



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Sunday, January 14th, 2024

Second Sunday After Epiphany | Baptism of Our Lord

Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.

*PLEASE STAND

BOLD TYPE INDICATES CONGREGATIONAL SPEAKING OR SINGING

PRELUDE - *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Ken Medema and Zach Unke

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**

The voice of God resounds upon the water.

The spirit of the Lord hovers over the stream.

The Son of God is named "Beloved."

And all who worship shout out, "Glory!"

Ascribe to the Lord majesty and strength.

Let us worship God in holy splendor.

Based on Psalm 111

***OPENING HYMN NO. 475** - *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

NETTLETON

CALL TO CONFESSION

A prophet appeared in the wilderness, calling the people to repent, be baptized, and prepare the way of the Lord. We return to the water to confess our sins, giving thanks for the grace of Jesus Christ, the one who has come to save us, first in silent prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, in baptism you grafted us into the body of Christ, promising us forgiveness of sin and new life. But we fail to live as forgiven people. We keep destructive habits and hold grudges. We allow our past to hold us hostage and are reluctant to welcome holiness. In your loving-kindness have mercy on us and free us from sin. Remind us of promises you have made to us in baptism so that we may live as your people, claimed in the waters of promise. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news of the Gospel: As a voice from heaven said to Jesus, so God says to each of us: You are my beloved child, and with you I am well pleased. 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!

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - HYMN NO. 314, Refrain, sing twice - *Christ, Be Our Light*

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Children are invited to share the peace and gather with leaders to go to the Chapel and continue to worship together 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 you are beyond knowing, shrouded in wonder and mystery and yet as close to us as our very breath. Illuminate our hearts and minds through your Word so that our love for you and for all your creation might grow deeper. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Matthew 3:1-6; 13-17 (New Testament pages 2 and 3)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein

HYMN OF RESPONSE - Please sing when indicated - *This is My Son, My Beloved*

CHOR:

“This is my Son, — my be - lov - ed, — in whom is
all my de - light: lis - ten to him. —

ALL:

This is my Son, — my be - lov - ed, — in whom is
all my de - light: lis - ten to him.” —

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.

REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

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 - *Come to the Water* (text based on Isaiah)

Henry Hinnant

***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**

Saving God, you have gathered us into one baptism, regardless of our background and conditions. Therefore we praise you with our tithes and offerings. May they join with others to become a mighty river, bringing your peace and healing to the world. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN NO. 547** - *Go My Children, with My Blessing*

AR HYD Y 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** - *Postlude on* AR HYD Y NOS

Paul Manz

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Preaching

Rev. Jeff Lehn, Pastoral Liturgist

Grainne Bailey, Liturgist

Peggy Massello, Director of Worship & Music and Organist

Chancel Choir

Wonee Kim, Accompanist

Mary Watt, Greeter

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



Common Life Week of January 14th, 2024

WELCOME & CONNECTION

Resume a Tradition at the Annual Family Bowling Event

Come to the Wilmette Bowling Center at 3:00 pm on Sunday, February 4 for bowling, pizza, games, and prizes. The \$18.00 per person fee covers bowling, shoe rental, pizza, and soft drinks. Register all participants ages five and up [online](#). Plan to play until 5:00 pm; the Wilmette Bowling Center is located at 1903 Schiller Avenue in Wilmette. Direct questions to the church office (847-256-3010 | office@fpcw.org).

Serve as a Greeter in 2024

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.

Show Hospitality In Our Church Parking Lot

Now that the colder weather is upon us, we invite you to consider parking on the street (instead of in the church lot) and walking to the entrance when you come to the church building. This is a way to show hospitality to those who are visiting or who need to park in the lot due to ambulatory concerns or to make deliveries. We are asking church members and partner organization participants to consider this, especially on weeknight evenings (when most groups gather) and Sunday mornings. Thank you for helping us live out our value of hospitality.

SHARE, SUPPORT, GROW

Honor a Loved One by Contributing Flowers for the Chancel

Sign up on the poster in the Narthex. An announcement will appear in the Sunday Bulletin acknowledging your gift and naming the person you wish to honor, celebrate, or remember. Contributors may take their flowers home or leave them for the Deacons who will divide them into posies and deliver them to Care Partners. Contact Linda Malstrom (lindamalstrom@gmail.com) with questions.

Receive Meal Ministry Communications

The Meal Ministry cares for families and individuals in our congregation by preparing and delivering meals to them while they recover from a health complication, a loss, or when they welcome a new child. If you would like to receive communications about the Meal Ministry, please contact Associate Pastor Kara Smith-Laubenstein (ksmithlaubenstein@fpcw.org | 847-256-3010 x102).

Make Your Pledge to the 2024 Stewardship Campaign

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.

Stay Engaged On Your Social Channels

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



Common Life Week of January 14th, 2024

RACIAL JUSTICE

Join the Call to Racial Justice in 2024

In February, Racial Justice Pilgrimage attendees will lead a discussion about their trip. Also in February, Vic and Mary Doucette, founders of the [Social Justice Resource Center](#), will lead their Exploring Whiteness workshop (please see the flyer inserted in your bulletin). In March, Jahmal Cole will speak about the good work at [My Block, My Hood, My City](#). In April, we will exhibit the work of [artist Jevoid Simmons](#) in the Chapel. Simmons's folk art chronicles his family's migration from the South in the early 1950s. In May we will offer a bus tour to a Chicago neighborhood rich with Black history. [Chicago historian Shermann "Dilla" Thomas](#) will lead. Watch for more information about these and additional opportunities throughout the new year.

Register for February's Exploring Whiteness Workshop

The Racial Justice Committee will host four sessions on Thursdays in February (8, 15, 22 and 29) to explore and discuss four themes: White Identity, White Privilege, White Fragility, and White Supremacy. Each session will begin at 7:00 pm in the Church Lounge and conclude at 8:30 pm. Please see the enclosed flyer for more information.

MISSION

Join Interfaith Action of Evanston's 5th Annual Walk for Warmth

Tomorrow (Monday, January 15) marks the Martin Luther King Day of Service and at 11:00 am, walkers will depart First United Methodist Church in Evanston, raising funds to provide safe shelter for people experiencing homelessness during the coldest months of the year as well as food and other essentials for those in need. They will travel an approximately two-mile circuit of faith communities in downtown Evanston that serve as a shelters during three-week rotations. Walkers of all ages and abilities welcome; participants need not complete the full two-mile route. Registration encouraged; [register online](#) today.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Participate in the Current Study Before Worship Next Sunday

Rev. Jeff Lehn will continue a study using *From Widows to Warriors: Women's Stories from the Old Testament* by Lynn Japinga on Sunday, January 21 at 8:45 am in the Church Lounge with online attendance available.

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/

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 (January 17), 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

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 Iris Boaz iboaz@ameritech.net.

Senior Supper Club – 3rd Tuesday (January 16), 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 move to afternoons through February. Contact Bonnie Wehrenberg bwherbie007@att.net.

WOMEN'S GROUPS

Lunch Group for Women – 2nd Wednesday (February 14), 11:30 am, Church Lounge

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

Westminster Place “Spoke” – 4th Wednesday (January 31), 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 January 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 JANUARY 14, 2024

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

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|----------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 8:45 am | 5th-8th Grade Fellowship | Yellow Room |
| 8:45 am | Adult Faith Formation | Church Lounge/Zoom |
| 9:45 am | Nursery Care for Ages 0-3 | Nursery |
| 9:55 am | Livestream Worship Service | YouTube |
| 10:00 am | In-Person Worship Service | 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 |
| 7:00 pm | Crew 5 Bike Trek Planning Meeting | Upper Room |

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

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| Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; church office closed | | |
| 7:00 pm | Board of Deacons Meeting | Church Lounge |
| 7:00 pm | Troop 5 Meeting | WMFC |

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

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| 10:00 am | Staff Meeting | Church Lounge |
| 1:00 pm | Senior Supper | Ridgeview Grill |
| 6:00 pm | Pack 5 Pinewood Derby Car Check-In | WMFC |
| 7:00 pm | Welcome & Connection Committee Meeting | Zoom |

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

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| 10:00 am | Daughters of the American Revolution Meeting | WMFC |
| 5:00 pm | Midweek Meetup | WMFC |
| 6:00 pm | Church Family Dinner | WMFC |
| 6:30 pm | Youth Bells Rehearsal | Music Room |
| 7:00 pm | Book Group Meeting | Church Lounge |
| 7:30 pm | Chancel Choir Rehearsal | Music Room |

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

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| 10:00 am | Bible Study | Church Lounge |
| 6:30 pm | Pack 5 Pinewood Derby Track Construction | WMFC |
| 7:00 pm | Men's Hour | Church Lounge |
| 7:30 pm | Chancel Bells Rehearsal | Music Room |

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

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| 6:30 pm | Pack 5 Pinewood Derby Preparations | WMFC |
|---------|------------------------------------|------|

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

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| 8:00 am | Men's Council | Church Lounge |
| 10:00 am | Pack 5 Pinewood Derby | WMFC |

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
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jlehn@fpcw.org ext. 101

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