



Jan Richardson, "Stories and Circles"

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE**

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Sunday, June 27th, 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 now optional for those who are vaccinated against COVID-19.
- 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 are also printed in the bulletin for your convenience
- 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.
- You are strongly encouraged to send God Sightings to [godsightings@fpcw.org](mailto: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](mailto:prayersofthepeople@fpcw.org) by 9 am 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 Lemonade on the Lawn - we would be delighted to catch up with you!
- Restrooms are available for use
- 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

The One who shaped the universe, crafts us into a community of faith:

**A people to shelter the homeless, a family to feed the hungry.**

The One who made kittens and elephants, shapes us in the divine image:

**So we can grow with grace as we welcome the hopeless and helpless.**

The One who blesses us with flowers and waterfalls, gifts us with the way, the truth, the life:

**So we can go to tell the story, to bring healing to a broken world.**

OPENING HYMN 390— *Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord!*

LOUEZ LE SEIGNEUR

(You are invited to hum while the soloist sings the words)

Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!

Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!

Praise God's holy name. Alleluia! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!

Praise God's holy name. Alleluia! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Stone tossed aside by the architects of sin and death, is the One who becomes the foundation for redemption, the cornerstone for grace and hope. We can confess freely and openly to God, who will not shame us, but forgive us and welcome us home, first in silent prayer... (silence is kept)... Now, let us pray together in unison:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**In humility, we must confess how we have not matured as your children, Gentle Parent. The hurting and helpless of our world cry out, and we cover our ears with hands which could be serving them. The forsaken and ridiculed of our neighborhoods and schools are looking for a community of acceptance, and we cover our eyes with hands which could welcome them. The lonely and grieving are listening for hope, and we cover our mouths with hands which could embrace them, and sing gentle songs of grace to them.**

**Forgive us, Refuge of the broken. Our times are in your hands, so help us to believe we can be healed in this moment. Our hearts are in your heart, so transform ours that we can serve your children. Our lives are redeemed by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, so call us to give them away in his name.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The good news is that in Christ, our sins are forgiven, our lives are made whole, we become God's own people. Do you not believe?

**We believe. And in believing, we will live as those chosen, not only to tell a Story, but to live it out each and every day. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE - *The Steadfast Love of the Lord*

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;

God's mercies never come to an end.

They are new every morning, new every morning;

Great is your faithfulness, O Lord, great is your faithfulness.

PEACE OF CHRIST

## COMMON LIFE

### SCRIPTURE READING ACTS 6:1-15

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. **9** Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated some men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. They set up false witnesses who said, "This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us." And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

**SERMON** "Stephen's Story: The Impact of Witness"

Rev. Laura Sherwood

**HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 543** - *God Be the Love to Search and Keep Me* (vs 1, 2 & 5)

GREEN TYLER

God be the love to search and keep me;  
God, be the prayer to move my voice;  
God be the strength to now uphold me:  
O Christ surround me; O Christ surround me.

Bind to my self the Name of Holy,  
Great cloud of witnesses enfold,  
Prophets, apostles, angels witness:  
O Christ, Surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Christ in the eyes of all who see me,  
Christ in the ears that hear my voice,  
Chris in the hearts of all who know me:  
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

**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. Amen

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**SENDING HYMN NO. 748 - *Go With Us Lord***

TALLIS' CANON

(You are invited to hum while the soloist sings the words)

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day,  
That in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.

**CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE - *Praeludium pedaliter***

J. P. Sweelinck

**WORSHIP LEADERS:**

Rev. Laura Sherwood, preaching  
Rev. Jeff Lehn, pastoral liturgist  
Rick Drake, liturgist  
Chancel Choir Women  
Peggy Massello, music director

**Sources:**

Call to Worship, Confession Call/Prayer/Assurance - from *Playing Hopscotch in Heaven: Lectionary Liturgies for Year A, Easter 5A*, by Rev. Thom Shuman



Week of June 27th, 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, 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](mailto:godsightings@fpcw.org) (2) sending an email to [prayersofthepeople@fpcw.org](mailto: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.

### **Gillson Park Beach Service ( No Gillson Park service on Sunday, July 4th)**

Our first Gillson Park worship service begins at 8:00 am in picnic area one. This service runs throughout the summer until September 5th. Bring a lawn chair, or a blanket, a cup of coffee, and join us for worship.

### **Sunday School**

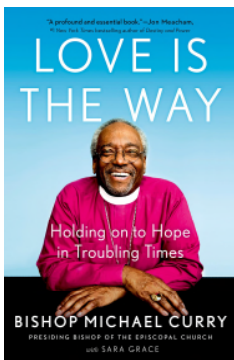
(age 3 - 4th grade) Lindley Traynor, Director of Children and Family Ministries, along with Peggy Massello and Scott McElhenie have developed a creative and interactive video for our children. This video is available for families on Sundays in the worship email sent to you each week.

### **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

### **Lemonade on the Lawn**

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. We would like to have hosts for Lemonade on the Lawn and a SignUpGenius link is available on our website on the News and Publications page.



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 begun. 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 (through 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.

### **Housewares Needed**

New Deacon Mercy Ndungu has a niece and family who have just moved here from Kenya. They have acquired an apartment but could use help to furnish it as they get on their feet. Needed gently used: any kitchen items, microwave, small table and chairs, any living room furniture or rug. They have a child around one, so a small dresser as well. Email Mercy at [macygathoni@yahoo.com](mailto:macygathoni@yahoo.com).

### **Sponsor-A-Student**

This summer during the last week of July our high school youth group, Tower, will be travelling to Hazard, KY to build a house for those in need. Please show your support for Tower by sponsoring a student. Sponsorships are \$50 and a Tower student will send you a personalized postcard while on the trip!

## Tower Youth Bonfire

Come join the fpcw Tower Youth bonfire nights this summer. We'll gather in the Manse backyard for s'mores, games, and some faith questions just to keep you thinking about God over the summer. If you will be in high school next fall or if you just graduated from high school this year come stop by on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. Here's the complete list of dates for the summer: June 30, July 14th, July 21st, August 11th, and August 18th.



**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](mailto:pmassello@fpcw.org).

## Conversation Groups in July

An important theme that came out of the June 5th Session retreat was a desire to hear what the congregation thinks about this past year's experiences and how each one of us is feeling about church now. What do we want it to be? What should it be?

We are offering Conversation Groups to take place throughout the month of July and are, first, reaching out to existing groups in the Church. If you would like to be in a Conversation Group together, we will schedule it for a day, time, and venue (In-Person at the church or on Zoom) that works for you. Each Conversation Group will last 60 minutes and have a designated facilitator and notetaker. The questions will be sent to everyone in advance and written responses are also welcome.

Open sign-ups will also be available for both in-person and Zoom sessions on weekdays/evenings July 5-31 and in-person-only on Sundays following worship July 12, 19, and 26. For more information contact Pastor Laura Sherwood at [lsherwood@fpcw.org](mailto:lsherwood@fpcw.org).

## Fpcw Mission Partners

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.



### 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:suesklansky@gmail.com)

### **Lunch Group**

Second Wednesday of the month at noon and each month a member takes the responsibility to lead the discussion. Nancy Freeman coordinates this group. Questions please email Nancy Freeman. [njwfreeman@gmail.com](mailto:njwfreeman@gmail.com). This group will not meet during the summer months but will resume in September.

### **Book and Dinner**

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

### **Senior Suppers**

(discussion without supper): Third Tuesday Greg Michel provides the Zoom link. [michelga@me.com](mailto: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](mailto:paultraynor@haymoon.com).

### **Men's Council**

Meets every Saturday morning (8-9:30 am) via Zoom. Frank Panzica [Frank.d.panzica@gmail.com](mailto: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, in-person at fpcw, and the Bible study is led by Pastor Jeff, [jlehn@fpcw.org](mailto:jlehn@fpcw.org)

### **Adult Faith formation**

Will not meet during the Summer months but will begin again in September.

### **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](mailto:redun1@juno.com) or [jlehn@fpcw.org](mailto:jlehn@fpcw.org).

### **Abigail Group**

If there 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](mailto: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 27th, 2021

### Sunday, June 27th

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

### Monday, June 28th

No meetings scheduled

### Tuesday, June 29th

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Lounge
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### Wednesday, June 30th

### Thursday, June July 1st

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

### Friday, July 2nd

6:00 pm	Sukkat Shalom service	Fellowship garden
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### Saturday, July 3rd

No meetings scheduled

### Sunday, July 4th

#### No Beach service this Sunday

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** by Sue Sklansky.

**A special thank you** to our hosts for today's Lemonade on the Lawn:

9:00 am George Vandervoort

10:00 am Amy McJoynt

**Please note:** there will be no Gillson Park beach service on Sunday, July 4th. We will still have the 10 am worship service in the sanctuary.

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

- For the joy of in-person and livestreaming worship which brings us all together in one place,
- For those with health concerns: Kim Russell
- 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.

### WEBSITE

[www.fpcw.org](http://www.fpcw.org)

### FACEBOOK

[facebook.com/1st Presbyterian Church of Wilmette](https://facebook.com/1stPresbyterianChurchofWilmette)

### SERMONS

[www.fpcw.org/worship-and-music/sermons](http://www.fpcw.org/worship-and-music/sermons)

### CALENDAR

[www.fpcw.org/events-calendar](http://www.fpcw.org/events-calendar)



### Please note:

Our new office hours are:

Monday - Thursday, 9 am– 5 pm

Friday 9 am - 1 pm.

### CHURCH STAFF

Jeff Lehn

*Senior Pastor*

[jlehn@fpcw.org](mailto:jlehn@fpcw.org) ext. 12

Laura Sherwood

*Interim Assoc. Pastor*

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Peggy Massello

*Director of Worship and Music*

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Scott McElhenie ext. 23

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Lindley Traynor

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## 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.



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