



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Sunday, February 4th, 2024

Fifth Sunday in Epiphany | Communion Sunday

Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.

*PLEASE STAND

BOLD TYPE INDICATES CONGREGATIONAL SPEAKING OR SINGING

PRELUDE

ENTRANCE OF THE LIGHT

Xander Karottki

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

Welcome, friends, to this holy day.

We come to offer thanks; we come to sing and pray.

Welcome, friends, to this time set apart,

A time to remember those we love, and time to remember the holy promises of God.

Welcome, friends, to this table of remembrance and joy,

The table where we are fed, the feast we share with many.

Welcome, friends, and let us worship God.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 409, verses 1-3 - *God Is Here!*

ABBOT'S LEIGH

CALL TO CONFESSION

We don't always get everything right, and when that happens, sometimes we hurt other people or ourselves. God knows that, and wants to help us make things right. We start by telling God the whole truth. Let us now pray to God about those things, first in silent prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we are sorry for the many times we have not followed you and chosen to satisfy our own selfish desires. We are sorry for the times we have hurt the members of our families by refusing to do our share of the family tasks. We are sorry for the times we were unkind and impatient with those who needed our time and concern. We are sorry for the times we were too weak to stand up for what was right and allowed others to suffer because of our cowardice. Please forgive us and give us strength to do what is right. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Dear child of God, in our world it is often hard to remember that God loves you just as you are. God loves you not because you are good. God loves you, period. God loves us not because we are loveable. No, we are loveable precisely because God loves us. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Alleluia and amen.

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

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

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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING - Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (Old Testament page 163)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein

HYMN OF INVITATION NO. 505 - *The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing (The Feast Is Ready)*

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.

BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Max SooHoo and Bronwen White

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Max SooHoo

God, we thank you for this table, for the bread and the cup. We know that you have met us and fed us here. May the meal we shared together today strengthen us for our days ahead.

Thank you for your gift of faith. Thank you for your gift of hope. Thank you for your gift of love. Amen.

CALL FOR OFFERING



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 ANTHEM - *The Word Was God* (text: John 1:1-3)

Rosephanye Powell

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 (unison)**

Bronwen White

**Lord, let our congregation be a witness to you:
immersed in scripture,
constant in prayer,
joyful in worship,
generous in giving.
A loving, supportive community
reaching out to those in need.
Accept these gifts we offer, in Jesus' name, Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN NO. 63** - *The Lord Is God*

AZMON

FOLLOWING THE LIGHT

Xander Karottki

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**

***BENEDICTION**

Eden Lehn and Eve Springer

***POSTLUDE**

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Preaching
Rev. Jeff Lehn, Pastoral Liturgist
Craig Hutson, Liturgist
Peggy Massello, Worship Director and Organist
Chancel Choir
Wonee Kim, Accompanist
Ethan Holtermann, Livestream Engineer
Greg Johnson and Frank Panzica, Ushers
Stephanie Phelan, Greeter

THIRD GRADE WORSHIP LEADERS

Xander Karottki
Eden Lehn
Max SooHoo
Eve Springer
Bronwen White

Join us after worship in the
Wallace Moore Fellowship Center
for coffee, lemonade, and cake.



Common Life Week of February 4th, 2024

WELCOME & CONNECTION

Come to the Family Bowling Event for Fun and Fellowship

Come to the Wilmette Bowling Center at 3:00 pm today (February 4) for bowling, pizza, games, and prizes. The \$18.00 per person fee covers bowling, shoe rental, pizza, and soft drinks. Prepay [online](#) and plan to stay until 5:00 pm; the Wilmette Bowling Center is located at 1903 Schiller Avenue in Wilmette.

Don't Miss Gallimaufry, a Musical Kaleidoscope and Stock the Shelves Benefit

Join Una Voce, featuring the voices of Linnea Jacobs, Peggy Massello, and Carol Moss, for an evening of music on Friday, February 23 at 7:00 pm in the Chapel to benefit Stock the Shelves (\$15.00 freewill donation recommended). See the [flyer](#) and [register to attend](#) online.

Provide a Warm Welcome by Serving as a Greeter

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.

SHARE, SUPPORT, GROW

Tell the Nominating Committee About Church Members with Gifts for Leadership

Your Nominating Committee invites you to help fill vital positions on the ministry boards of our church. We value your input as part of our church's commitment to inclusiveness. Please let us know if you are interested in serving the church and willing to be considered for nomination and/or if you know of other church members qualified and willing to serve. We seek nominations for Elder, Deacon and Nominating Committee at-large members. Please complete our [online form](#) or use a print form found on the ushers' table and in the church office. All suggestions will be held in confidence.

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 Deacons who will divide them into posies and deliver them to Care Partners. Contact Linda Malstrom (lindamalstrom@gmail.com) with questions.

2024 Stewardship Campaign Complete: Thank You!

Thanks to everyone for making this year's stewardship campaign, "Rooted and Grounded in Love," a success. With your generosity and dedication, we received 102 pledges totaling \$874,296 to support the life and ministry of our church in 2024. This represents a 3% increase over last year. This year, 28 pledges came in online; 84 arrived in the offering plate or by mail. We are deeply grateful for your trust and partnership as we embody the gospel together at the corner of Ninth and Greenleaf. Every gift of every size matters. Thank you!



Common Life Week of February 4th, 2024

RACIAL JUSTICE

Listen to Stories from the Racial Justice Pilgrimage

Travelers to Montgomery, Selma, and Birmingham will show photos, share stories, and invite conversation about how we might build on their pilgrimage experiences to do the work of justice in the Chicago area and beyond. Join pilgrimage participants in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center on Sunday, February 11 at 11:00 am for a presentation and luncheon. Contact the church office with questions (847-256-3010 | office@fpcw.org).

Register for the 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. Participants need not attend on all four dates; come to one or as many as you wish. Please see the enclosed [flyer](#) for detailed information including a QR code and link to the appreciated but not required [sign-up page](#).

Join Family Matters as an Administrative Assistant

[Family Matters](#), a mission partner, seeks a volunteer Administrative Assistant to work approximately four to six hours per week on a flexible schedule alongside the Finance Director. The Administrative Assistant will complete activities related to accounts payable and receivable as well as managing digital and physical files. Email or call the church office for a complete position description and contact information (office@fpcw.org | 847-256-3010).

ADULT GROUPS

Come for Men's Council on Saturday

Men's Council will begin with breakfast at 8:00 am on Saturday, February 10 in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center and continue with a program about Egypt. Weekly breakfasts and programs will continue into May. Contact Steve Polkoff with questions (odyssey1516@gamil.com).

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, February 11 at 8:45 am in the Church Lounge with online attendance available.

Lunch with the Senior Supper Club on Tuesday, February 20

Men and women age 65 and over share lunch this winter and will gather at Ridgeview Grill in Wilmette on Tuesday, February 20 at 1:00 pm. Contact Bonnie Wehrenberg (bwherbie007@att.net) with questions.

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/

Stay Engaged On Your Social Channels

Watch for weekday posts on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#). Share them with family and friends and encourage them to join us!

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 bwherbic007@att.net.

Book Group – 3rd Wednesday (February 21), 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 (February 20), 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 midday during the winter season. Contact Bonnie Wehrenberg bwherbic007@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 (February 28), 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 FEBRUARY 4, 2024

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

8:45 am	Adult Faith Formation	Church Lounge
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	WMFC
3:00 pm	Family Bowling Event	Offsite
4:30 pm	Troop 5 Patrol Leaders' Council Meeting	Upper Room
6:30 pm	Troop 5 Shawnee Trek Planning Meeting	Upper Room
7:30 pm	Crew 5 Bike Trek Planning Meeting	Upper Room

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

11:30 am	Communications Committee Meeting	Church Lounge
6:00 pm	Finance, Budget & Operations Committee Meeting	Upper Room
7:00 pm	Troop 5 Meeting	WMFC
7:30 pm	Crew 5 Meeting	Yellow Room

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Church Lounge
12:00 pm	Youth & Family Ministry Team Meeting	Church Lounge

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

5:00 pm	Children's Musical Rehearsal	WMFC
6:00 pm	Church Family Dinner	WMFC
6:30 pm	Youth Bells Rehearsal	Music Room
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Music Room

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

No Events Scheduled

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

8:00 am	Men's Council	WMFC
---------	---------------	------

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

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 Service	YouTube
10:00 am	In-Person Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:15 am	Children's Chapel	Chapel
11:00 am	Racial Justice Pilgrimage Presentation and Luncheon	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.

I 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
ksmithlaubenstein@fpcw.org ext. 102

Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski
Parish Associate for Congregational Care
ldominski@fpcw.org ext. 108

Peggy Massello
Director of Worship & Music
pmassello@fpcw.org ext. 103

Lindley Traynor
Director of Children & Family Ministry
ltraynor@fpcw.org ext. 104

Marvin Behm
Financial Manager
finmanager@fpcw.org ext. 107

Jane Currie
Office & Communications
office@fpcw.org ext. 106

Ethan Holtermann
Livestream Engineer
ethanholtermann1@gmail.com

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

600 Ninth Street, Wilmette, Illinois 60091

847-256-3010

office@fpcw.org www.fpcw.org