

focus

First Presbyterian

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Reflections

Parts of the Body

14 But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? 15 And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

Romans 8:14-15

So let's hear it for the feet!! Yes, let's hear it for the parts of the body that receive less honor and are essential to doing the hard work. As we begin our series focusing on the parts of the body and the need for all of the parts to be healthy, we might as well begin where the rubber, err... skin, hits the road.

The passage that the Apostle Paul is referencing above is from Isaiah 52, when Isaiah is commenting on the promise that messengers will be coming from far away with the good news that captivity and oppression are coming to an end. The equivalent that comes to mind is when that eternity of waiting to hear the results of medical tests knowing that the results will make a huge difference in the future. If someone makes an extra effort to get news to you, hastens the relief and sense of release, you feel a sense of gratitude and appreciation that can be overwhelming. In that way, we find ourselves blessing the feet of the one who ran to bring the good news.

The point of what Paul is saying is that there are people who have been living in alienation, condemnation, and loneliness that are desperate for the good news that release has come. The family struggling to make ends meet; the person struggling through times of conflict and alienation, the many people wondering if they have any value in this world; they are all waiting for the messenger to come and let them know that God has declared them to be beloved children. These are all places where messengers of good news are desperately needed. In other words, we need some beautiful feet to carry out these errands of love and compassion.

The problem is that the feet have a tough job that not everyone wants. In terms of being messengers, the feet do all of the hard work and then the mouth gets all of the credit. The feet do the "leg work" that makes the message possible. They bear the burden of making arrangements, of figuring out how to get there, and of seeing that message is carried, mostly out of a humble appreciation of the value of the gospel. These are the Christians who have 'grown humbly in faith,' so that they can 'reach out in love.' And for that we offer our appreciation.

So God bless the feet of those who proclaim the good news. God bless those willing to carry the message, to do the footwork and jump the hurdles needed in order to make proclamation happen.

Peace,

Pastor Jack



Communication in the Body of Christ

We have been trying to improve our communication to the church “body.” When we began, we were noticing signs that the announcement pages of the bulletin were not very effective in keeping people in the church aware of what is going on. There are also limitations to the announcement screens on Sunday mornings and other postings.

We are trying to increase our use of electronic communication (and other means) to find economical ways of getting out the information that congregation members need and want. This card is asking for your input as to what is the best means for delivering the newsletters (email, mail, download from the web, or pick up at the church) to you.

We are also continuing to look for suggestions and input regarding information that you would like to see included, in the newsletters. We will be continuing this process of working to serve the body by providing clear and accurate information of what is happening in the life of the church. You can email the office (fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org) with any ideas and suggestions you might have.

Keep in touch.

PYA = Presbyterian Youth Association

Basic info: PYA is for students in the 5th-12th grade

Purpose: To get to know Jesus Christ and have lots of fun!

Sunday September 20th	PYA 12pm-3pm Lunch from 12-1pm Fall Prevention Training from 1-3pm (Awesome training...we need in working with Seniors at the Woodlands)
Sunday September 27th	No PYA
Sunday October 4th	PYA 5:30pm-7pm
Saturday October 10th	PYA at the Woodlands 10:45-11:45am
Sunday October 11th	PYA 5:30pm-7pm
Sunday October 18th	PYA 12pm-3pm SPIN (Serving People in Need) Come and help some of our community by raking leaves for individuals who need it. Meet in the Fellowship Hall for lunch before we go.
Sunday October 25th	1:45pm "Inside Out" Meet at Horace Mann High School in North Fond du Lac Cost \$3.00

Coming Up @ Church

ATTENTION: Kitchen Users

Along with the rental and sharing of classroom space for the Head Start program, we will also be sharing our kitchen space. This will not affect our kitchen usage for any events, such as funeral luncheons, church dinners, coffee hour preparation or any other activities, but your help will be appreciated.

Please take a moment to observe, respect and follow the new signage above sinks, on cabinets and on refrigerators. It will also be helpful if you remember to take home your personal dishes, cake pans, and kitchenware immediately following church events.

If you have any questions or concerns contact Dave Weber, 921-3110, sooner rather than later, to help build an inviting and cooperative atmosphere. Thank you!

Tuesday Morning Bible Study - Resuming on September 22, 10:30

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study will be resuming on September 22nd with "Matthew for Everyone Part 2: Chapters 16-28" by Thomas Wright. Books will be \$12 and available through the office. There is a sign up sheet in the office.

We will continue with the *Gospel According to Matthew*. Here, we will experience a surprising contrast from Jesus, as portrayed by John. Matthew shares more of Jesus' humanity, emphasizing his struggle and the physical toll that was involved in ministering to the sick, teaching, and leading the disciples.

The Gospel According to Matthew is a powerful gift of God's presence. It leads us to greater appreciation of the sacrifice that Jesus has made for us. We gather for prayer, mutual support, conversation and sharing on Tuesday Mornings at 10:30 am.

Handbells - September 23, 30

Handbell Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays, at 5:30pm in the music room (choir room). Bring your friends and family for ringing and fun! For more detailed information please contact Joanne Marchionda at jomarchionda@gmail.com.

Confirmation Class 2016 - September 23rd

The Confirmation program here at First Presbyterian Church is open to all youth 8th grade and above. This is an exciting step in one's faith journey.

When children are baptized, the congregation and parents agree to raise the child as a follower of Jesus Christ. Now it is time for these young people to explore making that decision for him or herself.

The congregation, represented by their parents, Faith Partners and the teaching team will support, guide and pray for them as they seek an understanding of what it means to be an active Christian.

At the end of the process, the confirmand will express their faith in an individual statement of faith and may request the status of active member from the Session.

If you are interested in finding out about this program please join us in an informational meeting on Wednesday September 23rd at 7:00PM. We will talk about the expectations of the class. If you have any questions please contact Jennifer Zander or Pastor Jack.

Office Closed - October 1

Please note that the church office will be closed on Thursday, October 1. The staff will be attending a conference. Regular office hours will resume on Saturday, October 3.

Secret Sisters Banquet - October 4

All the ladies of the church are invited to participate in this ministry of caring and sharing with other sisters in Christ.

We hope to see you at our banquet on October 4th after church. Lunch will be served. Please bring a dish to pass. Fill out the About Me sheet and bring it with you!! The forms can be found in the narthex, or in the church office.

Any questions can be directed to Emily Batson 920.517.0898 or Kathy Gerner 920.517.1939.

Kathy and Emily will be stepping down as the coordinators of the Secret Sisters Group. If you feel that you are being called to serve your fellow sisters please let one of us know. Feel free to contact us with any questions you have. Thank you.



Coming Up @ Church (Continued)

Congregational Meeting October 4th 9:15am

A brief congregational meeting will be held Sunday, October 4th, at 9:15 a.m. for the purpose of electing our new officers.

Mission Trip 2016 - Deposit Due October 4th

Our youth will be traveling to St. Paul, MN for next summer's mission trip. We will leave Sunday, June 12th, and return on Friday, June 17th, 2016.

A \$50.00 deposit is due October 4th, if you wish to participate in the Mission Trip. The deposit helps pay for your trip expenses. If you are interested in participating in the mission trip or have questions please contact Jennifer 922-0425.

Cantata Rehearsals - October 7

**Christmas Cantata -
December 20th at 10:30am**

**Rehearsals - Wednesdays
at 6:30pm starting October 7th**

Singing in the Christmas Cantata was one way Rick Schry loved to share the Good News with others.

This year our Christmas Cantata "Sing Gloria" will be performed in his memory as way to continue his desire to share the gift of Jesus Christ for all.

Rehearsals for the cantata will begin Wednesday, October 7th at 6:30pm in the music (choir) room.

Contact person: Kris Bartelt

Women In Faith - October 7

Join us for fun and fellowship on Wednesday, October 7th from 6-8pm. We will share a light supper together followed by a fun time of fellowship and a crafts. We will be making Iris Folding. Iris Folding is a paper craft technique that involves folding strips of colored paper in such a way to form a design. The center of the design forms an iris--a shape reminiscent of the iris diaphragm of a camera lens. If you have time you can bring a dish to pass, if not just bring yourself and join us for a fun evening.



Please note the new meeting days. Women in Faith will meet the first Wednesday of every month from 6pm to 8pm: October 7th, November 4th, and December 2nd. Mark your calendars!

Blood Drive - October 12

Please reserve time on Monday, October 12 to donate blood. Our church will be hosting a blood drive facilitated by the Blood Center of Wisconsin from 1:30 pm – 5:30 pm. Summer is generally a difficult time for the Blood Center as people are busy with seasonal activities, so a large turn-out in October would be appreciated.

Donors can sign up in the Narthex or at www.bcw.edu/FpFDL indicating the time they find most convenient. Slots are available for those who are able to come right after work. Be sure to drink plenty of water and have a snack before donating. We'll provide a sandwich and beverage after donation.

Thank you for participating.



Fall Food Drive - through 10.4.15

Outreach Team is sponsoring a food drive to support the hungry who live in the Fond du Lac area. We will be collecting non-perishable food and hygiene items until **October 4th**. This is the final food drive of the year so we really want to make it a good one.

Food collected will be provided to Salvation Army and Fond du Lac Food Pantry. Your contributions would make a world of difference for hungry families throughout the Fond du Lac area.

Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Coats for Kids - Through 10.25.15



Just a reminder that we are collecting new and gently used winter coats for kids and adults until October 25th. There is a collection box near the front entrance of the church.

The coats will be distributed at The Salvation Army on October 31st to low income families.

Please take a look around your home for coats you are no longer using. Coats for school age children are especially needed. Monetary donations are also appreciated.

If you are able to help with the coat distribution please call The Salvation Army at 922-8220 or Shin Ae Zeigler at 923-0038.

The Outreach Team thanks you for your support.

Fifty Year Member Celebration - October 25



On October 25, at the 8:00 am service, Jean Morgan and Jeanette Morgan Pont will be recognized as fifty year

members, of First Presbyterian Church.

A reception, sponsored by the Deacons, will be held at 9:15, in Fellowship Hall. Please join us in honoring Jean and Jeanette.

First Presbyterian Focus - Deadline

If there is information you, your committee or team would like published in the First Presbyterian Focus Newsletter, please send your submissions to: fdlooffice@fdlpresbyterian.org.

Information that is not received by the deadline dates, will be published in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Upcoming Deadlines:

September 23, for October 4 issue
October 7, for October 18 issue



Colossians 2:10

Reminders

Pastoral Care

Reminder regarding hospitalizations and other pastoral care needs:

Due to HIPPA Laws we are unable to obtain direct information regarding hospitalizations and admission in our local nursing homes.

Though patients may be asked if they would like their church or pastor contacted, this information has not been reaching us.

If you know of someone who is hospitalized or in need of pastoral care, please contact the church office 920-922-0425.

Noon Prayer - Wednesday at Noon

Noon Prayer is held in the church parlor every Wednesday. It lasts about an hour. You can relax and refresh your spirit. We think you'll enjoy it.

Cribbage - Third Friday of the Month

Do you play cribbage? Do want to play cribbage? Do you want to learn how to play cribbage?

Join a great group of people for fun and fellowship on the third Friday of the month at 7:00 pm.

Table Tennis - Every Wednesday

Everyone is welcome at Table Tennis. It doesn't matter if you are a beginner or an expert. We'll teach you you all the rules and regulations. And, we'll raise your heart rate, too. We meet every Wednesday from 6:30 - 9:30 pm.

Cares and Joys

Buzzy (Marion) Seibel, Judy Schmitz, June Benson, Liam Anderson, Randy Bacon, Silas Willey, Virginia Erdman, Sandy Johnson, Chastity Geisthardt, Olive Block, Dave Erickson, Ken Fritz, Jim Dassow and the people devastated in the natural disasters, and prayers for peace and tolerance in our community, the nation and the world.

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

Pray for those in the military: Aaron Schaefer, Alex Sell and Steve Sommerfeldt.

Names will stay on the prayers list for 6 weeks unless otherwise specified. Please call the office at [\(920\) 922-0425](tel:9209220425) if you would like to have your name added or removed.

Prayer Partners

The prayer chain is ready to offer intercessory prayer to God for your concerns. Prayer request cards are in the pew racks and in the Prayer Box on the small table in the Narthex. Put your request in either the offering plate or the Prayer Box and we will partner with you in prayer. Names will stay on the prayers list for 6 weeks unless otherwise specified. Please call the office at [\(920\) 922-0425](tel:9209220425) if you would like to have your name added or removed.



First Presbyterian Church
Fond du Lac, WI

Growing in Christ

Glorifying God
Reach Out in Love
Opening Hearts
Walking with Christ

Find us on 

Find us at:

First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac

We are the Body of Christ, and All Members of the Same Body!

This series will take us through the fall and elements of this series will be an important part of the entire year. We are the body of Christ, our hands reach out to the world. Our feet take us to the places where people are hungering for God's presence. Our diversity is what makes us able to serve.

9/27/2015 Seeing (Paying Attention)
Sermon: "How You Look At Things"
Theme: Through faith we learn to look through love and trust in God, so that we become focused on living lives of generosity, love, and faith.
Purpose: To teach the congregation to focus on what they are focusing their eyes and thoughts upon.
Scriptures Matthew 6:19-24 The eye is the lamp of the body, it can be full of greed or light.
 Acts 9:3-9, 17-22 Saul receives his sight through prayers and the removal of the scales that blinded him.

Questions:

What are the things that we focus our attention upon? Do we choose to focus on the things that are up building and worthy of our attention? Do we tend to focus on things that are negative and critical? How does our focus and attention affect our attitude? How does our attention and focus affect the people around us? In what ways does our attention and focus either build up the body or Christ or function in a way that is negative and destructive? How do we keep our focus on the mission of serving Christ and remove it from complaint and criticism?

10/4/2015 Heart "Openness" Opening your heart. World Communion Sunday
Sermon: "The Discipline of an Open Heart"
Theme: God calls us to open our hearts and be willing to receive all people with love and acceptance.
Purpose: The congregation will reconsider their preconceptions about others and seek to be open to all people.
Scriptures: Ephesians 1:15-23 With the eyes of your heart enlightened you may have a spirit of wisdom and revelation.
 Mark 12:28-33 Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, mind, and strength, love your neighbor as yourself.

Questions:

What does the Apostle Paul mean by the "eyes of the heart" being "enlightened?" What does our heart have to do with having strength and power to serve Christ? What does it mean for us to have our hearts open to Christ's guidance and serving? What is meant by the commandment to "Love God with all of our heart, mind, and soul?" How does that type of love affect the Body of Christ? How is the love for God related to our love for others in the world? How does our ability to learn to love fully affect the Body of Christ?

September 2015

20 8a-9a Worship 9:15a-10:15a Education Hour 10:30a-11:30a Worship - Preschool Bibles / Commissioning of Teachers 12p-2p PYA 1p-3p Volunteer Training - Woodlands Activity Director	21 2:30p-4p Staff 6:30p-8p Session	22 10:30a-12p Tuesday Morning Bible Study 6p-7p AA Meeting - Open Meeting (Resource Room) 6:30p-8p Boy Scouts	23 Newsletter Deadline 8a-9a Breakfast at Pump and Pantry (Pump and Pantry) 12p-1p Prayer 5:30p-6:15p Hand Bells - Music Room 6:30p-8:30p Just Fare Board - Resource Room 6:30p-9:30p Table Tennis 7p-8p Confirmation Informational Meeting	24	25	26 7:30a-9p AA Workshop 9a-10a Tech Rehearsal
27 8a-9a Worship 9:15a-10:15a Education Hour 10:30a-11:30a Worship 2p-5p Boy Scout Court of Honor	28 2:30p-4p Staff	29 6p-7p AA Meeting (Resource Room) 6:30p-8p Boy Scouts	30 8a-9a Breakfast at Pump and Pantry (Pump and Pantry) 12p-1p Prayer 5:30p-6:15p Hand Bells - Music Room 6:30p-8:30p Creative Arts Meeting 6:30p-9:30p Table Tennis	Notes:		

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Complete information about the church and church activities can be viewed on our website: www.fdlpresbyterian.org