



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE  
Sunday, February 5th, 2023  
Fifth 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. Jeff Lehn, Preaching  
Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Pastoral Liturgist  
Mercy Ndung'u, Liturgist  
Peggy Massello, Music Director  
Chancel Choir  
Wonee Kim, Pianist

**PRELUDE** - *Prelude on FOUNDATION*

arr. Dale Wood

**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. 463** - *How Firm a Foundation*

FOUNDATION

**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**

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

**SCRIPTURE READING - Matthew 7:1-12 (pp. 6 - 7 in the New Testament)**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON - "Call to Creativity"**

Rev. Jeff Lehn

**ANTHEM - *For the Bread***

John Horman

For the bread that we have eaten, for the wine that we have tasted,  
For the life that you have given,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we will praise you.

For the life of Christ within us turning all our fears to freedom,  
Helping us to live for others,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we will praise you.

For the strength of Christ to lead us,  
In our living and our dying in the end with your people,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we will praise you.

~Brian Wren

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**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.**

**BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

**COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE (All communion packs are gluten-free.)**

**COMMUNION MUSIC - *The Peace May Be Exchanged* from Rubrics**

Dan Locklair

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** (unison)

Loving God, your love is as close to us as our own hands and feet. People who need your love are as close to us as the people beside us, behind us and in front of us. Having been nourished at your Table of love and grace, send us into your world to love each other, sure that you love us. Show us where we are needed and how we can make a difference so that the world sees the new life Jesus wants for everyone. Help us live for Jesus wherever we go, whatever we do. 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](http://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.**

## **\*SENDING HYMN NO. 538 - Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises**

**HALLELUYA! PELO TSA RONA**

*(congregation please sing refrain, choir will sing verses)*

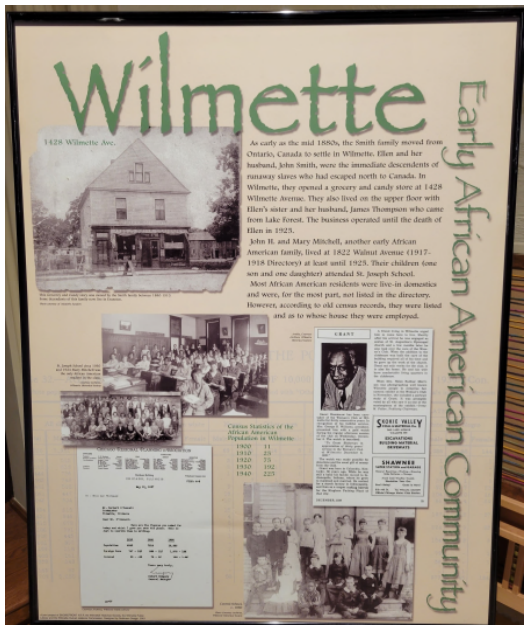
## **\*FOLLOWING THE LIGHT**

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**



**Shorefront Legacy Center Exhibit**

The Shorefront Legacy Center exhibit is open in our Chapel until the end of February! If you didn't get to see it last Sunday - or you want to see it again - stop in any Sunday in February before or after church, with your small group if you meet at the church, or for our community open houses February 5 and 26, from 1-3 pm. We are privileged to have the opportunity to house this exhibit which showcases the varied and unique bios of a few of the North Shore's Black residents. The accompanying photo is of one of the posters you will see; the text from the poster is quoted below.

*As early as the mid-1800s, the Smith family moved from Ontario, Canada to settle in Wilmette. Ellen and her husband, John Smith, were the immediate descendants of runaway slaves who had escaped north to Canada. In Wilmette, they opened a grocery and candy store at 1428 Wilmette Avenue. They also lived on the upper floor with Ellen's sister and her husband, James Thompson who came from Lake Forest. The business operated until the death of Ellen in 1925.*

*John H. and Mary Mitchell, another early African American family, lived at 1822 Walnut Avenue (1917-1918 directory) at least until 1925. Their children (one son and one daughter) attended St. Joseph School.*

*Most African American residents were live-in domestics and were, for the most part, not listed in the directory. However, according to old census records, they were listed and as to whose house they were employed.*

**First Pres Wilmette's New On-line Directory**

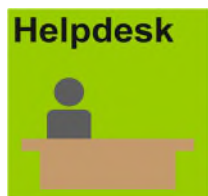


We hope you have received your invitation link via email. Once you have created your logon account, please do the following:

**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.



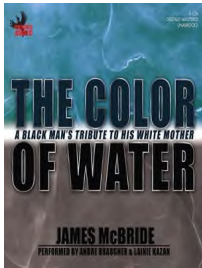
**On February 12 our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will be participating in the**  
**Souper Bowl of Caring**

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 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 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 on **Super Bowl Sunday, February 12** before and after worship. You can also donate online anytime and choose Souper Bowl of Caring

from the dropdown menu. 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.



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.



**2023 Flower Chart for Worship**

Please note: The flower chart is posted on the Usher's closet door in the narthex. If you would like to reserve a Sunday to remember a special event in your life or to honor a loved one please add your name to the date you wish to donate a flower arrangement for a Sunday of your choice.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:njwfreeman@gmail.com).

**Next gathering will be on Wednesday, February 15th, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:iboaz@ameritech.net).

**Weekly and Monthly Parent Fellowship Groups – Contact: Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein**  
[ksmithlaubenstein@fpcw.org](mailto:ksmithlaubenstein@fpcw.org)

**Wednesdays 5:00-6:00 pm** in the Green Room during Mid-Week Meetup for PreK-4<sup>th</sup> Graders

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



## Calendar for the week of February 5th, 2023

### Sunday, February 5th, 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 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
3:00 pm	Troop 5 - First Aid Training	WMFC
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Youth Group	Tower
	Troop 5 Meeting	WMFC
6:00 pm	Tower Senior High Youth Group Dinner	WMFC

### Monday, February 6th

7:00 pm	Troop 5	WMFC
8:00 pm	Crew 5	Yellow Room

### Tuesday, February 7th

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Lounge
7:00 pm	Buildings & Grounds	Lounge

### Wednesday, February 8th

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

### Thursday, February 9th

7:00 pm	Men's Hour	Lounge
7:45 pm	Chancel Bells	Music Room

### Friday, February 10th

No meetings scheduled

### Saturday, February 11th

8:00 am	Men's Council	Lounge
---------	---------------	--------

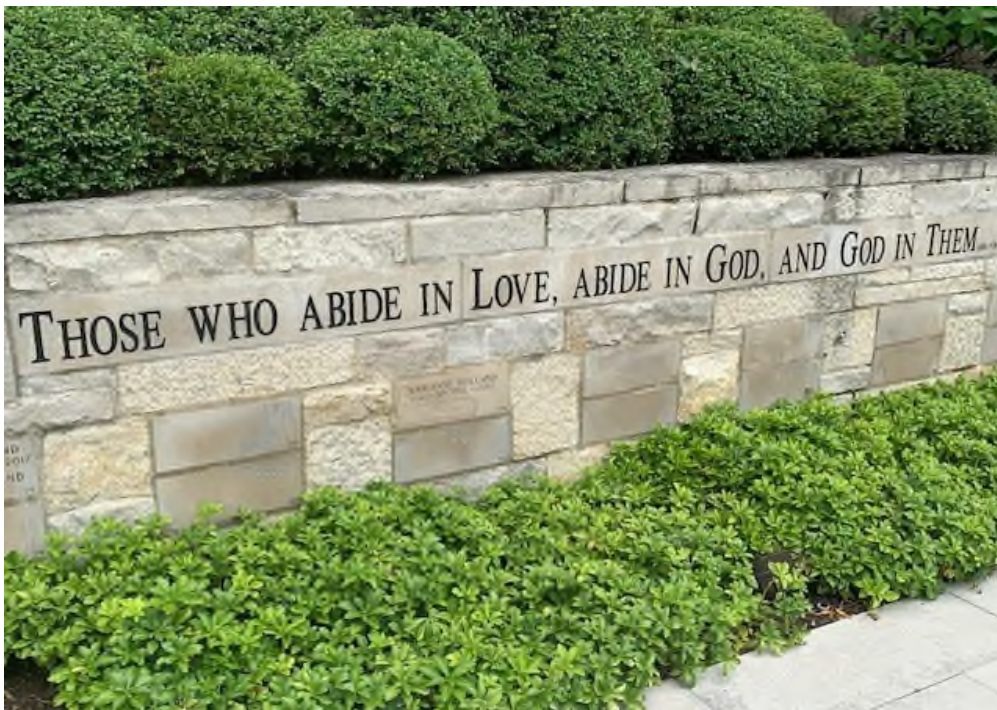
### Sunday, February 12th

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, friends, or self:
- For those who are walking through a season of grief.
- The country of Ukraine and all war-torn lands.
- All people and places impacted by extreme weather.

**Today's flowers are given to the glory of God** by Vernon and Judy Squires in memory of Vern's daughter Elizabeth Squires.



## **CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Jeff Lehn  
*Senior Pastor*  
[jlehn@fpcw.org](mailto:jlehn@fpcw.org) ext. 12

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein  
*Associate Pastor*  
[ksmithlaubenstein@fpcw.org](mailto:ksmithlaubenstein@fpcw.org)

Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski  
*Parish Associate for Congregational Care*  
[ldominski@fpcw.org](mailto:ldominski@fpcw.org)

Peggy Massello  
*Director of Worship & Music*  
[pmassello@fpcw.org](mailto:pmassello@fpcw.org) ext. 16

Lindley Traynor  
*Director of Children & Family Ministry*  
[ltraynor@fpcw.org](mailto:ltraynor@fpcw.org) ext. 20

Scott McElhenie ext. 23  
*Director of Youth & Family Ministries*  
[youth@fpcw.org](mailto:youth@fpcw.org)

Madeline Weston  
*Office & Communications Coordinator*  
[office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org) ext. 11

Marvin Behm  
*Financial Manager*  
[finmanager@fpcw.org](mailto:finmanager@fpcw.org) ext. 13

Ethan Holtermann  
*Livestream Engineer*  
[ethanholtermann1@gmail.com](mailto: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

600 9th Street, Wilmette, IL 60091-2779

847-256-3010

[office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org) [www.fpcw.org](http://www.fpcw.org)