
The Presbyterian Post



April 2025

Lenten Journey Reflections

It has been encouraging to see and hear the movement of the Holy Spirit in our congregation, drawing us closer to one another and closer to God, during these first three weeks of our Lenten journey! I'm enjoying listening to stories of the changes in society, changes in church, and changes in ourselves as we both grow older and have new life experiences. As we've been connecting our stories to the stories of the early church, I see changes in people's willingness to step out of their comfort zone so they might encounter Christ anew. I see people learning to listen more deeply to one another. I hear the reactions when we learn to listen to God as our guide, trusting God to lead us without knowing the outcome. I see people discovering the peace and hope that only Christ can offer. Each week is a little bit different. If you haven't attended one of the mid-week gatherings, there are two more left before Holy Week! If these times don't work for your schedule, let me know – there is a growing interest to continue these sorts of gatherings after Easter. I'm looking forward with eager excitement to experiencing the hope and joy of the resurrection with you this year!

In Christ,
Pastor Craig



Holy Week

April 13 Palm Sunday

9:00am Worship Procession of Palms

10:15am Fish Derby-One Great Hour of Sharing

April 17 Maundy Thursday

7:00pm Worship with Communion and Tenebrae

April 20 Easter Sunday

8:45am Easter Breakfast

9:00am Worship

10:15am Easter Celebration and Fellowship

Pastor Craig's 2025 Continuing Education Luther Seminary 2025 Siebert Missional Leadership Cohort

The past several years I have been part of a group that has provided missional leadership coaching for each other. This group is primarily based in the UK and Canada. Their context is what I would call a “post-church setting” – areas in which traditional churches have closed and no longer have a presence. It has been beneficial theologically for me, but it was becoming less and less applicable to my role in this context. Earlier this year I reached out to Luther Seminary, who is one of the forerunners in missional leadership training, to receive coaching on navigating the missional leadership changes needed in the institutional church context. Rather than one-on-one coaching, they suggested that I join an upcoming Missional Leadership Cohort to connect with other leaders across the nation who are experimenting with new ways of being the church in a changing context, including what might be needed for transitioning from traditional church paradigms into structures that align with missional leadership.

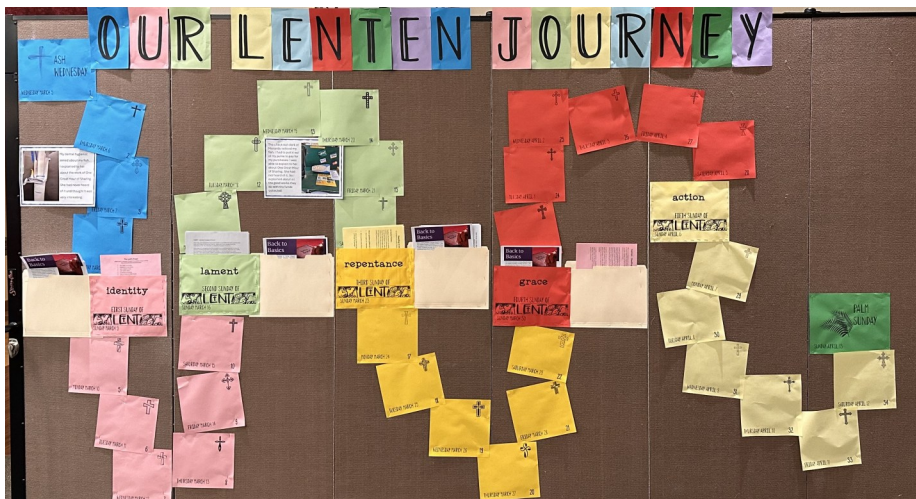
A pilot program for the Missional Leadership cohort, made up of ELCA churches around Wisconsin and funded by a grant from the Siebert foundation is already underway. One of the pastors needed to drop out and based on my Doctoral research experiences I was invited to join to fill this space. I have accepted the invitation!

Here is some information about this program:

Leaders across the churches today face massive challenges on two fronts: understanding a pluralist culture that no longer supports Christian identity and practice; and leading faith communities through processes of learning, adaptation, and innovation in mission. Leaders are most ready to engage these challenges when they have developed basic pastoral competence and are serving in contexts where they confront these realities on a daily basis. Such learning functions best in communities of peers who mutually encourage, support, challenge, and deepen one another, while being held accountable to a disciplined structure of action/reflection under the guidance of faculty mentors and coaches.

This program is organized around a cohort of 18 participants who commit to a 10-month learning journey. There are three in-person gatherings of 3-4 days each, interspersed with reading and monthly online engagement with a peer group and a coach. We anticipate that the time commitment to this project will require approximately three hours per week. Because of our grant through the Siebert Lutheran Foundation, the only expense that leaders have to cover on their own will be travel to the retreat locations, all of which are in Wisconsin. Resources, coaches, and retreat lodging/meals are provided.

This is a 10-month program which will be completed in November. There are three retreat weekends, monthly group zoom meetings, and regular coaching in between. Several aspects of our Lenten Journey have already been influenced by my involvement in this program, and I look forward to the work we will be doing together after Easter.



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



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.



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



AV Task Force

We have received numerous comments indicating that it has been difficult to hear during our Sunday morning worship services. In response, we are researching how to make better use of our existing equipment, reduce feedback noise, and improve both the volume and clarity of the overall worship experience.

The current configuration of audio and visual equipment in the sanctuary frequently requires repairs. As soon as one item is fixed, another tends to break down. We have compiled a list of items that need repair or replacement, and it has been noted that video standards have changed, rendering our current equipment outdated.

Your Session has approved the formation of a task force to assess the current audio-visual (AV) systems and develop at least two proposals for future directions for the church. This task force will be taking into account not only the sound and projection images for worship, but the lighting and interactions of AV that may be needed throughout the building and online. This will not be a quick fix, but we want you to know that we are actively working on it.

To give us the best sound possible until any changes are researched and approved, your Session has also approved hiring a trained audio engineer to spend a full day fine-tuning the settings of our mixer, which will not be replaced. This is scheduled to take place before Holy Week!

We appreciate everyone's patience, prayers, and support as we navigate this process. Please take note of what concerns you have, as well as what you appreciate, regarding the audio and visual aspects of our worship services. There will be opportunities for you to share your thoughts with the AV task force in the near future.



Easter Celebration 10:15am-10:45am

Join us for fellowship and activities including an egg hunt on April 20th from 10:15-10:45am in the Gathering Room.



Easter Breakfast-April 20

Join us for Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 20th Easter morning. Breakfast will be served from 7:45 am to 8:45 am. Proceeds from the donations collected will be used for youth missions. If you would like to help with food donations, serving or clean up, please contact Jennifer in the church office.



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:

- 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 6:15pm 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.

Easter Candy Donations

Easter is right around the corner, and we need help! Wrapped candy and small prizes are needed for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. This event is a lot of fun for the children of our church family. Please put donations in the basket in the office.

Thank you, the Learning Team



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

APRIL ADULT GROWING CONNECTIONS

SUNDAYS 10:15-11:15AM

April 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.

April 13 Fish Derby

Join us as we celebrate the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering through our Fish Derby. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. Funds from the One Great Hour of Sharing collection are divided between the Presbyterian Disaster Fund, The Hunger Project, and Self Development of People. Weekly Challenges are available each week to learn more about the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering and "add" to the Fish Derby contest. Bring your "catch" to be weighed and judged on Palm Sunday, April 13.

April 20 Easter

We will have Easter Breakfast before worship. After our service, we will have Fellowship Time and an Easter Egg Hunt for the children.

April 27 Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Learn more about Sleep in Heavenly Peace through congregational members who volunteer with the local chapter. Sleep in Heavenly Peace® in Fond du Lac is a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling, and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. If a child needs a bed, we want to make sure they get one. No kid sleeps on the floor in our town®.

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)

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!

Saturday, April 5th Train Show Fundraiser (10am-4pm) Come and help in the concession stand to help support the PYA Missions..possible Summer Mission Trip

Sunday, April 6th Train Show Fundraiser (10:00 am-2pm) Come and help in the concession stand to help support a possible Summer Mission Trip or Missions.

Sunday, April 13th Fishing Derby Celebration-following Palm Sunday worship.
Bring your "fish" offerings and join the celebration for One Great Hour of Sharing.

Sunday, April 13th 1pm Volunteer at the Woodlands



Woodlands Building 77 Wisconsin American Drive from 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 one to Jennifer.

Saturday, April 19th 9:30-11am Easter Preparations-Set up for Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 20th Easter Breakfast Mission Fundraiser

Easter Breakfast will be served from 7:45-8:45am

We need adult and youth volunteers to help with set up, serving and clean up.

We can use food donations of egg bake, fruit, or pastry items.





Thank you for your generous donations to the Hope for the Homeless Hygiene Drive.

**April 2 –Loaves and Fishes
4:00-6:00 pm**

We will be serving at Loaves and Fishes on April 2, 2025. This is a fun time to work as a church team serving our local community! The sign up sheet is in the Narthex. Please consider participating! The last time we served 195 meals at loaves and fishes! The need is great! We invite you to join us in making a difference with our future Loaves and Fishes serving dates:

Wednesday, May 28th

Monday, July 28th

Wednesday, September 10th

Wednesday, December 17th



April 17 - Warming Shelter Meal

Our church will be preparing a meal for the warming shelter on Thursday, April 17. This date will look a little different than we have done in the past because the guests will be sheltered off site, as the shelter will be closed over the Easter Weekend. Meals to serve 35 individuals are due to First Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, April 16 (cooked but not warm) in disposable containers. A sign up sheet is available at the Welcome Center. Thank you for supporting this mission.

The Serving Team

First Presbyterian Church Blood Drive

The next Blood Drive is scheduled for May 7, 2025 from 1:00pm-5:30pm. [Click here to sign up for a donation time.](#) Please sign up early and eat a healthy diet with plenty of protein to assure you can donate! We had 19 people sign up for the February Blood drive. Unfortunately 3 persons were deferred which is why it is so important to get plenty of iron in your diet to assure you can donate. Two people donated two units of double red cells, 15 units of blood supporting 51 local patients. On behalf of those patients and their families, thank you!! 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:

Wednesday, May 7

Tuesday, July 8

Tuesday, September 9

Tuesday, November 4

Tuesday, December 30



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, April 9

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, April 9 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. We will create "bunny" and spring crafts.

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

April 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	April 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.

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!

Deacon's Compassion Fund

On March 2nd the Deacons hosted the Special Host Sunday, which is held the first Sunday of each month. The contributions that we collected that day totaled \$80.00, which will go to the Deacon's Compassion Fund.



This fund exists to help meet a serious emergency need or an ongoing situation where there is a need for compassionate care. Funds are for an individual or family who has an established relationship with First Presbyterian Church.

The procedure for an application to distribute is made by contacting the Pastor.

Lanyard Sale to Support In-Ear Monitors

We have received many comments that it has been difficult to hear during our Sunday morning worship services. In response, we have been exploring various ways to improve the sound quality and volume.

One suggestion was to replace the floor monitors used by the musicians with an in-ear monitor system. One of the challenges of using floor monitors is that the sound spills out into the congregation. This can make the house mix sound "muddy" and can severely restrict the intelligibility of the vocals. By eliminating or reducing the need for floor monitors, we can turn down the volume for the musicians and improve the volume and clarity for the congregation.

A few of our musicians have spent the past few months testing the in-ear monitors and are pleased with how they work. As a result, the worship team is raising funds through the selling of church lanyards to purchase additional in-ear monitor equipment for use by the musicians during worship.

In addition to addressing the floor-monitor system, we also have some members of our congregation researching how we can make better use of our current equipment, reduce feedback noise, and improve the volume and clarity of the overall worship experience. This will not be a quick fix, but we want you to know we are actively working on it. We appreciate everyone's patience and support as we sort this out.

Look for a Worship Team Member on April 13, Palm Sunday, and April 27, the Sunday after Easter to support this effort.

Sincerely,

The Worship Team



Synod *of*
Lakes & Prairies

What is Synod School?

Synod School is a learning and personal enrichment experience for people of all ages. Synod School seeks to create an environment of hospitality, healing, and hope. The week is designed for laity and clergy as well as individuals and families with classes and activities for adults, youth, and children. 2025 is the 71st year of Synod School in Iowa. People will come from all over the country with their friends and families to share in this week of worship, study, play, and life together. It is an opportunity to learn something new, to continue conversations begun by keynote speakers with others over meals or a board game, to share talents of creativity and music, to worship without being in charge, to be energized for service, and to enjoy not having to cook for a week.

2025 Synod School Theme: Re-Forming "Normal": Expanding Hope

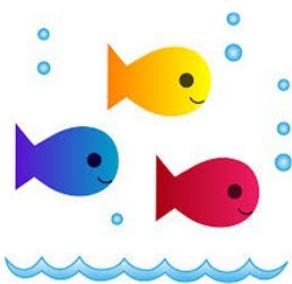
[View the 2025 Synod School Catalog Here.](#) A paper catalog is available on the table outside the church office door.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Fishing Derby



The One Great Hour of Sharing offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. Funds from the One Great Hour of Sharing collection are divided between the Presbyterian Disaster Fund, The Hunger Project, and Self Development of People.

March 5 –April 13, 2025

Be ready to bring in your "catch" on Palm Sunday, April 13th for weigh in and judging.



Prize Categories

Heaviest Fish-full on coins.

Best Dressed Fish

Most Active Fish-on the Lenten Journey.



Family and Youth Camp Opportunities

Daycholah Center (Green Lake) and Moon Beach (St. Germain) are two great camps that offer a wide range of activities for people of all ages. Campers can enjoy swimming, canoeing, crafting, making new friends, and much more. If you want to learn more or register for the camp, you can check out the United Church Camps, Inc. website www.ucci.org.

If you wish to apply for financial aid, please fill out the Presbytery Campership Application (available in the church office or on Presbytery website <https://irp.cdn-website.com/e28033c9/files/uploaded/Camp-Scholarship-Application.pdf>) leaving the “amount your church can pay” line blank and give to the church as soon as possible. The Presbytery may provide approximately one quarter of the cost and our church’s contribution will be determined based on the number of applicants.

Scholarships are also available from First Presbyterian Church. First Presbyterian Church has established a process for applying for a scholarship (campership) for Church Camps. Campership Applications are on the table outside the office or here [Campership Form](#). All campership applications must be submitted for consideration to the Campership Committee. Please return all forms to the church office.

Sunday, May 18

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**

Congregational Meeting
is scheduled for
Sunday, May 18 at 10 am
for the election of Elders
and Deacons.



Each year the Scholarship Committee is blessed to be able to award scholarships to our youth. The Scholarships are made available by generous donations to students who are members of this church, have demonstrated a commitment to the church, have completed high school and will be enrolled in an accredited secondary educational institution. Graduating seniors and returning students are encouraged to apply. The church is very thankful to families supporting the Memorial Scholarships.

SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

General Guidelines for all Scholarships:

1. Recipient must be a member of this church.
2. Recipient must have demonstrated a commitment to the church. This commitment has been defined as meeting the following criteria in the past calendar year:
 - In-Person or Zoom church worship attendance a minimum of six times in the calendar year prior to the scholarship deadline.
 - nurturing your faith development in an activity of the Serving, Loving or Learning Teams (educational opportunities, mission activities, worship participation, etc.) at least twice in the past calendar year
3. Recipient is enrolled in an accredited college or university.

The [application form](#) is available online and should be filled out and submitted electronically by May 1, 2025. Interviews with all applicants may be scheduled to complete the process.

First Presbyterian Annual
MODEL TRAIN SHOW

First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall
1225 Fourth Street Road, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Saturday, April 5, 2025
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Sunday, April 6, 2025
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

**Come and see operating layouts of assorted Gauges
From Z-Gauge (the smallest) to the large G-Gauge**

**Food provided by the
Presbyterian Youth
To help finance Mission activities**

**KIDS
GET YOUR PICTURE TAKEN
IN OUR RAILROAD CUT-OUT**

**The Fond du Lac Society of Model Railroad Hobbyists
Will have their HO Gauge layout that travels To shows in Madison and Milwaukee
COME AND ASK QUESTIONS AND GET SOME IDEAS**



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 Commissioner

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

April

Deacon of the Month:
Judy Dassow

Elder of the Month:
Laurie Christie

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Joanne Marchionda
Handbell Choir 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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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)