



John August Swanson, "Celebration"

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Commitment Sunday

Sunday, October 31, 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 - *Give Thanks/Now Thank We All Our God*

arr. Joel Raney

WELCOME AND COMMON LIFE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We all have gifts. We all have something to share.

The world needs what we have to give.

We share what we have. We share who we are.

And we do it all for the glory of God.

All gifts come from God.

Let us worship God with our abundant gifts!

***OPENING HYMN NO. 305** - *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!*

DARWALL'S 148TH

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, when we gather to worship you, we realize we are not the people we are supposed to be. We are trying to be faithful, but we mess up. We are trying to be loving, but we fail. We are trying to be generous, but we are afraid. God, forgive us for our weakness and transform us by your grace. We want to do better. We want to make a difference in your world. We want to be fully alive. But, without your help, we know we're stuck. Save us and renew us for your service. Give us a future with hope. In Christ's name, 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.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN NO. 447** - *We Are Forgiven*

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

***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 - Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7, and 11-13

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. [The letter said] ⁴Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

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. ¹²Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON - "A Future with Hope"

Rev. Jeff Lehn

ANTHEM OF REFLECTION - *Treasures in Heaven* (Matthew 6:20-21)

Ned Rorem

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 -

Susan Eby

CALL FOR OFFERING

ANTHEM - *Nearer My God to Thee*

arr. Brian L. Hanson

2022 STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION

***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. 772**— *Live into Hope*

TRURO

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** - *Les Moissonneurs* (The Harvesters)

Francois Couperin

Today's Worship Leaders:

Rev. Jeff Lehn, preaching

Rev. Laura Sherwood, pastoral liturgist

Debbie Ackerman, liturgist

The Chancel Choir

Peggy Massello, Director of Music



Week of October 31st, 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.



Commitment Sunday - 2022 Giving Campaign: "A Future with Hope"

The Giving Team stewardship theme for 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." Today is Commitment Sunday, our opportunity to commit our financial pledge for next year. Pledge cards are available today in the narthex if you'd prefer to use a pledge card or pledge online is also available. 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.

Nominating Committee News

The Session has empowered the Nominating Committee to resume meeting this week for the purposes of creating an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC). The new APNC will begin working regularly in 2022 to hire our next Associate Pastor. The APNC will be a team of 6-8 church members representing all ages and stages. If you or someone you know would be interested in serving on this very important team, please send your name or another's nomination to Elder Rick Baer at rickbaer2112@gmail.com.

There will be an informational meeting for all interested individuals in the coming weeks. Submitting your name does not commit you to the process, but we would invite you to the informational meeting to learn more.



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) or Jenni Holt, (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. 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

A special thank you to everyone who volunteered last Wednesday to help with Stock the Shelves. Many hands make light work and the many extra hands we had were very much appreciated.



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 or Pete Holtermann at pcholtermann@gmail.com.



Once again, FPCW will be hosting the guest families of Family Promise. Our guests will arrive the evening of Sunday, November 7 and will stay with us until Sunday morning, November 28. As of now, we have two families that will join us: a single mother and child and a single father and child. We also expect to host at least one, if not two, additional families during our hosting period this month. While we have not yet returned to the pre-Covid model of hosting where we provide and share meals with our guests at our church, FPCW, in partnership with Sukkat Shalom, is providing volunteers for overnight hosting and many have volunteered to prepare and deliver meals to the guest families at the Family Promise Day Center in Evanston. Thank you to the Jeff and the staff, the Session and the congregation of FPCW for generously offering our building and our best efforts to make our Family Promise guests feel welcome and at home.



Poinsettias

Help beautify the church during Advent season by buying a poinsettia in memory of a loved one or in appreciation of a special person. The cost is \$15 per plant. Order forms are available in your Sunday bulletin. Orders are due in the church office by Sunday, November 28th.



Usher in Advent with...

Advent Lessons & Carols service

Sunday, December 5, 2021, 4:00 pm

Followed by our traditional Wassail Party outside in the church parking lot.

NOTE: there will be no 10:00 am worship service this day!



Advent Family Workshop, Sunday, November 21st, following worship. Gather with families under the heat lamps outside for coffee/cocoa, pick up an Advent calendar and family devotional, and make a special craft to take home and use all Advent long!



Christmas Pageant 2021

Sunday, December 19th, during worship we will have a special treat. Like last year we will present a one of a kind Christmas pageant performed by our Mid-Week Meet-Up kiddos. Written and directed by Lindley Traynor and musical direction by Peggy Massello. This year's pageant will be a video presented during worship. You won't want to miss this creative and unique Christmas pageant.



*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

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: 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 or 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.

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.

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 October 31st, 2021

Sunday, October 31st

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
5:00 pm	Tower Youth	Tower/WMFC

Monday, November 1st

7:00 pm	Deacons	Lounge
7:30 pm	Troop 5 Strategic Planning	WMFC Upper Room

Tuesday, November 2nd

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Lounge
----------	---------------	--------

Wednesday, November 3rd

12:00 pm	Loop Group	Zoom
4:30 pm	Midweek Meet Up	Fellowship Garden
6:00 pm	FBO	Lounge
7:00 pm	Slowing Time Group	Zoom
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir	WMFC

Thursday, November 4th

9:30 am	Pres Homes Spoke	Pres Homes
10:00 am	Bible Study	WMFC
7:00 pm	Men's Hour	Lounge
7:30 pm	Chancel Bells	WMFC

Friday, November 5th

No meetings scheduled

Saturday, November 6th

8:00 am	Men's Council	WMFC
1:30 pm	Girls Scouts	WMFC

Sunday, November 7th

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

Please consider hosting Fellowship Hour one Sundays in November. It's very easy to host fellowship 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. You can also find the link 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 Bob and Linda Malstrom, in loving remembrance of Bob's parents, Bob and Betty Malstrom.

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: Iris Boaz and her family as they mourn the recent passing of her father.
- 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

Jeff Lehn
Senior Pastor
jlehn@fpcw.org ext. 12

Laura Sherwood
Interim Assoc. Pastor
lsherwood@fpcw.org

Peggy Massello
Director of Worship and Music
pmassello@fpcw.org ext. 16

Scott McElhenie ext. 23
Director of Youth Ministries
youth@fpcw.org

Lindley Traynor
Director of Children & Family Ministries
ltraynor@fpcw.org ext. 20

Sue Sklansky
Dir. Of Congregational Care & Engagement
ssklansky@fpcw.org ext. 14

Madeline Weston
Office & Communications Coordinator
office@fpcw.org ext. 11

Marvin Behm
Financial Manager
finmanager@fpcw.org ext. 15

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

600 9th Street, Wilmette, IL 60091-2779

847-256-3010

office@fpcw.org www.fpcw.org