



Vasily Kandinsky, *Improvisation No. 30 (Cannons)*, 1913 (located at the Art Institute of Chicago)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE
Sunday, May 15th, 2022
Fifth Sunday of Easter
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 continue both 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
- The offering plate will be available to place a cash or check gift in before or after the service
- Join us after worship in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center for fellowship and coffee

We're so glad to be worshipping with you in person and online! You are loved and never alone, friends.

With gratitude in Christ,

Pastors Jeff Lehn and Laura Sherwood

Spiritual Practice: Sacred Breath

As a way of entering your time of prayer, take time to get in touch with your breathing. Don't try to change the rhythm of your breath; simply notice your natural, rhythmic rise and fall. Imagine as you breath in that God breathes life into you. As you breath out, imagine releasing all of the distractions and worries that keep you from being fully present in prayer. See if you can just set them aside for a time. Simply spending time with your breath as a way of deepening your awareness of the God who sustains you moment by moment is enough. Take time to become aware of your breathing, and allow your heart to fill with gratitude for this most basic gift of life.

Drawn from Christine Valters Paintner,

Water, Wind, Earth & Fire: The Christian Practice of Praying with the Elements, p. 22.



Today's flowers are given to the Glory of God

In celebration of David Bennett's 50th birthday, by his family.

Order of Worship
Sunday, May 15th, 2022
10:00 am Sanctuary

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

Worship Leaders

Rev. Jeff Lehn, preaching
Rev. Laura Sherwood
Mark SooHoo, liturgist
Peggy Massello, Music Director
Hyejin Joo, piano
Chancel Choir

PRELUDE - *Sheep May Safely Graze*

J.S. Bach, arr. E. Power Biggs

ENTRANCE OF THE LIGHT

The Acolyte brings in the light to remind us that we have gathered in the light of Christ.

WELCOME AND COMMON LIFE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

God of the past, who has created and nurtured us.

We are here to thank you.

God of the future, who is always ahead of us.

We are here to thank you.

God of the present, who is here in the midst of us.

We are here to thank you.

God of hope, who is beyond and with us.

We are here to thank you.

Let us worship God, tender and just.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 645** - *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* (verses 1, 2, & 4)

MIT FREUDEN ZART

CALL TO CONFESSION

In that first season of Easter, the disciples wrestled with news that seemed almost too good to be true: Jesus was alive! Life had overcome death. Hope had outlasted fear. Love had defeated hate. And yet the world still appeared the same. Fear, brokenness, hunger, violence, and evil still roamed the streets. Their struggle is our struggle. Living as Easter people in a Good Friday world. In humility and honesty, let us confess to our gracious and always present God, first in silent prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Vulnerable God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose joy often eludes us, and whose grace we routinely bungle: Accept us as we are and not as we ought to be this morning. We are living through a difficult time. Each of us has burdens to carry. Forgive us, God, for what we've done and left undone, what we've said and left unsaid, in the past week. Help us forgive ourselves, and our families, friends and neighbors who've hurt us. Remind us that we belong to one another. By your grace, heal and transform us. Fill us with sturdy compassion. Empower us with gritty hope. Show us your steadfast love. We are yours, ready to your will, whatever comes our way in the week ahead. In Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, our God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. God is making all things new - overcoming death with life, hatred with love, fear with hope. This is the Easter good news - the tomb is empty and love has the final word. Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN NO. 447 - *We Are Forgiven

We are forgiven, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. (sing twice)

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Children are invited to share the peace and gather with leaders to go to the Chapel to continue to worship together in an age-appropriate and meaningful way. They will return to sit with their families toward the end of worship service in the Sanctuary.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN NO. 456 - *Listen, God Is Calling*

**Listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,
Offering forgiveness, comfort and joy. (sing twice)**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING - Acts 17:16-31 (p.p. 137-138 in the New Testament)

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

SERMON -

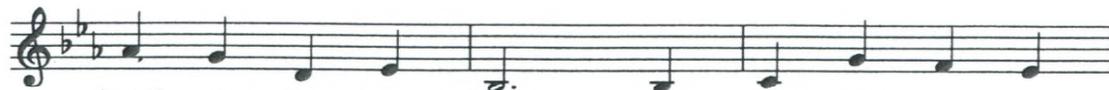
Rev. Jeff Lehn

HYMN OF REFLECTION - *He Comes to Us as One Unknown*

C. Hubert H. Parry, arr. John Ferguson



All 1. He comes to us ___ as ___ one un - known, a
 Choir 2. He comes when souls ___ in ___ si - lence lie and
 Choir 3. He comes to us ___ in ___ sound of seas, the
 Choir 4. He comes in love ___ as ___ once he came by
 All 5. He comes in truth ___ when ___ faith is grown; be



breath un - seen, un - heard; as though with - in a
 thoughts of day de - part; half - seen up - on the
 o - cean's fume and foam; yet small and still up
 flesh and blood and birth; to bear with - in our
 lieved, o - beyed, a - dored; the Christ in all the



heart of stone, or shriv - eled seed in dark - ness sown, a ___
 in - ward eye, a fall - ing star a - cross the ___ sky of ___
 on the breeze, a wind that stirs the tops of ___ trees, a ___
 mor - tal frame a life, a death, a sav - ing ___ name, for ___
 Scrip - tures shown, as yet un - seen, but not un - known, our ___



pulse of be - ing ___ stirred, a pulse of be - ing stirred.
 night with - in ___ the ___ heart, of night with - in the heart.
 voice to call ___ us ___ home, a voice to call us home.
 ev - 'ry child ___ of ___ earth, for ev - 'ry child of earth.
 Sav - ior and ___ our ___ Lord, our Sav - ior and our Lord.

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.**

ANTHEM - *Here I am, Lord* (text can be found at Hymn No. 69) Daniel L. Schutte, arr. Ovid Young

CALL FOR OFFERING

As we gather our gifts and offer them to God, may we do so in gratitude and praise.
*We invite you to give via our church website www.fpcw.org, our smartphone app, or by sending a check to the church office.
An offering plate is also available in the Narthex on the Usher Table.*

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - THE DOXOLOGY (LASST UNS ERFREUEN)**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;
Alleluia, Alleluia. Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

MISSION TESTIMONY - YWCA Trimmy Stamell

SENDING HYMN NO. 318 - *In Christ There is No East or West ST. PETER

***FOLLOWING THE LIGHT**

The Acolyte carries the light as we go out, to remind us that we both follow and carry
Christ's Light into the World.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE - *Postlude in F* J.S. Bach

Our Common Life

Week of May 15th, 2022



New Members Exploration Class Today at 11 am, in the Upper Room

Anyone interested in learning more about what it means to be Presbyterian, what First Pres has to offer you in your faith journey, and ways you can serve then join Pastor Jeff, Elder Rick Baer, and Sue Sklansky, Dir. of Congregational Care and Engagement, today at 11 am in the Upper Room for a conversation about what church membership means.

First Presbyterian and Soul & Smoke present **WILMETTE ROCKS FOR UKRAINE!**

Friday, June 3rd, 2022

Live music starts at 5:45PM (corner of 9th & Greenleaf)

Join

The Higgs-Boson Experience

for classic & new wave hits from the 70's and 80's

+

new original music from special guest

iEx Maquina!

for

FREE LIVE MUSIC to BENEFIT UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

The Soul & Smoke food truck will offer dinner, beer & wine for sale from 5PM – 8PM

Pre-order dinner:



Guarantee your
favorite BBQ !

Select "PDA Ukraine Relief"



DONATE

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$10

This is a FREE EVENT - no cover charge or food purchase required to attend.

Where will the money go? <https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/ukraine/>

Questions? Email office@pcw.org for more info



Small Group Ministry Update from Sue Sklansky

Small group ministry at fpcw has been one of the mainstays of my personal faith journey. I hope that what has evolved in the more recent years will have a lasting legacy for our faith community. We seem to have craved connection in the past two years and I am grateful that despite the restrictions, our small group life has been consistently happening. I know my participation in "Slowing Time" during the pandemic was a lifeline. As we near summer we are busy, but we still desire the connection, so we may go light on content for a few months, as it is fun to just have fellowship instead (think out of the box--meet at the beach, over coffee, out for dinner, etc). These groups are so critical for continuing to build community, for people to be known and heard in deep ways, and for each to be inspired and grow in faith. If you are newer to our church family and haven't found your group, please think of joining this summer. We hope to also offer a NEW group this fall for parents with younger children. Stay tuned! If interested, let Pastor Laura know of your interest. The current Small Group Ministry list for this summer is on page 9 of this bulletin.



Bible Study: Meets Thursdays at 10 am

Join us in-person or via Zoom for an hour of lively and thoughtful discussion of the Bible and its import for our faith today. Led by Pastor Jeff, there's no pre-reading or any expertise required. Everyone is welcome. We take the Bible seriously, but not literally. We try to interpret it with historical and literary understanding, but also recognize that no interpretation is perfect or final. We believe that questions are transforming the answers, and we're interested both in what the Bible meant (to its first hearers) and what it means (to us today). We apply St. Augustine's "rule of love" (i.e. all faithful interpretations of Scripture will promote a love of God and neighbor). Currently, our group is studying the book of Genesis and would love to have you join us

weekly, monthly, or whenever you are able. The group is coordinated by church member Bonnie Wehrenberg. We meet in hybrid format from 10-11 am on Thursday: in person in the Upper Room at church and virtually over Zoom Link.

PROGRAMMING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH – Sunday, May 15th, 2022

Children's Chapel for children ages 3 yrs. - 6th grade - Meets today

After the Sharing of the Peace, children ages PreK - 6th grade are invited to either remain in the sanctuary with their families, or move to the chapel for an age-appropriate time of worship, lead by Lindley Traynor (ltraynor@fpcw.org), Dir. of Children & Family Ministries, and Scott McElhenie (youth@fpcw.org), Dir of Youth and Family Ministries. This is a meaningful time of encountering God and connecting with each other through simple liturgy, songs, prayer, and the stories of our faith. Children return to sit with their families toward the end of the service in the sanctuary.

7th and 8th Grade Youth Group and Confirmation Class - Meets today

Sundays 11:00 am-12:00 noon in Purple Room (2nd floor). All 7th and 8th graders are invited to join the group which will include activities and discussion to help dive into the meaning of our faith and how faith applies to our lives. 8th graders will have additional opportunities to reflect on their desire and readiness to be confirmed as active members of the church. Contact Pastor Laura Sherwood, lsherwood@fpcw.org.

TOWER Senior High Youth – Sundays 5:00 - 7:00 pm - Meets today

Senior High Youth gather at 5:00 pm in the Tower for a devotion and fellowship. Dinner at 6:00pm in WMFC. Questions? Contact: Scott McElhenie, youth@fpcw.org

Thank you to our 5th and 6th Graders and their families for Lent and Easter Leadership!

During Lent and on Easter Sunday, the 5th and 6th graders led us in a new worship element of Acolyte: bringing in and taking out the light for our candles and the symbolic Light of Christ. (We received much positive feedback about this new element, and now it is continuing thanks to the ushers.)

These youth also, along with family members, led us in our special Lent and Easter Opening Litany with the progressive display. All were tied into our Lenten theme and devotional book: *For the Beauty of the Earth*, by Leah Schade, and involved reading scripture, leading a responsive litany, and placing a new earth-themed object on the progressive display. On Easter Sunday they lit a small Easter egg, 100% beeswax candle on each of the 6 tiers of the Lenten display to symbolize the Light of God in Christ and its transformative power throughout creation.

This special season worship leadership program was designed for the 5th and 6th graders after similar leadership by them during Advent as the “torchbearer.” As we look ahead, we are considering all the ways we can offer leadership opportunities for our youth and will plan to have a fellowship gathering for 5th and 6th graders soon, hopefully outdoors.

If you would like to participate in the planning, give feedback, or make sure your youth is included in the communications, please email me at any time.

In appreciation and joy of the Easter season,
Pastor Laura “PL” Sherwood
lsherwood@fpcw.org



**Calendar for the week of
May 15th, 2022**

Sunday, May 15th

8:30 am	Adult Study - <i>Difficult Words of Jesus</i> (Upper Room)	In-person/Zoom
9:55 am	Livestream Worship	YouTube
10:00 am	In-person Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:15 am	Children's Chapel Time	Chapel
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
	7th & 8th Grade Youth & Confirmation Class	Purple Room
	Girl Scout Troop Meeting	Yellow room
	New Members Class	Upper Room
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Youth fellowship/dinner	Tower/WMFC

Monday, May 16th

6:30 pm	Deacons (Lounge)	In-person/Zoom
	Worship Music & the Arts	via Zoom
7:30 pm	Troop 5 Scouts	WMFC
8:30 pm	Crew 5	Yellow Room

Tuesday, May 17th

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Lounge
6:00 pm	Youth & Family Ministry Group	Lounge
7:00 pm	Cub Scouts	WMFC

Wednesday, May 18th

6:30 pm	Slowing Time Women's Group	Off-site
7:00 pm	Book and Dinner Group	Upper Room
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir	WMFC

Thursday, May 19th

10:00 am	Bible Study (Upper Room)	In-person/Zoom
7:00 pm	Men's Hour	Lounge
	APNC (Upper Room)	In-person/Zoom
7:30 pm	Chancel Bells	Music Room

Friday, May 20th

No meetings scheduled

Saturday, May 21st

8:00 am	Men's Council (breakfast & program)	WMFC	in-person/Zoom
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Sunday, May 22nd

8:30 am	Adult Study - <i>Difficult Words of Jesus</i> (Upper Room)	In-person/Zoom
9:55 am	Livestream Worship	YouTube
10:00 am	In-person Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:15 am	Children's Chapel Time	Chapel
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
	7th & 8th Grade Youth & Confirmation Class	Purple Room
2:30 pm	Cub Scouts Blue & Gold Dinner set-up	WMFC
4:30 pm	Cub Scouts Blue & Gold Dinner	WMFC
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Youth fellowship/dinner	Tower/Lounge
7:00 pm	Troop 5 Trek Meeting	Upper Room



Small group offerings

All are invited.

Small Group Ministry 2022 Summer Schedule

Slowing Time for Women

Meets the 3rd Wednesday at 7 pm. New joiners always welcome! Our last formal meeting is June 18th. Anyone interested in joining should contact Pastor Laura. Plans are underway for summer fellowship for this group.

Lunch Group for Women

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at noon, and each month a member takes the responsibility to lead the discussion. Nancy Freeman coordinates njwfreeman@gmail.com. Their last summer gathering will be June 29th in the fellowship garden. Plans for the fall topics will be determined at that gathering.

Book Group

Meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm, hosted by Carol Korak. carolkorak@gmail.com. Members take turns leading a book discussion. They will be meeting every month all summer.

Men's Hour

Meets Thursdays at 7 pm. 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. Men's Council will not meet during the summer but will return to regular meetings in September.

Bible Study

Meets on Thursdays at 10 am. How does the Bible inform our daily lives? This class is led by Pastor Jeff.

Adult Faith formation

Meets on Sunday morning at 8:30-9:30 am in the Upper Room.

Pres Homes Women

1st Thursday of the month at 10 am, via UberConference. Pastor Laura provide the link and discussion includes a Bible Study guide. Anne Menard coordinates this group and will find summer opportunities for fellowship on site.

Abigail Group

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm in a member's homes or on Zoom. Abigail is a women's group for separated or divorced women. Questions? Please contact Pastor Laura.

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. This group will take a summer break.

Senior Supper

Senior Supper is coming back!! This is a monthly dinner group who meet at Ridgview Grill in Wilmette. Bonnie Wehrenberg is taking the helm to coordinate events. If you are an over 65 member and want to get to know others more casually, please join us! Contact Bonnie for first date this summer at bwherbie007@att.net

Tower Senior High Parents

Raising teenagers is always a challenge, and as our youth gather together to navigate their lives as Christians, their parents are also joining together to lend support to one another too. If you want to learn more, reach out to Irris Boaz at iboaz@ameritech.net.

Adult Faith Formation Class

Sundays, 8:30-9:30 am (6 weeks - April 24th - May 29th)

Hybrid Format in-person in the Upper Room, and via Zoom

“The Difficult Words of Jesus” Join Pastor Jeff Lehn for this six-week class to study the most demanding and perplexing of Jesus’ teachings. Guided by the book by Amy Jill-Levine (a Jewish New Testament scholar). We will wrestle with a Scripture text together and seek to apply it to our lives of faith. Reach out to Pastor Jeff to get a link to the readings we’ll use ahead of time. No pre-reading required just get to it if you can. If you can’t, come, anyway! We will be blessed by your presence. The Zoom link is available in the Saturday evening email.

May 15: Nowhere Among the Gentiles – Chapter 4, *Difficult Words* and Matthew 10:5-6

May 22: Outer Darkness – Chapter 5, *Difficult Words* and Matthew 25:30

May 29: Your Father the Devil - Chapter 6, *Difficult Words* and John 8:44

JOYS AND CONCERNS

- For the joy of in-person and livestreaming worship which brings us all together in one place,
- For the families of Ukraine and all who are assisting,
- For those with health concerns, Melissa Rooks, Jack McAllister and Colleen's mom, Dorothy,
- 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.

Fellowship Hour - Could you host one Sunday?

We gather every Sunday after the worship service for fellowship. Could you host one Sunday? **It’s easy to do - bring cookies, and help with the coffee, it’s just that simple.** Fellowship Hour is a wonderful time to see old friends and greet visitors. The SignUp Genius link is on the News and Publications page of our website www.fpcw.org and in the Tuesday, Daily Bread.

IN MEMORIAM

The beginning of each month you’ll find posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex the list of members dating back many decades who have passed away in that month. This memorial list is a wonderful way for us to honor the memory of our loved ones who have gone before us.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Jeff Lehn <i>Senior Pastor</i> jlehn@fpcw.org	ext. 12
Rev. Laura Sherwood <i>Interim Associate Pastor</i> lsherwood@fpcw.org	ext. 17
Peggy Massello <i>Director of Worship & Music</i> pmassello@fpcw.org	ext. 16
Lindley Traynor <i>Director of Children & Family Ministry</i> ltraynor@fpcw.org	ext. 20
Sue Sklansky <i>Director of Congregational Care and Engagement</i> ssklansky@fpcw.org	ext. 14
Scott McElhenie <i>Director of Youth & Family Ministries</i> youth@fpcw.org	ext. 23
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Ethan Holtermann <i>Livestream Engineer</i> ethanholtermann1@gamil.com	

OFFICE HOURS

9 am-5 pm (Monday-Thursday)
9 am-1:00 pm (Friday)



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.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

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