



Our Tower Youth at their work trip site in Hazard, Kentucky.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Communion Sunday

Sunday, August 1st, 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
- Session has approved singing in worship Aug. 1 – September 5th as a trial period. During this time we will use our AC in combination with our Air Exchange system which gives us a fresh air ratio (6:1) that is higher than CDC's recommendation (4:1). Those who are fully vaccinated may sing with or without masks. We encourage everyone to join in singing as you feel comfortable and please give us your feedback.
- 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 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

PRELUDE - *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Ken Medema
arr. Becky Mayo

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God would teach us to love, even as imperfect people,
so we can love others as we love ourselves.

God would teach us to deny ourselves, even walking the extra mile with us,
so we can give ourselves to others as generously as Christ has been given to us.

God would teach us new ways to journey through life,
so we can follow the footprints of the Word all the way to the kingdom.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 611** – *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

HYMN TO JOY

CALL TO CONFESSION

With hope for God's mercy, and trust in God's love, let us admit the truth of our lives, as we confess our sin and the sin of the world together, first in silent prayer... (silence is kept)... Let us now pray together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Invited to walk in your footsteps, Wanderer of the Universe, we turn away to play hopscotch on the sidewalks of distraction. Given the chance to watch you work wonders of grace and renewal, we fixate on the idols of success and power. When you want to tell us stories of healing and reconciliation, we decline to hear your gentle voice. Have mercy on us, God of Blessings, and help us to hold fast to your hand; to walk your streets of wholeness and hope; to follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, into the life you intend for us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God's forgiveness dwells in our hearts; Christ's love fills us; the Spirit's peace guides our steps. Our feet are set on the journey. Walking in faith and hope with our God, we will be servants to the world.

Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN NO. 59 - *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 READINGS - **Matthew 7:24-28** (page 7 in the pew Bible)

SERMON - "God Sightings"

Tower Youth (Sam Bennett, Caroline Bender and Meada Estrada)

SONG OF RESPONSE - *Love Wins* (Sung by the Tower Youth)

Jason McEwen

When someone's all alone and standing on the edge
Somebody reaches out and pulls 'em in
Love wins
When someone's running out of places they can run
Ashamed of their mistakes and things they've done
When someone opens up a door with open arms, says, "Come on in"
Love wins

Love is patient, love is kind
Love don't care who's wrong or right
Doesn't envy, doesn't boast, it doesn't quit
It's not selfish, it's not proud
Love's the noise above the loud
It never fails, it forgets and it forgives

When we don't have to teach our kids
That beauty's deeper than the skin
And peace on earth is more than just a wish
When we let each other pray
In our own different ways
We'll bow our heads and open up our fists
Love wins
Love wins

Love is patient, love is kind
Love don't care who's wrong or right
Doesn't envy, doesn't boast, it never quits
It's not selfish, it's not proud
Love's the noise above the loud
It never fails, it forgets and it forgives
Love wins

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

May the God of grace be with you! **And also with you!**
You are God's holy people. **We lift our hearts, for the Lord our God is holy.**
(Minister continues in prayer...)

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.

BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION MUSIC

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Creator God, we give you thanks for the grain farmers, the bread bakers, the grape growers, the juice makers. Redeemer God, we give you thanks for all that we remember as we have shared this meal: your birth, your life, your death and resurrection. Sustaining God, we give you thanks for the eternal presence of your Spirit with us, surrounding us and filling us with Divine life. May this meal we have shared renew us and inspire us to join more joyfully with you as you work for peace and justice in the world. 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 80 - *You Shall Go Out with Joy*

THE TREES OF THE FIELD

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE - *We are Marching in the Light of God*

South African Song arr. John Behnke

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Laura Sherwood, pastoral liturgist

Peggy Massello, music director

Tower Youth Participants

Caroline Bender

Michael Bender

Sam Bennett

Campbell Boaz

Keegan Estrada

Meada Estrada

John Gemmell

Katie Gemmell

Lilly Harris

Anna Langewisch

Adam Massello

Katie Miller

Adam Panzica

Sources:

Call to Worship and Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (adapted) - from Epiphany 7a; Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness (adapted) - from Epiphany 6a - in *Playing Hopscotch in Heaven 2013* by Thom M. Shuman

Prayer after Communion ~ written by Joanna Harader, and posted on the Spacious Faith blog. <http://spaciousfaith.com/>



Week of August 1st, 2021

Sunday's at fpcw

Join us 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 (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.



Mark your calendars: First Festival is scheduled for Sunday, September 12, at 10 am (under the tent in the church parking lot, as usual). Lunch will be served and there will be games (including a bouncy house!) for all ages. We are excited to resume this beloved annual tradition.

Our plan and hope is to resume a more "regular" slate of programs and offerings in the fall, after First Festival, including in-person Sunday School for our young disciples. However, we will continue to monitor public health recommendations and keep discerning how best to facilitate community while also mitigating risk. We will further communicate as anything changes in the coming days and weeks.

Gillson Park Beach Service

Our 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.

Lemonade on the Lawn

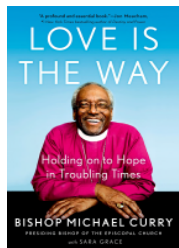
Join us after worship in the Fellowship garden for a glass of refreshing lemonade and an opportunity to gather and reconnect with friends and greet visitors. To be a hosts for Lemonade on the Lawn check out the Sign Up Genius link available on the News and Publications page and in the Daily Bread.

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.

Mini VBS

Kids ages 3 and up are invited for some fun! We'll explore Psalm 23, play games, make some art, and have plenty of time for free play to reconnect with church friends. We plan to meet outside on the church lawn, with Wallace Moore Fellowship Hall as our rainy day backup plan. Because kids can't yet access the vaccine, we'll keep masks on. **Next VBS is Wednesday, August 11th, 4:30-5:30 pm.**



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. We'll read one chapter each week together through August 24th. 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!

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 are the dates in August: August 11th, and August 18th.



For six weeks (August 1 - September 5), Session has voted to try an experiment with in-person congregational singing in the Sanctuary at the 10 am worship service. We will begin the experiment on August 1 and end it on September 5, after which we will discern what next steps to take as we enter the fall. Anyone who prefers to wear a mask, even if they are fully vaccinated, may of course do so. (The beach service at 8 am already allows congregational singing as it is outdoors.) Please share your feedback with our pastors, staff and Session members as we give this a try in the context of worship.



Thank you for your participation in the conversation groups being held in the month of July, led by Pastor Laura and church members, Steve Reinhart, Jennifer Christiansen Brian Hughes and Jim Lyman. The energy and engagement in these groups has been strong, with many thoughtful ideas and perspectives being shared. In early August, a report will be compiled and shared with the congregation that summarizes the findings.

A final Session update involves the discernment around an upcoming staff search.

Our Personnel and Strategic Planning committees have been hard at work developing timelines and research, with the hope of approving a plan by late summer/early fall. We encourage you to attend a conversation group or reach out to any member of Session with your thoughts and prayers. It's an exciting time to be discerning the hopeful future God has in store for our church!

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

Has several opportunities for volunteers to help support their mission. One option is to make break-fast 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. If you wish to donate diapers of all sizes or other products, please leave them inside the back door at FPCW.



Backpack Project

Once again the Mission Ministry Group will be sponsoring the summer backpack project to provide much-needed backpacks and supplies for 60 students from the neighborhood around our sister church, First Presbyterian Church in Rogers Park. By contributing \$25 you're ensuring a child will have the supplies they need to begin the school year. Members of the Mission Committee will be available today to take your donations and checks can also be mailed to the church office. Thank you for supporting this important mission.



Slowing Time

1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7 pm via Zoom. Questions? Contact Sue Sklansky at 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

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. 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.

Senior Suppers

(discussion without supper): Third 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, in-person at fpcw. The Bible study is led by Pastor Jeff, 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 or 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. If you're interested please, email Sue Sklansky at suesklansky@gmail.com.

Loop Group

The "Loop Group" 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. We gather on the first Wednesday of the month and there is nothing to prepare. The Zoom Link is available in the Daily Bread. (Meeting ID: 834 2370 6195; Passcode: 680391; Call In: 312-626-6799) Interested? Please contact Pastor Jeff Lehn at jlehn@fpcw.org.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Calendar for the week of August 1st, 2021

Sunday, August 1st, Youth Sunday

8:00 am	Gillson Beach Service	Gillson Park (picnic area 1)
10:00 am	In-person Worship	Sanctuary
	Livestreaming Worship	YouTube
11:00 am	Lemonade on the Lawn	Fellowship Garden
11:15 am	Tower Youth	WMFC
	Conversation Group	

Monday, August 2nd

7:30 pm	Strategic Planning	Lounge
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Tuesday, August 3rd

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Lounge
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Wednesday, August 4th

12:00 pm	Loop Group	via Zoom
7:00 pm	Slowing Time Group	Lounge

Thursday, August 5th

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

Friday, August 6th

6:00 pm	Sukkat Shalom service	Fellowship garden
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Saturday, August 7th

No meetings scheduled

Sunday, August 8th

8:00 am	Gillson Park Beach Service	Gillson Park (picnic area 1)
10:00 am	In-person Worship	Sanctuary
	Livestream Worship	YouTube
11:00 am	Lemonade on the Lawn	Fellowship Garden

A special thank you to our Tower Work Trip parents who are hosting Lemonade on the Lawn today after both the 8 am and 10 am services.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

- For our Tower Youth who will lead us in worship today.
- For the joy of in-person and livestreaming worship which brings us all together in one place,
- For those with health concerns: Kim Russell in the ICU at Evanston Hospital.
- 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.

STAY CONNECTED

If you are unable to attend worship

Please note: Sunday worship services are livestreamed each week, and posted on our website at www.fpcw.org. Click on Worship Services under the Worship & Music tab.

Stay connected to *fpcw*

Make sure you download the *fpcw* phone app and stay up to date and connect to all the church activities. Questions? Contact Sue Sklansky at ssklansky@fpcw.org.

WEBSITE

www.fpcw.org

FACEBOOK

facebook.com/1st-Presbyterian-Church-of-Wilmette

SERMONS

www.fpcw.org/worship-and-music/sermons

CALENDAR

www.fpcw.org/events-calendar

CHURCH STAFF

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Please note:

Our new office hours are:
Monday - Thursday, 9 am– 5 pm
Friday 9 am - 1 pm.



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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