

November 1 Volume 22, Issue 20

First Presbyterian Church

FOCUS

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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1st Sunday
November

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Reflections

Real Wisdom

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.
James 3:13-18

The continuing conflicts, quarrels, and fights of the pandemic have worn on most of us. However, many times it is only after people have had to persevere through difficulties that their ability to grow in relationships begins to shine. Increasingly, we see families around us who have been decompensating. This means that they are losing their ability to adapt and are becoming increasingly hostile, condemning, and toxic. At the same time, others are becoming more creative, caring, and thoughtful. There are some practices that make the difference.

Those who are giving into their “devilish” nature – as James would describe it – are increasing their focus on their hostility, exhaustion, and fear. This takes place as people mentally rerun unresolved conflicts in their minds; as they continue to focus on narratives of the wrongs that some have done to them, and as they focus on what is missing or wrong in their lives. The wisdom from above is seen in individuals who are intentional about giving one another healthy space. Remember, conflict in relationships occurs more frequently from too much closeness, rather than too much distance. This is particularly difficult when people do not have their usual places to “talk things through” with friends, or don’t have the ability to put their issues into perspective. The healthier among us are intentional about developing and participating in practices that help restore perspective. This wisdom helps us to see the difference between an unfortunate exchange and an unforgivable offense.

One of the key lessons of wisdom is that we sow what we plant. This is particularly true as we are all living in smaller spaces these days. If we attempt to plant control, resentment, and retaliation, we can anticipate a greater harvest of hostility, aggression, and bitterness. Instead, we need to work to plant generosity, acceptance, welcome, and love. These traits will produce a harvest of mutual support, healthy humor, and love for one another.

For what they are worth, here are a couple tips for wisdom in a smaller space. First, speak less. Seldom do more words communicate more meaning. If we spend more time thinking about what we say, rather than defending what we said, we will be in better shape. Secondly, be generous with one another in giving space and support. In conjunction with that, care about the space in which you live as a place of welcome for yourself and those with you. We take the people, who live with us, for granted and forget that we need to extend hospitality to them, as well as our guests. Lastly, we aren’t going to make it without building our spiritual foundation. Without a source of confidence in God’s love for us, and God’s approval of us as beloved and valuable children, we can’t extend that same care to others.

The good news is that all things *do* work together for good for those who love God and who align themselves with Christ’s teaching. The Holy Spirit is working with us through this time and it is amazing the way the right resources and support pop up right when we need them the most.

Trust God and give thanks to Jesus that we are going to make it through this.

Peace,
Pastor Jack

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Session Highlights

Session has been meeting regularly during the pandemic, via Zoom. Our meetings always contain discussion about how we can keep everybody safe while still providing meaningful worship opportunities. Most church business is continuing during the shutdown. Session has been coping with the concerns, on a monthly basis.

Some of the items recently accomplished by Session are as follows:

- Created a Transition Team that will work with church staff and Session to help sort out issues relative to the Corona Virus, both during the shutdown and when we re-open.
- Approved a motion from the Deacons to hold a “Virtual Cookie Walk” with the proceeds to support the Deacon’s Compassion Fund.
- Approved a motion from the Serve Team to allocate \$2,000 from the Martha Anderson Funds to help with the needs of the Fond du Lac Food Pantry.
- Approved a motion from the Serve Team to allocate \$1,000 from mission money to help support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance who, in turn, is helping those who have been effected by the wildfires on the West Coast.
- Approved a six month budget to guide the church through the end of the year, during these uncertain economic conditions. A twelve month budget is in development and expected to come to Session in November.

Dave Erickson
Clerk of Session

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Coming Up in Worship

11/01/2020 Zoom Communion Service Daylight Savings Time
Sermon: "Servant Leadership"
Theme: Generosity calls us to seek to serve God rather than to make demands for ourselves.
Purpose: We will examine the meaning of generosity.
Scriptures: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 Paul and Silas did not make demands for themselves but sought to serve the people, and as a result the people received the word as a gift from the Holy Spirit.
Matthew 23:1-12 The hypocrisy of the Pharisees as opposed to being servant leaders.


Questions:

Do our actions support our message of God's love? In what ways do we proclaim God with our words but fail to show God's love in our attitude or actions? How can we learn to serve joyfully and with gratitude? How does our strength flow through serving God, rather than through focusing on tasks or jobs? How do we grow as God's servants, showing humility? In what ways is humility essential to minimize hypocrisy?

11/04/2020 Midweek Service
Sermon: "Religious or Spiritual?"
Theme: We practice our relationship with God in order to be strengthened and guided in ways of wholeness, love, and justice.
Purpose: We will examine our ways of living our relationship with Christ.
Scriptures: Psalm 128 Practicing the "fear of the Lord" is the source of confidence and joy for our lives.
Matthew 15:1-9 Pharisees and scribes come to criticize the practices of Jesus and the disciples. Jesus points out their hypocrisy.

Questions:

What does it mean to us in a spiritual sense to "fear the Lord?" How do we develop an attitude that is healthy and wise towards our spiritual life? What is essential in building a healthy relationship with God? What are the things that we fail to recognize in our relationship with God? What is the purpose of religion in our lives? How do we create a meaningful religious life?



Coffee Hour, Talk Back and Education are all available via ZOOM.

It's a great way to interact with church members while social distancing.

Won't you join us?

A Zoom link will be emailed to you.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

2020 Virtual Cookie Walk

November 30 - 2020 Cookie Walk - Traditions Continue in Creative Ways

In recent years, the Deacons sponsored a Christmas Cookie Walk. The Deacons, and other church members, baked their very best cookies to sell. Participants selected and purchased an array of home baked treats!

Beside being a *sweet social time*, the proceeds of the Cookie Walk went to the Compassion Fund. The Compassion Fund provides assistance for church members in need.

This year, the Deacons voted to grow the Compassion Fund through a **Virtual Cookie Walk**. We invite you to complete the form below, if you are mailing a donation to church. Please mail your to check to: First Presbyterian Church, 1225 Fourth St., Fond du Lac. Write *Compassion Fund* on the memo line.

If you are donating, electronically, please click [here](#) to complete an electronic form. The form will direct you to Online Giving, on our website. Enter your donation amount by "Deacon's Compassion Fund". Continue to answer the options regarding frequency, donation start date, etc.

You might think of your donation in terms of what you paid, in the past, for a box of cookies. Or, give whatever monetary donation you are moved to make. **Please be generous**, as this year, more people than ever are in need. (Also note that donations can be made to the Compassion Fund *at any time*.)

For any donation, the Deacons will reward you with a copy of the **Deacon's Favorite Christmas Cookie Recipes!** You may choose to receive the recipes electronically or in printed form.

To receive the recipes in early December,
please complete the form below by November 30.



2020 Virtual Cookie Walk

Name _____

Deacon's Compassion Fund Donation \$ _____

- ◆ Donate Electronically: Click [here](#) to complete the electronic form for Online Giving.
- ◆ Make checks payable to: First Presbyterian Church. Write *Compassion Fund* on the memo line.

Please send my copy of the **Deacon's Favorite Christmas Cookie Recipes** -

_____ **Electronically** Email Address _____

_____ **Printed** Street Address _____

Please make your donations by December 15.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving



In assessing the many current needs within our community, the Serve Team decided the number one priority should be to help provide food to the needy during this time of crisis. With that in mind, the Team recommended to Session that \$2,000 be taken from the Martha Anderson Endowment Fund and donated to the Fond du Lac Food Pantry.

The Food Pantry is located next to the Holiday Inn on Rolling Meadows Drive. (Many of us will recognize the building as the old Shakey's Pizza building.) The Pantry has a drop box outside the facility so there is no need to enter the building. (See photos)

Since we cannot hold a regular food drive, the Team is asking all church members to donate the most needed items:

toilet paper
peanut butter
macaroni and cheese

Monetary donations are always welcome.

If you want to donate toilet paper, it would be best if you dropped it off Monday -Thursday, as the drop box is emptied at 9:00 every weekday morning. (A donation over the weekend might stress the capacity of the drop box.)

If you would prefer to make a **monetary donation**, you can do so through the church: send your check to First Presbyterian Church, 1225 Fourth St., Fond du Lac. Write Food Pantry on the memo line. Or, you can electronically donate directly through the Fondy Food Pantry website: (<https://www.fondyfoodpantry.org>)

Thank you for your consideration.



Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Information @ Church

November 1 -
All Saints Day



Protestants regard all Christians, both past and present, as saints. As we remember all those who have died in the past year, we also focus on Christ's victory over death.

On All Saints Day, we remember the certainty of death while emphasizing our hope in the Resurrection and our place in the "communion of saints and the life everlasting."

Join us as we celebrate the lives of:

Mary Binning
Robin Francis
James Dvorak
Carol Meyst
Susan Ludjack
Robert Merrill
Katherine Penfield
Bertha Foster

Thank You -
From Kay Mullins

There are not enough words to fully express our heartfelt thanks for the sympathy, love and support you have extended to our family during this time of loss.

Rhonda Mullins Brewer Family

November 4 - PYA
Virtual Game Night



Date November 4
Day Wednesday
Time 7:30-8:30

We will check in and play some games.

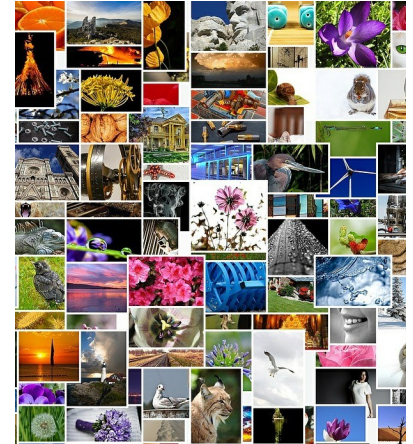
If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer.

**Join PYA Game Night
via Zoom**



November 8 - Now Thank
We All Our God

Thanksgiving Montage



The Thanksgiving Holiday is just around the corner. Various people have mentioned that despite the challenges of 2020 they have a great deal to be thankful for.

The Transition team invites everyone to submit something they are thankful for: a family photo, your garden, pics of your walks, your pets, your lounge chair, poetry, pictures, artwork, books read or a short 1.5 minute video.

Please take a few moments to reflect on what you have to be thankful for. Share that moment your family and then share it with us!

Send submissions:
kbatelt@fdlpresbyterian.org by
Sunday, November 8.

Your memory will be included in a Thanksgiving Video to be shown on our YouTube channel and our Website.

The Transition Team

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Information @ Church

November 11 -
Women In Faith

*A friend is someone who reaches
for your hand but touches your
heart.*



Join us for fun and fellowship
on Wednesday, November 11 from
6:30-7:30pm on Zoom.

One way we can connect with
people during this pandemic is
through "snail mail." We are going
to make fall/winter cards.

RSVP:

jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org by
Monday, November 9 to get your
bag of supplies. Supply packets
will be prepared for you and we
will all create at home together.

**Please contact Jennifer if you
have any questions.**

**Contact Jennifer if you need the
Zoom link.**

November 18 - Virtual Bingo



Day Wednesday
Date November 18
Time 6:30pm

Please click [here](#) to register.

A ZOOM link will be emailed to you,
after you register.

Won't you join us?



Liturgists Needed

Here's What You
Need to Know



EMAIL ADDRESS

To receive liturgy copy
To email recording back to
Worship Coordinator-
kbatelt@fdlpresbyterian.org

VOICE RECORDING APP

On smart phone or tablet
(Apps are free from Google
Play or iTunes.)

DEADLINES

Wednesday Liturgy due
Tuesday End of Day
Sunday Liturgy due
Wednesday End of Day

ZOOM Communion Worship

(First Sunday of the Month)
The individual who records the
liturgy for the Podcast/YouTube,
is asked to read the liturgy "live"
during ZOOM worship.

If you have any questions, please
email:

kbatelt@fdlpresbyterian.org.

Pronunciations:

<https://biblespeak.org/>

November and December
openings are available.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Information @ Church

The Western Wildfires

In carrying out our mission work, our church has always divided its efforts between serving the local Fond du Lac community and helping fill national and international needs.

At this time, there are a great many people on the west coast who are in need, because of the raging wild fires that devastated communities in that area.

With this in mind, the Serve Team has recommended, to Session, that the Church donate \$1,000 to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance with the funds specifically earmarked to provide assistance for those suffering as a result of the fires.



If you would like to provide additional assistance, you can do so in one of two ways. You can make a direct donation to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance via their web page: <https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/PNW-wildfires/>. (Note: If you give directly to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, they will add you to their mailing list and you will receive future emails from them.)

Or, you can send a check to the church. Please mail your check to: First Presbyterian Church, 1225 Fourth St., Fond du Lac. Write PDA on the memo line. The funds will be added to the Church's donation

Thank you for your consideration and help to carry out the mission of Christ.

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](#)

Learning Team -



The Learning Team is requesting that you review and complete their survey. You can see the survey [here](#).

Thank you for your help!



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 or cancel your amount 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!

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.fdlprebyterian.org
under Church News.

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



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

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

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



Welcome to an exciting faith filled year of educational opportunities at the First Presbyterian Church. Sunday School is full steam ahead at 10:00am, every Sunday! We meet via ZOOM.

Each week we will offer a virtual education hour that will include Talkback and Church School for children and youth.

We will begin our education time together, all ages. Then, we will separate into groups for Talkback, and Church School.

Watch your email for more information and a Zoom link!



Virtual Coffee Hour

A Zoom link will be emailed to you. It's a great time of conversation and fellowship.



TALKback



A Zoom link will be emailed to you.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

In October

Deacon

Chris Langille
carsoph02@yahoo.com

Elder

Deb Cooley
tdcooley@charter.net

First Presbyterian Focus

Please send submissions for the
Newsletter to:

fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org.



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

fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org.

Prayers and Praises

Liam A.
Silas W.
Chastity G.
Jesse F.
Pat D.
Dan M.
Lincoln D.
Paige C.
John M.
Ruth S.
Peg D.
Kristina A.
Leisa W. - PCUSA
Arnold L.
Gib D.
Pat D.
Jodi A. and Family
Mary H. and Family
Ann H.
Ruth I.
Mike & Becky F.

Prayer Partners

Send prayer requests to
fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org

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

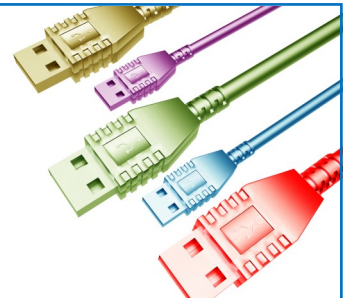
Electronic Ways to Keep in Touch

Website www.fdlpresbyterian.org

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

Church Staff

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Social Media and Website



First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac

www.fdlpresbyterian.org

first presbyterian church fond du lac