



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Sunday, October 22nd, 2023

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Commitment Sunday

Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.

*PLEASE STAND

BOLD TYPE INDICATES CONGREGATIONAL SPEAKING OR SINGING

PRELUDE - *Prelude on ST. AGNES*

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**

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. 629, verses 1, 3, and 5** - *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*

ST. AGNES

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.

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. 466 - *Come and Fill Our Hearts* Jacques Berthier

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia! (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 - Ephesians 3:14-21 (New Testament page 193)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON - "Spiritual Practices: Generosity"

Rev. Jeff Lehn

SONG OF RESPONSE - *Rooted*

Cron/Morgan/Roberts, arr. Erik Foster

You plant me in the meadows where my desert heart can bloom.

You break the fields of fallow ground and my spirit begins to grow in You.

(chorus)

And I will be ever rooted in You, God. Ever be rooted in You, Lord. Ever be rooted in You.

You lift these broken branches, graft me onto the vine.

O God of second chances, I know You're leading me into harvest time,

Yeah, You're leading me into harvest time. *(chorus)*

No, I won't be moved when the world tries to bend me.

I'm firmly grounded in truth that has saved me. Jesus, You saved me. *(chorus)*

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.

STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONY

Dan Johnson

CALL FOR OFFERING



Give online here

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

OFFERTORY - Lay Up for Yourselves

Ned Rorem

Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt,
and where thieves do not break through and steal.
For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Amen.
~ Matthew 6:20-21

2024 STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION - “Rooted and Grounded in Love”

***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. 700 - I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me**

I'M GONNA LIVE

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 BEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE - Lord, I Want to Be a Christian**

Spiritual, arr. C. Callahan

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Jeff Lehn, Preaching
Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Pastoral Liturgist
Greg Korak, Liturgist
Peggy Massello, Director of Music and Organist

Chancel Choir
Jordan Roulo, Soloist
Wonee Kim, Accompanist

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



Common Life

Week of October 22nd 2023

CONNECT, GROW, SHARE

Make Your Pledge to the 2024 Stewardship Campaign

Pledge cards welcomed during today's worship service, by mail, and by hand delivery to the church office using the secure mailbox located opposite the Church Lounge. You may also [make your pledge online](#).

Attend Our Current Adult Faith Formation Study

Rev. Jeff Lehn's leads a study of scholar, philosopher, theologian, and civil rights leader Howard Thurman using Lerita Coleman Brown's book *What Makes You Come Alive: A Spiritual Walk with Howard Thurman* Sundays at 8:45 am in the Church Lounge. Participation on Zoom available on request.

Let Our Tower Youth Send a Care Package to Your College Student

Boxes of treats assembled and shipped by our Tower youth will show our support and love for the college students in our community. Email or call the church office to provide the name and complete address belonging to yours (office@fpcw.org | 847-256-3010). Please consider dropping off a bag of sweet or savory treats that we can include in each package. Bring your contribution to the church office weekdays between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm or while you're here next Sunday.

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).

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.

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.



Common Life Week of October 22nd 2023

MISSION

Volunteer to Serve Our Family Promise Guests in November

We will host families from mission partner Family Promise between Sunday, November 5 and Sunday, November 12. In partnership with Congregation Sukkot Shalom, we seek volunteers to set up, prepare evening meals, stay overnight, and help us close the week. Learn more about this mission partner and what volunteering entails from our [Family Promise webpage](#). Then [sign up online](#) or by calling the church office (847-256-3010).

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). Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is part of Presbyterian Mission, a PC(USA) Agency.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Don't Miss Reflections on Generosity from Our Midweek Meetup Kids

Director of Children & Family Ministry Lindley Traynor [created a video](#) narrated by the kids and featuring their artwork.

Midweek Meetup and Church Family Dinner Continue

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.

FOR OUR PRAYERS

Please pray for Amy Miller whose brother-in-law, Ray, died on October 14.

TODAY'S FLOWERS

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Mary and Bill Watt in celebration of the life of Jane Mahoney Hill, Mary's mother.

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/

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.

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 bwherbie007@att.net.

Book Group – 3rd Wednesday (November 15), 7:00 pm, Church Lounge

Members take turns leading the book discussion. Contact Joyce Knauff (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.

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.

Senior Supper Club – 3rd Tuesday (November 21), 1:00 pm, Ridgeview Grill in Wilmette

Note the midday gathering time through February. If you are over 65 and want to get to know others more casually, please join us! Contact Bonnie Wehrenberg bwherbie007@att.net.

WOMEN’S GROUPS

Lunch Group for Women – 2nd Wednesday (November 15), 11:30 am, Church Lounge

Each month a member leads the discussion. Contact Nancy Freeman 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.

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.

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.

Calendar for the Week of October 22, 2023

Sunday, October 22

8:45 am	Confirmation Preparation Meeting	Yellow Room
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
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Fellowship	Tower
6:30 pm	Tower Senior High Dinner	WMFC

Monday, October 23

5:00 pm	Troop 5 Final Pancake Breakfast Clean-Up	WMFC Kitchen
7:00 pm	Mission Committee Meeting	Church Lounge
7:00 pm	Troop 5 Meeting	WMFC
7:30 pm	Crew 5 Meeting	Yellow Room

Tuesday, October 24

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Church Lounge
3:00 pm	Welcome and Connection Committee Meeting	Church Lounge
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Fellowship Parent Meeting	Church Lounge

Wednesday, October 25

10:00 am	Spoke Bible Study	Westminster Place
5:00 pm	Midweek Meetup	WMFC
6:00 pm	Church Family Dinner	WMFC
6:30 pm	4th-8th Grade Bell Choir Rehearsal	Music Room
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Music Room

Thursday, October 26

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 27

No Scheduled Events

Saturday, October 28

8:00 am	Men's Council Meeting	WMFC/Church Lounge
10:30 am	Kenneth K. Kuhles Scattering Service and Luncheon	Chapel Garden/WMFC

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
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Associate Pastor
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