



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Sunday, November 19th, 2023

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Confirmation Sunday

Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.

*PLEASE STAND

BOLD TYPE INDICATES CONGREGATIONAL SPEAKING OR SINGING

PRELUDE - *Let All Things Now Living*
Prelude on KREMSER

Lloyd Larson
Howard Helvey

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**

Give thanks to the LORD!

Praise His name!

Tell the whole world what He has done-

His mighty acts on our behalf.

Sing to the LORD,

for He has done wonderful things for us!

Raise your hearts and voices!

Shout and sing your praise!

For great is the Holy One who lives among us!

-Isaiah 12

***OPENING HYMN NO. 336** - *We Gather Together*

KREMSER

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus calls us to enter the 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

God of Grace, we bring to you our ingratitude for all that you have done for us, our impatience when prayers seem to be ignored, our selfishness when prompted to give or share, our unfaithfulness when wandering from your way. We ask for your forgiveness, through Jesus Christ who gave all, that we might learn to do likewise. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God is a gracious giver.
God is gracious in forgiveness.
God calls us to new patterns and new life.
We are a forgiven people!
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

God of extravagant grace, may your Spirit refresh our hearts through the reading of the scriptures that we may perceive all the good we can do for Christ and so grow in our faith toward our Lord Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS - Philippians 4:1-9 (Common English Bible)

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

SERMON

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 691 - *Lord, When I Came into This Life*

LAND OF REST

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Questions

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

I do, with God's help.

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple obeying his word and showing us his love?

I will, with God's help.

Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Congregational Welcome

We promise our continuing friendship and prayers as we follow the ways of Jesus together and strive to embody the love and justice of the kingdom of God. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in faith, hope, and love, and to be witnesses to our risen Lord and Savior.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

Musical Response

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary;
Pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

Confirmands: Lina Alberts, Kayla Ritchie, and Ryan Ritchie

Confirmation Leader: Amy Lyon

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.
And also with you!

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 Give Thanks*

Thomas Matthews

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. 804** - *Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart!*

MARION

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** - *Come, You Thankful People, Come*

Barbara Boertje

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Preaching

Jane Brumitt, Liturgist

Amy Lyon, Liturgist

Peggy Massello, Director of Music and Organist

Chancel Choir

Wonee Kim, Accompanist

TODAY'S FLOWERS

The Jevelian/Lane Family gave today's flowers to the glory of God in memory of James Lee Lane.

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



Common Life Week of November 19th, 2023

CONNECT, GROW, SHARE

Make Your Pledge to the 2024 Stewardship Campaign

We have received 63 pledges for a total of \$464,079 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.

Join Men's Council on Saturday, December 2

The gathering will begin with a full breakfast at 8:00 am in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center and continue with a program on childhood adversity presented by Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski, our Parish Associate for Congregational Care. Note that Men's Council will not gather on Saturday, November 25. 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.

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.

Contribute to Offerings at the Wassail Party

Volunteer to bring a sweet or savory snack and help make our Wassail Party a wonderful event. This beloved tradition occurs each year after the 4:00 pm Lessons and Carols Service. Join us Sunday, December 3 in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center. Contact Fran Langewisch to let her know you will help with the refreshments (franlangewisch@gmail.com).

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@yahoo.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 19th, 2023

MISSION

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

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 ten remaining hanging tags, write your name on the bottom, and leave that portion so we know who will provide the gift described on the tag. 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

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. Consider sharing our [flyer](#) or posting it on a bulletin board at your school, office, or a community meeting place. The concert is free, but we will accept contributions (\$15 recommended) to benefit mission partner Family Promise.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Calling Children for the Annual Children's Advent Workshop

Children will begin in worship with their families in the Sanctuary at 10:00 am on Sunday, November 26. After exchanging the peace of Christ with others gathered for worship, they will move with their leaders to the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center where they will craft a special Advent activity to share with their families. They will return to the Sanctuary for the end of the worship service. Contact Lindley Traynor, Director of Children and Family Ministry, with questions (ltraynor@fpcw.org).

Enjoy Fellowship with Other Parents of High School Youth

The gathering will begin at 6:30 pm and continue until 8:30 pm on Friday, December 1 at the home of Jeff and Karen Miller. Contact Iris Boaz for the address or other information (iboaz@ameritech.net).

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

Online shopping with home delivery still available. Use fundraising code FIRSTPIL001 to connect your purchase to our church. Contact the church office with questions (847-256-3010 | office@fpcw.org).

Calendar for the Week of November 19, 2023

Sunday, November 19

8:45 am	5th-8th Grade Fellowship	Yellow Room
9:00 am	Special Session Meeting with Confirmands	Yellow Room
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
3:00 pm	Girl Scout Troop 40737 Meeting	Blue Room
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Fellowship	Tower
6:30 pm	Tower Senior High Dinner	WMFC

Monday, November 20

No Scheduled Meetings

Tuesday, November 21

1:00 pm	Senior Supper	Offsite
7:00 pm	Welcome and Connection Committee Meeting	Zoom

Wednesday, November 22

7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Music Room
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Thursday, November 23

Thanksgiving Holiday; Church Office Closed

Friday, November 24

Church Holiday; Church Office Closed

Saturday, November 25

4:00 pm	Troop 5 Court of Honor	Sanctuary
5:00 pm	Troop 5 Court of Honor Reception	WMFC

WMFC = Wallace Moore Fellowship Center

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/

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

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