



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE  
Sunday, October 8th, 2023  
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
*Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.*

\*PLEASE STAND

**BOLD TYPE INDICATES CONGREGATIONAL SPEAKING OR SINGING**

**PRELUDE** - *Bist du bei mir (If Thou Be Near)*

J.S. Bach, arr. Bernard Fitzgerald

**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**

O God, in you we trust.

**To you, O Lord, we lift up our souls.**

Make us to know your ways, O Lord;

**Teach us your paths.**

Lead us in your truth and teach us,

**For you are the God of our salvation; for you we wait all day long.**

God leads the humble in what is right, and teaches them his way.

**All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness.**

**\*OPENING HYMN NO. 643** - *Now Thank We All Our God*

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Jesus calls us to enter that joy of discipleship, the joy of following in his way. But sin clings closely, and we struggle to respond fully to Christ's invitation. Let us seek God's forgiveness together, so that we may know more deeply the joy that God intends for us, first in silent prayer.

**CHORAL PRAYER** - *Song of Forgiveness*

Allen Pote

**O Lord have mercy on us, have mercy.**

**O Lord have mercy on us, we pray.**

**O Lord forgive us, forgive us all our sins as we walk in the light of your love.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God, you are always present and active in us and in all creation. We confess that sometimes we fail to recognize and respond to your work in the world. We defer to power and privilege, expect the tried and true, and succumb to doubt and despair when your ways are not clear. Behold, you are doing a new thing; help us to perceive it. Forgive us when we do not respond to your call. Liberate us from our fears and self-imposed limitations. Guide us into the fullness of life and love that you are at work preparing. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Our God makes a way where there is no way, infusing our world with grace and hope when such goodness feels long gone. We are a people redeemed and restored. Be confident that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you!**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - HYMN NO. 814 - *In God Alone***

Jacques Berthier

**In God alone my soul can find rest and peace, in God my peace and joy.**

**Only in God my soul can find its rest, find its rest and peace.** (sing twice)

**CHILDREN'S CHAPEL**

Children are invited to share the peace and gather with leaders to go to the Chapel and continue to worship in an age-appropriate and meaningful way. They will return to sit with their families in the Sanctuary toward the end of the worship service. The Nursery is available for babies and very young children.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. Open us to your life-giving Word. Quiet the voices within us that do not align with your will. Focus our minds on the message you intend for us so we may faithfully discern your way. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING - Psalm 9:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (OT page 492; NT page 205)**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON - "Finding the Way to Abundant Life"**

Rev. Lolly Dominski

**HYMN OF RESPONSE - NO. 654 - sing twice - *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful***

**ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS**

**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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**CALL FOR OFFERING**



Give online here

*We invite you to give via the 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 as you exit the Sanctuary. We are grateful for your generosity.*

**OFFERTORY** - *Come, Let Us Sing Unto the Lord* (Psalm 95:1-2)

James Varrick Armaah

**\*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**

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

AURELIA

**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 BENDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE** - *La Vaillance*

G.P. Telemann

**WORSHIP LEADERS:**

Re. Lolly Dominski, Preaching

Rev. Jeff Lehn, Pastoral Liturgist

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Pastoral Liturgist

Stephanie Phelan, Liturgist

Peggy Massello, Director of Music and Organist

Chancel Choir

John Burson, Trumpet

Wonee Kim, Accompanist

Join us after worship in the Church Lounge  
for fellowship, coffee, lemonade, muffins, and more.



## Common Life Week of October 8th 2023

### CONNECT, GROW, SHARE

#### **Celebrate Pastor Appreciation Month on Sunday, October 15**

Fellowship Hour will include cake, coffee, and an opportunity to thank our Senior Pastor, Rev. Jeff Lehn, and our Associate Pastor, Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, for their dedication to our congregation.

#### **Attend the Next Adult Faith Formation Study Beginning Sunday, October 15**

Continue the year's Adult Faith Formation opportunities as Rev. Jeff Lehn's begins a study of scholar, philosopher, theologian, and civil rights leader Howard Thurman. The class begins Sunday, October 15 at 8:45 am in the Church Lounge. Participation on Zoom available on request.

#### **Join the Book Group on Wednesday, October 18**

Fannie Flagg's novel *Can't Wait to Get to Heaven* leads readers to consider death, the afterlife, and how a community responds. Participate in the group discussion on Wednesday, October 18 at 7:00 pm in the Church Lounge. Contact Joyce Knauff with questions ([joyce@jckassociates.com](mailto:joyce@jckassociates.com)).

#### **Come to Church for Breakfast on Saturday, October 21**

Troop 5 will host their 77th Annual Pancake Breakfast between 8:00 am and 12:00 noon in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center. Tickets \$7.00 each or three for \$20.00; children under age five free of charge.

#### **Support Our Board of Deacons**

Contribute to the Deacons' Fund using a green pew envelope or through a designated [online contribution](#). Funds allow Deacons to purchase cards and small gifts for those in their care. Contributions also underwrite training materials and costs associated with maintaining the church's defibrillator.

#### **Consult Archived Issues of Daily Bread**

Return to a devotion you remember and want to read again or check a past announcement by accessing it in the Member Portal of the church website. Members may call or email the church office for the password (847-256-3010 | [office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org)).

#### **Join Us on Your Social Channels**

Follow daily posts from First Pres Wilmette on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#). Share our content with your friends and tell us what you'd like to see on our social channels.



## Common Life Week of October 8th 2023

### WELCOME & CONNECTION

#### **Serve as a Greeter this Fall**

Welcome members and visitors as they enter the church or during Fellowship Hour. Read a complete description of this welcoming ministry and [sign up](#) online.

### MISSION

#### **Mark Your Calendar for Our Next Family Promise Guests**

We will host families from mission partner Family Promise between Sunday, November 5 and Sunday, November 12. Look for the online sign up sheet in upcoming Bulletins and issues of Daily Bread. In partnership with Congregation Sukkot Shalom, we'll look for volunteers to set up, prepare evening meals, stay overnight, and help us close the week.

#### **Discover the Work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**

Pick up a copy of the newly-released year in review publication below the Missions bulletin board outside the church office. Contact the church office to have a copy mailed to you (847-256-3010 | [office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org)). Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is part of Presbyterian Mission, a PC(USA) Agency.

### CHILDREN & FAMILIES

#### **Midweek Meetup and Church Family Dinner Return**

Come at 5:00 pm Wednesdays for crafts, games, music, and fun for age three through grade six. Stay for dinner starting at 6:00 pm, all in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center. Parents and caregivers may drop children off, participate in the activity, or share fellowship with others who have children taking part. [Register children online](#) and then [email Peggy Massello](#) so we know you're coming to dinner.

#### **Use Our Bulletin Interactively Online**

Follow links and generate email messages by viewing our Sunday Bulletin online. Find it at [fpcw.org/worship-livestream/worship-archive/](http://fpcw.org/worship-livestream/worship-archive/)

#### **Monday, October 9 National Holiday**

The church office will remain closed.  
The office will reopen at 9:00 am on  
Tuesday, October 10.

## 2023-2024 ADULT GROUPS AT FIRST PRES WILMETTE

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!

### STUDY, BOOK, AND DISCUSSION GROUPS

**Adult Faith Formation – Sundays, 8:45-9:45 am, Church Lounge, Led by Rev. Jeff Lehn**

Join any Sunday for lively discussion on the current study series. Contact Jeff Lehn [jlehn@fpcw.org](mailto:jlehn@fpcw.org).

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

We study scripture and consider how it informs our lives. Contact Bonnie Wehrenberg [bwherbic007@att.net](mailto:bwherbic007@att.net).

**Book Group – 3rd Wednesday (October 18), 7:00 pm, Church Lounge**

Members take turns leading the book discussion. Contact Joyce Knauff ([joyce@jckassociates.com](mailto:joyce@jckassociates.com)).

### FELLOWSHIP AND MEAL GROUPS

**Lunch Hour Loop Group – 1st Wednesday, Noon, Zoom, Hosted by Rev. Jeff Lehn – on hiatus**

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 Irris Boaz [iboaz@ameritech.net](mailto:iboaz@ameritech.net).

**Senior Supper Club – 3rd Tuesday (October 17), 5:30 pm, Ridgeview Grill in Wilmette**

If you are over 65 and want to get to know others more casually, please join us! Contact Bonnie Wehrenberg [bwherbic007@att.net](mailto:bwherbic007@att.net).

### WOMEN’S GROUPS

**Lunch Group for Women – 2nd Wednesday (October 11), 11:30 am, Church Lounge**

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

**Westminster Place “Spoke” – 4th Wednesday (October 25), 10:00-11:00 am, Westminster Place**

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. Participation also possible through phone conferencing. Contact Anne Menard [amenard4347@yahoo.com](mailto:amenard4347@yahoo.com).

### MEN’S GROUPS

**Men's Hour – Thursdays, 7:00 pm, Church Lounge**

Participants share a brief group reading, silent five-minute meditation, and an opportunity 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, Wallace Moore Fellowship Center and Church Lounge**

Meets October through mid-May. Participants gather for breakfast and then listen to an interesting program. All are welcome any Saturday. Contact Steve Polkoff [odyssey1516@gmail.com](mailto:odyssey1516@gmail.com).

## Calendar for the Week of October 8, 2023

### Sunday, October 8

8:45 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
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	Church Lounge
2:00 pm	C 24/7 Junior Board Meeting	Upper Room
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Fellowship	Tower
6:30 pm	Tower Senior High Dinner	WMFC

### Monday, October 9

National Holiday; Church Office Closed		
11:30 am	Pierian Club Meeting	WMFC
7:00 pm	Investment Club Meeting	Church Lounge
7:00 pm	Troop 5 Meeting	WMFC
7:30 pm	Crew 5 Meeting	Yellow Room

### Tuesday, October 10

10:00 am	Ministerial Staff Retreat	Offsite
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### Wednesday, October 11

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

### Thursday, October 12

10:00 am	Bible Study Meeting	Church Lounge/Zoom
7:00 pm	Men's Hour	Church Lounge
7:30 pm	Chancel Bells Rehearsal	Music Room

### Friday, October 13

5:00 pm	Men's Council Barbecue	Fellowship Garden
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### Saturday, October 14

8:00 am	Men's Council Meeting	WMFC/Church Lounge
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WMFC = Wallace Moore Fellowship Center

**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 in the world. 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.

We hope your heart will hear something personal and relevant this morning—a word of comfort, a spur to action, a call to a deeper relationship with God. After the service, please stick around. Introduce yourself to one of our pastors. We have lots of programs and community groups to feed your soul and expand your spirit. Try one out. You never know—you might just be home!

With gratitude in Christ,  
Pastors Jeff Lehn, Kara Smith-Laubenstein, and Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski

#### **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.



#### **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*  
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Ethan Holtermann  
*Livestream Engineer*  
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