

August 15, Volume 23, Issue 14

First Presbyterian Church

FOCUS

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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3rd Sunday
August

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Reflections

The Lord Watch over Me and Thee...

With the short, simple congregational meeting on August 8, 2021 the changes coming for all of us are officially coming together. Deb and I have begun making plans to sell our home and buy a home in northern Illinois. The church has pulled together a Pastor Transition Team which is considering options and possibilities for the needs of the church. The future is upon us. And that future will be good.

We can either look at this with fear or with faith. Fear looks at what is unknown and enlarges it, even making that unknown full of impossibilities. Faith believes that God is already preparing the answers to questions that have not yet been asked. Faith believes that what is needed is there, waiting to be discovered. I would strongly encourage being intentional about dwelling in faith, partly because fear is never any fun; but most importantly because faith is true, and fear tends to lie a lot.

Though this is the first time I have been the “retiring” pastor, 1st Presbyterian Church has had this happen a few times. I was the “arriving pastor” here and in several other locations. Let me point out what works best from what the church has learned, and from what I have seen in my own experience. When a pastor leaves, a shift needs to happen because the pastor will no longer be there in pastoral leadership position. The departing pastor’s most important job is to create the space for new leadership. This means not extending or causing the process to be unfinished.

In the Presbyterian Church, we describe this process as a “separation ethic.” Separation ethic means to be intentional about creating space for the new leadership. After September, I will not be available to do funerals, weddings, or other pastoral care. I won’t be commenting or suggesting on how to manage any facet of the church. This is the best thing I can do for the congregation, and for my wife and myself.

I have been the new pastor in churches where the outgoing pastor left in good standing, and often later that pastor has been able to develop a relationship with the church after the transition is complete, not as the pastor but as part of the congregation. I have also been the new pastor in churches where pastors have not practiced healthy separation and the relationships that developed later were never good. So, I’m not being unkind when I don’t reply or respond or make myself available. I just know that there is a healthy way to manage this changing relationship, and it is the way of allowing the church to have plenty of space through this coming time.

In the meantime, Deb and I will be quite busy. We are going to be moving, and our families have already been making lots of plans. We will be praying for the church, as we discover the great gifts that God has in store for us as well.

Peace,
Pastor Jack

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Coming Up in Worship

08/15/2021

Sermon: "Bread"

Theme: The message of the bread is our sustenance, our wholeness, and our unity.

Purpose: To understand that we are united and nurtured by God's call to unity.

Scriptures: Ephesians 5:15-20 Do not be foolish, live as those who are wise.
John 6:51-58 Jesus said, "I am the living Bread."

Questions:

How is bread used as a metaphor in the bible? In what ways do we connect with that metaphor? Are there false assumptions we make or misunderstandings we have about bread? What is the difference between "unleavened bread" and leavened bread? What does Jesus mean when he says that he is the "living bread that came down from heaven?" In what way does the history of Manna in the Old Testament influence our understanding of the bible?

08/22/2021

Sermon: "Literally or figuratively?"

Theme: We develop a relationship with our heritage that is instructive but not necessarily directing us to do the same things.

Purpose: To examine how we reform our past into our future.

Scriptures: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 Joshua calls the people to pledge their faithfulness to God alone.
John 6:56-69 Jesus calls the people to eat his flesh and drink his blood.

Questions:

How do we know when we should take scripture literally and when it is a metaphor? In what ways do some passages have deeper truths when not taken literally? What tends to make us more biased against some interpretations or less willing to accept a message from scripture? How do our preconceptions shape our ability to hear the Word of God in its full meaning? What do we need to consider as examine passages that are disturbing or difficult for us?

08/29/2021

Sermon: "Ordinances and Statutes"

Theme: We are called to learn and observe the law of God so that we may practice what is at the heart of the relationship God desires we develop.

Purpose: To understand how to observe the law of God wisely.

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 Moses calls the people to observe the statutes and ordinances from God.
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 The disciples are confronted by Pharisees regarding their practices.

Questions:

What do we mean when we speak of the "law of God?" In what ways are we obligated to observe the laws of the Old Testament? In what ways are we not bound by the old laws? How do we know the difference between what was in the past to educate and shape God's people and what we need to observe today? How should we respond to those who continue to call for obedience to Levitical laws? How does God want us to live today in righteousness?

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Coming Up in Worship (continued)

09/05/2021 Labor Day Weekend, Communion

Sermon: Culture and Prejudice

Theme: We recognize that the prejudice and attitudes demonstrated in the bible are not directive to how we should behave today.

Purpose: We will learn to separate what gives us direction from what was common in the culture of the past.

Scriptures: James 2:1-10, 14-17 Faith without works is dead. Why do we dishonor the poor and cater to the wealthy?
Mark 7:24-37 Jesus and the Syrophenician Woman, and the man who is deaf.

Questions:

Why did Jesus act in a way that seems so rude to us? Since Jesus was rude to the woman, does that mean we are not expected to be kind to all people? What was the cultural issue that led to this type of an interchange as happened between Jesus and this woman? Was James' instruction to the people in the church that necessary? Were people seriously showing partiality based upon clothing and appearances? How do we do those same things today? What can we do to be aware of our prejudices that interfere with our mission to share God's love?

09/12/2021

Sermon: The Words We Choose

Theme: We choose our relationship with God and with one another based upon how we speak and what we choose to enlarge in our language.

Purpose: To examine our communication with one another.

Scriptures: James 3:1-12 The tongue and the way in which it affects our lives spiritually.
Mark 8:27-38 Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?" and rebukes Peter when he seeks to direct Jesus away from the cross.

Questions:

How does our language and choice of words affect our relationship with God as well as our relationships with the people around us? How does our choice of language and words affect our identity and sense of who we are? In what ways do the choices we make in our words shape our experiences and emotions? What can we do to shape our thinking and language so as to find joy and wholeness?

09/19/2021

Sermon: The Faith we Live

Theme: God desires that we live in healthy relationship and joy with one another.

Purpose: To examine ourselves and seek to know God in ways that will enable us to be healthy.

Scriptures: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Who is wise and understanding? Show by your good life.
Mark 9:30-37 Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and a servant of all.

Questions:

How should we view conflict so as to live well and experience the fullness of joy that God desires for us? What happens when we continually view conflict as being other people's fault rather than seek the change or growth that is within conflicts? How do we shape our perceptions either as process of growth or battles to be won? How do we come to live and grow through the changes taking place in our lives?

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Pastor Transition Team

A Pastor Transition Team has been created so our church can go forward, as we say goodbye to Pastor Jack.

The team consists of two Session members (Mary Bacon and Debbie Cooley), one Deacon (Les Mier), and one member-at-large (Jodi Anderson).

Updates, regarding pastoral leadership and the needs of our congregation, will be posted in the newsletter and on the website.



SAVE THE DATE

Join us in celebrating

Pastor Jack's

ministry at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday September 26, 2021

More information to come in September.

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 .

Organist	Thursdays 12:15-12:45pm	Place
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

Biographies of Recital Participants

Father Tom Lijewski

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 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.

Kenneth Hill

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

August 21 - **BACK**toSchool
A community-wide collaboration FDL

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.

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.

August 18 - Virtual Bingo



Day Wednesday
Date August 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?

August 22 - Outdoor Concert

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



A freewill offering will be taken.

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](#)

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Summer Worship

Our Sunday morning schedule will be as follows:

- First Sunday of each Month

9:00am In-Person Worship
Communion Outdoors
10:30am Virtual/Zoom Service
with Communion

- Remaining Sundays of the Month

9:00am In-Person Worship
10:30am Virtual Coffee Hour
Talk Back

This is what worship looks like, right now:

- Masks are required to protect those who are unvaccinated.
- Social Distancing is maintained
- Nursery care is not available



August 15 - Last day to drop off school supplies at church!

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.



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 August

Deacon

Jolene Schry
rjschry@charter.net

Elder

Mary Bacon
bitsinbacon5@gmail.com

First Presbyterian Focus

Please send submissions for the
Newsletter to:

fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org.

Prayers and Praises

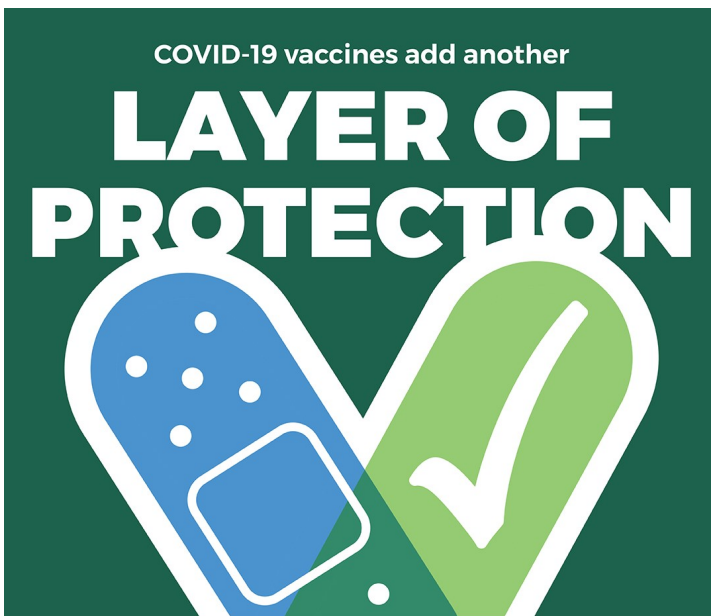
Homeless and disbursed people, particularly
those who are positive for the Covid-19 virus and
struggling to find shelter

Pat D.
Peg D.
Gib D.
Arnold L.
Ruth S.
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.
Jen Brennan, daughter of Deb B.
The Family of Dan M.

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

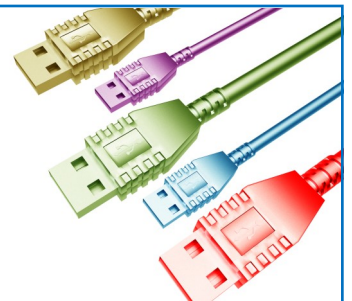
Electronic Ways to Keep in Touch

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



August Calendar 2021

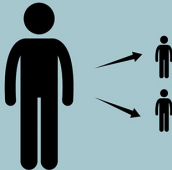
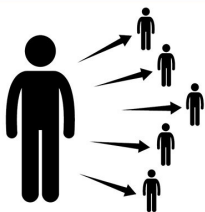
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
15 Virtual Worship 9a-10a In-Person Worship 10:30a-11:30a Coffee Hour on Zoom 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Mtg	16 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting 6:30p-7:30p Virtual Session Meeting	17	18 6:30p-7:30p Bingo Via Zoom	19	20	21
22 Virtual Worship 9a-10a In-Person Worship 10:30a-11:30a Coffee Hour on Zoom 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Mtg	23 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting 6p-7p Loving Team	24 7p-8p Bible Study via Zoom	25 4p-7p Loaves and Fishes Meal	26 9a-11a Finance Team Meeting	27	28 1:30p-5p Westcott/ Zander Wedding
29 Virtual Worship 9a-10a In-Person Worship 10:30a-11:30a Coffee Hour on Zoom 6:30p-7:30p Boy Scout Committee Mtg 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Mtg	30 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting	31	Notes:			




September Calendar 2021

~ September 2021 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 6:30p-7:30p Serving Team via Zoom	3	4
5 Virtual Worship 9:15a-10:15a Coffee Hour on Zoom 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Mtg	6 Labor Day 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting	7 6p-7p Learning Team-Zoom 6:30p-7:30p Deacons Meeting	8 6:30p-7:30p Women in Faith In-Person	9	10	11 Patriot Day
12 Virtual Worship 9:15a-10:15a Coffee Hour on Zoom 10a-10:20a Education Hour 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Mtg	13 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting	14	15	16	17	18
19 2020 Confirmation Sunday Virtual Worship 9:15a-10:15a Coffee Hour on Zoom 10a-10:20a Education Hour 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Mtg	20 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting 6:30p-7:30p Virtual Session Meeting	21	22	23	24	25
26 2021 Confirmation Class Worship Virtual Worship 9:15a-10:15a Coffee Hour on Zoom 10a-10:20a Education Hour 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Mtg	27 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting	28	29	30	Notes:	

The Delta variant is more contagious than previous strains—it may cause more than **2x as many infections**

ORIGINAL COVID-19 STRAIN	DELTA VARIANT
	

Vaccines protect you from hospitalization, severe infections, and death

 cdc.gov/coronavirus

CS 32241-AA 08/02/2021

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Church Staff

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Custodian Assistant

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First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac

www.fdlpresbyterian.org

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