



Paul Klee, "Joyful Mountain Landscape" (1929)

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE**

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Sunday, August 29th, 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 required for everyone regardless of vaccination status
- 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 wearing masks, (through Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>) 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). 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](mailto:godsightings@fpcw.org) by 9 am 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

**\*Indicates please stand, rise in body or spirit as you are able.**

**PRELUDE - *Two Preludes on* HYFRYDOL**

arr. John F. Wilson & Zach Unke

**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. 366 – *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (vs. 1, & 3)**

HYFRYDOL

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,

Fix in us thy humble dwelling; all the faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure unbounded love thou art;

Visit us with thy salvation enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;

Suddenly return, and never, never more thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,

Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Within the strength of community, in the power of silence, we come before God with the truth of our lives, trusting in the mercy and love of our Creator. Let us offer our confession before God and each other, first in silent prayer... (silence is kept)... Let us now pray together:

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy Lord, God of life, hear our prayer: Forgive us when we follow those paths that do not lead to life, that lead instead to violence, or hate, or fear, paths that lead to dread and death. Forgive us when we forget that you offer us life, life that is abundant and eternal, life that began at the creation of all things. Forgive us, turn us to the right path, and let your love and grace flow over us and the world. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Those who are in Christ are a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! Your past need not define you. Your present need not control you. Your future is ringing with hope. Receive the forgiving and empowering love of God.

**In Jesus Christ, we are transformed into new people. 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**

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**COMMON LIFE**

**SCRIPTURE READING - Romans 8:31-35, 37-39**

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON - "Inseparable Love"**

Rev. Jeff Lehn

**HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 188 - *Jesus Loves Me***

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus Loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.  
Little one to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.

*Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,  
Taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me." *Refrain*

**A BLESSING FOR GOING BACK TO SCHOOL**

**Steady and comforting God, we are weary of the pandemic, and yet we are grateful as the new school year begins. Bless all students, teachers, support staff and administrators in these days of excitement and nervousness. We pray for their minds, that they will expand in wonder and celebration. We pray for their hands, that they will reach out to help with welcome and care. We pray for their mouths, that they will speak words of life and connection. We pray for their feet, that they will move toward those different from them. We pray for their eyes, that they may see themselves and others with compassion. We pray for their ears, that they would genuinely listen to all voices. In the school year ahead, we pray for health and wholeness, fun and growth, surprise and amazement, knowing you will hold us all the way through. 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. 837 - *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine***

SHOWALTER

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;  
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, Leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Refrain: Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;  
O how bright the path grows from day to day, Leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain*

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaving on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain*

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE - *Allegro vivace e marcato***

Edvard Grieg

**Worship Leaders:**

Rev. Jeff Lehn, preaching

Rev. Laura Sherwood, pastoral liturgist

Debbie Ackerman, liturgists

Claire DiVizio, soloist

Peggy Massello, Director of Music



**Week of August 29th, 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.

Because of the surging Delta variant, Session now requires everyone to wear a mask during Sanctuary in-person worship at 10 am. We will still continue our six-week experiment (Aug. 1 - Sept. 5) of singing as a congregation during indoor worship wearing a mask.

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.

**Warning - Email Money Scams Continue**

Last weekend, once again a scammer impersonated Pastor Jeff by creating a fake email address that seems legitimate (in this case "[pjef@fpcw@gmail.com](mailto:pjef@fpcw@gmail.com)") with a message saying he has a confidential need and could you reply back to "him." The scammer even downloaded Pastor Jeff's picture from the website to make it all look more convincing. Eventually, the scammer asked for Amazon gift cards and wanted you to take pictures of them with your phone and send them back to the fraudulent email address. Please do not respond and disregard these emails. We are so sorry for the hassle! We've reported it to the Wilmette Police, Google, etc., but there is little they can do, as this type of fraud is widespread. Pastors and church staff members will never ask you to purchase gifts cards via email and send them back to them. Also, always check the email address it's coming from - from [jlehn@fpcw.org](mailto:jlehn@fpcw.org), for example. If something seems suspicious, please call the church or Pastor Jeff.



**2021 Congregation Survey**

We encourage every member, friend, or occasional visitor (13 and older) to please take the time to fill out the Congregational Survey. Your participation in and answers to this survey are important for Session and FPCW staff to understand how you feel about your church life since the March 2020 shutdown and how you would like to see the church move forward through this difficult time and into a post-pandemic era. Ultimately, we want to discern how we can best meet the needs of our church members and further the mission of our church to Experience God, Grow Disciples, Transform Lives. A link to the survey was in last weeks Daily Bread and will also be in the August 31st Daily Bread. Please call the office if you would like a link to the survey emailed to you.



**Mark your calendar: 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 giant inflatable slide!) for all ages. We are excited to resume this beloved annual tradition.

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.

**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 on Saturday evening.

For six weeks (through September 5), Session has voted to try an experiment with in-person congregational singing wearing a mask in the Sanctuary at the 10 am worship service. We will discern what next steps to take as we enter the fall. 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.



### Mark Your Calendars

Save these dates for our Fall Programs!

**Midweek Meetup!** Formerly known as Singers & Ringers, our new program will now include games and crafts with Scott and Lindley.

Date: Wednesday, September 22 (and every Wednesday after)

Time: 4:45-5:45 with a pre-packaged dinner available at 5:45.

Grades: PreK – 6th (we would love all Jr. Highs who would be willing to be helpers!)

\*We will follow Covid protocols, meeting outside as much as possible. We have more than recommended air exchange in the Fellowship Hall/Sanctuary and will meet there when the weather is inclement. Masks are required!

### Chancel Bells

Date: Every Thursday evening – first rehearsal September 23!

Time: 7:30-8:30 pm

Place: TBD (Music Room or Fellowship Hall)

\*Masks required and we will stand spread apart

### Chancel Choir

Date: Every Wednesday evening – first rehearsal September 15

Time: 7:30-8:30 pm

Place: Fellowship Hall or Sanctuary (where we have better than recommended air exchange)

\*Masks required and we will sit spread apart

## 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](http://stocktheshelves.org). If you wish to donate diapers of all sizes or other products, please leave them inside the back door at FPCW.



**The Family Matters** community house in Rogers Park is looking for tutors. The school year has begun and there is a waiting list of students who need support. A tutor's commitment is 1 ½ hrs. per week, in one-on-one evening tutoring sessions. Interested in making a difference in a young student's life? Please contact Greg Korak (847-256-7251) and learn more about this opportunity.



*Small group offerings this fall.  
New members are invited.*

### **Slowing Time for Women**

Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7pm. Our fall discussion topic is Embracing Uncertainty, and it begins Sept. 1st via Zoom. New joiners always welcome! Contact Sue Sklansky at [suesklansky@gmail.com](mailto:suesklansky@gmail.com)

### **Lunch Group for Women**

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at noon at fpcw, and each month a member takes the responsibility to lead the discussion. Nancy Freeman coordinates [njwfreeman@gmail.com](mailto:njwfreeman@gmail.com). Fall topics: The Treasures of Children's Lit, Racial Justice, Sarah's Circle, and Charles Dickens

### **Book and Dinner Group**

Currently meeting without dinner, in-person. Meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7pm, hosted by Carol Korak. [carolkorak@gmail.com](mailto:carolkorak@gmail.com). Fall books: The Red Tent, The Paris Architect, A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, and The Library Book

### **Men's Hour**

Meets every Thursday at 7pm in the lounge. 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! Paul Traynor at [paultraynor@haymoon.com](mailto:paultraynor@haymoon.com).

### **Men's Council**

Meets every Saturday morning (8-9:30 am) tentatively beginning on September 18th in Wallace Moore. Members take turns cooking breakfast and providing a presentation. President Steve Reinhart [steve.reinhart@gmail.com](mailto:steve.reinhart@gmail.com)

### **Bible Study**

Thursdays at 10 am, in-person at fpcw in Wallace Moore. How does the Bible inform our daily lives? Pastor Jeff, [jlehn@fpcw.org](mailto:jlehn@fpcw.org)

### **Adult Faith formation**

Meets on Sunday morning at 9am in the Upper Room, beginning September 19th. Fall topic TBD. Pastor Jeff, [jlehn@fpcw.org](mailto:jlehn@fpcw.org)

### **Pres Homes Women**

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**

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in member homes. Abigail is a women's group for separated or divorced women. The fall book discussion will be Anne Lamott's Dusk Night Dawn, beginning Sept. 8th. Sue Sklansky at [suesklansky@gmail.com](mailto:suesklansky@gmail.com).

### **Loop Group**

Meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at noon on Zoom. The "Loop Group" meets 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. You can work from anywhere to join this group. Pastor Jeff Lehn at [jlehn@fpcw.org](mailto:jlehn@fpcw.org).

### **Interested in a group for parents of teens, or a group for parent/moms of young children?**

Let Sue Sklansky know ([suesklansky@gmail.com](mailto:suesklansky@gmail.com)) if you want to assist in getting a small group started. Training and resources are provided.



# CHURCH CALENDAR

## The week of August 29th, 2021

### Sunday, August 29th, Youth Sunday

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

### Monday, August 30th

7:00 pm	Session	WMFC
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### Tuesday, August 31st

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Lounge
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### Wednesday, September 1st

6:00 pm	FBO	Upper Room
7:00 pm	Slowing Time Group	Lounge

### Thursday, September 2nd

9:30 am	Presbyterian Homes Spoke	via Dialpad
10:00 am	Bible Study	WMFC
7:00 pm	Men's Group	Lounge

### Friday, September 3rd

No meetings scheduled

### Saturday, September 4th

No meetings scheduled

### Sunday, August September 5th

8:00 am	Gillson Park Beach Service	Gillson Park (picnic area 1)
10:00 am	In-person Worship	Sanctuary
	Livestream Worship	YouTube

**Today's flowers are given to the Glory of God** Marsha and Jack Nahigian in memory of Jack's mother, Ruth Nahigian.

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

- For the joy of in-person and livestreaming worship which brings us all together in one place,
- For the joyous birth of Connor John Nahigian born 8/18/21, mother, Hillary Nahigian,
- For those with health concerns
- 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](http://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](mailto:ssklansky@fpcw.org).

#### **WEBSITE**

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

#### **FACEBOOK**

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

#### **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)

### CHURCH STAFF

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#### **Please note:**

Our 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.



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