



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE
Sunday, February 12th, 2023
Sixth 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, 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.

Join us after worship in the Lounge for Fellowship Hour.
Coffee, and refreshments will be served.

WORSHIP LEADERS:

*PLEASE STAND

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Preaching
Kim McElhenie, Liturgist
Peggy Massello, Music Director
Chancel Choir
Wonee Kim, Pianist

PRELUDE - *Prelude on HYFRYDOL*

Charles Callahan and Paul Manz

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. 366** - *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

HYFRYDOL

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

With the sound of water pouring into the baptismal font, 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 Yellow Room 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. 448 - *Peace of God Be with You*

Peace of God be with you.

Peace of God be with you.

Salaam, salaam.

Peace of God be with you.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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 - Matthew 13:24-43 (pp. 14-15 in the New Testament)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON -

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 771 - *What Is the World Like*

NEW WORLD

(choir will sing verses 1-3, congregation sing verses 4 & 5)

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.

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.



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!

ANTHEM - *Inside Your Kingdom*

Timothy G. Bushong

In your image you have made me; beautiful within your sight.

In your house I'll live forever. In your mercy I delight.

Not your anger, but your goodness follows me for all my days.

And your strength preserves and shields me, and you hold for me a place

Inside your kingdom. I know that I will be inside your kingdom.

The glory I will see, a place of rest for eternity inside your kingdom waits for *me*.

You have set for me a banquet of a feast that never ends.

And your love so freely given, on this truth I can depend.

With your water you have cleansed me, by your cross and by your grace.

I am washed in your forgiveness, and you welcome me by name.

Inside your kingdom. I know that I will be inside your kingdom.

The glory I will see, a place of rest for eternity inside your kingdom waits for *me*.

***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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION - Souper Bowl of Caring

SENDING HYMN NO. 747– *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

ENVIADO

***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 - *Rigaudon

André Campra

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



Our Common Life
 Week of February 12th, 2023

TAKE THE TACKLE HUNGER CHALLENGE!

What if every person watching the Big Game donated just \$1 or 1 can of food to a local food charity?

SOUPEL BOWL OF CARING
 tacklehunger.org

Today our 5th and 6th grade students will participate in the

Souper Bowl of Caring

In 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: “Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.”

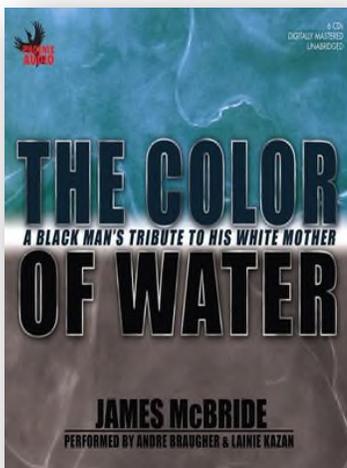
Since then, more than \$170 million has been generated for local charities across the country through the Souper Bowl of Caring. Last year our 5th and 6th graders managed to raise over \$1,000! This year, our students chose two organizations, Sarah’s Circle and Interfaith Action of Evanston, as the recipients of this year’s fundraising efforts.

You can help us surpass this number by donating food or money today before and after worship. You can also donate online anytime and choose Souper Bowl of Caring from the dropdown menu on the

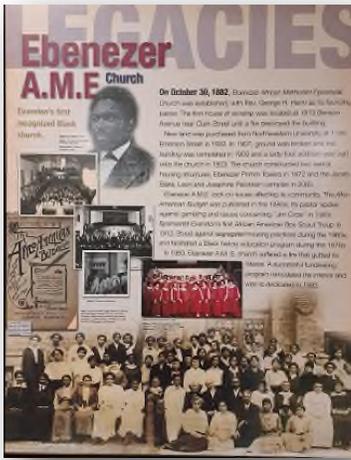
giving page of our website or use this QR code.



Look for signs in the narthex and drop cash, checks, or food items in the large soup pots held by our students. All food should be nonperishable and shelf stable.



If you are interested in reading and discussing a book as a part of your Black history month recognition, consider *The Color of Water* by James McBride. The church book group (formerly Book & Dinner) will be discussing this book on Wednesday February 15 at 7 pm in the lounge. We welcome all interested participants! Some of us will attend the 6 pm All Church Dinner in Fellowship Hall before book group starts. Let Peggy Massello know if you are coming for dinner. *The Color of Water* is a biography/memoir. Amazon begins its description of the book in the following way: "Who is Ruth McBride Jordan? A self-declared ‘light-skinned’ woman evasive about her ethnicity, yet steadfast in her love for her twelve black children. James McBride, journalist, musician, and son, explores his mother's past, as well as his own upbringing and heritage, in a poignant and powerful debut, *The Color Of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother*." If you have questions, please contact Joyce Knauff joyce@jckassociates.com or Laura Lyman lauralyman7@gmail.com



Shorefront Legacy Center Exhibit

On October 30, 1882, Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church was established as Evanston's first recognized black church. Ebenezer A.M.E. took on issues affecting its community such as "Jim Crow" and segregated housing. During the 1970's, Ebenezer A.M.E. facilitated a black history education program.



First Pres Wilmette's New On-line Directory

We hope you have received your invitation link via email. Once you've created your logon account, please do the following:

Review and update your contact and profile information. (Names/spelling, address, all phone numbers and types of phone #, birthdates, allergies/dietary needs, relationship connection to others in your household/family unit.)

- **If there is an *asterisk next to your name** or any name in your family unit, that is from an old system – **please delete it.**
- **Please upload a picture** – of yourself (and your family/family members).
- **After verifying your information in your new Realm account,** feel free to download the Realm Connect App for your mobile device (see more details in the FAQ linked at the end of this page.)
- **If you give to the Church online – do not change those settings in Phase 1.** (Giving through Realm will come at a later phase. However, you should be able to view your church giving history through your Realm account.)
- **Parents may request an invite link for children who are 13 years or older.**
Later phase(s) of our Realm roll-out will help the Church utilize the Group functions for communication, seeing scheduled church meetings and events, and online giving through Realm. More information and helpful suggestions as you get started with Realm are on the website and the Daily Bread.

First Pres Realm Leader Team: Pastor Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Amy Miller, Scott McElhenie, Linnea Jacobs, Madeline Weston.



Stop by the Realm Help Desk following worship

Sundays Feb. 5, Feb. 12, Feb. 19, & Feb. 26

Members of the Realm Leader Team will be there to help you with any questions.

Feel free to bring your laptop or mobile devices.



Begin your Lenten journey with us on the evening of

Ash Wednesday, February 22nd.

- 5:30-6:00 Family Ash Wednesday Service including the optional imposition of ashes
- 6:00 Soup Supper in Wallace Moore Fellowship Center (including kid-friendly food)
- 6:45 Ash Wednesday service in the Sanctuary including communion and imposition of ashes. Livestream available.

Syria - Turkey Earthquake



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) urges your support in the aftermath of the 7.8- magnitude earthquake and its aftershocks in Syria and Turkey. Thousands are reported dead and injured, numbers that will rise as search and rescue continues. Buildings have been reduced to rubble, and roads and bridges have been severely damaged, resulting in dangerous conditions for first responders. In some places, such as Aleppo, this destruction is compounding the damage of the now 11-year war in Syria.

PDA is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted areas. PDA will remain active throughout the recovery process, accompanying our partners as they determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for building and resilience.

Years of recovery lie ahead, and your commitment will help PDA extend the hands of Christ. Will you stand in the "GAP" for the people affected by this catastrophic earthquake?

GIVE: PDA's emergency response and specialization in long-term recovery is fueled by your generous gifts. Gifts can be made online at pcusa.org/give-STearthquake, by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with "DR999999-ST earthquake" written on the memo line and mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700



PRAY: *God of mercy, we join in prayer for our siblings in Syria and Turkey, and all other regions affected. In the face of the terrible images that come to us, we ask that your Spirit, O God, once again move in the midst of chaos and destruction. May you provide protection, energy and strength through your presence.*

\$500 \$125 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Congregation/PIN _____

Please detach the reply form and return it with your gift to your church; or enclose it in an envelope with your check and mail it to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

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., February 22, 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 these gatherings njwfreeman@gmail.com.

Next gathering will be on Wednesday, March 8th, 2023

Westminster Place "Spoke" – 1st Wednesday 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. Kara Smith-Laubenstein. 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.

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. Kara Smith-Laubenstein

kamithlaubenstein@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 February 12th, 2023

Sunday, February 12th, 2023

8:45 am	Middle School Class	Red Room
	Jr. High Youth Class	Yellow Room
9:45 am	Nursery Care ages Birth-3yrs during worship	Nursery
9:55 am	Livestream Worship	YouTube
10:00 am	In-person Worship Service	Sanctuary
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
	Shorefront Legacy Center Traveling Exhibit	Chapel
2:30 pm	Girl Scouts	WMFC
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Youth Group	Tower
6:00 pm	Tower Senior High Youth Group Dinner	WMFC

Monday, February 13th

11:30 am	Pierian Group	WMFC
7:00 pm	Investment Group	Lounge
	Troop 5	WMFC
8:00 pm	Crew 5	Yellow Room

Tuesday, February 14th

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Lounge
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Wednesday, February 15th

5:00 pm	Midweek Meetup	WMFC
5:00 pm	Parent Fellowship	Green Room
6:00 pm	Church Family Dinner	WMFC
7:00 pm	Book Group	Lounge
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir	Music Room

Thursday, February 16th

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

Friday, February 17th

No meetings scheduled

Saturday, February 18th

8:00 am	Men's Council	Lounge
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Sunday, February 19th

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 Birth-3yrs during worship	Nursery
9:55 am	Livestream Worship	YouTube
10:00 am	In-person Worship Service	Sanctuary
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
	Shorefront Legacy Center Traveling Exhibit	Chapel
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Youth Group	Tower
6:00 pm	Tower Senior High Youth Group Dinner	WMFC

For our Prayers

- Sarah Lehmer - recovering from breast cancer surgery.
- Rick Thies - recovering from knee replacement surgery.

For those in the midst of illness or other concerns for family, or friends.

- Marcia Baylin - caring for her mother in Rockford, IL.

For those who are walking through a season of grief.

- Jim Weyrens - at the sudden death of his son Peter.
- Marci Hardigan - at the recent death of her mother Jeanne Savely.

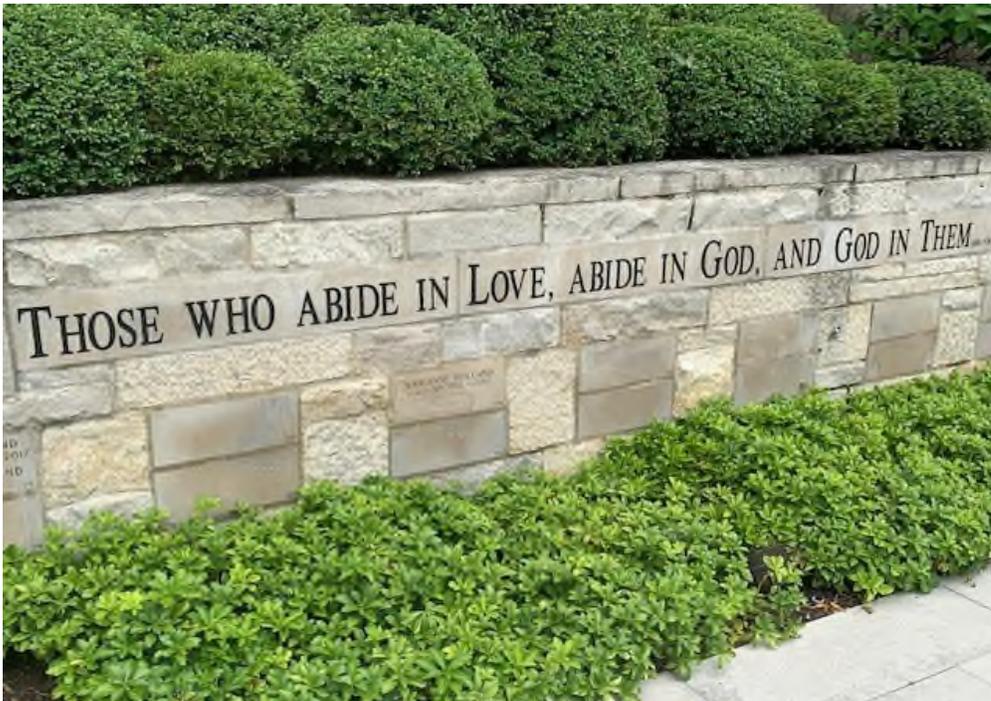
For countries experiencing war, extreme weather and natural disasters.

- The country of war torn Ukraine.
- All people and places impacted by extreme weather.
- The devastation from the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey.



We are deeply saddened to report that long-time devoted member Jeanne Savely passed away on Monday. Please hold Jeanne's daughter Marcia, and son John, in your prayers as they mourn the loss of their beloved mother.

A service for Jeanne has not been scheduled but we will share this information with you once the date and time has been determined.



CHURCH STAFF

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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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