

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF  
LAC DU FLAMBEAU  
SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER  
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*Our Mission Statement:*

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*As people of God and servants of our Lord Jesus Christ, we believe our Mission to be the building of a strong fellowship, ministering to the Spiritual and physical needs of the church, the community, and the world fulfilling our Lord's command to "Love our neighbors."*

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## THE NAMING OF THE “ANIMALS”

I have an unusual last name. Muck. I don't mean it is unusual just because it is rare. To be sure, there are not a lot of Mucks around. But it is an unusual name also because “muck” is not a very pleasant word. *The Random House Dictionary of the English Language* (1966) defines “muck” as “farmyard dung, decaying vegetable matter in a moist state, manure.” (q.v.)

As such, the name has created issues. My wife Frances was not sure, when we decided to marry, that she wanted to be known as Frances Muck. We researched the European origin of the name and learned it came from the French word *mouche*. Frances Mouche sounded kind of cool. Until we learned that in French *mouche* means something like “noxious little insect.” So, we compromised. She agreed to marry me, and she kept her own name, Frances Adeney.

It has also been a name that has produced some humor over the years. My given name was Webster Charles Muck III. This was my grandfather's name and my father's name. I was the third Webster Charles Muck, and to keep things clear around home I was given a nickname, Terry. I grew to love the nickname and, in my teens, decided to change my name officially to Terry Charles Muck. This required a judge's approval. I made my application, appeared in court, and a judge approved the change. It must have been a slow news day in St. Paul, Minnesota, because the newspaper reporter assigned to write stories on court events, decided my name change deserved some coverage in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*. He interviewed me, sent a photographer to my home for a head shot, and wrote a story. I didn't realize what angle he was taking until the next day I saw the headline: “His Name was Webster Muck and He Decided to Change the Webster.”

As you might imagine, I have developed a sensitivity to the way the word muck is used when it doesn't refer to my family (who were originally onion farmers in upstate New York btw). I know for example, that a very popular brand of boots is called Muck Boots. There is an island off the west coast of Scotland called the Isle of Muck. Muck metaphors abound: run-a-muck is a very popular one. Others have slightly scandalous overtones.

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Very interesting, you might be saying. But is there a point to all this family history? Something that makes it appropriate to our Community Presbyterian Church of Lac du Flambeau newsletter? Something religious or spiritual?

If we were Chinese followers of Confucius, my last name, “Muck” would be very important. According to a Confucian teaching called the Rectification of Names, my last name would/should reveal something of my nature and character. Since my last name means something like “noxious little insect,” I am hoping this is not true. Or at least I am hoping that were my family Confucian, they would get together and rename our family something more appreciative. More revealing of our good nature.

But since I am not a Chinese follower of Confucius, but an American follower of God I would look elsewhere in an attempt to make some religious sense of my last name. I would surely start with a biblical passage in Genesis, chapter two verses nineteen and twenty: “So God took some soil from the ground and formed all the animals and all the birds. Then he brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and that is how they got their names. The man named all the birds and all the animals.”

As I read these verses, I compared them with the Chinese practice of the Rectification of Names, a practice that is designed to create social harmony among different classes of Chinese people. A proper name signals to everyone else what class a person is from in a certain local, and something about their character. Because of their names, we know how to speak and act toward other people.

The Genesis story is different. The Genesis story is designed to signal God, the all-powerful creator, and man as his partner in finishing the creation—by naming the animals. Names were not necessarily designed to designate class and character, but the process of naming was and is designed to signal that God and human beings work together on many aspects of the creation. After all, Christianity is a relational religion. God’s purpose in creating human beings was so they could be in relation with him.

I guess I can live with “Muck” if it means being in a close relationship with my Lord and Savior.

### **SPECIAL DAYS FOR SEPTEMBER 2024**

Labor Day	September 2
National Grandparents Day	September 8
Patriot Day	September 11
Hispanic Heritage Month	Sept.15 – Oct.15
First Day of Autumn	September 22



#### **Birthdays**

Betty Adams	September 8
Linda Biek	September 14
Bob Clarke	September 19

#### **Anniversaries**

Frank and Nancy DiCristina	September 3
Dennis and Sue Robertson	September 7
Dave and Nancy Buel	September 7

### **Scripture readings for September**

#### **Sept. 1 – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

*Semicontinuous:* Song of Sol. 2:8-13 and Ps.45:1-2, 6-9;

*Complementary:* Deut. 4:1-2, 6-9 and Ps.15; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

#### **Sept. 8 – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

*Semicontinuous:* Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 and Ps. 125;

*Complementary:* Isa. 35:4-7a and Ps. 146; James 2:1-10 (11-13) 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

#### **Sept. 15 – 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

*Semicontinuous:* Prov. 1:20-33 and Ps.19;

*Complementary:* Isa.50:4-9a and Ps.116:1-9; James. 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

#### **Sept. 22 – 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

*Semicontinuous:* Prov. 31:10-31 and Ps.1;

*Complementary:* Jer.11:18-20 and Ps.54; James 3:13-4:3,7-8a; Mark 9:30-37



**Sept.29 – 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

*Semicontinuous: Esth.7:1-6,9-10; 9:20-22 and Ps. 124;*

*Complementary: Num.11:4-6,10-16,24-29 and Ps. 19:7-14; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50*

**THE “ZOOMETTS” GOT TOGETHER**

It was a fun get together at “Lida’s” in Minocqua for the Ladies that participate in the “Zoom” call each month sponsored by Jan Hoppe. It has been such a blessing to have the out-of-towners back in town and be able to have the get together. From the left sitting there is: Linda Biek from Illinois, Mary Jane Hettinga from the State of Washington, Jan Hoppe from Florida, Jill Consie from Lac du Flambeau, Barb Metz from Minnesota and her daughter, Dawn. Missing are Ellen Granger from Pennsylvania, Ginny Stiles from Madison, Wi, and Barb Streng from Jackson, WI. and Mary Jane Stevens from Woodruff.





WE ARE IN NEED OF PEOPLE TO SIGN UP FOR:  
GREETER  
USHERS  
LITURGISTS

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Articles are to be submitted by the last Sunday of the month.

If you are online, the following web addresses will provide you with news and information about the General Assembly, Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and the Presbytery of Northern Waters [www.pcusa.org/crisis](http://www.pcusa.org/crisis); outreach/evangelism; [www.stopinfindout.org](http://www.stopinfindout.org); northernwaters.net. We also have the Newsletter on our website: [www.ldfchurch.com](http://www.ldfchurch.com).

PASTOR: Terry Muck  
CLERK OF SESSION: Mary Jane Stevens (Temp.)  
TREASURER: Bill Raduege

THANKS TO The PEOPLE OF THE PAST,  
THE PRESENT, AND YET TO BE

ELDERS:  
Glenn Morrison  
Owen Karlmann  
Ralph Kerler  
Jill Consie  
Mary Jane Stevens

DEACONS:  
Shirlee Gallagher – Moderator  
Fran Raduege - Treasurer  
Deb Wilke  
Jan Garvey  
Carol Gelwicks

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