



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE
Sunday, January 22nd, 2023
Third Sunday in Epiphany
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 for Fellowship Hour in the Church Lounge (Main level—across from Office)

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, Laura Sherwood, Kara Smith-Laubenstein and Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski

Spiritual Practice for Epiphany

The “Be Still” Prayer

The “Be Still” prayer is an important and simple spiritual practice I first learned from Fr. Richard Rohr. You can pray it anytime and anywhere - during a stressful episode in the hospital, when stuck in thick traffic, before you head to bed at night. “Be still and know that I am God” comes from Psalm 46, verse 11. To pray this prayer, take a deep breath and center yourself in God's loving, gracious presence. Then say “Be still and know that I am God.” Pause for a moment to rest in the reality of God's company and companionship. Then repeat the verse several times, leaving off a word or a couple of words each time. The entire prayer goes as follows:

Be still and know that I am God

Be still and know that I am

Be still and know

Be still

Be

Move into a period of silent reflection, with your palms facing upward in a posture of receptivity.

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Laura Sherwood, Preaching
Rev. Jeff Lehn, Pastoral Liturgist
Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Pastoral Liturgist
Danielle Reese, Liturgist
Peggy Massello, Music Director
Chancel Choir
Matt Peckham, Soloist

*PLEASE STAND

PRELUDE

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**

The Lord is our light and our salvation; the Lord is the strength of our lives.

Whom, then, shall we fear? We will take heart, and wait for the Lord.

The Lord knows our needs, and the desires of our hearts.

The Lord seeks what is best for us, and is always with us.

Praise the Lord!

The Lord's name be praised!

OPENING HYMN NO. 187 - *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

BRADBURY

CALL TO CONFESSION

We come before God this morning seeking wholeness, in a world that is broken. Let us confess the ways in which we have contributed to this brokenness, so that we may be part of the healing – for others, the earth, and ourselves. Let us begin with silent prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

And now, let us pray in unison:

We confess, O Lord, that we need spiritual renewal. Putting band-aids on the sins of our spirits will not do. We know that our spirits need an overhaul. Our emotions need to be fine-tuned that they may repel anger and resonate with kindness. Our minds need adjusting that they may be more in tune with the truths that come from you. Our hearts need to beat with sincere caring and love for all of your children, of whatever race, whatever gender identity and sexual orientation, whatever social standing. Our hands and feet need to be guided into your service, that we may work to solve our planet's problems, rather than be the creators of them. In short, we need a refining of our spirits, O God, and only you can adequately give us this blessing. We ask for the healing power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, be confident that through Jesus Christ we are forgiven by God.

So, go from here today and forgive others. We are reconciled to God. Go and seek to be reconciled with others.

We are loved by God. Let us go out and love others. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

***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. 137 - He Came Down

**He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let us pray together in unison for the illumination of the Holy Spirit:

Holy God, at creation when your Spirit hovered over the watery chaos, you spoke, and creation sprang forth. Send your Spirit to hover over the chaos of our lives, and through your Word that we are about to hear, may your creative power once again bring forth meaning, growth and beauty. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - John 10:11-18 (pp. in the New Testament)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON - "Beautiful Shepherd and Joyful Sheep!"

Rev. Laura Sherwood

DUET - *The Good Shepherd*

Jana Alayra & Tim Macres

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 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.



Give online here

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)**

Loving God, you gave the world the greatest gift of all, in Jesus Christ.

We respond by giving you what is precious to us.

Grow in us the willingness to forego some of our luxuries in life

so that others may have the necessities of life. Help us to remember those

who are forgotten by us too often – those who do not have warm homes, full cupboards,

or even clean water. Use our offerings and us, we pray, to bring equity and peace to all on earth.

Amen.

RECOGNITION OF REV. LAURA SHERWOOD

ANTHEM - *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

John Rutter

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make His face to shine to shine upon you and be gracious,

The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

~Numbers 6:24

***SENDING HYMN NO. 542** - *God Be With You Till We Meet Again*

GOD BE WITH YOU

***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**

Let us go now out into the world in peace,

Having courage and holding on to what is good,

Returning no one evil for evil,

Supporting the weak, helping the suffering,

Honoring all people,

And loving and serving the Lord, while rejoicing in the Holy Spirit.

And may our loving and all-powerful God bless, preserve, and keep us,

this day, this week, and forevermore. Amen.

***POSTLUDE** -

After worship all are invited to gather in the Lounge for a fellowship reception to show our appreciation and gratitude for Pastor Laura Sherwood.
Cake and ice cream will be served

Sources: All liturgy written by Rev. Lolly Dominski, Parish Associate



Our Common Life

Week of January 22nd, 2023



Welcome, Kara! Our New Associate Pastor

What a joy to welcome and officially call Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein to be our next installed Associate Pastor on Sunday, January 8!

Kara officially began her ministry with us on Tuesday, January 17th.

Kara's church email is: ksmithlaubenstein@fpcw.org



With the joy of Kara's arrival comes the sadness of saying goodbye to Pastor Laura, who has served alongside us with such creativity and resilience the past two years as Interim Associate Pastor. Laura will be with us through January 31 (the end of her contract, with a couple of weeks for her and Kara to overlap). Today, PL will preach for the last time in worship. If you'd like to express your gratitude to Laura, please send a card to the church office. We will share words of thanks for her today and will celebrate afterward with a cake and ice cream in the Lounge.

Let's be the Church together...on-line.

REALM - our new cloud-based Church Directory and database system -
Launches next Wednesday, January 25th.

Here's what to expect:

- ◆ Every adult with an email on record will receive a Realm Invite link.
- ◆ Follow the link to set up your profile account with a unique username and password.
- ◆ Verify and update all information for yourself and any children in your household. (If you would like those who are 13 and older to manage their own profile account, please request an invitation for them from the Church Office, office@fpcw.org).
- ◆ Help will be offered to anyone who wishes or needs to input information manually.
- ◆ A printed directory will be offered by request once a majority of the information has been updated.

More information will follow next week with helpful suggestions as you prepare to set-up your profile.

We will have a Realm Leadership Team and include those names in communication next week.

Beginning Sunday, January 29th, a Realm Help area will be available following worship to answer questions and help you directly on your laptop, phone, or other device.

All of this is for the Launch phase - to get as many people signed-in as possible to update information.

Realm can help us do much more and those functions will be incorporated in stages so that we can all learn and practice together.

If you have any questions at this point, please contact Pastor Laura at lsherwood@fpcw.org.





Shorefront Legacy Center Traveling Exhibit Open in Our Chapel January 29

The Racial Justice Committee is pleased to announce that Evanston’s Shorefront Legacy Center’s traveling exhibit will be open in our Chapel on January 29 from 11 am to noon. The exhibit focuses on Black History on Chicago’s Suburban North Shore. The center is a non-profit organization dedicated to recording, studying, and preserving the experiences of African Americans living in Chicago's North Shore communities, particularly Evanston, Glencoe, and Lake Forest. Founding director Dino Robinson will speak during our service and then stay after to answer any questions. Please plan to grab your coffee and cookies and join us in the Chapel. The exhibit will remain through the end of February. We will be holding community open houses from 1-3 pm on February 5 and 26.



Racial Discrimination in Housing

Although the Fair Housing Act was signed into law in 1968, housing discrimination still exists. Fair housing laws are intended to protect people from discrimination in housing transactions such as rentals, sales, lending, and insurance. Unfortunately, racial discrimination in housing still persists today, contributing to the ever-growing disparities in wealth, education, health and employment opportunities.

The effects of racial segregation caused by redlining and other inequitable housing practices decreases home appreciation values, putting Black people at a disadvantage for building equity and passing on generational wealth. Racially segregated neighborhoods also manifest in the form of food deserts, racialized poverty and underfunded education

from low property values. Please visit the resources below to learn more about how cities became racially segregated, and ways we can ensure fair and equitable housing for all.

Learn: [How Housing Redlining Contributed to the Racial Wealth Gap and Segregation](#)

Advocate: [30 Ways You Can Advance Fair Housing](#)

Activate: [5 policy solutions to advance racial equity in housing](#)



Congratulations, Ken!

Last week, we received word from Ken Crews, our former Director of Youth Ministries, that he is getting ordained this upcoming Sunday, January 22, at 4pm at First Presbyterian Church of Valparaiso, Indiana! We are thrilled for Ken and the church. What a gift to be a part of his formation as a pastor here at FPCW. We send our love, prayers and best wishes to Ken, Heather, Owen, and Evey on this very special day.

Presbytery of Wabash Valley and First Presbyterian Church of Valparaiso invite you to join us in presence and prayer to joyfully celebrate a worship service for

THE ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF
Kenneth Gabriel Crews
SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023
AT 4:00PM
Reception to Follow

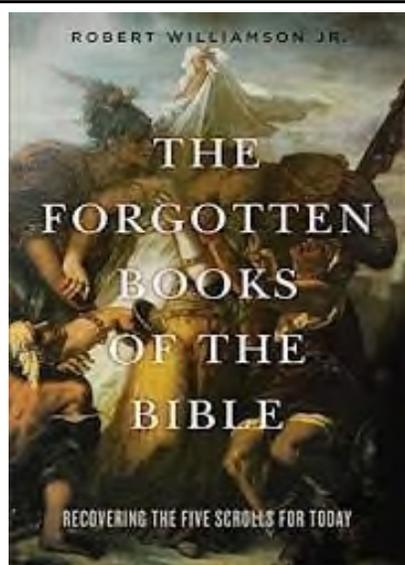
3401 N. Valparaiso Street, Valparaiso, IN 46383

2023 Stewardship Update - We're Almost There!

Thank you for your commitment and generosity to the life and ministry of our church - every gift of every size matters!

We are almost there with our 2023 stewardship drive, "Together for Joy." As of today, we have received financial commitments from 103 households for a total of \$810,639. We are just shy of our goal of \$845,000. If you haven't yet submitted your pledge and are able to do so in the next few 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 on line on our website.

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!



AFF Class: "The Forgotten Books of the Bible"

Sundays 8:45-9:45am in the Lounge and on Zoom Jan. 8-Feb. 6

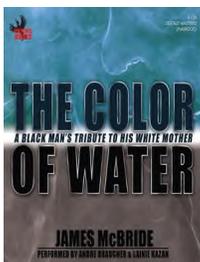
Join Pastor Jeff as we explore five "forgotten" books of the Bible together: Song of Songs, Ruth, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations and Esther. In the Jewish tradition, these five books are known as the "Five Scrolls" because they each play a role during the major religious holidays: Passover, Sukkot, Purim and so on. In the Christian tradition, by contrast, these books are largely overlooked, seldom preached on and come up only occasionally in Bible studies. But they deserve much more attention since they address pressing issues like grief, sexuality, purpose, ethnic identity, and power.

Using Robert Williamson Jr.'s recent book, [*The Forgotten Books of the Bible: Recovering the Five Scrolls for Today*](#), this hybrid class will wrestle with what these books have to teach us today. The class meets in person in the Lounge and virtually via Zoom from 8:45-9:45am on Sundays, from January 8 through February 6 ([Zoom Link](#); Meeting ID: 840 3593 7190; Password: 815640).



Pastor Jeff Lehn's new podcast.

To access Jeff's podcast open the most recent Daily Bread emailed to you on Tuesday (Daily Bread is also posted on our website, News and Publications Page) and available on the front page of our website under "Featured News." Jeff's podcasts are also available on Apple and Spotify. If you could rate or review it, subscribe to it or share it with a friend, I'd be really grateful. And I would love to hear from you (shoot me an email at thedailyedify@gmail.com) with show ideas, what's helpful, what's not, what could be better. With gratitude in Christ, Pastor Jeff



Book Group's next meeting will be Wednesday, February 15, 7 pm in the Lounge. The book the group will be discussing is "The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother," by James McBride.

CONNECT, GROW, SHARE – Adult Groups at First Pres 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 (February 15th) 7 pm 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

Senior Supper Club – Next gathering: Tuesday, Feb.21, 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: Wed., January 25, 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. Snacks provided by members. 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, February 15th, 2023.

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

2nd Sunday 8:45 am-9:45 am in the Upper Room during Middle/Jr. Youth classes

Calendar for the week of January 22nd, 2023

Sunday, January 22nd, 2023

8:45 am	Adult Faith Formation	Lounge/Zoom
	Middle School Class	Red Room
	Jr. High Youth Class	Yellow Room
9:45 am	Nursery Care ages 0-3 during worship	Nursery
9:55 am	Livestream Worship	YouTube
10:00 am	In-person Worship Service	Sanctuary
11:00 am	Reception in honor of Pastor Laura "PL:"	Lounge
2:30 pm	Girl Scout Meeting	Blue Room
3:00 pm	Troop 5 - First Aid Training	WMFC
5:00 pm	Troop 5 - PLC	WMFC

Monday, January 23rd

6:00 pm	Pinewood Derby check in	WMFC
7:00 pm	Troop 5	WMFC
	Personnel Support Ministry Group	In Person/Zoom

Tuesday, January 24th

10:00 am	Staff Breakfast	Off-site
11:00 am	Staff training on new phone system	Lounge
5:00 pm	Tech Task Force	Zoom
6:00 pm	Pinewood Derby check in	WMFC
7:00 pm	Buildings and Grounds Committee	Lounge

Wednesday, January 25th

5:00 pm	Midweek Meetup	WMFC
5:00 pm	Parent Fellowship	Green Room
6:00 pm	Church Family Dinner	WMFC
7:00 pm	Slowing Time for women	Lounge
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir	Music Room

Thursday, January 26th

	Shorefront Traveling Exhibit installed	Chapel
10:00 am	Bible Study Group	Lounge
7:00 pm	Men's Hour	Lounge
7:45 pm	Chancel Bells	Music Room

Friday, January 27th

Pinewood Derby set-up

Saturday, January 28th

8:00 am	Pinewood Derby	WMFC
	Men's Council	Lounge

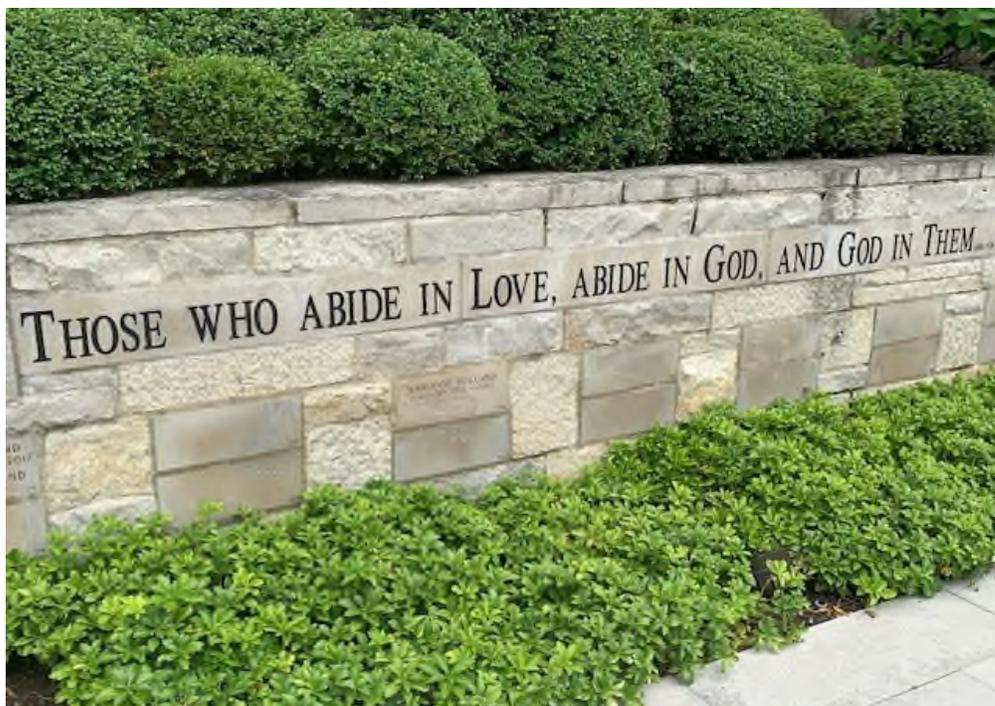
Sunday, January 29th - Shorefront Legacy Center Traveling Exhibit open - in Chapel

8:45 am	Adult Faith Formation	Lounge/Zoom
	Middle School Class	Red Room
	Jr. High Youth Class	Yellow Room
9:45 am	Nursery Care ages 0-3 during worship	Nursery
9:55 am	Livestream Worship	YouTube
10:00 am	In-person Worship Service	Sanctuary
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
3:00 pm	Troop 5 - First Aid Training	WMFC
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Youth Group	Tower
6:00 pm	Tower Senior High Youth Group Dinner	WMFC

For our Prayers

- Mark SooHoo - son Jackson is in the hospital with an infection.
- John Hairston - his father, passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 31 in Texas.
- Sarah Lehmer - surgery on Jan. 26th for breast cancer.
- Rick Thies - recovering from knee replacement surgery on Jan. 9.
- Rod Quainton - asks for prayers for his brother Tony, hospitalized with serious medical issues.
- Amy Russell - asks for prayers for her friend Deanna, who is severely ill with RSV.
- The country of Ukraine and all war-torn lands.
- All people and places impacted by extreme weather, including recent storm flooding and tornadoes.

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Colleen Jersild in loving memory of her parents, Thelma and Clyde Campbell.



CHURCH STAFF

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Livestream Engineer
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OFFICE HOURS

9am-5pm (Tuesday -Thursday)
9am-3:30pm (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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