

Ash Wednesday March 5

12:00-1:00pm Imposition of Ashes
and a brief blessing

6:30-7:30pm Traditional Worship with
Imposition of Ashes

Ash Wednesday begins the 40 day season of Lent. A journey from the ashes of death to resurrected life. A day of prayer and reflection.

We will begin this special day with the Imposition of Ashes. The ashes are a traditional sign of mourning and repentance. They are meant to remind people of their mortality.

Lent culminates in Holy Week. Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday being the most significant days. Lent ends on Easter Sunday when we commemorate the resurrection of Jesus.

We invite you to join us on our Lenten Journey 2025!

First, what is Lent all about? Lent originated as a time of training, training of candidates for baptism at Easter, renewal training for the faithful, and redemptive training for those excommunicated as they were invited back into the community of faith. A core component of these training processes is repentance. Many people view repentance as an introspection that leads a person to be sorry for past wrongdoings and resolve to be a better person. This form of repentance can be done by anyone, of any religion, and even no religion. For us, as it was for believers in the early church, the Lenten journey of repentance is so much more.



Repentance is not merely an intellectual exercise of self-help, but a profound moral and spiritual transformation, that changes our minds, changes our hearts, changes our life trajectory, by fixing our primary orientation on the Triune God and committing to live into this new way of resurrection life. Repentance is looking away from ourselves and away from the deceptive but convincingly enticing answers of the world. Repentance is earnestly seeking to know the God who created all things, in the resurrected person of Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit. The active living out of this repentant life is done in community.

Our Lenten journey is being shaped to help us deepen our relationships with one another and with God, to learn with and from one another what God is saying to us and who God is calling us to be, and to resist worldly temptations that provide comfortable answers so that we might explore the underlying issues, engage the rich theology of those issues, and encounter the risen Christ in the everyday and ordinary. The first temptation, which I have already heard from some people, is to believe this is too difficult or requires extensive biblical knowledge. Our Lenten journey forward is about reflecting back on the basics of faith and following Jesus. We simply need to trust and follow.

Our Lenten journey is being shaped around our regular Sunday worship services, a few key practices that help us to focus on God, weekly readings through the book of Acts, questions from Paul's instructions to the church in Ephesus (see Acts 19) that call us to action, and mid-week gatherings to listen and learn what God might be saying about all of this together.

This multifaceted engagement will teach us the importance of listening to the biblical stories of the past to learn how our identity needs to be based on being Children of God, rather than the multitude of identities presented to us by the world. We will learn how Jesus embraced lament for God's people while maintaining his primary focus toward the cross and fulfilling God's purposes. We will learn what it means to be living a Kingdom way of life, connecting the biblical stories with the everyday and ordinary moments of our lives, encountering and embracing the unconditional and limitless grace of God, and being actively engaged as participants in the Body of Christ today.



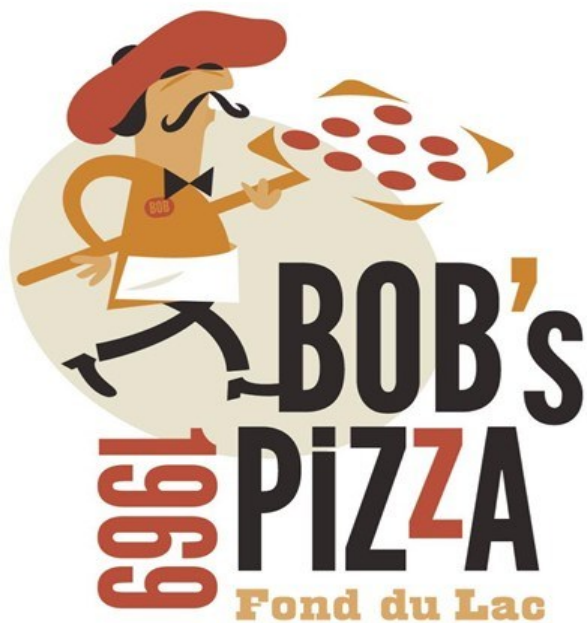
Lenten Soup/Bible Study Lunches!

following 12:15 pm worship

Soup is on the Menu. You are welcome to bring bread/crackers or a dessert. You do not need to bring food to join us for lunch. Just bring yourself!

A free-will donation will be taken at each to help cover the costs of food.

There are two options for the mid-week gatherings: one at church around the noon hour and another at Bob's Pizza (meeting in the Just Love Café) in the evening. Both will include a time of worship, reading scripture, prayer, and options to share food. The noon option will start in the sanctuary (and available to watch on Zoom if unable to attend in person) and then move to the Fellowship Hall for soup and discussion. The evening option will overlap the worship and discussion with the option of eating. A free-will donation will be taken at each to help cover the costs of food. All are invited to share in the meal, without concern for the cost. This is part of learning to live and share with one another as the Body of Christ.



Lenten Gathering with Food and Study

Wednesdays 6:30-7:30pm

March 12 through April 9

A free-will donation will be taken at each to help cover the costs of food

The Acts 19-Ephesus portion of our Lenten journey connects to the overarching process your Session has tasked me to facilitate, discerning and implementing an appropriate organizational structure for our church. This active engagement perspective of repentance, committing to live into the new way of resurrection life, requires repentance from what I refer to as the ways in which “the institutional clergy industry” has stolen the richness and joy of sharing together in ministry from the body of Christ. There is no division of clergy and laity in the New Testament! We find in the early church everyone is encouraged, and even expected, to find their place in the movement. One of the ways to engage in a more biblical model of being the Body of Christ, is by exploring the model given to us in Ephesians 4:11-16.

¹¹ He gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. ¹² His purpose was to equip God’s people for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ ¹³ until we all reach the unity of faith and knowledge of God’s Son. God’s goal is for us to become mature adults—to be fully grown, measured by the standard of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ As a result, we aren’t supposed to be infants any longer who can be tossed and blown around by every wind that comes from teaching with deceitful scheming and the tricks people play to deliberately mislead others. ¹⁵ Instead, by speaking the truth with love, let’s grow in every way into Christ, ¹⁶ who is the head. The whole body grows from him, as it is joined and held together by all the supporting ligaments. The body makes itself grow in that it builds itself up with love as each one does its part.

We will explore what these various roles meant for the early church and how they might be embraced to reshape how we live out being the Body of Christ in this time and place. Here are a few definitions to briefly get us started: an APOSTLE connects with the “sentness” of the church; a PROPHET connects with questioning and reforming the church; an EVANGELIST communicates and cultivates relationships within the church; a PASTOR protects and provides experiences of community within the church; and a TEACHER explains and instructs the truths of Scripture with the church.

As we unpack the possibilities of how these various roles are lived out in today’s world, we will be asking everyone to commit to exploring and experimenting with at least one of these areas. We will be providing colored paper that you can print your name along with an idea of how you feel Christ has given you specific gifts for this area of ministry and/or specific examples of how you see this area of ministry enacted in the world today. Our hope is that as we deepen our relationships and engagement with scripture, we will be able to encourage one another in love to embrace these various forms of ministry and display the unity of the Spirit to a world that is being torn apart.



For more than 75 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided us a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way Presbyterians come together every year to work toward a better world. The One Great Hour of Sharing collection is taken during Lent each year, ending on Palm Sunday. Funds from the One Great Hour of Sharing collection are divided between the Presbyterian Disaster Fund, The Hunger Project, and Self Development of People. Learn where your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) go, supporting the work of the Presbyterian programs of Disaster Assistance (PDA), Hunger (PHP), and Self-Development of People (SDOP) using the [online map](#).



First Presbyterian Fishing Derby (March 5 – April 13)

Complete the challenges on Weekly Sheets. Consider the reflections and challenges and place a coin or bill in your fish. Bring your “catch” to be weighed and judged on April 13 (Palm Sunday).

Here Are the Categories: Heaviest Fish, Cutest Fish, Best Dressed, Most Active Fish.

More information on One Great Hour of Sharing, Fish Bank, Weekly Sheets and a Sharing Calendars will be outside the sanctuary starting March 9. You can [click here](#) for the Sharing Calendar for Lent 2025. You can also make an [online gift](#) to support those ministries. On April 13th, Palm Sunday please remember to bring the bank along to church when we will present these contributions during worship. Thank you for opening your heart to God’s calling to serve others.

One Great Hour of Sharing makes real the love of Christ for individuals and communities who suffer from the effects of disasters, conflicts, or severe hardships. Jesus calls us to love one another as God loves us. Your contribution will help restore communities which will in turn heal families and hearts.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

March 2 Sermon Discussions

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.

March 9 Lenten Journey and Practices

Pastor Craig will give a brief overview of our Lenten Journey and share basic instructions and purposes for our Lenten Practices. He will explain the connections between the Sunday scripture readings, the weekly readings in Acts, and the Ephesians 4 discernment process. This all is structured to help us become more aware of God's presence in our lives and to generate conversations about discerning the best organizational structure for our congregation. We invite everyone to be engaged in some way with our Lenten journey.

March 16 Blandine House

Blandine House is a 90-day residential treatment center for adult men with alcohol and drug issues. They focus on counseling, therapy, education, and goal setting. Blandine staff consists of licensed substance abuse counselors, resident house managers and an executive director. The extended "Blandine Family," composed of former residents and members of the 12-step community, freely offer their time and enthusiasm about recovery to the gentlemen of Blandine both informally and formally.

March 23 Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood. What can we Learn from Mister Rogers?

Mister Rogers helped us learn about ourselves, others and the world around us. His messages are as relevant today as they were 50 years ago.

Sunday School 10:15-11:15am



Our theme for the year is "F.R.O.G: Fully Rely on God," guiding our activities. The Sunday School program for PreK-12th grade uses the Feasting on the Word curriculum, which aligns with the lectionary, allowing all classes to explore the same scripture passages read during the church service.

Nursery (Infant through age 3)

Middle School (6th to 8th Grades)

Primary (Preschool to 2nd Grade)

High School (9th to 12th Grades)

Grade School (3rd to 5th Grades)



Lenten Choirs and Rehearsals

This year we have several ways to participate as a singer during the Lenten and Easter season.

On the Breeze calendar they are referred to as Sunday Morning Lenten Choir, Wed Mid-Day Lenten Choir and Maundy Thurs/Easter Choir.

Starting March 9th the schedule for rehearsals are:

- Sunday, March 9th at 11:20am rehearse music for Sunday, March 16th , sing on Sunday, March 16
- Wednesday, March 12th at 11:30 am – Mid-Day Lenten Choir rehearsal, sing at 12:15pm
- Sunday, March 16th at 11:20am rehearse music for Sunday, March 23, sing on Sunday, March 23
- Wednesday, March 19th at 11:30 am – Mid-Day Lenten Choir rehearsal, sing at 12:15pm
- Sunday, March 23rd at 11:20am rehearse music for Sunday, March 30, sing on Sunday, March 30
- Wednesday, April 2nd at 11:30am – Mid-Day Lenten Choir rehearsal, sing at 12:15 pm
- Sunday, April 6th at 11:20am rehearse music for Sunday, April 13th (Palm Sunday), sing April 13
- Wednesday, April 9th at 11:30am – Mid-Day Lenten Choir rehearsal, sing at 12:15 pm
- Sunday April 13th at 11:20am Maundy Thurs./Easter Choir rehearsal, sing April 17 and April 20
- Thurs. April 17th at 5:45pm Maundy Thurs/Easter Choir rehearsal, sing April 17 at 7pm and April 20

All rehearsals will take place in the music room next to the Nursery.

Interested in joining one of these choirs, [click here](#). If you have any questions, please contact Kris Bartelt at kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org or in person following any worship service.



Sunday, March 9



Please remember to turn your clocks ahead before you go to bed on March 8.



Special Host Sundays

Join us for Special Host Sunday, the first Sunday of each month. It is a great opportunity for ministries to highlight their mission and raise funds.

Your contributions will directly support these causes and make a meaningful impact!

March 2 Fellowship Time funds will support the Deacon Compassion Fund.

Thank you! The Loving Team

Loaves & Fishes

Ending Hunger → Empowering Lives

Thanks to your generous donations, we served 195 meals at Loaves and Fishes on Wed, February 26. Thank you to all who shared the love of Christ by providing warm welcomes, desserts, preparing, serving and clean up after the meal. We invite you to join us in making a difference with our future Loaves and Fishes serving dates:

Wednesday, April 2nd

Wednesday, May 28th

Monday, July 28th

Wednesday, September 10th

Wednesday, December 17th



Since 2013 the Community of Fond du Lac has come together to pack nutritionally complete meals specially formulated for malnourished children all over the world.

91% of donations go to the food program. 99% of food shipments reach their destination---the starving children.

MOBILEPACK

Our goal for the March 8, 2025, MobilePack is to pack 139,968 meals at a cost of \$41,000 utilizing 600 volunteers. We have already raised over \$23,400 towards this goal. There are two ways

that you can help with the MobilePack campaign— a monetary donation and/or volunteering your time to pack the meals. Each meal costs 29 cents so every donation makes an impact.

A donation of \$106 will feed a child for an entire year.

Meals are needed now to help people all over the world. Submit donations electronically at [the Feed My Starving Children FDLMobilePack website](#) or can also donate online on the [church website](#) or take one of the hearts and self-addressed envelopes from the tree in the Narthex, enclose the amount that you would like to donate and drop it in the offering plate or in the church office.



Donate or Volunteer!



April 17 - Warming Shelter Meal

Our church will be **preparing** a meal for the warming shelter on Thursday, April 17.

Thank you for supporting this mission.

The Serving Team

First Presbyterian Church Blood Drive

On March 11 from 1 to 5 will be our next blood drive. We have a challenge to beat last year's donation numbers.

Remember, you can donate one unit of blood every 56 days. One hour of your time every 56 days, you could be saving a life. Is that too much to ask?

Mark your calendar for future First Presbyterian Church Blood Drive Dates:

Tuesday, March 11

Wednesday, May 7

Tuesday, July 8

Tuesday, September 9

Tuesday, November 4

Tuesday, December 30

Help for the Homeless HYGIENE DRIVE™



**Feb. 23 -
Mar. 16**

Most urgent needs include:

- Soaps: laundry, dish, soft, shower gel, 2-in-1 shampoo
- Wet wipes
- Trash bags (shelters especially need these for bedrooms)
- Toilet paper
- Diapers (sizes 3-6 and Pull-Ups)
- Paper towels
- Deodorant (unscented)
- Disposable razors
- Tampons and maxi pads

Donate Items in the box in the Narthex

I heard that when a man gives blood, he saves 3 lives. Well, I know a man who gave his blood and he saved the entire human race!

Every Wednesday - 8:00 am Men's Breakfast

Every Wednesday, men of the church meet for breakfast at Pump 'n Pantry at 8:00 am. (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.

Women in Faith Wednesday, March 12

5:00-6:00 pm

If you are interested in meeting new people and having an enjoyable time, check out the Women in Faith gathering on Wednesday, March 12 from 5:00-6:00 pm.

During Lent, we will share Fellowship and a craft project from 5-6pm and then participate in the dinner and worship at Bob's on The Avenue.



We will start prep on our April "Bunny" activity and create an easy Flowering Making activity.

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

March 13 - 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	March 13
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.

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.

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)

Radio

Sunny 97.7

TV

Channel 2 WBAY
Channel 5 WFRV



percapita

Have you paid your per capita yet? Just \$40.00 helps support the work of the church.

In the Presbyterian Church USA system of governance, each member of the congregation is assessed a *per capita* amount to support the work of the church through its three governing levels: Winnebago Presbytery, Synod of Lakes & Prairies, and the General Assembly.

The *per capita* covers the cost of operating these three separate entities, various committees, and commissions, along with funding the annual General Assembly Meeting.

Our Session has supported this assessment as an appropriate way to assist in helping to meet the needs of our denomination.

The per capita for 2025 is \$40.00 per church member. First Presbyterian Church has paid this amount regardless of whether you contribute \$40.00. Please note that per capita is separate from your usual donation or tithe.

You can pay your per capita amount in the following manner:

Check (Write Per Capita on the memo line.)

Electronically (Click [here](#) to go to Online Giving.)

Thank you for prayerfully considering the opportunity to help First Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church USA system. We appreciate your generosity.

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.

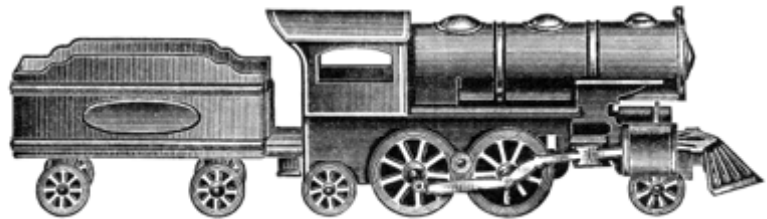


The fourth Tuesday of each month is designated as an Open Meeting, and there is an Open Speaker Meeting every quarter in March, June, September, and December.

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

First Presbyterian Church 22nd Annual Model Train Show

From the smallest Z-Gauge to the largest G-Gauge.



April 5
10:00 am-4:00 pm

April 6
10:00 am-2:00 pm

Free Admission, Fun for all ages, Concessions sold to support mission work.

If you are interested in sharing a train, helping in the fun please contact Les M. or the church office.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin
pastor@fdlpresbyterian.org

Kris Bartelt
Music and Worship Coordinator
kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org

Mary Robotka
Financial Assistant
mrobotka@fdlpresbyterian.org

Jennifer Zander
Faith Formation Coordinator
Volunteer Coordinator
jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org

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

March

Deacon of the Month:
Carol Smith

Elder of the Month:
Joanne Marchionda

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Joanne Marchionda
Handbell Chor Director

John Neville
Treasurer

Judy Dassow
Assistant Treasurer

Dave Weber
Custodian Assistant

DEACONS

Judy Dassow*

Gail Kamphuis

Orv Kamphuis

Mary Ellen McMeen

Kim Miller

Kay Mullins

Phyllis Munson

Wendy Peachey

Carol Smith

Lew Smith

Amber Summeril*

* denotes Deacon Moderators

GETTING CONNECTED:

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920.922.0425

Office Email
fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org



Website
www.fdlpresbyterian.org



Breeze Subdomain:
FDLFirstPresb



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



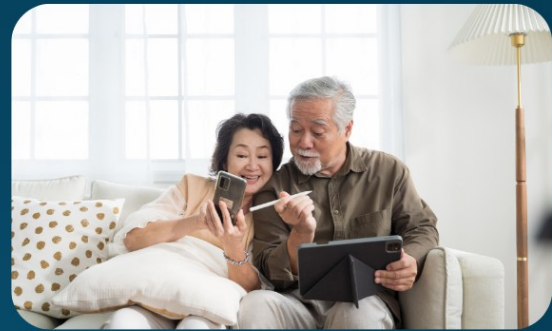
YouTube
[First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac](https://www.youtube.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchFondDuLac)

SMART PHONE TECHNOLOGY BEGINNER CLASS

THIS IS A **FREE** 6 WEEK SESSION CLASS

DATES: THURSDAYS

- April 10th
- April 17th
- April 24th
- May 1st
- May 8th
- May 15th



TIME:

- 1:00pm – 2:00pm

LOCATION:

- Oakfield Community Center
130 N. Main Street
Oakfield, WI 53065

YOU'LL LEARN HOW TO:

- Download apps
- Create notes
- create lists
- FaceTime
- Text
- Use e-mail
- And much more!

*Transportations Options Available
let us know when signing up!

The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Fond du Lac County



has partnered with Oakfield High School Students
to educate anyone who needs help with
smart phone technology.

*Please call the ADRC at 920-929-3466 to sign up!



Easter Flowers

Easter flowers will be ordered to beautify our sanctuary. Your order form and money must be in the office by **March 30**.

The flower order will be placed on March 31.

Name _____

Email _____

In HONOR of _____

In MEMORY of _____

In CELEBRATION of _____

_____ Easter Lily \$21.00 _____ Chrysanthemum Daisy \$19.00

_____ Yes _____ No I will be picking up my flowers after church, April 20, 2025.



Office

Date Paid _____ Amount _____

Cash/Check _____ Pick Up: Y N