



9:00 AM WORSHIP

WELCOME Adam Hendrickson

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We observe this day as the Lord's Day, giving thanks to God,
All: **who gives justice to the oppressed, who forgives us and redeems us,**
One: and crowns us with steadfast love and mercy.
All: **Let us worship the One who is worthy of our praise!**

✦ "ACT JUSTLY, LOVE MERCY, WALK HUMBLY"
Tomlin, Ingram, & Barrett

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND HOPEFULNESS Mary Larson

One: Let us approach God with the honesty of our lives:
All: **Gracious God, the sins of our lives and our world are too heavy to carry, too real to hide and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world, who meets us where we are and offers us eternal hope.**

✦ SUNG RESPONSE "Amen" HYMN 600

✦ TIME OF GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Laura Sherwood
Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it along to those around you.

MATTHEW 18:21-35 Mary Larson

MESSAGE "Will We Be Different on Monday?" Rev. Laura Sherwood
Scripture: Romans 14:1-12

✦ "BE THOU MY VISION" *arr. Hendrickson*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: Lord, in your mercy,
All: **hear our prayer.**

SHARING OUR GIFTS
"You Have Shown Us" *Baloche, Chapman, Garrard, Houghton, Hughes, Kendrick, Park, Redman, Smith, Tomlin, & Zschech*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

✦ "GOD OF JUSTICE" *Tim Hughes*

✦ CHARGE & BENEDICTION Rev. Laura Sherwood

✦ Please stand as you are able.

Compass: Dan Berg, guitar; Amy Carroll, piano; Kevin Carroll, bass; Adam Hendrickson, drums/vocals; Greg Schultz, saxophone; Katie Walsh, vocals

WELCOME, GUESTS!

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning.

Stop by the Welcome Center in the Narthex (lobby) to pick up information that will acquaint you with our church services and programs. You are also invited to join the conversation on Facebook, at facebook.com/firstpresah, Twitter, at @FirstPresAh, and Instagram, at @firstpresah. We look forward to connecting with you again.

CHILD CARE
Children of all ages are warmly welcomed and encouraged to participate in worship. Child care is available (infants through age four) in the Christian Education Wing (8:45 am – 11:45 am).

CLASSES FOR ALL AGES
From September through May, Sunday morning Christian education classes are held for all ages. These include classes for preschool, elementary, middle school, and high school students, as well as education and discussion groups for adults. To learn more, visit firstpresah.org or call the church office at 847-255-5900.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE
For worship in the Sanctuary, large print bulletins, and hearing amplifiers (some with T-Coil lanyard adapters) are available from the ushers.

IMPORTANT WORSHIP REMINDERS
Please silence cell phones and refrain from taking photos or recording the worship service. Services are webcast live at firstpresah.org/experience/livestream. To download or listen to a podcast of today's sermon, search Apple podcasts for **The Word @ First Pres.** Past sermons are available at firstpresah.org/experience/sermons.

SOURCES FOR WORSHIP
Unless otherwise noted, scripture readings are from the NRSVUE (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition); Litanies and prayers are from *The Call to Worship*, published by the Office of Theology and Worship of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

*A congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
Organized in 1855*



"Wherever our Journey of Faith takes us,
we can be assured that God goes with us."
— Rev. Laura Sherwood

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2023
9:00 & 10:30 AM**

Choose love. Be the light. Change the world.

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights
302 N. Dunton Avenue • Arlington Heights, IL 60004
847-255-5900 • firstpresah.org • mail@firstpresah.org



10:30 AM WORSHIP

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE "Be Thou My Vision" *Gordon Young*

The prelude is your invitation to quiet preparation for the worship of Almighty God.

WELCOME Rev. Laura Sherwood

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We observe this day as the Lord's Day, giving thanks to God,

All: who gives justice to the oppressed, who forgives us and redeems us,

One: and crowns us with steadfast love and mercy.

All: Let us worship the One who is worthy of our praise!

✦ HYMN 267 "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" MADRID

CALL TO CONFESSION Barbara Martin

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our Judge, we admit we have double standards. We seek forgiveness for ourselves, but fail to forgive others. We seek relief for ourselves, but fail to seek relief for others. We seek leniency for ourselves, but fail to show that mercy to others. Forgive us, mighty God, and help us to forgive, showing others the same grace and mercy that you have generously shown to us...

SILENT CONFESSION

(please pray a silent and personal prayer of confession during this time)

...in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: People of God, hear and believe God does not deal with us according to our sins, but according to God's own steadfast love for us.

All: As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our sins from us. Thanks be to God!

✦ RESPONSE (Hymn 775)

I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me;

All along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

✦ TIME OF GREETING

COMMUNITY LIFE Rev. Laura Sherwood

Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it along to those around you.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Barbara Martin

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 18:21-35
(Pew Bible, p. 800) Barbara Martin
The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM "Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God" *Carl Mueller*
"Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation And uphold me, uphold me with Thy free Spirit, Thy free Spirit. Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways, And sinners will be converted unto Thee. Create in me a clean heart, O God. "
Chancel Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Romans 14:1-12
(Pew Bible, p. 923) Rev. Laura Sherwood
The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON Rev. Laura Sherwood
"Will We Be Different on Monday?"

✦ HYMN 722 "Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak" CANONBURY

GIVING THANKS TO GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Laura Sherwood

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALL FOR OFFERING Barbara Martin

OFFERTORY "Through Christ" *Pepper Choplin*
"Through Christ, we can do all things. Through Christ, we can find new strength day by day, through our lives we press on. Through Christ, we can do all things, Through Christ, we can find new strength through the night, through the storm, we press on. So rejoice in the Lord. Again I say, rejoice and live with thanksgiving and prayer. And the peace of our God, beyond all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ. How shall we meet the days ahead? How shall we keep our calling true? And if life puts us to the test, by faith, we'll demonstrate our best. We'll press on through Christ. Come and rejoice in the Lord for all we have in store, For we can do all things, all through Christ. "
Chancel Choir

✦ DOXOLOGY (Hymn 607)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING Barbara Martin

One: Merciful and gracious God, you abound in steadfast love and faithfulness. With gratitude, we bring our gifts to you. Bless these gifts and bless our lives that together we may share your mercy and grace for the world you dearly love.

All: Amen.

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

✦ HYMN 363 "Rejoice, the Lord Is King" DARWALL'S 148TH

✦ CHARGE & BENEDICTION Rev. Laura Sherwood

POSTLUDE "Fanfare" *Arthur Wills*

✦ Please stand as you are able.

Flowers: Ron Baker—92nd birthday

Homer Smith—Miss you, love you forever

Listing of Worship Leaders:

Preaching: Rev. Laura Sherwood

Liturgists: (9:00 am) Mary Larson; (10:30 am) Barbara Martin

Pastor: Rev. Rev. Laura Sherwood, Interim Pastor/Head of Staff

Director of Music and Worship: Adam Hendrickson

Associate Director of Music and Organist: Christopher Urban

Praise Band: Compass (9:00 am service)

Tech Support and Livestream: Amy Senior and Jonah White

WORSHIP NOTES

Prayer Requests

Healing & Comfort

First Pres Community

Mario Alberico
Don & Judy Ayers
Andrew Bennett
Barbara Berkow
Wendy Blanck
Virginia Blocki
Laura Carlson
Susan Carroll
Jean Castles
Mary Clarbourn

Marilyn Giacoppi
Marylyn Jirsa
Don Johnson
Patty Richard
Betty Sanders
Susan Scott
Nancy Stautzenbach
Barb Tsutsumi
Martha Wade
Bob Webb

Friends & Family

Saraya Angle — niece of Tonya Griffin
Jennifer Dix — daughter of Sam & Jan Dix
Mike Ferdinand — husband of Sharon Ferdinand
Terry Finger — cousin of Marilyn Yantis
Karl Gates — friend of Mary Kiepora
Henry Hagemann, Jr. — family of Lauren Kelleher
Donna Hames — friend of Mary Halatek
Klee Family — family of the Ficks
Gary Meunier — friend of Kim Hogan

Virginia Moertel — sister of Marty Kraybill
Desa Peric — great granddaughter of Steve Smith
Phil Perillo — brother of Kristie Cerniglia
Jerry Shields — husband of Dianne Shields
Tom Spaeth — friend of Steve Smith
Ken Stiles
Dale VanEck — friend of Corinne Peterson
Claire Walsh — cousin of Mary Hebden
James Wilson — cousin of Sheila

Sympathy to

The Palmer family, on the death of **Gordon Palmer**
Pauline Pohl, on the death of her mother, Janet Muhm
Kathy Sobeski, on the death of her sister-in-law, Claire Sobeski

Serving in the Armed Services

AMN Charles Arthur Brousseau, Air Force — son of Liz Moses and Bob Wendling
MU2 Wesley Carroll, Navy — son of Kevin and Amy Carroll, grandson of JoAnn Thompson
Lt. Col. Michael B. Ford, US Army Reserves — stepson of Kris Ford
Brandon Latuzek — nephew of Elaine Chen
Capt. John Olszewski, USMC — nephew of Steve and Lisa Olszewski
Col. Gretchen Wiltse — sister of Vincent and Heidi Wiltse

About First Pres

STAFF

Interim Pastor / Head of Staff:
Laura Sherwood

Pastor Emeritus: Harry Thompson

Associate Pastor Emerita:
Dianne Shields

Director of Children's & Youth Ministries: Rebekah Anderson

Director of Music and Worship:
Adam Hendrickson

Associate Director of Music and Organist: Christopher Urban

Worship Technicians:
Amy Senior, Jonah White

Business Administrator:
Debbie Walter

Senior Administrative Assistant:
Mary Fino

Administrative Assistant / Receptionist: Carol Vega

Facilities Director: Tony Scheurich

Facilities Coordinator:
Michele Holifield

Director of First Pres PDO & Preschool: Coleen Anzalone

Nursery Coordinator: Beth Johnson

Save the Date

Today Sunday Adult Education Returns
September 24 Congregational Meeting
October 4 Wednesday@Noon
October 8 Concert: Miroslav Mykhailenko, pianist
October 15 Anniversary Speaker
October 22 New Member Class

PASTORAL CARE — If you have a death in the family, an anticipated surgery, the birth of a new baby, or if you or a loved one are struggling, your pastors and church family want to be there to support you. Please contact Pastor Laura Sherwood, at laurasherwood@firstpresah.org or 847-255-5900, extension 229 or call the church office to share your pastoral needs.

LIVE WEBCAST & WORSHIP RECORDINGS — Services are webcast live at firstpresah.org/experience/livestream. To download or listen to a podcast of today's sermon, search Apple podcasts for **The Word @ First Pres**. Past sermons are available at firstpresah.org/experience/sermons. If you need help with technical problems, please send an email to webcasting@firstpresah.org.

GET CONNECTED — Join the conversation on Facebook, at facebook.com/firstpresah; Twitter, at @FirstPresAH; and Instagram, at @firstpresah. Download the free ACS Church Life app or visit the website to access the church directory or manage your giving online. Simply set up a user account at firstpresah.org under the Member Login tab to get started. We look forward to connecting with you!



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Church Life

September 17, 2023

We believe in building the kingdom of God in this world. We strive to be a welcoming and inclusive church that celebrates the diversity existing in our community. That means bringing good news to the poor, freedom to the oppressed, welcoming the stranger, and loving one another as Jesus loves us. We do this by choosing love and being the light that changes the world. Thank you for worshiping with us in this spirit.

BACKPACK COLLECTION FOR REFUGEEONE — *Through September 20* — The Mission Committee is sponsoring a backpack drive for RefugeeOne. As RefugeeOne welcomes new refugee families each day, it is important that the children have the needed supplies to start school. You can drop off your new backpacks and supplies on Sunday mornings through September 17, Wednesday evenings at Family Night, and during church office hours through September 20. For more information, contact Michele Holifield at micheleholifield@firstpresah.org.

SUNDAY FLOWERS SIGNUP — *Today* — Are you looking for a way to honor or remember a special person, celebrate a special day such as a birthday or anniversary or just because you love to see fresh flowers on Sundays? Donate \$40 to the Sunday flower fund. Presbyterian Women will be available in the lobby after services today to accept your donations. Contact Sue Henderson for any questions or special requests.

CALL FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING — Session has called for a meeting of the congregation for the purpose of electing officers for the class of 2025 on **Sunday, September 24, 2023, immediately following the 10:30 am worship service**, in the Sanctuary.

SUNDAY EDUCATION FOR ADULTS — *Sundays through November 19 / 9:00 am / Boardroom / Dr. Donald Kaasch / The Calamitous First Century* — What is the Christian New Testament? What were the social, economic and political conditions in the Roman Province of Judea? What language(s) were spoken in the region? Who wrote the 27 contributions that make up the New Testament? What was the process? Who was Paul? Did the writers of the New Testament have direct experience with Jesus? And lots more!

September 17 — Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:45 am – 11:15 am — Child care (infants – 4 years) — Room 205/207 (Blue Room), Main Floor Christian Education (CE) Wing

9:00 am **Worship** — Chapel
9:00 am Adult Education — Boardroom
10:00 am Adult Choir Rehearsal — Choir Auditorium
10:00 am Fellowship Time—Parlor, Narthex
10:30 am **Worship** — Sanctuary
10:30 am Preschool Sunday School (3- & 4-year olds) — Room 206
10:30 am K-5 Sunday School — Room 304
10:30 am Sunday School (Grades 6-7 & 9-12) — Room 301/303
10:30 am Confirmation — Room 109/111
10:30 am Coffee: Grounds for Discussion & Service — Room 110
10:30 am Connection Groups Orientation Session — Boardroom
11:30 am Fellowship Time — Parlor, Narthex
11:30 am Connection Groups Orientation Session — Boardroom
6:00 pm HSYG — HS Lounge, Gym

Upcoming Events



FAMILY NIGHT PROGRAMMING — *Wednesdays / 6:00-8:00 pm / September through May* — Come and share dinner and fellowship with families from First Pres and the broader community. This program includes dinner, adult education and programs for children and youth.

Weekly Schedule:

- 6:00-7:00 pm:** Drop-in dinner time for all ages
- 6:30-7:00 pm:** Children's Choir (grades K-5)
- 7:00-8:00 pm:** Classes and programs, including:
 - ENGAGE & ENCOUNTER adult Christian education
 - Kids Connect (grades K-5)
 - Middle School Youth Group (grades 6-8)

ENGAGE & ENCOUNTER: *Listening for God's Voice in a Murky Time* — *Wednesdays, through October 11 / 7:00 pm / Chapel / Instructors: Rev. Laura Sherwood & Rev. Nancy Dolan* — Transitions and change bring opportunities but also uncertainty and questions, whether in our personal lives, or in the life of the Church. Discernment is an ancient spiritual practice which helps us wade through the murkiness of such times, while also drawing us closer to God. In this series, you'll be invited into that practice as together we explore what discernment is, how to practice it and the various opportunities for discernment in our lives, both personal and within the Church.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR — *Wednesdays / 6:30-7:00 pm / Sanctuary* — Come for dinner from 6:00-6:30 pm and then join us in the Sanctuary for 30 minutes of music making and fellowship. Children will sing in worship throughout the program year. For more information, contact Nick Pulikowski at nickpulikowski@firstpresah.org.

FAMILY NIGHT COOKBOOK — A dedicated team of Family Night cooks has been busy this summer creating the first Family Night cookbook. **Pre-sales for the *Family Night Favorites Cookbook* are currently being accepted at Family Night on Wednesdays.** Delivery of the cookbooks will be late October to early November just in time to make a perfect holiday gift. The cookbook will be a beautiful three-ring binder and comes with access to the e-book version. The cost for each book is \$20. The proceeds will provide some new kitchen equipment and 10% of the sales will support our community food programs such as The Wednesday Market and the Loaves and Fishes Garden.

RESTAURANT WALK IS BACK! — Our popular Restaurant Walk fellowship program returns for another session! Sign-up throughout September. Meals will take place at Mago (115 W Campbell) in downtown Arlington Heights during October. This is a great way to connect with other members of the congregation and support a local business. Scan the QR code on the right to sign up. Available dates: **Sunday, October 8, 12:30 pm; Tuesday, October 10, 6:00 pm; Sunday, October 15, 12:30 pm; Tuesday, October 17, 6:00 pm; Sunday, October 22, 12:30 pm; Tuesday, October 24, 6:00 pm.**



PW CIRCLE MEETINGS — Presbyterian Women is a community of women helping to make a difference in the lives of others. We look forward to another year of growing, supporting each other and listening to God's word. Join us for our new study, *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*.
Circle 7: Tuesday, September 19 / 7:00 pm / Parlor
Circles 1, 2, 3: Wednesday, September 20 / 9:30 am / Parlor

Serving, Giving, and Growing

COFFEE: GROUNDS FOR DISCUSSION & SERVICE — *Sundays / 10:30-11:30 am / Room 110 / September 17-November 19 / Invitation to Psalms* (A Short-Term Disciple Bible Study) 10-week study — Make a deeper connection to the world of the Psalms so that these well-known scriptures can help you give voice to all aspects of our human experience - joy, faith, uncertainty and sorrow. Contact Kelly Dean at k_p_dean@hotmail.com with any questions.

MISSION DELEGATION TO FRONTERA DE CRISTO — *March 10-15, 2024 / Registration is Open* — Join others from First Pres on a journey to the Arizona/Mexico border for a time of learning and reflection on life at the border. During our time, we will be hosted by the Presbyterian Borderland Ministry, Frontera de Cristo. A \$200 deposit is required to reserve your spot. You will need a passport for this journey, so make your plans now as passport application wait times are currently high. The cost for the trip includes transportation, lodging, meals and daily activities. For more information, contact Michele Holifield at micheleholifield@firstpresah.org or Kim Hogan at k_hogan2003@yahoo.com.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO STAFF OUR NURSERY! — Would you like to volunteer your services at either the first or second service? We are looking for once a month volunteers or substitutes. **Here are the requirements:** Must be 18 or older, take "SAFE SANCTUARY" training, work in pairs once a month or more, have fun with babies/toddlers! Times available 8:45-10:15 am or 10:15-11:45 am. If this volunteer position interests you, please contact Beth Johnson at btj0914@hotmail.com.

JOIN THE GOONIES (COUPLES & SINGLES UNDER 35) — *Tuesday, September 19 / 6:00 pm* — Hey you guys! The Goonies group is going to have their second meeting at Kilwin's in downtown Arlington Heights. The whole family is invited to this one and after we grab our ice cream, we'll hang out at Harmony Park. We hope to see you there!

NEW MEMBER & SEEKERS CLASS — *October 22 / 11:45 am / Boardroom* — Our next new members class will take place on Sunday, October 22, at 11:45 am in the Boardroom. Lunch will be provided. Contact Rev. Laura Sherwood at laurasherwood@firstpresah.org for more information or to join the class.

CONNECTION GROUPS / Beginning Fall 2023 — Session is asking you to bring your individual voice to a Connection Group, joining with roughly ten other households whose life situation is similar to yours, to discuss what you see as most important for First Pres going forward. Sharing your thoughts is especially important as we seek to fill our open pastoral positions and craft programming for the future.

- ♦ **Volunteers needed to be Connection Group Facilitators***
 - ♦ **Facilitator Orientation will be scheduled soon**
- Send volunteer interest and any questions to Steve Olszewski at olszewski.steve@gmail.com.**

*One or two facilitators drawn from volunteers in the congregation will serve as a point of contact to convey information about key developments at the church, field questions/concerns and possibly organize opportunities for the Connection Group to assemble for a group-appropriate event (e.g., discussion, presentation, social event, etc.).

Worship Next Sunday

September 24, 2023: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am — Worship (Chapel)
Music: Compass

10:30 am — Worship (Sanctuary)
Music: Chancel Choir

Preacher: Rev. Laura Sherwood
Scriptures: Psalm 145:1-8; Matthew 20:1-16
Sermon Title: "Ladies First, Ladies First!"

If you give electronically but would like to put something in the offering plate, we invite you to use the laminated bookmarks available in the pew rack in front of you. We will be keeping you abreast of your generosity.

Bookmarks	\$454.00
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CURRENT GIVING OPPORTUNITY: *Novi* — Our Annual Speaker this year will focus on an organization working with children affected by the war in Ukraine. During the months of September, October and November, you have the opportunity to support their mission to provide emotional support, nutritious food and access to education for children living in Ukraine. 4.5 million children remain in Ukraine, and Novi works to provide care for these children who are exposed to violence, displacement and emotional trauma.

TWO IMPORTANT UPDATES FOR OUR INTERIM JOURNEY

1. Our original goal of having a new Interim Associate Pastor in place by September 1 was not possible. We are currently in the process of seeking someone to fill that position, with Presbytery's help. We do not know how long this will take and will keep you informed.
2. We need your help. It will take all of us working together and praying for one another to fill all the needs of the Church especially while we are without a second Interim pastor.

Please consider how you might help with such things as: Offering a sermon, being a liturgist in worship, supporting any of our programs with your attendance or volunteering in some way, helping the staff to know any needs of members and community, participating in our new Community Assistance Team, to name just a few. To learn more about how your skills and talents might help during this time, please email any member of the Session, staff or Pastor Laura.

No matter what – everyone can pray. *Please remember the staff, all our leaders and the entire congregation in your regular prayers. THANK YOU!*

Pastor Laura "PL" Sherwood, Interim Pastor/Head-of-Staff
laurasherwood@firstpresah.org

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL SPEAKER— *Sunday, October 15 / 4:00 pm / Sanctuary / Steve Gumaer & Jon Peerbolt from Novi* — Novi is focused on assisting children affected by the war in Ukraine, who are deprived of basic needs; including safety, education and nutrition, and are exposed to violence, displacement and emotional trauma. Novi's tools also help children develop self-regulation skills through structured adult-led interventions, and they collaborate with local organizations to prioritize sustainability and building partnerships that focus on prevention and intervention for vulnerable children.