



CONGRATULATIONS TO
2021 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE -
MEDORA RICHARDS!



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CHURCH
WEBSITE!



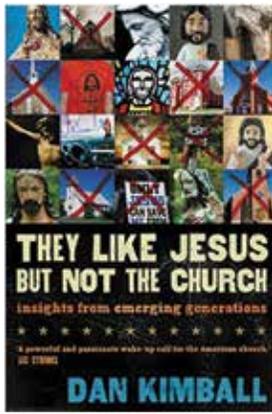
THE ANGEL

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

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

MAY 2021



BOOK STUDY BEGINS!

Dear friends, we know that the way media represents Church isn't always complimentary. We have so many people around us who are unchurched, having never been to any church, and dechurched, having been hurt by the church and left. Most of our evangelism methods were developed in that era when it was expected that 'decent' people would find and attend the church of their choice. More and more we are confronted with a narrative that the church is a place of prejudice and control, of abuse and ideology enforcement. It is sad and difficult that so many people only know Church through the narratives they

see in movies and TV. Many people don't know the gospel story in any meaningful way at all.

As we consider how the Church must change to live, grow, and thrive in this generation, we need to listen deeply to those who don't know Church, or have been hurt by it. We need to hear their concerns and understand where they are coming from and why. We are going to engage in a socially distant, Zoom book study of *They Like Jesus, But Not the Church* by Dan Kimball. Dan wrote this as a young pastor of a conservative evangelical church who realized that he never really engaged with people outside of his own faith circle. He decided to get outside of that circle and really listen to people. What he learned astonished him. It shattered some of his misconceptions about why people don't come to church.

As we look around the sanctuary, we can see that if we fail to reach the next generation, there won't be many of us left in 15-20 years. The Church was entrusted to our hands in an era when it was expected that people would just show up. That isn't the case anymore and Church

is changing. Join us in listening deeply to those who are unchurched and dechurched, in those who aren't attending Church, but who love Jesus.

We have ordered books, and when they arrive we will announce the dates of the book study.

LODI HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Lodi High School graduation will be held Sunday, May 30 in the school stadium, with 4 people per graduate allowed to attend. There will also be virtual viewing of the graduation ceremony.

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Dear friends in Christ,

Shakespeare wrote, “To sleep, perchance to dream. Ay, there’s the rub” about a man who wished to experience the peace of sleep but dreaded his dreams which disturbed him. If I were to re-write this sentiment for the modern day church it might be, “To grow and flourish, perchance to change. Ay, there’s the rub.” Every church I know of wishes to grow and have that lovely experience of a full, boisterous sanctuary with voices raised in praise and worship, but...growth means change, and we are so in love with our memories of what was, that change too often feels like loss.

We miss our choirs with their robes and the traditional hymns. We miss our fellowship hour with the cookies and Folgers coffee. We miss our church picnics and full Sunday school classes. Change brings a lot of loss and our desire to recapture what was can be so strong. All of us have memories of when things were different, and we often long for those days.

The pandemic has brought with it a great deal of change. Some of that has been really good. We had 141 unique viewers of last Sunday’s worship service. This means 141 different computers, (IP addresses) logged on sometime in the last 4 days. Our ability to spread the good news and share with people who we are as church and invite them to worship with us has grown considerably. We experienced a multi-church bible study in the presbytery, one where different pastors, church leaders, and others shared their experience and insights. With our virtual communications, we are now able to include people who are physically unable to make it to church. Snow days are no more! During the polar vortex we only had two people join us in the sanctuary, but so many of you joined us online.

None of this is perfect though. Change not only opens up opportunities, it is difficult and comes with struggles and glitches. It is easier and more comfortable to keep doing what we’ve been doing than to try to work into something new, knowing that the learning curve might be steep and we will have failures along the way. The problem with doing what we’ve always done, is that we will get the same results we have been getting for 50 years, diminishing numbers in worship and a struggle to evangelize the next generation. As we look around the sanctuary, we can see that if we keep doing what we’ve been doing, with no change, then our days are limited.

Embracing change is so difficult. All of us have many “shoulds” and “musts” when we think about what worship and Church life ought to be. The incredibly stressed out and overworked generation that is coming of age is telling us that, given their limited energy and resources, Church isn’t a top priority. It isn’t changing their lives for the better. As much as we want to say that it “should,” the truth is, it isn’t. We need to ask why and what we can do, for we know that the message of Jesus Christ can and will change lives.

Embracing change means leaving our nets and our familiar way of being to follow Jesus Christ. It means letting go of our traditional ways of being. It means being willing to make mistakes, fall down, and get up to try again. It means walking into a future and a way of being Church together that we aren't really comfortable with, and loving our neighbor enough to be uncomfortable. It means being gentle with ourselves as we try different ways of being Church. It means not insisting on our own preferences, but instead seeing that something larger than us is at work in our church.

We will miss our glory days. Bruce Springsteen was right about that, but it can't be helped. We no longer live in the 1950's or 70's. It absolutely takes two incomes to keep a family afloat and Sunday mornings are not reserved for worship. Wednesday evenings have been lost to other things. The people who come and sit in our pews, if we are lucky, will have very different experiences than our own. What we do know about those who take a chance on us, is that they are among those who very much want to experience God in their lives, and they are willing to give of their limited time and resources to be with us. In this is a deep blessing. May we have the courage and the wisdom to release the past and receive the blessing that is offered to us.

Grateful to serve with you,
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.

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.

- 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.

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!

Your Session



FARMERS TO FAMILIES

NEW SCHEDULE FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

Reach Out Lodi has partnered with Second Harvest Food bank 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.

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.

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.



SINGING & FELLOWSHIP

Please know that session is aware that many of you desire a return to singing during church and fellowship thereafter. Session is monitoring the situation and will be discussing this on Wednesday the 28th.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Every aspect of Christian discipleship can be defined in terms of stewardship. Thus worship is stewardship of the faith God has given us. Worship in its fullest sense is our response to and expression of that gift. It is more than a weekend obligation. It's the stewardship of our relationship with God, creature connecting with Creator, the giving of ourselves to God through praise, prayer, and acts of commitment.

A life given back to God as an offering is what stewardship is all about. Stewardship is not about money it is about life itself. Time and life are far greater treasures than money and possessions.

Luke 12:33-34

12: 33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroy.

12:34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Picnic with... The Trippers Lite Band



We are excited to welcome back...the Trippers!

Tuesday May 11th, 5:30 pm

Reach Out Lodi will offer a Picnic Style meal. Our picnic will be followed at 6:00 pm outdoors with entertainment by the Trippers. The band offers a large variety of music including gospel, old country, bluegrass and folk.

We ask all picnic goers to continue to wear a mask when not eating. Please bring your own folding chairs. We will help you with your chairs.

Come for food, fun and the Trippers!

Reservations must be made before May 11.

Call ROL at 592-4592 for reservations or questions.

Rain date: Wednesday May 12, same time and place.

Free will offering.



601 Clark Street
Lodi, Wisconsin
608-592-4592



HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN MAY!

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

- 5/5 VONDA LEE SCHMIDT
- 5/6 LINDA JACOBSON
- 5/10 ERIK DACHEL
- 5/11 JEFF LECKWEE
- 5/13 CODY MULCAHY
- 5/20 MIKAYLA DACHEL
- 5/26 LORI HARRENSTEIN
- 5/28 RICH RINDLE

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!
BIRTHDAY!
BIRTHDAY!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Deadline for the **JUNE** Newsletter is **WEDNESDAY, May 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 or leave it on the desk in the church office.

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	

June 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			

May 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Worship, 9 a.m.			Mid-week Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Worship, 9 a.m. Mother's Day			Mid-week Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.			Armed Forces Day
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Worship, 9 a.m.			Newsletter Deadline, 9:00 a.m. Mid-week Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Worship, 9 a.m.			Mid-week Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.			
30	31					
Worship, 9 a.m.	Memorial Day					

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