

May 16, Volume 23, Issue 09

First Presbyterian Church

FOCUS

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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3rd Sunday
May

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

“The Power of Peace”

²¹Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

John 20:21-23

The point of the terms: “Gospel,” or its Greek origin: “Evangelio” which comes into our language as “Evangelize” is that it is Good News. Let’s face it, we could really use some good news! The world is desperate for news that will provide hope and expectations of better things. To be truly good, the news must be grounded in reality. Right now, people are arguing about things that have no basis in reality. That makes a message of good news, grounded in truth and reality, really attractive.

The problem is that so much of what is shared is in the form of bias and dogma, of partisanship and expectation of conformity. Not only is there hope that other people believe as they do but there is a shame cast on anyone who might see the world differently. It reminds me of the story of a man who was hiking when he came to a river and was unsure how to cross. There was a farmer on the other side of the river, working in his field. The man yelled to the farmer, “How do I get to the other side of the river.” The farmer yelled back, “You’re already on the other side of the river.” The point is: we need to be with people without demanding that they conform to our perspective, and without surrendering our own understanding and viewpoint.

This requires a special confidence. What we often fail to see is that when the scriptures speak of peace, it represents a type of healthy confidence, a relaxed acceptance of ourselves and others. This is part of what makes the peace, that is given to us by Christ, so much more powerful as we learn to appreciate and embrace Jesus’ gift. For one thing, this is the peace of knowing that we do not need to be defensive or combative about what we believe. Nor should we be rigid in our expectations of others. In this peace, we can withhold judgment when we encounter what is new or different. We are free to listen with love. We do not have to give into the anxiousness that demands conformity, to have closeness. This is a trait that appears to be increasingly absent, in much of the world today.

The power of that peace is breathed upon us in the gift of the Holy Spirit. As we come to Pentecost Sunday next weekend, it gives us a chance to look at how the Holy Spirit gives us an ability to proclaim, with boldness, the love of God and healing grace of Jesus. While at the same time, we can be more relaxed about what is different in the world. We know that the Holy Spirit is big on new languages, so new communication methods are not a big issue. The Holy Spirit bridges divides, that enabled Philip to baptize an Ethiopian Eunuch Official into the fellowship of Christ (Acts 8:26-40). The Ethiopian Eunuch was ritually the wrong race, the wrong nationality, the wrong gender, and the wrong faith, but Phillip baptized him into the fellowship of Christians. It is interesting to note that Phillip went on to Caesarea. Consequently, he did not immediately explain, to the center of Christian faith in Jerusalem, that a new bunch of brothers and sisters had joined the fellowship. But that is another story.

What this means is that we have the power to be calm. We have the strength to not be anxious about conformity or what other’s perspective will mean to us. In a time when people are finding conflict in the smallest differences, **the peace of Christ is our source of strength.** Helping us to be non-reactive to the issues that are causing so much turmoil.

So, welcome Pentecost as the gift of the Holy Spirit that widens our fellowship and enables us to be joyful and relaxed about what God is doing. With power like that we do not need to be anxious about how Christ is going to move us forward. Christ is risen and the gift of God’s Spirit is with us.

Peace,
Pastor Jack

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Coming Up in Worship

05/16/2021 7th Sunday of Easter

Sermon: "Struggles with Relationships"

Theme: We learn and grow through the struggles and stresses of relationships as we seek to find direction from God and understanding that enables us to heal.

Purpose: We will accept and own our difficult relationships.

Scriptures: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 The disciples decide how to deal with the betrayal of Judas and their numbers.
John 17:6-19 Jesus prays for the disciples and the trials that they will face.

Questions:

How do we deal with relationships which become hurtful or difficult? What does it mean to be a loving Christian while working through problem relationships? How do we develop maturity through the process of working through difficult relationships? How do we manage experiences of betrayal or personal attacks and maintain our healthy relationship with Christ? In what ways can we be better equipped to grow through problem relationships?

05/19/2021 Midweek Service

Sermon: "Sorrow Will Turn into Joy"

Theme: The work of Christ through the resurrection transforms the things that overwhelm and frighten us, such as death, into signs of God's victory.

Purpose: We will learn the process of grief.

Scriptures: John 16:16-24 Jesus tells the disciples that he will be gone from them, and uses the illustration of "labor pains."

Questions:

How do we learn to grieve? Or do we simply allow the process to happen naturally? What might we do in order to grieve in more healthy ways? What is it that people do that tends to make it harder for us to process our sorrow and loss? What happens if instead of going through our process of grief we simply deny our feelings? What is the way in which our sorrow becomes a source of real joy?

05/23/2021 Pentecost Sunday

Sermon: New Life from the Holy Spirit

Theme: Our source of strength and life is from the Holy Spirit who flows from God and not from our own demands or devices.

Purpose: We will set our egos aside for seeking guidance from God's Holy Spirit.

Scriptures: Ezekiel 37:1-14 The Valley of Dry Bones.
Acts 2:1-21 The Holy Spirit and tongues of fire in the upper room.

Questions:

How does the Holy Spirit give us energy and direction for serving God? What is the difference between relying upon our own capabilities and seeking direction from the Holy Spirit? How do we end up in "dry bone" situations where we feel defeated and overwhelmed? How do we speak to the dry bones a message of new life? What is God's call for us in the future?



2021 FDL Area Organist's Summer Recital Schedule

FDL Area Organists Association will respect each venue's COVID-19 protocols .

<i>Organist</i>	<i>Thursdays</i> 12:15-1:45pm	<i>Place</i>
Ken Hill	June 3, 2021	Hope Lutheran Church 260 Vincent Street, FDL
Jared Stellmacher	June 10, 2021	Church of our Saviour 363 S. Main Street, FDL
David Heller	June 17, 2021	Church of Our Saviour 363 S. Main Street, FDL
Steve Jensen	June 24, 2021	St. Patrick's Concert Hall 39 E. Follett Street, FDL

Biographies of June Organists



David Heller is a native of Fond du Lac. Dr. Heller holds degrees from Lawrence University and the Eastman School of Music, which awarded him the prestigious Performer's Certificate in Organ.

David has performed extensively throughout the United States and Europe, South Korea, and Taiwan. He is currently working on a book documenting the history of the pipe organ in San Antonio.

Since 1986, David Heller has been a member of the faculty at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas serving as Professor of Music and University Organist. He currently serves as Associate Organist for St. Luke's Episcopal Church in San Antonio.



T. Jared Stellmacher is Director of Worship and Music at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Madison/Verona, WI, where he oversees the large program across two campuses. Jared is also organist with the Chicago Gargoyle Brass and Organ Ensemble.

Jared received his MM from the Yale Institute of Sacred Music and Yale School of Music and BMus from the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Music.

Jared has received many awards including first place in the American Guild of Organists Region VI Competition for Young Organists held at the United States Air Force Academy.



Kenneth Hill has been Minister of Music at Hope Lutheran Church in Fond du Lac for the past 24 years. He started playing the organ for church services when he was 17. His responsibilities include directing choirs, brass ensemble, handbell choir, worship teams, and serving as parish organist.

Kenneth earned a bachelor and master degrees from Concordia University, Chicago, and a Masters in Church Music from Concordia University, Wisconsin.

He and his wife, Marie, have three children: John, Elizabeth, and Melissa.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

May 19 - Virtual Bingo



Day **Wednesday**
Date **May 19**
Time **6:30pm**

Please click [here](#) to register.

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

Won't you join us?

May 20 - FPC Families



Join us on Thursday, May 20,
at 7:00pm, via Zoom, for FPC
Families.

We will check in, laugh and talk.
This month, we'll talk about past
and present family traditions, such
as yearly measuring height on the
door frame, birthday traditions,
secret handshakes, bedtime
rituals, holiday traditions/meals,
etc.

Contact Jennifer for the Zoom link
or if you have any questions.

We hope you can take part in the
discussion!

May 26 - PYA Virtual Discussion & Game Night



Join us Wednesday, May 26 at
7:00pm on Zoom. We will check in
and play some games.

A Zoom link will be emailed to
PYA. Contact Jennifer if you have
any questions or need the Zoom
link.

ATTENTION GRADUATES



Are you a recent High School or
College graduate? We would like
to honor graduates this Spring. We
would also like to include a picture
or short video of the graduates.

You can send a picture/video to
the church office
at fpcteam@gmail.com. Please
include a description of
your future plans. If you have any
questions, please let Jennifer know
@ jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org.

Liturgists Needed

Here's What You
Need to Know

EMAIL ADDRESS

To receive liturgy copy
To email recording back to
Worship Coordinator-
kbartelt@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
Tuesday End of Day

If you have any questions, please
email:

kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org.

Pronunciations:

<https://biblespeak.org/>

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Every Week

Midweek Podcast

Pastor Jack continues to reach out to us via brief devotional podcasts on Wednesdays. You can find the link to our podcasts on our website:

www.fdlprebyterian.org
under Church News.

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



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!



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.

Opportunities for Worship

- YouTube Sunday
- Podcast Sunday
- Radio Sunday
- ZOOM 1st Sunday of the Month

Information on Worship, and many other activities can be found on our website:

<http://www.fdlpresbyterian.org/>



A Zoom link will be emailed to you.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

In May

Deacon

Debby Lorenz
daalorenz@gmail.com

Elder

Deb Cooley
tdcooley@charter.net

First Presbyterian Focus

Please send submissions for the Newsletter to:

fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org.



Prayers and Praises

Homeless and disbursed people, particularly those who are positive for the Covid-19 virus and struggling to find shelter

Pat D.
Dan M.
Peg D.
Gib D.
Arnold L.
Ruth S.
Joyce J.
Lincoln D.
Jesse F.
Silas W.
Roland H.
Carol M.
Julia A.
Kay M.
Wendy W.
Leisa W.
Jerry and Mary H.
Bonnie and Jack H.
Chastity G. and Joan S.

Prayer Partners

Send prayer requests to
fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org

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

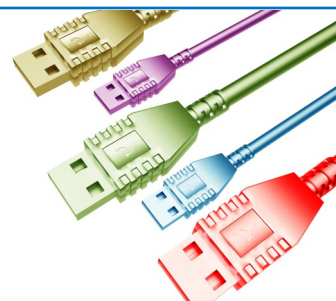
Electronic Ways to Keep in Touch

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



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