



9:00 AM WORSHIP

WELCOME Adam Hendrickson

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We will sing to God and bless God's name forever and ever.
All: **Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!**
One: We will declare God's mighty acts and celebrate God's abundant goodness.
All: **Let us worship, singing of God's righteousness.**

✦ "GREAT ARE YOU LORD" Leonard, Ingram & Jordan

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND HOPEFULNESS Lee Bruce

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 amend; 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 Lee Bruce

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

PSALM 145:1-8 Lee Bruce

MESSAGE "Ladies First, Ladies First!" Rev. Laura Sherwood
Scripture: Matthew 20:1-16

✦ "FREE TO BE YOU AND ME" Lawrence & Hart

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

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

SHARING OUR GIFTS Lee Bruce
"Simple Kingdom" Katie & Brian Torwalt, Carnes & Duncan

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING Lee Bruce

✦ "LET YOUR KINGDOM COME" Bob Kauflin

✦ CHARGE & BENEDICTION Rev. Laura Sherwood

✦ Please stand as you are able.

Compass: Dan Berg, guitar; Amy Carroll, piano; Kevin Carroll, bass; Adam Hendrickson, guitar/vocals; Greg Schultz, saxophone; Todd Smith, drums; 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
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**SEPTEMBER 24, 2023
9:00 & 10:30 AM**

Choose bve .Be the light.Change the w orld .

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 "Trumpet Procession in G" *David German*
"Prelude on a Franck Motif" *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 will sing to God and bless God's name forever and ever.

All: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!

One: We will declare God's mighty acts and celebrate God's abundant goodness.

All: Let us worship, singing of God's righteousness.

✦ HYMN 41 "O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!" LYONS

CALL TO CONFESSION Tom Pardo

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of generosity, we find ourselves bitter when faced with your abundant grace. We believe ourselves more deserving than others. We nurse our anger and resentment at those you forgive, instead of rejoicing in the abundant love you show. Forgive us when we wish your grace was scarce. Forgive the double standards we hold. Help us to know that we are all in need of your grace, and help us rejoice as we all gratefully receive your mercy...

SILENT CONFESSION

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

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

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: The grace of God is boundless, poured out freely for all of us.

All: We will receive this gift of forgiveness, and trust God to transform our lives!

✦ 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 Tom Pardo

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 Tom Pardo

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 145:1-8
(Pew Bible, p. 506) Tom Pardo
The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM "Great Is the Lord" *Philip Young*
"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise thy works to another, shall praise thy works, and shall declare the mighty acts. The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised."
Chancel Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 20:1-16
(Pew Bible, p. 801) Rev. Laura Sherwood
The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "Ladies First, Ladies First!" Rev. Laura Sherwood

✦ HYMN 36 "For the Fruit of All Creation" AR HYD Y NOS

GIVING THANKS TO GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Tom Pardo

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 Tom Pardo

OFFERTORY "Come to the Circle" *Mark Burrows*
"We travel the road of our living; we follow a pathway unknown. We see one another as strangers; too often we travel alone. Yet, One shows the way in our darkness; One calls us out of our fears; One makes us family, calls us by name, the One who announces, 'God's Kingdom is near!' Come to the circle of faith and forgiveness; come to the circle of heaven above. Come to the circle of God's new creation; come to the circle of love. God's circle is greater than hatred; God's circle is wider than fear. God's circle is higher than any division. The circle of love draws us near. In love we unite as one body. In love we, though many, are one: one Lord, one faith, one birth in Christ Jesus, one in our witness: 'New life has begun.' Come to the circle of faith and forgiveness; come to the circle of heaven above. Come to the circle of God's new creation; come to the circle of love."
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 Tom Pardo

One: Faithful God, how blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Sanctify us by your Word and Spirit so that we may glorify you in the company of the faithful; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

✦ HYMN 269 "Lead On, O King Eternal!" LANCASHIRE

✦ CHARGE & BENEDICTION Rev. Laura Sherwood

BRIEF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO ELECT OFFICERS

POSTLUDE "Postlude in B-flat Major" *Guy Ropartz*

✦ Please stand as you are able.

Flowers: Janet Niemeyer—Wedding anniversary

Listing of Worship Leaders:

Preaching: Rev. Laura Sherwood

Liturgists: Lee Bruce (9:00 am), Tom Pardo (10:30 am)

Pastor: 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

SLATE OF OFFICER NOMINEES FOR 3-YEAR TERMS

DEACONS

Christine Barry

Cynthia Goldsberry

Barb Martin

Donna Myers

Ken Weller

TRUSTEES

Bill Christian

Bret Kehoe

Laura Liston

ELDERS

Carrie Costello

Cathy Mataloni*

Kristin Michalczyk

Laura Puckett*

*2-Year Term

Prayer Requests

Healing & Comfort

First Pres Community

Roger Anderson
 Mario Alberico
 Don & Judy Ayers
 Barbara Berkow
 Wendy Blanck
 Virginia Blocki
 Laura Carlson
 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
 Karl Gates — friend of Mary Kiepura
 Henry Hagemann, Jr. — family of Lauren Kelleher
 Donna Hames — friend of Mary Halatek
 Myra Larkin, Gail Miller & Nicholas Miller — friends of Lori Chandler
 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
 Les Sharpe — friend of Ken & Susan Weller
 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 Hall

Congratulations to

Morgan Treppa and David Salmi, on their marriage, September 16

Sympathy to

The Palmer family, on the death of Gordon Palmer
 Pauline Pohl, on the death of her mother, Janet Muhm
 Marilyn Yantis, on the death of her cousin, Terry Finger

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	Congregational Meeting
October 4	Wednesday@Noon
October 8	Bible Sunday & Sunday School Teacher Commissioning
October 8	Concert: Miroslav Mykhailenko, pianist
October 14	Service Saturday
October 15	Anniversary Speaker
October 22	New Member & Seeker Class
October 25	God's Honest Truth
October 28	Trunk or Treat

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!



Choose bve .Be the light.Change the w orld .

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights
 302 North Dunton, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
 847-255-5900 / www.firstpresah.org / mail@firstpresah.org



Church Life

September 24, 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.

CALL FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING — *Today* — Session has called for a meeting of the congregation for the purpose of electing officers for the class of 2026, 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? Who wrote the 27 contributions that make up the New Testament? And lots more!

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY — *Next Sunday, October 1* — Through the month of September and concluding on World Communion Sunday, October 1, we will receive the Peace and Global Witness Offering. The offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ in our community and the larger world by addressing injustices. 50% of this offering supports work by Presbyterians throughout the world, 25% supports congregational work in our region and 25% stays with our congregation for peacemaking work. Donations to the Peace and Global Witness Offering can be made online, or through the envelopes found in the pews. Thank you for your generosity. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

WEDNESDAY@NOON — *Wednesday, October 4 / 12:10 pm / Sanctuary* — Join us for the first recital of the season featuring Christopher Urban, organ.

CONCERT SERIES KICK-OFF — *Sunday, October 8 / 4:00 pm / Sanctuary* — The opening concert of our series features Miroslav Mykhailenko, pianist, playing Ukrainian music for piano, Mozart's Piano Sonata No. 18 in D major and Brahms' Rhapsody Op. 79.

September 24 — Seventeenth 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 Congregational Meeting — Sanctuary
 11:30 am Fellowship Time — Parlor, Narthex
 12:00 pm 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 18 / 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. Look for the signup table on Sunday! 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.**

GOD'S HONEST TRUTH STORYTELLERS WANTED — *Wednesday, October 25 / 7:00 pm / Sanctuary* — The theme for the evening is **Transformational Travel: The Journeys that Changed My Life.** If you are interested in sharing your story, please contact Rev. Laura Sherwood and she will help you prepare. Come and join us for what will certainly be a great evening!

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.

PATHWAYS: COUPLES & SINGLES (Mid-30s to Late 40s) — *Friday, September 29 / 6:00 pm Escape Room & 7:00 pm Dinner* — Cost: \$33 Escape Room in Buffalo Grove and dinner at Sal & Tony's Italian Restaurant in Buffalo Grove. Contact Laura Grochocki at lgrochocki@paylocity.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.

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.

CHRISTOPHER HOUSE & FIRMAN COMMUNITY SERVICES COLLECTION — *Sundays, October 1-15* — Presbyterian Women will be holding their annual collection of financial donations for the purchase of food items for the families served by Firman Community Services and Christopher House, two organizations that help families in need. Cash and checks, payable to Presbyterian Women, will be accepted in the Narthex between services. Donations will also be accepted on the church website. All donations will help these organizations to purchase nutritious items for their clients.

CONNECTING WITH COLLEGE STUDENTS — Traditionally, the Youth Ministries Committee has connected with college students via care packages. The committee is exploring this, as well as other ways to connect spiritually and personally with our college youth this school year, but we need your help. If you have children in college this year, please send updated information (email and address) so that we may add them to the list! We are also looking for individuals and families to help connect with our college youth spiritually and personally this year. If you are interested in learning more, please let us know. College student contact information, as well as people willing to help out, should contact Rebekah Anderson at rebekahanderson@firstpresah.org.

Worship Next Sunday

October 1, 2023: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost / World Communion Sunday

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

10:30 am — **Worship** (Sanctuary)
Music: Men's Chorus

Preacher: Rev. Laura Sherwood
Scriptures: Matthew 21:23-32; Philippians 2:1-13
Sermon Title: "Peace of Mind"

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	\$521.00
-----------	----------

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.

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.

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.

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.). *Send volunteer interest and any questions to Steve Olszewski at olszewski.steve@gmail.com.*

PADS (PUBLIC ACTION TO DELIVER SHELTER) SITE TO REOPEN TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3 — The First Pres PADS overnight shelter will be opening for the season. *To keep our shelter running, we need many volunteers.* Each evening, we need twelve volunteers to fill our shifts. Training is provided for all volunteers. We also have many opportunities to donate food and other items for our guests. If you have any questions or would like more information, please email pads@firstpresah.org.