

May 17 Volume 22, Issue 09

First Presbyterian Church

FOCUS

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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3rd Sunday
May

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Reflections

“Finding the Place of Faithfulness”

29:1 These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. ... 4Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. 7But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. ... 10 For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfil to you my promise and bring you back to this place. 11For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7, 10-11.

Last week, in an online meeting with the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, we were informed of the plans for safely moving forward in worship, amid the continued issues of the Coronavirus epidemic. The short form of the report is that it won't be safe to worship together until phase 2 of the recovery plan. Phase 2 is when more than 50 people may come together safely. That won't be happening for several months.

Because of the ways in which infection is spread, worshipping together would mean that there would be no physical contact, no “coffee hour,” no passing the peace, communion, or offering plates. Our worship would not be at all familiar. We should refrain from congregational singing because that tends to aerosolize the virus and spread it farther than a cough or sneeze. We would also need to wear masks and avoid passing each other at the entrances. People who have a higher risk factor which includes anyone older than 65, diabetic, overweight, hypertension, or with breathing issues should not attend. In short, it is not safe to plan on worshipping together any time soon. If it's any indicator of the situation, don't plan on going to a Brewers game for a while either. We're in this for at least the foreseeable future.

The passage from Jeremiah came to mind as I was working on this article. The exiles in Babylon had some saying, “this won't last long.” Jeremiah said, “Plant vineyards.” A vineyard doesn't produce for many years. We are in a time when, instead of focusing on how long the time has been or will be, we need to plant vineyards.

For us, planting a vineyard means being intentional about growing relationships which will endure and grow through our time of social distancing. Be thoughtful about the relationships you wish to cultivate, over the summer. What are practices that will not only sustain you, but will be a way of reaching out in love? You may want to make daily phone calls or send messages to people with whom you would like to cultivate your bond. (continues on page 3)

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Reflections (Continued)

A “vineyard planting mentality” shifts us from focusing on what we don’t have, to what we need to do as a sign of faithfulness and creativity. For one thing, this means that we will need to be more open to changes in how we communicate, and be more experimental about things that are not necessarily in our comfort zone. It has been wonderful to see how many people have been willing to embrace Zoom and our worship media. If you have not considered installing a camera and microphone on your computer or purchasing a laptop, give it some thought. We have people in the congregation who are happy to help you make those types of decisions, and, with the ongoing dangers of Covid-19, these are items you can anticipate using over a long period of time.

We are here for one another and we are here to care for the most vulnerable, in our midst. It is arrogant to demand resuming what is comfortable for us at the potential cost of illness or death for others. We are going to be doing this for a while. But I believe that God is, somehow, in the midst of this event. We went into this Coronavirus time profoundly divided and dysfunctional as a nation. We have come to this time in a desperate need for renewal – much the way the Hebrew people entered Babylonian Captivity. This may be the source of healing and transformation for which we have been praying. So, it’s time to plant your vineyard, and to find ways to produce the fruit of wisdom and wholeness that will sustain us in our time of waiting, faithfully, God for act.

Peace,
Pastor Jack

ENDURE



STRUGGLE



FAITH



PEACE

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Coming up In Worship

05/17/2020 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sermon: "Where Our Life Comes From"

Theme: We are sustained by our relationship with God through Jesus, our risen Savior.

Purpose: We will work to move from focusing on what is temporary and meaningless to drawing our strength from God's sustaining love.

Scriptures: Acts 17:22-31 The Apostle Paul's message in Athens, we are all made by God and "in him we live, and move, and have our being."
John 14:15-21 If we love Christ we will keep his commandments, we will not be orphaned, and because Jesus lives, we live also.

Questions:

What is really important to our lives and what is meaningless distraction? What does it mean to us that God is the source of all of our lives? What difference does it make whether we align our lives with God's power and presence or live in the distraction of worrying about the things that don't matter? Do we have one problem – our need to know God's presence – rather than many problems? How do we realign our minds and hearts around connecting to the source of God's love and presence?

05/20/2020 Midweek Service

Sermon: "Be Strong and Bold Because the Lord Goes with You"

Theme: Our strength is in our faithfulness to God and service to accomplishing God's will in the world around us.

Purpose: We will be humble and set aside our assumptions about our power or abilities outside of faithfulness to God's direction.

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 31:1-13 Moses' passing of leadership and the law to the people of Israel as they prepared to cross into the promised land.
John 16:16-24 We will weep and mourn - and the world will rejoice, our pain will turn into joy, like labor pains turning into the joy of birth.

Questions:

What do we truly perceive to be our source for our strength and direction in our lives? In what ways do we allow ourselves to put our own agenda and expectations ahead of God's work and teachings? How do we maintain our self-differentiation from the world? How do we build our strength on God's teaching and direction for our lives? How do we be on a mission to build a new "promised land?"

05/24/2020 (Tentatively) Confirmation Service

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Coming up In Worship

05/27/2020 **Midweek Service**

Sermon: "Serve the God of Truth and Justice"

Theme: We recognize that God is the source of our understanding and the one who has established what is true and what is just.

Purpose: We will seek to raise our behavior to a standard that reflects God's truth and justice.

Scriptures: Psalm 99 God is the God of justice and equity, and those who follow as God instructs have wisdom and strength.
John 3:31-36 Jesus speaking to Nicodemus explains that God is the one who created all and is the source of eternal life.

Questions:

What do we believe God expects of the way people treat one another? How should we respond to the injustice and hatred in the world? In what ways do we need to align our hearts with God's law in order to be people who can speak with integrity? What do we need to do to be part of God's message of peace and justice? What does it mean to speak from God's love and instruction rather than from our own reactivity and defensiveness?

05/31/2020 **Pentecost Sunday**

Sermon: "A Rushing Mighty Wind"

Theme: God's gift of renewal and healing is poured out on God's people as they worship and learn to trust in God's power over their own strengths.

Purpose: We will celebrate Pentecost by seeking to envision God working through us in new ways.

Scriptures: John 7:37-39 "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water." The Holy Spirit is offered to all who want to be filled with living water.
Acts 2:1-21 The coming of the Holy Spirit, Peter speaks to the crowds of Jesus, the Savior.

Questions:

How is God moving us from being in our isolated fear and small expectations to bringing a message of renewal and transformation to the world today? What is the new movement of spreading God's hope and peace that is happening now? How do we allow God's grace to change us from thinking in small and restricted ways to seeing greater possibilities and opportunities for sharing God's grace? What is God calling us to envision for our world today?

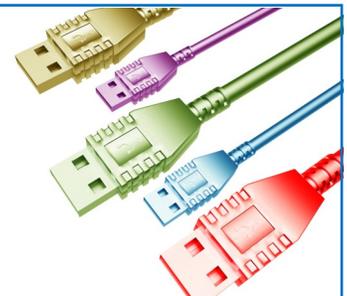
Electronic Ways to Keep in Touch

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



Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

May 14 - Ruby's Pantry



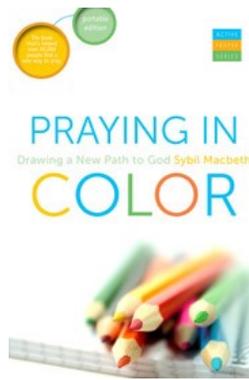
DRIVE-THRU DISTRIBUTION

- Food distribution will take place at **HOLY FAMILY**. Please enter on the **EAST** side.
- Pre-registration is **NOT** available. If you have a certificate, print it and bring it with you.
- Only one person per vehicle (no family or friends)
- Trunk must be empty
- One pre-bagged food-share per family
- Food will be loaded into trunks by our volunteers
- Do not bring boxes, bags, etc. for food

Where	Holy Family
When	May 14
Open	3:30pm
Donation	\$20.00 Cash Only
Preregistration	
	rubyspantry.org

If you have any questions contact Grace Christian Church at:
920.923.5292

May 20 - Women in Faith



Women in Faith is meeting each Wednesday from 6:30pm to 7:30pm, during our safer@home order time. I hope you can join us. The Zoom meeting link is below.

Let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.

Here is our upcoming schedule.

May 20 Praying in Color- Praying in Color is a way to pray with your eyes, your ears and your hands. You can use words or pictures. What is important is that you become closer to God. Bring paper and colored pencils/markers/ crayons or pencil/pen.

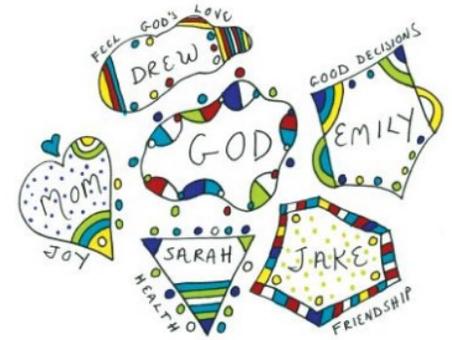
Zoom Meeting Information Link

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/781564182?pwd=RIRCbHdNUkwrbFBtY01iLy9FcndLUT09>

Meeting ID: 781 564 182
Password: 575800

One Tap Mobile
+13126266799,,781564182#,,#5
75800# US (Chicago)
Dial by your location
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 781 564 182
Password: 575800



Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

May 24 - Confirmation



The 2019-2020 Confirmation Class has continued to meet via Zoom following the safer@home requirements. The students are completing requirements and will attend the May Session meeting to be examined for membership. As is the tradition in our church, the confirmation class is preparing a worship service to share with the congregation.

This year the students will prepare the May 24th worship service in the same format that we have enjoyed for the past several weeks. The Service will not include the confirmation liturgy and anointing/laying on of hands.

We would like to share this experience, as a congregation, when we are able to worship together. And, have a celebratory cake, as well.

We would like to invite you to join the Confirmation Students during the 9am Zoom Coffee Hour on Sunday, May 24 in commemoration of their sharing of the word.

We ask for your prayers for these young people and their Faith Partners as they continue their journey as Disciples of Christ.

Confirmands

Erica A.
Sophie P.
Logan S.
Emerson V.

Faith Partners

Mary B.
Emily H.
Pedro A.
Sherry M.

May 31 - Pentecost



Please support the ministries that unite young people and inspire them to share their faith in Jesus Christ.

Offering Distribution

- 40% supports LOCAL ministries for children at risk
- 25% supports ministries with youth
- 25% supports young adult volunteers
- 10% supports at-risk children

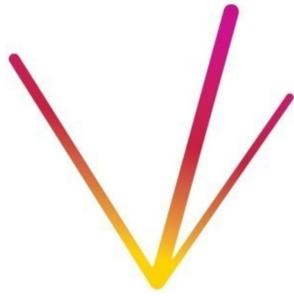
You can give online at:
www.fdlpresbyterian.org/giving.

God, from my youth you have taught me.
Psalm 71:17



Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

June 15 - Blood Drive



VERSITI™

New Blood Drive Date for First Presbyterian Church

Our local hospitals have postponed most, if not all, elective surgeries until the summer months, so the blood supply right now is stable. Yay! We need your help in June and throughout the summer months as the need for blood is projected to be higher than normal!

Please schedule your appointment to donate on June 15 by clicking on the link below or by calling: 877-232-4376.

Thank you so much for being a dedicated and loyal blood donor. We are so grateful for you!

NEW DATE!! - JUNE 15

Please click here to register online:

[**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FOND DU LAC**](#)

06/15/20 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Thank you for your lifesaving gifts, and also for your continued understanding. Your dedication and tireless support are truly saving lives in our community, and we are extremely grateful.

Versiti Donor Mobile App

Simple scheduling and access to your donor profile wherever you are!

[**Download from the App Store**](#)
[**Download from Google Play**](#)

VersiPASS Online Pre-Questionnaire

Launch VersiPASS from your [**Wisconsin community page**](#).

Use it to complete your pre-appointment donor questionnaire. [**Click Here to Launch VersiPASS**](#)

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Every Week

Midweek Podcast



Pastor Jack continues to reach out to us via Wednesday Podcasts. You can find the link to our podcast on our website:

www.fdlpresbyterian.org
under Church News.

Previously aired podcasts can be found under Pastor Jack's Blog and Podcasts.



Virtual Coffee Hour

A Zoom link will be emailed to you. It's a great time of conversation and fellowship. Won't you join us?

Every Sunday
at 9:00am



We worship "together" as we practice Social Distancing. Every Sunday, our service is on our YouTube channel. It is also provided in Podcast form.

We have a variety of liturgists, hymns, and special music. And, of course, a special message from Pastor Jack.

The links to our worship service and podcast are posted early Saturday evening on our website:
www.fdlpresbyterian.org

Our YouTube channel can be found by clicking on this [link](#).

We hope you'll be able to watch or listen to our services.



SUBSCRIBE



Our families are involved in variety of ways. They are mailed activity packets, emailed Discovery Time information/activities, etc. The children really enjoy Church School Check In, via Zoom.

These opportunities are have been very well received by everyone!

If you would like to be included in our Family Ministry please email Jennifer, Director of Christian Education:

jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org

TALKback



Sunday 10:00am

A Zoom link will be emailed to you.



thinking globally.
acting locally.
2020

Seize the Moment: Learn to Recycle Right

Spring 2020 finds Fond du Lac school age children learning at home. You may be one of the householders spending more time than usual at home. Have you been inspired to sort, discard, and tidy? Do you sometimes have questions about where to go with things you no longer want? The 50th celebration of Earth Day, is a good time to seize the moment and check that you are **Recycling Right**.

Recycling: Beyond the Green Bin

Learning the dos and don'ts of recycling is the right thing to do. Recycling goes a long way in keeping trash out of landfills. We can do better. The ultimate goal is less waste.

Along with Recycling Right: Refuse, Reuse, Reduce

Refuse the straw, plastic bag, the receipt, the bottle of water and other one use items. Rethink disposables, especially plastics such as razors, plates, cutlery, cups, and paper towels. Instead bring your own reusable straw, water bottle, mug, lunch containers, take home containers and shopping bags. Reduce the amount of unwanted mail you get. Opt out of catalogs and other junk mail. Shred less, recycle more. Reduce the amount of packaging you buy and look for packaging that contains recycled content or plastic packaging that is #1,2,4 or 5.

Recycling goes a long way in keeping trash out of landfills and public areas. Engage your family and friends in learning what can be put in the recycling bin and how it should be prepared. Find out where you can take items that Waste Management cannot use.

DON'T "WISH-CYCLE"

WHEN IN DOUBT,
THROW IT OUT.

DO NOT
CONTAMINATE
YOUR RECYCLABLES.

EMPTY YOUR
RECYCLABLES
DIRECTLY INTO
YOUR BIN.

DO NOT BAG!

YES!
OUR ACTIONS
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Fond du Lac Food Pantries

Location	Phone	Eligibility/Site Info
Broken Bread 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.
Fondy Food Pantry 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. New hours during pandemic: Tuesday shopping from 11am-1pm; Thursday shopping 3:30-5:30pm Personal care products based on availability. *Accepting donations of non-perishable food items. There is a drop box in the back of the building.
Grace Christian Church 1596 4th Street Fond du Lac WI 54935	(920)923-5292	Due to the pandemic, the food pantry will not be available. Please follow Ruby's pantry on Facebook for any updated information.
Loaves and Fishes St. Paul's for the next year 51 Division St. Fond du lac, WI 54935	(920)921-8215 Or (920)904-5556	Due to the pandemic, no hours available at this time. You can follow them on Facebook for any updates.
Presentation Church Food Pantry 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.
Salvation Army 237 North Macy St. Fond du Lac, WI 54935	(920)923-8220	Food Pantry: 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, birth-day and Social Security numbers for all household members. 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.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

In May

Deacon

Carol Dykstra
pdykstra7664@charter.net

Elder

Dave Erickson
djericks975@att.net

First Presbyterian Focus

Please send submissions for the Newsletter to:

fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org.

Family Resources

- Talking to Your Children about Coronavirus - View [here](#).
- 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](#)
- Managing Fear and Anxiety During a Health Pandemic - View [here](#)

Prayers and Praises

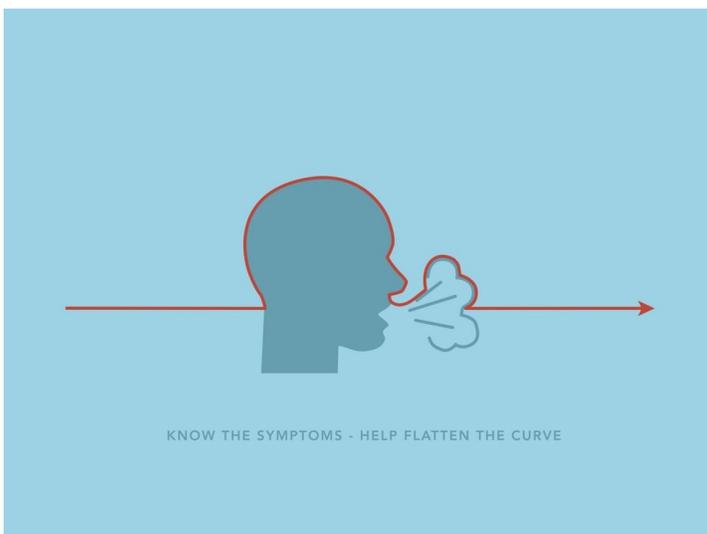
Continued Prayers for:

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

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



WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN



Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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