

2025

The Presbyterian Post

— October —



Happenings & Highlights

Pages 2-4

Faith Formation.....	2
50-year member Celebration.....	3
Congregational Mtg.....	3
Open Positions.....	4
Peace & Global Offerings.....	4

Pages 5-9

Loaves & Fishes.....	5
Bell Choir.....	5
Cribbage.....	5
Men's Breakfast.....	6
Women in Faith.....	6
Open Sew.....	6
Ruby's Pantry.....	7
Prayer Requests.....	8
Thank You's.....	8
Greif Share.....	9

Pages 10-15

Growing Connections.....	10
Coats for Kids.....	8
Damascus Road.....	9
Blood Drive Updates.....	9
World Communion day.....	10
Children's Bibles	14
Sunday School.....	15

Faith Formation Sermon Series

As we continue through the Gospel of Luke, Jesus engages us in many conversations about faith. We hear and use the word “faith” so often, that we may not stop to think more deeply about what Jesus really means and how it should impact our lives. For most of us, the word “faith” is a static noun. That is one accurate way to understand it. For many in the world around us, faith can be understood without any connection to God. Andrew Root states, “We are unwittingly exchanging the divine action of the Holy Spirit for pragmatic strategies... allowing our conceptions of faith to be seen as brand loyalty to the church over experiences of the living Christ, who comes to us through cross and resurrection, giving us his very self as the gift of faith.”

Faith Formation is a lifelong process of nurturing our relationship with God and our interactions with the world around us. As Jesus draws close to Jerusalem, Luke shows us that Jesus uses the term “faith” as having an active dimension to it. Becoming more aware of this ongoing active in breaking presence of Christ in our lives is essential to being the church. May we earnestly desire to see the active presence of God in our everyday ordinary lives and begin to share our stories of these encounters with one another more and more.

I invite you to read the following passages in various translations before worship, seeking to allow the Holy Spirit to transform us and transform our faith:

10/5/2025	Luke 17:5-10
10/12/2025	Luke 17:11-19
10/19/2025	Luke 18:1-8
10/26/2025	Luke 18:9-14
11/2/2025	Luke 19:1-10
11/9/2025	Luke 20:27-38
11/16/2025	Luke 21:5-19
11/23/2025	Luke 23:33-43





Nancy Hilbert

Nancy Pitzen

Kim Stobb

We will celebrate the faith, service and friendship of our 50 year members on Sunday, October 5th. We will honor them during worship service and hold a reception in Fellowship Hall after the service.

Congregational Meeting October 26th



Join us for a **Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 26.** Together we will consider proposed bylaw amendments (line 18 in the handbook), elect officers, and approve the pastor's call for 2026. This is an important moment in the life of our church, and we invite all members to take part in shaping our shared future.

Join Our Team – Part time Music & 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



Peace and Global Witness Offering

The Peace and Global Witness Offering will be collected on World Communion Sunday, October 5. This offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. 25% of our offering will be retained by our congregation, where it can be used to support peacemaking efforts in our own local community. Another 25% will be retained to use in peace-making work on a regional level, and 50% will be used to support peacemaking and reconciliation efforts on a global level. You can contribute to our church's Peace and Global Witness Offering online through the online giving portal in Breeze, or you can use the special envelopes in the pew racks and place your gift in the offering plate.

Loaves & Fishes



With your support, we were able to serve **180 people** at Loaves & Fishes on Wednesday, September 10. Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible!

Our **next serving date will be Tuesday, December 17**, and we welcome volunteers to join us in serving our neighbors in need. Together, we can continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in our community.



Bell Choir Rehearsals

Bell Choir Practice every Thursday from 5:15–6:00 PM! If you're interested in joining, please reach out to Joanne Marchionda at jomarchionda@me.com.

Cribbage-7:00-9:00pm

Join us for an exciting game of Cribbage on the third Friday of every month 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.





Church Open Sew Day

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

What: Bring your sewing/quilting/needlework projects for an open work session. While hands are busy creating, we will discuss the possibilities for mission projects.

Where: Gathering Room

Lunch: BYO Lunch and drinks

If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Park at 920-251-1628 or rypark@charter.net



Women in Faith-October 8th

Women in Faith meets once a month for an evening filled with fun, devotion, and engaging activities like games or crafts. Bring a dish to share if you can—if not, simply bring yourself and join the fun.

Our next Women in Faith gathering is on Wednesday, October 8th, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. We'll enjoy a light potluck meal, with a casserole as the main dish, followed by two fun fall craft activities and fellowship. Sign up to bring a dish at the Welcome Center in the Narthex or use the [Food Sign-Up Sheet online](#).

Everyone is welcome—feel free to bring a friend! If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer.

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.



Ruby's Pantry is for anyone looking to extend their monthly grocery budget. For a \$25 cash donation guests will receive a share of food, which is an abundance of groceries. There is no income or residency requirement.

Distribution Date: Thursday, October 9th

Location: Grace Christian Church
1596 4th Street, Fond du Lac
920-923-5292

www.gccfdl.org/rubys-pantry



Guests: Our East parking lot and line opens at 3:30pm. Doors open at 4:00pm and the distribution begins at 4:30pm. A guest who has pre-registered may enter the building only at their scheduled time. All guests will receive their food at the North end of the building where volunteers will load the food into the trunks of guests' vehicles. Trunks must be empty. Parking is not permitted on 4th Street, Hwy K, or the Mausoleum while waiting for the parking lot to open.

Pre-registration: Pre-register for a share at www.rubyspantry.org. Time slots close at 3:00pm the day before each distribution or as soon as all time slots are filled. Pre-registration opens for the next month at 1:00am the day after each distribution.

Donation: Each food share is a \$25 cash (only) donation for walk-in guests and \$25 donation by credit/debit card or Amazon Pay on-line. Paypal charges a \$1 service fee per share for all on-line food share donations.

Volunteering: Every adult and child volunteering must submit a volunteer application at www.rubyspantryorg. All applications and background checks must be approved *before* the night of the distribution. Volunteers need to be physically capable of consistently lifting 10-20 lbs., working on their feet, and moving at a quick pace. As a matter of safety, all volunteers working in the distribution room need to wear close-toed shoes. If you are interested in bringing a group of volunteers, please contact us at least a week ahead of time to help us in planning.

For further information please reach out to Site Coordinator, Rachel Rudzik, at rachelrudzik@gccfdl.org.

We would like to Thank our Church Family for the calls, support, cards, visits and prayers. We are extremely grateful and thankful for the people who attended and helped at Jerry's celebration of life service and Fellowship Time.

Thank you very much.

Our Family greatly appreciate you all!!!

Nancy Hilbert

Tim, Donna and Family

Amy, Scott and Family

*Thank
You*



The Family of Marie Laiten wishes to thank those who sent cards, thoughtful notes, and prayers at the time of mother's passing. Her church family was always important to her.

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.



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



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES OCTOBER ADULT GROWING CONNECTIONS SUNDAYS 10:15-11:15AM

October 5 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.

October 12 Risks of Spams and Scams-FdL Sheriffs Department

Join Detectives Tyler Tikkanen and Derek Rehfeidt as we learn about the issues of Phone and Email Spams & Scams

October 19 Breast Cancer Awareness-Lisa Michels (APNP)

Join Lisa Michels (APNP Oncology/Cancer Genetics) to speak on "Everything you need to know about Breast Cancer" This topic will cover: Breast imaging, types of breast cancer, treatments for breast cancer to include chemotherapy, radiation and endocrine therapy, genetic testing for personal or family history of breast cancer, breast cancer prevention in women at "high risk", and what is considered high risk.

October 26 Hospice

We invite you to join Chaplain Evan Stark of SSM Hospice as he shares insights on the philosophy of hospice care and what it can look like for individuals and families considering this option. He will also highlight the compassionate support and services offered at the **Hospice Home of Hope in Fond du Lac**, where he primarily serves as chaplain.



Coats for Kids

It's October, and that means it's time to search your closets for any coats that you no longer need or want. The Salvation Army is collecting coats in both kid and adult sizes during their annual Coats for Kids campaign. Maybe you have coats that don't fit well anymore, or some that you just don't want to wear for another season. If you have any of these garments lurking in your closets, round them up and drop them off in the Coats for Kids collection box in the narthex by October 23. Let the Salvation Army find a new home for your unwanted coats, and you will have more space in your closets!

The Damascus Road Project Presentation

We were grateful to have **27 people in attendance** at the recent Damascus Road Project presentation. Attendees shared how eye-opening the information was and how important it is to raise awareness about the dangers around us.

It's easy to think, *"That will never happen to me or anyone I know"* or *"That doesn't happen in Fond du Lac."* Sadly, that isn't true. The Damascus Road Project reminds us that the **average age of child sex trafficking is just 13.**

If you were unable to attend on September 27, please consider joining one of their monthly trainings, or visit their website to learn more about recognizing the signs of human trafficking and sex trafficking.

As you look at the children in the pews, heading home from school, or playing on the playground, please pray for their safety. And remember: **if you see something, say something. God's children are not for sale**

Blood Drive Updates

At a time when many church drives are experiencing slowdowns, ours continues to show steady growth. In fact, our September 9 drive was the most collected since 2019—thank you for making it possible!

Drive Results

- Donors registered: 25 (plus 1 walk-in)
- Deferrals: 1
- Whole blood collected: 19 units
- Double red cells collected: 4 units
- **Total collected: 23 units—supporting up to 67 local patients!**



We were notified just days after the drive that some of this blood was already being used at Froedtert Hospital. Your generosity is making an immediate difference.

Did you know?

- Double Red Cell donations are available for use right away because they're already filtered.
- Whole blood donations require extra processing and may take up to 3 days before they're ready for patients.
- Double Red Cell donors can give every 4 months, while whole blood donors can give every 2 months.

With the holidays approaching and winter weather ahead, please consider donating Double Red Cells—it's a powerful way to help save lives quickly.

Thank you for your continued generosity in this life-saving ministry. As Jesus helped the poor, the infirm, and the weak, we too are doing God's work when we give. **Amen!**

Looking Ahead

Appointments are highly encouraged to secure your spot. [Click here to register](#) or call 877.232.4376.

- Tuesday, November 4
- Tuesday, December 20

Celebrating World Wide Communion

October 5th will have a new look-The Deacons have purchased and replaced the current pitcher and chalice with a new pitcher, 6 chalices and 2 plates. The Communion set was purchased with monies from the Ann Herzig memorial fund. Phyllis Munson did an excellent job working with the pottery company and selecting the style and color. It was presented to the Deacons for approval, and we now have a new set to celebrate The Lord's Supper.



Children's Bibles-Third Grade or Above

Attention all parents and guardians of students in third grade or above! As part of our tradition at First Presbyterian Church, we will be gifting Bibles to students. This year Bibles will be presented during worship on Sunday, October 19th, 2025.

We will participate in a Bible Class on October 12th at the beginning of Sunday School. Parents are welcome to attend. If you have any questions or would like to have your child receive a Bible, please contact Jennifer at the church office by Thursday, October 9th.



Children's Bibles-Preschool

Sunday, October 19

Our tradition at First Presbyterian Church is that each Fall, children who are three or will turn three during the 2025-2026 school year will be receiving their very own Children's Bible as a gift from our church community. We again will be honoring our preschool children (3-year-olds and above) with a children's Bible on **Sunday, October 19 during 9am worship**. If your child is new to the church and has not received a Bible or if you have questions, please contact the church office. Also please let Jennifer know if your child will be present and how you wish his/her name to appear in the Bible by Sunday, October 12.

Sunday School Sunday Mornings 10:15-11:15 am

Sunday School – Our PreK-12th grade classes utilize the Feasting on the Word curriculum, which aligns with the lectionary. This approach allows students to engage with the same scripture passages that are read during each church service, fostering deeper connections between classroom discussions and worship.

We invite you to join our Sunday School team! Getting involved is easy and rewarding—no teaching experience or extensive church background is required. Many volunteers discover that teaching deepens their understanding of the Bible and strengthens their faith. It's a meaningful opportunity for parents to connect with their children, and for adults who rarely work with kids 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 (3 to 5 Grades)

Middle School (6 to 8 Grades)

High School (9 to 12 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

-  Office Phone 920.922.0425
-  Website
www.fdlpresbyterian.org
-  Breeze Subdomain: FDLFirstPresb
-  Facebook First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac
YouTube First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac
- Deacon of the Month:** Kim Miller
- Elder of the Month:** Mary Bacon

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