

9:00 AM WORSHIP

WELCOME

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let us gather for worship, for this day is holy to the Lord.

All: The joy of the Lord is our strength and salvation,

One: and we gather to offer our praise.

All: In singing and in silence, in Word and in prayer, let us walk in the

light of the Lord.

One: Let us come and worship God.

†"COME NOW IS THE TIME TO WORSHIP"

Brian Doerksen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND HOPEFULNESS

Rev. Rebekah Anderson

Sustaining God, you would have us be deeply rooted in you, finding strength in your word and nourishment in your grace. More often, though, we live as chaff, blown here and there by the winds of circumstance. Forgive our lack of permanency and our failures to hold fast to our commitments. Grow in us faith that we might be firmly planted in your promises, released from sin and open to the life you have shown us in **Jesus Christ.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

†SUNG RESPONSE

"Amen"

HYMN 600

†TIME OF GREETING

Rev. Laura Sherwood

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PSALM 1

MESSAGE

"Hidden Blessings"

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

Scripture: Luke 6:17-26

SONG "Always"

Jeremy Riddle

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Rebekah Anderson

SHARING OUR GIFTS (See back for other giving options.)

"Get Out of Your Own Way"

Clayton, Evans, Hewson & Mullen, Jr.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

†"I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT"

arr. Hendrickson

†CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

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

WELCOME, GUESTS!

Thank you for worshiping 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

All liturgies are from Call to Worship Year C, PC(USA); scriptures are from the New Revised Standard Updated Edition (NRSVUE).



■ ● PRIME OR 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!

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

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



"Blessed is the influence of one true, loving human soul on another."

George Eliot

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY **BAPTISM SUNDAY**

FEBRUARY 16, 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



Please stand as you are able.

10:30 AM WORSHIP

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

†HYMN 35

"Festival Chords for Bells"
"Praise to the Lord"
Chancel Handbell Choir

Ellen Jane Lorenz

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

WELCOME Rev. Barbara Gorsky

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light of the Lord.

One: Let us come and worship God.

"Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty" LOBE DEN HERREN

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Laura Sherwood

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sustaining God, you would have us be deeply rooted in you, finding strength in your word and nourishment in your grace. More often, though, we live as chaff, blown here and there by the winds of circumstance. Forgive our lack of permanency and our failures to hold fast to our commitments. Grow in us faith that we might be firmly planted in your promises, released from sin and open to the life you have shown us in Jesus Christ...

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 waters of grace refresh our lives and bring forth a new creation. This is good news!

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

♦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, Amen.

†TIME OF GREETING

COMMUNITY LIFE

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

HEARING GOD'S WORD

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Rev. Rebekah Anderson; Elder, Kris Ward Bailey Ann Humber, born May 28, 2024—daughter of Griffin and Elyse Humber

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostles' Creed)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Children are invited to an all-ages activity in Fellowship Hall.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Laura Sherwood

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 1

(Pew Bible, p. 424) Rev. Laura Sherwood The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

"This Glorious Day" Chancel Handbell Choir

Susan Geschke

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 6:17-26

(Pew Bible, p. 838) Rev. Barbara Gorsky The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"Hidden Blessings"

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

\Phi HYMN 816 "If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee" DEN LIEBEN GOTT

GIVING THANKS TO GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Laura Sherwood

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALL FOR OFFERING (See back for other giving options.)

OFFERTORY "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

"My Shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is his Name; In pastures fresh he makes me feed; beside the living stream, He brings my wandering spirit back, when I forsake his ways, and leads me for his mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace. When I walk through the shades of death, thy presence is my stay; One word of thy supporting breath drives all my fears away. Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my table spread; My cup with blessings overflows, thine oil anoints my head. The sure provision of my God attend me all my days; O may thy house be mine abode and all my work be praise! There would I find a settled rest while others go and come, no more a stranger, nor a guest; but like a child at home."

Chancel Choir; Karen Sarasin, flute; Michelle Fielder, oboe

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. Laura Sherwood

Mack Wilberg

One: We praise and thank you, Lord God, for the majesty of your work, the wisdom of your word, and the generosity of your grace. Let the gifts of our lives bear witness to your goodness and mercy, your faithfulness and justice, and your steadfast love for all.

All: Amen.

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

†HYMN 353

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

SOLID ROCK

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

Postlude

"Trumpet Jubilation"

Richard Frey

†Please stand as you are able.

†CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Fellowship Hosts: The Bridge Preaching: Rev. Barbara Gorsky

Liturgist(s): (9:00 & 10:30 am) Revs. Rebekah Anderson & Laura Sherwood

Director of Music and Worship: Adam Hendrickson

Associate Director of Music and Organist: Christopher Urban Tech Support and Livestream: Amy Senior and Jonah White

WORSHIP NOTES

Prayer Requests

Healing & Comfort

First Pres Community

Bill Dillon Mario Alberico Carole Anderson Cathy Dillon Judy Ayers Don Johnson Denise Beihoffer Nancy Johnson Dave Berkow Susan Kogan Carl Burklund Connie Leach Laura Carlson Mollie Lumsden Stu Olin Elaine Chen Mary Clarbour Patty Richard Margie Conner Bea Sonderegger Terry Wade Nancy Conning

Friends & Family

Colton — Kathy Sobeski's neighbor's grandson
John Hayes — friend of Mary
Kiepura
Monica Kotas — sister of Mario
Alberico
Bradford Leach — brother of Jeff
Leach
Lisa — daughter-in-law of Launa

Phil Perillo — brother of Kristie

Jim & Nancy Robinson — friends of Sheila Hall Betty Sanders — friend of the congregation

Jerry Shields — husband of Dianne

Shields
James Vasiliades — brother-in-law

Dave Weiss — brother of Rev.

of Carolyn Nunley

Barbara Gorsky

Pamela Wilson — daughter-in-law of Al & Karen Wilson

Sympathy to

Ismail

Cerniglia

Mary Lou Mamoyac, on the death of her husband, Bob Mamoyac

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

February 22
February 23

March 2 New Member & Visitor Lunch

March 2 First Pres PDO & Preschool Registration Begins Warch 5 Wednesdays@Noon

March 5 Ash Wednesday Dinner & Worship

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 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

February 16, 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.

CONCERT SERIES: 40TH ANNUAL ORGAN FEST — Today / 4:00 pm / Sanctuary — Join organists Michael Gagne, Marianne Kim, Christopher Urban and Gary Wendt as they team up to provide another dynamic and inspiring organ concert. Always a popular event and one you won't want to miss!

OFFICE CLOSURE — *Monday, February* 17 — The office will be closed tomorrow in observance of President's Day. The office will reopen at 8:30 am on Tuesday.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION — Sunday, February 23 / 11:30 am / Sanctuary — Please plan to attend in person. Your presence, your voice and your wisdom are all needed as we work together to look at our budgets and goals for our church. If you are not able to attend in person, we hope you will watch the Livestream or recording. Reports will also be available in print and electronically. Extended child care (Room 205) and additional activities for children will be available in Fellowship Hall during the annual meeting.

NEW MEMBER & VISITOR LUNCH — *Sunday, March 2 / 11:45 am / Boardroom* — Our next new members class will take place on Sunday, March 2, at 11:45 am in the Boardroom. All recent visitors are invited to attend. For more information or to join the class, contact Rev. Laura Sherwood at laurasherwood@firstpresah.org.

<u>February 16 — Sixth Sunday after Epiphany / Baptism Sunday</u>

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 Handbell Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary

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 (Grade 8) — Room 109/111

10:30 am Coffee: Grounds for Discussion & Service — Room 110/112

11:30 am Fellowship Time — Parlor, Narthex

2:30 pm Concert Rehearsal — Sanctuary

4:00 pm Concert Series Concert: 40th Annual Organ Fest — Sanctuary

5:00 pm Concert Reception — Parlor

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 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 CLASS: BREAKING THE CODE —

Wednesdays, through February 26 / 7:00-8:00 pm / Room 102-104 — As a follow-up to Mary Larson's Reading the Bible with Joy course, she is 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 you 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. We're excited to traverse this study together.

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES — *Today* — The Children's and Youth Ministries Committee will be sending care packages to support our college students on their journey. If you'd like to donate treats or other items to include in the packages, we will be collecting today or you can deliver them to the church office by February 19. Suggested items: \$5 Starbucks gift cards, prepackaged snacks such as cookies, candy bars, crackers, granola bars, etc. Monetary donations to help cover shipping are also appreciated and can be given online. We are also collecting current mailing addresses for the college students. If you have college students in your family, please send the info to Rebekah Anderson, rebekahanderson@firstpresah.org or Darl Pochert, darl.pochert@icloud.com.

SAVVY SENIORS (COUPLES & SINGLES 69+) SHOW AND DINNER — Saturday, February 22 / 2:00 pm / Cutting Hall, Palatine — Fiddler on the Roof at Palatine's Cutting Hall, 150 E. Wood Street, followed by dinner at The Tap House, 56 W. Wilson Street, Palatine. Tickets may be purchased at www.cuttinghall.org. Please contact Joan Morrone at 847-602-7679 no later than February 17 to confirm attendance.

RESTAURANT WALK IS RETURNING — Sunday, March 2 (12:00 pm), Tuesday, March 11 (6:00 pm), Tuesday, April 8 (6:00 pm) & Sunday, April 13 (6:00 pm) / Bistro Chen (10 E. Miner St, AH) — Our popular Restaurant Walk fellowship program returns for another session! This is a great way to connect with other members of the congregation and support a local restaurant. Scan the QR code to signup or contact the church office.

WEDNESDAYS@NOON — Wednesday, March 5 / 12:10 pm / Sanctuary — Join us for an afternoon recital featuring Bobby Nguyen, organ. Bobby is from First United Church in Oak Park.

Serving, Giving, and Growing

COFFEE: GROUNDS FOR DISCUSSION & SERVICE — Sundays, through March 2 / 10:30-11:30 am / Room 110 — Coffee Grounds is a member-led study group open to ALL adults, of ALL ages. 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.

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.

Circle 7: Tuesday, February 18 / 7:00 pm / Off-site Circles 1, 2, 3: Wednesday, February 19 / 9:30 am / Parlor

ASH WEDNESDAY DINNER AND WORSHIP — Wednesday, March 5 / 6:00 pm Dinner, 7:00 pm Worship — Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5, and we will mark the start of the season with a simple dinner at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall followed by youth-led worship with Communion at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. We hope to see you there.

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH — BOOK STUDY:
Sponsored by the Congregational Life and Education Committee
(CLE) — Discover the book James, a novel by author Percival
Everett, published by Doubleday in 2024. The novel is a reimagining of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain, but told from the perspective of Huckleberry's friend on his travels, Jim, who is an escaped slave. Scan the QR code for book discussion "Meet Up" group(s).

BLANKET DRIVE SPECIAL OFFERING — Collection through the month of 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. Questions? Contact Lois Meisterheim at mlmeisterheim@gmail.com. Thank you!

PLEASE GIVE TO COVER YOUR PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT — In 2025, the apportionment is \$38.00 per member. Any funds you designate for the apportionment will be used for this purpose and will free up our General Fund dollars to be used in supporting the vision, overall ministry and missions of our congregation. Please consider contributing your share. An Initial Offering Envelope for this purpose has been included with the 2025 weekly offering envelopes. If you do not receive envelopes, please use one of the Per Capita envelopes from the pew pockets in the Chapel and Sanctuary or donate online by selecting 'Per Capita' in the dropdown menu.

Worship Next Sunday

February 23, 2025: Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

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

10:30 am — Worship (Sanctuary)

Music: Chancel Choir

Rev. Laura Sherwood Preacher:

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Luke 6:27-38 Scriptures:

Sermon Title: "Love and Mercy"

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.

> \$811.00 Bookmarks

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.

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.



PADS NEEDS HELP! JUST ONE SHIFT! — On January 14, we opened 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



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.

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**
- Wash Dishes & Cleanup
- Attend! 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!