



Sieger Köder, "The Good Shepherd"



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Sunday, May 7th, 2023

Fifth 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 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
Steve Reinhart, Liturgist
Midweek Meetup

PRELUDE - *Prelude of Shepherd Hymns*, Charles Callahan

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. 175** - *Seek Ye First*

LAFFERTY

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. Confident of God's love, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we come before you in humility, for we do not live as we ought. We do not love you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We do not love our neighbor as ourselves. So we pray, in all humility, that you will change our hearts and minds, that you will show us again how to love others the way you love us, that you will put power and courage in our hearts to do your will. This we pray in Jesus' name and for his sake. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, nothing, nothing, nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. The only thing that can separate you is the thought that you are separate. Rejoice in forgiveness. Rejoice in empowerment. Rejoice in new creation.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Today is a Family Worship Sunday. Children are invited to sit with their parents. Worship bags are available from an usher. Feel free to leave and come back into worship as needed.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - HYMN NO. 447 *We Are Forgiven

**We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.**

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 - John 10:11-18 (page 103 in the New Testament)

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

SERMON

Rev. Jeff Lehn

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 188 - *Jesus Loves Me

JESUS LOVES ME

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

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.

BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION MUSIC

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



We invite you to give via our church website www.fpcw.org (see QR code), our smartphone app, or by sending a check to the church office. An offering plate is also available in the Narthex. We are grateful for your generosity!

ANTHEM - *Love Round*

Anonymous

***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**

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. 853 - *We Are Marching in the Light of God

SIYAHAMBA

**We are dancing...
We are singing...**

***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 - *Postlude on "Siyahamba"

John Behnke



Common Life
Week of May 7th, 2023



Installation of Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein

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

Join us for Rev. 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 today**. A reception in the Lounge will follow.

Nominating Committee Seeking 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.

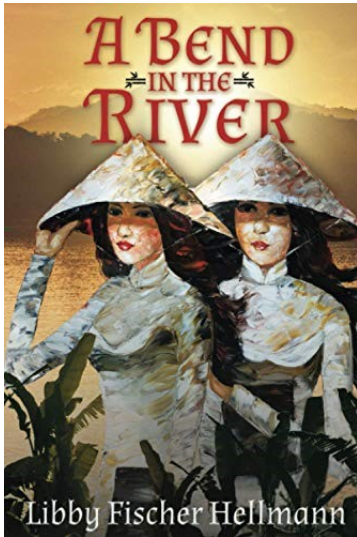
We seek nominations for Elder, Deacon, and Nominating Committee at-large members, plus Presbytery of Chicago Elder commissioners. Submit a nomination online (request a link from the church office) or using a print form inserted in today’s Bulletin. The nominating period closes **today**. All suggestions will be kept confidential.

Racial Justice Pilgrimage in November 2023



In November, First Pres Wilmette will sponsor a racial justice pilgrimage to important civil rights sites in Alabama. We have extended the pilgrimage registration deadline to **May 15th** as we still have few openings on the trip. Our goal is to have between 20 and 25 First Pres Wilmette members in the group. We currently have 15 registrants. If we don't have a full contingent from our congregation by June 1st, we plan to open registration to other churches in our community as several people outside our congregation have expressed interest in joining us.

The pilgrimage will begin on **Thursday, November 2** in Birmingham, Alabama with visits to sites there and in Selma and Montgomery. We will return to Birmingham and depart from there on **November 5**. Travel details and other information available from Mary Watt (mhw1117@gmail.com).



Join the Book Group for Discussion and Visiting Author Libby Fischer Hellman

Wednesday, May 17 at 7:00 pm in the Lounge

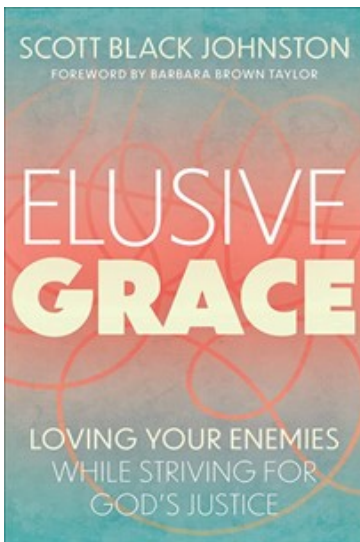
The Book Group will meet on **Wednesday, May 17 at 7:00 pm** in the Lounge to discuss this month's book, *Bend In the River* by Northfield author Libby Fischer Hellman. Libby will join us to discuss this interesting book on Vietnam. She has written more than ten other books and has received numerous awards and nominations for best books in mystery and crime fiction. Join us! Contact Joyce Knauff (joyce@jckassociates.com) with questions.



Tower Benefit Dinner

Sunday, May 21 at 5:00 pm in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center

Mark your calendar for this year's Tower Benefit Dinner on **Sunday, May 21 at 5:00 pm**. The event raises funds for this summer's Tower mission trip to Newland, North Carolina. Visit a table in the Narthex after worship **today** to purchase tickets and learn more about the dinner and silent auction.



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.)

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 (May 10), 11:30 am, Lounge

Each month a member leads the discussion. Contact Nancy Freeman njwfreeman@gmail.com.

Westminster Place “Spoke” – 4th Wednesday (May 24), 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 – Saturdays, 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 May 7th, 2023

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

Monday, May 8th

11:30 am	Pierian Meeting	WMFC
7:00 pm	Finance, Budget, and Operations Committee Meeting	Upper Room/Zoom
7:00 pm	Investment Club Meeting	Lounge
7:00 pm	Troop 5 Meeting	WMFC
8:30 pm	Crew 5 Meeting	WMFC

Tuesday, May 9th

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Lounge
5:30 pm	Youth and Families Ministry Group Meeting	Lounge
7:30 pm	Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting	Lounge

Wednesday, May 10th

11:30 am	Lunch Group for Women	Lounge
12:00 pm	Lunch Hour Loop Group	Zoom
5:00 pm	Midweek Meetup	WMFC
6:00 pm	Church Family Dinner	WMFC
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir	Music Room

Thursday, May 11th

10:00 am	Bible Study	Lounge/Zoom
7:00 pm	Men's Hour	Lounge
7:00 pm	Troop 5 Board of Review	WMFC
7:45 pm	Chancel Bells	Music Room

Friday, May 12th

No scheduled events

Saturday, May 13th

8:00 am	Men's Council	Lounge
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Sunday, May 14th

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
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 students of all ages as they close the academic year.

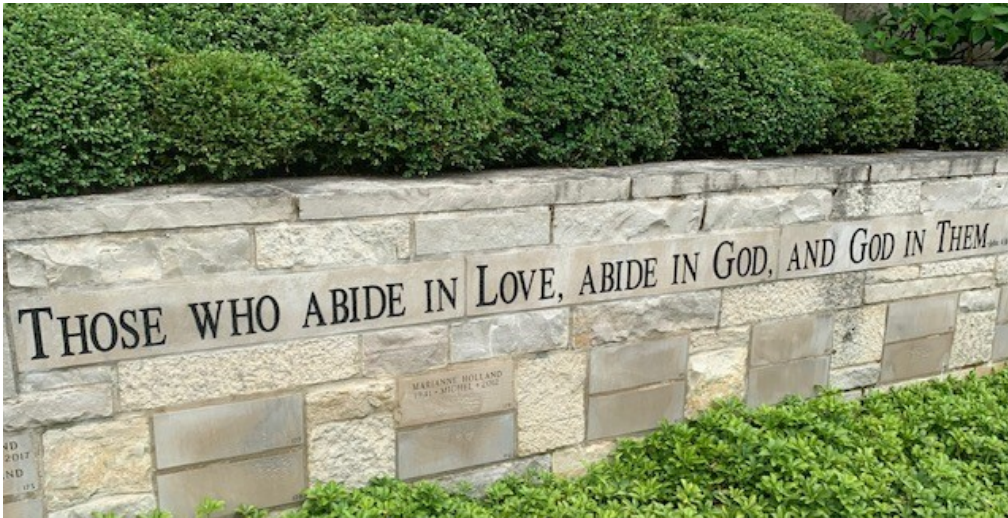
Pray for those touched by gun violence in our city, nation, and world.

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.

TODAY'S FLOWERS

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Judy and Vernon Squires in memory of Judy's daughter, Karen Mericle Buchanan.



CHURCH OFFICE

847-256-3010

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

Friday 9:00am-3:30pm

CHURCH STAFF

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Livestream Engineer

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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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