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### Reflections

### "Kindness and Humility"

<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

If you pay attention to it, you may be surprised how often we use metaphors of fighting and battle. We fight traffic, have a war against drugs, and battle illnesses. There is a common attitude that we have to fight for our own rights, to be first, (2<sup>nd</sup> place is the first of the losers) and that we either run strong or get run over. In short, there is a strong assumption of competition and conflict in which we can easily find ourselves drawn. The problem is that we cannot build relationships and fight, at the same time. We are not cable of love and hate simultaneously. Worse yet, if we retain hostility and bitterness, it doesn't just stay in one place. It will eventually find its way into all of our relationships and ultimately will create separation instead of closeness. Because fighting, hostility, and suspicion will either lead to separation and alienation, or it will cause us to be so stressed we are unable to be healthy in mind or body.

It's ironic that so much of the focus of the world is on the fear of missing out if we aren't in the front of the line. What people really need is closeness: to have relationships that enable them to feel warmth and care. People long to experience meaningful conversations, healthy connections, and to simply be in a place where they feel good about themselves and the people in the room. Sadly, however, it is the suspicion, fear, and inability to let go of the past that causes relationships to remain at best competitive, and often toxic. In many families there are relationships which are a constant source of anxiousness and pain. Family should be the place of mutual love and support.

The Prophet Micah, in this short sentence above, was speaking to people who were very religious but unfortunately not wise in their relationships with God or with one another. The passages before this recount that God is not looking for ostentatious worship, extravagant sacrifices, or showy forms of devotion. What God wants from us is that we do justice, that we rejoice and support kindness, and walk in humility with our God. That last part is fascinating! It doesn't mean that we think less of ourselves, but it means to be aware of the people around us, as we are in fellowship with God. It is simply an invitation to care, and out of that caring, to experience the healthy relationships that God wishes to share with us.

It's not that complicated; it just requires some practice. It is very easy to get caught up in the competition and hostility. We struggle to stay away from the mindset of fighting the fights and taking on an attitude of division that is so prevalent in our world today. Humility, kindness, and a concern for justice cause us to be more open, more aware, of those who are often forgotten. Without engaging in retaliation or attacks, this awareness and humility allows us to provide a testimony of grace and healing, rather than more avenues of attack.

The best way to "win" in the world today is to not play games in the first place. Don't get caught up in the momentum of the fight and conflict. In place of conflict, choose kindness, humility, and compassion to become people of healing and peace. And that is what is needed, at this time, in the world.

## Coming Up in Worship

### 01/19/2020

Sermon: "God's Promise to Know Us"

Theme: God's love is a present strength to all those who open their hearts to the loving

kindness and compassion that God wants to share through us to all people.

Purpose: The Congregation will examine and open themselves in their trust in God's loving

care for them.

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 God knows you and has promised to strengthen you.

John 1:29-42 Jesus' call of his disciples knowing their strengths and

weaknesses.

#### **Ouestions:**

What does it really mean that God loves us? Does God really know what we need or is God too distant from us to be able to know much about us? How do we perceive God's nature as far as being present and caring? What strength do we gain through trusting in God's love and knowledge for us? Do we trust that God can know us and accept us? How do we deal with our feelings of guilt and fear that separate us from God?

### 01/26/2020

Sermon: "God's Promise of a Purpose"

Theme: Our relationship with God and with one another in the church is dependent on our

taking part in sharing the love and grace of God rather than focusing on our control

or getting our way.

Purpose: The congregation will consider their particular role of ministry versus falling into

distractions.

Scriptures: Isaiah 9:1-4 God will shine a light to all people which will lead to hope

and celebration.

Matthew 4:12-23 Jesus calls the disciples to be "fishers of men."

#### Questions:

Why did the disciples choose to follow Jesus? What does it mean for us to follow Jesus and to be a disciple? How does our need to serve God by using our particular gifts affect our relationships with Christ and with other Christians? How does our need to offer light into darkness differ from proselytizing or telling people what to believe? What is the joy of serving God (isn't it work)? How do we enter into a relationship in which we are part of the light rather than serving obligations to do work for God?

2/9/2020 Pastor Mary Council-Austen is preaching.

### **PYA = Presbyterian Youth Association**

Basic Information PYA is for students in the 5th-12th grade
Purpose To get to know Jesus Christ and have lots of fun!

Sunday, January 19 12:00-2:00pm PYA Meeting lunch and planning Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, January 26 1:30-4:30PM Tubing at Sunburst

Leave the church @ 1:30PM and return at 5PM.

Cost is \$15-\$20. Depending on number of

participants. RSVP by Wednesday, January 22nd.

Sunday, February 2 8:00am & 10:30am Souper Bowl of Caring – (Both Worship Services)

Collect offerings for the Fond du Lac Food Pantry

for **LOCAL** food distribution.



RSVP to Jennifer for all activities.



### January 23 - Blood Drive

During the post-holiday season, please consider making another type of donation!

The Blood Center of Wisconsin will conduct a blood drive at First Presbyterian on Thursday, January 23, from 2 pm to 6 pm. Click <u>here</u> to register online or you can sign up in the Narthex.

Interesting facts: One unit of blood is roughly equal to one pint. The average individual has 1.5 gallons of blood in their body. A baby is born with about l cup of blood.

Donors are always encouraged to drink plenty of water and have a snack before donating. We'll provide a sandwich, snacks and beverage when donation is completed.

Please consider donating. It may be the most important donation you ever make!

# January 24 -Warming Shelter

At our June congregational meeting, we held two break-out sessions on how to spend outreach funds. Homelessness turned out to be a main concern. Because of that input, the Team has been offering financial support to a number of community organizations. In addition, the Team has been trying to offer opportunities for members of the Church to learn more about the issue.



For a number of years, a few dedicated members of our congregation have spent an evening at the Fond du Lac warming shelter and provided a meal for those staying overnight.

On Friday, January 24, a number of members will again be spending an evening at the Salvation Army (the current location of the warming shelter). **Please arrive at 6:00pm to help set-up. We begin serving at 6:30pm.** 

There are a few possibilities that I would like you to consider, regarding the warming shelter:

- 1. join the group at the Salvation Army facility on January 24. Those who have attended in the past say that the evenings have been both very educational and very rewarding.
- 2. provide food that could be served that evening: a casserole that could be reheated, a dessert, cookies, would all be welcome. If cooking is not your thing, fresh fruit would be most welcome. It is not something that they can ordinarily can afford.
- 3. a small cash donation, even a dollar or two, could help defer the cost of providing the food that will be served that evening.

There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center. If you are providing food, it should be brought to the church by **4:00pm on January 24**. Those attending the warming shelter will pick up the items and bring them to the Salvation Army.

After the guests eat, we do things a little differently than most of the other groups that come. If there is food left, most of us also eat with the guests. Those of us that eat with the guests spread out among the tables to talk (mostly listen) with the them. It is always and experience that we feel good about doing.

Here are a few facts about homelessness in Fond du Lac county:

- 1. There are approximately 400 homeless people There is not an exact.
- 2. Some find refuge sleeping on the couches of friends or acquaintances, others have been using the very limited facilities provided by the Solution Center, some have been living in one of a number of tent cities hidden from view in the city.
- 3. Currently, about 35 to 40 people per night have been using the warming shelter at the Salvation Army. This is about twice what they have experienced prior years.

Thank you for your attention. I realize that this is not the most joyful topic, but I am thankful that there are people who are willing to help. As much as we try to live in our own little clean, warm, plentiful lives, in this setting we realize we are all connected and that we need to care about everyone within our reach.

### February 2 - Souper Bowl of Caring 2020

On Sunday February  $2^{nd}$ , millions of Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join our young



people, and young people around the country, as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others. Please bring food/health products or drop 1 (or more) in the soup pot as you leave worship on February  $2^{nd}$ .

Our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Please support their efforts! **All money and food collected will stay right here in the Fond du Lac area.** Since the Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990, more than \$110 million has been raised for local charities across the country. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around the "Big Game" into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

Over the years, PYA at the First Presbyterian Church Fond du Lac have collected \$5020 and 1374 food items in conjunction to Souper Bowl of Caring. **All money and food collected will stay right here in the Fond du Lac area. Last year we donated 101 food items and \$400 to the Fond du Lac Food Pantry.** Please support the youth of our church in this effort to "love our neighbors" by dropping your dollar in the soup pot on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

# February 9 - Financial Peace University



Financial Peace University (FPU) is a 9-week life-changing program that will teach you how to achieve your financial goals by eliminating debt, saving for the future, and giving like never before. The purpose of FPU is more than sharing of information, we also strive for transformation. It is a video presentation of Mr. Ramsey's tried and true principles for financial success. It is an opportunity to get expert training whether you need financial guidance or are already savvy.

Class members meet with their class each week to watch a video lesson from world-renowned financial expert Dave Ramsey. After the informational video, the class participates in discussion groups. Dave's style is simple and easy to understand. He will change the way you think about money and you'll actually have fun as you learn!

The classes will be on Sunday evenings at 6:00 to 7:30 for nine weeks starting on February 9, 2020.

The cost is \$75.00 for individuals or per family (ages 12 and up living in the same household). The registration fee includes access to online videos (for one year), an app, a workbook, and Dave Ramsey's book, *Complete Guide to Money*.

Through Financial Peace University, you will be challenged and motivated to make a plan for your money that can change your life and legacy forever! Space is limited so register now.

There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center. If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Wilcox, 920.922.0162 or by email at wwilcox@excel.net.



February 23 - **Save the Date** 

Wisconsin Herd Basketball Game

- Sunday February 23
- 2:30pm
- Menominee Nation Arena, Oshkosh

More information will be available soon!

# Lenten Suppers

Lenten Soup Suppers -February 26-April 1

Our Lenten Soup Supper tradition is continuing with Dave Weber preparing the soups and Nancy Hilbert coordinating the events.

Soup, bread and dessert will be served, on Wednesday evenings, during Lent, at 5:30pm.

In order for Soup Suppers to be successful, we need your help! Volunteers will be needed to make a dessert, help serve or do <u>simple</u> clean-up. Sign up at the Welcome Center. Dave or Nancy will be glad to answer any questions.

Please do not wait until the last minute to sign up as we need to plan now.

We are counting on you!

### Share Your Events!



The Loving Team would like to share your events! First Presbyterian Church would like to support our church family, both children and adults, in your activities outside of church. For example:

> Concerts Plays Sporting Events, etc.

This would enable interested members of the congregation to attend these activities. Please give the dates, times and the name of your event, to the church office and your activity will be announced during our church services.

The Loving Team

# Coffee Hour

Every Sunday 9:15-10:15

Please volunteer to host.

# Hosts are needed for January!

Coffee Hour hosts are needed on a weekly basis. Can you help?

Coffee and fruit are provided.

### On the Menu

February26

Chicken Rice Soup

March 4

**Duchess Cheese Soup** 

March 11

Creamy Ham & Potato Soup

March 18

Vegetable Beef Soup

March 25

Chili

April 1

Cream of Bratwurst & Potato Soup

Every Wednesday - 10:30-12:00pm

Don't forget, the Bible Study on the Book of John continues.

Won't you join us?



## Advent Giving -Reverse Advent Calendars Thank You



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Reverse Advent Calendar food/hygiene drive. It was very successful!

Here's what we collected:

Food for Thought 2 Lg. Boxes
Sam's Closet 2 Boxes
Family Resource Center 1 Box
FDL Food Pantry 5 Boxes

The Loving Team

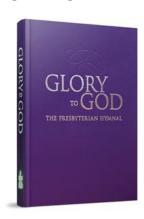
## Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Is making initial assessments of earthquake damage in Puerto Rico. Click <u>here</u> to get additional information on how you can help.





# The Presbyterian Hymnal - Longing for Light



On January 26, at both services, we will be introducing the song entitled "Longing for Light" a.k.a. "Christ Be our Light" this song is found in the new "Glory to God" hymnal #314.

By blending biblical images and current vignettes in the present tense, this hymn connects Christ's promise that he is the Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5). His charge is to His followers to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14).

Glory to God Hymnal. To hear the hymn and practice before hand please click:

https://youtu.be/5g0c4YeABTs

### **Inclement Weather**

Please check one the following sources for weather-related cancellations of Worship Services or church activities.

**Church Website** 

www.fdlpresbyterian.org

Internet

www.kfiz.com (KFIZ Radio)

Radio

97.7 WFDL

TV

Channel 5 WFDL



Byron Sabel is keeping warm with a scarf that was crocheted by a church member.



### "Journey of Hope: Ministry with the South Sudanese"

It is official! Leisa Wagstaff will be in Fond du Lac on March 21 and 22. Please save the date for a community event tentatively planned for Saturday morning. First Presbyterian is hosting Leisa for worship and education hour on Sunday, March 22.

Join us in listening, learning and becoming inspired by the Journey of Hope found in Leisa's global mission work. She says, "I serve as your representative, your mission co-worker, and the embodiment of your desire to share the good news of Jesus Christ in every corner of the earth."



After nearly 30 years as a mission co-worker, Leisa helps the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan (PCOSS) strengthen its educational ministry by facilitating the repair and construction of primary schools, developing in-service teacher training programs, and nurturing community participation in education. Statistics show that 70% of children between the ages of six and seventeen have never set foot inside a classroom, only 25% of the school age population is enrolled in school, and almost 90% of teachers are untrained.

Leisa invites everyone to share in this ministry alongside her and our global partners.

# Leisa's prayer verse:

"... Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you..."

Isaiah 43:1b-2a





# **Growing Connections** 9:15am in the Parlor

Growing Connections is our ministry of learning opportunities for adults. We seek to grow in relationship, wisdom, and understanding – all of the connections that enable us to know Christ more fully and discover our mission in the world. Growing Connections opportunities will focus on learning about our relationships and how we grow in faith, as well as, mission opportunities.

We are "Christians, Serving, Learning and Loving." This is an opportunity to grow in faith as we learn more about ourselves, how Christ is reaching out to the world, and how we may use our gifts as the Body of Christ.

### **January**

**19 Tech Support** Did you get a new electronic device for Christmas? Why are people using Venmo? What is TikTok or Snapchat? Come with a device and/or questions and we'll discuss together.

**26 Session Forum** Every month, a time will be set aside to review recent activities of the church session, discuss the work of the church, and share a vision for where Christ is taking First Presbyterian Church, in the future. The forum will be hosted by the Elder of the Month. These forums are an opportunity to seek to gather as "Christians, Serving, Learning and Loving."

### Talkback - Sunday Mornings at 9:15am (Resource Room)

Talkback is a discussion of the scripture passages and themes for that particular Sunday's worship. Discussion 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. The class is open to anyone who wants to enjoy an open and caring environment for exploring their faith.



Schedule your donation: in the Narthex

online http:/bit.ly/fpjan2020

call 877.232.4376

### In January

Deacon

Brian Conran odosou@mac.com

Elder

Noah Baker

baker318@live.com

### First Presbyterian Focus

Please send submissions for the Newsletter to:

fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org.

### **Church Office Hours**

Monday - Wednesday 9:00am - 5:00pm

Thursday

9:00am - 12:00pm

Friday Closed

Saturday 9:00 - 12:00pm

Fall/Winter Worship

(September - May)

8:00am & 10:30am

Summer Worship
(May - September)

9:00am

#### Ushers

### January 19

5:00 Jim & Judy Dassow

Larry Merrill Kari Jacobsen-Gagnow

7:00 Lew & Carol Smith

Alex Zander

### January 26

8:00 Laurie Leestma-Christie

Bob & Barb Baumhardt

Gail Kamphuis

10:30 Wendy Wilcox

Sue Baker Jolene Schry Les Mier

February 2

8:00 Nancy Hilbert

Lew & Carol Smith

Carol Wetzel

10:30 4 Ushers Needed

### February 9

8:00 Bob & Barb Baumhardt

Dave Erickson Mike Petersen

10:30 4 Ushers Needed

### **Prayers and Praises**

### Continued Prayers for:

Liam Anderson

Silas Willey

Chastity Geisthardt

Jesse Fisher

Pat Dilling

Mike Frize

Dan Mitchell

Lincoln Deanovich

Paige Clumpner

Rhonda Brewer

Ruth Smith

Jim and Peg Dvorak

John Meyst

Kristina Arellano

Leisa Wagstaff - PCUSA

Mission Co-worker in South

Sudan

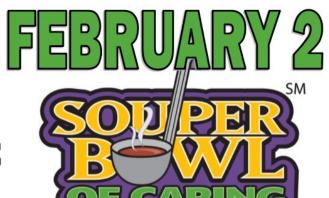
### **Prayer Partners**

Prayer request cards are in the pew racks and in the Prayer Box (on the table in the Narthex). Put your request in the offering plate or the Prayer Box and we will partner with you in prayer.

Rejoice: The gift of growing together in the body of Christ.

# January 2020

19	20 Martin Luther King	21	22	23	24	25
8a-9a 8:00 Worship 9:15a-10:15a Coffee Hour 9:15a-10:15a Educa- tion Hour 9:15a-10:15a Growing Connections-Tech Support 9:15a-10:15a Talkback 10:30a-11:30a 10:30 Worship 12p-2p PYA Mtg 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Meeting	10a-11:30a Staff Meeting	1p-3p Financial Team Meeting (Office) 6p-7p AA Meeting	8a-9a Breakfast - Pump & Pantry 10:30a-12p Bible Study - The Book of John 12p-1p Noon Prayer 6:30p-7:30p Confirmation Class 6:30p-9p Fond du Lac Table Tennis Club	2p-6p Blood Drive		10a-12p Mary Binning Memorial Service
26 8a-9a 8:00 Worship 9:15a-10:15a Coffee Hour 9:15a-10:15a Education Hour 9:15a-10:15a Session Forum 9:15a-10:15a Talkback 10:30a-11:30a 10:30 Worship 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Meeting	27 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting	28 6p-7p AA Meeting	8a-9a Breakfast - Pump & Pantry 10:30a-12p Bible Study - The Book of John 12p-1p Noon Prayer 6:30p-7:30p Confirmation Class 6:30p-9p Fond du Lac Table Tennis Club	30	31	Notes:



TACKLE

HUNGER

All money, food & hygiene items, that are collected, will stay in the Fond du Lac area. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others.

# February 2020

Tebruary 2020										
~ February 2020 ~										
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat  1 8a-9a Men of Faith 9a-10a Tech Rehearsal				
2 Groundhog Day 8a-9a 8:00 Worship 9:15a-10:15a Coffee Hour 9:15a-10:15a Education Hour 9:15a-10:15a Talkback 10:30a-11:30a 10:30 Worship 2p-3p Woodlands Communion 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Committee Meeting	3 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting 6p-7p Loving Team 6:30p-7:30p Deacons	4 1p-2p Ruth Circle 4p-5p Learning Team 6p-7p AA Meeting	5 8a-9a Breakfast - Pump & Pantry 10:30a-12p Bible Study - The Book of John 12p-1p Noon Prayer 6:30p-9p Fond du Lac Table Tennis Club	6	7	8 Presbytery Meeting 9a-10a Tech Rehearsal				
9 8a-9a 8:00 Worship 9:15a-10:15a Coffee Hour 9:15a-10:15a Education Hour 9:15a-10:15a Talkback 10:30a-11:30a 10:30 Worship 6p-7:30p Financial Peace University 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Meeting	10 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting	<b>11</b> 6p-7p AA Meeting	8a-9a Breakfast - Pump & Pantry 10:30a-12p Bible Study - The Book of John 12p-1p Noon Prayer 5p-6p Serving Team 6p-8p Women in Faith 6:30p-9p Fond du Lac Table Tennis Club	13 10:30a-11:30a Lakeview Place Communion Service 6:30p-8p Creative Arts	14 Valentine's Day	15 9a-10a Tech Rehearsal				
16 8a-9a 8:00 Worship 9:15a-10:15a Coffee Hour 9:15a-10:15a Education Hour 9:15a-10:15a Talkback 10:30a-11:30a 10:30 Worship 6p-7:30p Financial Peace University 6:30p-8p Boy Scout	17 Presidents Day 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting 6:30p-7:30p Session Meeting	18 6p-7p AA Meeting	8a-9a Breakfast - Pump & Pantry 10:30a-12p Bible Study - The Book of John 12p-1p Noon Prayer 6:30p-7:30p Confirmation Class 6:30p-9p Fond du Lac Table Tennis Club	20	<b>21</b> 7p-9p Cribbage	<b>22</b> 9a-10a Tech Rehearsal				
Troop 702 Meeting  23  8a-9a 8:00 Worship 9:15a-10:15a Coffee Hour 9:15a-10:15a Education Hour 9:15a-10:15a Talkback 10:30a-11:30a 10:30 Worship 2:30p-5p Herd Basket- ball Game 6p-7:30p Financial Peace University 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Meeting	<b>24</b> 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting	25 6p-7p AA Meeting	26 First Day of Lent  8a-9a Breakfast - Pump & Pantry 10:30a-12p Bible Study - The Book of John 12p-1p Noon Prayer 6:30p-7:30p Ash Wednesday Service 6:30p-9p Fond du Lac Table Tennis Club	27	28	29 9a-10a Tech Rehearsal 1p-4p Beyer Party				

### **Church Staff**

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Deb Zorn Communications Coordinator dzorn@fdlpresbyterian.org

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### Social Media and Website



