



Jyoti Sahi, "The Supper at Emmaus," 1980



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Sunday, April 30th, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Scout Sunday

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 Lounge.

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 breathe in that God breathes life into you. As you breathe out, imagine releasing all 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, Preaching
Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Pastoral Liturgist
Diane Baer, Liturgist
Wonee Kim, Piano
Chancel Choir
Chancel Bells

BELL PRELUDE - *Praise to the Lord*, LOBE DEN HERREN, arr. John Behnke

WELCOME AND COMMON LIFE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

In times of joy and sorrow,

We belong to God.

In times of plenty and want,

We belong to God.

On living room couches or in hospital beds,

We belong to God.

On Good Friday and Easter Sunday,

We belong to God.

In the Upper Room and on the Emmaus Road,

We belong to God.

Held by the risen Christ and bound together by the Holy Spirit,

Let us worship God, tender and just.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 35** - *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

LOBE DEN HERREN

CALL TO CONFESSION

In that first season of Easter, the disciples wrestled with news that seemed too good to be true: Jesus was alive! Life had overcome death. Hope had outlasted fear. Love had defeated hate. And yet the world still appeared the same. Fear, brokenness, hunger, violence, and evil still roamed the streets. Their struggle is our struggle: living as Easter people in a Good Friday world. In humility and honesty, let us confess to our gracious and always present God, first in silent prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Vulnerable God, we open our hearts to you in this Easter season, and offer the truth of our lives: the fear that stifles us, the worry that blinds us, the judgment that hobbles us, the doubt that plagues us, the loneliness that wearies us. Help us, we pray, that we will find courage in unlikely places, see the world with new and gracious eyes, move to those places where love is needed, have faith that you are with us always. Renew us for your service. Give us resilience and hope. Help us to be the church in this time. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, our God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. God is always making all things new—overcoming death with life, hatred with love, fear with hope. This is the Easter good news—the tomb is empty and love has the final word. Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

***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 the worship service in the Sanctuary.

***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.

God of all who doubt and believe, by the light of your Spirit enable us to hear with our ears, to see with our eyes, and to touch with our hands your Word of life—Jesus Christ—our Lord and our God. Amen.

PSALTER READING - Psalm 63:1-8 (page 527 in the Old Testament)

SCRIPTURE READING - Luke 24:13-35 (page 90 in the New Testament)

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

SERMON

Rev. Jeff Lehn

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 252 - *Day of Arising*, choir will sing verses 1 and 2,
congregation please join on verses 3 and 4

RAABE

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



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!

OFFERTORY - *Hallelujah*

Leonard Cohen, arr. Joel Raney

***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.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious God, bless all we offer you this morning—ourselves, our time, and our money. As we navigate this season of Easter, help us to offer the full measure of our lives to you. We surrender all. Strengthen us now as we move into the week ahead, so that we can love our neighbors with your love, and offer your hope and peace and resilience to a weary world. Amen.

TESTIMONY FROM TROOP 5 ON SCOUT SUNDAY

SENDING HYMN NO. 251 - *Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

MFURAHINI, HALELUYA

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE



Common Life
Week of April 30th, 2023



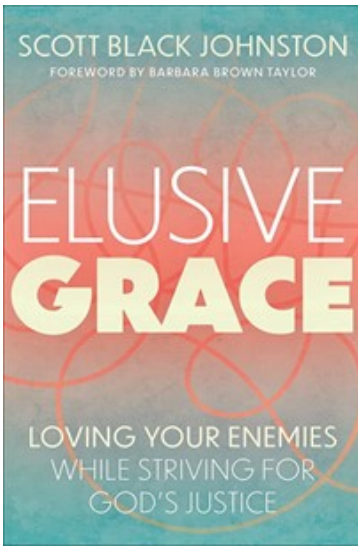
Troop 5 Scout Sunday
Northeast Illinois Council

Today's service includes a Psalter Reading and Testimony from members of Troop 5, the Scout Troop founded at First Pres Wilmette more than 100 years ago, in December 1922, for youth between grade five and the end of high school. Scout Sunday also recognizes Pack 5, for youth between kindergarten and grade five. Together, these Scouts and the participants in Venturing Crew 5 (ages 14 through 20) compose a membership of 80 young people who together seek to live the Scout motto to "Be Prepared" and Scout Slogan to "Do a Good Turn Daily." We are pleased to have them with us this day, and for the life they bring to our meeting spaces each week during their group events.

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.)



Installation of Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein

Sunday, May 7 at 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Join us for Kara Smith-Laubenstein's installation as Associate Pastor of Youth and Congregational Care, a worship service of the Presbytery of Chicago and First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette. The service will begin at **3:00 pm on Sunday, May 7**. A reception in the Lounge will follow.



Racial Justice Pilgrimage November 2 through 5

In November, First Pres Wilmette will 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 (Selma); the Legacy Museum, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, and the Civil Rights Museum (Montgomery); and the Civil Rights Memorial and 16th Street Baptist Church (Birmingham).

The tour will begin and conclude in Birmingham starting on Thursday, November 2 and ending Sunday, November 5. Travel arrangements include direct flights from/to O'Hare or carpooling if participants prefer.

We estimate the trip to cost about \$2000 per person. A final amount will become available soon. We **require a \$500 deposit tomorrow (May 1) to reserve a 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 Reading List

Are you planning to participate in the fall's Racial Justice Pilgrimage or just interested in learning more about the history of civil rights in this country and the long fight for racial justice and equality? Here are four books that will start you on a path to better understanding the historical causes of the human divisions that exist in America today...and what we can do about them as Christians to ensure dignity and equality for all.

***The Color of Compromise* by Jemar Tisby.** The book takes the reader on a historical, sociological, and religious journey from America's early colonial days through the Civil War, the achievements of the Civil Rights era, and the impact of today's Black Lives Matter movement. Focusing on the role the American church has played in creating and maintaining racial ideas and practices, the book offers a way forward to improve race relations and become a more racially inclusive church. It is an action call to Christians to work to bring about a more equitable and inclusive environment for all God's people.



***Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson.** Written by one of the most brilliant and influential lawyers of our time, the book examines our justice system's pervasive failures toward marginalized populations, especially Black Americans. In discussing numerous criminal cases, Stevenson highlights the root causes of the American concept of justice and offers suggestions for repairing it. Stevenson is now the Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, a human rights organization in Montgomery, Alabama. Stevenson's organization funded The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration that opened in Montgomery in 2018. A destination on our Racial Justice Pilgrimage, the museum displays the history of slavery and racism in America.

Caste by Isabel Wilkerson. Pulitzer Prize-winning Wilkerson examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined hierarchically. Wilkerson argues that beyond race, class, and other factors, a powerful caste system influences people's lives and behavior, and the nation's fate. The book ends on a hopeful note as Wilkerson points to ways America can move beyond the artificial and destructive divisions toward a celebration of our common humanity.

The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander. Since its first publication in 2010, the book has had widespread impact including citations in judicial decisions and selections for campus-wide and community-wide reads. *The New Jim Crow* provides a stunning account of the rebirth of a caste-like system in the United States, one that has resulted in locking millions of African Americans behind bars and then relegating those individuals to permanent second-class status—denied the very rights supposedly won in the Civil Rights Movement.

Readers may borrow from a limited number of copies of each title available through the church office. Call or email to request one (847-256-3010 | office@fpcw.org).



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 today's Bulletin. All suggestions will be kept confidential.



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.

Check the **lost and found** collection in the coat closet adjacent to the west doors for jackets, covered containers, reading glasses, and other items you may have left at church. Unclaimed items will be donated or discarded on **Monday, May 8.**

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 – Thursdays, 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 17), 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 10, 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 16), 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! Contact Bonnie Wehrenberg bwherbie007@att.net.

WOMEN'S GROUPS

Slowing Time for Women

Group members share articles and poems about our relationship with Time: Chronos, or human time, focused on productivity, and Kairos, God's time, focused on fruitfulness. 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. Contact Nancy Freeman njwfreeman@gmail.com.

Westminster Place "Spoke" – 3rd Wednesday (May 17), 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. Contact Anne Menard amenard4347@yahoo.com.

MEN'S GROUPS

Men's Hour – Thursdays, 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 30th, 2023

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

Monday, May 1st

7:00 pm	Troop 5 Meeting	WMFC
7:30 pm	Personnel Support Committee Meeting	Zoom
8:30 pm	Crew 5 Meeting	Yellow Room

Tuesday, May 2nd

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Lounge
7:00 pm	Troop 5 Meeting	WMFC

Wednesday, May 3rd

3:30 pm	Welcome and Connection Ministry Meeting	Lounge
5:00 pm	Midweek Meetup	WMFC
6:00 pm	Church Family Dinner	WMFC
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir	Music Room

Thursday, May 4th

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

Friday, May 5th

No scheduled events

Saturday, May 6th

7:30 am	Troop 5 ASM Meeting	Upper Room
8:00 am	Men's Council	Lounge
9:00 am	Troop 5 Service Project	East Entrance

Sunday, May 7th

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
3:00 pm	Installation Service for Kara Smith-Laubenstein	Sanctuary
3:30 pm	Pack 5 Meeting	WMFC
4:00 pm	Installation Service Reception	Lounge
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Fellowship	Tower

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.

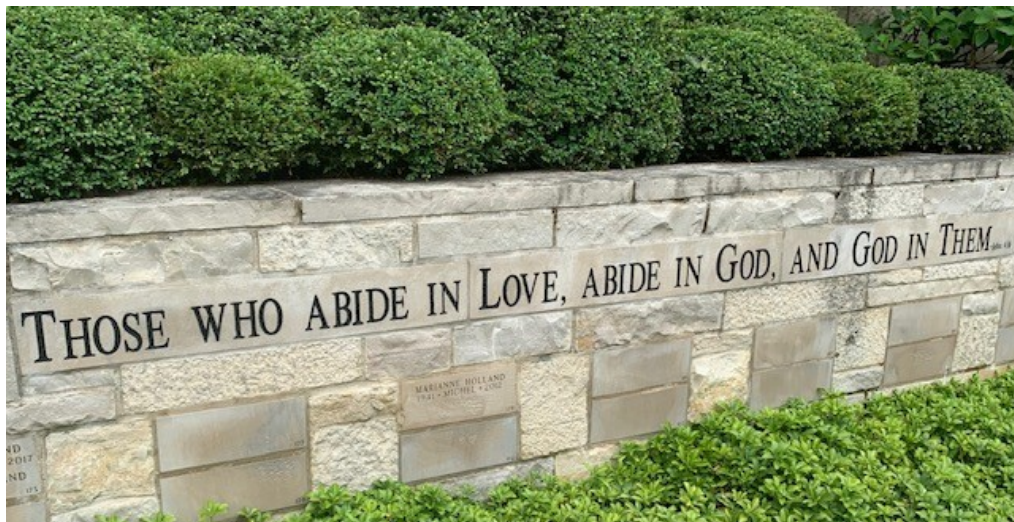
Pray for those experiencing loss:

- Amy McJoynt whose father, Don Smith, died on April 14th;
- Sarah Morris whose sister, Ali, died on April 18th; and
- 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 South America, southern Europe, and east Africa.



CHURCH OFFICE

847-256-3010
Monday-Thursday 9:00am-5:00pm
Friday 9:00am-3:30pm

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Jeff Lehn
Senior Pastor
jlehn@fpcw.org ext. 101

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein
Associate Pastor
ksmithlaubenstein@fpcw.org ext. 102

Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski
Parish Associate for Congregational Care
ldominski@fpcw.org ext. 108

Peggy Massello
Director of Worship & Music
pmassello@fpcw.org ext. 103

Lindley Traynor
Director of Children & Family Ministry
ltraynor@fpcw.org ext. 104

Scott McElhenie
Director of Youth & Family Ministries
youth@fpcw.org ext. 105

Jane Currie
Office & Communications
office@fpcw.org ext. 106

Marvin Behm
Financial Manager
finmanager@fpcw.org ext. 107

Ethan Holtermann
Livestream Engineer
ethanholtermann1@gmail.com



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 www.fpcw.org