



Jan Richardson, "The Best Supper"



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Sunday, June 11th, 2023

Second Sunday after Pentecost

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 for lunch and conversation
in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center.

WORSHIP LEADERS:

*PLEASE STAND

Rev. Robert L. House, Sr., Preaching
Rev. Jeff Lehn, Pastoral Liturgist
Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Pastoral Liturgist
Wonee Kim, Accompanist
Chancel Bells
Chancel Choir

PRELUDE - *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Conrad Kocher, arr. Sandra Eithun

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**

Called to lead a life that is worthy, we gather as God's people.

Whatever roads we walk, whatever waters we have passed through, we share one baptism.

Called to model lives of service, we share in the building up of Christ's body.

Our backgrounds are different, our habits vary, but we share a common faith in Christ.

Called to be people of peace and gentleness, we offer those gifts to all of God's creation.

Though each of us is unique and precious to God, our hearts beat as one with hope.

Lead a life worthy of the one who has called you by one baptism, one faith, and one hope.

Let us worship God!

***OPENING HYMN NO. 14** - *For the Beauty of the Earth*

DIX

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

Gracious God, source of all life, Lord of mercy and grace, hear our prayer this morning. We come before you in need of healing: the healing of our bodies and minds, the healing of our relationships, the healing of our cynicism and fear and apathy, the healing of our broken and divided world. We know that with you, nothing is impossible, not even our healing, not even the renewal of the whole world. We pray that you will heal us, person by person, day by day, neighborhood by neighborhood, so that your dream for a world of peace and justice will come true. Show us what we need to start doing and stop doing. Show us again that we are beloved and so is everyone else. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

With the sound of water pouring into the baptismal font, we remember that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. The only thing that can separate us is the thought that we 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

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. 288**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All-mighty and All-vulnerable God, by the power of your Holy Spirit, speak to us in the language of our hearts, that we may hear your Word with understanding and answer your call with confidence. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Matthew 6:33; 1 Chronicles 28:9-10 (New Testament page 6; Old Testament page 386)

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

SERMON - "Seeking God!"

Rev. Robert L. House, Sr.

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION - *Amazing Grace*

Virginia Harmony, arr. Linda R. Lamb

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 on your right as you exit the sanctuary. We are grateful for your generosity!

OFFERTORY - *Day By Day*

Oscar Ahnfelt, arr. Mark Hayes

All day, all night, angels watchin' over me, my Lord.
All day, all night, angels watchin' over me.
Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me, bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me draw me nearer to my heavenly goal.
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure, brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure, where at last I'll find eternal rest.
Day by day, I know you will provide me strength to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek your loving will to guide me over the paths I struggle day by day.

I will fear no evil of the morrow, I will trust in your enduring grace.
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow 'till in glory I behold your face.
Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my burdens grow too great to bear;
Oh, what joy to know that you will hear me when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.
Day by day, no matter what betide me, you will hold me ever in your hand.
Savior, with your presence here to guide me, I will reach at last the promised land.
~ Carolina Sandel Berg

***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. Reconnect us to your love and to one another through it. Show us life that really is life. Amen.

SENDING HYMN NO. 623 - *I've Got Peace Like a River

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

***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 - *I've Got Peace Like a River

Spiritual, arr. Charles Callahan



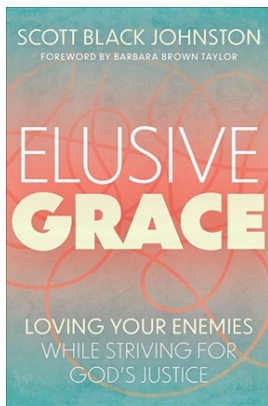
Common Life
Week of June 11th 2023

**Today we welcome the Rev. Robert L. House, Sr.
and members of his congregation from New Life Baptist Church to our worship service.**

Located on Chicago's South Side, New Life Baptist Church is a mission partner of First Pres Wilmette. Through its outreach efforts, New Life offers food and shelter to homeless people in the community.

Following today's service, we invite you to join our friends from New Life for lunch and conversation in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center.

This is the third summer pulpit exchange between New Life and First Pres Wilmette. On Sunday, July 23, Pastor Jeff Lehn will preach at New Life. Join him and members of the New Life congregation that morning! Carpools available; contact the church office for details (office@fpcw.org | 847-256-3010).



**Listen to Jeff Lehn Interview Scott Black Johnston, Author of
"Elusive Grace"**

Jeff recently interviewed his friend and mentor Scott Black Johnston about Johnston's book *Elusive Grace: Loving Your Enemies While Striving for God's Justice*. Scott serves as Pastor at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City. Watch Jeff and Scott in conversation at <https://bit.ly/3p1W6Mx>.

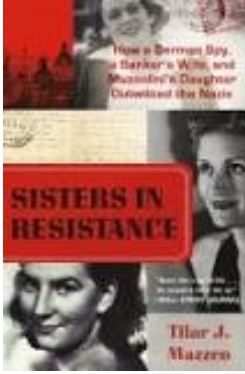
Join the 2023 Ricky Byrdsong Memorial Race Against Hate

Register now for the 10K run, 5K run/walk, or the youth mile on **Sunday, June 18 beginning at 7:30 am** at Long Field in Evanston. The YWCA Evanston/North Shore uses funds raised during the Race Against Hate to engage children and adults in dialogue, nonviolent action, and the pursuit of racial justice. Besides contributing their registration fee, participants may raise additional funds toward this year's overall fundraising goal of \$75,000.00.

Email or call the church office for assistance finding more information about the Race Against Hate and runner registration (office@fpcw.org | 847-256-3010).

Long Field is located at the corner of Sheridan Road and Lincoln Avenue in Evanston.





Attend the Book Group's Discussion of Tilar J. Mazzeo's *Sisters in Resistance*

The Book Group will meet on **Wednesday, June 21 at 7:00 pm** in the Church Lounge to discuss *Sisters in Resistance: How a German Spy, a Banker's Wife, and Mussolini's Daughter Outwitted the Nazis*. Kirkus Reviews calls the book "A tantalizingly novelistic history lesson." Join us! Contact Joyce Knauff (joyce@jckassociates.com) with questions.

Purchase Tickets and Support the Thompson Street Opera Production of "Michigan Trees"



Michigan Trees, a folk opera directed by choir member Claire DiVizio, follows a transfemme person on a journey to self-acceptance. Learn more and purchase tickets at thompsonstreetopera.org. *Michigan Trees* runs between **June 16 and 24**.

Thompson Street Opera, Chicago's only queer- and trans-led opera company, also welcomes contributions in support of its ongoing work at thompsonstreetoperaorg/join-us.

Our Call to Racial Justice: Diversity and Inclusion



Do you know the difference between diversity and inclusion? Having one doesn't necessarily mean having the other. Diversity is the presence of differences, while inclusion is the practice of ensuring that people feel welcome, respected, supported, and valued. This effort shouldn't be limited to workplaces; it should stand wherever and whenever we gather in groups. The integration of personal, physical, and social characteristics makes us better thinkers, problem solvers, and a stronger community, but it needs to go beyond the optics of diversity alone. The full story needs inclusion, which promotes the full participation at all

levels of all people, especially lifting those who have been historically underrepresented or discriminated against. Although some of the resources suggested below discuss the workplace, we must implement diversity and inclusion in all of our spaces.

Learn: [Defining diversity and inclusion](#)

Advocate: [To speak up for inclusion, we need to speak about inclusion](#)

Activate: [Three ways to be more inclusive](#)

Email or call the church office for assistance locating these three videos, all on YouTube. (office@fpcw.org | 847-256-3010)

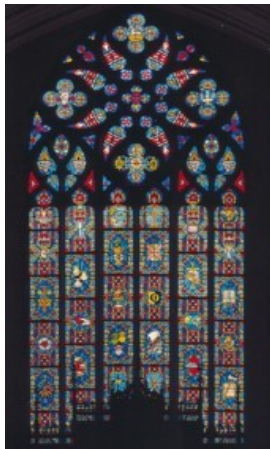


Looking for a sure-fire way to experience a deep sense of community and belonging here at First Pres Wilmette? Become a Greeter!

We can make a warm welcome the first impression we offer to others as they enter our church home. Whether to a first-time visitor or a long-time member, greeting those who enter our doors is a quick way to make your heart feel full.

As a Greeter, all you need is a smile, a willingness to introduce yourself, an offer of a handshake or elbow bump, or a welcoming presence during Fellowship Hour. The Ushers lend their support by providing information and directions.

The Welcome and Connection Committee encourages every member to participate as a Greeter *just one Sunday per year*. You'll be amazed at how your relationships bloom! Sign-up coming soon. The members of the Welcome and Connection Committee welcome your questions. Reach out to Linnea Jacobs, Guyneth Sharp, Mary Watt, or Kara Smith-Laubenstein; contact information available through the church office (office@fpcw.org | 847-256-3010).



Seeking a New Vision for the Sanctuary and Pipe Organ

The newly-formed **Bill Tempelmeyer Committee**, composed of several church members and led by Peggy Massello, has begun exploring updates, improvements, and potential changes to the layout and use of the sanctuary and, in particular, the organ. The committee will consider a wide-range of options that seek to better align the physical space with the church's theology and better reflect the present era. The committee welcomes additional members. If you are interested in joining, please contact Peggy to learn more (pmassello@fpcw.org | 847-256-3010 ext. 103).

Summer Worship at First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette

June 18 and 25

8:00 am Gillson Park

10:00 am Sanctuary

July 2

10:00 am Fellowship Garden

July 9, 16, 23, and 30

8:00 am Gillson Park

10:00 am Chapel

August 6

10:00 am Fellowship Garden

August 13, 20, and 27

8:00 am Gillson Park

10:00 am Chapel

September 3

10:00 am Fellowship Garden

First Festival

Sunday, September 10

10:00 Worship

11:00 Lunch and Games

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, Church Lounge, Led by Rev. Jeff Lehn – on summer break

Join any Sunday for lively discussion on current study series. Contact Jeff Lehn jlehn@fpcw.org.

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

How does the Bible inform our daily lives? Contact Bonnie Wehrenberg bwherbic007@att.net.

Book Group – 3rd Wednesday (June 21), 7:00 pm, Church Lounge

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

FELLOWSHIP AND MEAL GROUPS

Lunch Hour Loop Group – 1st Wednesday (August 2), 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 (June 20), 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 bwherbic007@att.net.

WOMEN'S GROUPS

Slowing Time for Women – on summer break

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 (June 14), 11:30 am, Church Lounge

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

Westminster Place "Spoke" – 4th Wednesday (June 28), 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.

MEN'S GROUPS

Men's Hour – Thursdays, 7:00 pm, Church 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, Church Lounge – on summer break

Meets mid-September through mid-May. 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 June 11th, 2023

Sunday, June 11th

| | | |
|----------|---|--------------------|
| 8:45 am | Adult Faith Formation | Church Lounge/Zoom |
| 9:45 am | Nursery care for children from birth to age three | Nursery |
| 9:55 am | Livestream Worship | YouTube |
| 10:00 am | In-person Worship | Sanctuary |
| 10:15 am | Children's Chapel | Chapel |
| 11:00 am | Lunch Honoring New Life Baptist Church Guests | WMFC |
| 2:00 pm | Troop 5 Meeting | WMFC |

Monday, June 12th

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|---------|-------------------------|---------------|
| 7:00 pm | Investment Club Meeting | Church Lounge |
|---------|-------------------------|---------------|

Tuesday, June 13th

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|----------|---|---------------|
| 10:00 am | Staff Meeting | Church Lounge |
| 7:30 pm | Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting | Church Lounge |

Wednesday, June 14th

| | | |
|----------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 11:30 am | Lunch Group for Women | Church Lounge |
|----------|-----------------------|---------------|

Thursday, June 15th

| | | |
|----------|-------------|--------------------|
| 10:00 am | Bible Study | Church Lounge/Zoom |
| 7:00 pm | Men's Hour | Church Lounge |

Friday, June 16th

No scheduled events

Saturday, June 17th

No scheduled events

Sunday, June 18th

| | | |
|----------|---|-------------------|
| 8:00 am | Summer Worship at Gillson Park | Gillson Park |
| 9:45 am | Nursery care for children from birth to age three | Nursery |
| 9:55 am | Livestream Worship | YouTube |
| 10:00 am | In-person Worship | Sanctuary |
| 11:00 am | Lemonade on the Lawn | Fellowship Garden |

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 healing and strength for Jennifer Christensen as she has been diagnosed with cancer and has started treatment.

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

- In the war-torn country of Ukraine;
- As refugees from conflict in Sudan; and
- During record-setting forest fires in Ontario and Quebec.

TODAY'S FLOWERS

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Robert Brumitt by his family.



CHURCH OFFICE

847-256-3010

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

Friday 9:00am-3:30pm

CHURCH STAFF

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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

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Peggy Massello

Director of Worship & Music

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Lindley Traynor

Director of Children & Family Ministry

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Marvin Behm

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Jane Currie

Office & Communications

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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
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