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POINSETTIAS BY  
DECEMBER 11TH!**

**DETAILS AND  
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ARE ON PAGE 6**



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CHURCH  
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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**

**DECEMBER 2020**

## *Worship* **DURING ADVENT**

Our advent worship will begin on November 29th. As is our tradition we will be incorporating an advent wreath with candlighting each Sunday. This wreath will be placed on the communion table in full view of the video and we will add to it ever Sunday. You are encouraged to consider creating an advent wreath of your own at home so that you can participate in this project. Everyone can light a candle on the advent wreath this year!

We will hold a small, quiet service close to the Solstice, the longest night of the year. This year has been heavy and full of grief, confusion, and loss. The relentless cheer of the holidays can feel forced and unnatural when we fail to acknowledge that sometimes life hurts. We will hold this service on the 21st of December at 6:30 p.m. It will be live streamed also.

Our Christmas Eve service will go entirely virtual this year. We are seeking to incorporate as many of you as we can. We want your pictures, your voice, your talents, and we will accomplish this by arranging for videos and slide shows to be edited together during the service. This is a first for us, so we are asking for much grace and kindness with this effort. It is our hope to upload this video once edited together to Facebook live so that you can send well wishes and virtual hugs to one another through the comments. Our goal is to have this video go live at 5:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

## **BUCKHORN GIFT CARDS**

Our Church has partnered with the Buckhorn Children's Home for over 50 years. I have found memories of shopping with my Mom to pick out a gift each year to wrap and put under the tree at Church to be sent to child far away.

In this unusual year Buckhorn Children's Home in Buckhorn Kentucky asks us to keep things as normal as possible and still send gift cards for the children. We are asking for \$25 Walmart gift cards. Please have them to the church office, Pastor Cyndi, or Jean Spataro by Sunday December 6th.

Consider ordering them now through our Churches Scrip program and give to our Church as well.

If you have questions please contact Jean Spataro at 608-279-5045.

God Bless and Merry Christmas to all

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## THE PERFECT GIFT

Rev. Pattison offers an important perspective for us to think about in dealing with the many challenges of things like the COVID-19 virus. “For lots of people, the virus was a temporary stay-at-home thing,” he says. “A disability can also be a stay-at-home thing—sometimes a permanent stay-at-home thing if you don’t have anywhere to turn for help. What the Board of Pensions does is really important to me and others like me, so that we can carry on even with our disabilities. They’ve helped in ways that have opened up my life.”

Rev. Pattison wants everyone to know how much it means to have the support of Board of Pensions in his life and in the lives of other retirees and church leaders who need a helping hand. “I’m grateful for those who give to this Offering,” he said..

If Rev. Pattison were with us today, I’m sure he would be nodding in agreement when I say that when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. Please give generously.

## LET US PRAY

O God of hope and healing, scoot us into places where our hands can help, and we can be places where your healing and your hope are shared. **Amen.**

God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift, a gift that brought God and humanity closer together. God’s perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ, offered the power of being with us. According to Matthew’s Gospel, one of the names given to Jesus is Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.”

During these past months, many of us weren’t able to be together in person. But we have always been together in spirit, and in faith. God has been with us. And through our gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering, we are together with those who need our love and support.

## A LIFE CHANGED, BUT STILL FULLY LIVED

Rev. Dr. Stewart M. Pattison has been living with multiple sclerosis for years. As his health has recently forced him to retire, gifts from the Christmas Joy Offering have come to have special meaning for him. A portion of gifts received from Presbyterians in congregations like ours go toward supporting church leaders in their times of critical financial need.

This is something Rev. Pattison truly appreciates. Several years ago, he received a grant from the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and the Presbytery of Chicago.

Rev. Pattison used his grant for the purchase of a specialized scooter which he has affectionately nicknamed “Di Blasi” in honor of the manufacturer. A scooter seems like a simple thing, but in fact it was a game changer. Di Blasi made it possible for him to continue his ministry as the solo pastor of the Community Presbyterian Church of Lombard, Illinois, a calling that he answered with love for more than 20 years.

Now that he is fully retired, the Board of Pensions is also providing support and assistance as Rev. Pattison navigates the Social Security Administration system, which he says can be a “very difficult process.”

“They tell me what they need, and they just kind of get the job done,” he explains. “To just know you have someone there to help you navigate all the red tape is so helpful.”



My Friends,

By the time you get this letter, we will likely already be in advent. This year has gone so fast as we have all had to learn new ways of being community, of reaching out to and loving our neighbor, of working and worshipping. The Christian faith first came to the attention of the world in the 1st century after Jesus' resurrection in the midst of the pandemic. It was during this time, a time of no hospitals or medical centers, when the sick and potentially contagious were left to live or die on their own that the Christian community picked them up out of the ditches and back alleys and cared for them as if they were dearly beloved family. It was then that historians of that era wrote in awe, "see how they love??"

I hear from many of you a deep desire to be the love in the world, to reach out and help others, to make a difference. Yet this time the pandemic is different. It is out of sight and we are all advised to avoid contact. Yet still, we want to love our neighbor. We are being pushed into new ways of being community and in this, I suspect, is a deep blessing.

In the midst of advent we are reminded that new creations often begin in the midst of darkness. It is in the fertile darkness of the soil that seeds take root; it is in the wondrous darkness of the womb that new life first moves; it is in the luminous darkness of a country night that we turn our eyes up to the wonder and awe of a star filled sky, our hearts stirring, our dreams waiting. Although it is frightening to be unable to see what lays ahead, we are reminded that the God we worship is one who brings new life out of the most difficult and painful situations, even death.

So this year we begin our advent journey in the quiet of isolation, in the stillness of winter and quiet streets. We will take courage and know that in the absence of our busy social lives and our parties, our overflowing tables and relentless cheer of gatherings, in the absence of all of that, God is creating something new. My hope for you this advent is that you will find time to grow even more silent and still, that you will listen for the voice of the one who loves you. My hope is that you will savor the small things, the walks in the snow, evenings with a book, the company of those who live in your house, and you will discover a depth of love and beauty that will astonish and warm your heart.

Let us take heart and embrace this winter of solitude and isolation, abiding in gratitude for the warmth of our homes, and the love expressed in letters and cards. Let us enjoy the slower pace and allow our hearts to be filled with the wonder of God's love for all of creation. The world is not as we expect this year, and yet it is still full to the brim with wonder, with awe, and with love.

May your advent be full and deep,  
Pastor Cyndi

## SANCTUARY 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.
- You may bring your own communion items on first Sundays. The church will provide small, self contained gluten free bread and juice as needed.
- 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.

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 and still listen to the service. You may also watch the service via Facebook live or listen to the audio recording the link to which will be emailed following the live service.

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



## FARMERS TO FAMILIES FOOD DISTRIBUTION Reach Out Lodi

The **NEW SCHEDULE** will be the **FIRST and THIRD FRIDAY** of the month until further notice. Start time 10am until food all handed out.

Reach Out Lodi has partnered with Second Harvest Foodbank of

Southern Wisconsin and the Lodi School District to bring Mobile Pop up Food Distributions weekly for the past 16 weeks at the Lodi Elementary School, 101 School Street, Lodi, WI. This will continue until further notice with the new schedule being the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month only. This is for anyone in need during COVID-19. 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. Can't make distribution day or time? Call ROL to arrange a delivery or pickup.

Also with the new schedule, if you find your family needs food in between distributions, and you live within the Lodi School District, call ROL 608.592.4592. ROL helps with food, personal essentials and clothing for people in need in a confidential, non-judgmental manner.

## 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

### Supplies:

Diapers, baby wipes, diaper rash cream,  
Baby shampoo/body wash  
Children's socks  
Children's underwear  
Children's socks  
Men's, Women's, Children's shoes,  
boots, hats, gloves

# Thank You's

**YPM's president of the board, Jim Wittmer writes:**

Thank you for your donation of \$2490 in honor of Cindy Leckwee. Your continued support is making it possible to improve the health, education, and spiritual needs for the Maya people of the Yucatan Peninsula.

When you donate to YPM you can be assured that 100% of the money you donate will be transferred to our affiliated entities located in Leona Vicario.

So much is being accomplished with your help. Construction work and medical clinics continue to serve the local communities and Instituto YPM, a University level education institution and currently we are in the process of installing a clean drinking water facility.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, volunteers, staff, and the Maya people, we thank you for your generosity. With your gift, you are making a difference in the lives of many.

**Morgan of Habitat for Humanity of Wisconsin River Area writes:**

To all the wonderful members of Lodi First United Presbyterian: please accept our profound gratitude for so generously supporting our mission during these difficult times. This year we've faced new challenges in providing help to our most vulnerable neighbors, particularly home repairs for seniors, and supporting our existing homeowner families through job loss and instability. And yet we build, not just homes, but also community and hope. You make this possible! Blessings to all of you.

# Ways to Stay Connected

Monday morning Pastor Cyndi will be sharing a story. These stories will be ancient archetypal stories that have helped people find their way through chaotic times.. These stories will be available via Facebook Live on the church page.

## WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Join us for an in-person, socially distanced bible study held in the back of the sanctuary at 9:30 a.m.

## SOUL CARE THURSDAYS

Pastor Cyndi will lead a time of meditation and prayer via Facebook live on Thursdays. These live streams will remain available all week and you are encouraged to explore some of the different prayer practices. Find a moment of peace and stillness in which to settle your heart and soul.

## WORSHIP ON SUNDAY

Worship will be available in multiple formats to allow everyone to find a way they feel safe participating.

You may worship in person in the sanctuary at 9 a.m. Please wear a mask, follow appropriate social distancing and stay safe.

You may worship in your car in the parking lot or within a ½ mile radius by listening to 87.9 FM.

Worship will be live streamed on Facebook live on the church's page beginning at 9 a.m. and available thereafter via the church's Facebook page timeline.

The live worship will be recorded in its entirety on Sundays and then uploaded to Pastor Cyndi's blog so that you can listen at any time. This is an audio recording only.

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## FINANCE REPORT

Year 2020 has been interesting with the economy crippled by the Covid-19 pandemic. By the end of October we had projected our income to be \$114,000.00 but we actually only received \$103,774.95.

This would be alarming except our expenses are also down due to the pandemic. We had projected expenses of \$127,710 but by not worshipping in the building and office hours cut way back from March to October we only spent \$100,903.01.

As of October 31st we are in the Black by \$2,871.94. Thank you all for your continued support of our church.

## SOUND SYSTEM UPDATE

Our sound system update is now complete. The fundraising went quickly and installation of the new speakers, amplifier and electronic keyboard was completed on November 18th .

Thanks to the Stendler's for heading up this project, and to Herb Damsteegt for his woodworking skills and everyone that donated towards this project.

# Poinsettias

I/we would like to provide a poinsettia plant to adorn the Sanctuary during the Christmas season.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your telephone number)

I/We would like the Bulletin to read:

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Celebration of \_\_\_\_\_

In Recognition of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check out for \$10 to 1st Presbyterian Church, mark it for a poinsettia, and drop it in the offering plate or at the Church office. Orders will be taken through December 11, 2020.

## For a New Beginning

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,  
Where your thoughts never think to wander,  
This beginning has been quietly forming,  
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

For a long time it has watched your desire,  
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,  
Noticing how you willed yourself on,  
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.

It watched you play with the seduction of safety  
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,  
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,  
Wondered would you always live like this.

Then the delight, when your courage kindled,  
And out you stepped onto new ground,  
Your eyes young again with energy and dream  
A path of plentitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not yet clear  
You can trust the promise of this new opening;  
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning  
That is one with your life's desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure;  
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;  
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,  
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.

John O'Donohue



# HAPPY B-DAY IN DEC!

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

12/4 MARK NELLEN

OLIVIA KING

12/14 NANCY STOCKS

12/29 AMY SOPHA

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY! IN HOLY!

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Deadline for the **JANUARY** Newsletter is **WEDNESDAY, December 23rd 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.

November 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					

January 2021

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
(Indoor) Worship, 9 a.m.	6	7	Mid-week Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.	9	10	11
(Indoor) Worship, 9 a.m.	13	14	Mid-week Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.	16	17	18
(Indoor) Worship, 9 a.m.	20	21	Mid-week Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.	23	24	25
(Indoor) Worship, 9 a.m.	27	28	Mid-week Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.	30	31	26



**25**  
Christmas Day

**24**  
Virtual Christmas Eve  
Worship, 5:30 p.m.  
(See Page 1 of this  
newsletter for details)

New Year's Eve

**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



Lodi Presbyterian Church

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**258 LODI STREET  
LODI, WI 53555**