

August 2 Volume 22, Issue 14

First Presbyterian Church

FOCUS

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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1st Sunday
August

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Reflections

Strong Opinions and Compassionate Hearts

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:12-17

Recently, I have noticed a misconception (in some people's minds) that to be humble means to be spineless and weak. This also goes with another falsehood that being passionate means being rude or dominating. Somehow, many have developed the misperception that loud and pushy are somehow effective ways to influence others.

The real force in the world is not the power to destroy or to incite fear. Real power is the ability to heal and to impart wisdom. The ability to enliven an individual with words of encouragement takes a great deal more wisdom, training, and capability than insults or attacks. People will always perform much better and accomplish a great deal more when they feel valued and understood. Any fool can complain and criticize (most often do) but it takes real discipline and wisdom to be a force for growth and healing in the world.

This means that weapons and violence are not as powerful as love and forgiveness. Unbridled force may have its moments, but Godly compassion, and people who are mature in the nature of Christian discipline, will change the world. As Martin Luther King Jr. said, "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." Noise, force, and brute strength may dominate a day, even a time, but ultimately it will crumble under its own weight and foolishness.

Our job is to be the people, with a foundation in Jesus Christ, that empowers us to speak the truth in love, to advocate for justice in the places where we have been given voice, and to do the work that will ultimately bring about an end to the alienation and oppression in the world. This is particularly hard to do as the hostility of political attack ads, the images in the news of protests and counter protests, repeated violence and fears of illness continue to bombard our senses. It is important to be aware of these things. However, each of us has a place where God is calling us to be a source of healing and renewal. It may be in our homes or in the community, or in some formal part in work or government. We need to play the role we have been given as those who are serving God, "whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

When the noise is louder, those who are wise know that real strength is found in deeper places. When the norm is to behave in ways that are less compassionate, respectful and caring, those who are in Christ see the humanity in all people. Our work will change the world and ultimately it is the voice of those who have God's love that will overcome the evils in the world we see. Keep praying until you can see it.

Peace,
Pastor Jack

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Coming up In Worship

08/05/2020 Midweek

Sermon: "Why Are We Afraid?"

Theme: In faith we examine our fears and our anxieties as a part of our practices of gratitude and giving thanks so that we can grow in our confidence and joy.

Purpose: We will work on our practices of putting fears into perspective with God's love and care.

Scriptures: Isaiah 43:1-7 Do not be afraid, you are precious in God's sight, and God is with you.

Matthew 15:32-39 The feeding of the four thousand.

Questions:

What causes us to live in fear and anxiousness? How do we learn peace and confidence in the midst of changing situations and uncertainty? Why do we more impressed and aware of the threats around us than of the blessings and care that God provides us? How is our fear a sign of our need for the practice of gratitude and giving thanks? What can we do in order to put our worries and fears into a healthier perspective?

08/09/2020

Sermon: "Growing Through the Storms"

Theme: Through our steadfast affirmation of Christ and commitment to discipleship, trials and crisis becomes the place where faith grows wiser.

Purpose: We will change our perception of storms and recognize how to address our fears.

Scriptures: Romans 10:5-15 Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Matthew 14:22-33 Jesus comes to the disciples walking on the water.

Questions:

What is it about crisis that causes many to fall into despair? How do we develop the ability to be faithful and confident even when we are afraid? In what ways do we set ourselves up for greater anxiousness and fear? How should we practice "calling on the name of the Lord?" What does it mean for us to live by our belief rather than by our own control? How does being in Christ enable us to be secure regardless of what we face?

08/12/2020 Midweek

Sermon: "Whom Shall we Fear?"

Theme: In the midst of the storms we face we need to keep our hearts aligned with the knowledge of God so as to not become overwhelmed.

Purpose: We will examine our ways of dealing with fears and anxiety.

Scriptures: Psalm 28 A call to God for salvation, a promise that God will be the security for the people.

Matthew 8:23-27 Jesus stills the storm by rebuking the waves, the disciples are in awe of Jesus' authority.

Questions:

Why is it that we think of prayer as a last resort in the midst of trouble rather than as a practice to be aligned with God's word and instruction? What role does prayer play in shaping our minds so that we may be confident and wise in our actions? How do we develop the ability to focus on what is most important when things are chaotic? How are storms to be understood in a Christian's life? If we expect there to be

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08/16/2020

Sermon: "The Things that Defile"

Theme: God's love is for us at all times, but when we choose grievances, judgment, and hostility we separate ourselves from experiencing God's grace.

Purpose: We will examine our practices for releasing past judgments and bitterness.

Scriptures: Romans 11:1-2, 29-32 God has not rejected his people, but God has turned disobedience into an act of grace.
Matthew 15:10-28 Jesus tells the crowds that what goes into the mouth does not defile, but what comes out of our mouths is what can be defiling.

Questions:

What causes us to have hostility and grievances towards other people and groups? How does our bitterness and animosity cause us to feel separate from God? How does that feeling of alienation cause our relationships to feel even more distant? What do we need to learn in order to release the roots of bitterness that at times are planted in our hearts? What can we anticipate as a result of practicing forgiveness and release?

08/19/2020 Midweek

Sermon: "The Power to Transform our Minds"

Theme: The authority that Jesus has is to change our minds and our ways of perceiving all things, if we will ask him to do so.

Purpose: We will seek healing for anxiety and depression.

Scriptures: Psalm 130 My soul waits on the Lord and in his word I hope - more than those who watch for the morning.
Matthew 8:1-13 Jesus cleanses a leper and heals the Centurion's servant.

Questions:

What is the relationship between anxiety, fear, guilt, and depression? What causes us to be unable to let go of issues and fears? How does the authority of Jesus affect our lives? How do we come to be in submission to that authority? What ways do we block ourselves from experiencing Jesus' love and release from our struggles? What are practices that enable us to find release from fear, anxiousness, and depression?

08/23/2020

Sermon: Transformed by the Renewing of Our Minds"

Theme: Jesus invites us to practices of submission that free us from alienation and fear, and enable us to experience renewal and healing in our souls.

Purpose: We will learn practices of renewal of our minds and release of fear.

Scriptures: Romans 12:1-8 Present your bodies as a living sacrifice; do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your minds.
Matthew 16:13-20 Peter affirms Jesus as the Messiah and on that affirmation, Jesus will build his church.

Questions:

What does it mean for us to experiencing transformation of our minds? How do our minds experience renewal? In what ways does affirming the authority of Jesus affect our thinking and our relationships? How do we affirm Jesus as our Lord and Savior? How do different people affirm Jesus' authority over their lives differently? How does submission to Jesus and humility enable us to be more self-confident and at peace.

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08/26/2020 Midweek

Sermon: "What Shall We Call True?"

Theme: Our security and strength are not in things which can be purchased or imitated, but is in authentic knowledge of Christ and God's Word.

Purpose: We will separate our perspective from lies and mistruths and focus on knowing God.

Scriptures: Isaiah 28:14-22 The people in authority have made a covenant of lies with death and Sheol which will result in their greater punishment.
Matthew 26:6-13 Jesus is anointed at Bethany with the alabaster jar of costly ointment.

Questions:

What does Isaiah mean by "Scoffers" and how is it that their arrogance and false nature cause them be destructive of community? What is it that causes people to practice self-deceit and to indulge in combative behavior? How is it that people become disrespectful and full of animosity? How do we know what is truly valuable and what is a false attachment on our part? What do we need to learn so that we may draw strength from Christ rather than caught up in our own destructive mentality?

08/30/2020

Sermon: "Let Love be Genuine"

Theme: As we submit our hearts to Christ and 'Take up our own cross' we develop the strength of humility and the transforming power of God's grace flowing through us.

Purpose: We will see our role as those who bring mercy and healing love from God.

Scriptures: Romans 12:9-21 Let love be genuine, never avenge yourself, live peaceably with all.
Matthew 16:21-28 Peter tries to direct Jesus away from the crucifixion which results in Jesus' strongest possible rebuke.

Questions:

What does it mean to practice "genuine love?" How does the practice of humility differ from being spineless or timid? What is the real power of healthy humility to transform our relationships? How is it that we try to substitute our own plans or agendas for Christ's work? In what ways is the "cross" a guide for how we go about reaching out in love? What difference does it make to us that Jesus calls us to the path of sacrifice rather than focusing on our own self-interests? Is it practical to seek peace with those whom we oppose?



Coffee Hour, Talk Back and Education are all available via ZOOM.

It's a great way to interact with church members while social distancing.

Won't you join us?

A Zoom link will be emailed to you.

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August 5 - PYA
Virtual Game Night



Join us Wednesday, August 5 from 7:00-8:00pm on Zoom. We will check in and play some games. Jennifer will email the Zoom link to PYA families. Contact Jennifer for questions.



If you need prayer, or know someone who does, please contact the church office at:

fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org.

August 9 - Ruby's Pantry



DRIVE-THRU DISTRIBUTION

- Food distribution will take place at **GRACE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**. Please enter on the **EAST** side.
- Pre-registration is **NOT** available. If you have a certificate, print it and bring it with you.
- Only two people per vehicle - they must be receiving food shares (no other 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

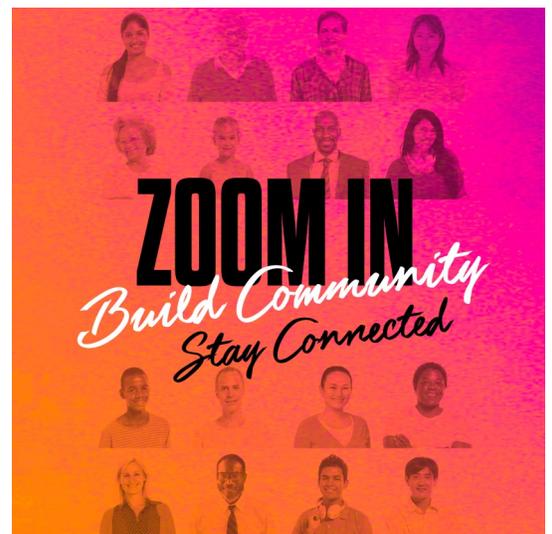
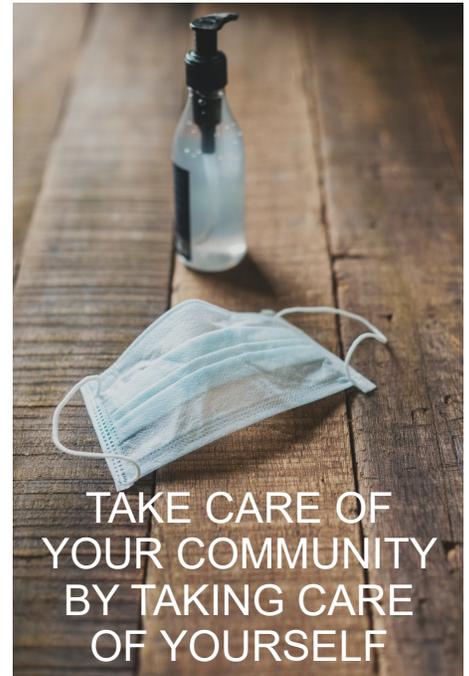
Where	Grace Christian
When	August 9
Open	4:30-6:00pm
Donation	\$20.00 Cash Only

If you have any questions contact Grace Christian Church at:

920.923.5292 or

rachelrudzik@gccfdl.org

If you are interested in volunteering, at Ruby's Pantry please complete an application at: www.rubyspantry.org.



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August 12 - Women in Faith

A friend is someone who reaches for your hand but touches your heart.

Join us for fun and fellowship on Wednesday, August 12th from 6:30-7:30pm on Zoom. We will discuss the ancient art of mandalas.

Mandalas are ancient symbols of the mindful journey to wholeness. We will talk about how this spiritual and meditation tool can be utilized.

Samples will be shared via email, if you are unable to print please contact Jennifer asap for them to be mailed to you. We hope to see you there!

Please contact Jennifer with any questions.

Let me know if you have any suggestions for future meetings.

Zoom Information

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85751947481?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85751947481?pwd=Rlk4MW9DMzhKSTdmWENTeEhKTGNPd09)
pwd=Rlk4MW9DMzhKSTdmWENTeEhKTGNPd09
Meeting ID: 857 5194 7481
Passcode: 771026
One tap mobile
+13126266799,,85751947481#,,,,,0#,,771026# US (Chicago)
+16465588656,,85751947481#,,,,,0#,,771026# US (New York)

Dial by your location
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 857 5194 7481
Passcode: 771026
Find your local number: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85751947481?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85751947481?pwd=Rlk4MW9DMzhKSTdmWENTeEhKTGNPd09)



August 19 - Virtual Bingo



**Day
Date
Time**

**Wednesday
August 19
6:30pm**

**A time for fellowship.
Fun for the whole family.
All are invited.**

The Zoom link is indicated below. If you have any questions please contact Nancy Hilbert or Jennifer Zander.

Zoom Information

Topic: Church Bingo Night
Time: Aug 19, 2020 06:30 PM
Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85854571398?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85854571398?pwd=OWF2THF5THJDYU96VHlleUJUMnpuUT09)
pwd=OWF2THF5THJDYU96VHlleUJUMnpuUT09

Meeting ID: 858 5457 1398
Passcode: 810966



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.

You are invited to email pictures of your summer walks/drives in the wilderness to be used as a collage before our YouTube video.

Please email:
kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org

Thanks,
Kris, Worship Coordinator



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



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?



SUBSCRIBE



TALKback



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. Please do not attend if you are feeling ill or have a fever. Please wear a mask. Hand sanitizer is available for your use. Please maintain social distance from others not in your party when choosing a seat. Please cooperate with any capacity limits. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

For Continued Updates Please Check the Following:

FaceBook Search for FDL Area Organists Association
Website fdlareaorganists.com

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

FaceBook: search for FDL Area Organists Association

Website: fdlareaorganists.com

The complete schedule is on the following page.



Christians Serving, Learning and Loving



Thursdays 12:15-12:45pm

Summer Noon Organ Recital Series 2020

Date	Musician	Church
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	Benjamin A. Stone	The Former St. Patrick's Church 39 E. Follett St., FDL 920.246.6471
August 27	cancelled	
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

Jolene Schry
rjschry@charter.net

Elder

Wendy Wilcox
wwilcox@excel.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

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

Prayer Partners

Send prayer requests to
fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org

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

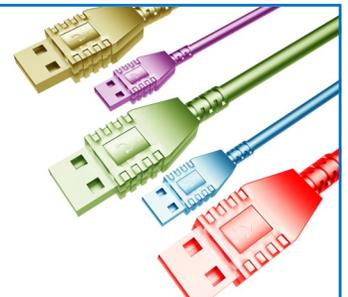
Electronic Ways to Keep in Touch

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

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Social Media and Website



First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac

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