



9:00 AM WORSHIP

WELCOME, GUESTS!

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning.

**First Presbyterian Church
of Arlington Heights**

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



“World peace must develop from inner peace.
Peace is not just mere absence of violence.
Peace is, I think, the manifestation of human compassion.”
— Dalai Lama XIV

WELCOME Rev. Laura Sherwood

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE - PEACE
Todd Smith & Family

One: Into a violent world, Immanuel will be born, God-with-us, Prince of Peace. And the Prince of Peace tells us when we become peacemakers, we will be called Children of God. (Matthew 5:9)

All: Today, we light the candle of peace, because in God’s presence, we find peace.

One: Let us bow in prayer: Immanuel, God-with-us, God of peace and promise, our hearts are at peace because your Spirit, the Comforter, is with us always. Because you have felt it all before and you know all we experience, we have peace.

All: Amen.

✠ **“HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING”** *arr. Hendrickson*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND HOPEFULNESS Rev. Barbara Gorsky
Immanuel, God-with-us, God of peace and promise, we know we are never alone because you are always with us. You were with us when we were anxious and worried, unable to feel peace. You were with us when we were causing chaos and disrupting the peace. You were with us when we forfeited our peace in exchange for other obsessions. You know these imperfections and moments of loss. We confess them with boldness because you never leave nor forsake us. Forgive us, God. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE “Glory to God” HYMN 582

✠ **TIME OF GREETING** Adam Hendrickson

MINUTE FOR MISSION Kim Hogan

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

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

MESSAGE Rev. Laura Sherwood
“God With Us Through the Gift of Peace”
Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11

SONG “Peace on Earth”
Evans, Hewson, Clayton & Mullen, Jr.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER Rev. Barbara Gorsky

SHARING OUR GIFTS “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”
Hall, Herms, Oliver & Longfellow

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

✠ **“LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH”** *Jackson & Mill*

✠ **CHARGE & BLESSING** Rev. Laura Sherwood

✠ Please stand as you are able.

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

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
Worship litanies and prayers from *God with Us* by Illustrated Ministry; unless otherwise indicated all scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVUE).

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 10, 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 "Carol of the Bells" *arr. Douglas Wagner*
"An English Carol" *arr. Arnold Sherman*
Chancel Handbell Choir; Nick Pulikowski, director

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

WELCOME Rev. Laura Sherwood

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE - PEACE
Chancel Handbell Choir

One: Into a violent world, Immanuel will be born, God-with-us, Prince of Peace. And the Prince of Peace tells us when we become peacemakers, we will be called Children of God. (Matthew 5:9)

All: Today, we light the candle of peace, because in God's presence, we find peace.

One: Let us bow in prayer: Immanuel, God-with-us, God of peace and promise, our hearts are at peace because your Spirit, the Comforter, is with us always. Because you have felt it all before and you know all we experience, we have peace.

All: Amen.

✠HYMN 87 "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" GENEVAN 42

CALL TO CONFESSION Rev. Barbara Gorsky

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Immanuel, God-with-us, God of peace and promise, we know we are never alone because you are always with us. You were with us when we were anxious and worried, unable to feel peace. You were with us when we were causing chaos and disrupting the peace. You were with us when we forfeited our peace in exchange for other obsessions. You know these imperfections and moments of loss. We confess them with boldness because you never leave nor forsake us. Forgive us, God...

SILENT CONFESSION

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

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

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: Because God is faithful to forgive us, and because God loves us unconditionally, we are at peace with our Creator. Be pardoned. Receive grace today and be free to love yourself, your neighbors and our God.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

✠RESPONSE (Hymn 84 vs.1)

**Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray you, hear us when we call.**

✠TIME OF GREETING

MINUTE FOR MISSION Kim Hogan

COMMUNITY LIFE Rev. Barbara Gorsky
Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it along to those around you.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
(Pew Bible, p. 473) Rev. Barbara Gorsky
The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM "Every Valley" *Joseph Martin*
"Every valley shall be lifted, every mountain be made low. Every valley shall be lifted, and the crooked be made whole. Sound the trumpet for the glory of the Lord shall be revealed. Come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lowly exile here, until the Son of God appear, Emmanuel. Rejoice, give thanks and sing! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel, Rejoice! God's glory be revealed."
Chancel Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 40:1-11
(Pew Bible, p. 581) Rev. Laura Sherwood
The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON Rev. Laura Sherwood
"God With Us Through the Gift of Peace"

✠HYMN 449 "Show Us, O Lord, Your Steadfast Love" MENDON

GIVING THANKS TO GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Barbara Gorsky

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

OFFERTORY "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" *Neil Harmon*
*"I heard the bells on Christmas Day their old familiar carols play, and wild and sweet
the words repeat of peace on earth, good will to all! And thought how, as the day had
come, the belfries of all Christendom had rolled along the unbroken song of peace on
earth, good will to all And in despair I bowed my head; 'There is no peace on earth,'
I said; 'For hate is strong, and mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to all.'
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: 'God is not dead, nor doth he sleep!
The Wrong shall fail, the Right prevail, with peace on earth, good will to all.'
Till ringing, singing on its way, the world revolved from night to day, A voice,
a chime, a chant sublime of peace on earth, good will to all! Amen!"*
Chancel Choir and Chancel Handbell Choir

✠RESPONSE

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

✠PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: Immanuel, God-with-us, God of peace and promise, as we part with our resources, returning an offering from the abundance of your provision, we are filled with peace. We entrust this faith community to use our collective gifts in partnering with your mission of peace on earth. Receive our offering because we trust your promises, and we know we will reap love and justice.

All: Amen.

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

✠HYMN 106 "Prepare the Way, O Zion" BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

✠CHARGE & BENEDICTION Rev. Laura Sherwood

POSTLUDE "Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts" *Camille Saint-Saëns*

✠Please stand as you are able.

Listing of Worship Leaders:

Preaching: Rev. Laura Sherwood

Liturgist: Rev. Barbara Gorsky

Pastors: Rev. Laura Sherwood, Interim Head of Staff, Rev. Barbara Gorsky, Bridge Associate

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: Jonah White and Eric Larson, Jr.

WORSHIP NOTES

Prayer Requests

Healing & Comfort

First Pres Community

Mario Alberico
 Don & Judy Ayers
 Wendy Blanck
 Virginia Blocki
 Dawn Bruce
 Laura Carlson
 Jean Castles
 Bill Christian
 Mary Clarbourn

Marilyn Giacoppi
 Launa Ismail
 Marylyn Jirsa
 Sandy Naeher
 Patty Richard
 Sandy Richardson
 Susan Scott
 Amy Senior
 Nancy Stautzenbach

Friends & Family

Saraya Angle — niece of Tonya Griffin
 Jennifer Dix — daughter of Sam & Jan Dix
 Karl Gates — friend of Mary Kiepura
 Donna Hames — friend of Mary Halatek
 Gary Meunier — friend of Kim Hogan
 Tom Nemecek — friend of Kevin & Carol Kelley
 Desa Peric — great-granddaughter of Steve Smith

Phil Perillo — brother of Kristie Cerniglia
 Larry Pohlman — friend of Kevin & Carol Kelley
 Jerry Shields — husband of Dianne Shields
 Tom Spaeth — friend of Steve Smith
 Ken Stiles — friend of Jan Niemeyer
 Susan Strasser — friend of Krigas family
 Dale VanEck — friend of Corinne Peterson
 Claire Walsh — cousin of Mary Hebden

Sympathy to

Ellen & TC Anderson, on the death of Ellen's mother, Kathy Warner
 The Frieburg family, on the death of **Carol Frieburg**
 The Holmes family, on the death of **Dan Holmes**
 The Landwehr family, on death of Pete's father, Roger Landwehr, grandfather to **Kurt** and **Brian**, great-grandfather to Charlie, Susannah, Everett, James and Mason

Congratulations to

Bruce & Linda Byus, on the birth of their grandson, Eli Bruce Kaplan
 Kevin & Carol Kelley, on the birth of their granddaughter, Katie Jean Kelley

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

Bridge Interim Associate Pastor:
 Barbara Gorsky

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

December 13	Wednesday@Noon
December 13	Presbyterian Women Christmas Program & Tea
December 17	Cookie Walk
December 17	Concert: Glory of Christmas
December 24	Christmas Eve Worship at 10:30 am, 4:00 and 8:00 pm
December 25 & 26	Office Closed
December 31	Worship Service at 10:30 am only
January 1	Office Closed

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 Rev. Barbara Gorsky, at barbaragorsky@firstpresah.org, or 847-255-5900, extension 225 or Rev. 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 love. Be the light. Change the world.

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



Church Life

December 10, 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 worshipping with us in this spirit.

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS: Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it along to those around you.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL — Pick up your family Advent Devotional today: *bless the Advent We Actually Have*. Devotionals will be available in the literature racks in the back of church. A link to the digital version of the devotional is also available in the Weekly Highlights email.

WEDNESDAY@NOON — *Wednesday, December 13 / 12:10 pm / Sanctuary* — Christmas favorites, featuring Christopher Urban, organ and Kris Ward, handbells.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW) CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & TEA — *Wednesday, December 13 / 12:10 pm / Sanctuary, Parlor* — Join the Presbyterian Women in the Sanctuary for the Wednesday@Noon program of Christmas favorites, featuring Christopher Urban, organ and Kris Ward, handbells. Enjoy cookies, coffee and tea in the Parlor following the program.



THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS — *December 17 / 4:00 pm / Sanctuary* — Chancel Choir, Men's Chorus and orchestra present Christmas music themed around winter wonderlands!

Featured composers include Dan Forrest, Ola Gjeilo and Dan Rutter. Come early to get a seat! A reception will follow the concert.

COOKIE WALK IS COMING! — *Sunday, December 17 / Parlor* — Support Youth Ministries by participating in this delicious event. Stop in the Parlor after each service to select cookies for each \$10-per-box donation!

December 10 — Second Sunday of Advent

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 5-7 & 9-12) — Room 301/303
 10:30 am Confirmation — Room 109/111
 10:30 am Coffee: Grounds for Discussion & Service — Room 110
 11:30 am Fellowship Time — Parlor, Narthex
 12:00 pm Session Meeting — Boardroom
 1:00 pm Connection Group Meeting — Parlor
 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
- 6:45-8:00 pm:** Christmas Camp (grades Preschool-Grade 5)
- 7:00-8:00 pm:** Classes and programs, including:
 - ENGAGE & ENCOUNTER adult Christian education
 - Middle School Youth Group (grades 6-8)

ENGAGE & ENCOUNTER — *The History and Consequences of the Doctrine of Discovery: Why It Still Matters for the Church Today / Through December 13 / Michele Holifield* — When the 222nd General Assembly of the PC(USA) 2016 called upon the PC(USA) to repudiate the centuries old Doctrine of Discovery the Assembly also called on congregations to learn about the Doctrine of Discovery and the consequences to indigenous people and land today. Join us for the final class where we will look at the role the church and Christianity have played in the ongoing injustices. As we look at difficult topics such as boarding schools, land rights and environment, violence against women and trauma we will look with hope to a future of partnership and community with our Native American neighbors.

THE CHIMES DEADLINE— The deadline for submitting articles for the January issue of *The Chimes* is Tuesday, December 12. Submit articles to Chris Urban at chrisurban@firstpresah.org.

PATHWAYS: COUPLES & SINGLES (Mid-30s to Late 40s) — *Saturday, December 16 / 5:30 pm Escape Room & 7:00 pm Dinner* — Cost: \$33 Escape Room in Buffalo Grove and dinner (at own expense) at Sal & Tony’s Italian Restaurant in Buffalo Grove. To RSVP, contact Laura Grochocki at lgrochocki@paylocity.com.

PW CIRCLE 7 — *Tuesday, December 19 / 6:30 pm* — Circle 7 will be celebrating the holidays with dinner at Toscana Restaurant (1859 W Central, AH). RSVP by December 17 to Karen Wilson at 847-669-2677 or email her at karenwilson814@comcast.net.

OFFICE CLOSURE & UPDATED WORSHIP SCHEDULE — The office will be closed on Monday, December 25, Tuesday December 26 and Monday, January 1. There will be only one worship service at 10:30 am on Sunday, December 31 in the Chapel.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

All Christmas Eve services will be webcast at firstpresah.org/experiencelivestream.

Christmas Eve — Sunday, December 24

10:30 am: Fourth Sunday in Advent / Chapel
Music: Compass Praise Band

4:00 pm: Christmas Pageant / Sanctuary
Featuring children in preschool through fifth grade, the First Pres Children’s Choir and Youth Handbell Choir

8:00 pm: Lessons, Carols & Candlelight / Sanctuary
Music: Chancel Choir



Serving, Giving, and Growing

COFFEE: GROUNDS FOR DISCUSSION & SERVICE — *Sundays, through December 17 / 10:30 am / Room 110* — *The Heart That Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch* — In this Advent study, Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* including, how did the Grinch’s heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture. Questions? Contact Kelly Dean at k_p_dean@hotmail.com with any questions.

SUNDAY EDUCATION FOR ADULTS — *Sundays, through December 17 / 9:00 am / Boardroom / Rev. Ken Hockenberry / A Surprising God* — The world that is emerging from the global pandemic raises old questions with a new urgency: Where do we find hope when it seems in such short supply? What are the signs of God’s peace in our divided country and world? Where do we find a deeper sense of joy? In their new devotional, *A Surprising God*, Tom Long and Donyelle McCray remind us that these are the questions of Advent. These writers invite us to an honest reflection on the challenges of being people of faith in this present moment. You can purchase this devotional book on Amazon – *A Surprising God: Advent Devotions for an Uncertain Time* WJK Press, 2021.

COOKBOOKS MAKE A WONDERFUL GIFT! — The Family Night dinner team has compiled many of the Family Night favorite meals into a beautifully designed three-ring binder style notebook. These cookbooks make wonderful gifts for family and friends. Please consider supporting our kitchen fund by purchasing one or more cookbooks. The cost of the cookbook is \$20. If you are unable to purchase one on a Sunday morning or Wednesday evening, please email famnightcookbook@gmail.com to arrange pick-up. Proceeds from the sale of the cookbooks will provide some new Fellowship Hall kitchen equipment with 10% of the proceeds going to programs that address food insecurity.

refugeeONE REFUGEEONE HOUSEHOLD COLLECTION — As we continue our journey through Advent, our partners at RefugeeOne will welcome 45 new families to the area. First Pres is partnering with First United Methodist Church and St. John’s to provide needed items to furnish new homes. Thank you to everyone who has committed to providing needed items. Please return the items to the church by **Sunday, December 17**. Please contact Kim Hogan or Michele Holifield if you have questions.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING — *Donate during the month of December* — Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we have an opportunity to honor past, present and future church leaders who faithfully work to lead us toward God. 50% of the Joy Offering supports present and retired church workers who are experiencing extreme financial need. The remaining 50% provides much needed financial assistance to Presbyterian related schools and colleges that equip students of color with education and leadership development skills. Please give generously!

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP DECORATING OUR CHURCH — Thank you to the many volunteers who came out to decorate our church for Advent and Christmas. Many hands made light work! Enjoy the beauty of the season, but don’t forget—we will meet, once again, on **January 6, at 9:30 am**, to take down and store all the decorations. Please mark your calendar now!

Worship Next Sunday

December 17, 2023: Third Sunday of Advent

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

10:30 am — Worship (Sanctuary)
Music: Chancel Choir & First Pres Children’s Choir

Preacher: Rev. Laura Sherwood
Scriptures: John 1:6-8, 19-28; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Sermon Title: “God With Us Through the Gift of Joy”

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	\$2,578.01
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CURRENT GIVING OPPORTUNITY: Novi — Our Annual Speaker this year focused on an organization working with children affected by the war in Ukraine. During the month of December, 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.

WE NEED YOU! — To update your contact information with the church! Help us update our records. Many families have dropped landlines or even moved and have forgotten to let the church know. Please call the office or email Mary Fino at maryfino@firstpresah.org to update your information!



HAVE YOU TURNED IN YOUR COMMITMENT CARD?

— If you have not yet had a chance to turn in your Commitment Card for 2024, you are invited to place your card in the offering plate today. Or, you can drop it off or mail it to the church office, to the attention of Debbie Walter, business administrator. You can also enter your commitment online at firstpresah.org.

MARY AND MARTHA’S LENDING CLOSET — Mary and Martha’s Lending Closet is ready to help you with all of your holiday hospitality. If you have not visited Mary and Martha’s, make an appointment to see all that we have to offer. We look forward to seeing you this holiday season. Contact Mary and Martha’s Lending Closet at maryandmartha@firstpresah.org.

PADS (PUBLIC ACTION TO DELIVER SHELTER) — The First Pres PADS overnight shelter is open for the season. 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, email pads@firstpresah.org.

ONGOING FOOD COLLECTION — Donations of nonperishable food items benefit many families and individuals who are clients of several local organizations that we support. Food has been shared through our PADS ministry with those who are homeless; provided to clients of FamilyForward; and collected for families served by Christopher House and Firman House, both in Chicago. The next time you are at the grocery store, why not pick up a few healthy nonperishable items to donate? Thank you for your past and continued support!