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# 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**

**MARCH 2021**

## WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

### **WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 9:30 A.M.**

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

### **WEDNESDAY LENTEN DEVOTIONAL**

You will receive an additional email this week and every subsequent Wednesday during Lent with scripture and a reflection. These will tie in directly to the Lenten packets that were delivered last week. If you choose not to use the packets, please send them on to any youth or youthful coloring enthusiast and forward the emails each week that we might increase our witness in the community.



### **THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY 6:30 P.M.**

This Lent you are invited to attend an incredible bible study co-hosted by 6 different pastors. 6:30 p.m. via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82460505453>.

### **WORSHIP ON SUNDAY 9:00 A.M.**

You can join in worship with us at 9 a.m. in person, in the sanctuary with masking and social distancing, in the parking lot via FM radio, online via Facebook livestreaming on our Facebook page.

#### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Ways to Stay Connected .....	1
Invited .....	2
Message from the Pastor .....	3
Reach Out Lodi.....	4
Scrip .....	5
March Birthdays.....	6
March Calendar .....	7

# INVITED

BY REV. SARAH ARE

I like to imagine that each year,  
God invites me to a party.  
God drops me a note that says,  
“No gifts, casual dress.  
Come just as you are.”  
I like to imagine that I am  
brave enough to go.  
I like to imagine that I decide  
that I am worth it.  
This was no pity invite,  
There is no obligatory postage.  
God wants me there.  
So I get myself together,  
Smudged glasses,  
sensitive ego,  
wrinkled shirt, and all.  
I ring the doorbell a few  
minutes late  
on account of the fact that  
I lost my keys twice trying  
to get out the door,  
And I almost turn back  
to hide in my car,  
Afraid that I might  
embarrass myself  
over appetizers or small talk.  
But then God answers the door,  
And God says, “You’re here!”  
And I smile, because I am.  
And with every step  
past that threshold,  
I know that God is  
cheering me on.  
It’s the pride of a parent  
watching their child  
take their first step.  
If I freeze, God is not  
disappointed.  
If I fall, God is not mad.  
But if I trust the invitation,  
If I move closer,  
I know, God celebrates.  
Friends, you’ve got mail.  
It’s an invitation to dust  
off your shoes,  
To go deeper,  
To trust that you’re worth it,  
To lose your keys and your faith,  
And then to find them both,

along with your worth.  
You are invited.  
We are invited.  
Again and again and again.

**This invitation is for you.**



## 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 and still listen to the 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!



My Friends,

St. Melbourne's United church suggested today that we "take up Lent" rather than give anything up for Lent. I'm down with that. I want to take up as much life as I can. I want to intentionally seek out and celebrate each and every bit of joy I can find, and I intend to do that this Lent. I will be seeking new plant shoots struggling sunward as this thick blanket of snow melts. I will be looking at the trees anxiously waiting to see the tiny green buds clinging to the branches. I will be looking for new life, new joy, fresh meaning, deep purpose and trusting that God is at work even when I cannot see it. It's not something I'm particularly good at, and chances are, neither are you.

Scientists tell us that our brains are hardwired to notice the bad things and to remember them. They tell us that this serves a life-preserving purpose, and although they often speak of ancient saber toothed tigers and how important it was for our ancestors to remember where the tiger's lair was, not to stumble upon it, I want to suggest that this is still important today. We need to remember those places where we are treated in soul-diminishing, painful, hurtful ways, and avoid them. We need to remember those blind corners where it seems far too common for someone to be passing, that we might slow down and approach cautiously. Our brains are hard wired to keep us alive and well. We might forget where we bought that delicious, sweet croissant, and we'll still be OK, but our brains know we need to remember that blind corner or we won't survive.

If we wish to have our eyes open to all the incredible mystery and wonder of life, we need to train our brains to notice it and celebrate it, remember it more deeply. We need to pause and savor the goodness, to let it sink in deeper, that our brains might relax from all the stresses of this life and soak up the goodness. We must intentionally seek out the joy, the beauty, the abundance all around us. We are truly blessed and as such we have this invitation to dwell, to abide in gratitude. Gratitude does not arise naturally, it is developed, like muscle strength, with practice and use.

So this Lent I am committing myself to stretching my gratitude muscle, to flexing it often, and seeing how deeply I might abide in gratitude. I know my tendency is to focus on all the things that are wrong, all the things I miss, all the grief and loss. This is part of who I am, and it's not wrong, but it's not enough. I can live a life that is more balanced, that is more loving, that is more kind, where I am invited to appreciate all the abundance, all the grace, all the love and beauty in my life. I want to keep my mind and my imagination open to the rich possibilities and opportunities that God sprinkles so liberally in all our lives. I want to see them. I want to sift among them and hold fast to the ones which delight my heart, which delight God's heart. The God we know in Jesus Christ is a God of life of love, of abundance and grace. Although we have been through hard times, I want to lift my chin up, and see that God. I hope you'll join me.

*[Jesus] belongs to no age, no race, no creed. When [people] look into his face, they see etched the glory of their own possibilities, and their hearts whisper, "Thank you and thank God!" -Howard Thurman*

Grateful to serve with you,  
Pastor Cyndi



## FARMERS TO FAMILIES FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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.

### BAKING ITEMS

- Cooking oil
- Flour (all purpose, Maseca)
- Baking Soda
- Baking Powder
- Sugar (white, powdered, brown)
- Vanilla

### BREADS/ BREAKFAST FOODS

- Bread, sliced (white/wheat preferred)
- Buns (Hamburger, Hot dog, Brat)
- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Pancake Mix
- Pancake Syrup

### SOUPS/PASTAS/SAUCE

- Soups (all varieties)
- Progresso & Campbells Chunky Broth (chicken, beef, vegetable)
- Ramen noodle soup
- Pasta sauce (marinara and alfredo)
- Pasta (spaghetti, noodles, lasagna etc.)
- Macaroni and cheese
- Tomato Paste/ sauce
- Pizza sauce
- Tortillas (corn/flour)

### DESSERTS

- Cookies
- Jello
- Pudding
- Brownie mix
- Cake mix/ Frosting

### CANNED FOODS

- Canned Vegetables
- Canned meat (chicken, tuna fish, beef, Spam)
- Canned fruit (mandarin oranges, peaches, fruit cocktail, pears)
- Canned Potatoes/ Box Potatoes
- Spaghettios / Raviolios
- Sloppy Joe sauce
- Baked Beans
- Chili Beans / Kidney Beans
- White Kidney Beans (Cannellini)

### BEVERAGES

- Fruit juice (apple, cranberry, grape)
- Hot Cocoa
- Tea
- Coffee

### PERISHABLES

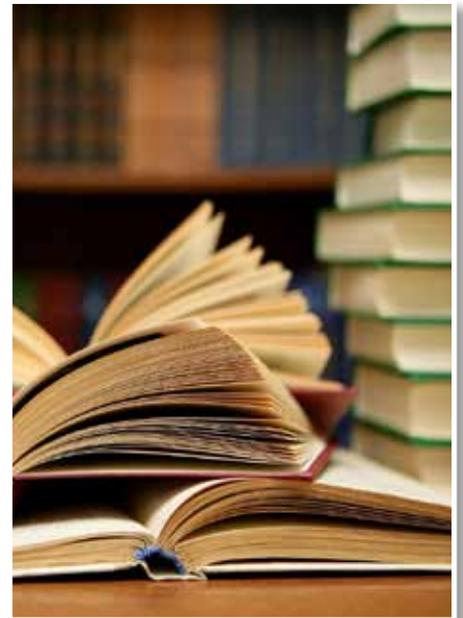
- Fresh Fruit
- Fresh Vegetables
- Butter/ Margarine
- Eggs
- Milk / Dairy products
- Beef
- Pork
- Chicken
- Pizza

### SNACK FOOD

- granola bars
- fruit snacks etc.

### CONDIMENTS

- Pickles
- Mayonnaise
- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Barbeque Sauce
- Salt/Pepper
- Salad dressing (Ranch, Italian, French, Western)
- Canned Mushrooms
- Canned Olives (black, green)



## REACH OUT LODI GENTLY USED BOOKS

Gently used books are available at ROL. Stop by during business hours if you are interested. Donations accepted.

**Family Order Form**

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**Lodi First Presbyterian Church**

See 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

Product	%	QTY	Total	Product	%	QTY	Total	Product	%	QTY	Total
Ace Hardware \$25.00	4%		\$	iTunes® \$25.00	5%		\$	Qdoba Mexican Grill \$25.00	7%		\$
Amazon.com \$25.00	2.5%		\$	JCPenney \$25.00	5%		\$	Quality Inn \$50.00	4%		\$
Applebee's® \$25.00	8%		\$	Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores \$25.00	6%		\$	Red Lobster \$25.00	8%		\$
Arby's \$10.00	8%		\$	Kmart \$25.00	4%		\$	Roundys (IL and WI only) \$100.00	4%		\$
Barnes & Noble \$25.00	8%		\$	Kohl's \$25.00	4%		\$	Roundys (IL and WI only) \$50.00	4%		\$
Bath & Body Works \$25.00	13%		\$	Kwik Trip \$100.00	4%		\$	Sears \$25.00	4%		\$
Bed Bath & Beyond \$25.00	7%		\$	Kwik Trip \$25.00	4%		\$	Sentry \$50.00	3%		\$
Best Buy® \$25.00	4%		\$	Kwik Trip \$50.00	4%		\$	Shopko \$25.00	3%		\$
Best Western International \$25.00	12%		\$	L.L.Bean \$25.00	16%		\$	Shutterfly \$25.00	9%		\$
BP \$50.00	1.5%		\$	Lands' End \$25.00	16%		\$	Speedway \$25.00	4%		\$
Build-A-Bear Workshop \$25.00	8%		\$	Macy's \$25.00	10%		\$	Staples \$25.00	5%		\$
Burger King \$10.00	4%		\$	Marathon \$25.00	3%		\$	Starbucks \$25.00	7%		\$
Cabela's \$25.00	11%		\$	Marcus Theatres \$25.00	9%		\$	Steak 'n Shake \$10.00	8%		\$
Chili's Grill & Bar \$25.00	11%		\$	Menards \$25.00	3%		\$	SUBWAY® Restaurants \$10.00	6%		\$
Comfort Suites \$50.00	4%		\$	Michaels \$25.00	4%		\$	SUBWAY® Restaurants \$50.00	6%		\$
Copps (WI only) \$100.00	4%		\$	Mobil \$50.00	1%		\$	SuperAmerica \$25.00	4%		\$
Copps (WI only) \$50.00	4%		\$	Noodles & Company \$10.00	8%		\$	T.J. Maxx/Marshalls/HomeGoods \$25.00	7%		\$
Cousins Subs \$10.00	9%		\$	Office Depot / Office Max \$25.00	5%		\$	Taco Bell \$10.00	5%		\$
Cracker Barrel \$25.00	8%		\$	Old Chicago \$25.00	6%		\$	Target \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Dairy Queen \$10.00	3%		\$	Olive Garden® \$25.00	7.5%		\$	Texas Roadhouse \$25.00	8%		\$
Dick's Sporting Goods \$25.00	8%		\$	Outback Steakhouse \$25.00	8%		\$	TGI Fridays® \$25.00	9%		\$
Disney \$25.00	3%		\$	Panera Bread \$25.00	8%		\$	Visa® Five Back™ Gift Card \$50.00	1.25%		\$
Domino's \$10.00	8%		\$	Papa Murphy's Pizza \$10.00	8%		\$	Walgreens \$25.00	5%		\$
Dunkin' Donuts \$25.00	3%		\$	PetSmart \$25.00	5%		\$	Walmart \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Family Video \$10.00	12%		\$	Pick 'n Save (WI only) \$100.00	4%		\$	Walmart \$50.00	2.5%		\$
Fandango \$25.00	4%		\$	Pick 'n Save (WI only) \$50.00	4%		\$	Whole Foods Market \$25.00	3%		\$
Festival Foods (WI) - Skogens \$25.00	3%		\$	Pier 1 Imports \$25.00	9%		\$				
Foot Locker \$25.00	8%		\$	Piggly Wiggly (WI, IL only) \$100.00	3%		\$				
GameStop \$25.00	3%		\$	Piggly Wiggly (WI, IL only) \$25.00	3%		\$				
Gap \$25.00	14%		\$	Piggly Wiggly (WI, IL only) \$50.00	3%		\$				
GNC \$25.00	8%		\$	Pizza Hut (Not AK or HI) \$10.00	8%		\$				
Home Depot \$25.00	4%		\$	Pizza Ranch \$25.00	8%		\$				
HomeGoods \$25.00	7%		\$								
Hotels.com \$100.00	6%		\$								

Make Checks Payable To: *Lodi First Presbyterian Church Scrip*

Total Due All Columns:

\$
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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN MARCH!

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

- 3/2 LAUREN SOPHA
- 3/11 BILL HUGHEY
- 3/19 JANET HUGHEY
- 3/20 BAILEY AMMANN
- 3/23 PAM ODORIZZI
- 3/24 SANDRA WENGER
- 3/26 RACHEL WENGER
- 3/29 BRAD MEHLTRETTER

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!  
BIRTHDAY!  
BIRTHDAY!

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Deadline for the **APRIL** Newsletter is **WEDNESDAY, March 17th 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.

February 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

April 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	

# March 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship, 9 a.m. Communion Sunday			Mid-week Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
			Mid-week Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. St. Patrick's Day			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
			Mid-week Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.			
28	29	30	31			
Worship, 9 a.m.			Mid-week Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.			

# HELP RAISE UP TO \$25,000 FOR NONPROFITS IN LODI JUST BY SAVING ENERGY

Register for Lodi's Save to Give Challenge today!

## The Save to Give Challenge is a Win for Your Wallet, a Win for our Nonprofits, and a Win for the Lodi Community!

By changing a few old habits at home, you can reduce your energy bills and help our community raise up to \$25,000 to support local organizations.

## How Saving Energy Supports our Nonprofits

Starting January 25, 2021, you can sign up for the Save to Give Challenge online through Lodi Utilities' MyAccount platform. During two 8-week donation campaigns—one beginning this winter and another in next summer—you can:

- Choose the nonprofit organization you want to support
- View easy ways to save energy in your home
- Earn donation points for your favorite charity with every action you take to save energy at home

**Lodi Save to Give Challenge  
launching in early 2021**

When enough Lodi residents sign up and earn points by saving energy, Reach Out Lodi, Prairie Valley Resale Store, and the Lodi Parent Teacher Organization share the \$25,000 prize money from Focus on Energy!

## Register Today to Show Your Community Support

The Save to Give Challenge's officially starts **January 25th, 2021**.

Register at [myaccount.lodiutilities.org](http://myaccount.lodiutilities.org).

## Want to Learn More?

Call Brady Steigauf at **608.284.1756** or visit [focusonenergy.com/savetogive](http://focusonenergy.com/savetogive) for more information.



**LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW & WHICH NONPROFITS  
YOU CAN SUPPORT ON THE BACK >>>>>>>>>>**



## Choose a Nonprofit to Support when You Save to Give

When you join the Save to Give Challenge, you'll get to support one of the nonprofits below by saving energy and earning points on their behalf.



**Reach Out Lodi's** mission is to provide a safe and welcoming community center where people can gather and a community store that supports individuals and families struggling to provide for their basic living needs.

**Prairie Valley Resale Store** is a 501c3 nonprofit resale store with proceeds going to children's medical needs in Lodi and its surrounding communities. Through the work of dedicated, caring volunteers, this nonprofit store donates all proceeds for the betterment of children in need.

**Lodi Parent Teacher Organization** is a group of parents, community members, and school employees that partner together and support Lodi Schools. The PTO is currently fundraising to finish Heritage Park, located in Lodi Primary School.

## Saving Energy at Home is Easy, and Lodi Charities will Benefit While You Save

During the 8-week donation campaigns, you'll be reminded to do simple things around your home that save energy and to record your progress. By taking any of the winter energy actions below, you can support your chosen nonprofit. The more you save, the more Focus on Energy gives!



**Order a Free Energy-Saving Pack from Focus on Energy**



**Turn off unused electronics**



**Turn off the lights in empty rooms**



**Use power strips and switch them off when not in use**



**Enable power saver modes on computer/TV**



**Order a smart thermostat from Focus on Energy**



**Program thermostat for savings**



**Install LED lighting in your home**



**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  
Bobbie Hanson  
Laurie Fryman

**Class of 2022**

Patty Seiler



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**258 LODI STREET**  
**LODI, WI 53555**

Lodi Presbyterian Church