

Wassily Kandinsky, "Circles in a Circle" (1923)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, June 13th, 2021

10:00 am Worship Service

Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.

Welcome to worship at First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette! We're so glad you're here. Whether you're a long-time member or first-time visitor, we are blessed to have you with us. We hope joining us for worship today will nurture your heart and transform your mind. You are loved and never alone!

Our mission statement here is "Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives." As a church, we strive to be about that simple and challenging work day after day, in season and out of season. The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically altered our lives, but it has also revealed what is most important. As we lean into what the weeks and months ahead will be like, we will continue to pray for one another. We will keep growing as followers of Christ. We will keep loving and listening to our neighbors. We will keep the hand to plow, working to embody God's dream for the world. We will keep reminding ourselves that we are a work in progress.

As we resume in-person and livestreamed services in the Sanctuary, we are committed to keeping everyone safe and finding fresh and creative ways to worship together. We value your feedback – let us know what is going well and what could be better!

- Masks are required to be worn during in-person worship
- Please maintain physical distancing from people outside your household or pod
- A worship bulletin will be available (hardcopy in person or pdf online)
- Please join in the liturgy and prayers and passing of the peace, as directed
- You may pick up a pew Bible or hymnal if you wish, but the lyrics and scripture is also printed in the bulletin for your convenience
- Our air exchange system will be running during the service, pulling air in from outside – please keep your coat with you to stay warm
- We will not be singing as a congregation indoors quite yet - a soloist will lead us and you are invited to hum along! If you are worshipping at home, you may belt out the hymns for the rest of us.
- Worship leaders will wear masks, even while they are leading, until 14 days after their second vaccination dose – once they are fully vaccinated, they will remove masks only while leading portions of the service
- You are strongly encouraged to send God Sightings to godsightings@fpcw.org by 9am on Sunday morning to be included in the worship service
- Same thing for prayer requests: please send in prayer joys and concerns to prayersofthepeople@fpcw.org by 9am on Sunday to be included in the worship service (only first names will be spoken and limited details offered)
- Please linger and fellowship with one another after worship by heading out to the parking lot or church yard – we would be delighted to catch up with you!
- Restrooms are available for use with appropriate precautions
- The offering plate will be available to place a cash or check gift in before or after the service in the narthex
- We're so glad to be worshipping with you in person and online! You are loved and never alone, friends.

With gratitude in Christ,
Pastor Jeff

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

God of the past, who has created and nurtured us.

We are here to thank you.

God of the future, who is always ahead of us.

We are here to thank you.

God of the present, who is here in the midst of us.

We are here to thank you.

God of life, who is beyond us and within us.

Let us now receive the mighty power of God's love!

INSTRUMENTAL OPENING HYMN NO. 32 - *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

ELLACOMBE

CALL TO CONFESSION

God is gracious and merciful and knows our needs even before they reach our lips. Still, we engage in confession, admitting to God all that rests uneasily in our hearts. Confident of God's love, let us make our confession together, first in silent prayer. Now, let us pray in unison:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we know that you created us in love, to enjoy this world and you, to serve your creation and your children. And we know that we do not do your will. With clenched hands, we can neither give nor receive. With eyes tight shut, we cannot see pain or beauty. With feet of clay, we cannot dance in joy or run to help. We ask for your help and your power to change. Open our hands and eyes, move our feet, toward grace and hope and trust in you. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. The only thing that can separate you is the thought that you are separate. You are forgiven. You are empowered. You are set free.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE (SOLO)

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

PEACE OF CHRIST

Friends, may the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

COMMON LIFE

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Dan Linnihan

Scott and Laura Sandee

SCRIPTURE READING - 1 Samuel 16:1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

SERMON

Rev. Jeff Lehn

INSTRUMENTAL HYMN OF RESPONSE - *Immortal Invisible, God Only Wise*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*The Apostles' Creed*)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALL FOR OFFERING

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - The Doxology - (OLD HUNDREDTH)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

INSTRUMENTAL SENDING HYMN - *For the Beauty of the Earth/This is My father's World.*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE - *Prelude and Fugue in Bb*

Johann Simon

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Jeff Lehn, preaching

Rev. Laura Sherwood, pastoral liturgist

Debbie Ackerman, liturgist

Chancel Bells

Peggy Massello, music director



Our Common Life

Week of May 30th, 2021

Join us Sundays for in-person worship or via Livestream. The service will begin at 10 am. If you're joining us in person, check out the email from Pastor Jeff, which includes protocols and guidelines to make your worship experience meaningful and safe. We're excited to see you!

If you're joining us via Livestream, a video link will be included in the Saturday evening email. Peggy will begin prelude music at 9:55 am and we'll get underway after that, so please join us as you're able.

Two ways you can participate in worship are by (1) sending an email with a "God sighting" you've experienced this week to godsightings@fpcw.org (2) sending an email to prayersofthepeople@fpcw.org with any prayer, joy, or concern you have this week. Please send them in by 9 am on Sunday for inclusion in the worship service that morning.

Sunday School

(age 3 - 4th grade) Lindley Traynor, Director of Children and Family Ministries, along with Peggy Massello and Scott McElhenie have developed a creative and interactive video for our children. This video is available for families on Sundays in the worship email sent to you each week.

Sukkat Shalom to Worship Outside at FPCW

This summer, Sukkat Shalom will be gathering in person to worship for the first time in 15 months. They are working to install Livestream capacity in their worship space, but are not quite ready yet. As an expression of our interfaith partnership, we are delighted to share that the Session has approved them holding Shabbat services on Friday evenings in our Fellowship Garden outdoors here at FPCW. The services begin at 6 pm and they will be meeting from June 4 through August 27, weather pending. We are grateful for the opportunity to offer hospitality to our friends at Sukkat Shalom

Gillson Park Beach Service

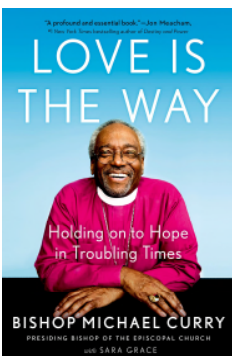
This summer we will gather again for our unique worship service along the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan. The beach services begin on June 20th (Father's Day) at 8:00 am. Bring a lawn chair, or a blanket, a cup of coffee, and join us for worship.

Lemonade on the Lawn

Our longtime beloved tradition of Lemonade on the Lawn will begin again today. Join us after worship in the Fellowship garden for a glass of refreshing lemonade and an opportunity to gather and reconnect with friends and greet visitors.

Fpcw Church Gardens

If you are free today after church from 11 am to 1 pm, come help plant flowers in our beautiful Fellowship Garden. If you're able to join us please check in with Dorothy Ballantyne after worship today.



This summer, you're invited to join in reading and reflecting on the recent book from Michael Curry, "The Way of Love: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times." Curry is the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church and has been promoting the "way of love" as taught by Jesus since his ministry began. He is well-known for his powerful homily at the royal wedding between Prince Harry and Meghan Markle on the redemptive power of love a couple of years ago. You may buy a copy from the church for \$15 or purchase one from your favorite bookstore. We'll read one chapter each week together for the next twelve weeks (June 8 - August 24). Each Tuesday, you'll receive a brief video in the Daily Bread email summarizing that week's chapter, along with questions for reflection. We hope you'll join us as we strive to live this "way of love" together! Take a listen to the video below as I describe it a bit more.



Our mission partner and friends at **C24/7** have set up a free store to serve those in their neighborhood who have been negatively impacted by COVID-19. Let's help stock their store! Here's what they need:

Hand and dish soap, deodorant, toothpaste, paper towels, toilet paper, spaghetti, pasta sauce, cereal, cooking oil, diapers, wipes, laundry detergent. Please put donations in the black box, labeled C247, outside the parking lot door at *fpcw*.



Connections for the Homeless

have several opportunities for volunteers to help support their mission. One option is to make breakfast sandwiches for their guests. To check out their website google Connections for the Homeless, Evanston. You'll find a full array of opportunities to help support this important organization.



On June 23 from 7:30-8:30 pm, we're delighted to have John Jacoby as our second speaker. Jacoby is a two-term former Wilmette Village President and longtime resident. For many years, he wrote a weekly column for the Wilmette Beacon on local history and issues. In his time with us, Jacoby will discuss his work researching and writing about housing discrimination in Wilmette and help us think about how to be a more just and inclusive community today. The event will be held over Zoom.

Stock the Shelves Update:

For more than three years, Stock the Shelves had been helping the Chicago refugee community by distributing household and hygiene products that are not covered by the SNAP program (formerly food stamps.) Volunteers from FPCW, Sukkat Shalom, and the First Congregational Church of Wilmette have collected donations of products & money, purchased products and then trucked them down to the West Ridge neighborhood of Chicago on the 4th Wednesday of every month to distributed these goods to about 120 refugee families. With the pandemic, we halted all in-person distribution of goods. However, the pandemic did not lessen the needs of the refugees, but made our program so much more important. Since we could not hold our normal monthly distribution event, we adopted an alternate plan of distributing \$25 Dollar Tree gift cards to the refugees, along with badly needed diapers for those with infants and toddlers. This new distribution plan added interesting challenges, but thanks to our volunteers, the distribution of gift cards was a tremendous success, allowing us to assist between 120-150 refugee families during the 15 months between in-person distribution events.

On May 26th, we held our first in-person distribution since February 2020. While still not back to normal and in a new outdoor location, we delivered prepackaged bags of 8 of the normal 15 products, plus diapers to about 80 refugee families. We expect a bigger turnout in June as word will travel quickly through the refugee community.

There were also a couple other big changes for Stock the Shelves during the Covid pandemic. Erin Raska, the founder and heart and soul behind Stock the Shelves resigned from FPCW and from her role with Stock the Shelves. In addition, Stock the Shelves applied for and received 501(3)c status as a Federally registered non-profit organization. Several volunteers have stepped up to take on the leadership roles formerly filled by Erin and other staff at FPCW.

Stock the Shelves continues to thrive and continues to provide important assistance to the refugee community of Chicago. We welcome and encourage donations. Checks can be made out to Stock the Shelves and mailed to Rick Drake, 335 Greenleaf Ave, Wilmette or donations can be made through the website, stocktheshelves.org. If you wish to donate diapers of all sizes or other products, please leave them inside the back door at FPCW.



Slowing Time

1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7 pm via Zoom. Questions? Contact Sue Sklansky. (suesklansky@gmail.com)

Moms and Psalms

This group is on hiatus until the group can meet in person. Questions? Contact Sue Sklansky. suesklansky@gmail.com

Lunch Group

(without lunch during this time): 2nd Wed of the month at noon. Currently meeting via Zoom (Mary Watt), each month a member takes the responsibility to lead the discussion. Nancy Freeman coordinates njwfreeman@gmail.com.

Book and Dinner

(without dinner during this time): 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm, Carol Korak provides the Zoom link. carolkorak@gmail.com.

Senior Suppers

(discussion without supper): 3rd Tuesday Greg Michel provides the Zoom link. michelga@me.com

Men's Hour

Men's Hour consists of a brief group reading, a silent 5-minute meditation, and an opportunity for each attendee to share thoughts and experiences in turn. No homework or reservations required, and drop-ins are always welcome! Questions? Contact Paul Traynor at paultraynor@haymoon.com.

Men's Council

Meets every Saturday morning (8-9:30 am) via Zoom. Frank Panzica Frank.d.panzica@gmail.com. Men's Council is on hiatus during the summer and will resume gatherings in September.

Bible Study

Thursdays at 10 am via Zoom, Jeff provides the link. jlehn@fpcw.org

Adult Faith formation

Sunday, 8:30 – 9:30 am, (January 10 - January 31) In-depth discussions on the impact of the Pandemic.

Pres Homes Spoke

1st Thursday of the month at 10 am via UberConference. Jeff provides the link and discussion includes a Bible Study guide. Coordinator: Joyce Dunn. redun1@juno.com jlehn@fpcw.org

Abigail Group

This group has not been active for the past year, but there is likely a need to restart it, with new members. If they are women in the church or outside of the church that are in the process of separation and/or divorce, join this group for support, caring and strength through your faith journey. We will meet over zoom, date and time TBD Interested, email Sue Sklansky at suesklansky@gmail.com

Loop Group

We are rebooting the "Loop Group" that meets monthly for fellowship, connection and prayer. We know many of us are stressed at work and could use a small group to be supported and encouraged by. Led by Pastor Jeff. Our plan is to gather on the first Wednesday of the month going forward. There is nothing to prepare. We hope to "see" you there! The Zoom Link is available in the Daily Bread. (Meeting ID: 834 2370 6195; Passcode: 680391; Call In: 312-626-6799)



Church Calendar

Calendar for the week of June 13th, 2021

Sunday, June 13th

10:00 am	In-person Worship	Sanctuary
	Livestreaming Worship	YouTube
11:00 am	Lemonade on the Lawn	Fellowship Garden

Monday, June 14th

7:00 pm	Deacon/Session gathering	Manse backyard
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Tuesday, June 15th

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Lounge
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Wednesday, June 16th

6:15 pm	Book and Dinner Group	via Zoom
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Thursday, June 17th

10:00 am	Bible Study	via Zoom
7:00 pm	Men's Group	Lounge

Friday, June 18th

6:00 pm	Sukkat Shalom service	Fellowship garden
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Saturday, June 19th

11:00 am	Memorial Service for Gail Eby	Sanctuary
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Sunday, June 20th

8:00 am	Beach Service	Gillson Park
10:00 am	In-person Worship	Sanctuary
	Livestream Worship	YouTube
11:00 am	Lemonade on the Lawn	Fellowship Garden

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Robert Brumitt by his family.

The Livestream Team - Have you ever wanted to be "behind the scenes" running audio or visual equipment? Do you have an ear for sound and an eye for video? You are invited to join the Live Stream Team at FPCW! The requirements are a desire to learn (a commitment of initial training lasting 2-4 weeks, 1-2 hours each week) and commit to at least one Sunday a month to help run the audio or help with the visual aspect of our live stream worship services. You would be part of a team of people who know how to run both the audio and the visual equipment that broadcasts our service on YouTube. There is lots of support and camaraderie amongst the group already. Come join us! Email Peggy Massello, Director of Music and Worship pmassello@fpcw.org.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

- For the joy of in-person and livestreaming worship which brings us all together in one place,
- In gratitude for the new members joining today: Dan Linnihan, and Scott and Laura Sandee,
- For those with health concerns: Lark Traynor, and Kim Russell, and Lauri Harris
- For those who are grieving,
- For our homebound members,
- For those who suffer from depression, anxiety or addictions, and for those who walk alongside them.



Susan Eby's dear daughter, Gail Eby, passed away last spring on May 30, 2020. A memorial service to remember and celebrate Gail's has been scheduled for Saturday, June 19th at 11 am in our sanctuary.



Our dedicated church member, Nancy Kaatz, passed away on Tuesday, May 25th at Pres. Homes. A memorial service for Nancy will be this fall we'll update you as details are finalized. Please hold Nancy's daughter Lori MacRae and Nancy's son, William Kaatz in your prayers.

CHURCH STAFF

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GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Amanda Hutson - New Trier High School (daughter of Craig and Jane Hutson)
Gus Martin - New Trier High School (son of Jeff and Tonya Martin)
Anna Hughes - Carleton College (daughter of Brian and Kara Hughes)
Sean Phelan - University of Michigan (son of John and Stephanie Phelan)
Matthew Kennedy - Northwestern University (grandson of Frances Leverentz)

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Bob Dunn was honored for his 84 years of scouting (Evanston & NE Illinois, Tulsa, Oklahoma & Western Colorado Councils including Troops 5, 924 & 343 OK & 187 CO) and financial support in rebuilding, after the 2019 devastating microburst, at Ma-Ka-Jan-Wan Scout Reservation near Pearson, Wisconsin, on June 5, 2021 at the Reservation with 8 in the family attending for him.



INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT

Gathered by the grace of Jesus Christ, we are a vibrant and supportive Christian family whose welcoming spirit reflects God's love for all people. We invite participation in all aspects of our church life by persons of every race, language, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, physical or mental ability, economic or marital status, or faith background. FPCW is a member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, a broad-based, national group of clergy and lay leaders working for a church that is simultaneously faithful, just, and whole.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

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