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# THE ANGEL



A MESSENGER FROM  
THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LODI † WISCONSIN 53555

WEBSITE: [www.LodiPresbyterianChurch.org](http://www.LodiPresbyterianChurch.org) † E-MAIL: [office@lodifpc.org](mailto:office@lodifpc.org) † PHONE: 608-592-4310 † FAX: 608-592-2332

FIND US ON FACEBOOK! FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LODI, WI

FEBRUARY-2020

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

### GIVING MADE EASIER!

First Presbyterian now offers online giving. We have an account set up with the Presbyterian Foundation and Vanco Financial so that you have more options to make your church donations. You can either do this via computer by selecting the 'Give Now' button below, or by using the **GivePlus Mobile App** which you can find by searching **GivePlus Church** in your app store. **Click here for a short video on how it works: [Mobile App Demo](#)** . It only takes a few minutes to create an account. This is a great option if you pay your bills online, are frequently away on travel, or you just don't like writing out checks! (Note: there is a minimal 2% fee per transaction.)



(click on the button above)

Thank you!  
Stewardship Committee

## THE MUSIC MINISTRY

We are experiencing many different shifts in our church and one of these is our music ministry. It used to be that we could call up some young person who played and the church would nurture their musical growth assuming that this young person would play until they retired. It used to be that way. Times have changed and we are struggling to find accompanists. We will be looking at various different ways that we can worship and sing together, being faithful still in a changing world. We will be exploring new music, a cappella singing, recorded music and we will still be seeking that additional accompanist or two. We will be calling on our pick-up choir to sing more often and to help lead the singing. God calls us to make a joyful noise, and we will continue to be a joyfully noisy church as we seek to also make a stunningly beautiful and moving noise.

## COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please sign up to host the Sunday Coffee Hour. We all enjoy that cup of coffee and good conversation after worship service. Sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall for each month.

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**Family Order Form**

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**Lodi First Presbyterian Church**

See [WWW.SHOPWITHSCRIP.COM](http://WWW.SHOPWITHSCRIP.COM) for a list of ALL vendors. Please CALL & ASK if you have any questions. Most vendors have higher amounts than what is listed. Check out the SPECIALS tab online for short term promotions on higher rates!--Martha 608-220-5592

Name	Customer #
Check #	Order Date

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Total Due All Columns:

\$
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My friends,

We are beginning this year as a year of deep listening and discernment. In order to see the way forward we must embrace and engage with a culture that has shifted dramatically over the course of our life times and which continues to change. We are now living in a culture that can and does shift overnight, leaving our institutions struggling to keep up and respond faithfully. Gil Rendle, a pastor and church consultant for more than 25 years, tells us that, “The more anxious the people are in our changed liquid reality, the more they look to leaders for clear, simple, linear solutions that reduce anxiety even when they don’t help move to the future. However, complexity and unpredictable interactions that continue to defy linear planning or clear solutions are increasingly the conditions of a liquid culture. We continue to move farther away from our linear, predictable, controllable past.” Gil is reminding us that often what we think of as a problem with a simple, straight forward solution, is actually a new condition of life. It’s just the way it is, and we must change. We can’t fix it like we can a broken pipe or a downed fence. Instead we must learn a new way to thrive in what actually is the way things are. Which reminds me that someone once told me that being a pastor is about disappointing people gently, a little at a time.

The work of your session and myself is not to try to manage the church as if our culture were still in that slow, steadfast, predictable stage. It is to embrace the people and the times in which we find ourselves immersed, and this means refusing to simply manage the business of the church. We must become leaders, discerning the path forward with courage and conviction. We must take healthy risks, nurture them, support them and then evaluate what has taken root and what has not.

There are three stumbling blocks on this path that we must keep an eye on.

- 1) We must not allow our habitual ways of seeing things to keep us from seeing the new thing that God is doing. We must remain curious and open to learning new things, to seeing things in a new light.
- 2) We must not allow cynicism or despair to tell us that our efforts are futile and nothing will make any difference, nor will this effort produce any fruit. We must instead embrace compassion and empathy for all the people and the new efforts they are making.
- 3) We must not allow fear to freeze us or make us defensive. We must be courageous, whole hearted, and take risks. We must allow ourselves to be vulnerable to the world we find ourselves in and let our armoured way of being go. Being defensive will not help us be faithful.

My friends, it is true that I am making an assumption that you all want this church to thrive and continue to witness to the Gospel for another 150 years. I am assuming that you are willing to dig deep and work through change even when it feels weird and does not meet your assumptions and expectations. I believe that all of you wish to follow Jesus and that when you hear that call, “leave your nets and traditional way of being. Come and follow me. I will change your life,” your answer will be Yes.

*Continued on Page 5*

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## Continued from Page 3

I am confident, even hopeful, that as we go forward we will make mistakes. Mistakes are an important part of learning and I hope we make them. I also hope that we will be gentle and kind with ourselves and with one another when this happens. Just by this act alone we will be taking a significant step toward following Jesus.

It is not I, it is not your session who is calling. It is God, calling us into new life. I hope you will join with me and your session in reading, studying, listening, remaining curious and open, as we move from managing and maintaining what was to following Jesus on this sometimes odd and strange path. We must take courage, have faith, and be willing to engage with our faith lives in ways we never have before. It's going to be exciting and beautiful, for God is with us, and we do not journey alone.

Grateful to serve with you,  
Pastor Cyndi

### CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

Congregational Life is a new committee that has been formed to support our young adults and intergenerational community. As we look to the future, this committee could be a major contributor in the growth of our church.

This spring the committee will be introducing two important events:

- First, we will be sponsoring an "Active Shooter" program where we will invite the community to attend. Date to be determined.
- On May 19 the John Knox Presbytery Meeting will be held in our church. We will be sponsoring the meal portion of the meeting.

Please consider joining this committee, or another one that may fit your interest, but please be a part of one of the seven active committees our church has.

**Ron Nelson**

### THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!

Session would like to recognition and thanks to retiring Elders and Deacons. Elders include Zach Dachel and Mae Stocks while Deacons include Pam Odorizzi.

Session would also like to thank our returning Elder, Herb Damsteegt, and Deacon, Patty Seidler.

With a new year comes new opportunities for session members to share their knowledge and talents. The following committee will be chair by the following session members:

- **Buildings & Grounds**– Jeff Leckwee
- **Congregational Life**– Ron Nelson
- **Finance**– Dudley Mehlretter
- **Mission**– Jean Spataro
- **Personnel**– Herb Damsteegt
- **Stewardship**– Diane Lukins
- **Worship & Clerk of Session**– DeAnn Richards

Please feel free to share your thoughts and ideas as all Session members welcome your input and are open to you joining the committee they lead if you so wish. Christian Education will be chaired outside of

Session as Pastor Cyndi will relay any necessary information to Session. In addition, if you were not able to read through the 2019 annual report, additional copies can be requested through the church office.

### BOOK STUDY!!

Our Neighborhood Church books are in! Please consider picking one up and joining in the conversation. The books are \$13 and the conversation is free. Where is God calling our church? Who are we now, in the midst of these changing times? How can we be earnestly faithful in these times? As the Church discovers the path forward, we will need all voices and all people to chime in, to help us keep centered and grounded. This is a spiritual practice that you are invited to participate in.

### BIBLE STUDY AND COFFEE

Take a spiritual break in your busy week and join us on Wednesdays at 9:30 in the church library for coffee and great conversation on the Sunday sermon. This is a small group which is also a prayer ministry. Look forward to seeing you on Wednesdays.

## WORSHIP LEADERS

Feb 2	Open
Feb 9	Open
Feb 16	Diane Lukins
Feb 23	Open

## USHERS

Feb 2	Ron & Gale Nelson
Feb 9	Howard & Dorothy Richards
Feb 16	Herb & Linda Damsteegt
Feb 23	Zack & Jenny Dachel

## GREETERS

Feb 2	Open
Feb 9	Open
Feb 16	Open
Feb 23	Open

## COUNTERS

Feb 2	Dudley Mehlretter & Ron Nelson
Feb 9	Jean Spataro & Jeff Leckwee
Feb 16	Diane Lukins & DeAnn Richards
Feb 23	Herb Damsteegt & DeAnn Richards

## ACCOMPANISTS

Feb 2	Rana Hughey
Feb 9	Rana Hughey
Feb 16	Audrey Kohn
Feb 23	Rana Hughey

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN FEBRUARY!

We'd like to wish the following people a Happy Birthday! If your birthday is in February and your name is not listed, please let the office know the date of your birthday so that it can be entered in the computer.

- 2/1 ROSE HEINS
- 2/4 BRENDA NELLEN
- 2/7 BECKY MCINTYRE
- 2/8 LISA BENDER
- 2/14 MAE STOCKS  
AMY WENGER
- 2/15 ERIN LECKWEE
- 2/18 JORDAN BAUER
- 2/27 CHANCE RICHARDS  
CHASE RICHARDS
- 2/28 JEAN MULCAHY
- 2/29 SARAH WENGER



## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Deadline for the **MARCH** Newsletter is **WEDNESDAY, February 19th at 9 a.m.** If you would like an article in the newsletter, you can e-mail the Church office at [office@lodifpc.org](mailto:office@lodifpc.org) or leave it on the desk in the church office.

January 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

March 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

# February 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 National Freedom Day
2 Worship- Communion Sunday, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Groundhog Day	3	4	5 Mid-week Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.	6	7	8 Session Retreat and Leadership Training, 9 a.m.
9 Worship, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m.	10	11	12 Mid-week Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. Finance, 6 p.m. Committee, 7 p.m.	13	14	15
16 Worship, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m.	17 Presidents' Day	18	19 Newsletter Deadline, 9 a.m. Mid-week Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.	20	21 Valentine's Day	22
23 Worship, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m.	24	25	26 Ash Wednesday	27	28	29 YPM Mission Trip, 8 a.m.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

258 Lodi Street  
Lodi, WI 53555  
Phone: 608-592-4310  
Fax: 608-592-2332

**PASTOR: CYNDI WUNDER**

E-Mail address: [pastor@lodifpc.org](mailto:pastor@lodifpc.org)

Choir Director: Position Open  
Custodian: Lori Harrenstein  
Church Secretary: Pat Craig  
Financial Secretary: John Griffing  
Church Secretary's Office Hours:  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**WORSHIP SERVICE**

Sunday  
9:00 a.m.  
Nursery Available

**SUNDAY SCHOOL  
(DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR)**

10:15 a.m.

Newsletter Graphic Design: Jim Salzman

**THE SESSION**

**Class of 2020**

Diane Lukins  
Jean Spataro  
Ron Nelson

**Class of 2021**

Dudley Mehlretter  
DeAnn Richards  
Jeff Leckwee

**Class of 2022**

Herb Damsteegt

DeAnn Richards, Clerk of Session

**BOARD OF DEACONS**

**Class of 2020**

Marcia Brown  
Sandy Deselle  
Dave Heebner

**Class of 2021**

Gale Nelson  
Bobby Hanson  
Laurie Fryman

**Class of 2022**

Patty Seiler



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Lodi Presbyterian Church