

September 5, Volume 23, Issue 14

First Presbyterian Church

FOCUS

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

In This Issue

Reflections	Page 2
Coming up in Worship	Page 3-4
Pastor Transition Team	Page 4
Save the Date	Page 4
Confirmation Celebration	Page 5
Information @ Church	Page 6-8
In September	Page 9
Praises and Prayers	Page 9
Electronic Ways to Keep in Touch	Page 9
September Calendar	Page 10
Contact Us	Page 11
Social Media, YouTube, Website	Page 11

1st Sunday
September

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Reflections

Our Confidence is in God's Promises

² My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; ⁴and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

⁵ If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. ⁶But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind; ^{7,8}for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

James 1:2-8

Change can be a source of excitement or insecurity, depending on how we approach the experience. If we focus on everything that is coming to an end and become emotionally enmeshed in the losses, we are bound to be overwhelmed, “double-minded and unstable in every way.” On the other hand, if we work through our losses in a healthy way by continuing to invest our minds and hearts in the promise that God’s work will be done, change can be exciting and energizing.

The hardest part of change is to embrace the right choice, to see the possibilities and to develop vision, for the future. For some reason, fear and insecurity seem to be very enticing. Unfortunately, many choose to throw off fear for thoughtless denial and mindless risk, rather than to do the work of discernment and vision. The process of discernment and vision is to ask, “What does God wish to accomplish?” and to open ourselves to imagine new possibilities. Fear often causes us to latch onto a solution before exploring other possibilities, allowing the past to dictate the future. The courage to listen to God’s wisdom is the path that will always pay off.

The other powerful thing about vision is that it unites people and draws them together. When it comes to accomplishing ministry and doing God’s work, money, volunteers, and other resources all present themselves when there is a vision that people want to embrace and follow. Our problem is not as much to figure out how to do it, as what is the “it” that people will experience as God’s work in our midst.

So, we grieve change in healthy ways. We need to focus, above all, on finding our vision and discerning God’s work, in our midst. In that way we will have confidence in the exciting gifts the future will bring.

Peace,
Pastor Jack

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Coming Up in Worship

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

Coming Up in Worship (Continued)

09/26/2021

Sermon: All of God's People

Theme: We are called to share the love of God without anxiousness or need for divisions.

Purpose: We will appreciate our unity in Christ.

Scriptures: James 5:13-20 Instructions for prayer and caring for the sick.
Mark 9:38-50 Whoever is not against us is for us.

Questions:

What is God's desire for our relationship and community with one another? How do we live that community in healthy ways? What happens when we allow our selfish and hostile impulses to poison community? What can we do to help one another remain in healthy community? In what way is the "body of Christ" different from any other community?

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.



Confirmation 2020 & 2021
First Presbyterian Church

Confirmation Celebration

**Join us as we recognize our Confirmation
Classes in Worship**

Confirmation Class of 2020
Sunday, September 19
9AM Worship

Confirmation Class of 2021
Sunday, September 26
9AM Worship



Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

September 8 -
Women in Faith



A friend is someone who reaches for your hand but touches your heart.

Join us for fun and fellowship on Wednesday, September 8 from 6:30-7:30pm, in person, in the Pavilion. (In case of inclement weather, we'll meet in Fellowship Hall.) We will check in with each other and create a special project.

Bring your own drink. We will have a dessert to share.

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

Won't you join us?

September 9 - 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 and to receive further instructions
- 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	September 9
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.

September 12 -
Kick-off Sunday



Join us on Sunday, September 12th at 10:30am as we "kick-off" our Church School year!

Each week we will offer a virtual education hour. We will meet via Zoom, as we did last year. The Zoom link will be emailed to you during the week.

We will begin time together and then separate into different "rooms" for education experiences and coffee hour. On September 12, we will also include a Backpack Blessing.

We hope you can join us! If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer:

jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

September 15 -
Virtual Bingo



Day Wednesday
Date September 15
Time 6:30pm

Please click [here](#) to register.
A ZOOM link will be emailed to you, **after you register**.

Won't you join us?

*Now may the Lord
of peace himself
give you peace at all
times in all ways.
The Lord be with
all of you.*

2 Thessalonians 3:16

September 18 -
Steel Drum Concert

Church of Our Saviour Performing
Arts Series presents :

Mayville Steel Drum Band

DATE September 18
TIME 7:00 pm
WHERE Church of Our Saviour
9th & Main Streets



Ben Reehl, conductor of The
Mayville Steel Drum Band,
presents an energetic program
featuring many styles of music
from classical to pop, rock and
Caribbean melodies.

This is a wonderful family activity!
The public is welcome! Maybe
you'd like to wear your Hawaiian
shirt!

A free-will offering will be taken.



September 22 -
PYA Virtual Game Time



Join us Wednesday, September
22nd on Zoom. We'll start at
7:30pm. We'll check in and play
games.

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

October 3 - Peace Offering



The Peace & Global Witness
Offering encourages the church to
cast off anxiety and fear, discord
and division, and embrace our
God's mission of reconciliation to
those around the corner and the
world.

The Peace and Global Witness
Offering theme this year is
PEACE at all times in all ways
(2 Thessalonians 3:16).

A gift to the Peace & Global
Witness Offering enables the
church to promote the Peace of
Christ by addressing systems of
conflict and injustice across the
world.

This special denominational
offering will be received on
October 3, World Communion
Sunday.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

September 12 – Blessing of the Backpacks



On September 12, we will share a special time of blessing for all students, teachers, and school workers, of all ages. You are invited to bring your backpack, briefcase, tote bag, calendar, or any other school item to bring forward during a time of blessing and prayer. Bring your friends, too!

We will remember that God is with you wherever you go, and you will be surrounded in prayer. We will pray that God blesses the year ahead, for everyone.

Join us during 9:00am in-person worship or during the 10:30 Education Hour on Zoom.

All bags (or other school items) will be blessed, and all students/staff will be given a blessed keepsake. As we celebrate God's gift of learning, we will pray for God's blessing on students, staff, families, and schools for the coming year.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer:

jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org

Fall 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



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/>

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

In September

Deacon

Roy Johnson
roy4368@att.net

Elder

Nancy Hilbert
nhilbert1946@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

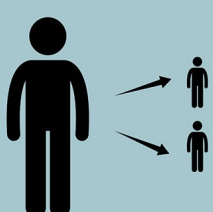
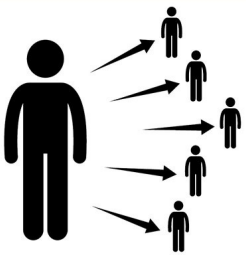
Pat D.
Gib D.
Arnold L.
Ruth S.
Lincoln D.
Jesse F.
Silas W.
Wendy W.
Jane D.
Jack H.
Jerry and Mary H.
Chastity G. and Joan S.
Jen B., daughter of Deb B.

Prayer Partners


Send prayer requests to
fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org

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

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](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

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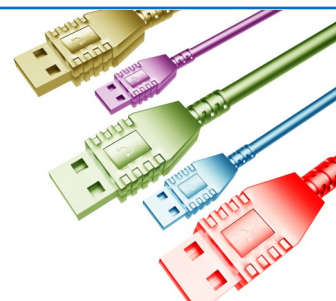
Electronic Ways to Keep in Touch

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



September Calendar 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Virtual Worship 9a-9:45a In-Person Worship 10:30a-11:30a Zoom Worship 11:30a-12:30p Coffee Hour on Zoom	6 Labor Day	7	8 6:30p-7:30p Women in Faith In-Person	9 6:30p-7:30p Serving Team	10	11 Patriot Day
12 Virtual Worship 9a-9:45a In-Person Worship 10:30a-11:30a Coffee Hour on Zoom 10:30a-11:30a Educa- tion Hour	13 10a-11:30a Staff Meet- ing 1p-2:30p Deacons	14 6p-7p Learning Team- Zoom	15 6:30p-7:30p Bingo Via Zoom	16 7p-8p Confirmation Class 2020	17	18
19 2020 Confirmation Sunday Virtual Worship 9a-9:45a In-Person Worship 10:30a-11:30a Coffee Hour on Zoom 10:30a-11:30a Educa- tion Hour 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Mtg	20 10a-11:30a Staff Meet- ing 6:30p-7:30p Virtual Session Meeting	21	22 7:00pm PYA via Zoom	23 9a-10:30a Financial Team Meeting (Parlor) 6p-7p Loving Team Virtual Meeting	24	25
26 2021 Confirmation Class Worship Virtual Worship 9a-9:45a In-Person Worship 10:30a-11:30a Coffee Hour on Zoom 10:30a-11:30a Educa- tion Hour 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Mtg	27 10a-11:30a Staff Meet- ing	28	29	30	Notes:	

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Church Staff

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revjharrison@fdlpresbyterian.org

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Custodian Assistant

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