

2025

The Presbyterian Post

— September —



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We all know that implementing change can be hard. How many “new year’s resolutions” have we each made, only to fall back into our old way of living? How many times have we each made the same resolution year after year, each time learning from our past experiences? There is great joy when we finally reach the goals we have been attempting to achieve! We need to focus on the goal, learn from our mistakes (aka “failures”), and keep trying to be our best.

Ten years ago, our congregation engaged in a powerful two-year process of what could be called recalibration; a new beginning for who we are and how we live out being the church. This process included training in family systems theory, mediation, conflict resolution, communication, Presbyterian polity, financial management and accountability, and leadership structure for healthy ministry. In cooperation with the Winnebago Presbytery Commission on Ministry (WBP COM) and Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (LMPC), and a significant financial investment, First Presbyterian Church of Fond du Lac WI embarked on a journey of learning to be a healthier form of the church.

When I arrived almost two years ago, I began to assess what I read, what I heard, and what I saw within my own LMPC Mediation Transformation training and my Doctoral research of Leadership in a Changing Context. Reflecting on the events of the past decade in various groups and meetings, there are several key events and decisions that have shifted us off course from achieving our original goals. At their last regular meeting, your Session has unanimously voted that in January 2026 we will re-implement the proposed congregational structure that was based on the years of congregational discernment as part of the Lombard process, adding in some important changes based on lessons we have learned from the initial attempt.

From my perspective, I believe the most important lessons include:

- 1) we need congregational engagement and ownership of the new structure
- 2) we need to clearly define what various terms mean and set clearer expectations
- 3) we need to name and maintain boundaries between the new and traditional structures we need better print communication to provide clarity of expectations and boundaries
- 5) we need to schedule regular opportunities for congregational reflection and adjustment

As part of the first lesson, your Session needs to hear what your thoughts and feelings are, and what lessons you would add to this list. We will be hosting a few structured gatherings in the next two months, and plan to have a congregational meeting to vote regarding the implementation of the new structure. Specific dates and details have not been finalized.

Until any changes are officially implemented, we will continue to operate as we have been for the past several years. Please be in prayer for our congregation, watch for more details and opportunities to be part of the discernment process of implementing these changes, and be intentional about listening to one another so that we might hear the Spirit’s guidance as we continue to journey together in community and unity.

In Christ,

Pastor Craig

WMS-Partnership-Woodworth Middle School

Through FAMA, we've partnered with Woodworth Middle School to support students in need.

There is an urgent request for **basic clothing items for teens**, especially:

- Socks & underwear
- Black leggings (girls' sizes 2X & 3X)
- Hooded sweatshirts

A donation display and collection box are in the **Narthex**.

Prefer to donate online? You can:

Order and ship items directly

(e.g., Amazon: leggings \$10–\$20, sweatshirts ~\$15)

Give financially through the church office, offering plates, or online—**we'll shop for you!**



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



Loaves & Fishes

September 10 4-6 pm

Loaves and Fishes Join us in making a difference in the lives of those in need by volunteering for the Loaves and Fishes meal on Wednesday, September 10. We will be serving meals from 4-6pm at the Church of Peace, located at 158 S Military Road. We need volunteers to help us prepare, serve, and clean up after the meal. If you have the time and energy to spare, please consider reaching out to the office to sign up. We are also accepting fruit and dessert donations for the meal. Every contribution counts, so if you are able to provide fruit cups/fresh fruit (apples/oranges/bananas) or desserts, please bring them to the First Presbyterian church before 3 pm on September 10th.

Thank you in advance to everyone who can help us serve the community in need. Together, we can make a meaningful difference and impact the lives of those in our community.



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.

Bell Choir is back

September 3rd!

Bell Choir is back starting Wednesday, September 3rd 5:15–6:00 PM! If you're interested in joining, please reach out to Joanne Marchionda at jomarchionda@me.com.



Outdoor Worship

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 Outdoor Worship Sunday **September 14.**



Fondue Fest – Saturday, Sept. 6

Join us for Fondue Fest on the west side of Main Street (between 1st and Forest)! Our church will have a booth at this fun community event, and we're looking for volunteers to help. A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex or you can click [here](#) come be part of the excitement and connect with the community!

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.

Women in Faith September 3

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.

Women in Faith will next meet on Wednesday, September 3rd from 5:30-7:30 pm. We will share a potluck meal. The meal sign up is on the Welcome Center in the Narthex

After dinner, we will reminisce about school and Sunday School memories. Please bring class pictures, yearbook, or memorabilia to share. (If you are able email a picture to jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org)



Blood Drive-September 9th

First Presbyterian Church Fond du Lac is honored to host the September 9th, Blood Drive. The drive will go from 1:00pm-5:30-pm. This is your chance to Give back!! One donation can save three Lives!!!! If you donate, you will be entered to win a football package, including Tickets to the Packers vs Vikings Game!! Make your appointment today!!! Appointments are highly encouraged, as it helps secure your spot. Click [here](#) to register, or call 877.232.4376.

Mark your calendar for Future FPC Blood Drives

- Tuesday November 4
- Tuesday December 20





Grieving a loss?

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

Join us at

Grief  Share[®]

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
or
griefshare.org/findagroup

September Growing Connections



September 7 Making Meaning: A Journey Through Creativity and Connection

Join us as Hannah Chung, author-illustrator, shares a discussion on Making Meaning: A Journey Through Creativity and Connection. Her debut picture book, ***The Most Perfect Persimmon***, 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. You may remember Hannah from her time here at FPC and Fondy High School class of 2008.

Join Darren Beachy for a three-week series on Healthcare Power of Attorney (HCPOA).

September 14 Foundations of Healthcare Power of Attorney

September 21 Making and Using the Document

September 28 Beyond the Form- Honoring Values and Facilitating Conversations

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, Sept. 6th Fondue Fest

Come greet visitors and help children with craft projects at the First Presbyterian Church tent at Fondue Fest. RSVP to Jennifer.

Wed, Sept. 10th Loaves and Fishes-4:00-6:00pm at Church of Peace

If you are available to help prepare, serve, or clean up after the meal

Saturday, Sept. 13th Outdoor Movie Night 7:30-9:30pm

All church event. Bring your blankets/chairs and enjoy the snacks and campfire as we watch *Finding Nemo*.

Sunday, Sept. 14th Kick Off Sunday -11:00am Outdoor Games and Lunch

Saturday, Sept. 20th 10am Volunteer at the Woodlands Building 77 Wisconsin American Drive from 10-11am. Parents can pick up at the same location 77 Wisconsin American Drive at 11:05 pm. Please let me know if you are planning to attend or if you have any questions.

Saturday, Sept. 27th Damascus Road Project-participate in the workshop or help with childcare.

Sunday, Sept. 28th TBA



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 contact Jennifer or Pastor Craig.

September 19 7:00-9:00pm Cribbage



Join us for an exciting game of Cribbage on Friday, September 19 at 7:00 pm in Gathering Room. Don't worry if you've never played before - our seasoned players will be there to teach you! It's the perfect time to learn a new pastime and make new friends. Contact the church office with any questions.

September 14 10:15-11:15am Kick Off Sunday

Join us for an exciting "Kick-Off" Sunday as we mark the beginning of an inspiring and faith-filled year of Sunday School. There will be engaging activities for the whole family along with valuable information about upcoming events.

Sunday School classes will begin September 21. 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.

We need your help for Sunday School. It's easy and enjoyable to get involved! You don't need teaching experience or extensive knowledge of the church to join our team. Many find that teaching enhances their understanding of the Bible and our faith. It's a wonderful opportunity for parents to share experiences with their children, and for adults who don't usually work with children to gain a fresh perspective on life.

We are looking for Teachers/Assistants for various groups:

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)



Your involvement will make a meaningful difference in the 2025-2026 school year.

For Your Information

Volunteer Staff

Joanne Marchionda
Handbell Choir Director

John Neville
Treasurer

Judy Dassow
Assistant Treasurer

Dave Weber
Custodian Assistant

Ruling Elders

Dave Erickson - Clerk
Bacon, Mary
Hayes, Todd
Holstein, Ruth
Johnson, Larry
Jones, Mary
Marchionda, Joanne
Pike, Danielle
Rehn, Terry
Warntjes, Mike

CONTACT US

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- ✉ Breeze Subdomain: FDLFirstPresb
- 👤 Facebook First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac
YouTube First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac

Deacon of the Month: Judy Dassow

Elder of the Month: Terry Rehn

Staff

Rev. Dr. Craig R Alwin
Pastor@fdlpresbyterian.org

Jennifer Zander
Jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org

Mary Robotka
Mrobotka@fdlpresbyterian.org

Tillie Statezny
Fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org

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