**

Dave E.

Teacher of hard truths, it is difficult to let go of our anger toward those who prosper through deceit and unscrupulous ways; it is not easy to make ourselves believe that the meek will inherit the earth, when they are being crushed by the unjust systems stacked against them. We long to see the vindication of the righteous and the prosperity of those who work selflessly to bring your realm here on earth. We yearn for the day when all people will treat one another as they wish to be treated. Help us live into that day, Holy One, even when it is difficult, that your love might shine like the sun through our lives and our ministries.

Silent Confession

(In the silence of our hearts we confess our sins to God.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayers. Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

When we treat others as we would have them treat us, Jesus calls us beloved children of the Most High. If God is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked, how much more will God be kind to those who love the Lord and seek to live the Golden Rule? Rest in this assurance and be at peace, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Sharing God's Peace**

Let us be known as children of the Most High by sharing God's love and grace with all as we pass the peace of Christ.

The Peace of Christ be with you! **And also, with you!**

*(Please share the Peace of Christ with those around you using the ancient formula 'The Peace of Christ.' 'And also, with you.' Please be mindful of those who do not wish to shake hands or be too close. **We encourage you to use this time to send a text or emoji to someone who cannot be here.**)*

***Sung Response: GTG 581 "Glory Be to the Father"**

God's Word Is Proclaimed

Psalm Reading: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 (Common English Bible)

page 510 in the pew Bible (NRSV), page 691 (CEB)

Don't get upset over evildoers;
don't be jealous of those who do wrong,
because they will fade fast, like grass;
they will wither like green vegetables.

**Trust the Lord and do good;
live in the land, and farm faithfulness.**

Enjoy the Lord,
and he will give what your heart asks.

**Commit your way to the Lord!
Trust him! He will act
and will make your righteousness shine like the dawn,
your justice like high noon.**

Be still before the Lord,
and wait for him.

**Don't get upset when someone gets ahead—
someone who invents evil schemes.**

Let go of anger and leave rage behind!
Don't get upset—it will only lead to evil.

**Because evildoers will be eliminated,
but those who hope in the Lord—
they will possess the land.**

In just a little while the wicked won't exist!
If you go looking around their place,
they won't be there.

**But the weak will inherit the land;
they will enjoy a surplus of peace.**

The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord;
he is their refuge in times of trouble.

**The Lord will help them and rescue them—
rescue them from the wicked—and he will save them
because they have taken refuge in him.**

Gospel Reading: Luke 6:27-38 (Common English Bible)

page 64 in the pew Bible (NRSV), page 1253 (CEB)

“But I say to you who are willing to hear: Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on the cheek, offer the other one as well. If someone takes your coat, don’t withhold your shirt either. Give to everyone who asks and don’t demand your things back from those who take them. Treat people in the same way that you want them to treat you.

“If you love those who love you, why should you be commended? Even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, why should you be commended? Even sinners do that. If you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, why should you be commended? Even sinners lend to sinners expecting to be paid back in full. Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend expecting nothing in return. If you do, you will have a great reward. You will be acting the way children of the Most High act, for he is kind to ungrateful and wicked people. Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate.

“Don’t judge, and you won’t be judged. Don’t condemn, and you won’t be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good portion—packed down, firmly shaken, and overflowing—will fall into your lap. The portion you give will determine the portion you receive in return.”

Children’s Time

Jennifer Zander

Sung response: GTG 753 “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

Sermon: “Love Your Enemies”

Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin

We Respond to God's Word

Moment for Mission: Blood Drive

Laurie C.

The Practice of Gratitude

In response to God's Word and remembering all things come from God, we offer with thanks a portion of that which God has entrusted to us. The ushers will collect God's tithes and our offerings. For those who have given in other forms, there are cards in the pew racks that you may use as a tangible action of gratitude to God. No matter what we return to God in material forms, may we spiritually place our hearts, and our very lives, in God's hands, to be re-shaped for ministry in Christ, furthering God's kingdom here on earth.

Offering Music: "Sanctuary"

arr. by Carol Tornquist

***Offertory: GTG 607 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

***Offertory Prayer**

Prayers of the People

Anna J* (Katy J. mom)	Gib D.	Marty P.
Arnold L.	Carol D.	Paige T.
Bob & Ollive B.	Pete D.	Pass Family
Brian C.	Jesse F.	Pat D.
Chastity G. & Joan S.	Joan K.*(Marcus A. mom)	Pat M.* (Bonnie H sister)
Corinne C.	Kathy A*(Kevin B sister)	Paul W.
Danielle B.	Kathy G.	Qualine S.* (Jodi A mom)
Darren B.	Liam A.	Sherry M.
Dick and Maryann*	Lynn M.	Steven B.*(Kevin B nephew)
Elias B.* (Laurie C grandson)	Marie L.	

The names in **bold** are new to the prayer list. The names with an asterisk (*) are not church members. However, a church member has received permission to ask that they be lifted in prayer. Prayer request cards are available in the Prayer Box 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. If you have a pastoral concern, that happens before or after office hours, please call the office (920.922.0425), press #2 for Pastoral Care.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.

***Sung response: GTG 697 "Take My Life" v. 5 & 6**

***Charge and Benediction**

Go with God's blessings.

As followers of Jesus, we will love our enemies and do good to those who hate us.

Go with God's blessings.

As followers of Jesus, we will bless those who curse us and pray for those who persecute us.

Go with God's blessings.

As followers of Jesus, we will do unto others as we would have them do unto us.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, go with God's blessings!

Postlude: "Take My Life and Let it Be"

arr. by Albert Beck

WEEKLY STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY 16,2025

Individuals in Person: 80

Zoom Households: 10

<u>DATE</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
2/16/25	\$468.00	Tithes/Offerings
	\$685.00	Special Offerings
2/10-14/ 25	\$561.00	Vanco Online "Tithes/Offerings"
	\$110.00	Special Offerings
	\$1824.00	TOTAL INCOME FOR THE WEEK

Financial Giving and Gratitude

You can give online at www.fdlpresbyterian.org Giving page. (Click on 'Online Giving'.) You can also give by cash or check on Sunday morning, or by mail. We are so very thankful for your contributions that help us do God's work in our church and in our community

GETTING CONNECTED:

Office Phone

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Office Email

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Website

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Facebook

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

YouTube

[First Presbvtarian Church. Fond du Lac](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

February

Deacon of the Month: Gail Kamphuis

Elder of the Month: Sue Baker

STAFF:

Rev. Dr. Craig R. Alwin

pastor@fdlpresbyterian.org

Jennifer Zander

jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org

Kris Bartelt

kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org

Mary Robotka

mrobotka@fdlpresbyterian.org

This Week

Sunday

9:00-10:00am
10:15-11:15am
10:15-11:15am
10:15-11:15am
11:20-12:00pm

February 23

Worship
Fellowship Time
Growing Connections-Big Brothers Big Sisters
Sunday School
Ash Wednesday Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)

Monday

10:00-11:30am
1:00-2:30pm

February 24

Staff Meeting
Growing Connections Meeting

Tuesday

1:00-2:00pm
5:00-6:00pm

February 25

Loving Team Meeting
Finance Team Meeting

Wednesday

8:00-9:00am
4:00-5:00pm
4:00-6:00pm

February 26

Men's Breakfast
Handbell Rehearsal
Loaves and Fishes

Thursday

10:00-2:00pm
2:30-3:30pm
5:00-6:00pm
6:00-8:00pm

February 27

Winnebago Presbytery Meeting on Zoom
Serving Team Meeting
Confirmation Class
GriefShare

Sunday

9:00-10:00am
10:15-11:15am
10:15-11:15am
10:15-11:15am
11:20-12:00pm
6:00-7:30pm

March 2

Worship
Fellowship Time
Growing Connections-Sermon Discussions
Sunday School
Ash Wednesday Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
Boy Scout Meeting



Wednesday, March 5 Ash Wednesday:

12:00-1:00pm Imposition of Ashes and a brief blessing
6:30-7:30pm Traditional Worship with Communion and Imposition of Ashes