



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Sunday, February 18, 2024

First Sunday in Lent

Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.

*PLEASE STAND

BOLD TYPE INDICATES CONGREGATIONAL SPEAKING OR SINGING

PRELUDE - *Voluntary No. 3 in D minor*

William Walond

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**

Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods! Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

When we look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; we wonder, what are human beings that you are mindful of us, mortals that you care for us?

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.

We will celebrate your abundant goodness, God. Every day we will bless you, we will praise your name forever and ever.

God sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever.

Our hearts stand in awe of your words, your deeds, and all you have created and inspired, Lord. Holy and awesome is your name!

***OPENING HYMN NO. 625, verses 1, 2, and 4** - *O Lord My God (How Great Thou Art)*

CALL TO CONFESSION

During these forty days of Lent, we remember how Peter denied Jesus three times, and how quickly the crowd's cries changed from adulation to anger. Our faith, too, can waver when we are fearful or disappointed, or even just in the mundaneness of daily life. We come to you, holy Creator, seeking forgiveness. Turn us from focusing too much on ourselves. Help us to seek you, the One who gives the breath of life, and the promise of life eternal, first in silent prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of wonder, each day you reach out to us and surround us with sights that should take our breath away - clouds painted in shades of rose and gold at sunset, the ever changing countenance of Lake Michigan, and the daily activities of the many birds and animals who share this corner of our planet with us. And yet we often overlook these signs of your presence and glory. The world is filled with your children, each created

in your image, and each with their own stories, personalities, and gifts to share. But, instead of expecting to be enriched and inspired by those different than us, we often allow fear and distrust to guide our engagement with them. Forgive us, Lord. Remove the barriers we have constructed, thinking they protect us when really they limit us. Help us to follow in the example of Jesus. Draw us out of ourselves. Give us the wisdom to recognize what is temporal and trivial, and the will to devote our attention and energy to that which is meaningful and transcendent - that which points to you. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

In the cross, we see the incredible depth of God's amazing love for us. Although we are part of our fallen world, we are God's beloved children. In the abundance of grace, God calms our fears, heals our pain, and does not count our sins against us. Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and offered fullness of joy.

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. 434 - *Restore in Us, O God*

BAYLOR

Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love;

Renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.

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 infants and very young children.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, throughout the ages your word has shined light on human existence, revealing what is good and true, what has lasting importance and meaning, what blesses our lives and is pleasing to you. Reveal this once again to us this morning through your word read and proclaimed, that we might be guided to the abundant life Jesus came to bring. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Psalm 8 (Old Testament page 492)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 435 - *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

IN BABILONE

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 - *Psalm 8 (Adonai, Adonenu - Lord, Our Lord)*

Dan Forrest

***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**

Lord, you are faithful in providing for our every need. You bless us so richly. Each day you reach out to us through the kindness and resilience of others, the beauty and diversity of the world around us, and experiences that lift our spirits and give our lives meaning. Use these gifts, and us, to make the world a place where compassion, beauty, meaning, and joy abound, we pray. Amen.

SENDING HYMN - No. 729 - *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

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

arr. Charles Callahan

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

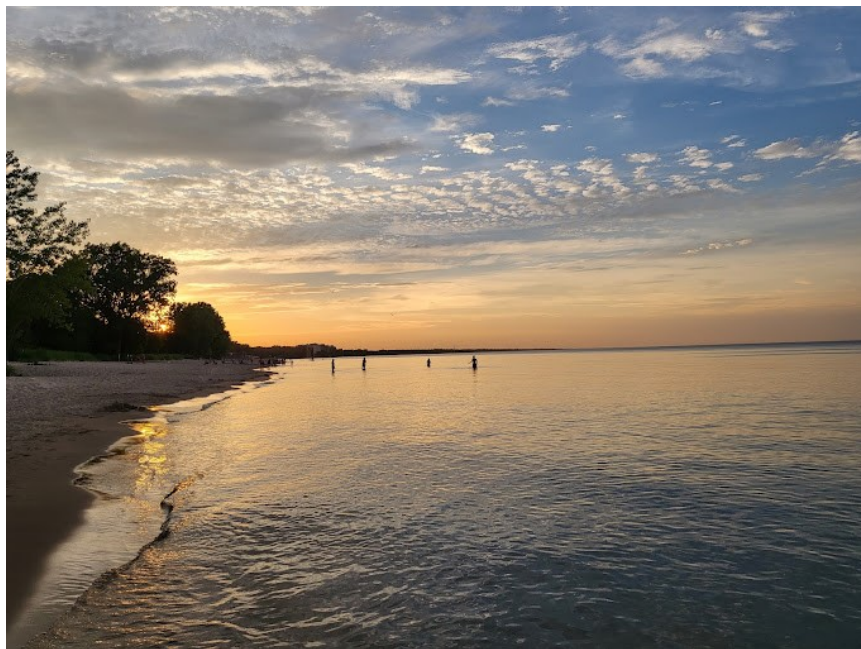
TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Preaching
Sharon Panzica, Liturgist
Peggy Massello, Music Director and Organist
Chancel Choir
Wonee Kim, Accompanist
Lindley Traynor, Children's Chapel
Ethan Holtermann, Livestream Engineer
Ray Hopkins and Frank Panzica, Ushers
Stephanie Phelan, Greeter
Paula Balthazar and Sevan Hovakimian, Nursery
Armando De Lacruz, Facilities

OUR LENTEN LITURGY reflects the research and writing of Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski.

TODAY'S FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Jack and Marsha Nahigian in memory of Marsha's parents, Gerhardt and Dorothy Rickersten.

PLEASE PRAY for Rick Baer and the Baer family after the recent death of Rick's mother, Jean.



Sunset at Gillson Park (Wilmette, Illinois)



Common Life Week of February 18, 2024

WELCOME & CONNECTION

Attend the Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 3

Join us for our church's Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 3 in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center, immediately following worship. Lunch will be served and a brief meeting will be held to (1) receive the annual report and hear words of gratitude for how our ministry changed lives in 2023, (2) receive the 2024 operating budget, and (3) approve terms of call for Jeff and Kara.

Sing with the Choir During Lent and Easter

Some of the most beautiful choral music has been written for the season of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. Rehearse with the Chancel Choir on Wednesday nights, between 7:30 pm and 8:45 pm and sing in worship on Sundays now through Easter (March 31). Enrich the experience by taking home copies and recordings of the music. Contact Peggy Massello, Director of Music & Worship, with questions (pmassello@fpcw.org).

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.

Watch for More of Gallimaufry, a Musical Kaleidoscope and Stock the Shelves Benefit

The first performance sold out but more dates will follow to join Una Voce, featuring the voices of Linea Jacobs, Peggy Massello, and Carol Moss, for an evening of music in the Chapel to benefit Stock the Shelves (\$15.00 freewill donation recommended).

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

Learn About the Migrant Crisis and the North Shore

Attend When the Road Stops Here: Coordinating the North Shore's Humanitarian Response to the Migrant Crisis, a nonpartisan, interfaith, communitywide event on Tuesday, February 27 between 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm in the Saint Francis Xavier School Gym at 800 Linden Avenue in Wilmette. [Register in advance](#) and consider bringing a contribution of unopened toiletry items, store gift cards, or Ventra transit cards. Contributed items will reach migrants who arrived recently or will arrive shortly after the event. First Pres Wilmette is among the community partners hosting this event.



Common Life
Week of February 18, 2024

RACIAL JUSTICE

Register for Upcoming Sessions in the Exploring Whiteness Workshop Series

The Racial Justice Committee will host two additional sessions on Thursdays in February (22 and 29) to explore and discuss white identity, privilege, fragility, and supremacy. Each session will begin at 7:00 pm in the Church Lounge and conclude at 8:30 pm. Participants need not attend on both dates. Please consult the [flyer](#) for detailed information which connects to the appreciated but not required [sign-up page](#).

Check What's Next from the Racial Justice Committee

In March, Jahmal Cole will speak about [My Block, My Hood, My City](#), the social impact organization he founded in 2013. In April, we will exhibit the work of [folk artist Jevoid Simmons](#) in the Chapel. His paintings chronicle his family's migration from the South in the early 1950s.

ADULT GROUPS

Come for Men's Council on Saturday

Men's Council will begin with breakfast at 8:00 am on Saturday, February 3 in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center and continue with a program featuring Greg Korak on the art and science of fast driving. Weekly breakfasts and programs will continue into May. Contact Steve Polkoff with questions (odyssey1516@gmail.com).

Rejoin Adult Faith Formation Before Worship On Sunday, February 25

Rev. Jeff Lehn will lead a new class during the season of Lent on the practice of awe using the [recent book by Dacher Keltner](#) as our guide. The study begins on February 25 at 8:45 am in the Church Lounge and will continue for five weeks, concluding on March 24. Contact Jeff (jlehn@fpcw.org) with questions or to receive a weekly email containing optional readings.

Join the Book Group on Wednesday, February 21

Reviewers described Bill Clegg's *Did You Ever Have a Family* as masterly, elegant, heartrendering, and absorbing, with characters who practice forgiveness and restore hope. The Book Group will gather to discuss the novel on Wednesday, February 21 at 7:00 pm in the Church Lounge. Contact Joyce Knauff with questions (joyce@jckassociates.com).

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!

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 18, 2024

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

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
6:30 pm	Troop 5 Shawnee Trek Planning Meeting	Upper Room

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

National Holiday; Church Office Closed		
7:00 pm	Board of Deacons Meeting	Church Lounge
7:00 pm	Troop 5 Merit Badge Class	WMFC

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Church Lounge
1:00 pm	Senior Supper	Offsite
6:00 pm	Pack 5 Meeting	WMFC

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

5:00 pm	Children's Musical Rehearsal	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, FEBRUARY 22

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

7:00 pm	Gallimaufry	Chapel
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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

8:00 am	Men's Council	WMFC
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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

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	Fellowship Hour	Church Lounge
11:30 am	Emergency Cardiac Care and AED Training	WMFC
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Fellowship	Tower
6:30 pm	Tower Senior High Dinner	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

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