



Sax Berlin, *Clothed in Light, Abraham and Sarah* (2014)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Sunday, September 18th, 2022

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Sacrament of Baptism

10:00 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary

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 Fellowship Garden for Lemonade on the Lawn

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: Remembering Baptism

Keep a small bowl of water near a door or in a sacred space in your home. Whenever you pass this bowl of water, dip your fingers in the bowl and make the sign of the cross, praying silently to yourself, “I am a beloved child of God.”

Ways to expand this practice:

- If you are traveling this summer, try this practice in a body of water that you visit. If it is safe to do so, you may choose to gather some water from important places to refresh your water bowl at home.
- Young children and siblings may enjoy blessing one another and gathering water from special places. Since this is a movement-based spiritual practice, it can be especially approachable for young children.



Today's flowers are given to the Glory of God, in celebration of a special day for Mary Acri

Order of Worship
Sunday, September 11th, 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, Pastoral Liturgist
Pete Holtermann, Liturgist
Royce Eckhardt, Guest Organist/Choir Director
Hyejin Joo, Pianist

PRELUDE - *The God of Abraham Praise*

G. Winston Cassler

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** (based on Psalm 108)

We will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples,
and we will sing praises to you among the nations.

Our hearts are steadfast, O God.

We will sing and make melody.

For your steadfast love is higher than the heavens,
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens,
and let your glory be over all the earth!

OPENING HYMN NO. 37 - *Let All Things Now Living*

ASH GROVE

CALL TO CONFESSION

The God revealed to us through scripture is a merciful and loving God, who directs us to love one another as Christ has loved us. We gather to ask God's help in removing all barriers to that love. Come now to confess all that separates you from others, from God, and even from your true self. Let us begin with silent prayer...And now let us pray in unison:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Loving God, we come before you in need of your mercy and forgiveness. We've been reluctant to face the central sins of our lives. We settle for confessing those things we really don't mind changing. Or, sometimes we go through the motions of confessing the systemic sins of our society, without feeling any genuine responsibility for them. Our common confession in worship can be for us a routine that we endure, that leaves us unchanged. Forgive us, Lord. Help us to seek in earnest to become the people you have created and called us to be. Help us to recognize and accept the cost of discipleship. Help us to be honest with ourselves and with you. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Fear not, sisters and brothers, God, who is full of grace and abounding in steadfast love, meets us in our sin and transforms us for God's glory and the healing of God's world. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven, be now at peace.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***PEACE OF CHRIST**

In these next moments we are invited to share signs of peace with one another, in person and online, that are both meaningful and comfortable to you. For all in person, please participate as you wish staying at your seat or walking around. The peace we are offered through Christ's forgiveness and abiding love is meant to be shared. Reach out to those around you, saying:
The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

(Congregation is invited to share signs of peace with one another by staying at your seat or walking around.)

BAPTISM of Bill Rune Schroeder

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN No. 486 - *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise* (verse 1)

**Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,
With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Eternal God, help us to experience the truth that the Bible is not just ancient literature, but is your living Word. Speak to us through these stories of our ancestors in faith. Weave your stories into our own, so that we will recognize our place in your plan for the world, and the place that you desire to have in our lives. In Christ's name we pray. **Amen**

SCRIPTURE READING - Genesis 12:1-9 (page 10 in the Old Testament)

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

SERMON -

Rev. Jeff Lehn

ANTHEM - *L'chi Lach* (Go for yourself)

Debbie Friedman, arr. Simon A. Sargon

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 FOR OFFERING

God has abundantly blessed us, and God calls us to be a community that extends that blessing to others through the sharing of our love, our talents, and our material resources. We have many ways to serve, and multiple ways to make a financial contribution - please consult your bulletin or the slide on your screen. Let us bring God our offerings with joy, and with gratitude for all the ways in which God lovingly cares for us.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM - *No Hands But Yours*

Tom Shelton

Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you.
All things pass, God does not change. Patience achieves everything.
Whoever has God lacks nothing. God alone will suffice.
Christ has no body on earth but yours. No hands but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which God sees. Yours are the feet doing good.
Yours are the hands with which to bless. Whoever has God lacks nothing.

~ Teresa of Avila, 1515-1582, alt.

***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;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

Loving God, there is nothing we can offer you that even begins to compare with all that you give to us. So we come humbly before you, and offer you what we can - our praise, our thanks, our devotion, and a small portion of our worldly resources. Make our offering acceptable in your sight this morning, Lord. Use it to further your purposes within our world, and within us. Help us to grow as Christ's disciples so that we offer our very lives as a holy and living offering to you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

SENDING HYMN NO. 49 - *The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

***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**

Jeff: God has shown us what is good. What does the Lord require of us but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God?

Liturgist: To do justice in our community, in our workplaces, and in our world.

Congregation: Even when justice is inconvenient, is met with resistance, and requires sacrifice.

Liturgist: To love kindness expressed in acts both big and small,

Congregation: And to people of all races, abilities, ages, and beliefs.

Laura: To walk humbly with our God in all the circumstances of our lives,

Congregation: With praise and gratitude in our hearts.

Jeff: And may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

POSTLUDE - *Son of God, Eternal Savior*

G. Winston Cassler

Sources:

Call to Worship, Confession Call and Prayer; Prayer of Illumination, Call and Prayer for the Offering, and responsive Charge and Benediction - written by Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski for First Pres Wilmette fall 2022 worship season. Assurance of Forgiveness - *Pastrix*, reported by Bolz-Weber as being said by a pastor at a church she attended

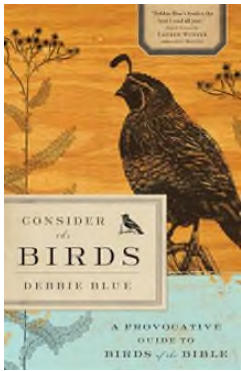


Our Common Life Week of September 18th, 2022



CHANCEL CHOIR – begins Wednesday, September 7 at 7:30 pm in the Music Room. We rehearse every Wednesday thereafter. We sing weekly at 10 am worship from a variety of repertoire, early music to gospel. We'd love you to join us!

CHANCEL BELLS – begins Thursday, September 15 at 7:45 pm in the Music Room. We'll ring at 10 am worship on Sunday, October 23. More opportunities/sessions will follow during the program year!



"CONSIDER THE BIRDS" 5 Weeks, 8:45 - 9:45 am Sundays (Sept. 18 - Oct. 16)

Join us for an engaging adult formation class this fall, led by Pastor Jeff, using the provocative book by Debbie Blue, "Consider the Birds: A Provocative Guide to Birds of the Bible." From the well-known image of the dove to the rooster that announced Peter's betrayal, birds play a dynamic role in Scripture. We will take a closer look at five of the ten birds: pigeon, quail, eagle, sparrow, and cock. We'll explore what these birds have to teach us about gratitude, vulnerability, desire, and insignificance. In a word, we will "consider the birds of the air" today, as Jesus taught his followers in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6. This hybrid class will meet for five weeks in person on Sundays in the church lounge and virtually via Zoom (Zoom link is available in the Daily Bread and the Saturday email. Meeting ID: 840 3593 7190; Password: 815640)



YOUTH MINISTRY ORIENTATION AND REGISTRATION Sunday, Sept. 18th
Middle School (5th-6th) and Jr. High (7th-8th) Youth Families at 9:00am in WMFC
Weekly classes for both groups Sundays 8:30-9:30am and special events throughout the year.

TOWER SENIOR HIGH YOUTH at 11:00 am in WMFC

Tower is the Senior High Youth Group at fpcw and they gather Sundays for fellowship, devotions, and dinner. If you or your child is in middle, junior, or high school, please come join us at our orientation meeting for students and parents to learn more about what Tower has to offer this upcoming year.



MIDWEEK MEETUP:

Our fall season of Midweek Meetup begins **Wednesday, September 21**, from 5 pm to 6 pm, followed by our church family dinner!

Kids ages 3 - 6th grade are invited to join us for crafts, music, games, and fun with friends. We'll be meeting outside on the church lawn, with Wallace Moore Fellowship Center as our backup in case of bad weather. Parents may drop children off and go, or stay and join our parent fellowship group for a relaxed but meaningful time of connecting with other parents in our family of faith.

Contact [Peggy Massello](#), Director of Music Ministries, or [Lindley Traynor](#), Director of Children and Family Ministry for more information about Midweek Meetup, and [Pastor Laura Sherwood](#) for more information about the parents' group.



CHILDREN'S CHAPEL:

Children's Chapel resumes Sunday, September 25!

Children begin worship in the sanctuary with their families, children ages 3 years - 6th grade are invited to the chapel each week for a meaningful time encountering God and connecting with each other, through simple liturgy, songs, prayer, and the stories of our faith, led by Lindley Traynor, Director of Children & Family Ministry, and Scott McElhenie, Director of Youth and Family Ministry.



VIRTUAL EVENT WITH ARTIST, SUYUN SON

Tues, September 20, 7-8 pm (Zoom)

Join us for an engaging one-hour virtual event with artist, Suyun Son, hosted by Pastor Jeff. We will hear a bit of Suyun’s story, how her faith informs her work, and the call she feels to keep creating beauty in a world of fear and brokenness. Suyun works mainly with mixed media on canvas. Last July, she served as the **artist in residence** at the 25th General Assembly of the PCUSA in Louisville. Her work helps us access the experiential side of our faith, which is beyond words, beyond the logical, thinking brain. Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, September 20**, and plan to join us. The program will consist of a brief

introduction, about a 30-minute presentation, and then time for Q & A. This event will also be recorded and available on our YouTube channel afterward. (Zoom link is available in the Daily Bread and on our website; Meeting ID: 836 7016 5687; Password: 255396)



Beginning Wednesday, September 21st, at 6:00pm in WMFC.

Join us for Church Family Dinner! We’ll gather at 6 pm in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center and Chef Amy will be creating yummy, delicious meals. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other families and to get a mid week break from kitchen duty at home. This gathering will be Wednesday evenings and all are invited.



Slowing Time for Women – Wed. Sept. 21st, 7-8:30 pm - Upper Room

Rev. Laura Sherwood will lead us in an exploration of different meanings of and relationship with Time - Chronos-Human Time/Productivity focus and Kairos-God’s Time/Fruitfulness focus

Contact: Marcia Baylin marciabaylin3101@comcast.net



A Tour of the Holocaust Museum, Thurs. Sept. 22, 1:00pm

A couple of members of the church staff are going to attend the Illinois Holocaust Museum in the early afternoon (1:00 pm) of Thursday, September 22. We would love to invite anyone to join us! If we can put together a group of 15 people, we can line up a tour with a docent. Please email Madeline Weston (office@fpcw.org) if you if you would like to join us.



Men’s Council BBQ - Friday, September 30th, 5:00pm Manse backyard

Village President Senta Plunkett will join us for a casual meet & greet fresh off the heels of the sesquicentennial celebration (9/10/22). This BBQ is Men’s Council annual event to kick off their program year. They will begin their regular Saturday morning gatherings on Saturday, October 8th, at 8 am in the WMFC.

Questions? Contact Steve Reinhart steve.reinhart@gmail.com.

CONNECT, GROW, SHARE

See all our Small Group Offerings for Adults on pg. 8

Calendar for the week of September 18th, 2022

Sunday, September 18th

8:45 am	Adult Faith Formation	Lounge/Zoom
9:00 am	Middle/Jr High Youth & Parent Orientation	WMFC
9:55 am	Livestream Worship	YouTube
10:00 am	In-person Worship Service	Sanctuary
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
11:15 am	Tower Senior High Youth & Parent Orientation	WMFC
2:00 pm	Girl Scout Meeting	Blue Room

Monday, September 19th

6:30 pm	Deacon Orientation	Lounge
7:00 pm	Deacon Meeting	Lounge
	Troop 5	WMFC

Tuesday, September 20th

10:00 am	Staff meeting	Lounge
5:30 pm	Senior Supper Club	Ridgeview Grill
7:00 pm	Cub Scouts	WMFC

Wednesday, September 21st

5:00 pm	Midweek Meetup	Fellowship Garden
5:00 pm	Parent Fellowship	Green Room
6:00 pm	Church Family Dinner	WMFC
6:30 pm	New Elder Training	Office
7:00 pm	Slowing Time women's group	Upper Room
7:00 pm	Book Club	Lounge
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir	Music Room

Thursday, September 22nd

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

Friday, September 23rd

No meetings scheduled

Saturday, September 24th

No meetings scheduled

Sunday, September 25th

8:45 am	Jr. High Youth class	Yellow Room (2nd floor)
	Middle High Youth Class	Red Room (2nd floor)
	Parent Fellowship	Upper Room
	Adult Faith Formation	Lounge/Zoom
9:30 am	Session meets with new members	Lounge
9:55 am	Livestream Worship	YouTube
10:00 am	In-person Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:15 am	Children's Chapel	Chapel
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Lounge

WMFC = Wallace Moore Fellowship Center

APNC = Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

CONNECT, GROW, SHARE – Adult Groups at First Pres 2022-2023

Our adult group ministry strives to encourage all members to be a part of this wonderful way to grow in faith. We'd love to see you at one of our small group gatherings! More information on our church website's Small Group page.

STUDY, BOOK, AND DISCUSSION GROUPS

Adult Faith Formation – Sundays 8:45-9:45 am – Upper Room – Led by Rev. Jeff Lehn

Join any Sunday for lively discussion on current study series. jlehn@fpcw.org

Bible Study – Every Thursday 10:00-11:00 am – Church Lounge – Led by Rev. Jeff Lehn

How does the Bible inform our daily lives? Contact: Bonne Wehrenberg bwherbic007@att.net

Book Group – 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 pm – Church Lounge

Members take turns leading a book discussion. Hosted by Carol Korak carolkorak@gmail.com

FELLOWSHIP AND MEAL GROUPS

Lunch Hour Loop Group – 1st Wednesday at Noon – Zoom – Hosted by Rev. Jeff Lehn

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 – and you are always free to eat your lunch while we meet! Contact Pastor Jeff for the Zoom link.

jlehn@fpcw.org

Senior Supper Club – Next gathering: Tuesday, September 20, 5:30 pm at Ridgeview Grill in

Wilmette. If you are an over 65 member and want to get to know others more casually, please join us!

Interested? Contact: Bonnie Wehrenberg bwherbic007@att.net

WOMEN'S GROUPS

Slowing Time for Women – Next Gathering: Wed. Sept. 21st, 7-8:30 pm - Upper Room

Rev. Laura Sherwood will lead us in an exploration of different meanings of and relationship with Time - Chronos-Human Time/Productivity focus and Kairos-God's Time/Fruitfulness focus

Contact: Marcia Baylin marciabaylin3101@comcast.net

Lunch Group for Women – 2nd Wednesday – 12:00 noon – Church Lounge

Each month a member takes the responsibility to lead the discussion. Nancy Freeman coordinates njwfreeman@gmail.com. Our **first gathering for the program year will be on Wednesday, Sept. 4th.**

Westminster Place “Spoke” – 1st Thursday 10:00-11:00am in-person and via phone conference

The group meets in a member's home at Westminster Place and follows a provided study guide with discussion facilitated by Rev. Laura Sherwood. Anne Menard (amenard4347@yahoo.com) coordinates this group.

MEN'S GROUPS

Men's Hour – Meets year-round, Thursdays at 7 pm in Church 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 – Saturday mornings (8-9:30 am)* in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center

Meets October – June. We gather for breakfast and then listen to an interesting program. All are welcome any Saturday. **The 2022 season will kick off with a BBQ on Fri 9/30.** If you have questions or would like to join our mail list, please contact Steve Reinhart steve.reinhart@gmail.com. ***1st Gathering – October 8th.**

PARENT GROUPS

Parents of High School Youth (POHSY) – Meets several times a year in member's home or at the Church 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. If you want to learn more, reach out to Irris Boaz at iboaz@ameritech.net.

Weekly Parent Fellowship Groups – Contact: Rev. Laura Sherwood lsherwood@fpcw.org

Wednesdays 5:00-6:00 pm in the Green Room during Mid-Week Meetup for Prek-4th Graders

Sundays 8:45 am-9:45 am in the Upper Room during Middle and Jr. High Youth classes

Coming Soon: College Parent Fellowship

For our Prayers:

For those in the midst of illness or other concerns for family, friends, or self;
For those who are walking through a season of grief;
Areas of the world suffering from extreme heat, drought, floods, and wildfires;
The country of Ukraine and all war-torn lands.



CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Jeff Lehn
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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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