



“Hope Project,” by juniors and seniors at Barnstable High School (Hyannis, MA)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Sunday, March 12th, 2023

Third Sunday in Lent

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: Hope

This Lent, we are focused on the theme of hope, using the recent book by MaryAnn McKibben Dana as our guide, “Hope: A User’s Manual.”

Hope is a potent spiritual practice with the power to pull us through difficult times. It is usually described with light metaphors — a ray, a beam, a glimmer of hope; the break in the clouds; the light at the end of the dark tunnel. It is often discovered in unexpected places.

The posture of hope can be learned with practice. Certain attitudes support it. One is patience, an ability to tolerate delays, a willingness to let events unfold in their own time. The other is courage, an attitude of confidence even when facing the unknown. A third is persistence, the determination to keep going no matter what happens. We have hope when we can say, all will be well, and we mean it.

There are many faithful ways to embody hope in different seasons of our lives. How might you lean into this spiritual practice more intentionally during the season of Lent?

Adapted from spiritualityandpractice.com

Join us after worship in the Lounge for Fellowship Hour.
Cookies, coffee and lemonade will be served.

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Jeff Lehn, Preaching
Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Pastoral Liturgist
Debbie Ackerman, Liturgist
Peggy Massello, Music Director
Chancel Choir
Wonee Kim, Pianist

*PLEASE STAND

PRELUDE - *Prelude and Fugue in f minor*

J.S. BACH

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**

Children of God, welcome!

Welcome to this place of love and grace.

Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community.

God invites all of us to share in the good news:

We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.

In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God, tender and just.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 432** - *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord*

REPTON

CALL TO CONFESSION

We don't always get everything right, and when that happens, sometimes we hurt other people or ourselves.

God knows that, and wants to help us make things right. We start by telling God the whole truth. Let us now pray to God about those things.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God, giver of life and forgiver of sin, we come to you now with hope – hope that you will always love us, hope that you will not hold our sin against us, hope that you will turn us around from what is evil, toward what is good. Walk with us in this holy season, and help us to look clearly at our lives and the world, that we may embrace all with love. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Dear Child of God, in our world it is often hard to remember that God loves you just as you are. God loves you not because you are good. God loves you, period. God loves us not because we are loveable. No, we are loveable precisely because God loves us. As you hear this water fill the basin of the baptismal font, know that this water is a symbol that God forgives our sins and empowers us for service. **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. 791 - *For You, My God, I Wait* (verse 6, sing twice)

O God, you are my hope; I know that you forgive.

Your love redeems me from the depths so I may rise and live.

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 1:14 (pg. 92 in the New Testament)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON - “Hope Lives in the Body”

Rev. Jeff Lehn

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 850 - *In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness* (Choir will sing the verses, congregation please sing the last line)

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

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

All that we have is a gift of God’s grace. All that we have finds its source in the opportunities, resources and people that God has blessed us with. And God calls us to bless others by sharing what we have – our love, our talents, and our material resources – with others. We have many ways to serve, and multiple ways to make a financial contribution - please consult your bulletin or the slide on your screen. In loving gratitude for all the ways in which God has blessed and provided for us, let us bring God our offerings.



*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!*

TESTIMONY - David Bennett

ANTHEM - *All Flesh is Grass*

Chris Massa

*So brief a life, and then an endless life or endless death;
So brief a life, then endless peace or strife: Whoso considereth how man but like a flower or shoot of
grass blooms an hour, well may sigh ‘Alas!’
So brief a life and then an endless grief or endless joy;
So brief a life, then ruin or relief: what solace, what annoy of Time needs dwelling on?
It is, it was, it is done, while we sigh ‘Alas!’
Yet saints are singing in a happy hope forecasting pleasure,
Bright eyes of faith enlarging all their scope;
Saints love beyond Time’s measure: where love is, there is bliss that will not pass;
Where love is, dies away ‘Alas!’*

~Christina Rossetti

***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. Anchor us to hope through it. Show us the life that really is life. Amen.

SENDING HYMN NO. 772 – *Live Into Hope

TRURO

***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**

POSTLUDE

Join us after worship in the Lounge for Fellowship Hour.
Cookies, coffee and lemonade will be served.



Our Common Life

Week of March 12th, 2023

Annual Meeting

The Session has rescheduled the Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday, March 19th, at 9:15 am (breakfast available at 9 am) in WMFC to give us more time to publicize the meeting and to experiment with a different way of doing it. A Zoom option will also be available for those who need to join virtually.

Amy Miller has kindly agreed to prepare breakfast for us on March 19th, and we will gather around tables that morning in WMFC to reflect on the past year, to have fellowship and do the formal business items required at our Annual Meetings (presentation of 2023 budget, approval of Terms of Call for our pastors, etc). After the meeting, we'll head upstairs for worship in the sanctuary, as our kids will be leading us, and presenting a dramatized parable with music.

Holy Week

Palm/Passion Sunday - April 2nd

10:00 am - in-person/Livestream worship, Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday - April 6th

6:00 pm - Soup Supper, WMFC

6:45 pm - in-person/Livestream worship, Chapel

Good Friday - April 7th

3 - 6:00 pm - Meditation, Chapel

Easter Sunday - April 9th

9:00 am - in-person worship, Sanctuary

11:00 am - in-person/Livestream worship, Sanctuary



Easter Flowers

Easter lilies and hydrangeas will beautify the church during the Easter season. You may purchase a plant in memory of a loved one or in appreciation of a special person.

If you wish to buy a lily or hydrangea, please complete the form in the bulletin and leave it in the church office or mail it to the church along with your check by Sunday, **April 2nd**. Checks should be made payable to: fpcw.



Lent 2023 Theme: “Hope: A User’s Manual”

This Lent at First Pres, we are focusing on hope. Few theological ideas are more resourceful and generative for our time than this one! Using MaryAnn McKibben Dana’s new book as our guide, *Hope: A User’s Manual*, we will be exploring what hope is, what it is not, how it lives in our body, finds best expression in story and is, in the end, a practice we must keep at again and again. In Sunday worship, we will reflect on Scripture passages that touch on hope and we invite you to purchase a copy (available in the church office for \$12, or via your book retailer) and read along with us. It promises to be a rich and thoughtful journey together as we rediscover hope together!

Lent 2023 Adult Faith Formation Class

Sundays, 8:45-9:45 am (6 Weeks, Feb. 26 – April 2)

In-person in the Lounge; and over Zoom

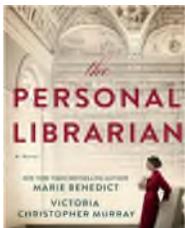
2023 Lenten Adult Faith Class: “Hope: A User’s Manual”

Join Pastor Jeff for this six-week Lenten study that serves as a “deeper dive” into our broader theme for the season: “Hope: A User’s Manual,” drawing on the recent book written by MaryAnn McKibben Dana (she led a women’s retreat at our church back in 2019). Each week, we’ll look at one of the six sections of the book with the help of the reader’s guide: (1) What Hope Is Not; (2) What Hope Is; (3) Hope Lives in the Body; (4) Hope Travels in Story; (5) The Practice of Hope; and (6) Hope Beyond Hope. No pre-reading required – just come and grow with us as we together seek to wrestle with what hope is, what it is not and to find it even in hopeless times. The hybrid class will meet on Sundays from 8:45-9:45 am in person in the Lounge and virtually via Zoom during Lent (February 26 – April 2): Zoom Link is available in the Daily Bread and in the Saturday evening email.



In November, FPCW will be sponsoring a racial justice pilgrimage to a number of important historic civil rights sites in Birmingham, Selma and Montgomery, Alabama. While specific plans for the pilgrimage are still in the development stage, the itinerary will most likely include the Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma; the Legacy Museum, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice and the Civil Rights Museum in Montgomery; the Civil Rights Memorial and the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham.

The tour will begin in Birmingham on Thursday morning, November 2nd and end back in Birmingham on Sunday, November 5th. Travel arrangements include direct flights from/to O'Hare or carpooling with other participants if that is preferred.



The Book Group gathers each month on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Next gathering will be on Wednesday March 15th at 7 pm in the Church Lounge. The book the group has chosen this month to read is “The Personal Librarian” by Marie Benedict. Interested in join this book group? Please join us, all are welcome.



Come join us on March 19th to hear the gospel proclaimed by some of the youngest members of our church family! The kids have been working hard, preparing music and a dramatized parable, based on one of the stories Jesus told. We hope you can make it for this very special worship service.

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 (March 15th) 7:00 pm Church Lounge. The March book is “The Personal Librarian” by Marie Benedict. Members take turns leading a book discussion. This group is 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, March 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 – Is on hiatus for the time being.

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, April 12th, 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 7:00 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 (8:00-9:30 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 8:45-9:45 am in the Upper Room

Coming Soon: College Parent Fellowship

Calendar for the week of March 12th, 2023

Sunday, March 12th, 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

Monday, March 13th

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

Tuesday, March 14th

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

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

Thursday, March 16th

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

Friday, March 17th

No meetings scheduled

Saturday, March 18th

8:00 am	Men's Council	Lounge
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Sunday, March 19th - Annual Meeting

8:45 am	Middle School Class	Ref Room
	Jr. High Youth Class	Yellow Room
9:00 am	Church Breakfast	WMFC
9:15 am	Annual Meeting	WMFC/Zoom
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
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Youth Group	Tower
6:00 pm	Tower Senior High Youth Group Dinner	WMFC

WMFC = Wallace Moore Fellowship Center

For our Prayers

- David Leasure - recent hip surgery, rehabbing at Alden in Skokie.

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

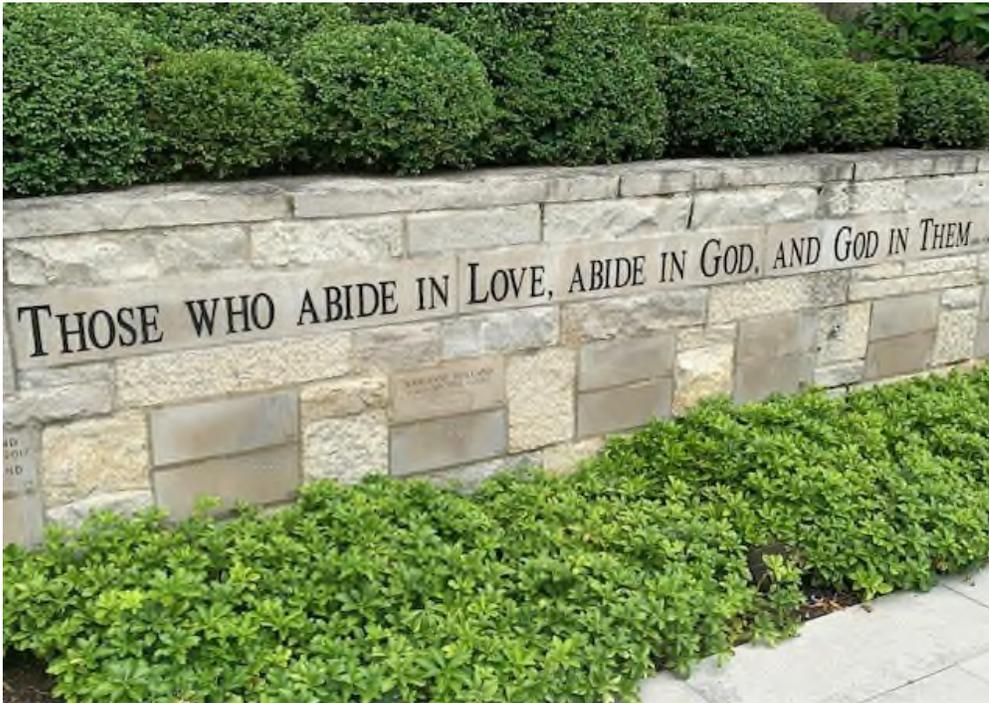
- Marcia Baylin - caring for her mother in Rockford, IL.

For those who are walking through a season of grief.

- Jim Weyrens - at the sudden death of his son Peter.
- Marcia 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.



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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