



Ruby Lindner, "Her Hands Open"

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE**

**Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost**

**Sunday, October 24, 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

### **Spiritual Practice: Dwelling in the World**

Think back to a time during the previous week when you had an opportunity to share God's peace with someone (this could be a co-worker, stranger, neighbor, family member, etc.). \*Go back imaginatively into that encounter. What might God have been up to there? If you were to return to that relationship, what might God want to do?

*\*Sharing the peace means participating in God's life and work to bring healing and wholeness. Sharing the peace can come in many forms: acknowledging the presence and humanity of the person ringing up your groceries or delivering your mail, making time to listen to a neighbor, delivering a meal or plant, or supporting someone who is stressed out, whether that be a family member, co-worker, or someone you've just met.*

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

**PRELUDE** - *Take My Life And Let It Be Consecrated*

arr. Barbara Boertje

**INTROIT** - *Uyai Mose/ Come All You People*

Alexander Gondo

## **WELCOME AND COMMON LIFE**

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Through Moses, God said,

**“Let my people go.”**

In scripture, the law declares:

**“In the seventh year, you must cancel all debts.”**

With grace, Jesus said:

**“Give one coat away.”**

With honesty, Jesus taught:

**“Sell what you have, give that money to the poor.”**

Faith has always involved letting go, releasing, setting free, dropping our nets, giving to others, and following.

**So in this hour of worship, may we release that which binds us. May we worship with open hearts, so that we can walk freely with God.**

Let us worship God, tender and just.

### **\*OPENING HYMN NO. 399** - *God Welcomes All*

THEMBA AMEN

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;**

**God’s love is strong and it never ends. (sing repeatedly)**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

God is gracious and merciful and knows our needs before they even reach our lips. Still, we engage in confession, admitting to God all that rests uneasily in our hearts. Confident of God’s love, let us make our confession together, first in silent prayer... (*silence is kept*)...Let us pray now together:

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Gracious God, we admit to holding tight to that which we know and understand. We put you in a box to avoid the shades of gray that come with faith. We put worship in a box to avoid the discomfort of change. We put ourselves in boxes labeled with various expectations and societal norms. We put others in boxes labeled “worthy” and “unworthy.” We put all that we have in a box and pray we won’t run out. So in this moment, we confess to holding tight to fear, greed, and worldly structures. Forgive us for missing the point. Open our eyes to a new way - to a holiness found in open boxes, unclenched fists, shades of gray, and holy release. With gratitude and hope, we pray. 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 loved. You are a glorious work in progress.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### **\*PEACE OF CHRIST**

Now, let us share with each other the peace that forgiveness brings, saying:

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you!**

*Children are invited to pass the peace and come forward and gather with Children’s Chapel leaders.*

**PRAYER FOR OUR CHILDREN** - *Let us sing our prayer for the children as they move to their chapel time:*

**HYMN NO. 469** - *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

**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** - 2 Corinthians 8:1-9 and 9:6-8

We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints— and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you. Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** - “Giving To God”

Rev. Jeff Lehn

**HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 708** - *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

SCHUMANN

**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 us 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.**

**GIVING TESTIMONY** -

John Hairston

**CALL FOR OFFERING**

We are invited to participate in God’s kingdom emerging all around us. May we offer ourselves to God with glad and generous hearts, freely giving our tithes and offerings to the ministry of this congregation. In lieu of passing the plate, we have multiple ways to give - online or in person - please consult your bulletin or the slide on your screen. As we gather our gifts together and offer them to God, may we do so in gratitude and praise.

**ANTHEM - *We Abide***

Mark Miller

If we lay all we seek on the altar of love, the work of our hands and our minds,  
Trusting all that we need flows and flowers from God, our thirsting will be satisfied.

*(refrain) When we burn with a holy desire, to fulfill everything that God requires,  
Making justice together, walking close to each other,  
Reaching past all the things that divide,  
Humbly offering kindness, seeking hope and forgiveness,  
We abide in God's love, we abide.*

For the cities shall bloom and the earth be restored,  
The hurts that we bear start to heal,  
As the faith of the past is refreshed and reformed,  
The word of our God is made real.

*(refrain)*

*~text: Laurie Zelman*

**\*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. 716 – *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending***

BEACH SPRING

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDECTION**

**\*POSTLUDE - *Postlude on BEACH SPRING***

arr. Zach Unke

Today's Worship Leaders:

Rev. Jeff Lehn, preaching

Rev. Laura Sherwood, pastoral liturgist

Laura Lyman, liturgist

The Chancel Choir

Peggy Massello, Director of Music



Week of October 24th, 2021

Sunday's at fpcw

**Outdoor Worship**

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.



**2022 Giving Campaign: "A Future with Hope"**

The Giving Team is excited to share that our stewardship theme in 2022 is "A Future with Hope." The theme draws on the beautiful promise from Jeremiah 29:11, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." During the last three weeks of October (October 17, 24 and 31), the Giving Team has planned an emphasis on stewardship in worship. We will hear giving testimonies from church members each week, with an opportunity to commit our financial pledge for next year in worship on October 31, Commitment Sunday. If you'd prefer to mail in your pledge card to the church office or pledge online, we welcome that as well. (Letters and pledge cards will be sent in the mail this week and an online pledge option will be available by the end of the week.) Thank you in advance for your generosity to the life and ministry of our church, as we seek to "Experience God, Grow Disciples, Transform Lives" together! We are deeply grateful.

**Racial Justice and Equality Community-wide Conversation**

Today, members of FPCW are invited to join in a community-wide conversation about racial justice and equality. The gathering will take place in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center from 4-5:30 p.m., and members of other churches have been invited to participate in the discussion. A representative from each church will be asked to give a brief summary of the ways in which his/her congregation has responded to the need to dismantle the systemic and structural racism that exists in this country for more than 400 years. After hearing from each attending churches, the discussion will shift to brainstorming ways in which we as a community can work together to bring about change. All are welcome to attend.



Giving gifts at Christmas is a time-honored tradition practiced all over the world. Its origins come from our Christian heritage of the Wise Men bringing gifts of tribute to the Baby Jesus after his birth.

Giving gifts at Christmas is also a time-honored tradition at FPCW as we reach out to our community purchasing gifts for children and adults served by our mission partners to brighten their holidays. This year's recipients will be children from low-income and immigrant communities served by Erie Neighborhood House, disabled adults served by Orchard Village in Skokie, and families in homeless situations served by Family Promise of Chicago's North Shore.

This year, the FPCW mission committee is asking for your help. Not just in purchasing the gifts for the 150 people on our list, but also in helping to coordinate the project. Half of our gift list will be made available to the congregation through Sign-up Genius and the other half will be hung on tags on the Christmas tree located in the narthex of the church for members to select before/after attending worship. We need help with both parts of the project.

If you love Christmas and want to find a way to share the joy of the season with others, then this is the perfect project for you. Interested in learning more details about how you can help? Please contact Mary Watt ([mhw1117@gmail.com](mailto:mhw1117@gmail.com)) or Jenni Holt, ([jenni.holt@yahoo.com](mailto:jenni.holt@yahoo.com)) co-chairs of the FPCW Mission Committee.

## The Beatitudes Through the Ages – Sundays, 8:30-9:20 am, through Nov 21st

Join us as we study the Beatitudes together. Our guide will be “The Beatitudes Through the Ages,” by Rebekah Eklund. We’ll explore how the Beatitudes have affected readers across differing eras and contexts. Drawing on poetry, politics, music, and biblical scholarship, this class will help us appreciate the wisdom of the Beatitudes. The class will meet in a hybrid format for 10 weeks. Join us in person in the WMFC or virtually over Zoom: Zoom Link (Meeting ID: 832 3379 4440; Passcode: 389051) each week.

### Fpcw Mission Partners



**The Family Matters** community house in Rogers Park is looking for tutors. 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.



#### 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.

#### Stock the Shelves Needs Volunteers for October

We need 5-6 volunteers to help us pre-pack the bags with products and load them onto the U-Haul truck. We do this on the Tuesday night before the Wednesday distribution. This month we will be packing and loading on Tuesday, October 26 at 5:30 pm in the FPCW parking lot. Please consider volunteering a couple of hours to support Stock the Shelves. Contact Rick Drake at [richarddrake@comcast.net](mailto:richarddrake@comcast.net) if you'd like to volunteer.



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 said, “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.”

Once again, we are expecting a flood of refugees coming to Chicago in the weeks and months that lie ahead. And World Relief is offering ways for our church community to get involved 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@gmail.com](mailto:mhw1117@gmail.com) or Pete Holtermann at [pcholtermann@gmail.com](mailto:pcholtermann@gmail.com).



*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. 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: A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, and The Paris Architect. (The Library Book drops off for now.)

### **Men's Hour**

Meets Thursdays at 7 pm 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) in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center. Members take turns cooking breakfast and providing a presentation. Questions? Contact Steve Reinhart [steve.reinhart@gmail.com](mailto:steve.reinhart@gmail.com).

### **Bible Study**

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

### **Adult Faith formation**

Meets on Sunday morning at 8:30-9:30 am in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center, through November 21st. Fall topic, The Beatitudes, led by Pastor Jeff, Lehn [jlehn@fpcw.org](mailto:jlehn@fpcw.org).

### **Pres Homes Women**

1st Thursday of the month at 10 am, via UberConference. Pastor 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 7:30 pm in a member's homes. Abigail is a women's group for separated or divorced women. The fall book discussion will be Anne Lamott's Dusk Night Dawn. Questions? Please contact 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. Interested in joining please contact 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 October 24th, 2021

### Sunday, October 24th

10:00 am	In-person Worship Livestreaming Worship	Fellowship Garden YouTube
10:15 am	Chapel Time	Manse Backyard
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Fellowship Garden
4:00 pm	Racial Justice Community Conversation	WMFC
5:00 pm	Tower Youth	Tower/WMFC

### Monday, October 25th

7:00 pm	Mission Ministry	Lounge
7:30 pm	Troop 5	WMFC

### Tuesday, October 26th

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Lounge
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### Wednesday, October 27th

4:30 pm	Midweek Meet Up	Fellowship Garden
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir	WMFC

### Thursday, October 28th

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

### Friday, October 29th

No meetings scheduled

### Saturday, October 30th

8:00 am	Men's Council	WMFC
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### Sunday, October 31st

10:00 am	In-person Worship Livestream Worship	Fellowship Garden YouTube
10:15 am	Chapel Time	Manse Backyard
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Fellowship Garden
5:00 pm	Tower Youth	Fellowship Garden/WMFC



### **Wanted by the Deacons:**

Small clear vases for delivering small flower arrangements (preferably around 4-6" tall), or Ball jars work well too! Please leave them in the second-floor kitchen. Please do not leave larger vases. Thank you very much.

### **Fellowship Hour**

We are in need of hosts for Fellowship Hour on Sundays after worship. To host fellowship is very easy, just a couple of plates of cookies will be all that is needed. A SignUpGenius link has been created and is posted on the News and Publications page of our website and in the weekly Daily Bread . Please help support this very special long-time fpcw tradition. This is a wonderful opportunity for our members and visitors to check in and stay connected.

**Today's flowers are given to the glory of God** by Mary and Bill Watt in celebration of the life of Jane Mahoney Hill, Mary's mother.

### **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: Jack O'Kieffe
- 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.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

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