

July 19 Volume 22, Issue 13

# First Presbyterian Church

# FOCUS

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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3rd Sunday  
July

# Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

## Reflections

### Where is Happiness?

*<sup>12</sup> I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, <sup>13</sup>applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. <sup>14</sup>I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.*

*<sup>15</sup> What is crooked cannot be made straight,  
and what is lacking cannot be counted.*

Ecclesiastes 1:12-15

*<sup>12</sup>I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; <sup>13</sup>moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.*

Ecclesiastes 3:12-13

Amidst all the changes and challenges of this year, there was an interesting revelation shared in a conference on "Coping with Covid." People who were recently surveyed by this group, there were a surprisingly large number of respondents who said that have found enjoyment in adapting to the challenges of the pandemic. They still reported wishing it hadn't happened, but they found it stimulating and interesting to solve problems and have rolled with the changes. At the same time the survey shared that there was a similar percentage who described themselves as overwhelmed and miserable. They described being stuck and distraught.

The interesting part about the survey, was that they discovered that those who were happiest in adapting were happy *before* the virus struck. Predictably, those who were most overwhelmed and unable to adapt were overwhelmed and unable to adapt *before* the pandemic. What the pandemic has done has been to amplify what was already happening in the person's life. That means that for those who are willing to seek change, it has created a condition in which transformation can be seen more clearly. We are in a time when forces for change are not ordinarily available. What is needed is wisdom.

The passages above are taken from Ecclesiastes, it is a portion of the Wisdom Literature of the Bible. The "Teacher" or "Preacher", as he identifies himself, begins talking about meaningless energy that is nothing but "chasing after wind." A frequent challenge is to recognize what is meaningful, and what is worthy of our attention. The attention we give to our family will matter for their entire lives. The time we spend fretting about what we cannot control is a complete waste of time. Reaching out to share a moment of support and concern for a friend will last. Staring at Facebook – not so much. A significant question, in dealing with our sense of being overwhelmed, is in what ways we are suffering because of things that don't have meaning?

"What is crooked cannot be made straight and what is missing cannot be counted" means there are some things that are just not useful focus for our time. We cannot change the past, but we can rewrite the narratives that we speak today. There is no value in focusing on what is lacking, except for the places that lack because we have failed to bring what is needed to it. Or to be more clear, instead of focusing on what others are doing or not doing, we can find happiness and creativity by looking at what we might bring to a relationship or a place in the world around us.

Consider what it is that you can build or create today. Write a letter to someone you miss or express appreciation to someone who is serving others in the world today. Dedicate time to listening – to the world, to your home, and to the people who are near you.

The happiness that we desire is there. Our challenge is to choose it over the noise and meaningless activities that keep us from knowing it.

# Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

## Coming up In Worship

**07/19/2020**

Sermon: "The Wheat and the Tares"

Theme: Community means that we are among people who do not necessarily share our maturity, faith, or perspective, but it is up to God to accomplish justice.

Purpose: We will learn to be less anxious about experiencing people who are different from ourselves and challenges to our perspectives and beliefs.

Scriptures: Romans 8:12-25 We have a spirit of adoption so that we may cry, "Abba, Father!" We do not consider the present sufferings as something that will overwhelm.  
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 Parable of the wheat and the tares.

Questions:

How should we respond to people who we experience as being toxic or destructive? How should we behave towards people whose faith is in opposition to our own? What is our responsibility in the way we treat people who do not like to be around? What does it mean that God has caused "good" and "evil" to coexist? What does it mean to have a relationship of closeness with God that frees us from fear? How does a strong, mature, and confident relationship with God change the way we relate to people who we dislike?

**07/22/2020** Midweek

Sermon: "The Knowledge of God gives us Strength"

Theme: The knowledge of God gives us the strength to be less anxious and less reactive in the relationships we face in the world.

Purpose: We will learn to draw strength from knowing God and to learn the power of silence in difficult times.

Scriptures: Psalm 139:13-18 You formed my inward parts, I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Matthew 12:15-21 Jesus the chosen servant, whom Isaiah foretold as being humble and gentle.

Questions:

How do we learn to keep silence in the midst of conflicts and difficult relationships? What is the value of holding our tongues when there are problem relationships? How do we draw wisdom and strength from our relationship with God to face times of turmoil and hostility? What is the difference between maintaining a non-violent silence, and cutting off communication? How do we develop the strength, maturity, and confidence to practice healthy silence?

**07/26/2020**

Sermon: "The Spirit Helps Us in Our Weakness"

Theme: The power of faith and knowledge of God is far greater than the things that we perceive to be threats.

Purpose: We will learn how to draw strength from our confidence in God so that we may be healthy in our relationships.

Scriptures: Romans 8:26-39 The Spirit helps us in our weakness because we do not know how to pray, those whom he foreknew he predestined to be children of God.  
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 Parables of the Mustard seed, the pearl of great price, and the good and bad fish.

Questions:

What is the power that can be found in our faith? In what ways does our faith do things that are much bigger than our own capability or power? What is meant by a "Mustard seed" faith? What is the confidence in knowing that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus? How does that translate into healthier relationships? How do we focus on what is truly important and will bear fruit in our lives rather than being distracted into meaningless dramas?

## July 22 - Seize the Moment: Learn to Recycle Right



This summer you may be one of the households spending more time at home, than usual. Have you been inspired to sort, discard, and tidy? Do you sometimes have questions about where to go with things you no longer want? This time at home may be a good time to seize the moment and check that you are recycling right.

Join us on Wednesday, July 22, via ZOOM, to update your recycling skills. Learn a bit of how we went from a state with more than 800 landfills, to citizens becoming active in starting recycling programs, to co-mingled recyclables being picked up at the curb, going who knows where. Learn the dos and don'ts of recycling. Consider that this time calls for us to be in better stewards of the resources we purchase, or maybe, refuse to purchase.

In preparation for the Recycle Right presentation on July 22, an opportunity and invitation is extended from UW Oshkosh Sustainability. You can sign up via Eventbrite. You will receive a link to view the 2019 film "The Story of Plastic". It is a film about what to do about the abundant use of, and contamination from, plastic that is of concern for the health and sustainability of people and all of the planet.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/591229148189777/>

On the evening of July 15, a discussion will take place via Zoom. The panelists include a Chemistry alum who is working on indefinitely recyclable plastic, and a College of Business marketing professor who looks at sustainability and consumer choice.

For more information contact Carol Smith at 920.924.6034.



Please click [here](#) to learn more about the new indefinitely recyclable plastic.

## ZOOM Information

Seize the Moment:  
Learn to Recycle Right

**Wednesday  
July 22  
6:30pm**

Topic: Seize the Moment: Learn to Recycle Right  
Time: Jul 22, 2020 06:30 PM  
Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87466682378>  
pwd=RVozZ2tiUUNSunJ5WkJeH  
pwa25hdz09

Meeting ID: 874 6668 2378  
Password: 187948

Dial by your location  
+1 312 626 6799 US  
(Chicago)  
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 874 6668 2378  
Password: 187948

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcGqWTgr0h>

# Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

July 27-30 - Virtual Synod School 2020



Have you wanted to attend Synod School but didn't have the time to get away? Here is your chance to try it!

[Registration](#) is open for Virtual Synod School. There is no fee. The event is open to anyone but you do need to register in order to receive the codes needed to join a class or evening events.

On Monday we have nine mini-courses. Tuesday will be the talent show. Wednesday will be our Zoom All School Dance!

During the day there will be seven adult/youth classes offered in the morning and seven in the afternoon. There will be a time for fellowship, with the snack of the day and then evening events.

Each evening we will have music with Burns Stanfield, a story brought to us by Mary Koon, an energizer from a Synod camp, and a special speaker (Rodger Nishioka, Jason Brian Santos, Dede Johnston, and Stated Clerk of the PCUSA, J. Herbert Nelson).

We are grateful to the fifteen instructors who agreed to take their classes online.

Won't you join us?



Electronic giving opportunities are available. Online giving is easy, convenient and secure. You can use a credit card, a debit card, electronic check or electronic funds transfer, through your bank. You can change your amount at any time or cancel your electronic giving, at any time.

Click [here](#) to get your questions answered and to set up your account. We think you'll be pleasantly surprised at how convenient it is!



If you need prayer, or know someone who does, please contact the church office at:

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





# Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Every Week

Midweek Podcast



Pastor Jack continues to reach out to us via Wednesday Podcasts. You can find the link to our podcast on our website:

**[www.fdlpresbyterian.org](http://www.fdlpresbyterian.org)**  
under Church News.

Previously aired podcasts can be found under Pastor Jack's Blog and Podcasts.

You are invited to email pictures of your summer walks/drives in the wilderness to be used as a collage before our YouTube video.

Please email:  
[kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org](mailto:kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org)

Thanks,  
Kris, Worship Coordinator



We worship "together" as we practice Social Distancing. Every Sunday, our service is on our YouTube channel. It is also provided in Podcast form.

We have a variety of liturgists, hymns, and special music. And, of course, a special message from Pastor Jack.

The links to our worship service and podcast are posted early Saturday evening on our website:  
**[www.fdlpresbyterian.org](http://www.fdlpresbyterian.org)**

Our YouTube channel can be found by clicking on this [link](#).

We hope you'll be able to watch or listen to our services.



Our families are involved in variety of ways. They are mailed activity packets, emailed Discovery Time information/activities, etc. The children really enjoy Church School Check In, via Zoom.

These opportunities are have been very well received by everyone!

If you would like to be included in our Family Ministry please email Jennifer, Director of Christian Education:

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



## 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?



**SUBSCRIBE**



TALKback



A Zoom link will be emailed to you.

# Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

## Summer Noon Organ Recital Series 2020

Thursdays 12:15-12:45pm



A free-will offering will be taken to support the continuation of the summer organ recitals. The offering also helps to develop programming, events and scholarships to encourage young people to become part of a new generation of organists.

**Special Note:**

Due to conditions related to COVID-19, this schedule is subject to change. Safety measures such as wearing of masks, social distancing, etc. will be announced at each site per its COVID-19 protocol.

### Fond du Lac Area Organists Association

For more information, please contact:

Ken Hill	<a href="mailto:khill@lifeathope.org">khill@lifeathope.org</a>	920.539.3977
Kris Bartelt	<a href="mailto:kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org">kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org</a>	920.238.5330
Pam Lane	<a href="mailto:planes@charter.net">planes@charter.net</a>	920.979.9361

FaceBook: search for FDL Area Organists Association

Website: [fdlareaorganists.com](http://fdlareaorganists.com)

The complete schedule is on page 8.



# Christians Serving, Learning and Loving



Thursdays 12:15-12:45pm

## Summer Noon Organ Recital Series 2020

Date	Musician	Church
July 23		The Former St. Patrick's Church 39 E. Follett St., FDL  920.246.6471
July 30	Kris Bartelt	Hope Lutheran Church 260 Vincent St., FDL  920.922.5130 <a href="http://www.lifeathope.org">www.lifeathope.org</a>
August 6	Rev. Thomas Lijewski - Organ Lindsey Dahlberg - Piano	Shepherd of the Hills Catholic Church W1562 County Road B Eden, WI 53019  920.477.3551 <a href="http://www.sothparish.org">www.sothparish.org</a>
August 13	David Hein	The Former St. Patrick's Church 39 E. Follett St., FDL  920.246.6471
August 20	Benjamin A. Stone	The Former St. Patrick's Church 39 E. Follett St., FDL  920.246.6471
August 27		Church of Our Saviour 363 S. Main St., FDL  920.922.0020 <a href="http://www.oursavioursfdl.org">www.oursavioursfdl.org</a>
September 3	Kenneth Hill	Hope Lutheran Church 260 Vincent St., FDL  920.922.5130 <a href="http://www.lifeathope.org">www.lifeathope.org</a>



# Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

## In June

### Deacon

Debby Lorenz  
daalorenz@gmail.com

### Elder

Noah Baker  
baker318@live.com

## First Presbyterian Focus

Please send submissions for the Newsletter to:

fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org.

## Family Resources

- 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](#)
- How to Talk to Your Kids About Coronavirus - View [here](#)
- Managing Fear and Anxiety During a Health Pandemic - View [here](#)

## Prayers and Praises

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

### Prayer Partners

Send prayer requests to  
fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org

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

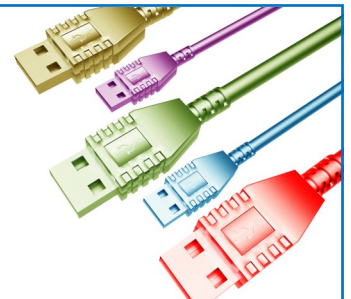
## Electronic Ways to Keep in Touch

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



# Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

## Church Staff

Rev. Jack Harrison  
Pastor  
revjharrison@fdlpresbyterian.org

Jennifer Zander  
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jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org

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kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org

Mary Robotka  
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Dave Weber  
Custodian Assistant

Deb Zorn  
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dzorn@fdlpresbyterian.org

## Volunteer Staff

John Neville  
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## Elders on Session

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## Deacons

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Carol Smith  
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lewissmith2568@yahoo.com

Amber Summeril  
ericksonambere@yahoo.com

## Social Media and Website



First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac

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

first presbyterian church fond du lac

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