



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Sunday, November 12th, 2023

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.

*PLEASE STAND

BOLD TYPE INDICATES CONGREGATIONAL SPEAKING OR SINGING

PRELUDE - *Mennet* from Divertimento in B-flat Major

W.A. Mozart

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. 386** - *Come, Worship God*

O QUANTA QUALIA

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 - Numbers 6:24-26 (Old Testament page 124)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON - "Spiritual Practices: Blessing"

Rev. Jeff Lehn

MUSICAL MEDITATION - *Adagio* from Divertimento in B-flat Major

W.A. Mozart

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 (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 - *I Will Bless the Lord* (text based on Psalm 34)

Victor C. Johnson

***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. 547** - *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

AR HYDY NOS

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** - *Mennetto* from Divertimento in B-flat Major

W.A. Mozart

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Jeff Lehn, Preaching

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Pastoral Liturgist

Campbell Boaz, Liturgist

Peggy Massello, Director of Music and Organist

Chancel Choir

Woodwind Trio:

Arianne Lehn and Bob Neuhaus, Clarinets

David Neuhaus, Bassoon

Wonee Kim, Accompanist

Join us after worship for Fellowship Hour in the Church Lounge.
Enjoy warm conversation, delightful treats, and hot coffee
with our hosts from the Board of Deacons.



Common Life Week of November 12th 2023

CONNECT, GROW, SHARE

Make Your Pledge to the 2024 Stewardship Campaign

We have received 55 pledges for a total of \$424,349 thus far. We continue to welcome your pledge card by mail, hand delivery to the church office, and through [the online form](#). You will find an introduction and invitation to the 2024 Stewardship Campaign on the [stewardship page](#) of the church website. Thank you in advance for your commitment and generosity.

Discuss November's Selection with the Book Group

Read Anne Tyler's *French Braid*, which, according to *Washington Post* reviewer Ron Charles, "offers the comfort of a beloved hymn" and attend the discussion on Wednesday, November 15 at 7:00 pm in the Church Lounge. Contact Joyce Knauff (joyce@jckassociates.com) for more information.

Join Men's Council on Saturday

The gathering will begin with breakfast at 8:00 am on Saturday, November 18 in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center and continue with a program titled "Fire and the Aftermath: A Personal Journey" presented by Steve Reinhart. Contact Steve Polkoff (odyssey1516@gmail.com) for more information.

Attend Our Next Adult Faith Formation Study

Rev. Jeff Lehn's will begin an Advent study on the four titles for the Messiah found in Isaiah 9:6-7 (Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace) using Walter Brueggemann's *Names for the Messiah* on Sunday, November 26 at 8:45 am in the Church Lounge. Participation on Zoom available on request. Please note Adult Faith Formation will not meet November 19.

Help Decorate Our Church for Advent and Christmas

Arrive in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center between 9:00 am and noon on Saturday, December 2 to take part in the unpacking and decorating. All ages and abilities welcome. Contact the church office (847-256-3010 | office@fpcw.org) for more information.

Bake or Buy Cookies for Deacon Deliveries

Our Deacons will deliver your contributions to their Care Partners and the newest members of our congregation. Drop off cookies, homemade or purchased, at the designated area in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center Kitchen during the week beginning Monday, December 4. Contact Wendy Lundgren, Deacon Moderator, with questions (claddison19@gmail.com).

WELCOME & CONNECTION

Serve as a Greeter During Advent

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 November 12th 2023

MISSION

Contribute to the Giving Tree Project for Mission Partners Erie House and Family Promise

Please help us give the families of Erie House and Family Promise a happy holiday by purchasing a gift from their wish list off our Giving Tree, located outside the church office. Select one of the hanging tags with someone's gift wish on it, write your name on the bottom, and leave that portion so we know who will provide the gift. Return unwrapped gifts to the collection boxes, also outside the church office, on or before Sunday, November 26. Call or text questions to Steve Reinhart (847-702-8062). Contact the church office to participate without coming into the church (847-256-3010 | office@fpcw.org).

Lend a Hand During Our Giving Tree Gift Wrapping Parties

Join us in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center on Sunday, November 26 after the worship service or on Saturday, December 2 beginning at 10:00 am (during the Advent/Christmas decorating event) to wrap Giving Tree gifts before we send them to Erie House and Family Promise. Many hands make light work! All ages and abilities welcome. Call or text questions to Steve Reinhart (847-702-8062).

MUSIC

Participate in an Organ Crawl

Join Peggy Massello, Director of Music and Organist, as she welcomes the American Guild of Organists and the Organ Historical Society on their Organ Crawl. Peggy and others will play our Sanctuary's organ while discussing its history and construction. The Organ Crawl will stop at First Pres Wilmette on Saturday, November 18 between 2:00 pm and 3:00 pm.

Hear Lakeshore Brass at First Pres Wilmette

Mark your calendars for a holiday concert on Tuesday, December 5 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary and invite neighbors and friends to join you for this festive and joyful time. The concert is free, but we will accept contributions (\$15 recommended) to benefit mission partner Family Promise.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Support the 2024 Tower Work Trip by Purchasing Christmas Wreaths and Greenery

Choose from a selection of wreaths plus garland, door sprays, and a tabletop tree for the best prices and for pickup at church or select from a wider variety of options [online](#) with delivery to your address. Learn more and place your order during today's Fellowship Hour. Items will arrive during the week of December 4. When ordering online, use the fundraising code FIRSTPIL001 to connect your purchase to our church. Contact the church office with questions (847-256-3010 | office@fpcw.org).

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

If you are over 65 and want to get to know others more casually, please join us! Note our winter move to afternoons through February. Contact Bonnie Wehrenberg bwherbie007@att.net.

WOMEN’S GROUPS

Lunch Group for Women – 2nd Wednesday (December 13), 11:30 am, Church Lounge

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

Westminster Place “Spoke” – 4th Wednesday (November 29), 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. Note our December move to the 5th Wednesday. 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 November 12, 2023

Sunday, November 12

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 Hosted by the Board of Deacons	Church Lounge
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Fellowship	Tower
6:30 pm	Tower Senior High Dinner	WMFC

Monday, November 13

12:00 pm	Pierian Club Meeting	WMFC
7:00 pm	Investment Club Meeting	Church Lounge
7:00 pm	Troop 5 Meeting	Upper Room
8:00 pm	Crew 5 Meeting	WMFC

Tuesday, November 14

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Church Lounge
6:30 pm	Pack 5 Meeting	WMFC
7:00 pm	Session Meeting	Upper Room

Wednesday, November 15

5:00 pm	Midweek Meetup	WMFC
6:00 pm	Church Family Dinner	WMFC
6:30 pm	3rd-8th Grade Bell Choir Rehearsal	Music Room
7:00 pm	Book Group Meeting	Church Lounge
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Music Room

Thursday, November 16

10:00 am	Bible Study Meeting	Church Lounge/Zoom
7:00 pm	Men's Hour	Church Lounge
7:00 pm	Racial Justice Pilgrimage Debriefing Session	WMFC
7:30 pm	Chancel Bells Rehearsal	Music Room

Friday, November 17

No Scheduled Meetings

Saturday, November 18

8:00 am	Men's Council Meeting	WMFC/Church Lounge
2:00 pm	American Guild of Organists and Organ Historical Society Organ Crawl	Sanctuary

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 ext. 101

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein
Associate Pastor
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Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski
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