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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Communion Sunday

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 5th, 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. 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 - *Let us Break Bread Together*

Spiritual, arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

For cool mornings and rumbling afternoon storms, for amazing days and even more ordinary evenings, for deep friendships and shallow wading pools:

We give thanks to God!

For the laughing God who tickles us with joy, for the broken-hearted love that outlasts our struggles:

We give thanks to God at all times!

For Christ our Lord who lavishes us with hope, for the Spirit of grace who teaches us to dance:

We give thanks to God at all times and for everything!

OPENING HYMN NO. 31 – *Let Us with a Gladsome Mind

HYFRYDOL

Let us with a gladsome mind praise the Lord who is so kind:

For God's mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

God, with all commanding might, filled the new made world with light:

For God's mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

All things living God does feed; with full measure, meets their need:

For God's mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

Let us with a gladsome mind praise the Lord who is so kind:

For God's mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

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

Holy and gracious God, at times we feel so frail and fragile. You call us to hold fast to what is good, but so often we flounder, unable to find that solid thing that will center us again. Help us to see you as our center, and to cling to the good that you create in us and the world. Help us to set aside all our jealousies and prejudices, all of our betrayals and lies, all that adds to the world's hurt. Help us to grow even more into Christ's likeness during this season that we will bear his love and truth to the world. We pray in his name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, our God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The first and last word with God is grace—grace to heal and make new, grace to propel us forward. This is the good news of the gospel—we are loved, forgiven and set free to transform the world.

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**

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

COMMON LIFE

SCRIPTURE READING - Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly, do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

SERMON -

Rev. Jeff Lehn

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 548 - *May God Support You All Your Days*

DICKINSON COLLEGE

May God support you all your days, in times of gladness and in need.

May God remember you with grace and bless your every word and deed.

May God confirm your heart's desire and bring to fullness all your plans.

May God's sustaining love inspire your shouts of praise and joyful dance.

May God be near you when you pray, to help you with a gentle hand.

May God forever guide your way and lead you to the promised land.

Our hope is in the Holy One. The swift and strong will surely fall,

But you will stand with God alone, who hears and answers when you call.

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

May the God of grace be with you! **And also with you!**

You are God's holy people. **We lift our hearts, for the Lord our God is holy.**

(Minister continues in prayer...)

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.

BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

COMMUNION MUSIC

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. 313 - *Lord, Make Us More Holy

LORD MAKE US MORE HOLY

Lord, make us more holy; Lord, make us more holy;
Lord, make us more holy, until we meet again:
Holy, holy, holy, until we meet again.

Lord, make us more loving; Lord, make us more loving;
Lord, make us more loving, until we meet again:
Loving, loving, loving until we meet again.

Lord, make us more patient; Lord, make us more patient;
Lord, make us more patient, until we meet again:
Patient, patient, patient, until we meet again.

Lord, make us more faithful; Lord, make us more faithful,
Lord, make us more faithful, until we meet again:
Faithful, faithful, faithful, until we meet again.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE - *Allegro marziale

Robert Schumann

Worship Leaders:

Rev. Jeff Lehn, preaching

Rev. Laura Sherwood, pastoral liturgist

Steve Reinhart, liturgist

Nick Lin, soloist

Peggy Massello, Director of Music



Week of September 5th, 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.

2021 Congregation Survey – Your Voice is needed!

- New **deadline for completion = September 12**
- Questions include major themes expressed in the July Conversation Groups
- **Only takes 11 minutes** to complete
- We need as many respondents as possible to help Session set ministry priorities
- **All individuals aged 13 and up** were asked to respond
- Call or email the Church office for a hard copy if needed
- **Thank you!** from the Church Session



To access the on line survey click on the Survey Monkey link in this week's all-church emails or type the following into your internet browser:
www.surveymonkey.com/r/SYTJXYJ

Warning - Email Money Scams Continue

A scammer has been impersonating Pastor Jeff by creating a fake email address that seems legitimate 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. 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'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 Pastor Jeff's email is jlehn@fpcw.org, If something seems suspicious, please call the church or Pastor Jeff.



First Festival is scheduled for next Sunday, September 12, at 10 am

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.



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.

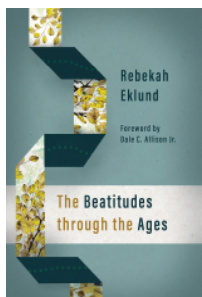


Stock the Shelves

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. If you wish to donate diapers of all sizes or other products, please leave them inside the back door at FPCW.

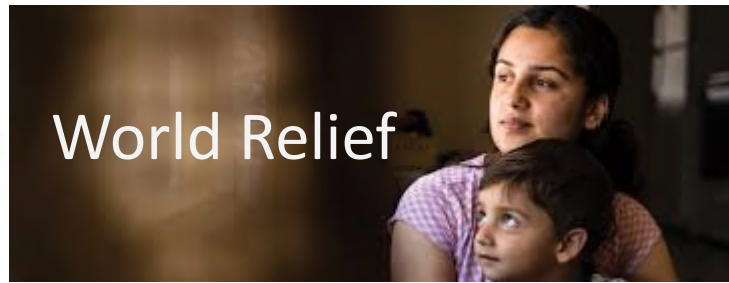


The Family Matters community house in Rogers Park is looking for tutors. The school year has begun and there is a waiting list of students who need support. A tutor's commitment is 1 ½ hrs per week, in one-on-one evening tutoring sessions. Interested in making a difference in a young student's life?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



The Beatitudes Through the Ages – Sundays, 8:30-9:30 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 for 10 weeks beginning on Sunday: Sept.19 - Nov. 21, 8:30-9:30 am.



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 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 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 5th, 2021

Sunday, September 5th , Youth Sunday

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

Monday, September 6th

Office Closed

Tuesday, September 7th

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Lounge
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Wednesday, September 8th

12:00 pm	Lunch Group	Fellowship Garden
6:00 pm	FBO	Upper Room
7:30 pm	Abigail Group	Lounge

Thursday, September 9th

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

Friday, September 10th

No meetings scheduled

Saturday, September 11th

No meetings scheduled

Sunday, August September 12th

10:00 am	First Festival Livestream Worship	Parking lot under the tent YouTube
11:00 am	Lunch and games	Fellowship Garden

JOYS AND CONCERNS

- For the joy of in-person and livestreaming worship which brings us all together in one place,
- For those adversely affected by the recent hurricanes in Louisiana.
- For those with health concerns: Marjorie Brumitt
- 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

SERMONS

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

CALENDAR

www.fpcw.org/events-calendar

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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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