



Herbert Boeckel, "Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch"

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 4th, 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

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship the eternal God, the source of love and life, who creates us.

Let us worship Jesus Christ, the risen one, who lives among us.

Let us worship the Spirit, the holy fire, who renews us.

To the triune God be praise in all times and places!

OPENING HYMN NO. 612 – *We Praise You, O God*

KREMSER

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

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;

In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;

We bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;

Through trial and tempest our guide you have been.

When perils o'er take us, you will not forsake us,

And with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer

And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.

With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.

To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

CALL TO CONFESSION

As God's beloved children, we are invited to come to our God with the fullness of our lives, to admit our love and our hate, to admit our hope and our fear, to admit our generosity and our greed. Trusting in God's mercy, let us make our confession together, first in silent prayer...(silence is kept)...Now let us pray together in unison:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Mighty and merciful God, we open our hearts to you this day, and offer the truth of our lives: the highs and lows, the joys and sorrows, our hopefulness and our selfishness, our courage and our indifference. Forgive us for when we have allowed fear and prejudice to set the agenda. Forgive us for when we have tried to love everyone else but neglected ourselves. Forgive us for when we have been weary and chose to numb out rather than truly rest in your presence. God, give us energy and vision for the living of these days, for eyes to see opportunities to love the world and its people you love so much. This we pray through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, who is Savior and Lord of all the earth. 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. Rejoice in forgiveness. Rejoice in empowerment. Rejoice in steadfast love. **Thanks be to God! 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 ACTS 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

SERMON

Rev. Jeff Lehn

HYMN OF INVITATION NO. 298 - *Lord, You Give the Great Commission* (vs 2, 3 & 5)

ABBOT'S LEIGH

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

Lord, you call us to your service: "In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
Give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community:
With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry

Lord, you make the common holy: "This, my body, this, my blood."
Let us all, for earth's true glory, daily lift life heavenward,
Asking that the world around us share your children's liberty:
With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you bless with words assuring: "I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend,
And, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity:
With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise....**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (with motions)

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 - *Table of Plenty*

Daniel Schutte

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)

(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. 340 - *This Is My Song* (vs. 1 & 2)

FNLANDIA

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

This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for land afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine:
But other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies and bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mind.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE - *God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand*

arr. J. Wayne Kerr

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Jeff Lehn, preaching
Rev. Laura Sherwood, pastoral liturgist
Sharon Panzica, liturgist
Jim Lyman, Bill Rapp, guitars
Nick Lin, vocalist
Peggy Massello, music director



Week of July 4th, 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 (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

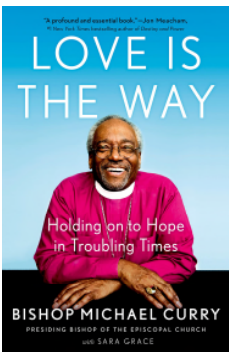
(age 3 - 4th grade) Lindley Traynor, Director of Children and Family Ministries, along with Peggy Massello and Scott McElhenie have developed a creative and interactive video for our children. This video is available for families on Sundays in the worship email sent to you each week.

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.

Conversation Groups in July

The Session is inviting everyone in the congregation to participate in a Conversation Group during the month of July. This idea grew out of the Session's retreat in June and expresses the desire to hear from the congregation personally about your thoughts regarding Church during the pandemic and as we emerge from it. The ideas shared will also help the Session identify Church ministry priorities as we look ahead to a new staff search (starting early fall) and discern ways to fulfill our mission to Experience God, Grow Disciples, and Transform Lives.

3 Sundays following worship

Church Lounge, 11:15 am-12:15 pm + 1 Zoom

July 11– In-Person Group, 8 open spots

July 18 – In-Person Group, 8 open spots

July 25 – In-Person Group, 8 open spots and Zoom Group, 8 open spots

3 Weeknights

Church Lounge, 7:30-8:30 pm + 1 Zoom

July 7 (Wed.) – In-Person Group, Chancel Choir (4 spots), 4 open spots

July 22 (Thurs.) - In-Person Group, Bell Choir (3 spots), 5 open spots

July 29 (Thurs.) – Zoom Group, 8 open spots

A Sign Up Genius link has been created to make it easy for you to choose a time to attend one of the Conversation Groups. The Sign Up Genius link will be available in our Daily Bread email and you can also find it on the News and Publications page of our website. If you have any questions about this process, need help signing up for a Conversation Group, or would like to submit written responses – please contact Interim Associate Pastor, Laura Sherwood, 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. 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 July 4th, 2021

Sunday, July 4th

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

Monday, July 5th

Church office closed

Tuesday, July 6th

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Lounge
7:30 pm	Strategic Planning	Lounge
	Personnel	Lounge

Wednesday, July 7th

12:00 pm	Loop group	Zoom
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir	
	Conversation Group	Lounge

Thursday, July 8th

10:00 am	Bible Study	via Zoom
	Pres Home Spoke	
	Conversation Group	Uber-Conference
7:00 pm	Men's Group	Lounge

Friday, July 9th

6:00 pm	Sukkat Shalom service	Fellowship garden
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Saturday, July 10th

No meetings scheduled

Sunday, July 11th

8:00 am	Gillson Park Beach Service	Gillson Park
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

A special thank you to Greg and Carol Korak, our hosts today for Lemonade on the Lawn.

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

FACEBOOK

facebook.com/1st Presbyterian Church of Wilmette

SERMONS

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

CALENDAR

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
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Interim Assoc. Pastor
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Marvin Behm
Financial Manager
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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.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

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