



9:00 AM WORSHIP

WELCOME, GUESTS!

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

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



“Light gives of itself freely, filling all available space. It does not seek anything in return; it asks not whether you are friend or foe. It gives of itself and is not thereby diminished.” — Michael Strassfeld, author and Jewish scholar

SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY EPIPHANY SUNDAY

JANUARY 5, 2025 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



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, X, at @FirstPresAh, and Instagram, at @firstpresah. We look forward to connecting with you again. Please scan the QR code to visit our website for more information.



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).

CHILDREN’S WORSHIP ACTIVITY BAGS Activity bags for children are available at the Sanctuary and Chapel entrances. Please put used bags in the basket after worship.

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 Litanies and prayers from Call to Worship, Year C—PC(USA); scriptures are from the New Revised Standard Updated Edition (NRSVUE).

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!



WELCOME Rev. Barbara Gorsky

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The glory of God has now appeared All: through Christ our light, in flesh. One: The reign of God has now arrived All: through Christ our king, our eternal ruler. One: The mystery of God has been revealed All: through Christ our peace, ever reconciling. One: With the stars to lead us and the magi to teach us, All: we come, bringing our gifts to worship God. Amen.

“HERE I AM TO WORSHIP” Tim Hughes

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND HOPEFULNESS

Eternal God, wonderous star, light no darkness can overcome, drive out the sin in our hearts. Forgive us for turning from your way, for denying your truth, for resisting the life you would have us live. Refresh us and restore us. Focus us on the brilliant light of Jesus Christ that we may see him more clearly and follow him more nearly, this day and every day.

SUNG RESPONSE “Amen” HYMN 600

TIME OF GREETING Adam Hendrickson

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

MINUTE FOR MISSION - PADS

ISAIAH 60:1-3 Rev. Barbara Gorsky

MESSAGE “Star Trek” Rev. Laura Sherwood Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

SONG “Shine” Ed Roland

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

SHARING OUR GIFTS (See back for other giving options.) “Go Light Your World” Chris Rice

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING Rev. Barbara Gorsky

“LOVE HAS COME” Bible & Myers

CHARGE & BENEDICTION Rev. Laura Sherwood

Please stand as you are able.

Compass: Amy Carroll, piano; Kevin Carroll, bass; Adam Hendrickson, guitar/vocals; Nate Montgomery, drums; Greg Schultz, saxophone; Todd Smith, trombone

10:30 AM WORSHIP

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE "Medieval Prelude on 'Gloria'" *Paul Fey*
"Meditation on 'The First Nowell'" *Paul Fey*

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

WELCOME Rev. Laura Sherwood

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The glory of God has now appeared
All: through Christ our light, in flesh.
One: The reign of God has now arrived
All: through Christ our king, our eternal ruler.
One: The mystery of God has been revealed
All: through Christ our peace, ever reconciling.
One: With the stars to lead us and the magi to teach us,
All: we come, bringing our gifts to worship God. Amen.

✦ HYMN 150 "As with Gladness Men of Old" DIX

CALL TO CONFESSION Rev. Barbara Gorsky

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, wonderous star, light no darkness can overcome, drive out the sin in our hearts. Forgive us for turning from your way, for denying your truth, for resisting the life you would have us live. Refresh us and restore us. Focus us on the brilliant light of Jesus Christ that we may see him more clearly and follow him more nearly, this day and every day...

SILENT CONFESSION

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

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

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: Grace, mercy and love—these are the gifts God has given us in Jesus Christ. This is the good news!
All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

✦ GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

✦ TIME OF GREETING

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

MINUTE FOR MISSION - PADS

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Rev. Barbara Gorsky

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 60:1-3
(Pew Bible, p. 602) Rev. Barbara Gorsky
The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM "And the Glory of the Lord" *G.F. Handel*
"And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."
Chancel Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2:1-12
(Pew Bible, p. 783) Rev. Laura Sherwood
The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "Star Trek" Rev. Laura Sherwood

✦ HYMN 152 "What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright" PUER NOBIS

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 (See back for other giving options.)

OFFERTORY "Heavenly Star" *Pepper Choplin*
"Rising, shining, soaring overhead as the world goes on below. But very few, very few will lift their eyes to see the star, heavenly star. Searching, praying, staying on the path the star leads on before. So come and join as we seek the holy Child. We will follow the star, heavenly star. Star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright; westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy light, thy perfect light! Searching, yearning, learning, all who seek will surely one day find. And all who will search, who will search with open eyes, who will pray with open hearts, they will see the light and find the Lord."
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 Rev. Barbara Gorsky

One: God Most High, receive the gifts of our lives as an offering of gratitude for your grace. Overshadow us with your Holy Spirit and let it be with us according to your word, for nothing is impossible with you.
All: Amen.

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

✦ HYMN 744 "Arise, Your Light Is Come!" FESTAL SONG

✦ CHARGE & BENEDICTION Rev. Laura Sherwood

POSTLUDE "March of the Kings" *Carl Simone*

✦ Please stand as you are able.

Fellowship Hosts: The Three Pastors — come and enjoy Three Kings Cakes with prizes!

Preaching: Rev. Laura Sherwood

Liturgist: (9:00 am and 10:30 am) Rev. Barbara Gorsky

Director of Music and Worship: Adam Hendrickson

Associate Director of Music and Organist: Christopher Urban

Tech Support and Livestream: Amy Senior and Jonah White

Star Word Cards—your gift for the new year: Star Words or Star Gifts are a practice connected to the celebration of Epiphany, when a star in the sky guided the magi to baby Jesus. Your Star Word card (in bulletin and by request online) comes from a list of 100 words. You are invited to trust the word you receive as a gift for reflection and prayer for your life and faith journey in the coming year. Place your Star Word where you will see it regularly throughout the year and consider God's movement in your life through, around and in connection to your Star Word.

WORSHIP NOTES

Prayer Requests

Healing & Comfort

First Pres Community

Mario Alberico
Carole Anderson
Judy Ayers
Denise Beihoffer
Dave Berkow
Carl Burklund
Laura Carlson
Elaine Chen
Mary Clarbourn

Nancy Conning
Bill Dillon
Cathy Dillon
Don Johnson
Nancy Johnson
Connie Leach
Mollie Lumsden
Patty Richard

Friends & Family

Colton — Kathy Sobeski's neighbor's grandson
Cora — sister of Launa Ismail
Don Gross — father of Suzanne Kowalski
John Hayes — friend of Mary Kiepura
Monica Kotas — sister of Mario Alberico
Bradford Leach — brother of Jeff Leach
Lisa — daughter-in-law of Launa Ismail
Will Palm — boyfriend of Becca Chen
Desa Peric — great-granddaughter of Steve Smith

Phil Perillo — brother of Kristie Cerniglia
Jim & Nancy Robinson — friends of Sheila Hall
Betty Sanders — friend of the congregation
Jerry Shields — husband of Dianne Shields
Tom Spaeth — friend of Steve Smith
Claire Walsh — cousin of Mary Hebden
Dave Weiss — brother of Rev. Barbara Gorsky
Pamela Wilson — daughter-in-law of Al & Karen Wilson

Sympathy to

June Johnson and family, on the death of granddaughter, Erin Blanchette
The family of Sandy Naehner
The family of Earl Oak

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

About First Pres

STAFF

Interim Pastor / Head of Staff:
Laura Sherwood

Interim Associate Pastor:
Barbara Gorsky

Associate Pastor of Children, Youth and Families: 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

Director of First Pres PDO & Preschool: Coleen Anzalone

Nursery Coordinator: Beth Johnson

Custodian & Facility Monitor:
Joe Webb (mornings)

Save the Date

January 8	Kitchen Cleaning Project
January 11	Undecorate the Church
January 14	PADS Returns to First Pres
January 15	Family Night Returns
January 19-20	MLK Service Day
February 5	Wednesdays@Noon
February 9	Souper Bowl of Caring
February 16	40th Annual Organ Fest
February 23	Annual Meeting of the Congregation

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 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; 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!



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

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847-255-5900 / www.firstpresah.org / mail@firstpresah.org

Church Life

January 5, 2025

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.

HAVE YOU TURNED IN YOUR 2025 COMMITMENT CARD? — If you have not yet had a chance to turn in your Commitment Card for 2025, you are invited to place your card in the offering plate, 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.

HELP UNDECORATE OUR CHURCH — *Saturday, January 11 / 9:30 am* — 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 11, at 9:30 am*, to take down and store all the decorations. Please mark your calendar now!

PADS NEEDS HELP! JUST ONE SHIFT! — PADS Renovation Part 1 is almost complete and on **January 14**, we are opening our doors to clients. Now we need your help! We are a church that has supported PADS for over 30 years, and we need volunteers to step up and sign up to work the various shifts. If everyone agreed to work just **one** shift, we would be set for the season. We need you! The QR code will direct you to the sign up page. Thanks! Pastor Barbara



A WARM WELCOME TO NEW (MORNING) CUSTODIAN AND FACILITY MONITOR, JOE WEBB — Joe began his new position on Monday, December 30. His regular hours will be Sunday-Thursday, 8:30 am -12:30 pm. *(We are still interviewing for an evening position – together they will be responsible for custodial work, helping with set-ups and being a presence in the facility in the mornings, evenings and for special events.)*

January 5— Second Sunday of Christmas / Epiphany

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
10:00 am Adult Choir Rehearsal — Choir Auditorium
10:00 am Fellowship Time — Parlor, Narthex
10:30 am **Worship** — Sanctuary
10:30 am Coffee: Grounds for Discussion & Service — Room 110/112
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
11:30 am Fellowship Time — Parlor, Narthex
1:00 pm Scout Troop 32 Eagle Court of Honor — Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall
2:00 pm PDO Custodial Cleaning — PDO Rooms: CE Wing
5:00 pm Youth Handbell Choir Rehearsal — Bell Choir Room
5:45 pm Youth Handbell Choir/HSYG Dinner — Fellowship Hall
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.

NO FAMILY NIGHT — Family Night will be on break for the holidays! We will return to regular programming on **Wednesday, January 15**. Join us on Wednesday, January 8, for our kitchen cleanup project (see below for more information).

LOOKING AHEAD! NEW ENGAGE & ENCOUNTER CLASS:

BREAKING THE CODE — *Wednesdays, January 22 - February 26 / 7:00-8:00 pm / Chapel* — As a follow-up to Mary Larson's *Reading the Bible with Joy* course, she will be offering a small group style Bible study on the Book of Revelation. Please join us as we discuss *Breaking the Code (Revised Edition)* by Bruce Metzger. The study goes through the entire Book of Revelation. *Breaking the Code* provides a trustworthy guide to the rich symbolism of this important biblical book. We highly encourage people to buy the book and prepare for the class each week. However, if you just want to jump in, you will be welcomed with open arms. The book is available through Christianbook.com and Amazon for \$11.99. Please prayerfully consider joining us. We're excited to traverse this study together.

FELLOWSHIP HALL KITCHEN CLEANUP — *Wednesday, January 8 / 6:00-8:00 pm / Fellowship Hall Kitchen* — On Wednesday, January 8, join us to deep clean the Fellowship Hall kitchen and get us ready for the opening of PADS and a new year of Family Night. We'll have cleaning and organizing jobs for every age group and skill level. All are welcome to join us. We'll have pizza for dinner and activities for children. Family Night programming including dinner, Kids Connect, MSYG and Engage & Encounter will resume the following week on Wednesday, January 15. Please contact Rev. Rebekah Anderson with any questions.

SIXTH ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OF SERVICE COMMUNITY FOOD AND HOUSEHOLD ESSENTIALS DRIVE — *Sunday, January 19 & Monday, January 20 / 9:00 am - 12:00 pm* — The MLK Day of Service is an annual event held nationally to encourage communities to take action to build the beloved community of Dr. King's dream. MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all to volunteer to improve their community. Donations can be dropped off in the lobby on Sunday, January 19, during worship services. On Monday, January 20, drop off your non-perishable food and paper good donations at the front steps of the church. Volunteers will unload your donations from your car. Walk-up donations are also welcomed. All donations will go to local pantries. *When deciding what to donate, here are some helpful hints:* household items such as paper towels, toilet paper, and dish detergent are not eligible for purchase with a Link card; consider pop-top lids as sometimes people do not have a can opener; olive oil, garlic, salt, pepper and other spices can transform a meal; remember items like Hamburger Helper are only good if you have ground beef; baking mixes that require only water are better; coffee is a luxury; sugar and flour are always needed; Kraft Mac & Cheese requires milk and butter, consider Velveeta that comes with the sauce. Questions? Contact Rev. Rebekah Anderson at rebekahanderson@firstpresah.org for more information.

Serving, Giving, and Growing

COFFEE: GROUNDS FOR DISCUSSION & SERVICE — *Sundays / 10:30-11:30 am / Room 110* — Coffee Grounds is a member-led study group open to ALL adults, of ALL ages. **Join us for a Meet & Greet today.** New study begins January 12! *Invitation to the New Testament* (An 8-week Disciple Bible Study) — Explore the writings of the New Testament using the story of Jesus as the starting point. This survey of the testament looks at how the early church took ownership of and was shaped by the story of Jesus and how the church learned how to develop as disciples and create communities of faith. Participants gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the New Testament as an integral part of the Christian Bible and a renewed discovery of our identity in God and God's vision for all things.

REFUGEEONE HELP NEEDED — In conjunction with RefugeeOne, the Mission Committee has agreed to furnish an apartment in the North Rogers Park neighborhood. This is an essential part of their work in welcoming a refugee family. We are looking for volunteers to grocery shop, provide a hot meal for the family on their arrival day and to help with the actual setup. Questions? Want to help? Contact Kim Hogan, K_Hogan2003@yahoo.com.

BLANKET DRIVE SPECIAL OFFERING — *Collection through January & February* — On our cold winter nights, it is wonderful to have a warm house and a cozy blanket to wrap ourselves in. Not everyone is lucky to have that warmth and comfort. During the months of January and February, PW will be collecting for the Church World Services Blanket Drive. A \$10 donation will provide a blanket for someone needing a little support, warmth and encouragement. Please help by donating! Checks may be made out to First Presbyterian Church, indicate Blanket Drive in the memo, or you may donate online by selecting Blanket Drive in the drop down menu. Thank you! Questions? Contact Lois Meisterheim at mlmeisterheim@gmail.com.

PW CIRCLE MEETINGS — Presbyterian Women (PW) is a community of women helping to make a difference in the lives of others. We look forward to growing together, supporting each other and listening to God's word. Join us for our study, *Let Justice Roll Down*. For more information, contact Ingrid Kaufman at ingridkaufman@icloud.com.
Circles 1, 2, 3: Wednesday, January 15 / 9:30 am / Parlor
Circle 7: Tuesday, January 21 / 7:00 pm / Parlor

PW THANKS YOU! — Thank you all who adopted one of the 35 Christopher House families. We also received twenty-seven \$25.00 food gift cards for other families to receive for Christmas Day. This was a blessing. Thank you again! — Liz Thompson, Chair



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HOST SUNDAY MORNING

FELLOWSHIP TIME — Fellowship Time takes place after worship services for about 30 minutes. Anyone can host! Gather your family, a group of families, a group of friends, your book club, or your committee and scan the QR code to sign-up.

Worship Next Sunday

January 12, 2025: Third Sunday of Christmas / Communion

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

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

Preacher: Rev. Barbara Gorsky
Scriptures: Psalm 36:5-10, John 2:1-11
Sermon Title: "Joy at the Core"

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: *Dia Nuevo* — Our first quarter bookmarks will go to the support of *Dia Nuevo*, a Spanish speaking, new worshipping community of the Chicago Presbytery in Hanover Park. *Dia Nuevo* is comprised of first generation immigrants from Colombia, Venezuela and Guatemala.

FAMILY NIGHT HELP WANTED — There are many ways to help support this vital ministry to church and community members. Please consider ways you could help:

- **Sponsor** the full or partial cost of dinner for one night (*average cost is \$400 for 100 people*). Contact *Debbie Walter* in the Church office or choose "Family Night" from the dropdown on our Giving page.
- **Bring Dessert** — we need a few people each week to bring four dozen servings of dessert.
- **Wash Dishes & Cleanup** — we need three people each week to help wash, dry and put away dishes.
- **Attend!** The most important part of Family Night is YOU – whether you can help with funds, food or cleanup, *your presence is the best gift of all!*

FOOD BARREL COLLECTION — The Mission Committee has voted to direct the donation of nonperishable food items to the Wheeling Township Food Pantry. Please place items in the barrels located in the Narthex and outside the Chapel. 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!

MARY AND MARTHA'S LENDING CLOSET — 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.