



“Lift Up Your Heads, You Gates” by Wim Van De Wege,

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 11th, 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 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

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

God calls us together to worship this morning.

From our work and play within the world, God gathers us so that we may give thanks for creation's goodness, for the strength to labor, for the wisdom to relax.

From amidst our friends and family God brings us here to participate in a community of faith, Christ's people, a new family.

From everyday talk and chatter, God invites us to speak in truth from the depths of heart and mind, and to pray freely.

Let us heed God's call and rejoice in what God enables.

Come let us worship together!

OPENING SONG – *Build Up*

Larry Olson

(chorus)

Build up, prepare the way. Remove the obstructions from my people's way.

Build up, prepare the way. God is near, God is here today.

Break the chains of injustice, let the oppressed go free.

Share our homes with the homeless and our bread with the hungry. *(chorus)*

God sees all our destruction, how we get in love's way.

Still God comes and meets us with a steady healing embrace. *(chorus)*

CALL TO CONFESSION

With hope for God's mercy, and trust in God's love, let us admit the truth of our lives, first in silent prayer...

(silence is kept)...Let us now pray together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In the midst of our "summer" lives, O Lord, so many things have claimed our attention. And we have too often pushed our worship of you aside and neglected our spiritual hunger and thirst. Forgive us when we are tempted to stray from our worship of you. As we celebrate this day, help us to remember all the wondrous things you continue to do for us. Let us look at the world as a place of delight. And when we encounter situations in which sorrow and hurt abound, help us to be ready to bring hope and peace. Be with us in these warm days of summer, preparing us for ministry and mission, in your holy name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God is merciful and pours God's love on us abundantly.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Hallelujah! Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE - *The Steadfast Love of the Lord*

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

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 MARK 6:14-29

Herod the king heard about these things, because the name of Jesus had become well-known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and this is why miraculous powers are at work through him." Others were saying, "He is Elijah." Still others were saying, "He is a prophet like one of the ancient prophets." But when Herod heard these rumors, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised to life."

He said this because Herod himself had arranged to have John arrested and put in prison because of Herodias, the wife of Herod's brother Philip. Herod had married her, but John told Herod, "It's against the law for you to marry your brother's wife!" So Herodias had it in for John. She wanted to kill him, but she couldn't. This was because Herod respected John. He regarded him as a righteous and holy person, so he protected him. John's words greatly confused Herod, yet he enjoyed listening to him.

Finally, the time was right. It was on one of Herod's birthdays, when he had prepared a feast for his high-ranking officials and military officers and Galilee's leading residents. Herod's daughter Herodias came in and danced, thrilling Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the young woman, "Ask me whatever you wish, and I will give it to you." Then he swore to her, "Whatever you ask I will give to you, even as much as half of my kingdom."

She left the banquet hall and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?"

"John the Baptist's head," Herodias replied.

Hurrying back to the ruler, she made her request: "I want you to give me John the Baptist's head on a plate, right this minute." Although the king was upset, because of his solemn pledge and his guests, he didn't want to refuse her. So he ordered a guard to bring John's head. The guard went to the prison, cut off John's head, brought his head on a plate, and gave it to the young woman, and she gave it to her mother. When John's disciples heard what had happened, they came and took his dead body and laid it in a tomb.

SERMON

Rev. Nancy Dolan

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 761 - *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* (vs 1 & 3)

BEECHER

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

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, works of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

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)

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

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. 307 - *God of Grace and God of Glory* (vs. 1 & 4)

CWM RHONDDA

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

God of grace and God of glory,
On thy people pour thy power,
Crown thine ancient church's story;
Bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving thee whom we adore,
Serving thee whom we adore.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE - *Postlude on CWM RHONDDA*

arr. Paul Manz

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Nancy Dolan, preaching
Rev. Laura Sherwood, pastoral liturgist
Nadav Klein, liturgist
Jordan Roulo, vocalist
Peggy Massello, music director

Sources:

Call to Worship from <https://lifeinliturgy.wordpress.com/2021/07/06/proper-10b-pentecost-7/>

Prayer of Confession and Assurance from *Ministry Matters* <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/2935/worship-connection-july-11-2021>



Week of July 11th, 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.

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. 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 and in the Daily Bread.

Sunday School

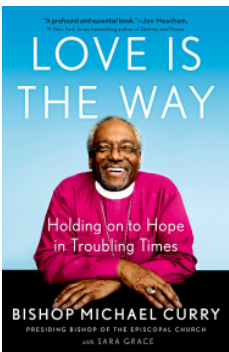
(age 3 - 4th grade) Lindley Traynor, Director of Children and Family Ministries, along with Peggy Massello and Scott McElhenie have developed a creative and interactive video for our children. This video is available for families on Sundays in the worship email sent to you each week.

Mini VBS

Kids ages 3 and up are invited for some fun! We'll explore a bit of Psalm 23, play games, make some art, and have plenty of time for free play to reconnect with church friends.

We'll 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 planned for Wednesday, July 21, from 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. He is well-known for his powerful homily at the royal wedding between Prince Harry and Meghan Markle on the redemptive power of love. 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!

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: July 14th, July 21st, August 11th, and August 18th.

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION GROUPS IN JULY – *Underway!*

Sign-up and participate today!*

11:15am-12:15pm in the Church Lounge

You can sign-up for any of the Open Sign-up groups (Sundays following worship July 11, 18 & 25; Weeknights July 22 and 29) using Sign-up Genius or ***sign-up in-person today** (Sign-up sheet on table at Sanctuary entrance).

The Session hopes everyone will consider joining an open sign-up group, participating with your own small group, or submitting responses in writing (please contact Interim Associate Pastor Laura Sherwood for the fillable form - at lsherwood@fpcw.org.)



Chapel Garden

Fpcw's exquisite Chapel Garden was built and dedicated as part of the 75th anniversary celebration in 1986. This beautiful garden is a hidden gem and a quiet place for reverence and remembrance of loved ones. By 2012 all the existing sites had been filled, and in 2013 the garden was expanded along the south side of the church to include 80 spaces. In addition to the new spaces, a Scattering Garden on the west side of the church was also created.

We invite you to learn more about the Chapel Garden, as it is a wonderful resting place for family members or even yourself. A beautiful and informative Chapel Garden brochure is available on request and the brochure is on display outside the

main office. Please take a look and if you have questions reach out to Madeline Weston, Office Coordinator or Joyce Knauff, Buildings and Grounds

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 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. 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

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, and 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

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) Interested in this group? Please contact Pastor Jeff Lehn at jlehn@fpcw.org.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Calendar for the week of July 11th, 2021

Sunday, July 11th

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	2 Conversation Groups	Lounge & Upper Room

Monday, July 12th

No meetings scheduled

Tuesday, July 13th

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Lounge
7:00 pm	Investment Club	Lounge

Wednesday, July 14th

11:30 am	Lunch Group	Fellowship Garden
7:00 pm	Abigail & Slowing Time Conversation Groups	Lounge
7:00 pm	Tower Youth Bonfire	Manse backyard

Thursday, July 15th

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

Friday, July 16th

6:00 pm	Sukkat Shalom service	Fellowship garden
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Saturday, July 17th

No meetings scheduled

Sunday, July 18th

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
11:15 am	2 Conversation Groups	Lounge and Upper Room



Rev. Nancy Dolan

Our guest preacher today.

My husband and I live in Barrington and have two grown daughters, although since the pandemic, our nest seems to be emptying or refilling on any given week! I became a pastor mid-career, with a corporate background in human resources and organizational development. My ministry focus, as a pastor and consultant, is churches in transitions of all kinds. I enjoy the ways transitions can uniquely position us to witness God's transforming love, and the power of that experience to build our faith and relationship with the Divine. Since every church today is (or should be!) in some form of transition, there is plenty of opportunity for this type of ministry. I have served a number of congregations throughout the Chicago area, inside and outside our denomination, and most recently completed an interim period as the Bridge Executive Presbyterian of the Blackhawk Presbyterian Presbytery, located west of the Chicago Presbytery

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, good news, she is home!!!
- 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](https://facebook.com/1stPresbyterianChurchofWilmette)

SERMONS

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

CALENDAR

www.fpcw.org/events-calendar

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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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