

June 7 Volume 22, Issue 10

First Presbyterian Church

FOCUS

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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1st Sunday
June

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Reflections

“Being Transformed by the Renewing of Our Minds”

^{12:1} I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2

As we talk about what is happening in our nation we need to stop using language that describes it as a “war” or “battle.”(The only way to “win” a war is to eliminate the enemy.) We need to begin to see ourselves as a broken family who needs to work together for healing. In a family, we recognize that nobody is leaving, and we must figure out how to work for something new. Christians need to lead the way out of hostility and attacks to a place of working for peace.

Martin Luther King, Jr. said by way of explanation that “Riots are the language of people who are not being heard.” When people feel that they do not have a voice, through more peaceful paths, the hostility boils over. Strangely, the focus is placed mostly on the “spark” and not on the fuel that drives the violence. The fuel is a feeling that nothing will change. The despair creates an environment in which crowds amplify the worst in humanity, until it blows up.

Part of our problem today, is a lack of shared spiritual leadership. The people who are the strongest voices of faith, in our nation, tend to be “one sided” in their perceptions and language. There is a strong, “You’re the problem and I’m the solution” mentality. The only way to stop the angry outbursts is to give people a meaningful path to change. Change requires someone to be the voice. In scripture, this is the role of Prophecy: to speak what is true and what is a path to God’s will. With the added issues of the Coronavirus outbreak, and the limited attention span of the media, we need wise, healthy, mature Christians to set a new tone. This is not easy work.

In an unhealthy family, the problems are complex and are a combination of individual issues that are enmeshed in broader habits. An abusive parent “explodes” because his or her inner issues of failure results in building pressure until the violence unleashes, usually on a family member who is the “identified problem” to blame for the parent’s lack of control. Family members struggling with addiction often find themselves sabotaged when working for sobriety by the people who are closest to them. In short, families suffer from overlapping complex issues. Sometimes miracles do happen – families change. However, it takes a renewing of the mind of the family, rather than one person being “fixed.”

If we view our conflicts and brokenness, (in our nation) as a family, then when a moment of openness occurs, we can be prepared to enable a miracle to take place. We will need to ask ourselves, “What is the pattern of my mind that is making these relationships worse?” and “What am I not bringing to these conflicts that would help others to heal?”

In several cities, law-enforcement officers have knelt with the protesters as names of unarmed black men who were killed by police were read. That act created a connection that opens a place of communication – sometimes successfully, other times not. When a family has entrenched conflicts, it takes patience and work to change patterns that have led to this place. (Continued on page 3)

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

So please, whatever you do, don't allow yourself to be pulled into the "kill-em all!" mentality that crowds so easily fall into. Offer prayers for all the family, particularly the ones who struggle the most. And, let us pray that Jesus, our loving Lord, will enable us to work together to create better pathways forward.

Peace,
Pastor Jack

"Worship in the Time of the Coronavirus"

The question has been asked repeatedly, "When are we going to worship together again?" There isn't an easy answer. The truth is, we don't know when we will be able to worship together safely, and we are not sure how worship will look. We are committed to creating a safe environment that won't spread illness and one that isn't a threat to those who participate. To intentionally put worshippers in harm's way is totally unacceptable, on many levels. The challenges of "social distancing" by refraining from physical contact (this will be particularly hard for some who spontaneously hug or reach out to friends); of managing contact tracing; of avoiding behaviors which tend to aerosolize the virus, such as singing or speaking loudly; and requiring masks - we can see that worship, in the sanctuary, will probably not happen for a very long time.

Some have pointed out that people are engaging in high risk behaviors already - going to bars or having dinner together in tightly packed areas. However, as Christians, we cannot adopt an "at your own risk" mentality. That is not compatible with a gospel of love and caring for one another. Also, what has been noted is that prolonged exposure is far more likely to spread the virus than brief periods. Sitting next to someone in a church pew is very high risk, whereas being in a line at the grocery store is a low to moderate risk. I never thought that we would be considering worship as a high-risk activity, but it is clear from all reasonable information, it is very high risk.

Our way forward lies in developing our worship together but separate. When we reach the next phase of the pandemic, when gatherings of less than 50 are manageable without risk, we will work on some transitional worship practices. However, we will need to continue our "distance worship" for our most vulnerable members. Also, there are strong indications that this situation will continually be changing, at times requiring additional adjustments. Plans will need to change based upon what is best for that moment.

What we really need is: input and communication. Your contribution about what is working and what we can improve, in our current virtual worship, is critical. One of the biggest challenges of online worship is that we can't see people's reactions. We see numbers of who is accessing materials and who is responding, but we know that more fine-tuning could help our virtual worship experiences. We also need additional ideas for going "forward" for sanctuary worship since what we did in the past won't be an option for quite awhile.

Above all, pray for the church, both the congregants and the leaders. This is all new territory and we are figuring it out as we go along. We are all struggling. It is not easy and it can even be frightening at times. Surprisingly enough, in the past, it was the most difficult times when the Gospel of Jesus' love and grace have made the largest impact. Let's be the Church.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Coming up In Worship

“Walking with God through the Wilderness”

For the month of June we are taking a walk with God. Allowing God to speak to us about who we are, and who we are created to be. This gives us an opportunity to go back to what is essential, what is meaningful and what is true in our lives. As we walk, we are open to God showing us who we can become together and the hope that we can bring to the world.

06/03/2020 Midweek

Sermon: "Who Do We Think We Are?"

Theme: We are created by God, precious in God's sight, but with limitations that call us to the wisdom of humility and acceptance.

Purpose: We will affirm our status as being God's beloved, albeit limited children.

Scriptures: Psalm 8:1-9 God made humans a little lower than the angels.
Job 38:1-11 Who are you to consider yourself greater than God?

Questions:

What does it mean to us to have been made “a little lower than the angels?” What does it mean to us to be “human?” What was God’s intention in making us with limitations? Are we failures or are we perfect? How do we perceive ourselves and our self-esteem as God’s creation? How do we have a healthy sense of self-worth as God’s beloved creation? How does this cause us to see each other differently?

06/07/2020 Communion

Sermon: "Called to Be Somebody"

Theme: God's call enables us to have a role that gives our lives meaning and shapes us as whole and joyful people.

Purpose: To learn and embrace that our identity comes from submission to God and service to others.

Scriptures: Genesis 1:1-5, 26-2:3 God created the heavens and earth, and created humanity in God's image. And then rest was given.
Matthew 28:16-20 Jesus commissioned the disciples to make disciples of all nations.

Questions:

What does it mean to us to be created in the image of God? How does our origin shape us and determine what is really fulfilling in life? What happens when we ignore our original mission in life? How do we learn to be the people who we need to be in order that we may have fulfillment? How do we relate to God as our Creator and Source of our lives? What difference does serving make in our relationship with God and our identity?

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Coming up In Worship (continued)

06/10/2020 Midweek

Sermon: "The Voice of God"

Theme: Our strength and confidence come from our ability to hear the voice of God over the voices of our own fear, bitterness, and insecurity.

Purpose: We will focus on our need to develop our ability to hear God's voice in our lives.

Scriptures: Psalm 29:1-11 The majesty and power of the voice of God, who is enthroned over all things.
John 14:25-26 Jesus promises the Advocate, who will teach us everything.

Questions:

What do we mean by the "Voice of God?" How does God speak to us? What is our relationship to God's voice? How do we go about listening for God's voice? How does our own inner monologue or emotional enmeshment cause us to be unresponsive to the voice of God? How do we go about becoming better listeners to God's voice? What does it mean that the Advocate will teach us everything? What is it we need to learn from the Advocate? How do we go about being empowered by God's Holy Spirit?

06/14/2020

Sermon: "Called by God to Be a People"

Theme: We are called to be in community by God's voice which commands us to live by a covenant of love and compassion.

Purpose: We will reaffirm that our community and actions must be based on God's commandment to love and serve.

Scriptures: Exodus 19:2-8 Obey God's voice and keep God's covenant, you are a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.
Matthew 9:35-10:8 Jesus sends the disciples among the people to proclaim the gospel - healing the sick, cleansing the lepers, and casting out evil.

Questions:

What is the significance of the way in which the disciples were sent out to do ministry? How do we understand the commissioning of the disciples to be to "Proclaim Good News" with healing, ministry, and living with the people? How is the understanding of dwelling with the people an important part of the way in which the gospel is to be shared? How does this act of proclaiming God's love and healing relate to our covenant with God? Is it possible to know God without getting involved in God's mission? What is our way of discovering our own role in proclaiming the love and grace of God to others?

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Coming up In Worship (continued)

06/17/2020 Midweek

Sermon: "Rivers of Living Water"

Theme: Those who draw their wisdom and strength from the knowledge of God serve through the Holy Spirit to work together for God's grace.

Purpose: We will be unified by our relationship with God through the Holy Spirit rather than our need for control.

Scriptures: Numbers 11:24-30 Two men remain as prophets in the camp - pleasing Moses that some are able to serve God's Spirit.

John 7:37-39 All who are thirsty draw of the living water.

Questions:

What does it mean for living water to "flow from the believer's heart?" How do we experience that presence of living water? What is the difference between having that living water and being hostile, arrogant, or afraid? What does it mean to be people who are able to speak and act as prophets today? How is our own relationship with God and spiritual sustenance related to being prophetic in our words? How do we remain healthy as people who are sharing God's message in a world that can be hostile or disrespectful toward God's word?

06/21/2020 Father's Day

Sermon: "United with Christ"

Theme: Our bond to one another is in our faithfulness to Jesus which calls us to perseverance through conflict without attack or destruction.

Purpose: We will recognize that our conflict and stress is a part of being faithful to God and to one another.

Scriptures: Romans 6:1-11 If we have died with Christ we will also live with Christ, and sin will be put to death within us.

Matthew 10:24-39 Jesus' teaching is a source of division and causes some to reject those who have embraced the savior's teaching

Questions:

What is the conflict that comes into relationships when growing in Christ brings maturity? How do healthy and wise Christians handle that type of conflict? What is our call in-terms of keeping the peace versus being true to our calling in Christ Jesus? How do we know the difference between being stubborn and selfish versus being true to our calling? How is conflict frequently a part of growth or change? What role do stress, conflict, and trials play on our ability as individuals and as a community to change and to grow?

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Coming up In Worship (continued)

06/24/2020 Midweek

Sermon: "Be Wise and Innocent"

Theme: God commissions us to serve in the midst of crisis and challenges, because that is the place where the love of Christ and God's healing power are most needed.

Purpose: We will adjust our attitude towards troubles and conflicts so that we may effectively serve Christ in the midst of crisis.

Scriptures: Psalm 86:11-17 A prayer for God's protection and support in the midst of attack.
Matthew 10:5-23 Jesus commissions and instructs the disciples to share the gospel in the regions around Capernaum.

Questions:

What did Jesus mean when he sent the disciples as "Sheep among wolves?" How do we go about learning to be wise as serpents and innocent as doves? Which part do we tend to have the hardest time keeping – the wisdom or the innocence? How are we challenged by the world and the people around us? What role does that challenge play in our learning and growing in Christ? What do we need to do in order to develop the strength and confidence to serve Christ without becoming reactive or hostile?

06/28/2020

Sermon: "Being Christ's People"

Theme: We are called to walk as Jesus' presence in places where "sin" dominates so that we can be a source of hope and healing reaching out as Jesus' call to wholeness.

Purpose: We will build on our identity of being living signs of Jesus' healing love.

Scriptures: Romans 6:12-23 Slaves to sin or instruments of righteousness depending on who we allow control.
Matthew 10:40-42 God's reward is to those who will receive the message and practice kindness.

Questions:

What do we mean when we are talking about "sin?" What is a healthy way in which we can perceive our failings and weaknesses? What does it mean that we are under grace? How does being under grace free us from focusing on our faults and failures? Does it mean we do not have responsibility for the harm we cause? What does it mean for us to give "a cup of water" in Jesus' name? What difference does it make that we have kindness and compassion for others? How is our relationship with God and our trait of kindness related?

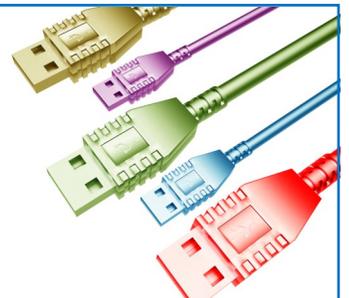
Electronic Ways to Keep in Touch

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

Information @ Church

Congratula-



Confirmation 2020

First Presbyterian Church

Congratulations to our Confirmands! They led our virtual worship on May 24.

Thank you to their Faith Partners, who walked the confirmation path with them.

We're looking forward to celebrating their faith journey when we are able to worship, once again, in our sanctuary.

Confirmands Faith Partners

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| Erica A. | Mary B. |
| Sophie P. | Emily H. |
| Logan S. | Pedro A. |
| Emerson V. | Sherry M. |

Grade School Bibles

It is a tradition, at First Presbyterian Church, for our grade school students (3rd grade or above) receive a Bible. The Bible is a gift from our church family to recognize that these students are now old enough to study Scripture on their own.

This year's class was able to complete instruction online during our stay@home requirements.

We pray that the students will use this gift to continue to deepen their relationship with God, through Christ, as they study the word of God.

Congratulations to the Bible recipients, the graduating class of 2029!



June 10 - Women in Faith
6:30pm-7:30pm



Discover Wisconsin

We will share the awesome sites of Wisconsin. Bring your photos and stories to share.

Let me know if you have suggestions for future meetings!

I hope you can join us.

Join us via Zoom. The information is as follows:

Computer, tablet or smart phone
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82290202046?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82290202046?pwd=YzhFSzlhYWtqNkxkVjBVGZmIsSXFHdz09)
[pwd=YzhFSzlhYWtqNkxkVjBVGZmIsSXFHdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82290202046?pwd=YzhFSzlhYWtqNkxkVjBVGZmIsSXFHdz09)

Meeting ID: 822 9020 2046
Password: 070973

One tap mobile
+13126266799,,82290202046#,1
#,070973# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 822 9020 2046
Password: 070973

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

June 11 - Ruby's Pantry

June 15 - Blood Drive



DRIVE-THRU DISTRIBUTION

- Food distribution will take place at **GRACE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**. Please enter at the **EAST** entrance.
- Pre-registration is **NOT** available. If you have a certificate, print it and bring it with you.
- Only one person per vehicle, one other passenger is allowed if that person is also receiving a donation.
- 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 Grace Christian
When June 11
Open 3:30-6:00pm
Donation \$20.00 Cash Only
Preregistration
rubyspantry.org

If you have any questions contact Grace Christian Church at:
rachelrudzik@gccfdl.org

GIVE BLOOD and make it a... SUMMER OF LOVE

**Monday
JUNE
15**

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.

Blood Drives and Blood Donation are Safe!



Eligibility Questions?
Call 877-232-4376

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S FOND DU LAC COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Location:
First Presbyterian Church
1225 4th St., Fond du Lac



Reservations:
<https://bit.ly/fp615>
or call 877-BE-A-HERO (877-232-4376)

Safe social distancing measures will be in place to ensure donor safety. As part of the recent state-mandated regulations, we require all donors to wear personal masks or face coverings. Thank you!

A PINT FOR A PINT!

All attempting donors receive a limited-edition Summer of Love pint cup* as a thank you for donating.

*While supplies last.



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.



Please be sure to update your Zoom Software (computers, tablets, phones). You need to have Zoom 5.0 in order to join us for virtual worship.



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?



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.



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



A Zoom link will be emailed to you.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Summer Noon Organ Recital Series 2020

Thursdays 12:15-12:45pm



A free-will offering will be taken to support the continuation of the summer organ recitals. The offering also helps to develop programming, events and scholarships to encourage young people to become part of a new generation of organists.

Special Note:

Due to conditions related to COVID-19, this schedule is subject to change. Safety measures such as wearing of masks, social distancing, etc. will be announced at each site per its COVID-19 protocol.

Fond du Lac Area Organists Association

For more information, please contact:

Ken Hill	khill@lifeathope.org	920.539.3977
Kris Bartelt	kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org	920.238.5330
Pam Lane	planes@charter.net	920.979.9361

The complete schedule is on page 12.



Christians Serving, Learning and Loving



Thursdays 12:15-12:45pm

Summer Noon Organ Recital Series 2020

Date	Musician	Church
July 16	John Penkoske	St. Paul's Cathedral (Episcopal) 51 W. Division St., FDL 920. 921.3363 www.fdlcathedral.org/
July 23	Brent Nolte	The Former St. Patrick's Church 39 E. Follett St., FDL 920. 246.6471
July 30	Kris Bartelt	Hope Lutheran Church 260 Vincent St., FDL 920.922.5130 www.lifeathope.org
August 6	Rev. Thomas Lijewski - Organ Lindsey Dahlberg - Piano	Shepherd of the Hills Catholic Church W1562 County Road B Eden, WI 53019 920.477.3551 www.sothparish.org
August 13	David Hein	The Former St. Patrick's Church 39 E. Follett St., FDL 920.246.6471
August 20	Arpad Muranyi	The Former St. Patrick's Church 39 E. Follett St., FDL 920.246.6471
August 27	Brent Erstad	Church of Our Saviour 363 S. Main St., FDL 920.922.0020 www.oursavioursfdl.org
September 3	Kenneth Hill	Hope Lutheran Church 260 Vincent St., FDL 920.922.5130 www.lifeathope.org

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

In June

Deacon

Chris Langille
carsoph02@yahoo.com

Elder

Laurie Leestma-Christie
llestmarnccm@gamil.com

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

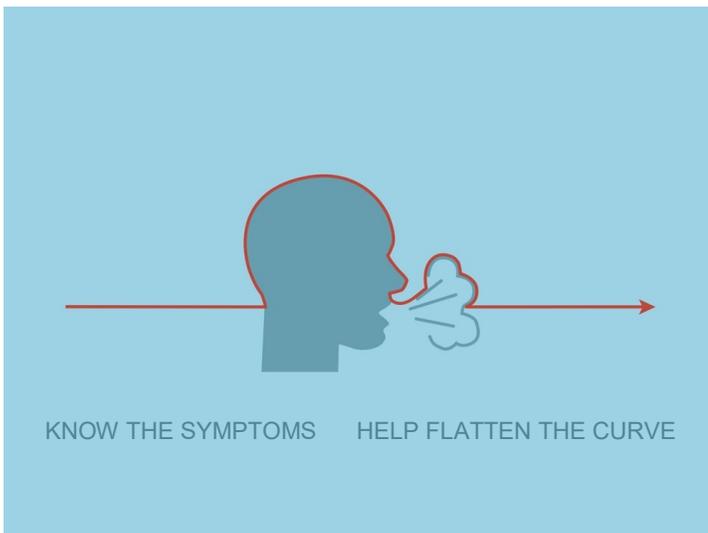
Continued Prayers for:

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.



Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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Social Media and Website



[First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac](#)

www.fdlpresbyterian.org

[first presbyterian church fond du lac](#)