

June 20, Volume 23, Issue 11

First Presbyterian Church

FOCUS

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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3rd Sunday
June

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Reflections

“Changes”

4:1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: 2proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. 3For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, 4and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. 5As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

The Second Letter to Timothy was written by the Apostle Paul while he was in prison, probably in Rome. At this point, he had been imprisoned a long time. Timothy was Paul's protégé. He provided physical assistance to Paul as his health and vision were declining. He (Timothy) was now the head of the churches of Ephesus, where Paul had invested the largest amount of time.

Paul was obviously having difficulty with his continued imprisonment, while the world was moving on without him. In reading Paul's letter, you can detect a degree of frustration in his instructions because Timothy had changed some of the practices and activities in the Ephesian church.

To Paul's credit, he keeps his focus upon the mission of the church. He sees the challenges ahead – the changes in the Roman Empire, the division between the various groups of Christians, and the end of the era of the “original witnesses” and emphasizes “be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable....”

Knowing the issues that led to Paul's communication, connects us with our own changing era in our time. Like Paul, we can feel that the world is changing in ways we don't understand. It makes us anxious. Like Timothy, we are trying to navigate between what is past and what is emerging. And, we have the same instruction: to be persistent in the message. What is interesting is that Paul does not tell Timothy to be persistent in traditions or practices, but in the message. This is both supportive and challenging because the message is determined, in part, by what needs to be heard. We shouldn't give in to the need to be relevant without giving into the need to shape the doctrine around the “itching ears.”

In “The Post Quarantine Church” Thom Rainer points out that the changes that are coming to Christian Churches in America, have been accelerated by the pandemic by about five years! This acceleration will change the way people participate and focus on mission. Participation may be beneficial or negative as we make choices to adapt to, or to hold onto, the past. The “Timothy's” will face the challenge of figuring out how to integrate the testimonies of the past into a new era. The “Paul's” will have to watch, uncomfortably, as things take place that are outside of their control.

Hopefully, like Timothy we will keep our focus on the message, and like Paul, we will ultimately rejoice in God's work, regardless how it moves forward.

Peace,
Pastor Jack

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Coming Up in Worship

06/20/2021

Sermon: "A Message that is Backed with Our Sacrifice"

Theme: We much choose to submit to some authority, or we will be cursed to repeating the same dramas and curses.

Purpose: We will examine how we submit to Scripture.

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 As servants of God Paul and others commended themselves through endurance, integrity, and faithfulness.

Mark 4:35-41 Jesus speaks and stills the wind and the rain. The fear of the disciples and their lack of faith.

Questions:

What does "authority" mean to us? In what ways do we experience Jesus' words as having authority? How does our response to God's Word change our response? How do we find motivation and meaning in God's Word? How is it that Jesus' authority can still the wind and waves but that we must choose to submit to Jesus' authority?

06/27/2021

Congregational Meeting

Sermon: "Our Message is a Message of God's Love"

Theme: The Word of God comes alive as it is put into action in commitment and sharing of God's love.

Purpose: We will examine our personal actions of committing to serving Christ.

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 The genuineness of our love shown in our faithfulness in giving.

Mark 5:21-43 Jesus heals the woman with an issue of blood and raises the daughter of the head of the synagogue.

Questions:

What is our measurement of success as Christians? How do we determine what is our role and purpose in the world individually and as the body of Christ? What determines how we should use our gifts and abilities? Are our goals to entertain ourselves and be secure or is it to dedicate ourselves to serving Christ? Are we true to our mission to serve God or is it that we want to find comfort and ease?

07/04/2021

Communion, First Blended

Sermon: "What is the Authority of God's Word"

Theme: We seek listen to the Word of God rather than superimpose upon God's Word our personal issues.

Purpose: We will learn to listen to God's Word.

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 Boasting about spirituality versus dealing with personal spiritual struggles. Where we are weak, then we are strong.

Mark 6:1-13 A prophet is not without honor except in his own house. The authority is given to overcome unclean spirits.

Questions:

How is it that some did not see Jesus' authority because they were too "familiar" with him while for others he had the power to transform their lives? What makes the difference between our healing and renewal? Do miracles still happen today? What difference does our spiritual experience make in terms of our actual relationship with God? What do we need to do to be healthy in our relationship with God?

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Transition Team

TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

Dear Friends,

Alleluia! Beginning Sunday, July 4th we will be back together in our sanctuary! We are looking forward to moving into fellowship and restoring activities. Please know we will do so with concern for those who are most vulnerable in our congregation, using the best scientific knowledge and guidelines at our disposal, and with full trust in the grace of Jesus Christ. Our Sunday morning schedule will be as follows:

- First Sunday of each Month
 - 9:00am In-Person Worship in Sanctuary / Communion Outdoors
 - 10:30am Virtual Service with Communion
- Remaining Sundays of the Month
 - 9:00am In-Person Worship in Sanctuary
 - 10:30am Virtual Coffee Hour/Talk Back
- We will continue our YouTube services if we have available resources. If you're interested in learning about assisting in the production of our virtual worship services, please contact the office.

What will worship look like as we begin to be together?

- Masks are required to protect those who are unvaccinated.
- We will maintain social distancing.
- Nursery care will NOT be offered at this time.

Please keep in mind that our guidelines will change as we receive new COVID-19 updates from the CDC .

Thank you for being patient and faithful in supporting the safety of our fellowship together. We celebrate that we have been responsible in keeping each other safe and healthy, while we have continued virtual worship.

Let us be faithful to God and to one another. Let us be guided by the Word, responsive to the Spirit, and open to the grace of God. Let us remember that nothing can separate us from God's love, in Christ Jesus.

Sincerely,
Session and The Transition Team

Congregational Meeting

Call for the Annual Meeting
Sunday June 27, 2021
10:00am via Zoom

The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Fond du Lac has called for the annual meeting of the congregation to take place, via Zoom at 10:00am on June 27, 2021.

Information, including the meeting link and information about logging into the meeting, will be sent out via email, to all members, prior to the meeting.

Those who receive their church materials via US Post will be mailed their meeting information. The mailed instructions will include how to call into the meeting, from any telephone.

If you have not been receiving the emails on Wednesdays and Saturdays let Pastor Jack know at revjharrison@fdlpresbyterian.org.



The Scholarship Committee is proud to announce the recipients of the First Presbyterian Church Scholarships. The scholarships are made available by generous donations.

Emily Albrecht	Margaret Memorial Scholarship
Alex Zander	Margaret Memorial Scholarship Jeffrey L. Merrill Memorial Scholarship
Mark Lefeber	Barbara and Bowe LeFevre Scholarship

Please join us as we celebrate our 2021 Graduates and Scholarship Recipients during the in-person worship service on Sunday, July 11.

Congratulations to everyone!

Respectively submitted,

FPC Scholarship Committee

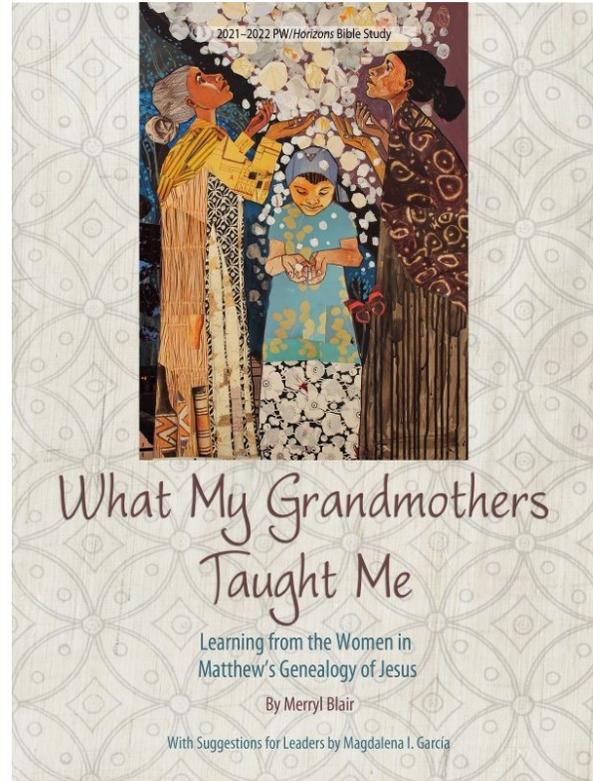
Jodi Anderson	Carol Smith,
Dave Erickson	Todd Hayes
Larry Merrill	

Summer Bible Study

Have you thought about Jesus' grandmothers? What can these Grandmothers-of-the-Faith teach us?

Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary – Matthew names these women for a reason.

- How might Jesus have heard the stories of his grandmothers?
- What might the young Jesus have felt as he heard about his family?
- What might the stories of these women have added to his sense of identity, as part of a particular family in a particular time and place?



Join us Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm, on ZOOM for:

“What My Grandmothers Taught Me:
Learning from the Women in Matthew’s Genealogy of Jesus”

2021-2022 Horizons Bible Study

By Meryll Blair Suggestions for Leaders by Magdalena I. García

If you are interested in the Bible Study, or would like more information please [click here](#).

BIBLE STUDY BEGINS JUNE 29.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving



2021 FDL Area Organist's Summer Recital Schedule

FDL Area Organists Association will respect each venue's COVID-19 protocols .

<i>Organist</i>	<i>Thursdays</i> 12:15-1:45pm	<i>Place</i>
Steve Jensen	June 24, 2021	St. Patrick's Concert Hall 39 E. Follett Street, FDL
John Penkoske	July 8, 2021	St. Paul's Cathedral (Episcopal) 51 W. Division St., FDL
David Hein	July 15, 2021	St. Patrick's Concert Hall 39 E. Follett Street, FDL
Father Tom Lijewski Wendy Pelletier	July 22, 2021	St. Mary's Catholic Church 699 Milwaukee Ave. Lomira, WI
Arpad Muranyi	August 5, 2021	St. Patrick's Concert Hall 39 E. Follett Street, FDL
Jake Kim (Scholarship Recipient) Georgene Antos Kris Bartelt	August 12, 2021	First Presbyterian Church 1225 4 th Street, FDL
Father Tom Lijewski Wendy Pelletier	August 19, 2021	Shepherd of the Hills W1562 County Road B Eden, WI 53019
Ken Hill	August 26, 2021	St. Patrick's Concert Hall 39 E. Follett Street, FDL

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

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	2planes@charter.net	920-979-9361

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Biographies of Organists



Steve Jensen's first organist position was at the age of 10. He studied organ at Lawrence Conservatory of Music, Carthage College and Northwestern University. Steve has been an organist at Immanuel Presbyterian Church for 30 years.

In addition, he has overseen the rebuilding and renovation of the church's 1881 Hook and Hasting organ. The organ renovation was part of the 175th Anniversary of the church.

Steve has served as the Treasurer of the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and is currently employed as a Chief Compliance Officer for US Bank, in Milwaukee, WI.



Wendy Pelletier was born in Fond du Lac. She began playing the piano at age 5. She began learning organ while attending Saint Mary's Grade School. At 12, she played professionally for a wedding.

She graduated from Goodrich High School, continuing her education at UW-Platteville, studying Music Education. Wendy taught Elementary Music in the Anchorage, Alaska before moving to San Diego. In California, she played the organ for weddings, and played piano at several major hotels and Sea World.

Since moving back to Fond du Lac, Wendy has taught music at Sabish and Theisen Middle Schools. Ms. Pelletier is currently the Vocal and General Music teacher at Shepherd of the Hills Catholic School, Eden. She also chooses the music for choir members, schedules cantors, rehearses with the choir, and plays/cantors for four masses weekly.

Wendy's first performance for the FDL Organ Recital Series was in 2019.



David Hein is an instructor of music at Alverno College in Milwaukee. He directs the choir and teaches music courses in the Music Therapy Program. He is also the principal organist at The United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay.

David has had choral arrangements published with Neil A. Kjos Music, Inc., and Choristers Guild. He has also been a contributor to conferences and workshops for the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians.

He earned a Bachelor of Music degree at St. Olaf College. He has a masters' degree of music-choral conducting from Michigan State University.

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Information at Church

June 23 -
PYA Virtual Discussion &
Game Night



Join us Wednesday, June 23 at 7:30pm on Zoom. We will check in and play some games.

A Zoom link will be emailed to PYA. Contact Jennifer if you have any questions or need the Zoom link.

June 24- FPC Families



Join us on Thursday, June 24, at 7:00pm via Zoom for FPC Families.

We will check in, laugh and talk about family traditions - such as: measuring kids height on the door frame, birthday traditions, secret handshakes, bedtime routines and holiday celebrations.

Contact Jennifer for the Zoom link or if you have questions.

Won't you join us?

August 27-28 - Rock the Block



Imagine coming together with community members to make a difference in our own neighborhood!

Habitat for Humanity of Fond du Lac County is organizing a Rock the Block event on August 27-28. The Rock the Block program brings residents and community partners together to collaborate efforts in targeted neighborhoods. This year's event will focus on the neighborhoods of Hamilton Street and Forest Avenue.

Volunteers and staff will work together to help revitalize the community by doing exterior home repairs, yard and street clean up, landscaping, painting and more. Along with Habitat's community partners, Habitat can now help assist low-income residents with home repairs, help maintain home ownership rates, improve the housing stock, and increase neighborhood pride. The Habitat community also assists with projects that will help to improve and beautify the neighborhood, at large.

Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity

- To register for Rock the Block habitatfdl.org/events/
- For more information about Habitat for Humanity habitafdl.org
- To donate to Habitat for Humanity habitatfdl.org/support-us/
- If you are interested in similar mission activities with our church family [click here](#)

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Useful Information



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.



Online giving is easy, convenient and secure. You can use a credit card, a debit card, electronic check or electronic funds transfer, through your bank. You can change or cancel your amount at any time.

Click [here](#) to get your questions answered and to set up your account. We think you'll be pleasantly surprised at how convenient it is!

Liturgists Needed

Here's What You Need to Know



EMAIL ADDRESS

To receive liturgy copy
To email recording back to
Worship Coordinator-
kbatelt@fdlpresbyterian.org

VOICE RECORDING APP

On smart phone or tablet
(Apps are free from Google Play or iTunes.)

DEADLINES

Sunday Liturgy due
Wednesday End of Day

ZOOM Communion Worship (First Sunday of the Month)

The individual who records the liturgy for YouTube, is asked to read the liturgy "live" during ZOOM worship.

If you have any questions, please email:

kbatelt@fdlpresbyterian.org.

Pronunciations:

<https://biblespeak.org/>



Virtual Coffee Hour

A Zoom link will be emailed to you. It's a great time of conversation and fellowship.

TALKback



A Zoom link will be emailed to you.



Help if You Need It -

If you, or someone you know, is in a crisis situation, please consider getting help.

Suicide 800.273.8255
Addiction 800.662.4357
ASTOP 920.926.5395

Crisis Intervention FDL County
920.929.3535 10

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

In June

Deacon

Jolene Schry
rjschry@charter.net

Elder

Don Vahlsing
dwvahlsing@gmail.com

First Presbyterian Focus

Please send submissions for the
Newsletter to:

fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org.

Prayers and Praises

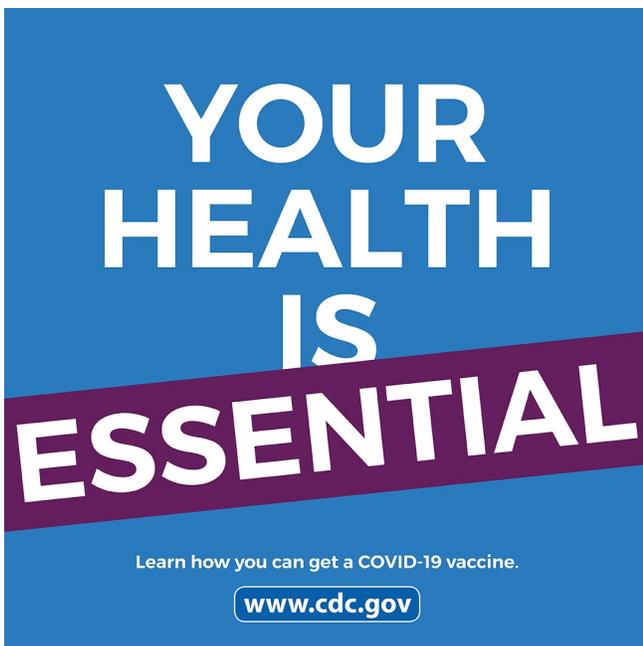
Homeless and disbursed people, particularly
those who are positive for the Covid-19 virus and
struggling to find shelter

Pat D.
Dan M.
Peg D.
Gib D.
Arnold L.
Ruth S.
Joyce J.
Lincoln D.
Jesse F.
Silas W.
Kay M.
Wendy W.
Joyce J.
Leisa W.
Jerry and Mary H.
Bonnie and Jack H.
Chastity G. and Joan S.

Prayer Partners

Send prayer requests to
fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org

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



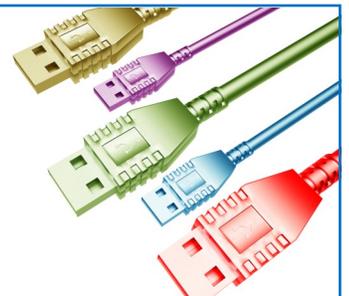
Electronic Ways to Keep in Touch

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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Custodian Assistant

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Social Media and Website



First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac

www.fdlpresbyterian.org

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