



Jan Richardson, "Epiphany"



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WIMETTE
Sunday, January 8th, 2023
First Sunday in Epiphany - Star Gift Sunday
Congregational Meeting
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 WMFC hosted by the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC).

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 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:

*PLEASE STAND

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Preaching
Rev. Jeff Lehn, Pastoral Liturgist
Rev. Laura Sherwood, Pastoral Liturgist
Amy Lyon, Liturgist
Peggy Massello, Music Director
Chancel Choir

PRELUDE - *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*
Impression on "We Three Kings"

Geistliche Lieder, arr. Paul Manz
Alfred Fedak

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

Arise, shine; for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

The brightness of God's light shines upon the nations.

All are welcomed to the brightness of God's dawn.

God gathers us from far away and carries us.

With radiant eyes, with rejoicing hearts, we receive the abundance God gives.

We respond in praise.

With our gifts, with our very selves, we worship God.

***HYMN NO. 744** - *Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

FESTAL SONG

CALL TO CONFESSION

In the light of Christ, we see the shadows of our world and of our hearts.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins before God and one another, first in silent prayer...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Merciful God, you have given light to the world in Jesus Christ,
but we have preferred to live in darkness.**

**Your justice protects the weak and distressed,
yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power.**

**Your righteousness redeems the poor and needy,
yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions.**

**Your peace upholds the oppressed and defenseless,
yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution.**

**Forgive us our sins, and lead us to true repentance,
that we may trust you in all things;
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, God is for us and not against us.

For that very reason God sent the Son into the world - not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.

We declare the good news of the Gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven
and set free to live a new life in him.

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 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

SCRIPTURE READINGS - Isaiah 60:1-6 (pg. 690 in the Old Testament)
Matthew 2:1-12 (pg. 2 in the New Testament)

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

SERMON - *Star of Wonder, Star of Night*

Kara Smith-Laubenstein

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 110 - *Love Has Come*

BRING A TORCH

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.**

DISTRIBUTION OF STAR GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM - *Among the Stars of Night*

Robert Wetzler, Luther/Winkworth

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)

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

- I. Call to Order
- II. Vote on Clerk Pro Tem and Declaration of a Quorum
- III. Report from Associate Pastor Nominating Committee
- IV. Vote on the Call of Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein
- V. Vote on Kara's Terms of Call
- VI. Vote to Dissolve the APNC
- VII. Adjournment

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** - *Festal Flourish*

Gordon Jacobs



Our Common Life

Week of January 8th, 2023

Interfaith Action's Walk for Warmth

Please join our FPCW team to participate in **Interfaith Action's fourth annual Walk for Warmth on Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 16.** Hosted by our longtime mission partner that serves those experiencing homelessness and hunger in our community, the race has become a holiday tradition. The event will kick off at 11 am from the Hinman entrance of First United Methodist Church, 516 Hinman Street in Evanston.

The two-mile Walk for Warmth brings community members together to walk a circuit of eight downtown Evanston churches, each of which serves as a host to the Interfaith Action Overnight Shelter. Walkers have the opportunity to raise (or donate) money to the project which honors the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Junior. There is no charge to register for the event, **but advance registration is required.**

Free parking is available at the public garage on Church Street, just east of Chicago Avenue.

FPCW has registered a team for the event, so please join us and bring your friends and neighbors for a chance to answer Dr. King's haunting question: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, "What are you doing for others?"



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](#)



SUNDAY NURSERY CARE – 2ND ADULT – MEMBER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To continue offering Nursery Care during Worship services (ages 0-3); we need to ensure 2 adults are in the room each time – due to insurance requirement.

We currently have a professional Nursery Caregiver every Sunday along with 1-2 senior high youth. The 2nd Adult will be in addition to this caregiving group.

New Model: To comply with our insurance and provide a safe and welcoming nursery room, we are **asking all Adult members to consider joining a Volunteer 2nd Adult Rotation.** Ideally, we will have enough adults in this rotation so that each person only needs to volunteer **up to 4 Sundays a year.**

Every adult in the Nursery will need to have a current background check (paid for by the Church).

Please indicate your interest to Pastor Laura Sherwood, lsherwood@fpcw.org; or sign-up using this link: [Nursery 2nd Adult Volunteer Sign-up link](#)

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 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

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., January 18, 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, January 11th, 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

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

Coming Soon: College Parent Fellowship

Calendar for the week of January 8th, 2023

Sunday, January 8th, 2023

8:45 am	Middle School Class	Red Room
	Jr. High Youth Class	Yellow Room
	Parent Fellowship	Upper Room
9:55 am	Livestream Worship	YouTube
10:00 am	In-person Worship Service	Sanctuary
11:00 am	Congregational Meeting	Sanctuary
11:15 am	Fellowship Reception Hosted by the APNC and prepared by Chef Amy	WMFC
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Youth Group	Tower
	Troop 5 Meeting	WMFC
6:00 pm	Tower Senior High Youth Group Dinner	WMFC
	Troop 5 Dinner	Lounge

Monday, January 9th

12:30 pm	Pierian Group	WMFC
7:00 pm	Investment Group	Lounge
	Deacon Meeting	Upper Room
	Troop 5	WMFC
8:00 pm	Crew 5	Yellow Room

Tuesday, January 10th

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Lounge
12:00 pm	Epiphany gathering	Hackney's on Lake
7:00 pm		

Wednesday, January 11th

11:30 am	Lunch Group	Lounge
5:00 pm	Midweek Meetup	WMFC
6:00 pm	Church Family Dinner	WMFC
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir	Music Room

Thursday, January 12th

10:00 am	Bible Study Group	Lounge
7:00 pm	Men's Hour	Lounge
7:45 pm	Chancel Bells	Music Room

Friday, January 13th

No Meetings Scheduled

Saturday, January 14th

8:00 am	Men's Council	WMFC
1:30 pm	Girl Scouts	WMfC

Sunday, January 15th

8:45 am	Middle School Class	Red Room
	Jr. High Youth Class	Yellow Room
9:55 am	Livestream Worship	YouTube
10:00 am	In-person Worship Service	Sanctuary
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	WMFC
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Youth Group	Tower
6:00 pm	Tower Senior High Youth Group Dinner	WMFC

For our Prayers

Joy and Celebration:

- Welcome Kara Smith-Laubenstein, the APNC'S Candidate for Associate Pastor, and her husband Matthew and daughters Charlotte and Amelia,
- Sincere thank you to the APNC for their year long search for a new Associate Pastor candidate,

Please remember in prayer those who are grieving

- Rod Quainton's brother, Tony, is experiencing a serious health concern,

Cares and Concerns:

- All areas of the world suffering from extreme weather and those bracing for a difficult winter,
- The country of Ukraine and all war-torn lands.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Jeff Lehn
Senior Pastor
jlehn@fpcw.org ext. 12

Rev. Laura Sherwood
Interim Associate Pastor
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Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski
Parish Associate for Congregational Care
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Peggy Massello
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Ethan Holtermann
Livestream Engineer
ethanholtermann1@gmail.com

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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