



# First Press Magazine

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## From Pastor Laurie

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection, at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see. --Natalie Sleeth*

We may have sung this Easter hymn before, titled “In the Bulb There Is a Flower/ Hymn of Promise,” but after surviving this calamitous pandemic year of endings, doubt, and death unknown to us in our lifetime, the promise of resurrection feels more urgent than ever.

Doesn't the birdsong this Spring sound sweeter than we remembered? After a year of learning how to do just about everything differently, God has revealed new truths about who we are and who God is calling us to become. Some hard ones. Blazing trails is difficult work—wouldn't we rather follow our well-worn, familiar paths? The Bible tells us, this hard work is what grows our spirits the most. And some heartening, life-giving truths you will get to taste and see in this issue.

As you read, take a moment to breathe in the fragrance of Divine Love and grace leading us forward, showing us the way. Consider each of these articles, stories, and pictures as bulbs in God's garden, absolutely unique—one of a kind and never before, yet together drawn by Christ, into this new season, that God alone can see. Reopening is on the horizon: a chance to bloom and blossom as never before.



# First



# Press

The Magazine of First Presbyterian Church — Marshfield

Spring 2021





# Beginnings



**Jade Marie Luchterhand** was born to **Nicole and Jeremy Luchterhand** and **big brother Braxton** on February 2, 2021.



**Lillian King Badillo** was born to **Emily (Davis) and Matthew Badillo** and **big Sister Isabel** on February 8, 2021. She is the granddaughter of Pastor Laurie & Bob Davis.



**Bob & Kristine Johaneck**, long-time Marshfield residents, are coming back to FPC-Marshfield from FPC-Abbotsford. They have three children: Paul, who lives in the Minneapolis area; Steven, who lives in Stevens Point; and Sarah, who lives and teaches in Wauwatosa. Bob is ostensibly retired, but still teaches music part-time at Holy Rosary School in Medford. Kristine is a retired music teacher, and spends her time substitute teaching, volunteering, and enjoying being home. They look forward to fellowship and worship here at First Presbyterian Church.



## Holy Week

### \*March 28 Palm/Passion Sunday – The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem – Hosanna!

9:30 a.m. Recorded Service with Special Music: Chancel Choir Anthem & Handbell Hosanna

Pick up your palms at the drive-thru portico from Thurs – Sun (3/25-3/28) and optional Holy Week box

### April 1 Maundy Thursday – The Last Supper –

*Do this in remembrance of me.*

7:00 p.m. Recorded Service with Zoom drama, “Living Last Supper”: See 12 of our FPC members portray the 12 disciples as each ponders the question, “Lord, is it I?” followed by Holy Communion

### April 2 Good Friday – The Crucifixion – *It is finished.*

12:00 p.m. Recorded Service, Coordinated by Janet Wolfe, Reading of the Passion According to Mark, Special instrumental music and a solo by Mark Nelson

### APRIL 4 – RESURRECTION OF THE LORD/EASTER –

*Hallelujah! Christ is Risen!*

#### 7:00 – 7:30 a.m. Early Outdoor Worship -LIVE

(from your cars) in our parking lot. Rain, Snow, Wind, or Shine — it’s happening! Tune your car radio to hear Pastor Laurie and instrumentalists by shortwave transmitter. See the Christ candle lit. Sing and celebrate communion (from your cars) .

#### 9:30 a.m. Recorded Service with Chancel Choir Anthem & Low Brass Quartet

- Dedication of our One Great Hour of Sharing Offering  
- Celebration of Holy Communion

*\*10 worshippers will be welcomed to the Saturday, 10:00 a.m. live recordings of these Sunday Services. Contact the church office for details.*

## Green Team - Faith in Action

As of January, our Church has been certified as an Earth Care Congregation for 2021. It’s been amazing to read about all the ways in which we Presbyterians are good stewards of creation. Going forward, we will continue to promote our commitment to earth care by using some newer versions of the Earth Care Congregation logos.

Find a listing of all Earth Care Congregations at [www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations](http://www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations). Look for the certificate affirming our status as an Earth Care Congregation in the east entry to the church. Upon receiving our certification, the Green Team also took time to update its mission statement which is included here.

We all wish to thank each of you for everything you do to help us grow and reach our commitments.

Peace.



### Green Team Mission Statement First Presbyterian Church Marshfield (Revised 1/2021)

Recognizing that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church declared “Restoring Creation as a central concern of the church to be incorporated into its life and mission at every level,” we commit:

- To inspire members to respond as humble stewards of God’s gift of Creation, protecting and restoring it for its own sake and for the future use and enjoyment of all creatures
- To provide members with information and educational resources to preserve God’s Creation
- To network with neighboring congregations and community organizations to promote stewardship of God’s Creation.
- To incorporate tender care for God’s Creation throughout the FPC community, including our worship services, educational programs, outreach and service to the community and the building and grounds.

## Faith Stories Mike Schulein



St. Catherine’s Catholic Church was across the street and one block down from Mike’s grandfather’s house. At four or five years old, Mike would hold his grandfather’s hand, cross the street, and sit beside him in the pew. That pew afforded Mike a view of his grandfather believing in something very important to him, and taught him what it means to walk one’s faith. It had something to do with Jesus and the church, and it was special to Mike because it was special to his grandfather. The bond tightened in the months after the death of Mike’s grandmother, but it was not enough to keep his grandfather from following her soon after. Mike’s family moved into the house after his passing, granting easy access to St. Catherine’s. His grandfather had been the connection to the church. Now the church was the connection to his grandfather.

Following in the footsteps of his grandfather’s faith, Mike heard stories of the kindness of his grand-

father, his contribution to the church and community, in spite of very limited financial means. The Catholic school guided him in those first steps, but when questions about doctrine arose, Mike discovered that there was no meaningful difference between the kindness of his grandfather and his own capacity for kindness. The path across the street that he walked hand-in-hand with his grandfather is the path his still walks.

The path is not always easy. Mike struggles to remain kind in the face of cruelty, and he acknowledges little control in when and toward whom his caring is directed. Being task-focused can get in the way of stopping, stepping back, and allowing a bigger picture to take shape. In that big picture, Mike says, “we are loved and loving,” but the second follows the first. We must experience love to become loving. For Mike, the more that experienced love is grounded in ultimacy, in divine awe, the more we manifest our true nature. Good news that still guides his path.



# A History

by Mark T. Nelson



Friends, this pandemic has caused us pain in so many ways. It has also opened our eyes in a unique way to see the suffering of others, to see the importance of taking care of one another. In our community and across a world ravaged by global pandemic, hunger, injustice, and war, we now see more clearly what we are called to do. During this past year, we've all seen remarkable, heart-warming examples of people doing the right thing to help during the pandemic.

The **One Great Hour of Sharing** special offering was a response to a world wide problem of another time. After the global tragedy of World War II, in 1946, Bishop Henry Knox Sherrill of the Episcopal church sought to raise money for World Relief. He recruited other denominations to join the cause. On nationwide radio in 1948, he challenged his Christian brothers and sisters to raise "one million dollars in one hour." And they did!

The effort continued the following year. On Saturday, March 26, 1949 at 10 p.m. EST all major

radio networks broadcast a show, called "One Great Hour". The broadcast featured President Truman and popular musicians and actors of the time supporting the appeal. The show closed with a request that listeners attend their local church the following morning and make a sacrificial contribution. While the amount of funds raised is not recorded, an estimated 75,000 churches participated that day.

In times of need, people step up to answer the call. Our eyes have been opened to the world's needs during this pandemic. I urge you to consider prayerfully what you are being called to do. And I hope you will participate generously in **One Great Hour of Sharing** during this season of lent. Either go to the FPC giving site, <https://www.fpcmarshfield.org/donate/> and click on the **One Great Hour of Sharing** button or return the special offering envelope to the church office with your contribution. The offering will be dedicated during our Easter worship on April 4.



## Close-up Dan Kayhart

Dan grew up on a farm in Chili, WI. To counter teen-age boredom, his mom signed him up for piano lessons with her friend, the organist of the tiny Methodist church they attended. The church in Chili was like a family. Dan remembers, "People were always helping each other and helping the community, and making you feel included." His piano teacher encouraged him to play during offertories, grounding his musical voice in the church's ministry of inclusion and belonging.

In high school, Dan added trombone to his musical toolbox, subsequently deciding to pursue music education at Stevens Point. During college, he found a church and joined the praise band. Student teaching in Oconomowoc, WI, where he had no church home, Dan felt the pull to return to music ministry. After college and marriage to his wife, Beth, he moved to Ellsworth, WI, where he was the high school band director. The ELCA Lutheran church,

where he accompanied the choir, provided a home once again for his ministry of music.

Dan and Beth moved their family to Marshfield in 2012 when Dan took a job in the IT department at Marshfield Clinic. Leaving a musical career for the business world as well as the Ellsworth church home, Dan once again felt the pull of music ministry. He and Beth looked around for a new church home, but it was not until FPC member, Julie Hitz, invited him to apply for choir accompanist, that they found this congregation. FPC connects him with the tradition that started way back in Chili, WI.

For Dan, music is a spiritual conduit. It elicits a response that is emotional and connective, drawing us closer to God and each other. A balance between control and surrender creates a vulnerability to his own emotional response that risks the stray note once in a while. Dan worries that they ruin the moment, but it is in taking the risk that the moment is created. We are grateful for Dan's ministry of music.

# BLAZING TRAILS

The seven words we Presbyterians are often known for is "We've never done it like this before." This past year we have had to do things we have never done before like online worship and inventing brand new ways to connect meaningfully and safely. And we have blazed those new trails boldly and bravely.

As the threat of the virus appears to be receding, we face the challenge of how to safely resume physical gathering in our beautiful church building. With guidelines from the CDC, Winnebago Presbytery and the WI Council of Churches, Session has devised a phased re-opening that proceeds from the forms of worship we have created over the past year.

## Phase One

Starting **March 13th** and continuing through **April 10th** (the Sunday after Easter), worship will

We sent our intrepid reporter, **Bob "Scoop" Davis**, to get the story on our trail blazing Creating Connections Team. We think you will enjoy what he discovered!



In 1985, Bob Dylan recorded "Tight Connection to My Heart," a song that's puzzled his fans for years. Is it a love song? A break-up song? A protest anthem? Well, now we know. It's the perfect soundtrack for a new outreach ministry at FPC called, "**Creating Connections.**"

This group of nine members has worked in tandem with the Deacons over the past year to respond to the social distancing and isolation of the pandemic. Their goal has been to find ways to strengthen church community when we can't meet face to face.

And what they came up with is surprising and fun: painting rocks with hopeful messages and



Christmas ornaments ready for Santa's sleigh!

scattering them around Marshfield, creating a Puzzle Library, launching a soup ministry, even organizing a Virtual Narthex for on-line coffee hours. In addition, they've made Advent Wreaths and paper Christmas ornaments and delivered gift bags for Thanksgiving and Valentine's Day.

Many of the projects respond to urgent physical and spiritual needs of church members. But there's a sense of playfulness and laughter here too—which may be just what we need to make it through a long winter, especially when someone drives off the road delivering gift bags and gets stuck in the Zittlemans' ditch, as Tracy (continued on next page)



Jennifer Anderson readies the Valentine's bags



(continued from previous page)

Olson did. ("Marshfield is really committed to its ditches," Carmen Lawler noted.)



Adele Heller and Janet Singer assembling the Valentine's gift bags

Going forward, the Creating Connections team hopes to build on its success and continue to experiment with ways of extending "church" beyond the four walls of the building. Tracy has organized a team of Tech Buddies to help church members use on-line technologies. Nicole Johnson is excited about using a map she created to help church members living in the same

neighborhood get together for block parties and picnics. Ideas from the team spark off like firecrackers and the enthusiasm they feel for the church and one another is inspiring.

"I hear a voice crying in the wilderness," Dylan wrote in "Tight Connection."

"Has anybody seen my love?" That's the goal of this ministry, to make love visible—painted on rocks, stirred into soup, folded into a Christmas ornament, or tucked in a treat bag with a handwritten card.



Tracy Olson has a bag for everyone!

## Blazing Trails in Discovery Time



*For it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.* (Mark 10:14) This is what Jesus told his disciples who were shooing the children away when they thought it was "Discovery Time" with Jesus. It turns out the kiddos were right. "Discovery Time" in our worship each Sunday, in their wonderfully unscripted spontaneous encounters with scripture, enliven our spirits and our worship like nothing else can. This was a discovery for me, as your Pastor—just how important this small piece of the service is for all of us.

After a summer of services with just Bunny and me, thanks to the Holy Spirit working through one of our moms, we found a safe way for our children once again to be present. One family at a time, with masks on and socially distanced from me. From there, all bets were off once again. You can see a small sampling of our recent Discovery Times pictured right here: **Emmett, Emma, Elsa, Nathan, Samuel, Julia, James, and Alice.** Deep thanks to all the families who have been able to bring their children to participate—this is a wonderful gift to all of us.



If you missed one, or need a quick spirit lift: Discovery Times, as a stand-alone piece, are just two clicks away. Go to our FPC website under the "Learn" tab and tap into the wellspring of inspiration that our children have given us. Truly, it *is* to such as these and all of our FPC children that the kingdom of God belongs.

--Pastor Laurie

## Insights from weeks 1-5

FPC member, **Jennifer Anderson**, shares the insights gained from the **United Way of Wisconsin—21 Week Equity challenge.**

I have connected deeply with three of these lessons. The first is that race is a social construct. Just because it's "made up" doesn't give us permission to ignore it, though. It is difficult to talk about race, so we try to avoid speaking about it. Some adopt an "I don't see color" mantra. Antiracism facilitator, Jen Willsea, says colorblindness is a form of internalized racial superiority. My discomfort doesn't give me

### Definitions:

- **race** — a social construction
- **privilege** — the unearned benefits of membership in a group that has structural or institutional power
- **stereotypes** — broad, oversimplified assumptions made about all members of a particular group
- **internalized racism** — internalization of inferiority by the racially subordinated or superiority by the racially empowered.

permission to ignore whichever vital qualities of a person I choose. It is important to work hard to see People Of Color for who they are, including what they have experienced because of their skin color.

The second takeaway was the Privilege quiz from Week Two. We fear that admitting our privilege denies the fact that we worked hard and faced our own challenges. This fear causes us to be defensive. It is a major roadblock in achieving equity. Our privilege and our struggles both are real. The Equity Challenge asks us to think through our privileges and struggles to see how they make us complex people. Embracing my privilege without shame, without

## Did You Know?



Our church family's combined contributions to the annual **CE Christmas/Winter Mission Project** resulted in **\$1,674** of livestock and other supplies being purchased to help those in need around the world. Gifts including pairs of goats, family of chickens, piglets, a cow, beekeeping supplies, art education, and sewing supplies were chosen from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. Such generosity in these challenging times inspired the Presbyterian Mission Agency to reach out with gratitude for our congregation's continued support.

United Way  
of Wisconsin



invalidating my own struggles, helps me to see the multidimensionality of others, and resist stereotyping.

Last is internalized racism, and it has effected me personally. I see it play out

daily in my adopted Black son's life. He will make racist comments about himself or other Black people without even knowing the damage that they are doing to his self-worth. At school, Black kids are socially rewarded for granting permission to the popular white kids to use the N-word. I fight this evil every day to keep him emotionally healthy.

I pray that we learn to hear both the blatant racism and the subtle micro-aggressions for the lies that they are, and for the courage to confront them directly.



Jennifer and her family have a longtime commitment to addressing need in our community. They were the drive chairs for the 2018 United Way Fundraising drive.