



*Benedictus* © Jan L. Richardson

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE**

**First Sunday in Advent**

**Sunday, November 28th, 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 28th, 2021**

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

Rev. Laura Sherwood, preaching  
Carol Korak, liturgist  
Jane Rankin & Bob Hariman, Advent Candle liturgists  
The Chancel Choir  
Peggy Massello, Director of Music

**PRELUDE** - *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*  
*Andante*

Charles Callahan  
J.S. Bach

**WELCOME AND COMMON LIFE**

**ENTRANCE OF THE LIGHT HYMN NO. 88, verse 1** (*seated*)

**O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE ARE WE THERE YET?**

**JOURNEYING TOWARD THE LIGHT OF PEACE** (Isaiah 2:1-4)

Our Advent journey begins...God will teach us peace.

We light this first candle to burn as a sign of peace among all people.

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, that God may teach us the ways of peace and continue our journey toward its light. Let us pray together:

**ADVENT PRAYER** (*unison*)

**Christ is coming to make all things new!  
In heartfelt repentance, we prepare him room,  
And we are opening ourselves to Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN NO. 662** – *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

RATISBON

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

In this season of Advent, we are reminded of God's love for us, shown in the impossible act of God becoming incarnate, taking on human flesh, to reach us in love and save us from our worst abilities. This is the God to whom we pray, to whom we make our confession. Let us then come to God with the truth of our lives, first in silent prayer...(*silence is kept*)... Let us pray now together:

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**In the days that have been, O God, we have walked along crooked paths - strewn with our selfishness and greed, our prejudice, and our apathy. We confess that we have hidden from the light, from the light which exposes everything, the love and the hate, the good deeds and the harmful ones.**

**On this day we admit to you our failings, where we have wandered, when we have not listened. We confess to you our sin.**

**In the days to come, remind us of your love and grace. Show us your power to transform hearts and minds. Sate us with peace in our souls, so that we will take peace into this war-weary world. In Christ we pray. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends in Christ, hear this Good News! God could not love you any more than God loves you at this very moment. You are that beloved. So know that wrapped in that love is grace and forgiveness, and a call to go out into the world in love and peace.

**Alleluia! Amen.**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** (HYMN NO. 795, refrain) - *Healer of Our Every Ill*

**Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow,  
Give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.**

**\*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** - Luke 1:68-79

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** - "Journeying Toward the Light of Peace"

Rev. Laura Sherwood

**HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 795** - *Healer of Our Every Ill*

HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL

**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** - *Thou Shall Know Him When He Comes*

Hal Hopson

Thou shalt know him when he comes,  
Not by any din of drums,  
Nor his manners, nor his airs,  
Nor by any thing he wears.

Thou shalt know him when he comes,  
Not by a crown nor by a gown,  
But his coming known shall be by the holy harmony  
Which his coming makes in thee.

Thou shalt know him when he comes. Amen. Amen.

~Anonymous

**\*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** (*unison*)

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in peace, and we give in peace.  
A peace deeper than our anxiety and fear.  
A peace growing from our trust in your loving power.  
Receive these generous offerings,  
and use them to bring your peace to our world. Amen.

**\*SENDING HYMN NO. 378** - *We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom*

MERLE'S TUNE

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE** - *Carol of the Birds*

Claude Louis D'Aquin, arr. R. Bitgood

**Sources:**

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*Journeying Toward the Light: Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2021* -

Adapted by Rev. Laura Sherwood for FPCW from *Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2019* by Derek Weber (UMC). *Advent (unison) Prayers from Light for the World: An Advent Candle Liturgy 2016* by Heather Prince Doss ((PC)USA). *Light Bearer element from Advent Waiting and Wondering* – Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

*Confession: Call, Prayer and Assurance: Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.*

*Prayer of Dedication* - written by Joanna Harader (Pastor of Peace Mennonite Church in Lawrence, Kansas) <https://spaciousfaith.com/2017/12/01/offertory-prayers-for-advent/> *Offertory Prayers for Advent*



**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 TODAY 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](mailto: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

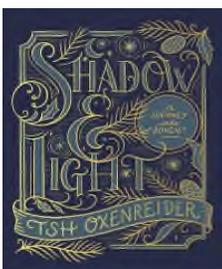


\*Avery Merriel Smith is faculty in the Department of Philosophy at Loyola University Chicago. In 2017 she completed her PhD in Philosophy at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Italy. Her specializations are 20<sup>th</sup> Century Continental Philosophy, ethics, and metaphysics. She has had 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



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 **today Sunday, November 28, 2021**. There will be drop boxes set up in the downstairs parking lot lobby. Please contact Mary Watt ([mhw1117@gmail.com](mailto:mhw1117@gmail.com)) with any questions.



### 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](mailto: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 **today 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 today!



**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](mailto: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](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). 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](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 will be led by Rev. Rod Quainton.

**Adult Faith formation**

This group will be on hiatus until further notice.

**Pres Homes Women**

1st Thursday of the month at 10 am, via UberConference. Pastor Laura provides the link and discussion includes a Bible Study guide. Coordinators: Anne Menard [amenard4347@yahoo.com](mailto:amenard4347@yahoo.com).

**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**

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](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 November 28th, 2021

### Sunday, November 28th (Poinsettia orders and Giving Tree gifts due today)

10:00 am	In-person Worship	Fellowship Garden
	Livestreaming Worship	YouTube
10:15 am	Chapel Time	Chapel
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	WMFC
	Giving Tree gift wrapping	WMFC

### Monday, November 29th

7:00 pm	Mission Ministry Group	Zoom
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### Tuesday, November 30th

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Lounge
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### Wednesday, December 1st

4:30 pm	Midweek Meet Up	WMFC
6:00 pm	FBO	Upper Room
7:00 pm	Slowing Time Group	Lounge
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir	WMFC

### Thursday, December 2nd

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

### Friday, December 3rd

No meetings scheduled

### Saturday, December 4th

8:00 am	Men's Council	WMFC
11:00 am	Giving Tree gift wrapping	WMFC

### Sunday, December 5th

4:00 pm	Advent Lessons & Carols	Sanctuary
5:00 pm	Wassail party	Fellowship Garden

## Fellowship Hour

Please consider hosting Fellowship Hour one Sundays in December. It's very easy to host fellowship just a couple of plates of cookies will be all that's 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.

## 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](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/1stPresbyterianChurchofWilmette](https://facebook.com/1stPresbyterianChurchofWilmette)

## 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

Jeff Lehn  
*Senior Pastor*  
[jlehn@fpcw.org](mailto:jlehn@fpcw.org) ext. 12

Laura Sherwood  
*Interim Assoc. Pastor*  
[lsherwood@fpcw.org](mailto:lsherwood@fpcw.org)

Peggy Massello  
*Director of Worship and Music*  
[pmassello@fpcw.org](mailto:pmassello@fpcw.org) ext. 16

Scott McElhenie ext. 23  
*Director of Youth Ministries*  
[youth@fpcw.org](mailto:youth@fpcw.org)

Lindley Traynor  
*Director of Children & Family Ministries*  
[ltraynor@fpcw.org](mailto:ltraynor@fpcw.org) ext. 20

Sue Sklansky  
*Dir. Of Congregational Care & Engagement*  
[ssklansky@fpcw.org](mailto:ssklansky@fpcw.org) ext. 14

Madeline Weston  
*Office & Communications Coordinator*  
[office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org) ext. 11

Marvin Behm  
*Financial Manager*  
[finmanager@fpcw.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@fpcw.org) [www.fpcw.org](http://www.fpcw.org)