



Jan Richardson, "Mother Root"

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Sunday, September 19th, 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, 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!

- 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
- Please linger and fellowship with one another after worship in the Fellowship Garden, we would be delighted to catch up with you!
- Restrooms are available for use indoors
- The offering plate will be available to place a cash or check gift in before or after the service
- 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 and spirit as you are able.**

PRELUDE - *Just As I Am*

William Bradbury, arr. Zach Unke

INTROIT - *Bright Morning Stars*

Appalachian Folk Melody

WELCOME AND COMMON LIFE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

This day, like every day, God is here.

Our God is awesome and mysterious, all-powerful and all-loving.

This day, we get another chance to reorient our lives to God, worshipping in spirit and in truth.

Our God is wise and winsome, playing the long game with all of creation.

This day, we lift up our voices in song, ready our hearts for prayer and examine our minds for peace.

Our God is with us, ready to do something new, something unexpected, something lasting.

Let us worship God, tender and just.

OPENING HYMN NO. 39 - *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

verse 1, ensemble; verse 2 & 3, congregation (stand when indicated)

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee.

Thou changes not; thy compassions they fail not. As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning, new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above

Join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (Refrain)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,

strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow: blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (Refrain)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Trusting in God's mercy, let us make our confession together, first in silent prayer... (silence is kept)... Let us pray now together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we ask for your help, your power, your Spirit, so that we can amend our lives and grow more each day into the image of Christ. We confess that we fear what is different. We confess that it's easier to lock the doors of our community than to receive those who don't look like us, love like us, or worship like us. We confess that we have not lived out your call to share in abundant life and unconditional love. We believe that you have the power to turn us around to a more inclusive way of living, so we ask you to do that. We ask you to give us the courage to change. We ask that you give us the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to be your people in all we say and do. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Someday God will be all in all, righteousness and peace will join hands and all creation will be made new. Someday wildfires and hurricanes and pandemics and disparities will be no more. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel as we work toward that day: a world renewed by God one small step at a time.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

Children are invited to pass the peace and come forward

PRAYER FOR OUR CHILDREN

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying, Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

SCRIPTURE READING - Mark 9:30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

SERMON - "True Greatness"

Rev. Jeff Lehn

SONG OF REFLECTION - *Non Nobis, Domine*

William Byrd

Not unto us, Lord, not to us, but to thy name give glory

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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. 727** – *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant (Servant Song)*

THE SERVANT SONG

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on the road.

We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ light for you in the nighttime of your fear.

I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you.

I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,

Born of all we've know together of Christ's love and agony.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** - *This is My Father's World*

Franklin L. Sheppard, arr. Ken Medema



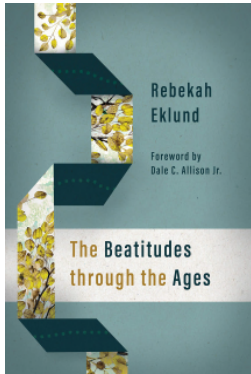
Week of September 19th, 2021

Sunday's at fpcw

Outdoor Worship Continues

Join us outdoors in our beautiful Fellowship Garden for 10 am worship every Sunday until the weather does not allow. Bring your own chair or use one of ours. This allows us to worship in the safest way we can now, without masks and singing. The parking lot will be available for any who need close access to the Garden. The service will also be live-streamed. Rain plan: we worship in the sanctuary with masks.

If you're joining us via Livestream, a video link will be included in the Saturday evening email. Peggy will begin prelude music at 9:50 am and we'll get underway after that, so please join us as you're able.



The Beatitudes Through the Ages – Sundays, 8:30-9:20 am, Sept 19 – Nov 21

Join us this fall as we study the Beatitudes together. Our guide will be the excellent book that came out earlier this year, “The Beatitudes Through the Ages,” by Rebekah Eklund. Through a close study of Matthew and Luke, we’ll explore how the Beatitudes have affected readers across differing eras and contexts. What does it mean to be hungry, or meek, or pure in heart? Is poverty a material or spiritual condition? And what does being blessed entail? Drawing on poetry, politics, music, and biblical scholarship, this class will help us appreciate the wisdom of the Beatitudes and apply them to our lives of faith today. The class will meet in a hybrid format for 10 weeks beginning Sunday: Sept.19 - Nov. 21, 8:30-9:20 am. Join us in person in the downstairs Fellowship Hall or virtually over Zoom: Zoom Link (Meeting ID: 832 3379 4440; Passcode: 389051) each week.



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, music with Peggy

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

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. 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.



Five years ago, FPCW welcomed two refugee families who arrived in Chicago for resettlement after fleeing their home countries of Afghanistan and Sudan. We worked with World Relief to help them move into and furnish new apartments, enroll their children in school, and begin to adjust to their new life in America. They became our friends and those of us who had the privilege of knowing and working with them were greatly enriched by the chance to participate in their lives.

One of our congregational members who worked closely with the families recently expressed his experience in this way: "Those were some of the more fulfilling times in my life. I felt like we were really making a difference and contribution in the lives of those families. And it opened up doors to helping other needy families along the way."

Now, once again, we are expecting a flood of refugees coming to Chicago in the weeks and months that lie ahead. And once again, World Relief is offering ways for us as a church community to get involved whether it is by volunteering as a host church, advocating to protect vulnerable refugees, making a contribution to World Relief or donating household goods or furniture.

Since we participated in a similar effort five years ago, we now know the ropes to a large extent. We know some of the challenges to expect. And we know that we need to have a robust group of members who have time, energy and commitment to devote to this project.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ in reaching out to newly arrived refugees in Chicago, please contact Mary Watt at mhw1117@mgail.com or Pete Holtermann at pcholtermann@gmail.com. We hope to schedule a meeting sometime in mid-September to discuss the opportunities for us to get involved in meeting this critical need.





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

Slowing Time for Women

Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7 pm. 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 Line Becomes a River, A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, and The Paris Architect. (The Library Book drops off for now.)

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 September 19th, 2021

Sunday, September 19th , Youth Sunday

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

Monday, September 20th

7:30 pm	Troop 5	Fellowship Garden
	Troop 5 Board of Review	WMFC

Tuesday, September 21st

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Lounge
7:30 pm	Personnel Ministry	via Zoom

Wednesday, September 22nd

7:30 pm	Chancel Choir	WMFC
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Thursday, September 23rd

10:00 am	Bible Study	WMFC
7:00 pm	Men's Group	Lounge
7:30 pm	Chancel Bells	WMFC

Friday, September 24th

No meetings scheduled

Saturday, September 25th

No meetings scheduled

Sunday, August September 26th

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Jeff Lehn, preaching
Rev. Laura Sherwood, pastoral liturgist
Fran Langewisch, liturgist
The Chance Choir
Una Voce: Carol Moss, Linnea Jacobs, Peggy Massello
Peggy Massello, Director of Music

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by the Brumitt, Brown, Scott families in memory of their beloved mother Marjorie Brumitt.

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
- For those who are grieving: The Brumitt family at the recent death of Marjorie Brumitt (Jane, Bill Brumitt, Ellen and Bob Brown and Nan and Edward Scott)
- 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/1stPresbyterianChurchofWilmette

SERMONS

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

CALENDAR

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.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

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