

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Sunday, September 10th, 2023

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

First Festival

*Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.*



**WORSHIP LEADERS:**

Rev. Jeff Lehn, Preaching

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Pastoral Liturgist

Opal Staples, Vocalist

\*PLEASE STAND

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND COMMON LIFE**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

God has set this day before us,

**A day set apart, a day of rest and praise.**

God has set our lives before us,

**A span of years in which we love, and learn, and serve.**

God has set God's seal upon our hearts,

**So that we might be fully alive, tinged with awe and wonder, replete with love.**

With joy, let us worship our God together.

**MUSIC**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

The God revealed to us through scripture is a merciful and loving God who directs us to love one another as Christ has loved us. We gather to ask God's help in removing all barriers to that love. Come now to confess all that separates you from others, from God, and even from your true self. Let us begin with silent prayer.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God, we admit that we have turned away from you in our thoughts, words, and deeds this week, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have loved you too lackadaisically. We have loved our neighbors too sporadically. We have loved ourselves too unevenly. In your compassion, forgive who we have been, help us amend who we are, and direct who we shall be, so we can be fully alive again to your kingdom of love and peace and goodness. Wash over us and connect us again to your sacred story. Amen.

### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends in Christ, know this: The mercy of Christ is from everlasting to everlasting, and I remind you of this surpassing grace—in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you!**

### **CHILDREN'S CHAPEL**

Children's Chapel will return from its summer hiatus next week. We invite children to sit with their families and worship together. The Nursery is available for babies and very young children.

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

God, you are beyond knowing, shrouded in wonder and mystery and yet as close to us as our very breath. By your Spirit, illuminate our hearts and minds through your Word, so that our love for you and for all your creation might grow deeper. Amen.

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS - Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Romans 15:4**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **SERMON - "Spiritual Practices: Sacred Stories"**

Rev. Jeff Lehn

### **MUSIC**

### **ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW CHURCH OFFICERS**

**Elders:** Campbell Boaz, Sal Karottki, Amy McJoynt, Stephanie Phelan, and Mary Watt

**Deacons:** Grainne Bailey, Bob Brown, Greg Korak, Addy Lundgren, Jim Weyrens, and Marny Zimmer

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in a God of rainbows, who creates all through love, who promises to be with creation: in sun and rain, in joy and pain, who blesses us with wonder in each moment and joy in each step. We believe in God who loves us and becomes one with us in Jesus, who, in solidarity, suffers with us, who knew despair and loss and betrayal, who was killed for standing up for what is right, yet who showed that love is stronger than death. We believe in God, who is gifted to us in the Spirit, who enfolds and upholds us, who inspires us with the vision of how things should be, who challenges us to live honestly, who transforms our pain into new life, who empowers us with new beginnings. We believe in a God of love and laughter, who calls us to live today in justice and joy, building communities of unity and peace. Amen.

**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. We are grateful for your generosity!*

**OFFERTORY**

**\*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**

**MUSIC**

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

**CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11TH**

**Monday, September 11**

7:00 pm Investment Club Church Lounge  
7:00 pm Troop 5 Committee Meeting Wallace Moore Fellowship Center

**Tuesday, September 12**

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

**Wednesday, September 13**

11:30 am Lunch Group for Women Church Lounge  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Music Room

**Thursday, September 14**

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

**Friday, September 15 and Saturday, September 16**

4:00 pm Troop 5 Lock-In Yellow Room, WMFC Kitchen



## Common Life

Week of September 10th, 2023

### Chancel Choir and Chancel Bells Rehearsals Resume

Chancel Choir rehearsals start Wednesday, September 13 at 7:30 pm (7:30-8:45) and Chancel Bells on Thursday, September 14 at 7:45 pm (7:45-8:45), both in the Music Room. Contact Peggy Massello with questions (847-256-3010 x103 | [pmassello@fpcw.org](mailto:pmassello@fpcw.org)).

### Book Group to Gather on Wednesday, September 20

The discussion will focus on Claire Keegan's novel *Small Things Like These*, shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 2022. Deb Schroeder will facilitate beginning at 7:00 pm in the Church Lounge. Contact Joyce Knauff with questions ([joyce@jckassociates.com](mailto:joyce@jckassociates.com)).

### Help Mission Partner New Life Baptist Church Expand Shelter for Homeless Chicagoans

New Life provides overnight shelter for homeless people and offers breakfast, a morning Bible study, and a hot evening meal three days a week on a shoestring budget of just over \$100K per year. We are helping furnish and equip two new shelter rooms. An Amazon gift registry has been put together to guide purchases. Contributors may choose an item or purchase a gift card. Call or email the church office to request a link to the registry (847-256-3010 | [office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org)).

### Serve as a Greeter this Fall

Help provide a warm welcome to members and visitors as they enter the doors on Sundays. Find a complete description and a sign-up sheet at [tinyurl.com/FPCWGreeter](http://tinyurl.com/FPCWGreeter).

### Troop 5 Blood Drive on Sunday, September 24

Versiti Blood Center of Illinois will conduct the blood drive in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm. Call or email the church office to schedule a donation appointment (847-256-3010 | [office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org)).

### Racial Justice Workshop Series Beginning October 5

Each Thursday in October between 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm join the Racial Justice Committee to consider white identity, privilege, fragility, and supremacy. Look for details in Daily Bread on Tuesday, September 12.

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 17TH

8:30 am	5th-8th Grade Fellowship	Yellow Room
8:45 am	Adult Faith Formation	Church Lounge
9:45 am	Nursery Care for Ages 0-3	Nursery
10:00 am	Worship*	Sanctuary
10:15 am	Children's Chapel	Chapel
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Church Lounge
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Events	Locations Vary

\* The worship service will livestream on YouTube with the recording available for later viewing.

### CHURCH OFFICE

847-256-3010

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

Friday 9:00am-3:30pm

### CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Jeff Lehn

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