

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Organized in 1855



"I do not understand the mystery of grace—
only that it meets us where we are
and does not leave us where it found us."

— Anne Lamott

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
VBS & MISSIONFACTORY COMMISSIONING**

**July 7, 2024
10:00 am—Chapel**

10:00 AM

GATHERING MUSIC

Adam Hendrickson

WELCOME

✠ CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Why do we come to worship God?

All: We come seeking a blessing from our Lord.

One: What is this blessing that we seek?

All: We seek an encounter with our God, who washes us in mercy, calls us to service and fills us with love.

One: Let us worship God together.

✠ HYMN

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

arr. Hendrickson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Rebekah Anderson

You are loved, O God, and you have loved us from the beginning. Forgive us when we do not share your life with the world: when we choose selfishness over compassion; what feels comfortable rather than what is right; when we strive for success instead of faithfulness; when we value independence over community. Forgive us, O God, of the ways we fall short. Free us to try again, and let your love lead the way....

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: Now stand firm in your faith, covered by the saving grace of God and ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God!

✠ GLORY TO GOD, WHOSE GOODNESS SHINES ON ME (Hymn 582)

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

✠ TIME OF GREETING AND SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

Rev. Laura Sherwood

COMMISSIONING OF VBS & MISSIONFACTORY CHILDREN, YOUTH & ADULTS

COMMUNITY LIFE

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

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 48 (Pew Bible, p. 450) Rev. Barbara Gorsky
The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 12:2-10 (Pew Bible, p. 943) Rev. Laura Sherwood
The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"God's Grace"

Rev. Laura Sherwood

SONG

"Only Grace"

Greenwood & West

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Laura Sherwood

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

"Could You Be Loved"

Bob Marley

✠ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Adam Hendrickson

One: Generous God, we give you thanks for all your blessings to us. Use these gifts we offer as a sign of your great love for the world, so that all may know and share the abundance of your grace; in your holy name we pray.

All: **Amen.**

✠ HYMN

"Amazing Grace"

arr. Hendrickson

✠ BENEDICTION

Rev. Laura Sherwood

SENDING MUSIC

✠ Please stand as you are able.

Flowers: Ross Spencer—In loving memory of Fran Spencer

Fellowship Hosts: Children's and Youth Ministries

Sources: Liturgies from Call to Worship Year B - PC(USA); Scriptures are from the New Revised Standard Updated Edition (NRSVUE)

Summer Sunday School: Parents of Pre-K through 4th Grade, pick up children at Loaves & Fishes Garden (or Fellowship Hall if inclement weather)

Join Us for Worship Next Sunday, July 14

Preacher: Rev. Rebekah Anderson | Scripture: Psalm 56:3 |

Music: Chancel Handbell Choir and VBS Children's Choir

Church Life

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.

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

MISSION STUDY TEAM - THE "LAST BLAST" FOLLOW-UP SURVEY — *Through July 14* — "Last Blast" is a 3-minute/8 question survey for all First Pres members and friends to help us answer critical remaining questions before our pastor search. Complete your survey online at <https://firstpresah.org/fpc-follow-up-survey/> or in print, available throughout the church, by July 14. The Mission Study Presentation, shown in worship on June 30, is available on our website.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE: ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 AM — *Through September 1* — We will have **one worship service at 10:00 am**. Worship will be held in the Chapel **today**, August 4 and September 1. All other services will be in the Sanctuary. On Sunday, September 8, we will return to two services at 9:00 am in the Chapel and 10:30 am in the Sanctuary.

July 7—Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:45 am – 11:15 am — Child care (infants – 4 years) — Room 205/207 (Blue Room), Main Floor
Christian Education (CE) Wing
10:00 am **Worship - VBS Commissioning** — Chapel
10:00 am All-ages Summer Sunday School — Loaves & Fishes Garden
11:00 am Fellowship Time — Parlor
11:30 am Adult Ed: Listen & Learn — Boardroom
12:30 pm Scout Troop 32 Eagle Court of Honor — Sanctuary, Parlor, Narthex, Fellowship Hall
6:00 pm HSYG — Fellowship Hall

Upcoming Events

VBS & MISSIONFACTORY COMMISSIONING — *Today / Chapel* — During worship, we will commission our VBS and Mission Factory volunteers and participants for the important work they will be doing this week!

NEW! LISTEN & LEARN — *Sundays, Today-July 7, July 14, 21 & 28* — You are invited to join Pastors Rebekah and Barbara for a time of gathering to "Listen & Learn." We will meet to listen to a podcast titled *Unlocking Us* by Brené Brown and then discuss issues that surface around the topics in the podcast. We will meet in the Boardroom from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. Hope you will come as we explore current issues we are facing.

ALL-AGES SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL — *Today / 10:00 am* — We have Sunday School from 10:00-11:00 am that is open to any children and youth. We'll be working together in the Loaves and Fishes Garden, learning Bible stories and playing games. All-ages Summer Sunday School will meet today and **Sundays, July 21, August 4 and August 18**. All-ages Sunday School will follow the Children's Message in worship, then move to the Loaves and Fishes Garden (weather permitting). In cases of inclement weather, we will remain in Fellowship Hall. We hope you can join us for a great summer!

NEW SUMMER CONCERT SERIES — Mark your calendars for the exciting artists and concerts remaining in the Summer Concert series! These concerts will take place on a Saturday afternoon, at **4:00 pm**, with a light reception following. Each concert is free and open to the community. Bring a friend!

Saturday, July 13 — Myroslav Mykhailenko, piano

Saturday, July 27 — Andrew Marlin, bassoon

WEST (MAIN) PARKING LOT CLOSURE — Monday & Tuesday, July 15 & 16 — The West Parking Lot will be closed for sealcoating and restriping. The lot will reopen on Wednesday, July 17. If you have any questions, please contact Michele Holifield.

SUMMER BOOK CLUB — Thursday, July 25 / 7:00 pm / Parlor — The Mission Committee is sponsoring a discussion of *A Place Called Home: A Memoir* by David Ambroz. A galvanizing, stirring memoir about growing up homeless and in foster care and rising to become a leading advocate for child welfare, recognized by President Obama as an American Champion of Change. *A Place Called Home: A Memoir* was PORCHLIGHT BESTSELLER Zibby Owens 2022 Book of the Year.

SUMMER YOUTH GROUP — We had so much fun in youth group this year. Let's keep the fun going this summer! **Middle School Youth Group** will meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-8:00 pm for light snacks, games and a lesson on **July 17, July 24, July 31, August 7, August 14 and August 21**. **High School Youth Group** will meet on Sunday evenings from 6:00-8:00 pm for light snacks, games and a lesson **today, and July 14, July 21, August 4, August 11, and August 18**. We hope to see you there!

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MISSION TRIP REGISTRATION IS OPEN! — The high school mission trip to Logan County, West Virginia will take place from July 27 to August 2. Register online, the all-inclusive cost for this trip is \$450 per person. Scholarships are available. Please contact Rev. Rebekah Anderson to register by email.

Serving, Giving and Growing

SUMMER PROJECTS AROUND THE CHURCH - CAN YOU HELP? — We have a number of projects around the Church to complete this summer and invite anyone who has specific skills and interest to help out. Fill out our short form online and we will reach out to you directly as the project schedule is developed. Thank you!

THE WEDNESDAY PRODUCE MARKET IS RETURNING THIS WEEK — The Wednesday Market will return on July 10 and will run through September 4. We'll distribute produce from the Loaves & Fishes Garden free to the community from 6:00-7:00 pm. If you are a gardener with spare produce, we'd love your donations! We are always looking for volunteers to help setup and distribute produce. For more information or to volunteer, contact Kim Hogan at k_hogan2003@yahoo.com.

JOIN THE NEW INSURANCE/RISK MANAGEMENT TEAM — We are looking for church members with a background and/or interest in insurance/risk management to serve on a new Insurance Team, led by our church treasurer, Dave Berkow. Contact Dave at dwberkow@att.net if you'd like to join the team!

FOOD BARREL COLLECTION — The Mission Committee has voted to direct the donations for the next quarter (July-September) to the Village of Mount Prospect Food Pantry in support of the families displaced by the recent apartment fire. Please place items in the barrels located in the Narthex and outside the Chapel.

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*	\$ 0.00
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***NEW GIVING OPPORTUNITY: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Tornado and Windstorm Fund** — Through September, Sunday morning bookmark donations will support the *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Tornado and Windstorm Fund*. In response to the recent outbreak of tornadoes resulting in widespread damage in the Midwest and elsewhere, the Mission Committee has voted to direct the bookmark funds to the PDA Tornado and Windstorm Fund. This fund supplements the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering to enable a significant response to tornadoes and windstorms. This might include immediate relief,

Mary Martha's LENDING CLOSET

long-term rebuilding and emotional/spiritual care.

MARY AND MARTHA'S LENDING CLOSET — Mary and Martha's Lending Closet is ready for the summer season. If you have not checked out the Lending Closet yet, now is the time. Reserve items for your graduation party, backyard BBQ or any event you are hosting. What exactly is Mary and Martha's Lending Closet? It's a one-stop shop for all things entertaining, from tables and chairs to serving dishes, dishes, glassware, vases, centerpieces, outdoor games and even a giant movie screen and projector for that fun backyard movie viewing. It's the perfect place to borrow for your next book club, graduation party, shower, neighborhood gathering, casual or fancy dinner party. What are the fees? A donation to the closet goes towards programs that address food insecurity in the Chicagoland area. To make an appointment to reserve your items, email maryandmartha@firstpresah.org.

PASTORAL CARE — If you have a death in the family, an anticipated surgery, the birth of a baby, or if you or a loved one are struggling, your pastors and church family want to be there to support you. Contact Rev. Barbara Gorsky, at barbaragorsky@firstpresah.org, or call the church office to share your pastoral needs.

Looking Ahead

Today	VBS and MissionFactory Commissioning in Worship
Today	Listen & Learn Adult Education Class
Today	All-ages Summer Sunday School
July 8 -12	VBS & MissionFactory
July 13	Summer Concert: Myroslav Mykhailenko, piano
July 14	Listen & Learn Adult Education Class
July 15-16	Main Parking Lot Closed
July 19-20	Volunteer Work Days
July 21	High School Mission Trip Participant Commissioning in Worship
July 21	Listen & Learn Adult Education Class
July 27	Summer Concert: Andrew Marlin, bassoon
July 28	Listen & Learn Adult Education Class

Prayer Requests

Healing & Comfort



First Pres Community

Mario Alberico
Carole Anderson
Don & Judy Ayers
Virginia Blocki
Dawn Bruce
Lee Bruce
Laura Carlson
Jean Castles

Mary Clarbour
Nancy Conning
Marilyn Giacoppi
Marylyn Jirsa
Betty Launer
Patty Richard
Bea Sonderegger

Friends & Family

Karl Gates — friend of Mary Kiepura
Don Gross — father of Suzanne Kowalski
Donna Hames — friend of Mary Halatek
Monica Kotas — sister of Mario Alberico
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
The family of Louise Tischendorf — friends of
Ken & Susan Weller
Claire Walsh — cousin of Mary Hebden
Pamela Wilson — daughter-in-law of
Al & Karen Wilson

Congratulation to

Curt and Beth Johnson, on the birth of their new granddaughter, Riley Elizabeth Martin

Serving in the Armed Services

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

Staff Directory

Interim Pastor / Head of Staff:

Laura Sherwood | laurasherwood@firstpresah.org

Interim Associate Pastor:

Barbara Gorsky | barbaragorsky@firstpresah.org

Associate Pastor of Children, Youth & Families:

Rebekah Anderson | rebekahanderson@firstpresah.org

Director of Music and Worship:

Adam Hendrickson | adamhendrickson@firstpresah.org

Associate Director of Music and Organist:

Christopher Urban | chrisurban@firstpresah.org

Worship Technicians: Amy Senior, Jonah White

Nursery Coordinator: Beth Johnson

Business Administrator:

Debbie Walter | debbiewriter@firstpresah.org

Senior Administrative Assistant:

Mary Fino | maryfino@firstpresah.org

Administrative Assistant / Receptionist:

Carol Vega | carolvega@firstpresah.org

Facilities Coordinator:

Michele Holifield | micheleholifield@firstpresah.org

Director of First Pres PDO & Preschool:

Coleen Anzalone | coleenanzalone@firstpresah.org

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.

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 (9:45 am – 11:15 am).

ALL-AGES SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL — This summer we will have Sunday School from **10:00-11:00 am** that is open to any children and youth. We'll be working together in the Loaves and Fishes Garden, learning Bible stories and playing games. All-ages Summer Sunday School will meet on **July 7, July 21, August 4 and August 18**. All-ages Sunday School will begin by meeting in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 am before going to the Loaves and Fishes Garden (weather permitting). In cases of inclement weather, we will remain in Fellowship Hall. We hope you can join us for a great summer!

SUMMER YOUTH TRIPS & EVENTS — Contact Rev. Rebekah Anderson at rebekahanderson@firstpresah.org.

SUMMER ADULT CHRISTIAN ED SCHEDULE — Contact Rev. Barbara Gorsky at barbaragorsky@firstpresah.org.

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.

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.

GET CONNECTED — Join the conversation on Facebook, at facebook.com/firstpresah; X, 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. We look forward to connecting with you!



QR CODE FOR THE ONLINE GIVING PORTAL — Please scan the QR code to access our online giving portal. Please select "General Fund" or other offering option. You may also text 11855 to 73256 to give. Thank you for your generous support!