

April 19 Volume 22, Issue 08

First Presbyterian Church

FOCUS

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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3rd Sunday
April

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Reflections

“It’s a Marathon, Not a Sprint”

12 Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, 13and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

14 Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. 15See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and through it many become defiled.

Hebrews 12:12-15

The Letter to the Hebrews was written after the fall of Jerusalem, to the Jewish Christians who were displaced and struggling in the Roman world. Many Jewish families had already moved into the various parts of the Roman world years before the destruction of Jerusalem. They were, at the time this was written, unexpectedly supporting and caring for extended family that were living with them, as refugees. This letter was written long after the destruction and it is clear, nerves are wearing thin. What was given immediately as support was now being reconsidered. Many were beginning to question their generosity.

We are coming to a point in our Coronavirus experience where character matters and the kind of maturity we have developed in Christ begins to show. Most of us have been able to develop patterns for our daily lives that solve most of the major problems – getting food on the table, communication, and care. We are, however, tiring of the things that have become repetitive and unsatisfying. This is the time when our commitment to Christ shows in the way we speak and act.

Most of us are dealing with various kinds of loss and fear. We have lost events we looked forward to enjoying. We have lost time with family and with friends. Many of us have lost income, assets, and above all we have lost our sense of security. We have dealt with irritations and troubles. Some of us have to fight battles with bureaucracy, being on “hold”, and struggling with electronic communication, that is really fraying our nerves. So how can we be “Christians” in moments like these?

Those who embrace their relationship with Christ will frequently repeat to themselves:

- I am not the center of this, and I am here to do what I can, where I can, when I can.
- God’s love is for me at this time and my struggles are known. God accepts me as I am, limits and all.
- Everyone is doing the best they can at their particular level of capability and strength.

This may seem simplistic and superficial but bear with me: this is the foundation upon which meaningful relationships with Christ are built.

Everyone is dealing with unfamiliar complications that make what was routine more difficult. It is frustrating as we are deal with “electronic” phone systems that require us to put in the same number countless time. On the other side of that electronic pain in the neck, is another human who is getting the output. And, that output has been made a lot more complicated.

In many cases we are dealing with people whose families have been completely disrupted, incomes have been challenged, and they are either trying to figure out how to do their jobs in a new environment and new timetable, or they are out of work worrying about their finances, or possibly both. Keep in mind many “essential workers” are happy to have the gratitude, but what they would really appreciate is a raise in salary so they can afford to pay their bills and have decent health care. (continued on Page 3)

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Reflections (Continued)

Your faith in Christ is shown in how you choose to view the challenges we face. This is especially true with so much uncertainty as to when “normal” will be restored, and the losses people have sustained are evaluated. The fight of a marathon (I am told, I will admit) is to focus on “the run” and not on the “race.” To focus on the run is to be mindful of the rhythm and movement of the race, rather than to be overwhelmed by the discomfort, fatigue, and distance. We are in a place where those who are mature in their faith in Christ continue to see themselves as a part of the work of God in the world. We don’t see the issues and problems in front of us. We don’t feel disconnected from the people with whom we will need to interact. A healthy, mature Christian is thoughtful of his/her needs, challenges, and issues, but is in balance with the needs, challenges, and issues of the people who are around us.

So, strengthen the weak knees, and lift the drooping hands. We’ve got a ways to go but we are loved by God and blessed. Every step we take, God and a cloud of witnesses is cheering us on. We have been promised that Christ will transform our sorrow and suffering into joy and peace.

Peace,

Pastor Jack

Wash you hands.



Wear your mask.



Help prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Coming up In Worship

04/19/2020 2nd Sunday of Easter

Sermon: "Our Resurrection Story"

Theme: We experience the Resurrection as we open our hearts to Jesus' promise of overcoming death.

Purpose: The congregation will be renewed in their expectations of the resurrection.

Scriptures: 1 Peter 1:3-9 A Living hope through Jesus' resurrection.
John 20:19-31 Jesus appears to the disciples and a second time to Thomas.

Questions:

What does the resurrection mean to us today? How do we come to live as people of the resurrection rather than being dominated by fear of death and loss? How do we grow to be people of the resurrection? How do we trust in something we cannot see or control? What does it mean to believe without seeing or to trust in Jesus without control?

04/22/2020 **Midweek**

Message: "The Certainty of the Resurrection"

Theme: We draw strength to overcome what is uncertain through our confidence in the resurrection of Jesus.

Purpose: We are assured of Christ's love for us and confidence in God's powerful love.

Scriptures Luke 24:1-12 The Resurrection of Jesus

Questions:

What does the resurrection say to our uncertainty? In what ways does the certainty of the resurrection speak to all of the uncertainty we experience? How do we live as people who find God in the uncertainty through the promise of eternal life in Christ Jesus? What does eternal life say to us in the midst of things that are overwhelming and frightening?

04/26/2020 Third Sunday of Easter

Sermon: "Surprised by God's Grace"

Theme: As we release our assumptions and attachment to getting our way God's grace is experienced in a new and more powerful relationship of healing and peace.

Purpose: The congregation will seek to practice humility, forgiveness, and acceptance of our current situation.

Scriptures: 1 Peter 1:17-23 Living in the time of exile, being purified by the obedience of faith.

Luke 24:13-35 The Walk to Emmaus where Jesus appears to the disciples.

Questions:

How does Jesus appear to us today? How does Jesus' resurrection become apparent to us, particularly when we are experience fear or struggles? How can we be resurrection focused rather than distracted by our own issues? How does the process of walking through what has happened in our life have the potential of opening us to see Jesus in our midst?

Electronic Ways to Keep in Touch

Website www.fdlpresbyterian.org

Facebook First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac

YouTube First Presbyterian Church Fond du Lac

Zoom There is more information on our website: www.fdlpresbyterian.org

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving



The 2019-2020 Confirmation Class is continuing to meet. The class stopped briefly to regroup and reorganize due to the changes in availability, of students and staff, to meet in person.

The Confirmation Class will now meet via Zoom, on Wednesday evenings. The students will attend the May Session meeting to share their faith statements and to be examined for membership. They will also prepare a worship presentation for the congregation.

We ask for your prayers for these young people and their Faith Partners as they continue their journey as Disciples of Christ.

Confirmands

Erica A.
Sophie P.
Logan S.
Emerson V.

Faith Partners

Mary B.
Emily H.
Pedro A.
Sherry M.



With the changes in our situation due to Safer@Home, we have done Church School a little differently.

We have reached out to families in a variety of ways including mailed activity packets, email Discovery time information/activities and a weekly Church School Check In, via Zoom.

If you would like to be included in our Family Ministry materials please email Jennifer, Director of Christian Education, @ jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

General Guidelines For All Scholarships

If you would like to participate in the First Presbyterian Church Scholarship program, the following criteria must be met:



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:
 - Church worship attendance a minimum of twice in the past calendar year.
 - Nurturing your faith development in an activity of the Serving, Learning or Loving 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.
4. The [application form](#) is available online. It should be completed and submitted electronically by May 1, 2020.

Interviews with all applicants may be scheduled to complete the process.

Virtual Coffee Hour

A Zoom link will be emailed to you.
It's a great time of conversation
and fellowship. Won't you join us?



Every Sunday 9:00-10:00am

TALKback

The class is open
to anyone who
wants to enjoy an
open and caring
environment for
exploring their faith.

A Zoom link will be
emailed to you.



SUBSCRIBE



When you listen to our sermons on YouTube, please click the SUBSCRIBE button AND the BELL (both are located beneath the YouTube video).

That way, you will be notified whenever a new video is uploaded!

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Women in Faith

We will not be able to meet in person for Women in Faith, so let's try to meet virtually! We can share our fellowship and ideas while in stay@home.

Each Wednesday we will meet from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. We hope you can join us. Below the dates is a Zoom meeting link.

Here is our upcoming schedule:

- April 15** Homemade Cleaners - bring your ideas and recipes for homemade cleaners.
- April 22** Books and Games - share your favorite books and games.
- April 29** Garden Tips and Tours - what's growing in your garden? If possible, you can give us a virtual tour of your garden.
- May 6** Sharing our Mothers - share a picture and story about your mom as we celebrate Mother's Day.



Jennifer Zander is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic Women in Faith

Time April 22 - May 27 06:30 PM

Every week on Wednesday, until May 27 (6 occurrences)

April 22 6:30 PM

April 29 6:30 PM

May 6 6:30 PM

May 13 6:30 PM

May 20 6:30 PM

May 27 6:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/781564182?pwd=RIRCbHdNUkwrBFBtY01iLy9FcndLUT09>

Meeting ID: 781 564 182 **Password: 575800**

One tap mobile

+13126266799,781564182#,#,575800# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,781564182#,#,575800# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 781 564 182

Password: 575800

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Family Resources

Resources Specifically for Children & Families Related to COVID-19

Talking to Your Children about Coronavirus - View [here](#).

What to Say To Your Child About the Coronavirus - and How To Cope As a Parent - View [here](#)

Caring for Children - View [here](#)

Article for Parents Related to COVID-19

Managing Fear and Anxiety During a Health Pandemic - View [here](#)

FMSC Fond du Lac MobilePack



It is with great sadness that I am informing you that we are cancelling the Fond du Lac Feed My Starving Children MobilePack 2020 event, due to the COVID-19 virus. Feed My Starving Children has automatically cancelled the event, so volunteers do not need to do anything. Our greatest concern is for the safety of our volunteers, FMSC staff and food recipients. Please continue to pray for the health and safety for all, but especially for the vulnerable during this difficult time.

We have begun planning for the 2021 event. We are looking at dates in March or May. (April is booked up at the Fairgrounds.) We will keep you posted on these details. The donations collected for 2020 will automatically rollover to 2021. Individuals can also continue to make donations using the 2020 website, if they desire.

FMSC has closed all packing sites and cancelled all MobilePack events for April. There is discussion about remaining closed for May, also. Meanwhile, one of our ingredient vendors has agreed to pack food on behalf of FMSC. Praise God for his faithfulness! Please continue to keep this ministry in your prayers.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. We really appreciate all you have done to support this event and we look forward to seeing you again once these troubled times have passed. May God's peace reign in your hearts, despite the circumstances of the world.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Church Finances

12 The LORD will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. Deuteronomy 28:12

Though we are not meeting face to face, we are continuing to make worship happen, in different and meaningful ways. We are reaching out to families at home, and continue to provide care to our congregation and community.

We greatly appreciate those who have continued to send their support or continue to give online through VANCO or through their own financial institutions, mobile banking, or through electronic funds transfers (EFT).

We anticipate that we will be able to manage through April with our current “cash on hand” without having to draw from any reserves that have lost serious value, in the recent weeks. We are dependent upon your continued support to make that happen.

Our confidence is in our members, and their love for Christ. Thank you for your continued prayers and support. Thank you for your generosity.

Email and Phone Call Scams

Continue to be vigilant in protecting your personal banking and credit card information. Online scams are relentless. If you get email or phone calls that you question, ask a family member or friend to help you.

First Presbyterian Church will only ask people to make electronic contributions through VANCO, a secure method for making credit card gifts. We will NEVER ask for gift cards.

If you have questions about electronic giving or suspicious emails, please call a member of the staff (their numbers are available through Breeze). We are grateful for your continued support and want you to be secure in your giving.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Community Needs

We are grateful for the generosity we have seen among our members and throughout our Fond du Lac Community. As a reminder, Session has made funds available to support the immediate needs within the church. The generosity and support of family and friends has helped the majority of people who have needed help. Thank you for reaching out with love. If you are aware of families needing support, please pass the word along to our elders, deacons, or staff.

The Solutions Center is still struggling. The need for supplies has greatly increased since the COVID-19 Pandemic has invaded our community. They have shared a list of needed items:

Solutions Center's Ongoing Needs

- Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- Cleaning Wipes
- All-Purpose Cleaner
- Bleach
- Laundry Soap
- Dish Soap (Dawn, Ajax, etc. – not for a dishwasher)
- Floor Cleaner
- Hand Soap
- Windex (or other window cleaner)

If you can help with any of these items, please take them to the shelter at 114 E. 2nd Street. Monetary donations can be sent to: Solutions Center 39 N. Sophia Street FdL 54935. If you have any questions, please contact Amy at 920-922-8122.

Fondy Food Pantry is also experiencing stress as they seek to meet the needs of their customers, while maintaining social distancing. They appreciate all food donations. It is wise to call ahead (920-322-0369) to schedule food drop-off. Financial donations can be made safely through their website: fondyfoodpantry.org.



**DOING
THE MOST
GOOD®**

The Salvation Army Food Pantry needs to give away food!

We have more food than space.

Please send people who need food to The Salvation Army (237 N. Macy St., behind the Walgreens on Johnson and Main). The parking lot is off of Follett St.

Recipients would drive/walk and we would meet them in the parking lot to get some information and then bring the food to them. The client would put the food in their car. (See Page 9, for additional information.)

We are open 9:00 am - 12:30 pm, Monday thru Friday.

Call Kurt at 923-8220 or email me at ronnie.jacobson@usc.salvationarmy.org.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

**Fond du Lac Food Pantries
during COVID-19**

Location	Phone	Eligibility/Site Info
<p>Broken Bread St Paul's Cathedral 51 West Division St. Fond du Lac, WI 54935</p>	<p>(920)921-3363 Ext. 6 (church)</p>	<p>As of now they plan to offer food from 2-6pm every Friday. That may change.</p>
<p>Fondy Food Pantry 573 W. Rolling Meadows Drive Fond du Lac WI 54935</p>	<p>(920)322-0369</p>	<p>Food boxes every other month. Referrals through St. Vincent De Paul, Salvation Army, Social Services, Advocap, Churches and other community agencies. New hours during pandemic: Tuesday shopping from 11am-1pm; Thursday shopping 3:30-5:30pm Personal care products based on availability. *Accepting donations of non-perishable food items. There is a drop box in the back of the building.</p>
<p>Grace Christian Church 1596 4th Street Fond du Lac WI 54935</p>	<p>(920)923-5292</p>	<p>Due to the pandemic, the food pantry will not be available. Please follow Ruby's pantry on Facebook for any updated information.</p>
<p>Loaves and Fishes St. Paul's for the next year 51 Division St. Fond du lac, WI 54935</p>	<p>(920)921-8215 Or (920)904-5556</p>	<p>Due to the pandemic, no hours available at this time. You can follow them on Facebook for any updates.</p>
<p>Presentation Church Food Pantry 706 Michigan Ave. North Fond du Lac, WI 54937</p>	<p>(920)922-3650</p>	<p>Contact St. Vincent De Paul for more information. 920-922-3650. Emergency food is available. Not a regular pantry. Provides food and clothing to anyone in need.</p>
<p>Salvation Army 237 North Macy St. Fond du Lac, WI 54935</p>	<p>(920)923-8220</p>	<p>Food Pantry: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9am-12:30pm; Wednesday 9am-11:30am and 12:30pm-5pm. Can receive food once a month. There are income guidelines and must be a resident of Fond du Lac County. Need to also provide two proof of address items: photo ID, birthday and Social Security numbers for all household members. During COVID-19, they ask that you pull up to the parking lot, turn your car lights on. A volunteer will come to your car, get your information, and bring the food to you. YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE YOUR CAR.</p>

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

“Safer at Home”

As we struggle through the Coronavirus Pandemic, First Presbyterian Church wants to reach out to you as easily and as often as possible. We will continue to follow the guidelines established by Governor Evers and the CDC. We understand that “Safer at Home” will be our continued motto, at least until sometime in May. If circumstances change, for the better before that time, we will certainly let you know how First Presbyterian will adjust its schedule – as quickly as possible.

Meanwhile, there are several ways we can worship together, while being at home. The links are below the information.

Worship On Sundays, we are continuing to provide a familiar worship service. You can find the Worship services on YouTube and Podcasts continue to be available. The links are available on Saturday evening.

9:00am Coffee Hour takes place on Sunday morning. Pastor Jack is hosting. A Zoom link will be emailed to you.

10:00am Talkback is scheduled right after Coffee Hour. Pedro Arellano hosts. A Zoom link will be emailed to you.

10:00am Sunday School is hosted by Jennifer Zander, for families and children. There are stories, coloring pages and even birthday celebrations. It has been very well received! A Zoom link will be emailed to you.

We are continuing to have Podcasts on Wednesdays. The Podcasts can be found on our website (www.fdlpresbyterian.org) or through a link on Facebook (First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac).

Sunday Worship	YouTube	Search on YouTube for First Presbyterian Church Fond du Lac once you have found our channel click SUBSCRIBE and the BELL to receive future notifications
	Podcast	The Podcast information is on our website: firstpresbyterian.org It will also be available through a link on Facebook: First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac
Coffee Hour & TalkBack	Links will be emailed to you. Links are also available on our website and on Facebook.	
Sunday School	Links are emailed.	
Wednesday Podcast	Links are on our Website: www.fdlpresbyterian.org - under Church News	
Radio Ministry	KFIZ Radio	am1450 7:00am

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

In April

Deacon

Dick Sleder
rsslleder65@att.net

Elder

Nancy Hilbert
nhilbert1946@gmail.com

First Presbyterian Focus

Please send submissions for the
Newsletter to:

fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org.

Prayers and Praises

Continued Prayers for:

Liam A.
Silas W.
Chastity G.
Jesse F.
Pat D.
Mike F.
Dan M.
Lincoln D.
Paige C.
Rhonda B.
Ruth S.
Jim and Peg D.
John M.
Kristina A.
Leisa W. - PCUSA
Arnold L.

Prayer Partners

Send prayer requests to
fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org

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

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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Social Media and Website

