

BIBLE STUDY

Join us for socially distanced bible study, Wednesdays at 9:30 in the church sanctuary. All are Welcome!

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO VISIT THE CHURCH WEBSITE!



THE ANGEL

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

WEBSITE: www.LodiPresbyterianChurch.org † E-MAIL: office@lodifpc.org † PHONE: 608-592-4310 † FAX: 608-592-2332

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

NOVEMBER 2020

INDOOR WORSHIP!

Session has gone to great lengths to ensure that the Sanctuary will be a safe environment for those who attend in-person. We will also have seating available in Fellowship Hall if you feel you are at greater risk and would like to have more space around you.

Changes and requirements are as follows:

- Facial masks are required.
- Maintain a "safe" distance, approx. 6', when walking through the church.
- Designated seating areas in pews (Don't sit where the tape is!).
- Hand sanitizer is available at each entrance. Please use it when you enter and when you exit the church.
- Offering trays will be located by the entrances so you can drop your offering off when you arrive or when you depart.
- Both entrances (front and back) to the church will be available for use.

- While seats are not reserved we encourage you to sit in the same spot each Sunday if it is available.
- Bring your own items for communion Sunday as the church will not be providing any.
- Bulletins for service should be printed in advance or viewed on your phone, they will not be available for handout.
- If you wear a coat, please bring it with you to your seat.
- Ushers will help guide parishioners to and from the pews before and at the end of the service.
- Please arrive early as it will likely take a little longer for everyone to get situated before service begins.
- If you are running a fever, or feel ill, we ask that you do not come to church.

For those who are not quite ready to worship in-person, you are still welcome to attend via the parking lot. You can tune in to channel - 87.9FM to listen to the service in the sanctuary, if you live nearby or come to the parking lot. The

online pre-recorded worship services will still be available.

Also, it is important to note that should anyone contract Covid-19 or come in contact with someone who has tested positive, and has attended worship, that you notify the Pastor or church office immediately.

We look forward to seeing you and worshipping together again!

**Sincerely,
Your Session**

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Attention Voters



The Nov. 3, 2020 General Election polling place for the City of Lodi has moved to the following location:

United Methodist Church *130 Locust Street, Lodi*

- The polls will be open 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM
- Remember the polling place will **not** be at City Hall on Election Day
- Voters **must** go to the location above to cast their ballot on Nov. 3
- In-person absentee voting will be available at the Clerk's Office (City Hall, 130 S Main St.) from Oct. 20 through Oct. 30

The change of location will better accommodate social distancing for the large numbers of voters expected on Election Day. If you have questions or concerns, please visit www.cityoflodi.us or contact the City Clerk by calling 608-592-3247.





My Friends,

Last night I watched the presidential debate. As is often the case in politics it was divisive and angry. I listened afterwards as pundits insisted that Americans want optimism and ‘feel-good’ quotes and resist looking at hard truths. I suspect that this true for most of us in our low moments. We long for encouragement and turn away from loss, grief, and the anguish of others. Yet the Gospel gives us the strength and courage to look directly at hard painful truths and know that this is not the final word. God has the final word. When we embrace and ground ourselves in the Truth that God is in control and that every tear shall be wiped, we can take courage and look directly at hard things.

In the years after Jesus death and resurrection the Christian community grew by leaps and bounds. From a small off-shoot of Judaism Christianity became a world wide faith that reminds us of who we are and how we ought to live. It guides us, strengthens us, and directs our path. It was the selfless love of the Christians for those around them that astonished and drew in those who observed. It was the way they took in the deathly ill and cared for those who were dying even of communicable disease. It was the way they held all things in common, tore down hierarchies and saw all people, regardless of gender, race, or station, as equals. It was the way they empowered the oppressed, set free the prisoner, fed the hungry, and sought the good of even those who set themselves against the Christians. This counter-cultural movement upset and threatened the status quo, it toppled hierarchies, it gave hope to the masses of people who lived day to to day with their backs against the wall. This was a “Thy kingdom come here on earth as it does in heaven,” movement.

So yes, as Christians we have a solid grounding in looking deep into the face of hard, difficult things. We have the faith that allows us to look into the face of pain, loss, grief, and abuse and know that God’s will is going to triumph and we are called to be a living part of that movement. As the cold and damp of fall settle in and COVID cases surge across our state, we know that there is a light which no darkness can consume. This light which shines so brightly and draws all people to it’s warmth. We know that, even now as winter draws close that there is life germinating in unseen places, deep in the darkness and depth, life is taking shape and waiting only for a little more warmth before coming forth. As Christians we do not need simple, feel-good quotes to know that God is still at work in our world.

As we approach Reformation Sunday this week, we hear the words of Psalm 46, even if the mountains should totter and tip into the ocean, even if the ground should shake and everything feel fragile and vulnerable, God is in the heart of the city, and will be with her. We remember that the early word for church ecclesia means those who are called out. We are those who are called out of our comfort, into the streets of the city, to care for the people of the city. Let our love for all people be astonishing to those who witness it, that they might wonder, “What has gotten into those people?” May our love for the whole community be so vibrant that God will look at us, smile, and say, “I’ve got kin in that body.”

Grateful to serve with you,
Pastor Cyndi

FINANCE REPORT

With Covid19 going on it is hard to track and project anything at this point as everything changes on a daily, if not hourly, basis.

Thanks to all of you for your support through this strange and challenging year. Our church finances are holding up well.

With a few members paying their full pledge in a lump sum, our giving is a little ahead of schedule for the year and expenses are down, so we are in good shape. We have about \$15,000 in our Operating Fund at this time. As long as we hold to our Yearly Budget we should finish the year out in good shape.

If you would like a more detailed report, please contact Ron or Dudley and they can answer any questions you may have.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

In a normal year, we would have already talked about our Stewardship Giving and Consecration Sunday. However, as we all know, this year has been anything but normal and has presented us with many challenges. As a congregation, we have not had the opportunity to all worship together in the Sanctuary for quite some time and may not be able to in the near future.

That being said, we will be reaching out as always to talk about Stewardship and its importance to our church. This year we will be doing so in a number of ways. You will be receiving a letter in the mail (so please watch for it) asking for your Stewardship Pledge for 2021. There will be a pledge form for

you to return in the pre-addressed stamped envelope provided. We ask that you do this as soon as you can as we have set November 22nd for Consecration Sunday. It is an opportunity to celebrate all the good things God has given us, and that we can give in return.

Sincerely, Stewardship Committee

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCIAL PLANNING

As the Finance Committee is beginning the process of supporting the financial needs of our Church. As we are in the midst of Stewardship, budgeting and financial planning, we thought it might be again useful to suggest an alternative giving strategy. Some of you may be using this method but we thought it may be good to remind you of this information. A change in the tax laws has for many of us effectively taken away the charitable deduction which was claimed on Schedule A. However, there is another avenue that can produce tax savings. For those individuals over age 70 1/2 who are taking payments from their IRA, there is another method of donation. As you may know, the IRS requires a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) each year. This amount varies from person to person. The IRS now allows a direct charitable donation from the custodian (bank, brokerage, etc.) to the charity, in our case Lodi Presbyterian Church. There is a substantial monetary advantage to both you and the Church. Combining the federal and state income tax rates reveals the tax savings. Let's assume that your combined federal and state tax rates are 20% to 25% or more. If you make your donation from your after tax income, you are paying

tax on your donation. By making a direct donation it would not be taxed. In fact, a pledge could be increased by 10% or 15% and you would still have more money than by making your donation in after tax dollars. Although it may seem a different way to donate, it is absolutely legal. You would simply have to direct the custodian of your IRA to make the donation directly to the Church, not to you. It may be made at any time during the year not just on January 1st. You may wish to talk to your accountant, tax advisor or other tax professional about using this donation method. There is also a specific way it must be handled on your tax forms. This information should be shared with your tax preparer. Again, a heartfelt thank you for your continued, generous support of our Church Respectfully,

Finance Committee

FARMERS TO FAMILIES FOOD DISTRIBUTION Reach Out Lodi

Food distribution from farmers to families, during COVID-19 and EVERYONE is welcome. Second Harvest is partnering with ROL & the Lodi Elementary School for a free distribution of food, weekly on Fridays starting 6.19.20 from 10:30-11:30 am or until the food is gone. Distribution is at the Elementary School, 101 School Street. Simply open your trunk, volunteers will place boxes of food in your car, and drive away! You can also pick up for more than one family, just let the volunteers know. You will receive 4 boxes (dairy, produce, non-perishable items, and meats). Can't make distribution day? Call ROL at 608.592.4592 to arrange a delivery or pick-up. Text FOODNORTH to 55588 if you'd like to receive text message updates.



CURRENT WISH LIST

- Fresh Fruit
- Fresh Vegetables
- Ritz Crackers
- Juice
- Sugar
- Kool-aid
- Kleenex
- Aluminum Foil
- Saran Wrap
- 30 Gallon Garbage Bags
- Quart Storage Bags
- Gallon Storage Bags

GRATEFUL GOURMET 5 COURSE MEAL TO GO

Lodi Rotary Interact Club is partnering with Michelin Star Chef Grayson Altenberg for our first ever Grateful Gourmet 5 course meal, to go, to benefit Reach Out Lodi.

In this historic time that has dramatically changed the way we

live, how about treating yourself to a delicious gourmet meal, while having some fun. Pick up a special gourmet dinner to share with those in your home or deliver as a gift to your loved ones.

Each order consists of a 5 course dinner for two. Dinners are precooked and include warming and serving instructions.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD

It is a different but exciting time in the life of our Church. Certainly, Covid has altered the way that we worship. But it has opened the door to a new exciting chapter in our music worship. As you know, our old organ "passed on" and we have been worshipping with either the piano or recorded music. We have asked you to donate to a new music program and many of you have generously opened your hearts and your check book. We are so, so grateful, that is roughly ten days you surpassed our request and fully funded our new sound system

and keyboard! Because of your generosity and faithfulness our worship will be more vibrant and lively. We want to thank each and every one of you who gave what you could to make this happen.

So, the following is an update: Sound System - The old speakers in the ceiling were not working reliably. Upon further inspection it was found that a rodent had chewed the wires and that the speakers were not working properly and consistently. Embarking upon a new system, a sound engineering company was hired to give us the specialized knowledge needed. They will be providing the equipment, knowledge and installation to provide high quality sound. Keyboard - A new electronic keyboard has been purchased. It will provide not only a piano sound but also several organ sounds. Further, other music such as string instruments, can be added with the touch of a button.

Musicians – We have enjoyed the fine music and playing of Rana Hughey, Jean Mulcahy, Audrey Kohn, and Anna Salzman, and will continue to do so in the future. Further, a new keyboardist is joining our church family. Jamie Johns has 12 years of experience playing for a church in the Milwaukee area. He has toured with Phantom of the Opera for the past six years and is currently teaching piano in the Madison area. We truly are blessed to have two talented keyboardists currently serving our congregation.

Thank you for your generosity and continued support. Together we will be inspired by this music now and for many years to come.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN NOVEMBER!

We'd like to wish the following people a Happy Birthday! If your birthday is in November 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.

11/16 RICH NELSON

11/21 WHITNEY BECK

11/22 SHANE
KOZAKIEWICZ

11/26 HALLIE NOLDEN

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!
BIRTHDAY!
BIRTHDAY!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Deadline for the **DECEMBER** Newsletter is **WEDNESDAY, November 18th at 9 a.m.**

If you would like an article in the newsletter, you can e-mail the Church office at office@lodifpc.org or leave it on the desk in the church office.

October 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

December 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		

November 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 (Indoor) Worship, 9 a.m.	2	3 Election Day	4 Mid-week Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.	5	6	7
8 (Indoor) Worship, 9 a.m.	9	10	11 Veterans Day Mid-week Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.	12	13	14
15 (Indoor) Worship, 9 a.m.	16	17	18 Newsletter Deadline, 9 a.m. Mid-week Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.	19	20	21
22 (Indoor) Worship, 9 a.m.	23	24	25 Mid-week Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.	26  Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 (Indoor) Worship, 9 a.m.	30					

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

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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258 LODI STREET
LODI, WI 53555

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