



# First Press Magazine

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First Presbyterian Church  
200 S Lincoln Ave  
Marshfield, WI 54449

Phone: 715-384-2484  
E-mail: [pastor@fpcmarshfield.org](mailto:pastor@fpcmarshfield.org)  
Website: [fpcmarshfield.org](http://fpcmarshfield.org)  
Editor: Dan Crump

## FOLLOW JESUS THROUGHOUT HIS LAST WEEK AND BEYOND Holy Week Schedule of Worship at FPC

- Sunday April 2** 9:30 A.M. Palm/Passion Sunday ~ Jesus' Final Entry into Jerusalem  
*Where are you headed?*  
Palms for Everyone! Palm Procession, Children's Choir, Chancel Choir
- Thursday April 6** 7:00 P.M. Maundy Thursday ~ Jesus' Last Supper  
*Lord, are you going to wash my feet?*  
Chancel Choir, Holy Communion, Stripping of the Chancel
- Friday April 7** 12:00 P.M. Good Friday – Community Service at FPC  
*Why have you forsaken me?*  
Faith Lutheran, Good Shepherd Lutheran, FPC Arpin & FPC Marshfield  
Reading of the Passion, Prayers, Hymns and Soloists
- Sunday April 9** 9:30 A.M. Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Sunday!  
*Who are you looking for?*  
With the Courtyard Lighting & Procession of the Christ Candle,  
Children's Choir, Handbells, Chancel Choir, Trombone Ensemble, Holy Communion  
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Dedicated



# First



# Press

The Magazine of First Presbyterian Church — Marshfield

Spring 2023



seeking:  
honest questions  
for deeper faith

# Beginnings

## New Members



**David & Nancy Vance** moved to Marshfield in 2013. They have three adult children: **John** in Arizona, **Emily** in Connecticut and **Ryan** in Chipewa Falls. Nancy works for the University of Wisconsin as Clark County Educator, focusing on the thriving of seniors in community, and Dave is a retired professor with multiple skills and interests.



**Pamela Smith** was born and raised in Spencer, WI. Pam worked in healthcare for 39 years until retirement. She has two adult children, **Zachary** who lives in Spencer and **Meghan**, who lives in Austin, Minnesota.



**Dominic & Kristina Kaiser** have returned to Marshfield after twenty years in the Boston area. They have four children: **Josette** (14), **Robert** (13), **Arisa** (10) and **Jude** (6). Kristina is a pastor/spiritual director with the Foundry Spiritual Center; and Dom is the Sr. Devops Engineer for the Therapeutic Research Center.



**Dana & Jeff Talsness** moved to Marshfield from Utah in 2021 for Dana's job as a Geneticist at Prevention Genetics. They have two children: **Olen** (5) and **Leif** (3). Jeff is working as the at-home parent. He recently completed a sauna in their backyard and enjoys cooking. Together they enjoy doing anything outside and they share a passion for climate action.



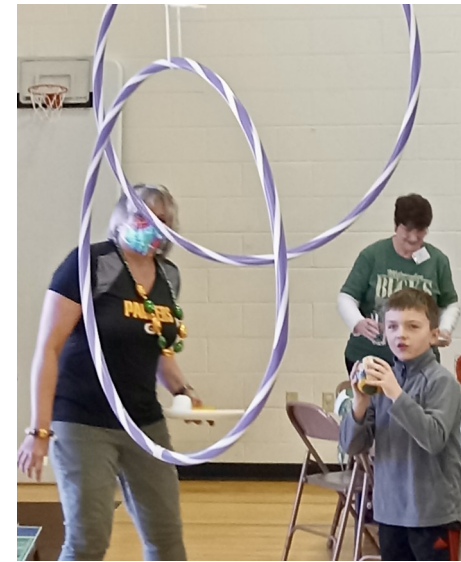
**Leon Matthias Kowalski** born February 18, 2023 to parents, Chad and Lisa Kowalski

Leon gave us our first opportunity to use the new baby announcement banner made by **Kathy Phillips**. Watch for the banner to share the happy news with our newest parents!



# Everybody's Birthday! (Tailgate Edition)

**Everybody's Birthday Party** returned this year after being canceled due to the pandemic. The theme was Tailgate party and everyone was encouraged to wear their favorite team sportswear. As usual, the Deacon's worked their magic. The food was delicious, the games were fun, and the decorations were off the chart! Three Cheers to everyone who made this event GREAT!



## Faith Stories

Kristina grew up in the Christian tradition, but it was the music of Christian love, she says, that laid the earliest foundation. Kristina, the oldest, and her three sisters would listen to cassettes and joyfully take the songs out to the swing set to learn the harmonies.

Moving between Marshfield and Indiana for several years, the family settled in Marshfield when Kristina was in the eighth grade. She was a madrigal at MHS when a young love broke her heart. Tears and sad poetry filled most of a year until a friend told her she didn't have to be sad all the time. He led her to Jesus and she prayed "the sinner's prayer." In that moment, she awakened to find an acceptance that was unearned and a joy that was unconditional.

Reading the Bible with new eyes, she found that most of it was about God's love, not just the divine judgment that she had been taught. Attending her friend's church, she saw one person kneeling, one person with raised hands, and one person jump-

## Kristina Kaiser

ing up and down. One God, yes, but a multitude of uniquely personal ways to respond. Kristina began paying attention to how God might be calling her into such a personal conversation.

Kristina and her husband, Dominic, moved to Boston to seek a master's degree in Opera, but the prospects for earning a living were limited. In 2006, she answered the call to ministry. In 2010, she started and pastored a new church, but chasing the typical metrics of success eventually made her miserable. Success had to be defined as awakening to joy or it meant nothing. Now living once more in Marshfield, Kristina has nearly completed a doctorate in Spiritual Direction. Her thesis project deals with awakened joy, an unlimited presence of being, if you will, the very presence of God.

Church has always become a family in the past. Kristina hopes that deep friendship, trust, and building a communal life together will also develop here at FPC.

# Green Team—Faith in Action

The Green Team supports the **NO MOW MAY** initiative on behalf of our pollinators awakening from hibernation. Marshfield's City Council is discussing the idea of suspending the city's weed enforcement from May 1 to May 31. During the month of May, we urge you to avoid mowing, mow high, or pick a patch of your yard where dandelions, creeping Charlie, violets and daisies can produce a pollen banquet for the hungry pollinators emerging in the spring.



When June comes and the grass is high, mowing high a few times should take care of it.

Watch for **NO MOW** or **HIGH MOW** signs coming soon to a narthex near you. These will help explain to your neighbors what you and your lawn are up to while you avoid mowing for a bit. Thanks to **Olen** and **Judy** for the awesome artwork. The bees will be so grateful!



## Close-up

### Ken Zittleman

Ken was baptized in Neillsville at the Congregational Church and attended Congregational churches in Spring Valley and Menomonie. His folks purchased a store in Colfax, WI, and they called the Methodist church home where Ken was confirmed. Everywhere since, Ken has always had a church home and usually found a spot in the choir at each.

After teaching for a year in Barron, WI, Ken moved to St. Croix Falls where he met and married the love of his life, Norma. Seeking a middle ground between his Methodist roots and her Lutheran ones, they landed at the Presbyterian church. When school superintendent transferred to Marshfield, he was quick to bring Ken and Norma with him. They moved here in 1965 and joined FPC shortly afterward. Ken has been singing in the choir ever since.

The church gave Ken direction whenever he had to make a decision. Not much of a Bible reader,

Ken holds to requirement in Micah 6:8, "to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God." He is proud of how his church lives that command in how it engages in the wider community. His hope is that the church is able to continue the work it is doing without stretching anyone too thin.

When Ken and Norma's daughter, Karen, recently passed from a long illness, his faith was there to support him. Faith allows him to accept the things that happen and to respond as God would have him. He tries to be slow to judge people although he has to ask forgiveness from time to time. It helped him be a better teacher by being able to listen to his students and understand some the difficulties they were going through. Faith isn't about redemption or forgiveness. It is about the support of a community of people who come together to be accountable to each other because it is the right thing to do.

**Lent** is an old word meaning "spring season." It took on significance for early Christians as the time leading up to the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus, a time marked by fasting. Around the 4th century CE, church fathers set the date for Easter and formalized the practice of abstaining from meat, dairy, and alcohol for 40 days before Easter to commemorate Jesus' 40 day fast in the wilderness.

We here at FPC do not fast during lent. In fact, you could say we do the opposite with our delicious Lenten supper tradition, only just restored with the receding pandemic. But there is a sense that our observation of lent calls us to give up *something*.

Our Lenten theme this year is "**Seeking: honest questions for a deeper faith.**" Honest seeking is only possible by admitting that we do not have what it is we seek, honest questions are only possible by admitting we do not know their answers.

"**A Sanctified Art**" ([sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)) is a ministry created in 2016 by a team of pastors and artists to integrate creativity into spiritual practice. We have employed their gifts in past liturgical seasons, and have turned to them to help us "fast" from our assumptions and certainties. Their questions have shaped our worship, our Wednesday night Lenten programs, and the devotional booklet featuring reflections from our own talented church members (don't forget to pick up a copy in the narthex!).



"Who sinned, this man or his parents that he was born blind?"

"**Who will you listen to?**" comes from the temptations in Eden's garden and Jesus' desert trial.

"**How do we begin again?**" comes from Abram's sending and Nicodemus' born again query.

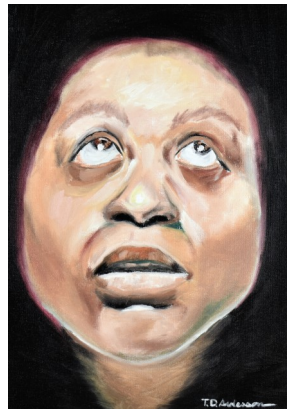
"**Where are you headed?**" contrasts Jesus' and Pilate's simultaneous entries into Jerusalem.

"**Who are you looking for?**" joins Mary Magdalene in the empty tomb.

# seeking: honest questions for deeper faith



"Which parade would you follow? Jesus or Pilate?"



"Why do you weep? Who do you want?"



Many thanks to **Kathy Phillips** who made the new Lenten communion table paraments. Much symbolism is woven into the piece. Purple/repentance, gray/ashes, tan/desert, knotted twine/discord in relationships, stones/sin.

Some of the questions feel restorative ("Can these bones live?"). Some feel like a charge or challenge ("Who will you listen to?"). Some reflect hope and curiosity (How do we begin again?). They don't lead to answers, but they can help us find clarity in a mystery that never stops growing.

This Lenten season holds the promise of a safe space to explore — to be drawn into the fullness of life, into the heart of God.

"What waits to be found?"

Presenting!



On Valentine's Day 2023 at 1:00 pm, Dave Meyer and Nancy Hinds were joined in marriage. Pastor Laurie Brubaker Davis officiated the service, and Pam Gotto and Gil Nimm bore witness. Gil also doubled as "Best Man" (the holder of the rings).

Dave and Nancy plan to attend the Spring Investigating Church Membership class and become members.

### Our Online Worshipers



Dottie Krohn joins the passing of the peace online in spite of a stuffed nose thanks to our online worship program. Thanks to all who make this ministry possible!

# "Did you hear that Pastor Laurie is going on sabbatical this summer?"

by Pastor Laurie Brubaker Davis



This is a first for me. My first chance to go on sabbatical since I was ordained to serve as a "Minister of the Word and Sacrament" back in 1992. And I have learned it is a first for you, FPC, too. Together we will embark on this new experience this summer, from May 30 to August 28. You may be wondering why your pastor should be given three months away from "active duty." You may be asking, "if this isn't just another word for long vacation, what is a sabbatical for a pastor and a congregation?" And what good could come from thirteen weeks apart?

you have not had the opportunity to hear from before, others not in a long while! Look forward to sermons from: your former Pastor Mary Pol, David Lautenschlager (yes, Bruce and Nadene's son), Kerri Parker (Wisconsin Council of Churches), David Colby (Winnebago Presbytery General Presbyter), Rosangela Berbert (Executive Director of the Samaritan Counseling Center), and Kristina Kaiser (new member and certified pastor). We will publish the full roster once it is fully in place.



MATTHEW 25



Since we are a Matthew 25 church and an Earth Care Congregation, my sabbatical will focus on our commitments to dismantle structural racism and to Earth Care. I pray it will help to incubate wisdom and "fearless discipleship" for me, for us as FPC Marshfield, and for Winnebago Presbytery. Our church and our presbytery are situated on land that was home to three First Nation peoples: the Ojibwe, Menominee, and Ho-Chunk.

As Presbyterians, our native lands were on the green moors of Scotland and in the shadow of the alps in Geneva, Switzerland. I plan to spend time in Scotland, Switzerland, and even more time camping here in Wisconsin (all with my husband, Bob). I look forward to studying and connecting to the land, the people, and the core spiritualities I am convinced we share and will lead us forward as we seek to be the hands and feet of Christ here in Marshfield.

As Thomas Merton famously prayed, "My dear God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end." While we cannot know all that God will reveal in these three months, I look forward to what we cannot possibly anticipate.

"Sabbaticals provide breathing space, a chance for batteries to recharge and for creativity and inspiration to be refilled. We know this helps both pastor and congregation to stay fresh and able to focus on the gains made over the years and to think about future goals."  
David Colby, Winnebago General Presbyter

To learn more about the "why" and the "what" of my sabbatical, plan to attend worship on Sunday April 16, the Sunday after Easter. I will preach a sermon that addresses these questions both biblically and practically, and afterwards, I will lead a Forum for All in the Parlor that will give me a chance to go into greater detail about my sabbatical project and travel itinerary. The Forum will be an opportunity for you to ask questions. And for you to consider getting involved in my sabbatical project, before and after my return.

The sabbatical brings emotional, intellectual and spiritual renewal, a time to gain new perspectives and return with new insights and energy. The congregation benefits from a renewed pastor who brings insights to the mission and a spark to the work.  
Sue Buck, Winnebago Presbytery Moderator

Our Sabbatical Work Group has already lined up an exciting series of preachers, some of whom

### Did you know?

**HOLY COW!!** And then some! Contributions to the Christian Education Winter Mission Project funded the purchase of an entire dairy cow, a pair of goats, one piglet, AND six families of chickens through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. What a blessing to be able to share our abundance with those in need across the globe!



FPC Youth once again gave everyone the opportunity to contribute to the Souper Bowl of Caring collection on Super Bowl Sunday. They strategically positioned themselves around the narthex after the worship service on Super Bowl Sunday and received all sorts of donations: loud, quiet, small, large, and edible. In total, \$650 and 2 cans of chili were passed along to Soup or Socks.



The Second Annual WINTER WIPEOUT product drive collected paper products, cleaning supplies, and craft items for Companion Day Services and Marshfield Area Respite Care. Eight boxes of supplies were delivered on March 7, 2023, and not a moment too soon. The bath tissue went straight from the box to the bathroom!



Thanks to all who helped with the FPC booth at the Marshfield Area Cultural Fair. Sales of Equal Exchange items totaled over \$400!