

# The Presbyterian Post

August 2025



## Walking a journey from “PERFORMATIVE” to “PARTICIPATORY”

Much of the modern Christian church has adopted a “top down” and “performative” structure of leadership that is quite different from the example set forth in the scriptures. Since the time of the Enlightenment, Christians have (with good intentions) infused many unbiblical qualities into the institutional structures of the church. Rather than focusing on the perceived results being a “dying” church, we need to become more aware of the growing number of people who are seeking God and longing for a deeper spiritual connection.

The challenge before us is how to restructure our current models of “church” in ways that continue to be life-giving and transformative. There are several contexts in Europe and North America that are experimenting with what it might look like to become households of ministry in the years to come.

Earlier this year I was invited to join the 2025 Siebert Missional Leadership Cohort through Luther Seminary. I invested one week of my Continuing Education time for a retreat with 22 people participating in this Cohort at Siena Retreat Center in Racine, WI. One of the main purposes for joining this cohort is to work with other church leaders, educators, and theologians to process through the various potential changes for our household of ministry, to allow more of the congregation to participate in the life and ministry of the church. I am excited to share some of the insights with the Elders, Deacons, and staff at our Officer Training events, and ask that you join us in prayerful discernment as we experiment with this renewed way of being the church.

I will have a final retreat November 16-18 at Green Lake Conference Center to reflect and discern with the cohort the impact these leadership experiments are having.

In Christ,  
Pastor Craig

## Save the Date-Church Picnic

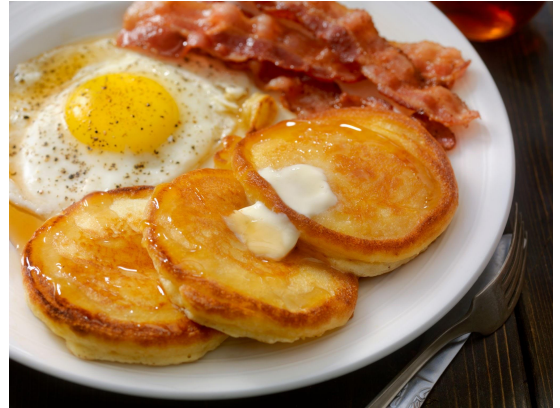
Sunday, August 3

Join us after worship for a fun-filled Church Picnic featuring fried chicken, refreshing drinks, games, and bingo! Broasted chicken and drinks will be provided — if you're able, please bring a dish to share. We can't wait to spend this joyful day in fellowship with you!



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 August 13

*A friend is someone who reaches for your hand but touches your heart.*

If you are interested in meeting new people and having an enjoyable time, check out the Women in Faith gathering on Wednesday, August 13th from 5:30-7:30 pm. We will share a potluck meal. Following the meal, we will enjoy fun fellowship time and create kindness rocks. Kindness rocks are a way to leave inspirational messages to others. You will hide your rock for others to find in the community. The finder of the rock can either take the rock home or hide it again. The meal sign up is on the Welcome Center in the Narthex or click here for [a Food Sign-Up Sheet](#). Everyone is welcome, feel free to bring a friend. Contact Jennifer with any questions.

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. Everyone is welcome, so feel free to bring a friend along!



## July Blood Drive – Record Turnout!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated blood at our July 8th blood drive. We had 21 donors—our highest turnout in the past two years! Your willingness to give the gift of life is truly appreciated. Every donation makes a difference. Mark your calendars for the next opportunity: **September 9th from 1:00–5:30 PM**. Please sign up early! If you were deferred due to a low hemoglobin count, remember to focus on your protein intake and check with your doctor about adding an iron supplement. Your efforts are deeply valued—God bless each of you!

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

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

**Tuesday(s) Sept 9th, Nov. 4th, and Dec. 30th**



## Back to School Distribution – August 16

The annual Back to School Distribution event will be held at the Boys and Girls Club at the YMCA of Fond du Lac on **August 16th**. Donations for this event will be accepted through **August 5th**. Please consider volunteering—your time and effort make a significant difference for local children. To sign up or learn more, visit:

[www.backtoschoolfdl.org](http://www.backtoschoolfdl.org)

## Ruby’s Pantry-Aug. 14th

[www.gccfdl.org/rubys-pantry](http://www.gccfdl.org/rubys-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 you 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.

**Where**      Grace Christian, 1596 4th St  
                 Fond du Lac, WI

**When**      Thursday August 14th

**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](mailto:rachelrudzik@gccfdl.org)



NOTICE: Parental discretion is advised.  
No child under 11 years old allowed.  
\*Daycare provided free - registration is  
required. To register for daycare, please  
call 920-948-1664.



# Damascus Road Project

September 27, 2025 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

1225 4th Street, Fond du Lac, WI 54935

## Join us for a **FREE** Human Trafficking Awareness 101 Class

**\*Accepting donations to DRP or hygiene products\***

Learn more about what we do, and how you can  
make a difference in the fight to eradicate trafficking.

### Information about:

- local trafficking
- red flag indicators
- keys to prevention
- how to educate others
- technology safety tips
- how you can help local survivors
- raise awareness in our community

Together we can

**Stop**

trafficking / exploitation  
here at home!

Walk ins welcomed,  
registration preferred.



Scan to sign up today,  
or register at [www.damascusroadproject.org](http://www.damascusroadproject.org)



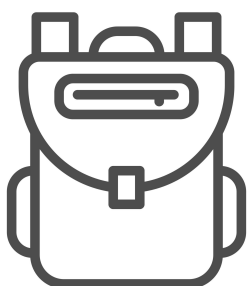


## Time of Blessing-August 24th

On **August 24**, we will share a special time of blessing for all students, teachers, and school workers of all ages. You are invited to bring your backpack, calendar, or any other school item to bring forward during a time of blessing and prayer. We will remember that God is with you wherever you go. We will pray that God blesses the year ahead for everyone.



ALL STUDENTS of any age (public, private, or home schooled) and school staff are joyfully invited to bring their backpacks, briefcases, or tote bags – and their friends – to worship on Sunday, August 24 for a special backpack blessing to begin the new school year surrounded in prayer. Join us during 9am worship.



All bags will be blessed, and all students/staff will be given a blessed keepsake. As we celebrate God's gift of learning, we will pray for God's blessing on students, staff, families, and schools in the coming year.

Please contact Jennifer @ [jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org](mailto:jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org) with questions.

### Summer Noon Organ Recital Series 2025

The following area organists will be presenting recitals this summer. Free-will offerings will be taken.

Proceeds will go to a scholarship fund to support the training of young organists and the promotion of future series of summer organ recitals.

#### Organist Date Place

|                                   |                            |                                           |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Arpad Muranyi<br>Street, FdL      | Thursday, Aug. 07, 12:15pm | St. Patrick's Concert Hall, 39 E. Follett |
| Henry Hayes<br>Fourth St Rd., FdL | Thursday, Aug. 14, 12:15pm | F.P.C.,(scholarship recipient) 1225       |

For more information, please visit our website [fdlareaorganists.com](http://fdlareaorganists.com), follow us on Facebook, or contact:

Kris Bartelt 920-238-5330

Pam Lane [pslane20@gmail.com](mailto:pslane20@gmail.com) 920-979-9361

Ken Hill [kenhill0333@gmail.com](mailto:kenhill0333@gmail.com) 920-539-3977



Fond du Lac Area Organists Association

## Supporting Local Students – Woodworth Middle School Partnership

We are excited to announce a new partnership with Woodworth Middle School through FAMA (Fond du Lac Area Ministerial Association). After connecting with Assistant Principal Olszewski, we learned of an urgent need for basic clothing items for teens, including socks, underwear, black leggings, and hooded sweatshirts—especially in girls' sizes 2X and 3X.

A donation display and collection box are now located in the Narthex. Items can also be ordered online; for example, Amazon lists black leggings for \$10–\$20 and sweatshirts for around \$15 (or a 3-pack for \$44). Prefer not to shop? You can contribute financially through the church office, Sunday offering plates, or our online giving portal, and we'll gladly shop for you. As Jesus reminded us, *"Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me."*

### 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.

## Understanding and Creating a Healthcare Power of Attorney Presented by Darren Beachy

Join us for a three-week series designed to help you understand, complete, and confidently use a Healthcare Power of Attorney (HCPOA). Whether you're new to the concept or ready to take the next step, this class will guide you through both the legal and personal sides of healthcare decision-making.

### Sept. 14 – Foundations of Healthcare Power of Attorney

What it is, why it matters, and how it differs from other legal documents.

### Sept. 21 – Making and Using the Document

How to complete a valid HCPOA and prepare for real-life situations.

### Sept. 28 – Beyond the Form: Honoring Values and Facilitating Conversations

Reflect on your values and learn how to communicate them effectively.



**Sundays | 10:15–11:15am**





# Grieving a loss?

Find hope and healing after  
the death of a loved one.

Join us at

Grief  Share<sup>®</sup>

Weekly grief support group

**When:** Thursdays,  
6-8 pm September  
4th-November 20th

**Where:** First  
Presbyterian Church  
1225 4th Street,  
Fond du Lac in the  
parlor

**Pre-register** with  
First Presbyterian  
Church  
920-922-0425 or  
[fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org](mailto:fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org)  
or  
[griefshare.org/findagroup](http://griefshare.org/findagroup)





## Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bedding Drive – A Huge Success!

Thanks to your incredible generosity, our bedding drive for *Sleep in Heavenly Peace* was a resounding success! With the monetary donations collected, Joanne M. Graciously purchased bedding sets on behalf of the congregation—thank you, Joanne! If you passed by the collection area, you likely noticed the stacks of boxes—what a heartwarming sight! We are excited to announce that we will be donating **15** bedding sets to children in need. Your giving spirit continues to bring comfort and hope to those who need it most.

## Confirmation Class 2026



The Confirmation program here at First Presbyterian Church is open to all youth 8th grade and above. This is an exciting step in one's faith journey. When children are baptized, the congregation and parents agree to raise the child as a follower of Jesus Christ. Now it is time for these young people to explore making that decision for him or herself. The congregation, represented by their parents, Faith Partners and the teaching team will support, guide, and pray for them as they seek an understanding of what it means to be an active Christian. At the end of the process, the confirmand will express their faith in an individual statement of faith and may request the status of active member from the Session.

If you are interested in finding out about this program please join us in an informational meeting on Sunday, August 24th at 11am. We will talk about the expectations of the class. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer or Pastor Craig.





## Outdoor Worship – Only Two Left This Season!

Join us for a special time of worship under the open sky as we gather around the pavilion to praise God in the beauty of His creation. Our Worship Team began this meaningful tradition, and it's been a highlight of the summer. Don't miss the final two Outdoor Worship Sundays: **August 17** and **September 14**.

Come be refreshed, renewed, and inspired by God's presence in nature.

## Join FPC Fond du Lac as our Part-time Music and Worship Coordinator!

First Presbyterian Church of Fond du Lac is looking for a person who will humbly nurture the spiritual life of the congregation through music and worship ministry. This is a part-time hourly position, averaging about 25 hours per week.

For a full job description, [click here](#) or email the personnel chair at [fpcfdlstaffing@gmail.com](mailto:fpcfdlstaffing@gmail.com)





# New Roof!

We're excited to share that the church roof has been replaced! Work began on July 11th, and we're grateful for the smooth process and this much-needed update to our building. Thank you to everyone who helped make it possible!





# August Adult Growing Connections



## August 3 Sermon Discussion

Sermon Discussion provides an opportunity to engage in conversation about the scripture passages. Facilitators work to create a welcoming atmosphere where participants can explore their thoughts and feelings regarding the issues and topics presented in the day's scriptures. Everyone is welcome to join and enjoy an open, supportive environment for exploring their faith.

## August 10 Back to School

Back to School Fond du Lac is a community wide collaboration of agencies, businesses, schools, churches and people like you, who come together every year to support this wonderful mission project. Back to School began in 1995 and initially served about 100 students and continued to grow to 2,429 students served last year. Come and learn about the Back to School Fond du Lac.

## BIG Birthday Celebrations

Come and celebrate Pat D.  
and Marie L's Birthdays'!

More details to come.

Date TBD



# August Adult Growing Connections PT 2



## August-TBD Damascus Road

Damascus Road Project was founded in 2009 and is dedicated to fighting the evil of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. They are committed to bring awareness through educating, restoring, and empowering the abused, and advocating for the prevention and abolition of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. Come and learn about the upcoming September 27<sup>th</sup> Educational opportunity at the First Presbyterian Church.



### August 31 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.

## September 7 Making Meaning: A Journey Through Creativity and Connection

Join us as Hannah Chung, author-illustrator, share a discussion on Making Meaning: A Journey Through Creativity and Connection. Her debut picture book, The Most Perfect Persimmon (Astra Young Readers, 2024), is an intergenerational story about learning patience and embracing imperfection. Her forthcoming book, Bread Days (Fall 2025), is a gentle reflection on baking, family, and the memories we carry and create. Hannah grew up between the United States and South Korea. A graduate of Fond du Lac High School (Class of 2008), and you may remember her from her time here at FPC.





# Church Staff

## Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin

[pastor@fdlpresbyterian.org](mailto:pastor@fdlpresbyterian.org)

## Mary Robotka

Financial Assistant

[mrobotka@fdlpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrobotka@fdlpresbyterian.org)

## Jennifer Zander

Faith Formation Coordinator

Volunteer Coordinator

[jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org](mailto:jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org)

## Tillie Statezny

Communications Coordinator & Admin assistant

[Fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org](mailto:Fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org)

## Ruling Elders

Dave Erickson - Clerk

Bacon, Mary

Hayes, Todd

Holstein, Ruth

Johnson, Larry

Jones, Mary

Marchionda, Joanne

Pike, Danielle

Rehn, Terry

Warntjes, Mike

## Deacons

Dassow, Judy \*

Miller, Kim \*

Mullins, Kay

Munson, Phyllis

Peachey, Wendy

Pretorius, Elfrieda

Pretorius, Gerhard

Schry, Jolene

Smith, Carol

Smith, Lewis

Stark, Evan

Zander, Scott

\* denotes Deacon Moderators

Elder Of the Month:  
Todd Hayes

Deacon Of the Month:  
Kay Mullins

## Volunteer Staff

## Joanne Marchionda

Handbell Choir Director

## John Neville

Treasurer

## Judy Dassow

Assistant Treasurer

## Dave Weber

Custodian Assistant

## Getting Connected:

Office Phone: 920.922.0425

Office Email: [fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org](mailto:fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org)

Facebook: [First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac](#)



Website: [www.fdlpresbyterian.org](http://www.fdlpresbyterian.org)



Breeze Breeze Subdomain: [FDLFirstPres](#)



Youtube: [www.youtube.com/@firstpresbyterianchurchfon2722](https://www.youtube.com/@firstpresbyterianchurchfon2722)

