

April 5 Volume 22, Issue 07

# First Presbyterian Church

# FOCUS

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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1st Sunday  
April

# Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

## “Didn’t See This Coming”

<sup>6</sup> As for me, I said in my prosperity, ‘I shall never be moved.’

<sup>7</sup> By your favor, O Lord, you had established me as a strong mountain;  
you hid your face;

I was dismayed.

<sup>8</sup> To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord I made supplication:

<sup>9</sup> ‘What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?’

<sup>10</sup> Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!’

<sup>11</sup> You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, <sup>12</sup> so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.

O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Psalm 30:6-12

Psalm 30 is a song about suffering and recovery. It exaggerates the movement from being cocky, thinking one is invincible and secure, to pleading with God. The Psalm is not from God’s point of view. God’s love is already for us and we don’t have to convince Him to care for us, any more than a good parent has to be “convinced” to love his or her child. The Psalm is about the experience of being knocked off of a feeling of security and turning to God for rescue.

There is something about going to a grocery store where the toilet paper aisle is empty and there are no cleaning supplies available, to remind us that we are not in control. Our normal experience is of plentitude and freedom. We are accustomed to see abundance and being able to decide between many choices. Suddenly, the world has changed. This causes anxiousness and fear. Like the Psalmist, we are being reminded that our security was never in our abundance or our control. We enjoyed those things, but our security has always been in God’s love for us. God will listen to us and extend the love that will heal our hearts.

God’s love is unchanging. Jesus’ grace is the same today as it was two weeks ago, before we were ordered to stay home. We don’t need to convince God to care for us. However, for our own peace of mind we *do* need to convince ourselves that God’s love and grace is with us. We need to support the people around us by helping them to see that God’s blessings will abound. Actually, there is an opportunity to be closer to God, to deepen our relationship with Christ and to find more strength in knowing God’s presence more fully, as we journey through this pandemic.

A wonderful element of the Psalms is that they are not “theologically driven” but are based in our emotions and personal needs. Some of the Psalms express the thoughts and ideas that flow out of grief and fear. These elements are intended to be “descriptive rather than prescriptive.” This means that they help us relate and know that God values our feelings. Our feelings need to be given to the Holy Spirit so that our viewpoints can move from driving our attitudes and thoughts, to reshaping them to a response of hope and peace.

With the Psalmist we can affirm that our fear will be taken away, and that our “sackcloth” will be exchanged for being clothed with joy. In the meantime, we are invited to find comfort and strength in sharing our honest emotions with God. Our real feelings, about the times in which we find ourselves, is to know that God’s love is for us in the midst of our upset and insecurity. God’s grace will be shown to everyone. Like any parent, God is just really happy to hear from us.

Peace,  
Pastor Jack

# Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

## Coming up In Worship

Worship Experiences will be made available in the form of audio podcasts and YouTube videos. They will be available through our website and can be reached in the News portion of the front of the webpage, or under Sermon Audios in the Resources Section of the webpage (on the bottom right of the front page of the website).

Our Schedule will be for Sunday Morning Videos and Podcasts for Palm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020, and Easter Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

A midweek audio Podcast will be produced for April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020. We are planning to continue to produce midweek Podcasts even though our Wednesday Lenten series will have come to an end.

We will be experimenting with a virtual worship service using Zoom for Maundy Thursday April 9, 2020 at 7:00pm. An email will be sent, with a link to the service, to make it easier. If you are joining by telephone, please call 312-626-6799 and enter Meeting ID: **393 248 4422**. Online you can join by going to <https://zoom.us/j/3932484422>. For Maundy Thursday, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper as a virtual experience. You are invited to have what you would like as your "Cup" and your "Bread of Life."

Ordinarily, we like to give details of what is planned for worship themes and scriptures. The change in the way we worship has required rethinking the message needed for today. Continue to watch the webpage and Facebook for updates, in our plans together.

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## A Warning about Scams and Phishing

In order to continue worship and ministry we have shifted to a more "electronic" presence in the world. Unfortunately, this creates additional vulnerability to scams and phishing. We have already had an experience (earlier this year) of a scammer creating a fake email that looked as if it was coming from the pastor. It was intended to trick caring people into giving gift cards in order to help out with an emergency with a family in the church. This was done by using information in our "public presence" from our website. Our increase, in use of technology, provides even more information that can be used to take advantage of the good nature of the members of our congregation.

We will only ask people to make electronic contributions through VANCO, a secure method for making credit card gifts. We will NEVER ask for gift cards.

If you have questions about electronic giving or suspicious emails, please call a member of the staff (their numbers are available through Breeze). We are grateful for your continued support and want you to be secure in your giving.

# Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

## Church Finances and the Coronavirus

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?  
Psalm 27:1

Some have inquired about First Presbyterian Church's finances, during this time when we are unable to meet together. Fortunately, we were blessed by the generosity of members in 2019. Therefore, we have been able to make some adjustments in order to maintain our stability, for the time being. The Presbytery has allowed us to defer payments for our denominational gifts (PerCapita and General Mission Giving) which ordinarily would have been due in March. That amount would have come to about \$5,600. We have also been able to defer a few other expenses, and draw from some grant money to help offset new licenses and purchase the equipment needed in order to switch to our virtual presence.

Our staff has shifted to working from home. The staff work-load has actually increased due to the way we have to do our work, while we practice social distancing. Our cleaning service is currently doing a deep cleaning, and disinfecting the building. This is an essential activity that will prepare our environment for when we are able to worship together. The cleaning/disinfecting is being done according to the guidelines given by the governor.

Though we are not meeting face to face, we are continuing to make worship happen, in different and meaningful ways. We are reaching out to families at home, and continue to provide care to our congregation and community.

We greatly appreciate those who have continued to send their support or continue to give online through VANCO or through their own financial institutions, mobile banking, or through electronic funds transfers (EFT).

We anticipate that we will be able to manage through April with our current "cash on hand" without having to draw from any reserves that have lost serious value, in the recent weeks. We are dependent upon your continued support to make that happen.

**Our confidence is in our members, and their love for Christ. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.**

# Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

## A Note Regarding Needs in the Community

We are grateful for the generosity we have seen among our members and throughout our Fond du Lac Community. Session has made funds available to support the immediate needs within the church. So far, the majority of people, who have needed help, have been experiencing the generosity and support of family and friends. There is a wonderful practice of people seeking to be aware of the needs that are near them, and reaching out with love. If you are aware of families needing support, please pass the word along to our elders, deacons, or staff.

We have received word from Solutions Center that they are struggling. The need for supplies has greatly increased since the COVID-19 Pandemic has invaded our community. They have shared a list of needed items:

### **Solutions Center's Ongoing Needs**

- Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- Cleaning Wipes
- All-Purpose Cleaner
- Bleach
- Laundry Soap
- Dish Soap (Dawn, Ajax, etc. – not for a dishwasher)
- Floor Cleaner
- Hand Soap
- Windex (or other window cleaner)

If you can help with any of these items, please take them to the shelter at 114 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Monetary donations can be sent to: Solutions Center 39 N Sophia Street FdL 54935.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy at 922-8122.

Fondy Food Pantry is also experiencing stress as they seek to meet the needs of their customers while maintaining social distancing. They are still appreciating all food donations. It is wise to call ahead (920-322-0369) to schedule food drop-off. Financial donations can be made safely through their website: [fondyfoodpantry.org](http://fondyfoodpantry.org)



When you listen to our sermons on YouTube, please click the subscribe button AND the bell (both are located beneath the YouTube video).

That way, you will be notified whenever a new video is uploaded!

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

# Fond du Lac Food Pantries during COVID-19

Location	Phone	Eligibility/Site Info
<b>Broken Bread</b> St Paul's Cathedral 51 West Division St. Fond du Lac, WI 54935	(920)921-3363 Ext. 6 (church)	As of now they plan to offer food from 2-6pm every Friday. That may change.
<b>Fondy Food Pantry</b> 573 W. Rolling Meadows Drive Fond du Lac WI 54935	(920)322-0369	Food boxes every other month. Referrals through St. Vincent De Paul, Salvation Army, Social Services, Advocap, Churches and other community agencies. <b>New hours during pandemic: Tuesday shopping from 11am-1pm; Thursday shopping 3:30-5:30pm</b> Personal care products based on availability. *Accepting donations of non-perishable food items. There is a drop box in the back of the building.
<b>Grace Christian Church</b> 1596 4th Street Fond du Lac WI 54935	(920)923-5292	<b>Due to the pandemic, the food pantry will not be available. Please follow Ruby's pantry on Facebook for any updated information.</b>
<b>Loaves and Fishes</b> St. Paul's for the next year 51 Division St. Fond du lac, WI 54935	(920)921-8215 Or (920)904-5556	<b>Due to the pandemic, no hours available at this time. You can follow them on Facebook for any updates.</b>
<b>Presentation Church Food Pantry</b> 706 Michigan Ave. North Fond du Lac, WI 54937	(920)922-3650	Contact St. Vincent De Paul for more information. 920-922-3650. Emergency food is available. Not a regular pantry. Provides food and clothing to anyone in need.
<b>Salvation Army</b> 237 North Macy St. Fond du Lac, WI 54935	(920)923-8220	<b>Food Pantry:</b> Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9am-12:30pm; Wednesday 9am-11:30am and 12:30pm-5pm. Can receive food once a month. There are income guidelines and must be a resident of Fond du Lac County. Need to also provide two proof of address items: photo ID, birthday and Social Security numbers for all household members. <b>During COVID-19, they ask that you pull up to the parking lot, turn your car lights on. A volunteer will come to your car, get your information, and bring the food to you. You are not allowed to leave your car.</b>



ASSOCIATION OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH EDUCATORS  
CONNECT. ENRICH. EMPOWER. SUSTAIN

Sometimes children come up with unique and thought-provoking questions when unusual circumstances happen. If your child is still asking why, please read “Talking to Your Children about Covid-19” by Kathy L. Dawson. You can find the article [here](#).

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**Resources Specifically for Children & Families Related to COVID-19**

What to Say To Your Child About the Coronavirus - and How To Cope As a Parent - View [here](#)

Caring for Children - View [here](#)

How to Talk to Your Kids About Coronavirus - View [here](#)

**Article for Parents Related to COVID-19**

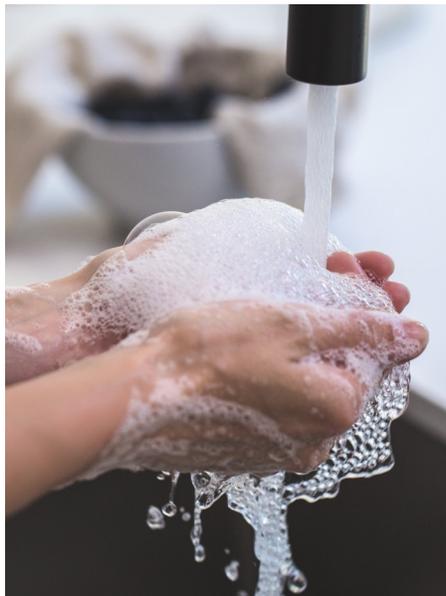
Managing Fear and Anxiety During a Health Pandemic - View [here](#)

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FMSC  
Fond du Lac MobilePack



Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, FMSC MobilePack has been postponed. The leaders and organizers are diligently working to make plans for 2021.



Please keep washing your hands! THIRTY SECONDS of soap and water may keep

- you,
- your family and
- our community

HEALTHY.

# Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

## General Guidelines For All Scholarships

If you would like to participate in the First Presbyterian Church Scholarship program, the following criteria must be met:



1. Recipient must be a member of this church.
2. Recipient must have demonstrated a commitment to the church. This commitment has been defined as meeting the following criteria in the past calendar year:
  - Church worship attendance a minimum of twice in the past calendar year.
  - Nurturing your faith development in an activity of the Serving, Learning or Loving Teams (educational opportunities, mission activities, worship participation, etc.) at least twice in the past calendar year.
3. Recipient is enrolled in an accredited college or university.
4. The [application form](#) is available online. It should be completed and submitted electronically by May 1, 2020.

Interviews with all applicants may be scheduled to complete the process.

April 6 - April 10



# Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

## “Safer at Home”

As we struggle through the Coronavirus Pandemic, First Presbyterian Church wants to reach out to you as easily and as often as possible. We will continue to follow the guidelines established by Governor Evers and the CDC. We understand that “Safer at Home” will be our continued motto, at least until sometime in May. If circumstances change, for the better before that time, we will certainly let you know how First Presbyterian will adjust its schedule – as quickly as possible.

Meanwhile, there are several ways we can worship together, while being at home. The links are below the information.

On Sundays, Pastor Jack, Kris Bartelt and gracious volunteers, are continuing to provide a familiar worship service. It started out as a Podcast, but now we are venturing into video as well.

9:00am Coffee Hour takes place on Sunday morning. Pastor Jack is hosting.

10:00am Talkback is scheduled right after Coffee Hour. Pedro Arellano hosts.

Both of these activities take place via Zoom. Zoom is a software program that allows people to interact as a group. You can use Zoom on a computer, tablet, a cell phone or even a landline phone. There is more information on our website: [www.fdlpresbyterian.org](http://www.fdlpresbyterian.org).

10:00am Jennifer Zander is having Sunday School for families and children, also via Zoom. There are stories, coloring pages and even birthday celebrations. It has been very well received!

Though the Lenten season is coming to a close, we will continue to have a Podcast on Wednesdays. The Podcasts can be found on our website ([www.fdlpresbyterian.org](http://www.fdlpresbyterian.org)) or through a link on Facebook (First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac).

Sunday Worship	YouTube	Search on YouTube for First Presbyterian Church Fond du Lac once you have found our Channel click Subscribe to receive future notifications
	Zoom	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/3932484422">https://zoom.us/j/3932484422</a>

Coffee Hour & TalkBack	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/3932484422">https://zoom.us/j/3932484422</a>
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Sunday School	<a href="https://us04web.zoom.us/j/714133929">https://us04web.zoom.us/j/714133929</a> Meeting ID: 714 133 929
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Wednesday Podcast	Link is on our Website: <a href="http://www.fdlpresbyterian.org">www.fdlpresbyterian.org</a> - under Church News
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Radio Ministry	KFIZ Radio	am1450	7:00am
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Website	<a href="http://www.fdlpresbyterian.org">www.fdlpresbyterian.org</a>
Facebook	First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac
YouTube	First Presbyterian Church Fond du Lac
Zoom	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/3932484422">https://zoom.us/j/3932484422</a>

# Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

## In April

### Deacon

Dick Sleder  
rssleder65@att.net

### Elder

Nancy Hilbert  
nhilbert1946@gmail.com

## First Presbyterian Focus

Please send submissions for the  
Newsletter to:

[fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org](mailto:fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org).

## Please Be Advised

A church member is making masks  
and gowns for an Indian Reservation.  
She is running out of cotton fabric  
and elastic.

I you would be able to donate either,  
or both, of these items., please leave a  
message at church (920.922.0425).

Thank you!

## Prayers and Praises

### Continued Prayers for:

Liam A.  
Silas W.  
Chastity G.  
Jesse F.  
Pat D.  
Mike F.  
Dan M.  
Lincoln D.  
Paige C.  
Rhonda B.  
Ruth S.  
Jim and Peg D.  
John M.  
Kristina A.  
Leisa W. - PCUSA  
Arnold L.

### Prayer Partners

Send prayer requests to  
[fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org](mailto:fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org)

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

# Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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## Social Media and Website

