

July 4, Volume 23, Issue 12

First Presbyterian Church

FOCUS

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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1st Sunday
July

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Reflections

“The Lifestyle of Forgiveness”

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ ²² Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.’

Matthew 18:21-22

Very frequently we need to return to the topic of forgiveness. It is one of the most fundamental instructions in Christianity, and probably one of the least understood practices of our faith. Atonement is the process of restoring broken relationship. Forgiveness is a lifestyle of choosing to not be controlled by past grievances. Both atonement and forgiveness are foundational to the Old and New Testaments. Our process of restoring relationship with God, and with others, underlies all the messages of the bible. The bible *reports* wars, battles, and conflicts, but it *commands* forgiveness. In the bible, there are stories of judgment, condemnation, and grudges, but these are not the instruction or message, they are merely episodes on the way to the message.

God called Abraham to a covenant, so that through him, all the nations of the earth could be blessed with forgiveness. God gave the law to the Hebrew people on Mount Sinai so they could learn to be a covenant people who lived by love and forgiveness. The land was given so that the Hebrew people could demonstrate community. The prophets recalled the failure to practice love, justice, and peace, as it conflicted with God’s plan. Then, ultimately, and finally, Jesus was born because God so loved the world that he sent his son, not to condemn the world but that through him the world might know reconciliation with God. It’s all about forgiveness.

This becomes an important point as we increasingly see the challenges to forgiveness, throughout our world. Our culture looks at conflicts as battles to be won, rather than broken relationships to be reconciled. We view interpersonal relationships with an eye towards who is right and who is the “bad” person. We are not *forgiveness* people.

A lifestyle of forgiveness means to be constantly working to choose reconciliation over holding a grudge; to work towards what is healing rather than what will achieve the biggest victory. Above all, it puts us in the position of having to examine our motivations and emotions - are we serving hostility, anxiety, and vengeance or are we truly working towards what is good and healing for all? When Peter was asking about forgiveness, he thought the point was to up the tolerances and delay the retaliation - which from what we can tell with Peter - was a good idea. But that was not the center of the thought. The goal was to be non-reactive. Our aim is to be so full of confidence in God’s approval for us, and so secure in our knowledge of Christ’s steadfast love, that we do not feel the need to react or retaliate. What we should do, instead, is to seek to do what is healing for all. Obviously, we have got some work to do.

Forgiveness is what will enable Christians to stand out against the current upsurge of hostility and retaliation that is dominating our world. Forgiveness, practiced wisely, can accomplish miracles! There is no greater miracle than when a place of hostility and brokenness is transformed into a healed relationship.

Peace,
Pastor Jack

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Coming Up in Worship

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?

07/11/2021

Sermon: "The Role of 'Elijah'"

Theme: We see God work through prophets and priests in order to accomplish the righteousness and growth of God's people.

Purpose: We will understand the tension between the roles in scripture of the prophets and priests.

Scriptures: Amos 7:7-15 Amos and the Plumb Line

Mark 6:14-29 Herod orders the beheading of John the Baptist.

Questions:

What does it mean for a person to speak as a prophet? How does a person come to be speaking by the power of the Holy Spirit? How do we know that someone is a prophet? What does it mean to us that a particular person is "inspired by God?" What makes a particular statement or message prophetic? What is the authority or power of words that are prophetic?

07/18/2021

Sermon: "The Language of God"

Theme: Though the bible is made up of Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic it is unified by the one relationship with God through the Holy Spirit.

Purpose: To understand what makes the differences in the language of the bible.

Scriptures: Ephesians 2:11-22 God has broken down the divisions and brought all people together in relationship through Christ.

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 Jesus and the disciples are followed by crowds hungry to hear their message.

Questions:

Why do some translations of the bible seem to sound very different from others? Is there a right or a best translation? What are the languages of the bible? In what ways do we have misinterpretation of the bible? Can we be sure that what we read is really from God? How do we make sense of what is written in the bible if we don't have the languages or skills to know the background?

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Coming Up in Worship (continued)

07/25/2021

Sermon: "What About Miracles?"

Theme: Miracles are signs and messages that people will see differently depending upon their relationship with God, but can appreciate the common sign and meaning.

Purpose: We will see what unites us and divides us in our interpretation of how God works in our midst.

Scriptures: Ephesians 3:14-21 May you be filled by the riches and great power of God.
John 6:1-21 Jesus feeds the five thousand and walks on the water, stills the storm.

Questions:

What should we believe regarding miracles? Is it acceptable for people to disagree about how literally to take accounts of miracles? What are the purposes of miracles? Why don't miracles happen more frequently? How does someone who is less inclined to believe in supernatural events interpret scripture as opposed to someone who feels a strong connection to the miracle stories? Why do many people find themselves in arguments over their belief in miracles?

08/01/2021 Communion

Sermon: "Faith or Bread"

Theme: We receive the scriptures as a message of God's presence and love that enables us to trust God in the things we do not know.

Purpose: We will examine how we respond to unknown and uncertain times.

Scriptures: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 The Hebrews in the wilderness complain against Moses and are fed by God with Manna.
John 6:24-35 Jesus chastises the crowds for their want of bread rather than the food that endures for eternal life.

Questions:

How do we handle when we are uncertain about the future and unclear about how problems will be resolved? Do we trust God to provide for our needs or do we feel like it is up to us to solve our own problems? Do we see challenges and trials as a failure or something to resent or are we able to see through faith opportunities for God to be glorified? Do we live by our bread alone or do we seek the food that is the source of eternal life?

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SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Our Sunday morning schedule will be as follows:

- First Sunday of each Month
 - 9:00am In-Person Worship in Sanctuary
Communion Outdoors
 - 10:30am Virtual Service with Communion
- Remaining Sundays of the Month
 - 9:00am In-Person Worship in Sanctuary
 - 10:30am Virtual Coffee Hour/Talk Back
- We will continue our YouTube services if we have available resources. If you're interested in learning about assisting in the production of our virtual worship services, please contact the office.

What will worship look like as we begin to be together?

- Masks are required to protect those who are unvaccinated.
- We will maintain social distancing.
- Nursery care will NOT be offered at this time.

Please keep in mind that our guidelines will change as we receive new COVID-19 updates from the CDC .



Christians Serving, Learning and Loving



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>
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.

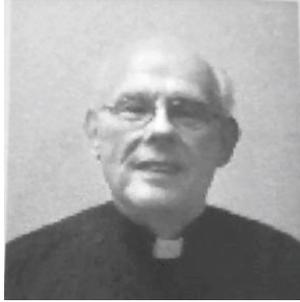
Fond du Lac Area Organists Association

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 Organists



Fr. Tom Lijewski is currently the chapter chaplain of FDL Area Organists . He was ordained in 1970 and is now retired from parish ministry. He most recently served parishes in Port Washington and Saukville.

He started piano lessons at age eight and organ lessons at age twelve. He completed his music studies at Alverno College with Sr. Mary Hueller in 1983. Since then he was chair of the Catholic Symphony board of directors and is now Co-Chair of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Organ Historical Society with Dr. David Bohn.

He played the final recital for the OHS in 1990 at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Kenosha on their Skinner organ.



Wendy Pelletier was born in Fond du Lac. She began playing the piano at age 5. She began learning organ while attending Saint Mary's Grade School. At 12, she played professionally for a wedding.

She graduated from Goodrich High School, continuing her education at UW-Platteville, studying Music Education. Wendy taught Elementary Music in the Anchorage, Alaska before moving to San Diego. In California, she played the organ for weddings, and played piano at several major hotels and Sea World.

Since moving back to Fond du Lac, Wendy has taught music at Sabish and Theisen Middle Schools. Ms. Pelletier is currently the Vocal and General Music teacher at Shepherd of the Hills Catholic School, Eden. She also chooses the music for choir members, schedules cantors, rehearses with the choir, and plays/cantors for four masses weekly.

Wendy's first performance for the FDL Organ Recital Series was in 2019.



David Hein is an instructor of music at Alverno College in Milwaukee. He directs the choir and teaches music courses in the Music Therapy Program. He is also the principal organist at The United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay.

David has had choral arrangements published with Neil A. Kjos Music, Inc., and Choristers Guild. He has also been a contributor to conferences and workshops for the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians.

He earned a Bachelor of Music degree at St. Olaf College. He has a masters' degree of music-choral conducting from Michigan State University.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Information at Church

July 7 -
PYA Virtual Discussion &
Game Night



Join us Wednesday, July 7 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.

July 8 - 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

July 11 -
Honor Graduating Seniors
and Scholarship Recipients



Sunday, July 11, will be a special day in the life of our congregation. We will take the opportunity to honor our graduating seniors and scholarship recipients, during our **in-person service**.

Please join us as we recognize our students and their academic achievements.

YOUR HEALTH IS ESSENTIAL

Learn how you can get a COVID-19 vaccine.

www.cdc.gov

Where	Grace Christian
When	July 8
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.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

July 14 - Women in Faith



Join us on Wednesday, July 14 at 6:30pm in the Pavilion, weather permitting. (In case of bad weather, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall.) Bring your own drink and we will have a dessert to share.

We will check in with each other and celebrate the "not-well-known holidays" that fall on July 14: National Tape Measure Day and National Mac & Cheese Day.

Bring your favorite tape measure or tape measure stories and your favorite Mac & Cheese recipes.

It is also National Nude Day.... we'll skip that one.

We hope you can join us. Let me know if you have any suggestions for future meetings. Contact Jennifer, if you have any questions.

Did you know...

The oldest known recipe for mac and cheese is included in the medieval English cookbook "Forme of Cury," circa the 1300's.

In 1869, Alvin J. Fellows patents the first spring measuring tape.

July 15 - Virtual Bingo



DAY THURSDAY
Date July 15
Time 6:30pm

Please note that Bingo is on Thursday this month.

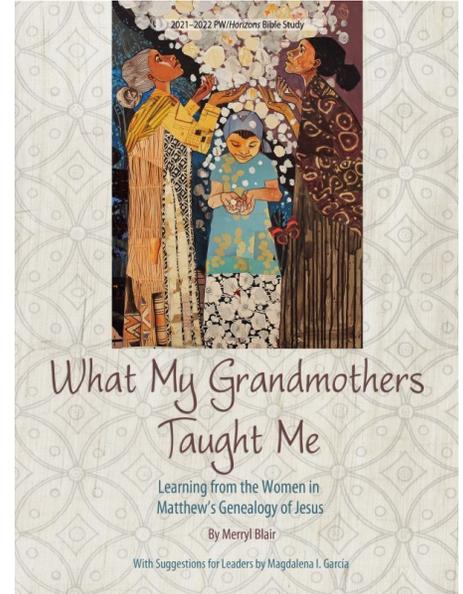
Please click [here](#) to register.

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

Won't you join us?

Summer Bible Study

**Tuesday Evenings
7:00pm via ZOOM.**



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

How might Jesus have heard the stories of his grandmothers?

You can still participate!
Contact Jennifer if you have any questions.

**THE COVID-19 VACCINE
HELPS PROTECT YOU
& YOUR FAMILY.**

A safe and effective vaccine to protect against COVID-19 is now available.

www.cdc.gov



Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

August 21 - Back to School FDL



We are excited to tell you that Back-to-School FDL is starting! It is going to be a great year!

Back-to-School will be back "home" at the Boys and Girls Club. Although things will still look a little different, families will be allowed inside the building, this year.

If you would like to donate school supplies, you can drop them off at the Back-to-School box in the church Narthex. Supplies will be pre-packed, like they were last year.

Volunteer opportunities are explained here:

[volunteer registration form.](#)

As always, the health and safety of volunteers is important.

As we get closer to the date decisions regarding COVID 19 restrictions will be made.

August 27-28 - Rock the Block



Imagine coming together with community members to make a difference in our own neighborhood!

Habitat for Humanity of Fond du Lac County is organizing a Rock the Block event on August 27-28. The Rock the Block program brings residents and community partners together to collaborate efforts in targeted neighborhoods. This year's event will focus on the neighborhoods of Hamilton Street and Forest Avenue.

Volunteers and staff will work together to help revitalize the community by doing exterior home repairs, yard and street clean up, landscaping, painting and more. Along with Habitat's community partners, Habitat can now help assist low-income residents with home repairs, help maintain home ownership rates, improve the housing stock, and increase neighborhood pride. The Habitat community also assists with projects that will help to improve and beautify the neighborhood, at large.

Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity

- To register for Rock the Block habitatfdl.org/events/
- For more information about Habitat for Humanity habitafdl.org
- To donate to Habitat for Humanity habitatfdl.org/support-us/
- If you are interested in similar mission activities with our church family [click here](#)



BACK to School

A community-wide collaboration

FDL

Back to School FDL equips over 900 students with the school supplies they need to start off the school year right!



Supplies Needed



Drive Dates: August 15, 2021

- 
- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1" Binders | Looseleaf Paper |
| Calculators- TI 30X IIS | No 2 Pencils |
| Colored Pencils | Pencil Boxes/Pouches |
| Crayola Washable Markers | 3x3 Post-It Notes |
| Erasers | Pocket Folders |
| Dry Erase Markers | Red Pens |
| Glue/Glue Sticks | Scissors-Pointed 5" & 7" |
| Graph Paper | Sketch Books |
| Highlighters | Spiral Notebooks |
| 3x5 Index Cards | Watercolors |



Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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.

TALKback



A Zoom link will be emailed
to you.



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

In July

Deacon

Debby Lorenz
daalorenz@gmail.com

Elder

Jim Dassow
jnjdassow@gmail.com

First Presbyterian Focus

Please send submissions for the
Newsletter to:

fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org.

Prayers and Praises

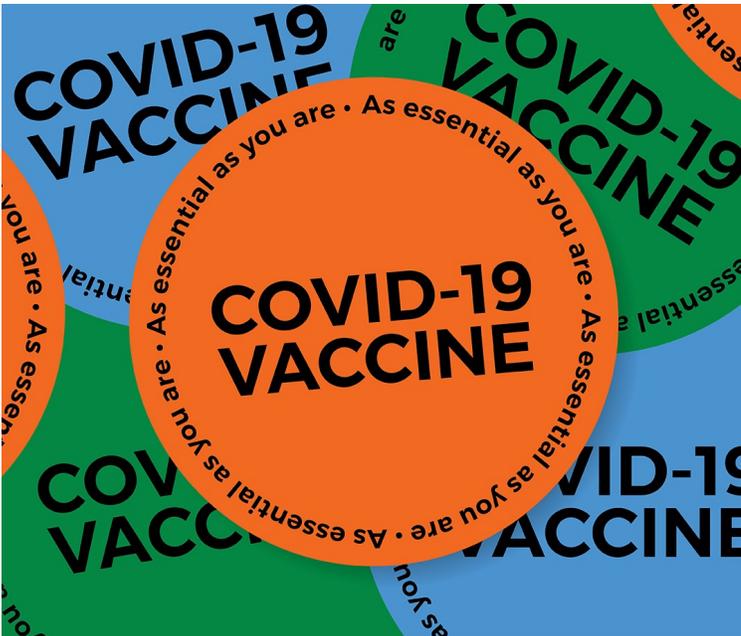
Homeless and disbursed people, particularly
those who are positive for the Covid-19 virus and
struggling to find shelter

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.
Jane D.
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.



Learn how you can get a COVID-19 vaccine. www.cdc.gov

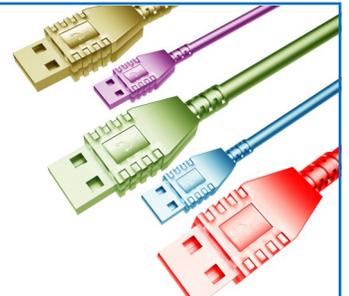
Electronic Ways to Keep in Touch

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

July Calendar 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Canada Day 10a-11a Staff Meeting-Zoom	2	3
4 Independence Day Virtual Worship 9a-9:45a In-Person Worship 10:30a-11a Zoom Worship 11:15a-12:15p Coffee Hour on Zoom	5	6 7p-8p Bible Class via Zoom	7 7:30p-8:30p PYA Virtual Game Time	8 10a-11a Staff Meeting-Zoom 6:30p-7:30p Serving Team via Zoom	9 10:30a-11:30a Transition Team - Virtual	10
11 Virtual Worship 9a-9:45p In-Person Worship 10:30a-11:30a Coffee Hour on Zoom 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Mtg	12 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting-Zoom	13 7p-8p Bible Study via Zoom	14 6:30p-7:30p Women in Faith In-Person	15 10a-11a Staff Meeting-Zoom 5:45p-6:30p Loving Team Virtual Meeting 6:30p-7:30p Church Bingo Night via Zoom	16	17
18 Virtual Worship 9a-9:45a In-Person Worship 10:30a-11:30a Coffee Hour on Zoom 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Mtg	19 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting-Zoom 6:30p-7:30p Virtual Session Meeting	20 7p-8p Bible Study via Zoom	21 3p-4p Lakeview Communion @ Lakeview	22 9a-10a Finance Team In-Person 10a-11a Staff Meeting-Zoom	23	24
25 Virtual Worship 9a-10a In-Person Worship 10:30a-11:30a Coffee Hour on Zoom 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Mtg	26 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting-Zoom	27 7p-8p Bible Study via Zoom	28 World Hepatitis Day	29 10a-11a Staff Meeting-Zoom	30 Int'l. Friendship Day	31

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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Custodian Assistant

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First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac

www.fdlpresbyterian.org

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