

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

First Festival

Sunday, September 12th, 2021

10:00 am Worship Service

Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.

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

PRELUDE

Turn Your Radio On
Try a Little Kindness

Albert E. Brumley
Sapaugh and Austin

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

God has set this day before us,

A day set apart, a day of rest and praise.

God has set our lives before us,

A span of years in which we love, and learn, and serve.

God has set God's seal upon our hearts,

So that we might be fully alive, tinged with awe and wonder, replete with love.

With joy, let us worship our God together.

OPENING SONG - *Will the Circle be Unbroken

Traditional, new lyrics C. Inserra

Refrain: **Will the circle, be unbroken, by and by Lord, by and by**

There's a brighter day ahead now, we can make it if we try.

I was singing, with my sister, I was singing with my friends;

And we all can sing together, 'cause the circle never ends. (sing refrain)

Some go before us, some come after, but our love stays evermore

One day we all will be reunited on that new and sunlit shore. (sing refrain)

Some days are trying, and they're many, we just make it through the day,

Reaching out to, one another, we can make it and find our way.

(instrumental interlude)

I was singing, with my brother, I was singing with my friends;

And we all can sing together, 'cause the circle never ends. (sing refrain)

CALL TO CONFESSION

As God's beloved children, we are invited to come to God with the fullness of our lives, to admit our love and our hate, our faith and our fear, our hope and our despair. 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

God of all the saints, God of all the sinners, hear our prayer. We would be saintlike – holy, good, patient, loving. But we end up feeling more like sinners – full of failures, selfish, and weary. Perhaps you see us simply as human – as beloved, and flawed, and trying, and failing, and succeeding. In all of this, forgive the wrong that we have done, and bless the good we have accomplished. Keep on loving us, and helping us, and molding us more and more into the image of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting, and I remind you of this surpassing grace – in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***PEACE OF CHRIST**

COMMON LIFE

MISSION TESTIMONY - Jenni Holt (introduction of new Mission Partner - Andrea Knepper, *Chicago Adventure Therapy Executive Director*)

SCRIPTURE READING - Mark 8:27-38

SERMON - "Who Do You Say that I Am?"

Rev. Jeff Lehn

SONG OF RESPONSE - *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

Just a closer walk with thee	Through this world of toil and snares,	Just a closer walk with thee
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,	If I falter, Lord, who cares?	Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to thee:	Who with me my burden shares?	Daily walking close to thee:
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.	None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.	Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
(instrumental interlude)	(instrumental interlude)	

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

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.

ANTHEM - *I Think I Can Hear You*

Carole King

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** - *Day By Day from Godspell*

Stephen Schwartz

Day by day, day by day O dear Lord three things I pray:
To see Thee more clearly
Love Thee more dearly,
Follow Thee more nearly,
Day by day. ~Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** - *Joyful, Joyful*

Ludwig van Beethoven, adapted

Sources: Call of Confession, Prayer of Confession, Assurance of Forgiveness, written by Rev. Beth Merrill Neal (holdfasttowhatgood.com).

Today's Worship Leaders:

Rev. Jeff Lehn, preaching

Rev. Laura Sherwood, pastoral liturgist

The Wailin' Mahalias, guest musicians

Christine Inserra, guitar; Rick Veras, fiddle and guitar;

John Tuck, bass

Peggy Massello, Director of Music



*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.

Midweek Meetup! Games and crafts with Scott and Lindley, music with Peggy

Date: Wednesdays beginning September 22, 4:45-5:45 pm, pre-packaged dinner at 5:45 pm.

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

Chancel Bells

Date: Thursdays beginning, September 23, 7:30-8:30 pm

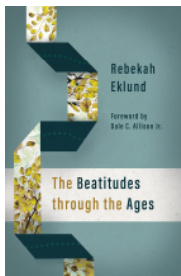
Place: TBD (Music Room or Fellowship Hall)

Chancel Choir

Date: Wednesdays beginning September 15. 7:30-8:30 pm

Place: Fellowship Hall or Sanctuary

*Masks required for all music rehearsals

	<p>The Beatitudes Through the Ages Sundays, 8:30-9:30 am, Sept 19 – Nov 21 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. Our guide will be "The Beatitudes Through the Ages," by Rebekah Eklund.</p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------