

July 18, Volume 23, Issue 13

First Presbyterian Church

FOCUS

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

In This Issue

Reflections	Page 2
Coming Up in Worship	Page 3
Summer Worship Schedule	Page 4
Organ Recitals	Page 5
Organ Recital Biographies	Page 6
Information @ Church	Page 6-8
Useful Information	Page 9
In July	Page 10
Praises and Prayers	Page 10
Electronic Ways to Keep in Touch	Page 10
July / August Calendar	Page 11
Contact Us	Page 12
Social Media, YouTube, Website	Page 12

3rd Sunday
July

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Reflections

Gratitude or Grievances

¹⁵See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. ¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

1 Thessalonians 5:15-22

There are very few things that we can control. We cannot change what others will do, or even more importantly, how they will feel. We cannot control our own health. So much of our lives are determined by things that we cannot even envision. The only thing we can really control is how we will respond - particularly when we are challenged by things taking place in our lives. We can choose whether we will receive events with faith, gratitude, and acceptance, or we can choose anger, resentment, and bitterness.

I know some will argue that they cannot control how they feel, but we can “steer” our feelings by what we choose to emphasize in our minds. That steering process can feel a little like making an ocean liner “swerve” to avoid an obstacle. It takes time and consistency and above all it takes patience. We must begin with what we want to experience.

Sometimes we believe that animosity, hostility, and anger can seem to make us feel more powerful. It can also be used, by some, to create a false sense of closeness: that we are all angry at the same things and enraged at the same “bad stuff.” Unfortunately, what many do not recognize is that while anger, hostility, and bitterness may make you feel better for a short time, they expend a great deal of energy and alienate us from our sources of confidence, peace, and wholeness. If you spend too much time in hostility and bitterness you know it might lead to burn-out.

The passage from Thessalonians describes an alternative for us. First, refuse to participate in evil. Do not repay evil for evil. Do not allow yourself to wish evil on someone for hurting you. Simply choose not to participate in it. Second, choose to always “rejoice.” We think we know the definition (of rejoice), but it doesn’t translate to English, very well. It means, at its most basic root, to “dance about.” It is another way of saying be willing to welcome the good, to pay attention to what is healing and joyful. Rejoicing is not to deny the bad things, in the world, but to pay special attention to the joy and good in the world.

Next, we pray always - constantly being in a conversation with God. This is a process of orienting our thinking around God’s love and compassion, rather than giving our thoughts over to endless rehashing of past hurts and grievances. Prayer practices are an excellent way to move our minds from dwelling on exhausting and meaningless rehashing of a hurt, to a less anxious, more restful state of mind. Prayer becomes a means where we can flow with the Spirit, rather than struggle through the dire situations we face with our own limited strength and creativity.

The practices and process of living with a renewed mind are a constant journey that begins with a decision to leave behind what is meaningless and wearying in order to take hold of what can be enlivening and healing.

Once we make that decision, the Holy Spirit has a wonderful way of taking over and enabling us to find the guidance and support we need.

Peace,
Pastor Jack

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Coming Up in Worship

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?

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?

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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.

This is what worship looks like, at this point in time:

- 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>
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

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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.

August 21 - Back to School



Now in its 26th year, Back to School Fond du Lac provides support to families who need assistance getting their children ready for school. Distribution Day is scheduled for Saturday, August 21, 2021.

As in the past, the distributions will be held at the Boys & Girls Club of FDL. We hope that the Back to School experience will provide an uplifting, encouraging and compassionate experience for all the families and children who participate.

A list of needs can be found in our newsletter and a collection box is available in the church narthex. Donations will be accepted at church until August 15. Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate or through the church website :

www.fdlpresbyterian.org

More information can be found on the Back to School FDL website:

www.backtoschoolfdl.org

Volunteer opportunities are explained here:

[volunteer registration form.](#)

Because of your time, talent and financial support, the Back to School program works for the students in our community.

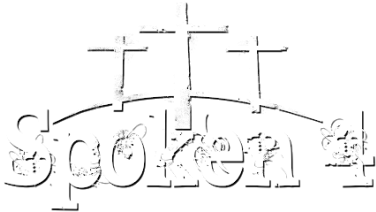
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July 21 -
PYA Virtual Discussion &
Game Night



Join us Wednesday, July 21st on Zoom at 7:30PM for PYA check in and games.

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



August 22 -
Outdoor Concert



Date Sunday, August 22
Place Buttermilk Creek
Time 2:00pm

A freewill offering will be taken.

Spoken4 is a gospel quartet from Branson, MO. Join us for an afternoon of music and fellowship at the Buttermilk Creek Bandshell.

If you have any questions, please contact First Baptist Church:
firstbaptistfdl.com.

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](#)

A green poster for 'Back to School FDL' featuring various school supplies like purple scissors, a blue pencil sharpener, an orange pencil, a green highlighter, a blue pen, and a wooden ruler. The text is centered and includes a list of needed supplies and drive dates.

BACK to School
FDL
A community-wide collaboration

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

You can view the volunteer information here: [Volunteer Form](#)

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Bible Study Continues

**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.

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

Sunday Liturgy due Tuesday
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:

kbartelt@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.

e-GIVING®

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!

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

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

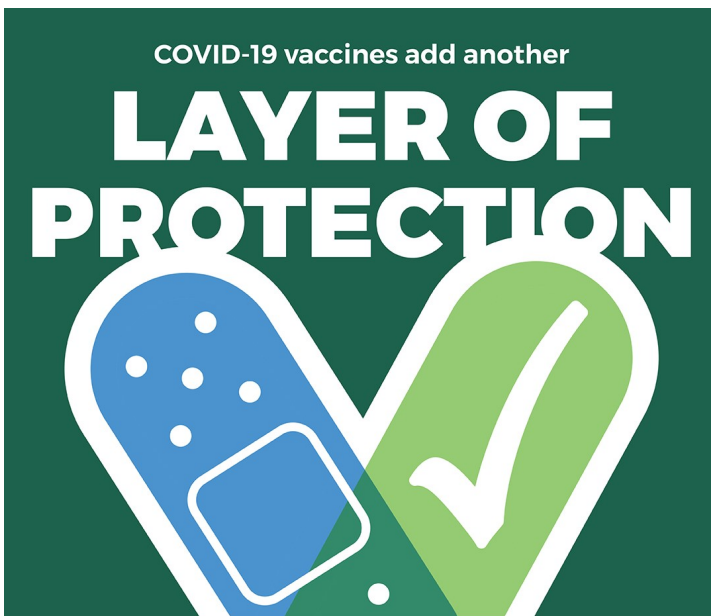
Homeless and disbursed people, particularly those who are positive for the Covid-19 virus and struggling to find shelter

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 to keep you and your family safe.

www.cdc.gov

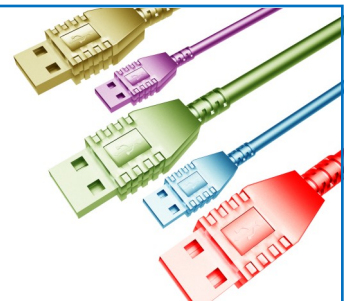
Electronic Ways to Keep in Touch

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



July Calendar 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Virtual Worship 9a-9:45a In-Person Worship 10:30a-11:30a Coffee Hour on Zoom 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Mtg	10a-11:30a Staff Meet- ing-Zoom 6:30p-7:30p Virtual Session Meeting	7p-8p Bible Study via Zoom	3p-4p Lakeview Com- munion @ Lakeview	9a-10a Finance Team In-Person 10a-11a Staff Meeting- Zoom		
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 Meet- ing-Zoom	27 7p-8p Bible Study via Zoom	28 World Hepatitis Day	29 10a-11a Staff Meeting- Zoom	30 Int'l. Friendship Day	31

August Calendar 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Virtual Worship 9a-10a In-Person Worship 10:30a-11a Zoom Worship 11:15a-12p Coffee Hour on Zoom 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Mtg	2 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting-Zoom 6:30p-7:30p Deacons Meeting	3 7p-8p Bible Study via Zoom	4	5 10a-11a Staff Meeting- Zoom	6	7
8 Virtual Worship 9a-10a In-Person Worship 10:30a-11:30a Coffee Hour on Zoom 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Mtg	9 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting-Zoom	10 6:30p-7:30p Learning Team-Zoom 7p-8p Bible Study via Zoom	11 6:30p-7:30p Women in Faith In-Person	12 10a-11a Staff Meeting- Zoom 6:30p-7:30p Serving Team via Zoom	13	14
15 Virtual Worship 9a-10a In-Person Worship 10:30a-11:30a Coffee Hour on Zoom 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Mtg	16 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting-Zoom 6:30p-7:30p Virtual Session Meeting	17 7p-8p Bible Study via Zoom	18	19 10a-11a Staff Meeting- Zoom	20	21
22 Virtual Worship 9a-10a In-Person Worship 10:30a-11:30a Coffee Hour on Zoom 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Mtg	23 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting-Zoom	24	25	26 10a-11a Staff Meeting- Zoom	27	28 1:30p-4p Westcott/ Zander Wedding
29 Virtual Worship 9a-10a In-Person Worship 10:30a-11:30a Coffee Hour on Zoom 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Mtg	30 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting-Zoom	31	Notes:			

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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