



James Janknegt, "Make All Things New" (2005)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Sunday, April 23rd, 2023

Third Sunday of Easter

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. No matter what's happening in our lives or in the life of the world, we will continue to be agents of God's love. We will keep growing as followers of Christ. We will keep loving and listening to our neighbors. We will continue praying for one another. 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—also see the QR code later in this Bulletin to give online.
- Join us after worship for Fellowship Hour in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center (lower level).

We're so glad to be worshipping with you in person and online!

With gratitude in Christ,

Pastors Jeff Lehn, Kara Smith-Laubenstein and Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski

Spiritual Practice: Sacred Breath

As a way of entering your time of prayer, take time to get in touch with your breathing. Don't try to change the rhythm of your breath; simply notice your natural, rhythmic rise and fall. Imagine as you breath in that God breathes life into you. As you breath out, imagine releasing all of the distractions and worries that keep you from being fully present in prayer. See if you can just set them aside for a time. Simply spending time with your breath as a way of deepening your awareness of the God who sustains you moment by moment is enough. Take time to become aware of your breathing, and allow your heart to fill with gratitude for this most basic gift of life.

Christine Valters Paintner, *Water, Wind, Earth & Fire: The Christian Practice of Praying with the Elements*, p. 22.

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

WORSHIP LEADERS:

*PLEASE STAND

Rev. Jeff Lehn, Pastoral Liturgist
Rev. Kara Smith-Laudenstein, Pastoral Liturgist
Jane Rankin, Liturgist
Ray Hopkins, Drums
Wonee Kim, Piano
Joe Krzysiak, Bass
Chancel Choir

PRELUDE - *Prelude* on ENGELBERG

arr. Austin Lovelace

WELCOME AND COMMON LIFE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

It is a good day to be here.

It is a good day to tell stories.

It is a good day to give thanks.

It is a good day to ask for help.

It is a good day to be in community.

It is a good day to worship God.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 641** - *When in Our Music God Is Glorified*, verses 1, 2, 3, and 5

ENGELBERG

CALL TO CONFESSION

God is gracious and merciful and knows our needs even before they reach our lips. Still, we engage in confession, admitting to God all that rests uneasily in our hearts. This morning we listen to the sung prayer of confession, reflecting with our choir as they lead us. Confident of God's love, let us confess together, first in silent prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION - *Kyrie* (Lord Have Mercy)

In the name of the Father, in the name of the Son,
in the name of the Holy Spirit, the Blessed Three in One.

Oh Lord have mercy. Kyrie eleison. Oh Lord have mercy, oh Lord have mercy on me.

Send us a Savior, set my soul free. Give us Your word and teach us to pray.

I want to praise and serve You always.

Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob look down, have mercy upon us.

Oh Christ have mercy. Christe eleison. Oh Christ have mercy on me.

Send us Your comfort, grant us Your peace. You are the way, the truth, and the light.

I love You more each day and each night.

Jesus the Rock of salvation, the Light of the world, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS - *Gloria*

Glory to God in the highest, peace to all men of good will.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we adore Thee, we glorify Thee.

We give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we adore Thee, we glorify Thee.

Lord God, King of heaven, Father, Almighty One.

Glory be to Jesus Christ, Lamb of God, the Father's only Son.
Glory to God in the highest, peace to all men of good will.

Thou who takest away all the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Thou who takest away all the sins of the world, receive our prayers.
Thou who sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty in heaven,
Have mercy on us.
For only Thou art holy, only Thou are the Lord.
Only Thou are holy, only Thou are most high.
I believe in the Holy Spirit and the holy catholic church.
We come to praise Your name today, we want to serve You in every way
Let the loud hosannas ring, shouting the praises to God our King.
In the name (name of the Father). Name of the Son (name of the Son).
In the name of the Holy Ghost. The blessed Three in One. 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 watch the new members join and then 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 the worship service in the Sanctuary.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** (Hymn No. 826, verse 3)

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim 'till all the world adore his sacred name.
O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, your death has brought us life eternally.
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim 'till all the world adore his sacred name.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let us pray together in unison for the illumination of the Holy Spirit.
Eternal God, help us to experience the truth that the Bible is not just ancient literature, but is your living Word today. Speak to us through these words from 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 - Psalm 150 (pg. 583 in the Old Testament)

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

ANTHEM

Acclamation
Hallelujah, praise the Lord.
Hallelujah, let us praise the Lord.
Praise Him with stringed instruments, praise Him with dance.
Praise Him on the psaltry and harp.
Everything that has breath ought to praise Him.

Sanctus
Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts.
Hosanna be to Thee (in the highest) who gave me victory.

There was a man sitting by the roadside; he was blind. He could not see.
Then the master of the earth and skies touched his eyes and he looked around saying:
Holy, holy Lord God of hosts.
Hosanna be to Thee (in the highest) who gave me victory.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,
We will always sing, always sing Thy praise, sing Thy praise.
Hosanna in the highest. Sing hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Like the blind man and the lame man, I was lost, living in sin.
Then I opened up my heart one day, I let the Savior in.
Now I shout saying Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts.
Hosanna be to Thee (in the highest) who gave me victory.
Holy, holy, Lord Jesus.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (drawn from “A Brief Statement of Faith PCUSA”)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God’s commandments. we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God’s condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Credo

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost.
Born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate.
Crucified, died, and was buried, he descended into hell.
On the third day He arose. He ascended to heaven, from death He was set free.
Now He sits at the right hand and He’s waiting for you and me.
He will judge all the world, He will judge you and me.
I believe in the Holy Spirit and the holy catholic church.
I believe, Lord, in one baptism for the remission of sin and rebirth.
I believe in the resurrection and the communion of saints in this world.
I believe when my life is over I’m going home just to live with my God.
I believe, I believe in God and in the Holy Ghost, I believe, I believe in God.

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.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world; have mercy on us, have mercy on us.

For you came to die for me, suffered, bled and died, died on Calvary.

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world; have mercy on us, have mercy on us.

In Your word you showed us how. We are trying, Lord. Hear our prayer right now.

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world; grant us thy peace.

Grant us Thy peace, Amen.

CALL FOR OFFERING



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

(LASST UNS ERFREUEN)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;

Alleluia, Alleluia. Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, this morning, in the multicolored company of your church on Earth and in heaven, we celebrate your creation, your life, your death and resurrection, your interest in us. So this day we pray that, by your power and by these gifts we offer, you would bring new life where we are worn and tired, new love where we have turned hard-hearted, forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded, and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit where we are the prisoners of ourselves. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN NO. 700 - *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

I'M GONNA LIVE

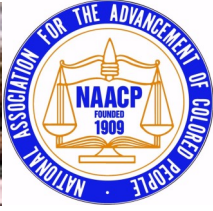
*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE - *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

arr. Charles Callahan



Common Life
Week of April 23rd, 2023



Rolling Fork, Mississippi Tornado Disaster Relief

The Evanston North Shore Branch of the NAACP requests relief items for families devastated by the tornado that struck Rolling Fork, Mississippi on March 24.

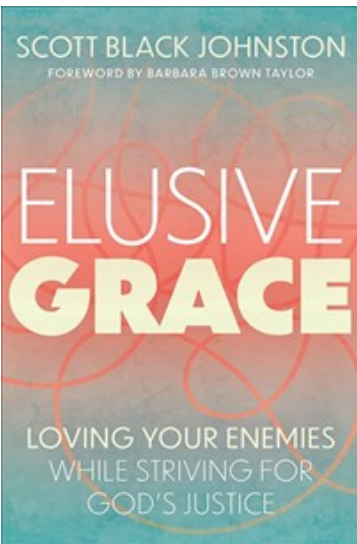
Needed items include packages of undergarments, t-shirts, and socks for men, women, and children in all sizes; travel-size toiletries of all kinds; and packages of paper plates, zip-lock bags, and trash bags; backpacks, sleeping bags, and games for children.

Deliver donations to Ten Thousand Villages at 915 Chicago Avenue in Evanston weekdays 11:00 am to 6:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. Contributions welcome through Friday, April 28. Email questions to naacpev@gmail.com.

Adult Faith Formation Class: “Elusive Grace”

Sundays, 8:45-9:45 am April 23-June 4

In-person in the Lounge and over Zoom



Join Pastor Jeff for this seven-week Eastertide study working our way through the recent book by Scott Black Johnston, *Elusive Grace: Loving Your Enemies While Striving for God's Justice*. Scott is the senior pastor of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City and has been a friend and mentor to Jeff for many years. In this class, we'll spend the first few weeks reclaiming virtues by examining temperance, justice, prudence, courage, faith, hope, and love. Then we'll retrain our hearts on love by focusing on how we love: God, Jesus, mercy, truth, our neighbor, and our enemy. Finally, we'll end with a focus on pressing issues facing the church today and how we can strive for God's justice. The hybrid class will meet on Sundays, **8:45-9:45 am** in the Lounge and on Zoom **April 23 through June 4** (Meeting ID 840 3593 7190; Password 815640.)



Tower Benefit Dinner

Mark your calendar for this year's Tower Benefit Dinner on **Sunday, May 21 at 5:00 pm** in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center. Reservations and event details available soon.



Racial Justice Pilgrimage November 2 through 5

In November, First Pres Wilmette will be sponsor 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 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 2 and end back in Birmingham on Sunday, November 5. Travel arrangements include direct flights from/to O'Hare or carpooling with other participants if that is preferred.

Cost of the trip is estimated to be around \$2000 per person...although costs are yet to be finalized. **A \$500 deposit is required by May 1 to hold your place in the tour group.**

If you have questions or would like more information about the tour, please contact Mary Watt at mhw1117@gmail.com or reach out to another member of the Racial Justice Committee...and mark your calendars to save the **dates of November 2-5.**



Racial Justice Pilgrimage: Introducing Tour Leader Barry McNealy

We are fortunate to have one of the most renowned Civil Rights historians in the state of Alabama as our tour leader for the upcoming Racial Justice Pilgrimage. Barry McNealy is the preferred tour guide of the Birmingham Convention Bureau and the Alabama Tourism Department. Barry is a high school history teacher, adjunct professor at an area community college, and works for the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, in addition to giving guided tours in both Birmingham and Montgomery. Barry will make Alabama history come alive for

our group as he has for countless others including our friends at Kenilworth Union Church who toured the area last fall.

If you would like more information about the **November 2-5 Racial Justice Pilgrimage**, please contact Mary Watt at mhw1117@gmail.com or reach out to another member of the Racial Justice Committee.



Nominating Committee Begins Its Work: Do You Know Church Members with Gifts for Leadership?

Your Nominating Committee invites you to help fill vital positions on the ministry boards of our church. Because our church community is committed to inclusiveness, we value your input. Please let us know if you are interested in serving the church and willing to be considered for nomination and/or if you know of other church members who are qualified and willing to serve.

We seek nominations for Elder, Deacon, and Nominating Committee at-large members, plus Presbytery of Chicago Elder commissioners. Submit a nomination online (request a link from the church office) or using a print form inserted in future Sunday Bulletins. All suggestions will be held in confidence.



**Retreat Offered at First Pres Arlington Heights
Saturday, April 29 between 11:00 am and 3:00 pm**

Rev. Arianne Braithwaite Lehn will be leading an all-church retreat for First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights on Saturday, April 29, at the Friendship Park Conservatory.

They have graciously opened the retreat to First Pres Wilmette members and friends! The theme of the retreat is "Exploration and Authenticity: Rekindling the Gift of God that is In You," and it seeks to provide space and empowerment for living from the heart of our true selves and inner voice. To learn more about the retreat and register at firstpresah.org/retreat. Registration closes Monday (April 24).



The Deacon's Fund Needs Your Support!

Did you know that the budget for our Board of Deacons comes solely through donations made in the green pew envelopes? Deacons use these contributions to fund everything from care partner gifts to church defibrillator maintenance.

Please consider supporting the work of our Board of Deacons by making a donation in the green envelopes found in the pews. Our Deacons thank you for your ongoing support of their important ministries!



Chancel Choir Sings Robert Ray's "Gospel Mass" Today

This morning we hear the joyful and soulful sounds of this inspiring work in worship as the proclamation of the word. A rhythm ensemble of bass, piano and drums (our own Ray Hopkins!) accompanies the choir.

Robert Ray's Gospel Mass, composed in 1978, premiered at the University of Illinois with a performance by the University's Black Chorus. Ray wrote it while serving as a liturgy team leader for the National Office of Black Catholics. In the Gospel Mass,

Dr. Ray's interprets two thousand years of liturgical tradition with the more contemporary music of the African-American Church. For centuries, composers have created musical settings from the text of the Ordinary of the Mass. Each setting creates a different feeling about the worship experience within the listener. The composer states: "It is my desire to combine centuries of old traditions of Mass settings with sounds of the contemporary Black Church. The move from Latin to English created new opportunities for composers to express their feelings about the texts of the Ordinary of the Mass. I wanted everyone to experience the sense of joy and celebration that is generally felt in true African-American worship."

CONNECT, GROW, SHARE – Adult Groups at First Pres Wilmette 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. Contact Jeff Lehn jlehn@fpcw.org.

Bible Study – Every Thursday, 10:00-11:00 am, Lounge, Led by Rev. Jeff Lehn

How does the Bible inform our daily lives? Contact Bonnie Wehrenberg bwherbie007@att.net.

Book Group – 3rd Wednesday (May 17th), 7:00 pm, Lounge

Members take turns leading the book discussion. Joyce Knauff (joyce@jckassociates.com) hosts this group.

FELLOWSHIP AND MEAL GROUPS

Lunch Hour Loop Group – Wednesday, May 10th, 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 Jeff Lehn jlehn@fpcw.org.

Parents of High School Youth (POHSY)

Parents meet several times a year in a 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 join together to lend support to one another. Contact Iris Boaz iboaz@ameritech.net.

Senior Supper Club – 3rd Tuesday (May 16th), 5:30 pm, 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 – Wednesday, April 26th, 7:00-8:30 pm, Lounge

A group member will share an article or 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, Lounge

Each month a member leads the discussion. Nancy Freeman (njwfreeman@gmail.com) coordinates this group.

Westminster Place "Spoke" – 3rd Wednesday (May 17th), 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 – Every Thursday, 7:00 pm, Lounge

Men's Hour consists of a brief group reading, a silent five-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! Contact Paul Traynor paultraynor@haymoon.com.

Men's Council – Every Saturday, 8:00-9:30 am, Lounge

Meets October through June. Participants gather for breakfast and then listen to an interesting program. All are welcome any Saturday. Contact Steve Reinhart steve.reinhart@gmail.com.

Calendar for the week of April 23rd, 2023

Sunday, April 23rd

8:45 am	Adult Faith Formation	Lounge/Zoom
8:45 am	Middle School Youth Class	Yellow Room
8:45 am	Junior High Youth Class	Red Room
9:45 am	Nursery Care ages Birth-3yrs during worship	Nursery
9:55 am	Livestream Worship	YouTube
10:00 am	In-person Worship	Sanctuary
10:15 am	Children's Chapel	Chpel
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Fellowship	Tower

Monday, April 24th

7:00 pm	Troop 5 Meeting	WMFC
8:30 pm	Crew 5 Meeting	Yellow Room

Tuesday, April 25th

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Lounge
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Wednesday, April 26th

5:00 pm	Midweek Meetup	WMFC
6:00 pm	Church Family Dinner	WMFC
7:00 pm	Slowing Time Women's Group	Lounge
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir	Music Room

Thursday, April 27th

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

Friday, April 28th

No scheduled events

Saturday, April 29th

8:00 am	Men's Council	Lounge
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Sunday, April 30th

8:45 am	Adult Faith Formation	Lounge/Zoom
8:45 am	Middle School Youth Class	Yellow Room
8:45 am	Junior High Youth Class	Red Room
9:45 am	Nursery Care ages Birth-3yrs during worship	Nursery
9:55 am	Livestream Worship	YouTube
10:00 am	In-person Worship	Sanctuary
10:15 am	Children's Chapel	Chapel
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
2:00 pm	Pack 5 Blue and Gold Banquet	WMFC
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Fellowship	Tower

WMFC = Wallace Moore Fellowship Center

FOR OUR PRAYERS

Please pray for those in the midst of illness, walking through a season of grief, or homebound and unable to join us this day.

Pray for Amy McJoynt whose father, Don Smith, died on April 14th.

Pray for Sarah Morris whose sister, Ali, died on April 18th.

Pray for Amy Russell whose aunt, Kay Johnson, died on April 15th.

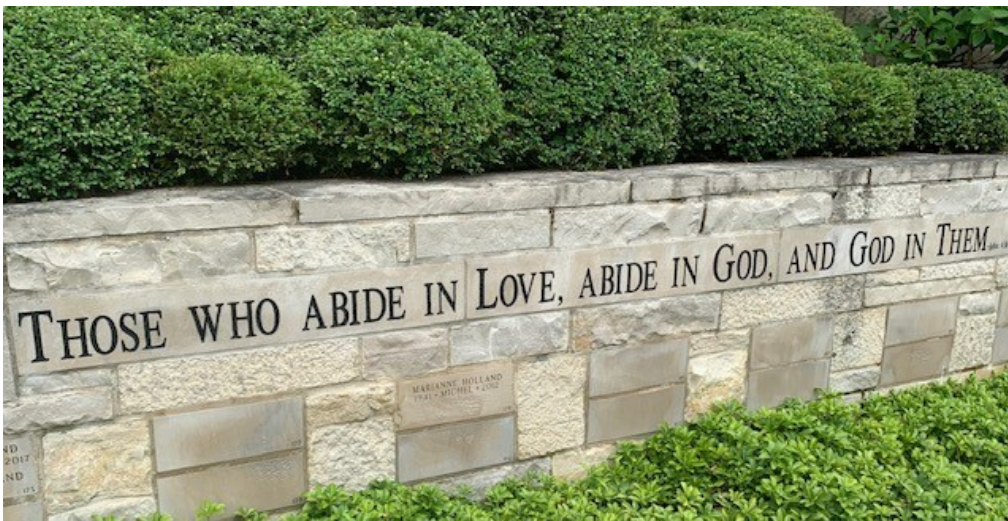
Pray for those touched by gun violence in our city, nation, and world.

Pray for those experiencing war, extreme weather, and natural disasters:

- In the war-torn country of Ukraine;
- During the internal conflict in Sudan; and
- In drought-stricken Spain and elsewhere in western Europe.

TODAY'S FLOWERS

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Anna and Ryan Shannahan in celebration of their becoming part of First Pres Wilmette.



CHURCH OFFICE

847-256-3010

Monday-Thursday 9:00am-5:00pm

Friday 9:00am-3:30pm

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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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