

June 6, Volume 23, Issue 10

First Presbyterian Church

FOCUS

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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1st Sunday
June

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Reflections

“The Law of Love”

³⁷He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Matthew 22:37-40

The journey of Exodus is the story of slaves being released from their captivity in Egypt, and, after receiving the covenant from God, wandering in the wilderness. It is interesting that it is bracketed by two miraculous crossings of water. First, there is the story of crossing the Red Sea. The power of God alone saves the Hebrew people from being taken back into slavery or killed. Then, after forty years, they cross the Jordan River. The Jordan parts to allow them to enter into a new relationship with God, with their land, and with one another.

When they are in the desert, they had to be told not to kill one another, lie to each other, or be unfaithful in their marriages. They had to be told not to steal, not to defraud, and not to do harm. They were taught to dress alike, to set up their camps identically, to eat according to instructions, and to manage all their interactions according to specific laws of God. There are even parts about hygiene and keeping the camp clean. It gives us a reason to giggle when you figure out what they are saying. Let's just say: keep your trowel handy!

However, this is not what God wanted for them. God's desire was that they would conduct themselves to build covenant, to support their common good, so that they could be a joyful people demonstrating their own unique character and abilities. The goal was that, eventually, they could simply live by the law of love. Love God, and out of that, love your neighbor. Stick with those and everything should work out.

Oddly enough, we are back to struggling with rules and impulses for independence. Some struggle with instructions to be vaccinated, rebelling against the idea that someone with authority would tell them what they should do. That sounds a lot like the mindset of the people who had just left Egypt. The point is to be a responsible part of the community, to prevent spreading illness to those who have compromised immune systems and other medical issues. Many are in that same level of self-centeredness that they need to go back to the rule book: “don't steal, don't kill each other, don't lie, don't hurt one another.” But God's intention is for us to be able to function on a level of “love God and love one another. Whatever you do, make sure that it shows love.”

Through this last year, and as we move forward together in community, how we speak with one another and how we demonstrate the love of Christ, comes through clearly in our attitude towards those who see things differently. Speak nothing if you cannot speak it with love. Live as God's beloved child by seeing the love and presence of God in every person you meet. And whatever you do, do it to the glory of God. That should cover all the rules.

Peace,
Pastor Jack

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Coming Up in Worship

06/06/2021

Communion

Sermon: "Being Church in a Time of Transition"

Theme: We are called to faithfulness and grow through change.

Purpose: We will learn about choosing how to experience change.

Scriptures: Psalm 23 (KJV) The familiar passage about "The Lord" our shepherd.
2 Corinthians 4:13 - 5:1 Even though our outer nature is wasting away our inner nature is being renewed every day.

Questions:

What does it mean for us to be the Church when the world is changing? What attitude should we take towards the transitions happening in the world around us? What causes us to be anxious and angry when things change? What are the opportunities that transition creates for us? What is the difference between being guided by our fears of change and being guided by our expectation in God's grace?

06/13/2021

Sermon: "What Determines Success?"

Theme: We need an authority and guidance for deciding what we really value and what is meaningless.

Purpose: We will examine the authority of scripture and how we submit to that authority.

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 5:6-17 We walk by faith, not by sight, we regard no one from a human point of view.
Mark 4:26-34 The parables of the sower and of the mustard seed.
The lessons were given in parables.

Questions:

What makes the difference between the Word of God bearing fruit within us and becoming lost to the "Cares of the world?" How do we go about seeking to be faithful? What role does the bible play in our lives? How do we see the bible? Is the bible an ancient book with magical impact or is it something more? How do we come to develop a meaningful relationship with the bible?

06/20/2021

Sermon: "A Message that is Backed with Our Sacrifice"

Theme: We much choose to submit to some authority, or we will be cursed to repeating the same dramas and curses.

Purpose: We will examine how we submit to Scripture.

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 As servants of God Paul and others commended themselves through endurance, integrity, and faithfulness.
Mark 4:35-41 Jesus speaks and stills the wind and the rain. The fear of the disciples and their lack of faith.

Questions:

What does "authority" mean to us? In what ways do we experience Jesus' words as having authority? How does our response to God's Word change our response? How do we find motivation and meaning in God's Word? How is it that Jesus' authority can still the wind and waves but that we must choose to submit to Jesus' authority?

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Coming Up in Worship (Continued)

06/27/2021

Congregational Meeting

Sermon: "Our Message is a Message of God's Love"

Theme: The Word of God comes alive as it is put into action in commitment and sharing of God's love.

Purpose: We will examine our personal actions of committing to serving Christ.

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 The genuineness of our love shown in our faithfulness in giving.
Mark 5:21-43 Jesus heals the woman with an issue of blood and raises the daughter of the head of the synagogue.

Questions:

What is our measurement of success as Christians? How do we determine what is our role and purpose in the world individually and as the body of Christ? What determines how we should use our gifts and abilities? Are our goals to entertain ourselves and be secure or is it to dedicate ourselves to serving Christ? Are we true to our mission to serve God or is it that we want to find comfort and ease?

07/04/2021

Communion, First Blended

Sermon: "What is the Authority of God's Word"

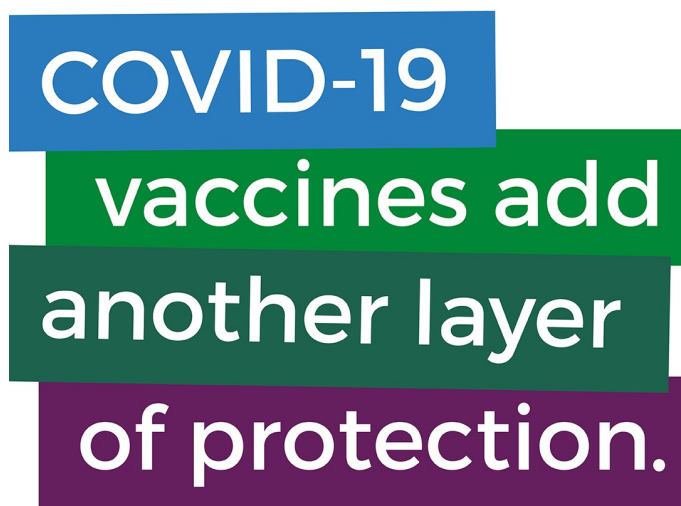
Theme: We seek listen to the Word of God rather than superimpose upon God's Word our personal issues.

Purpose: We will learn to listen to God's Word.

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 Boasting about spirituality versus dealing with personal spiritual struggles. Where we are weak, then we are strong.
Mark 6:1-13 A prophet is not without honor except in his own house. The authority is given to overcome unclean spirits.

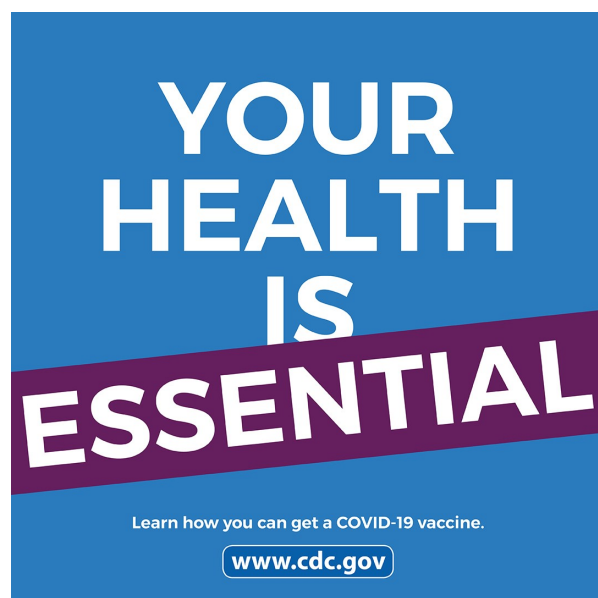
Questions:

How is it that some did not see Jesus' authority because they were too "familiar" with him while for others he had the power to transform their lives? What makes the difference between our healing and renewal? Do miracles still happen today? What difference does our spiritual experience make in terms of our actual relationship with God? What do we need to do to be healthy in our relationship with God?



Learn how you can get a COVID-19 vaccine to keep you and your family safe.

www.cdc.gov





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> |
|--|----------------------------------|--|
| 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 |
| John Penkoske | July 8, 2021 | St. Paul's Cathedral (Episcopal) 51 W. Division St., FDL |
| David Hein | July 15, 2021 | St. Patrick's Concert Hall 39 E. Follett Street, FDL |
| Father Tom Lijewski Wendy Pelletier | July 22, 2021 | St. Mary's Catholic Church 699 Milwaukee Ave. Lomira, WI |
| Arpad Muranyi | August 5, 2021 | St. Patrick's Concert Hall 39 E. Follett Street, FDL |
| Jake Kim (Scholarship Recipient) Georgene Antos Kris Bartelt | August 12, 2021 | First Presbyterian Church 1225 4 th Street, FDL |
| Father Tom Lijewski Wendy Pelletier | August 19, 2021 | Shepherd of the Hills W1562 County Road B Eden, WI 53019 |
| Ken Hill | August 26, 2021 | St. Patrick's Concert Hall 39 E. Follett Street, FDL |

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

Fond du Lac Area Organists Association

For more information, please contact:

| | | |
|--------------|--|--------------|
| Ken Hill | khill@lifeathope.org | 920-539-3977 |
| Kris Bartelt | kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org | 920-238-5330 |
| Pam Lane | 2planes@charter.net | 920-979-9361 |

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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.



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.



Steve Jensen's first organist position was at the age of 10. He studied organ at Lawrence Conservatory of Music, Carthage College and Northwestern University. Steve has been an organist at Immanuel Presbyterian Church for 30 years.

In addition, he has overseen the rebuilding and renovation of the church's 1881 Hook and Hasting organ. The organ renovation was part of the 175th Anniversary of the church.

Steve has served as the Treasurer of the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and is currently employed as a Chief Compliance Officer for US Bank, in Milwaukee, WI.



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.

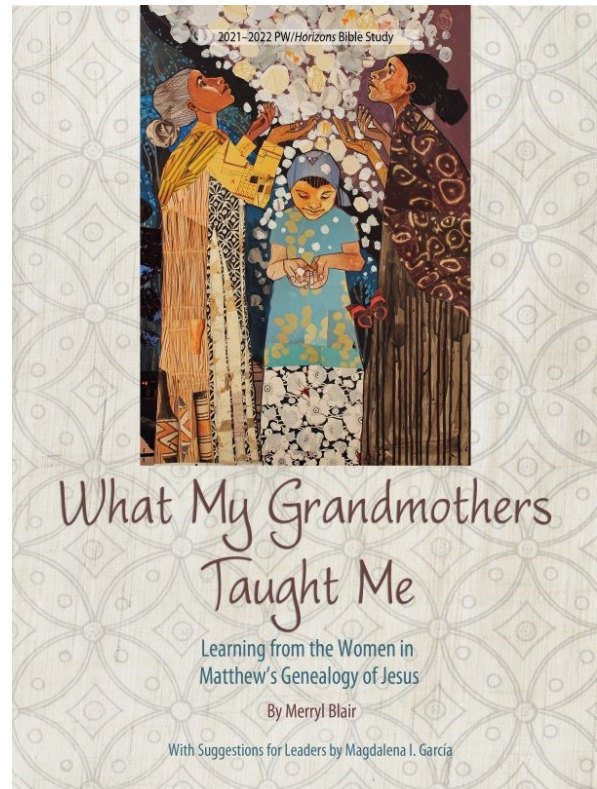
Jared has received many awards including first place in the American Guild of Organists Region VI Competition for Young Organists held at the United States Air Force Academy.

Summer Bible Study

Have you thought about Jesus' grandmothers? What can these Grandmothers-of-the-Faith teach us?

Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary – Matthew names these women for a reason.

- How might Jesus have heard the stories of his grandmothers?
- What might the young Jesus have felt as he heard about his family?
- What might the stories of these women have added to his sense of identity, as part of a particular family in a particular time and place?



Join us Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm, on ZOOM for:

“What My Grandmothers Taught Me:
Learning from the Women in Matthew’s Genealogy of Jesus”

2021-2022 Horizons Bible Study

By Meryll Blair Suggestions for Leaders by Magdalena I. García

**If you are interested in the Bible Study, or would
like more information please [click here](#).**

BIBLE STUDY WILL BEGIN IN LATE JUNE.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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:

fpcavteam@gmail.com.

Please include a description of your future plans. If you have any questions, please let Jennifer know @ jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org.

June 9 - Women in Faith Picnic Time!



Join us on Wednesday, June 9th at 6:30pm for Women in Faith. We will share our favorite recipes, games, activities, and places for picnic. Do you have a special picnic basket or blanket? You can also share your favorite picnic memories. Won't you join us?

Let me know if you have any suggestions for future meetings. Contact Jennifer if you need the Zoom link.

June 10 - Ruby's Pantry



DRIVE-THRU DISTRIBUTION

- Food distribution will take place at **GRACE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**. Please enter on the **EAST** side. Park on the South side of the building.
- Online registration is available. Please arrive at your appointed time.
- All guests must enter the building to register and receive their pick-up number, to place on their dashboard.
- Guests will be instructed to drive to the North end of the building to receive their food.
- Two food shares are allowed, per vehicle.
- Trunk must be empty
- Food will be loaded into trunks by our volunteers

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Where | Grace Christian |
| When | June 10 |
| Open | 4:30-6:00pm |
| Donation | \$20.00 Cash Only |

If you have any questions contact Grace Christian Church at: 920.923.5292 or rachelrudzik@gccfdl.org

If you are interested in volunteering, at Ruby's Pantry please complete an application at: www.rubyspantry.org.

June 16 - Virtual Bingo



Please click [here](#) to register.

Day Wednesday
Date June 16
Time 6:30pm

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

Won't you join us?

June 23 - PYA Virtual Discussion & Game Night



Join us Wednesday, JUNE 23 at 7:30pm 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.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Useful Information



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.



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!

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

Sunday Liturgy due
Wednesday End of Day

ZOOM Communion Worship (First Sunday of the Month)

The individual who records the
liturgy for 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/>



Virtual Coffee Hour

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



A Zoom link will be emailed
to you.



Help if You Need It -

If you, or someone you know, is in
a crisis situation, please consider
getting help.

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Suicide | 800.273.8255 |
| Addiction | 800.662.4357 |
| ASTOP | 920.926.5395 |

Crisis Intervention FDL County
920.929.3535

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

In June

Deacon

Jolene Schry
rjschry@charter.net

Elder

Don Vahlsing
dwvahlsing@gmail.com

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.
Kay M.
Wendy W.
Joyce J.
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.

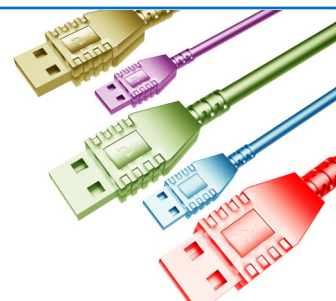
Electronic Ways to Keep in Touch

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

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Social Media and Website



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