



"The Sower At Sunset," 1888 by Vincent Van Gogh

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 8th, 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, (Aug. 1 – Sept. 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). 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 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 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 - *Andante Cantabile*

G. Tartini

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

God has abundantly cast God's seeds of love and hope upon us.

May we be fruitful soil for the planting and growing of hope and peace.

Come, let us praise God who is so generous with us.

Let us sing songs of joy to God.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 15 – *All Creatures of Our God and King* (vs. 1, 2, & 3)**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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

Loving God, we admit to you that we are like stony fields,
capable of growing goodness and sharing it around,
but we can also allow goodness to wither and weeds to flourish.

Your mercy and justice have taken root in us,
forgive us when we do not share enough of it with others.

Your truth and love have been showered on us,
forgive those times when we have let it run to waste.

Most loving God, rain your mercy upon us,
Shine your warmth and light into every part of our lives,
So that we help grow the community of abundant grace
You have sown among us. 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. You are forgiven. You are empowered. You are set free.

Thanks be to God! 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

Matthew 13:1-9 and 18-23 (NIV) - The Parable of the Sower

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying:

“A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

“Listen then to what the parable of the Sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

SERMON - “Parable of the Soil”

Pastor Laura Sherwood

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 171- *A Sower Came from Ancient Hills* (vs. 1, 2, & 4)
(Sung by the soloist)

SEACHRIST

***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. 32** - *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

ELLACOMBE

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE ORGAN** - *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

H. Willan



Week of August 8th, 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 (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 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 bouncy house!) 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.

Pizza & Ice-cream!!

The best combination ever! Join us this Wednesday, August 11th, for pizza and ice cream!

We'll gather right after VBS at 5:30 pm, in the Fellowship Garden. This is a great night off in the middle of the week and a fun mid-August gathering. Come join us!

Back by Popular Demand

We will worship outdoors in the Fellowship Garden on Sunday, August 29th at 10 am. There is plenty of room for all – bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy worshipping in the beauty of God's creation! Please note: we will still have our 8 am beach service.

Lemonade on the Lawn

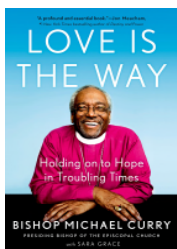
Join us after worship in the Fellowship garden for a glass of refreshing lemonade and an opportunity to gather and reconnect with friends and greet visitors. To be a hosts for Lemonade on the Lawn check out the Sign Up Genius link available on the News and Publications page and in the Daily Bread. We are looking for individuals/families to host the last three Sundays in August.

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 this 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 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.

A Session update around the discernment of the 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 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.



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.



*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

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. 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. 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.

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

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

Adult Faith formation

Meets on Sunday morning at 9am in the Upper Room, beginning September 19th. Fall topic TBD. Pastor Jeff, 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 or 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.

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.

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

Let Sue Sklansky know (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 8th, 2021

Sunday, August 8th, 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

Monday, August 9th

Church office closed

Tuesday, August 10th

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

Wednesday, August 11th

4:30 pm	VBS Pop-Up gathering	Fellowship Garden
5:30 pm	All church Pizza & Ice-cream	Fellowship Garden
7:00 pm	Tower Bonfire	Manse backyard

Thursday, August 12th

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

Friday, August 13th

6:00 pm	Sukkat Shalom service	Fellowship garden
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Saturday, August 14th

No meetings scheduled

Sunday, August 15th

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

Today's Worship Leaders:

Rev. Laura Sherwood, preaching
Jim Rank , liturgist
Claire DiVizio, soloist
Royce Eckhart, guest organist

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God in celebration of the life of Steve Jevelian from his family.

Join us after worship for Lemonade on the Lawn.

We do not have hosts signed up for the rest of the Sundays in August. If you are interested and willing to be a host please signup on using the SignUpGenius link posted on our website and in the Daily Bread. A special thank you to all who hosted Lemonade on the Lawn this summer.

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: Edie Segal, recent death of her mother Alice.
- 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.



Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski, Pastor on Call

While Pastor Jeff and Pastor Laura are away, Rev. Lolly Dominski will be our Pastor on Call. From August 12 - August 17. Some of you may remember Rev. Lolly Dominski from her two years of serving as fpcw's Interim Associate Pastor in 2001-2002. Since that time she has served in pastoral roles at Presbyterian churches in Arlington Heights, Morton Grove, and Lombard, and earned a Ph.D. in liturgical studies at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Her four children are in their early 30's, and she and her husband Matt are enjoying being grandparents. Lolly is delighted to reconnect with fpcw!

CHURCH STAFF

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Madeline Weston
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Marvin Behm
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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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