
August 20 Volume 20, Issue 14

focus

First Presbyterian

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3rd Sunday
August

“Some Things Just Aren’t Right.”

¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’ ²⁰No, ‘if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.’ ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:17-21

As Presbyterians, we have been running into a challenge, when it comes to addressing issues of racism and injustice. Particularly, in the events that have recently occurred in Charlottesville, Virginia and other areas. There is no compatibility between being Christian and tolerance of racism. I have heard the convoluted references to Old Testament passages, quotes from various authorities of the past and contorted justifications, but the problem is, the term “Christ” is a reference to the anointed sacrifice of God. Christ sacrificed himself for the salvation of all people. God created all humans in the image of God – regardless of categories assigned later. If you are a follower of Jesus, you cannot justify racism, except as a confession of one’s sin and struggle to grow.

The same issue goes with justice, but that’s where we are called upon to be wise and discerning. There can, legitimately, be a range of ways to address injustice. There is also a diversity of opinions about the nature of what is wrong. Frequently, however, this plurality, of points of view, runs into individuals who see the problem as related to an entire group of people. Blame and disparaging remarks are sins to be confessed, not ways of arguing a point.

The problem is that the entire process must begin from a point of confession and offering ourselves to God’s healing light. We are all products of a culture that has a past of injustice and discrimination. Worse yet, in our history, Christians were resistant to accepting that injustice and discrimination even existed. That time has passed. We need to engage individually, and as the people of God, in the work of repentance – to re-examine our direction and seek God’s instruction on where we go from here.

The Apostle Paul gives some guidance that is useful. First, if it’s evil, don’t do it. Even if you can justify it, explain it, and convince yourself you deserve to do it; it’s still evil. Evil includes any time hate is spoken, supported, or repeated. If it is harmful or attacking, just don’t do it. That’s not my instruction, that’s from Paul. And, he’s pretty smart in this area.

The most important point is that peace and healing are not going to come out of more shouting. Demonstrations of Christ’s love and justice are seriously needed. That doesn’t mean condemning the people who need to express their anger and hurt. If you are claiming to be in Christ, don’t yell back. Instead, go deeper. Seek to hear Christ’s words of love and healing for that moment.

The work of repentance has only barely begun and we have work to do.

Peace,

Pastor Jack

Coming Up in Worship

8/20/2017 Conflict - Avoid it Or Deny It if Possible LMPC Healing Worship Service
The Udder Side of Relationships
Sermon: "The Ways We Learn and Grow"
Theme: God's people have always had to go through periods of working through their differences in order to grow and move forward.
Purpose: The congregation will appreciate healing and recognize growth through the process in which we have been engaged.

Scriptures: James 4:1-12 Where do these conflicts come from? Do not speak evil against one another.
Matthew 18:15-20 If another member of the church sins against you.

Questions:

In what ways have you grown spiritually through participating in the LMPC training and process? How have you come to see conflicts and disputes differently? What is the difference between seeking to "win" and seeking to grow in the love and knowledge of Christ Jesus? What is our mission in assisting those who are floundering in conflict and alienation in the world? In what ways to do we see working through differences and strong emotions to be a necessary part of growth?

8/27/2017 "Blame or Blameless"
I hate to say it but the problem is you.
"Are you the sour milk"

Sermon: "Are You the Sour Milk?"
Theme: We have control over how we perceive and interact with the conflicts in which we are a part.
Purpose: The congregation will take time for self-examination and seek to learn from the conflicts in which they have become involved.

Scriptures: Ephesians 6:10-19 Put on the whole armor of God, we wrestle not with flesh and blood.
John 5:1-15 Do you want to be made well?

Questions:

What does it mean that we do not "wrestle with flesh and blood" but with spiritual powers? What are the spiritual powers with which we are wrestling today? What are the battles and conflicts that we have experienced repeatedly? How can we come to see our own role in the conflicts and problems that we face? How do we answer the question: "Do you want to be healed?" What is our role in coming to see differently and learn through times of conflict?

Sacred Cows - The Wrangling Continues

Be aware of the sacred cows grazing in our area! They may not seem to move fast but they sure seem to get in the way!

Join us as we learn to live in the freedom of enjoying the blessings that God has given us.



Information @ Church

Summer Noon Organ Recital Series 2017

Thursdays from 12:15 - 12:45pm

August 24

Arpad Muranyi
(Former) St. Patrick's Church
39 E. Follett St.

August 31

John Penkoske
St. Paul's Cathedral
51 W. Division St.

Concerts are presented free of charge. A free-will offering will be taken at the recitals to support future summer organ recital series and our organ scholarship fund. All are welcome!

Sponsored by the Fond du Lac Area Organists Association.

Loaves & Fishes

Ending Hunger → Empowering Lives

Loaves & Fishes - August 21

We will be serving Loaves & Fishes:

Where Church of Peace
158 S. Military Rd.
Fond du Lac, WI

When August 21
Time 4:00 - 7:00pm

If you are available to help prepare, serve, or clean up after the meal, please contact Lisa Warntjes at 920.602.4691 or warnjes@charter.net so we can make sure we have enough volunteers.

Dessert donations are also needed. They should be left in our church kitchen by noon on August 21. Thank you!

BACK to School FDL

A community-wide collaboration

Back to School and Head Start

Distribution Day August 26

We are currently collecting supplies that will help the community "Back to School FDL" program get needed school supplies to children that need them. This year we are also collecting supplies the "Head Start" teachers that have classes at our church.

Both drop boxes are in the Narthex until the middle of August. They have a list of suggested supplies that are needed.

We would appreciate your help in collecting school supplies for both of these very worthwhile mission projects. Both programs can also use monetary donations to purchase supplies.

Volunteers are also needed to help with the sorting and distribution of supplies on August 26.

For Back to School Information go to their website: backtoschoolfdl.org. If you need more information on the Head Start program, ask at the church office.

Thank you for supporting these great programs.



Update - Human Trafficking Workshop - August 26



First Presbyterian Church is hosting The Human Trafficking Workshop, in conjunction with, the Meeting of the National Fellowship of Chaplains. It will be held on Saturday morning, August 26th, from 9:10 until 11:50.

We are providing the use of our church on behalf of "Bread of Life Fellowship." Bread of Life supports this ministry throughout the community.

Anyone who would like to join us, and learn more about Human Trafficking, is welcome. We will also discuss opportunities that are available to address this issue, in our region.

All are welcome to join us Saturday, August 26.

September 4 - Labor Day

Today we celebrate the American worker. The church office will be closed.



Colossians 3:23

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,

Information @ Church

September 5 - Ruth Circle

The Church year is beginning again!

Ruth Circle will gather for a Salad Luncheon on Tuesday, September 5, at 1:00pm. We will meet in the Parlor. Won't you join us?

Fall and Winter Worship

Two Services Return



SEPTEMBER 10

8:00am & 10:30am

Sunday School also returns!

September 13 - Women in Faith

Our next Women in Faith meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13th from 6:00 - 8:00pm. Women in Faith is open to women of all ages. Everyone is welcome.

We share a light supper together followed by a fun time of fellowship, devotion, crafts or games.

You can bring a dish to pass, if you wish, or just bring yourself and join the fun.

Women in Faith will be meeting the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the 2017-2018 year. Watch for the upcoming schedule of events.

See you there! Bring a friend!! Please contact Jennifer, in the church office, if you have any questions.

September 13 - Deacons

The Deacons are meeting, at 6:30pm, on September 13. We hope to see you there!



September 14 - Church Life

The Church Life Team is meeting, at 4:00pm, on September 14. Please plan on joining us in the church parlor.



October 6-7 - Jesus Seminar

Jesus Seminar on the Road

Pilgrim United Church of Christ
535 Stow Street
Fond du Lac, WI

Changing Perceptions: Earth, Self and God

Presenters:
Members of the Jesus Seminar

Clayton Crockett, Ph.D.
Susan (Elli) Elliott, Ph.D.

Jesus' vision of a divine domain subverted and transformed everyday life in the first century. It incorporated insights from the great sages of his time, but the church imprisoned the iconoclast in an iconic creed. Centuries later, credal Christianity died in the arms of Copernicus, Newton, Darwin, and Einstein. A new scientific story about life now demands a new religion. What are the elements of that religion?

The titles for each session are:

Friday Evening -
Changing Perceptions of Earth

Saturday Morning -
Ancient and Modern Self and A Post-modern Self

Saturday Afternoon -
The God Question. The leaders will welcome questions.

All events will be held at Pilgrim United Church of Christ. The seminar is being cosponsored with Open Circle Fellowship Unitarian Universalist, Fond du Lac.

Complete details of the seminar and registration information can be found online at westarinstitute.org/events.

(Some scholarships are available. Please contact Peg Bradley, [920-922-0731](tel:920-922-0731) for information.)

In August

Deacon of the Month

Sandy Johnson

Elder of the Month

Roger Rigterink

Coffee Hour Hosts

Creative Arts / AV

First Presbyterian Focus

Please send submissions for the Newsletter to:

fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org.

Deadlines:

August 9 for August 20
August 23 for September 3
September 6 for September 17
September 20 for October 1

Church Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday
9:00am - 5:00pm

Thursday
9:00am - 12:00pm

Friday
Closed

Saturday
9:00 - 12:00pm

Winter Worship

(September - May)

8:00am & 10:30am

Summer Worship

(May - September)

9:00am

Ushers

September 3 Labor Day Weekend

9:00am

September 10

8:00am Bob & Barb Baumhardt
Mike Petersen
Dave Erickson
10:30am Mary Robotka
Carol Meyst
Sheryl Brown
Tina Sommerfeldt

September 17

8:00am Jim & Judy Dassow
Larry & Carol Merrill
10:30am Lew & Carol Smith
Mike Frize
Jordan McElroy

September 24

8:00am Lynn & Judy Mellenthien
Burt Mayborne
Bob Block
Jack Hughes
10:30am Wendy Wilcox
Sue Baker
Jolene Schry
Ray Tahlman
Les Mier

Nursery Care - Summer Schedule

August 27

9:00 Katy Johnston &
Helen Conran

September 3 Labor Day

9:00 Jane Devine

**September 10 -
2 SERVICES**

*Good bye, August
Hello, September*

Cares and Joys

Buzzy (Marion) Seibel, June Benson, Liam Anderson, Randy Bacon, Silas Willey, Chastity Geisthardt, Jesse Fisher, Betty Stephens (Nancy Pitzen's mother), Pam Coburn, family of JoAnne Karuhn (Bonnie Hughes' sister), Sharleen Birschbach (recovering from back surgery) Murray Yeomans (Linda Dorn's brother), Elvera Fritz's mother, Valentina, and prayers for the people in a position of leadership, throughout the world.

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

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 the offering plate or the Prayer Box and we will partner with you in prayer.

Names will stay on the prayer list for weeks unless otherwise specified. Please call the office at 920.922.0425 if you would like to have your name added or removed.



20 9a-10a Enrichment Class 9a-10a Worship 10:15a-11:15a Coffee Hour 10:15a-11:15a Informational Teacher Meeting - Parlor 10:15a-11:15a Talk Back	21 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting 4p-7p Loaves and Fishes 6:30p-7:30p Session Meeting	22 6p-7p AA Meeting (Gathering Room)	23 8a-9a Breakfast - Pump & Pantry 12p-1p Noon Prayer 6:30p-9p Table Tennis	24	25	26 Back to School Distribution 9a-3p Chaplain Corps Event 9a-10a Tech Rehearsal
27 9a-10a Enrichment Class 9a-10a Worship 10:15a-11:15a Coffee Hour 10:15a-11:15a Session Forum 10:15a-11:15a Talk Back	28 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting 5:30p-7:30p Just Fare Board - Parlor	29 6p-7p AA Meeting (Gathering Room)	30 8a-9a Breakfast - Pump & Pantry 12p-1p Noon Prayer 6:30p-9p Table Tennis	31	<h1>August 2017</h1>	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<h1>September 2017</h1>						1	2 9a-10a Tech Rehearsal
3 9a-10a Enrichment Class 9a-10a Worship 10:15a-11:15a Coffee Hour 10:15a-11:15a Talk Back 2p-3p Woodlands Communion	4 Happy Labor Day Office is Closed	5 1p-3p Ruth Circle 6p-7p AA Meeting (Gathering Room)	6 8a-9a Breakfast - Pump & Pantry 12p-1p Noon Prayer 6:30p-9p Table Tennis	7	8	9 9a-10a Tech Rehearsal	
10 8a-9a Worship 9:15a-9:15a Coffee Hour 9:15a-10:15a Talk Back 10:30-11:00 Worship	11 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting 6:30p-8p Outreach Team	12 6p-7p AA Meeting (Gathering Room)	13 8a-9a Breakfast - Pump & Pantry 12p-1p Noon Prayer 5:30p-6:30p Generosity Team 6p-8p Women in Faith 6:30p-7:30p Deacons 6:30p-7:30p Management Meeting 6:30p-9p Table Tennis	14 4p-5p Church Life	15	16 9a-10a Tech Rehearsal 10:45a-11:45a PYA at the Woodlands	
17 8a-9a Worship 9:15a-9:15a Coffee Hour 9:15a-10:15a Talk Back 10:30-11:00 Worship	18 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting 6:30p-7:30p Session Meeting	19 6p-7p AA Meeting (Gathering Room)	20 8a-9a Breakfast - Pump & Pantry 12p-1p Noon Prayer 6:30p-9p Table Tennis	21	22	23 9a-10a Tech Rehearsal	
24 8a-9a Worship 9:15a-9:15a Coffee Hour 9:15a-10:15a Talk Back 10:30-11:00 Worship	25 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting	26 6p-7p AA Meeting (Gathering Room)	27 8a-9a Breakfast - Pump & Pantry 12p-1p Noon Prayer 6:30p-9p Table Tennis	28	29	30 9a-10a Tech Rehearsal	

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www.fdlpresbyterian.org