



Lauren Wright Pittman, "Genealogy of Christ" (inspired by Matthew 1:1-17)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE
Sunday, November 27, 2022
First Sunday in Advent
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 Lounge for Fellowship Hour

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: 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
Sunday, November 27, 2022
10:00 am Sanctuary

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

Worship Leaders

Rev. Jeff Lehn, Preaching
Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski, Pastoral Liturgist
Anne Menard, Liturgist
Menard and McGrath Families, Advent Candle Lighters
Peggy Massello, Music Director
Hyejin Joo, Pianist
Chancel Choir

PRELUDE - *Creator of the Stars of Night*

Plainsong, arr. Richard Warner

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

***ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked the question, "What gives you hope?" From the voices of different generations, hear their answers:

My two-year-old son... Dogs wagging their tails... Talking with young people... Kindness from strangers.

Spending time in the woods... Waffles... Hands clasped in prayer... Social progress.

The way my son calls everybody "buddy"... The ringing of church bells... Babies trying over and over to take their first step.

The turning of seasons... Christian community... Books... Friendship with my adult children.

Advocates for justice... Hearing children in the pews sing the hymns... The sunrise every single morning.

What gives you hope?

Today we light the candle of hope to remind ourselves that God is at work in this world. From generation to generation, God has brought good news of love and compassion, justice and community. Let us rest and abide in that good news. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 106-** *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

CALL TO CONFESSION

In God's house, everyone is welcome - those who seem like they have it all together, and those who feel like their world is falling apart. No matter who we are, there's room for us here. With that confidence, we turn to God in prayer, speaking the truth of our lives, first in silent prayer.

And now let us pray in unison:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

And now let us pray in unison: **God of today and God of tomorrow, you say, "Bring your full self. There's room for you here." But we say, "Our lives are too messy." You say, "Bring your hopes and your dreams. There's room for you here." But we say, "It's too risky to hope." You say, "Bring your grief and your prayers. There's room for you here." But we say, "Some things are easier to forget." God of today and God of tomorrow, we know in our hearts that there's room for us here. Forgive us for withholding our full selves from you. Forgive us for giving only our Sunday best. Help us remember, today and tomorrow, there's room for every story. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, we who feel scattered are held together. We who have lost our way are forgiven and found. And we who are lonely are brought into the fold and are told, "There's room for you here." From generation to generation, this is the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ we are held, forgiven, found, and welcomed.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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.)

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. 92 - *While We Are Waiting, Come* (verses 1 & 3)

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Come, Savior, quickly come; come Savior, quickly come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of the ages, in scripture we hear stories of people like us - ordinary people, people who longed to know you, people who longed to follow you, people who made mistakes, people who tried to grow - old, young, native, immigrant, new to the faith, lifelong believer. In scripture we hear stories of people like us, so just as you walked with them, help us to hear and remember all the ways that you walk with us. We are listening. We are grateful. We are yours. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS - Matthew 1:1-17; Isaiah 2:1-5

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON - "There's Room for Every Story"

Rev. Jeff Lehn

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 84 (remain seated)- *Creator of the Stars of Night* (verse 1 - solo, verse 2 - choir, verse 3 & 4)

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

**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.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM - *Sing Now With Great Rejoicing*

Johann Pachelbel

CHURCH MEMBER TESTIMONY

Jacqui Koch

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.



We invite you to give via our church website www.fpcw.org (see QR code), our smartphone app, or by sending a check to the church office. An offering plate is also available in the Narthex. We are grateful for your generosity!

***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)**

God of the old and the young, the straight-laced and the unrefined, the zealous and the wary, take this offering of our lives and resources and make of it a new possibility. Change hearts and lives with it. Mend relationships by it. Reconnect us to your love and to one another through it. From generation to generation, show us the life that really is life. Amen.

SENDING HYMN NO. 104 - *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

***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 BLESSING**

POSTLUDE - Postlude on VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

Paul Manz

**Everyone is invited to stay for Fellowship Time in the Lounge following worship
Coffee, Cookies, and Lemonade!**



Our Common Life

Week of November 27, 2022

EXCITING UPDATE FROM THE APNC

The APNC is pleased to give a progress report on our search for a new Associate Pastor. In late August/early September, we connected with an outstanding candidate, who has a passion for Christ and the Good News, particularly as it relates to children and youth, among her many gifts and talents. Since that time, we have gone through a rigorous process to get to know her and mutually discern a call – a call that we discerned unanimously as an APNC. We have been grateful for guidance from the Holy Spirit throughout.

Last week, Session voted to call a congregational meeting for Sunday, January 8. Our Associate Pastor Candidate will preach during the worship service. After the service, the congregation will vote to determine if a call will be extended. Please **SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, January 8** for worship and a congregational meeting.

APNC wants you to know how excited we are about the candidate we are bringing forward. We appreciate her heart and her faith and the type of genuine commitment she is willing to make to FPCW and our work together. We feel truly blessed to have found her and we hope you will feel the same way. Thank you!



2023 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: A GREAT START!

So far, 61 households have submitted their pledge for our life and ministry together in 2023. That's a great start! Thank you for your commitment and generosity to FPCW - every gift of every size matters. If you haven't yet submitted your pledge and are able to do so in the coming days, it will allow the Session to plan for our 2023 budget. You can mail a pledge card to the church office, submit one in worship on Sunday or pledge online. Thank you for your past support of FPCW, whether it has been financial, elbow grease or any other method of showing support. You have helped us weather the pandemic and to grow into who we are and who God desires us to be. We are grateful to be "together for joy" with you!

OUR CALL TO RACIAL JUSTICE: *Racial Microaggressions*



Have you ever heard the term “death by a thousand cuts?” This is a metaphor for the racial microaggressions aimed at people of color constantly and continually throughout their lives. The term microaggression is defined as “an instance of indirect, subtle, or unintentional discrimination against members of a marginalized group such as a racial or ethnic minority.” Studies show that the macro impact of mi-

croaggressions can “increase stress in the lives of people of color, lower emotional well-being, increase depression and negative feelings, assail the mental health of recipients, impede learning and problem-solving, impair employee performance and take a heavy toll on the physical well-being of targets.(1)” Learning how to recognize, acknowledge and stop microaggressions is a way we can show love and compassion to those around us. Please check out our website or the Daily Bread to access the links.

Learn:

[Microaggressions Explained](#)

(1) [Microaggressions: Death by a Thousand Cuts](#)

Advocate:

[Examples of Racial Microaggressions](#)

Activate:

[Responding to Microaggressions](#)

WINTER CLOTHES FOR REFUGEES

Our friends at World Relief have a need for **winter clothes** for adult refugees/immigrants coming to Chicago. For the long winter ahead, they will need children and adult winter clothing which includes, **hats, scarves, gloves, coats and boots**. FPCW had a successful winter clothing drive for World Relief in the fall of 2016 and members were very generous in their donations. We will have a drop-off location near the Narthex for the next several weeks to accommodate your gifts. Your participation in this request is greatly appreciated.



GIVING TREE 2022

Please help us give the children and families of The Erie House and Family Promise a happy holiday by purchasing a gift from their wish list off of FPCW's "Giving Tree". Just visit our tree outside the office, select one of the hanging tags with someone's gift wish on it, write your name on the bottom of tag and leave it in the basket so we know who is providing that gift, and return UNWRAPPED gift by **Sunday, November 27th** to the boxes outside office! Any questions, please call Jenni Holt at 630-887-6505.



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 the church office. Orders were due on Wednesday, November 23rd but if you missed getting an order in call the office by Tuesday, November 30th and Madeline can take your order.



USHER IN ADVENT WITH...

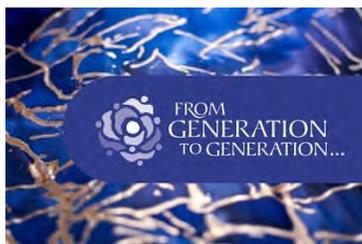
Advent Lessons & Carols service
Sunday, December 4, 2021, 4:00 pm
Followed by our traditional Wassail Party
NOTE: there will be no 10:00 am worship service this day!

We are looking for volunteers to bring either a sweet or savory snack to help make our Wassail Party a wonderful event. Please contact Fran Langewisch at franlangewisch@gmail.com to let her know you are able to help with this event. Thank you!



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

After a two-year hiatus, we are delighted to be presenting a live Christmas pageant again this year on **Sunday, December 18 at 10 am!** Our rehearsals will be Wednesdays 11/30, 12/7, and 12/14 from 5-6 pm, and a dress rehearsal Saturday 12/17 from 9-11 am. If your child would like to be in the pageant please email Lindley Traynor (ltraynor@fpcw.org) or Peggy (pmassello@fpcw.org) by 11/20, including any conflicts you have with the rehearsal schedule.



Advent Faith Formation Class: "From Generation to Generation" Sunday, 8:45-9:45 am, Nov 27, Dec 11 and 18 (no class on Dec 4)

Join Pastor Jeff this Advent as we go deeper into our theme, "From Generation to Generation." Each week, we'll spend time reflecting on the Scripture passages for the day and discuss the beautiful artwork created by various artists from [A Sanctified Art](#). The hybrid class will meet in person in the Lounge and virtually via Zoom for three Sundays in Advent: Nov 27, Dec 11 and 18

(no class on Dec 4). Zoom Link; will be available in the Daily bread and the Saturday evening email.



Come one, come all! Young and old, families and singles. Deck the halls of our church on Saturday, December 3rd starting at 9 am. Drop in when you can – we will wrap up around 11 am.



From Generation to Generation... An Advent Devotional

Art, Poetry and Reflections for the Season of Advent.

“From Generation to Generation... reminds us of the ways our lives, histories, actions and stories are interconnected and woven together. May you remember that you belong to a story etched into the wrinkles of time, to generations that have come before and will come after, to a love that won't let you go.”

The devotional is available for you in the narthex please feel free to take one.



Come join the fun as our church family prepares for advent by bringing your family to **The Giving Tree's gift-wrapping parties!** Our congregation has generously purchased over a 100 gifts for the children and families of The Erie House and Family Promise, and now we get to join together to wrap them with loving care. These events, along with the Hanging of The Greens are for everyone—a way for our congregation to work side by side and enjoy getting to know each-other and have fun as we prepare our church for advent and do good for others at this special time.

Wrapping parties (all wrapping and child-friendly materials provided)

- **Wednesday, November 30th, 5-7 pm, WMFC**

(As part of the Pageant rehearsal and Church Family Dinner)

- **Saturday, December 3rd, 9-11 am**

(As part of the church decorating "Hanging of the Greens" activity for all in the Fellowship Hall.)



DEACON MINISTRY

CHRISTMAS COOKIES* AND TINS COLLECTION

**Please deliver cookies in zip-lock bags (1 batch/each)*

Bring donations to the Main Floor Kitchen beginning December 4th

Calling all bakers (and shoppers)! The Deacons are looking for donations of baked goods (homemade or store-bought). We are also looking for donations of Christmas tins. Please drop them off in the main floor kitchen the week of December 4th. **(Be sure to label them for the deacons.)** Your donations will help the Deacons deliver Christmas Cheer to some of our members.

THANK YOU! Contact: Pastor Laura Sherwood lsherwood@fpcw.org or Deacon Moderator, Wendy Lundgren claddison19@yahoo.com.

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, Lounge, 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: Bonnie Wehrenberg bwherbie007@att.net

Book Group – 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 pm (December 21st) – Church Lounge

Members take turns leading a book discussion. Hosted by Joyce Knauff joyce@jckassociates.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](mailto:jlehn@fpcw.org)

Senior Supper Club – Next gathering: Tuesday, Jan. 17th, 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 bwherbie007@att.net

WOMEN'S GROUPS

Slowing Time for Women – Next Gathering: Tues., December 13, 7-8:30 pm, Upper Room

Group member will share article/poem about our 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, 11:30 am, Church Lounge

Each month a member takes the responsibility to lead the discussion. Nancy Freeman coordinates

njwfreeman@gmail.com. Next gathering will be on Wednesday, December 14th.

Westminster Place "Spoke" – 1st Thursday 10:00-11:00 am 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 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 – 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. If you have questions or would like to join our mail list, please contact Steve Reinhart steve.reinhart@gmail.com.

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 Iris Boaz at iboaz@ameritech.net.

Weekly and Monthly 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

1st Sunday 8:45 am-9:45 am in the Upper Room

Coming Soon: College Parent Fellowship

Calendar for the week of November 27th, 2022

Sunday, November 27th - First Sunday of Advent

8:45 am	Adult Faith Formation	Lounge
<i>(8:45 am</i>	<i>No Classes today for Middle/Jr High Youth)</i>	
9:45am	Nursery Care available —11:15am (ages 0-3)	Nursery
9:55 am	Livestream Worship	YouTube
10:00 am	In-person Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:15 am	Children's Chapel	WMFC
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
	Tower Senior High Youth Wreath Pickup	WMFC
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Youth Group Bowling Party	TBD

Monday, November 28th

7:30 pm	Troop 5	WMFC
8:30 pm	Crew 5	Yellow Room

Tuesday, November 29th

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Lounge
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Wednesday, November 30th

5:00 pm	Pageant Rehearsal	Music Room
	Parent Fellowship	Green Room
6:00 pm	Family Dinner	WMFC
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir	Music Room

Thursday, December 1st

10:00 am	Pres. Homes Women's Spoke (Westminster Place)	via Phone Conference
	Thursday Bible Study	Lounge
6:30 pm	APNC	Upper Room
7:00 pm	Men's Hour	Lounge
7:45 pm	Chancel Bells	Music Room

Friday, December 2nd

No meetings scheduled

Saturday, December 3rd

8:00 am	Men's Council	Church Lounge
9:00 am	Church Decorating - all invited!	WMFC staging area
1:30 pm	Girl Scout Troop	Yellow Room

Sunday, December 4th - 2nd Sunday of Advent (Advent Lessons & Carols)

	<i>(No morning classes or worship service—please join us at 4pm!)</i>	
4:00 pm	Advent Lessons & Carols	Sanctuary
5:00 pm	Wassail Party	WMFC
6:00 pm	Tower Senior High Youth	Tower

WMFC = Wallace Moore Fellowship Center
APNC = Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

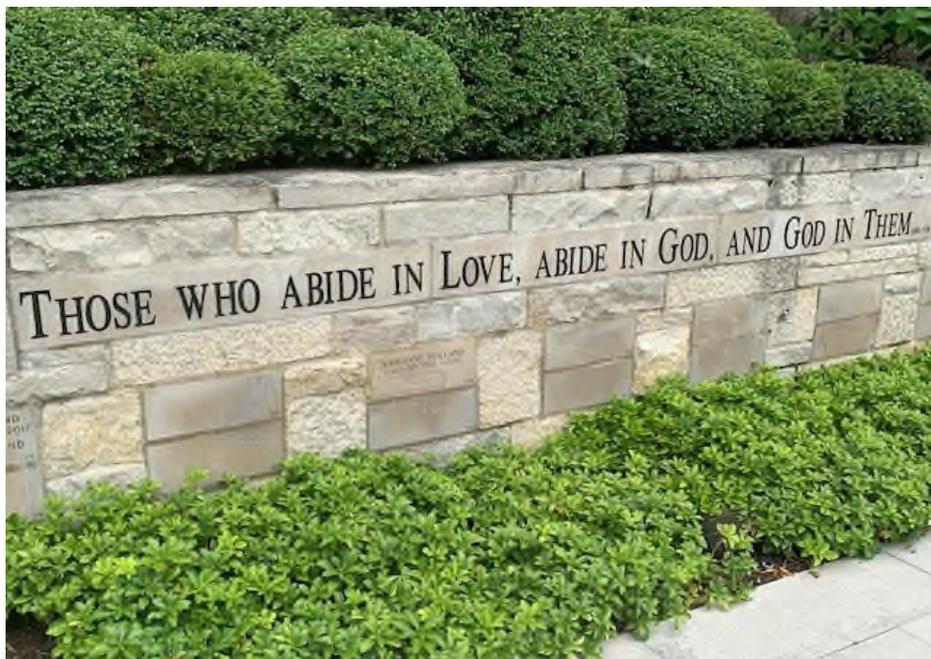
For our Prayers

Joy and Celebration:

- **Thanksgiving** travels, reunions, time with family and friends. Gratitude for a bounty and beauty.
- Advent Hope - the beginning of a season when we look toward the eternal Hope of our faith

Prayers of Care and Concern:

- **Erich Kirr**, father in hospice care in Ohio
- **Royce Eckhardt** - friend of the congregation and supply organist, recovering from RSV
- **Jenn Mullman**, recovering from surgery in October,
- All areas of the world suffering from recent hurricanes and extreme weather,
- The country of Ukraine and all war-torn lands.



CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Jeff Lehn
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Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski
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Ethan Holtermann
Livestream Engineer
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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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