



Corey Couturier, "Three Crosses"

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Christ the King Sunday

Sunday, November 21st, 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!
- 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 Lehn

Spiritual Practice: Intercessory Prayer

Praying for People and Challenging Situations

Give yourself a few moments to breathe and become quiet in God's presence. Allow yourself the gift of enjoying the presence of God for your own soul's sake, and rest for a while in the familiarity and intimacy of your friendship with God. Then, as you are ready, allow God to bring others to your heart and mind—any person or situation that is of concern to you, someone who has asked for your prayers, any person or group of persons who has been harsh or critical or complaining, any situation that is causing you stress or requires wisdom. Imagine God asking you, “Is it okay for us to invite this person to join us (*or* for us to look at this situation together)?

If you are able to say yes, welcome that person into the space where you and God are communing, and be with that person (or situation) in God's presence. Listen for the prayer (the desire, the groaning) the Holy Spirit is already praying for that person or situation. Ask God, “How can I join you in that prayer?” See if there is anything God is inviting you to offer to that person or situation out of that prayer. Do not force or push for anything. If nothing comes, continue to rest in God relative to that situation. If wisdom or a next step does come, determine that you will respond faithfully as God makes your way clear.

If you notice resistance to inviting a person or situation into the time that you and God are sharing, feel free to tell God, “No, I'm not ready,” and then pay attention to that together. Even your resistance can have a lot to tell you about what is really going on inside you relative to the person or situation.

Adapted from Ruth Haley Barton, *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership: Seeking God in the Crucible of Ministry*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 21st, 2021

Rev. Jeff Lehn, preaching
Ann Boyle, liturgist
The Chancel Choir
Peggy Massello, Director of Music

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

PRELUDE - *Prelude on CORONATION and DIADEMATA*

Hopson and Blersch

WELCOME AND COMMON LIFE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*congregation please stand, rise in body or spirit*)

Around the world this day, the universal church celebrates the Reign of Christ.
Christ Jesus, friend of the poor, the meek and the merciful,
has been enthroned above all authority and power
in this world and in the world that is to come.

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth,
serve the Lord with gladness
come into his presence with singing.**

God has placed everything under Christ's wounded feet,
appointed the one who wore a crown of thorns
as the supreme head of the church, his body.

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
come into his courts with praise.**

Give thanks and praise his loving name!

***OPENING HYMN NO. 267** – *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

MADRID

CALL TO CONFESSION

While there are many with power in our world - power to hurt us, power to hire or fire us, power to control us - only God has the power to forgive us and make us new people. Let us confess our fear of the world's power and let us welcome the power of God's grace, first in silent prayer...(*silence is kept*)...Let us pray now together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we have trouble believing you are the King in our lives. Early in our nation's history, we rejected monarchy as something undesirable. Yet, this day we are called to recognize Jesus Christ as the King of our lives, our sovereign ruler. His kingdom is based on the laws of love; loving God as God has truly loved us and loving our neighbor as we ourselves want to be loved. That love extends beyond the borders of our lives, into a world in which there is fear and alienation, hunger and disease, hopelessness and darkness. Jesus, our sovereign ruler and friend, has asked us to do what he did: feed the hungry; visit the sick; welcome the stranger; be peacemakers in a world of violence; justice-seekers in a world of brokenness. These words are not unfamiliar to us, yet we have often treated them as optional. Forgive us, Lord. Rule our lives again with your powerful love. Help us to find the forgiveness which you have given to us and to do your will with dedication and joy. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, 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.

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 - John 18:33-37

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON -

Rev. Jeff Lehn

**HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 270 - *O Lord, You Are My God and King*
(verses 1 & 2 choir, verse 3 congregation)**

JERUSALEM

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.

CALL TO OFFERING

**ANTHEM - *Cantate Domino (Sing Unto the Lord)*
(translation from Latin)**

Hans Leo Hassler

O sing unto the Lord a new song; sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth.
Sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name: be telling of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his honor unto the heathen, and his wonders unto all peoples. ~*Psalm 96:1-3*

***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. 643 - *Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE - *Postlude on "We Gather Together" and "Now Thank We All Our God"

Charles Callahan



Week of November 21st 2021

Sunday's at fpcw

We gather for Sunday worship in the sanctuary at 10 am and we request that masks be worn. 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 the prelude, so please join us as you're able.



"A Future with Hope"

Thank you to all who have submitted your financial commitment toward the life and ministry of our church in 2022! This year's theme is "A Future with Hope," drawing on the beautiful promise of Jeremiah 29:11. If you have not yet pledged and wish to do so, the Giving Team kindly requests you do so via mail or online (website Stewardship page). Currently we have received 64 pledges totaling \$443,366. We are deeply grateful for your generosity. Thank you!



Community Presentation and Forum on

Critical Race Theory: What it is; What it is not.

Speaker: Dr. Avery Smith*, Professor of Philosophy at Loyola University

Date: Sunday, November 28, 2021, 4-5:30 pm In-person and on Zoom

Host: Racial Justice Committee of the First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette

Where: In-person at First Pres in Wallace Moore Fellowship Center (masks required)

Zoom link requires invitation – please email Rev. Laura Sherwood

(lshserwood@fpcw.org) to be added to the Zoom invite list.

Open to all members of the Church and community.

The purpose of the November 28 program is to inform our community about critical race theory. Following Dr. Smith's presentation, she hopes to engage in dialogue with those in attendance and answer questions about this highly controversial topic. Questions about this program? Please contact a member of the FPCW Racial Justice Committee. Mary Watt, Carolyn and Pete Holterman, Laura Lyman, Bob Bobesink, and Bill Bishop

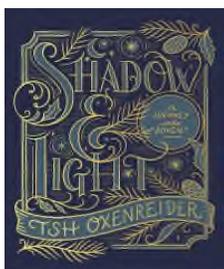


*Avery Merriel Smith is faculty in the Department of Philosophy at Loyola University Chicago. In 2017 she completed her PhD in Philosophy at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Italy. Her specializations are 20th Century Continental Philosophy, ethics, and metaphysics. She has had careers in Corporate America and the United Nations, which have influenced her research focus: human relationship, corporate ethics, and Critical Race Theory. Dr. Smith is currently under contract with Palgrave Macmillan for the publication of her manuscript entitled *Black America and Existential Incompatibility, A Phenomenological Approach Toward Ethical Solutions for Problem Groups, which will be published in the first quarter of 2022.*



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Advent Devotional

Our Advent theme this year is "Journeying Toward the Light." We want to offer you this Advent devotional book "Shadow and Light: A Journey into Advent," which ties in with our theme of Light and Journey. This is a new Advent devotional from Tsh Oxenreider and we hope it will inspire you to celebrate this season of wonder. Please Pick up a devotional on the table adjacent to the church office.

Advent Engagement Opportunities



It's the most wonderful time of the year and one in which we can count our blessings and share some cheer with those in our community who are in need. This year the FPCW Giving Tree will be both live and "virtual." Wish lists have been submitted by three of our mission partners: Orchard Village, Family Promise, and Erie House. All gifts purchased this year can be dropped off at FPCW in one of the drop boxes set up in the parking lot lobby. Gifts should be unwrapped and clearly marked with recipient name (if required), residence (Orchard Village recipients), and agency name. The suggested dollar amount per recipient/gift is \$35-40.

You can find the Sign Up Genius link to access gift requests for Orchard Village and Family Promise in the Tuesday Daily Bread as well as on the News & Publications page on our website. The Erie House gift tags will be on the Giving Tree in the narthex.. We have two tags on the Giving Tree and 23 requests for gifts on the Sign up Genius link. Please consider choosing a gift from the wish lists on Sign Up Genius and share some Christmas cheer.

All purchased gifts should be dropped off at FPCW no later than **Sunday, November 28, 2021**. There will be drop boxes set up in the downstairs parking lot lobby. Please contact Mary Watt (mhw1117@gmail.com) with any questions.



Advent Family Workshop, today, 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!



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 and the church office. 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!



Wassail Party - Sunday, December 5, 5:00 pm.

We are looking for volunteers to bring individually wrapped sweet or savory snacks to help make our FPCW Wassail Party a wonderful event. This beloved tradition occurs each year after the Advent, Lessons, and Carols service, and this year the Wassail party will be held outside. Please contact Fran Langewisch at (franlangewisch@gmail.com) to let her know you can help with this event.



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.



Gift-Wrapping Events. Please join us at one of two scheduled sessions to wrap 75 Giving Tree gifts (purchased by church members) for children at Erie House. The wrapping events will take place on **Sunday, November 28th at 11:00 a.m.**, immediately following worship, and on **Saturday, December 4th at 9:30 a.m.**, immediately following the decorating of the church for Christmas. Both gift-wrapping events will be held in Wallace Moore, where there will be plenty of room to socially distance. All wrapping supplies will be provided.



Homemade Holiday Cards. Feeling creative? This year, a homemade holiday card will accompany each of the delivered Giving Tree gifts—and we would love your help making them! This is a great activity for young and old alike. Holiday card kits consisting of 5 blank cards are available for pick-up in the narthex, next to the Giving Tree. Since gift recipients represent a variety of faith backgrounds, cards should be decorated in a festive, but non-religious manner. Please return decorated cards to the labeled basket in the narthex by **Sunday, November 28th**.



Calling all American (or British bakers)! It's cookie week!

Too soon?? We know it's hard to think of Christmas already, but the deacons are planning ahead. **Please mark your calendars for the week of December 5-9** to bake and drop off 2-3 dozen cookies for the deacons to distribute to our almost 50 members who receive deacon care. Cookies can be dropped off in the upstairs kitchen of the church, off the narthex. Thanks!! Please email or text Sue Sklansky if you can help. ssklansky@fpcw.org 312-608-4909



Longest Night Service is a place where you can feel God's presence and love. Join us on Tuesday, December 21st at 7 pm, in the Sanctuary/Livestream. God has promised to meet us here and welcome us for who we are. Light will defeat the darkness.



December 24th Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Family Candlelight Service (outdoors)

9:00 pm Candlelight Worship Service (Sanctuary/Livestream)

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. December book is 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 or Pastor Laura provide the link and discussion includes a Bible Study guide. Coordinators: Anne Menard amenard4347@yahoo.com or Jeff Lehn 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. You can work from anywhere to join this group. This group will be on hiatus until further notice.

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 November 21st, 2021

Sunday, November 21st

| | | |
|----------|--|--|
| 10:00 am | In-person Worship Livestreaming Worship | Fellowship Garden YouTube |
| 10:15 am | Chapel Time | Chapel |
| 11:00 am | Fellowship Hour Advent Workshop | Fellowship Garden Fellowship Garden |
| 5:00 pm | Tower Youth | Tower/WMFC |
| 7:00 pm | Troop 5 Trek Meeting | WMFC |

Monday, November 22nd

| | | |
|---------|------------------------|--------|
| 7:00 pm | Mission Ministry Group | Lounge |
| 7:30 pm | Troop 5 | WMFC |

Tuesday, November 23rd

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

Wednesday, November 24th

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

Thursday, November 25th

Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 26th

Church Office Closed

Saturday, November 27th

No meetings scheduled

Sunday, November 28th (Poinsettia orders and Giving Tree Gifts due)

| | | |
|----------|---|------------------------------|
| 10:00 am | In-person Worship Livestream Worship | Fellowship Garden YouTube |
| 10:15 am | Chapel Time | Chapel |
| 11:00 am | Fellowship Hour | Fellowship Garden |

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 Sign Up Genius link has been created and is posted on the News and Publications page of our website. You can also find the link in the Tuesday 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 the Jevelian/Lane family in loving memory of James Lee Lane.

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,
- 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