



Margie Thompson "Dance of the Trinity"



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE**

**Sunday, May 14th, 2023**

**Sixth 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:**

Rev. Jeff Lehn, Preaching  
Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Pastoral Liturgist  
Carolyn Jevelian, Liturgist  
Wonee Kim, piano  
Chancel Choir

\*PLEASE STAND

**PRELUDE - *Prelude on Aurelia***

Alice Jordan

**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**

God of the past, who has created and nurtured us.

**We are here to thank you.**

God of the future, who is always ahead of us.

**We are here to thank you.**

God of the present, who is here in the midst of us.

**We are here to thank you.**

God of hope, who is beyond and with us.

**We are here to thank you.**

Let us worship God, tender and just.

**\*OPENING HYMN NO. 694 - *Great God of Every Blessing***

AURELIA

**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**

**Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose joy often eludes us, and whose grace we routinely bungle: Accept us as we are and not as we ought to be this morning. Forgive us, God, for what we've done and left undone, what we've said and left unsaid, in the past week. Help us forgive ourselves, and our families, friends, and neighbors who've hurt us. Remind us that we belong to one another. By your grace, heal and transform us. Fill us with sturdy compassion. Empower us with gritty hope. Show us your steadfast love. We are yours, ready to do your will, whatever comes our way in the week ahead. In Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends, our God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. God is 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 and 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. 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.  
**Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READING - John 14:15-21 (page 109 in the New Testament)**

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

**SERMON - "Join the Dance"**

Rev. Jeff Lehn

**HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 282 (verses 1 and 2 choir; verse 3 congregation) - *Come Down, O Love Divine***

**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**



Give online here

*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!*

**OFFERTORY - *If Ye Love Me, Keep My Commandments***

Thomas Tallis

**\*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**

**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. 9 - *The Play of the Godhead***

PERICHORESIS

**\*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 - *Fanfare***

David Lasky



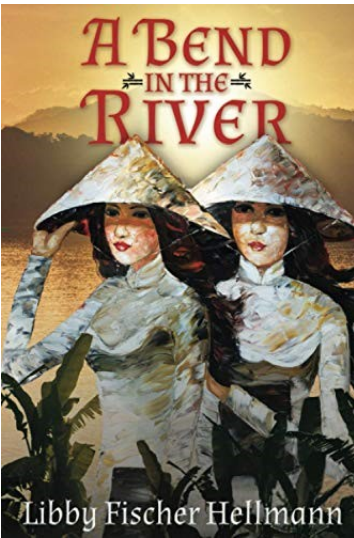
**Common Life**  
**Week of May 14th, 2023**



**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](mailto: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](mailto:joyce@jckassociates.com)) with questions.

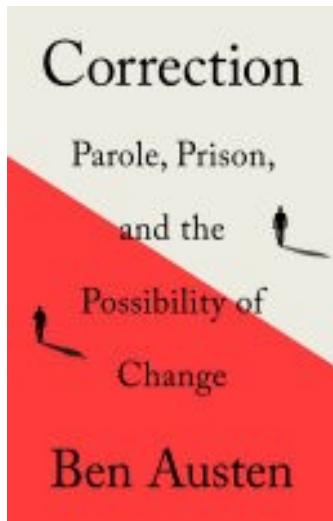


**Tower Benefit Dinner**

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.





## Racial Justice Speakers on the American Prison System and Possibilities for Reform

The Racial Justice Committee at Kenilworth Union Church invite members of the First Pres Wilmette congregation to attend a program on **Tuesday, May 23 at 7:00 pm** in the Culbertson Room at Kenilworth Union Church. Please register in advance; call or email our church office to learn how (847-254-3010 or [office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org)).

The program features author Ben Austen and Johnnie Khalif Veal, a community activist and motivational speaker. Austen's new book, *Correction: Parole, Prison, and the Possibility of Change*, will appear in bookstores in November; his previous publications appeared in the *New York Times Magazine* and other national publications. He won awards and award nominations for his first book, *High-Risers: Cabrini-Green and the Fate of American Public Housing*, released in 2018.

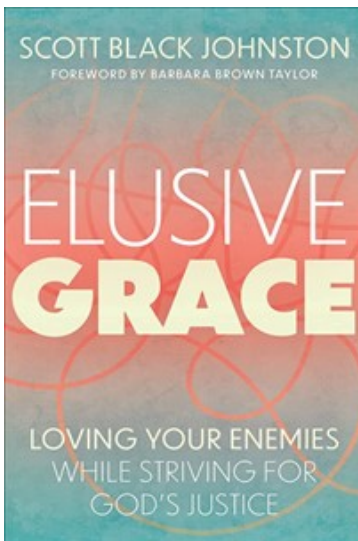
Johnnie Khalif Veal grew up in Cabrini Green and served fifty-one years in prison before his 2021 release and transition to motivational speaking and community activism.

Kenilworth Union Church is located at 211 Kenilworth Avenue in Kenilworth. Call the church office (847-251-4272) with questions.

## 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.)



### **Tell Us About the 2023 Graduates In Your Life**

We will honor 2023 graduates at every level—high school, community college, vocational program, undergraduate, graduate, professional—during our **Sunday, June 4** worship service. Send us the names of the graduates in your life. We will include them in the Prayers of the People and list them in the Bulletin. Submissions welcome through **Wednesday, May 31** by email addressed to office@fpcw.org or by calling the church office at 847-256-3010.



### **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.

**Get the word out about an upcoming meeting, program, or event**  
by sending information to office@fpcw.org.

For consideration, send a submission by 5:00 pm on Mondays  
for the next day's release of Daily Bread.

Send a submission by 12:00 noon on Thursdays  
for the following Sunday's Common Life section of the Worship Bulletin.

Questions about these publications and their contents always welcome.  
Write to office@fpcw.org or call the church office at 847-256-3010.



## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:joyce@jckassociates.com)) hosts this group.

### **FELLOWSHIP AND MEAL GROUPS**

#### **Lunch Hour Loop Group – 1st Wednesday (June 7), 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:marciabaylin3101@comcast.net).

#### **Lunch Group for Women – 2nd Wednesday (June 14), 11:30 am, Lounge**

Each month a member leads the discussion. Contact Nancy Freeman [njwfreeman@gmail.com](mailto:njwfreeman@gmail.com).

#### **Westminster Place “Spoke” – 4th Wednesday (May 24), 10:00-11:00 am, Westminster Place in Evanston 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:steve.reinhart@gmail.com).

## Calendar for the week of May 14th, 2023

### 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

### Monday, May 15th

7:00 pm	Troop 5 Meeting	WMFC
7:30 pm	Troop 5 Keuhl Fund Board Meeting	Upper Room
8:30 pm	Crew 5 Meeting	Yellow Room

### Tuesday, May 16th

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Lounge
5:30 pm	Senior Supper	Ridgeview Grill
7:00 pm	Pack 5 Meeting	WMFC

### Wednesday, May 17th

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, May 18th

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

### Friday, May 19th

No scheduled events

### Saturday, May 20th

8:00 am	Men's Council	Lounge
8:45 am	Session Retreat	Lounge

### Sunday, May 21st

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 Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction	WMFC

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.

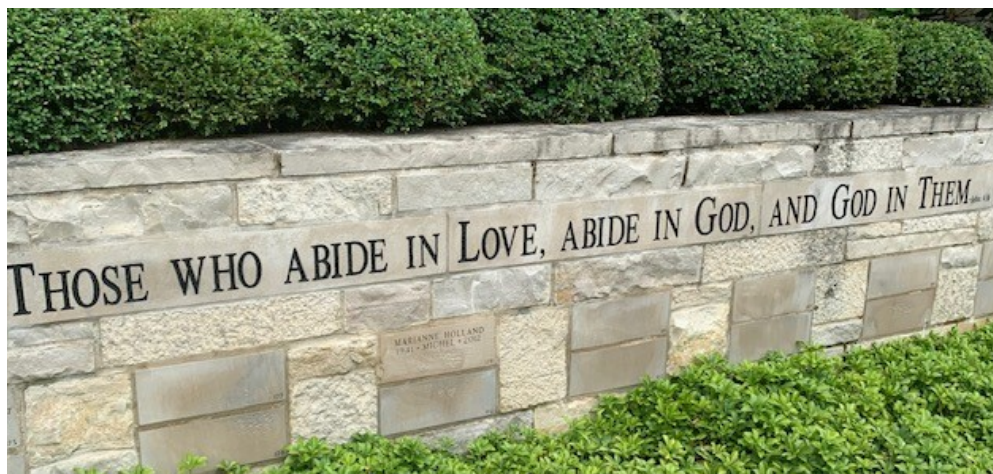
Pray for those touched by gun violence in our city, nation, and world.

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

- In the war-torn country of Ukraine;
- During the tropical cyclone striking India; and
- As climate and political refugees living in camps worldwide.

## TODAY'S FLOWERS

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Kathleen Currie in memory of Earl Currie.



## 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](mailto:jlehn@fpcw.org) ext. 101

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein

*Associate Pastor*

[ksmithlaubenstein@fpcw.org](mailto:ksmithlaubenstein@fpcw.org) ext. 102

Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski

*Parish Associate for Congregational Care*

[ldominski@fpcw.org](mailto:ldominski@fpcw.org) ext. 108

Peggy Massello

*Director of Worship & Music*

[pmassello@fpcw.org](mailto:pmassello@fpcw.org) ext. 103

Lindley Traynor

*Director of Children & Family Ministry*

[ltraynor@fpcw.org](mailto:ltraynor@fpcw.org) ext. 104

Marvin Behm

*Financial Manager*

[finmanager@fpcw.org](mailto:finmanager@fpcw.org) ext. 107

Jane Currie

*Office & Communications*

[office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org) ext. 106

Ethan Holtermann

*Livestream Engineer*

[ethanholtermann1@gmail.com](mailto: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 Ninth Street, Wilmette, Illinois 60091-2779  
847-256-3010  
[office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org) [www.fpcw.org](http://www.fpcw.org)