

GATHERING	“How Great Thou Art”	<i>Stuart Hine</i>
WELCOME		Rev. Laura Sherwood
✦ CALL TO WORSHIP		
One:	Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God on high!	
All:	Praise God, sun and moon. Praise God, all you shining stars!	
One:	Praise God from the earth, you sea monsters and ocean depths!	
All:	Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, praise the Lord!	
One:	Kings and all peoples of the earth, princes and all rulers of the earth, praise the Lord!	
All:	Old and young together; all people praise the Lord!	
One:	Let us worship God!	
✦ “STAND IN THE CONGREGATION”		<i>Bill Batstone</i>
PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND HOPEFULNESS & WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (on screen)		Rev. Rebekah Anderson
✦ SUNG RESPONSE	“Glory to God”	<i>Paul Vasile</i>
✦ TIME OF GREETING		
RECOGNITION OF 8TH GRADE CONFIRMAND		Audrey Childs
ANNOUNCEMENTS		Chris Urban
		<i>Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it along to those around you.</i>
PNC UPDATE		Mary Larson
PSALM 148		Rev. Rebekah Anderson
MESSAGE	“Love Like That” Scripture: John 13:31-35	Rev. Laura Sherwood
RECOGNITION & PRAYER FOR GRADUATES		Rev. Rebekah Anderson
THE LORD’S PRAYER		
SHARING OUR GIFTS (See back for other giving options.)		Rev. Sherwood
	“Great Is the Lord”	<i>Michael W. Smith</i>
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING		
✦ “ON EAGLE’S WINGS”		<i>Michael Joncas</i>
✦ CHARGE & BENEDICTION		Rev. Laura Sherwood
SENDING	“The Preacher”	<i>Horace Silver</i>

✦ Please stand as you are able.

Music: Kristen Walter, vocals; Bruce Blanck, piano; Dick Daugherty, reeds;
Gordon Johnson, bass

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

Litanies from Call to Worship 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!

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

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



“When I say it’s you I like, I’m talking about that part of you that knows that life is far more than anything you can ever see or hear or touch... that deep part of you that allows you to stand for those things without which humankind cannot survive—love that conquers hate, peace that rises triumphant over war, and justice that proves more powerful than greed.”
— Fred Rogers, Dartmouth College 2002 Commencement Address

SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY

MAY 18, 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



10:30 AM WORSHIP

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PRELUDE “All Creatures of Our God and King” Lloyd Larson
Chuck Beech, piano; Chris Urban, organ
The prelude is your invitation to quiet preparation for the worship of Almighty God.

WELCOME Rev. Laura Sherwood

INTROIT “The Strife Is O’er” Michael Burkhardt
Youth Handbell Choir

✠CALL TO WORSHIP
One: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God on high!
All: Praise God, sun and moon. Praise God, all you shining stars!
One: Praise God from the earth, you sea monsters and ocean depths!
All: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, praise the Lord!
One: Kings and all peoples of the earth, princes and all rulers of the earth, praise the Lord!
All: Old and young together; all people praise the Lord!
One: Let us worship God!

✠HYMN 14 “For the Beauty of the Earth” DIX

CALL TO CONFESSION Rev. Rebekah Anderson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Holy God, you command us to love one another, yet we hold grudges and refuse to work for peace. You command us to care for all of creation, yet we neglect the earth and abuse nature through carelessness. You command us to walk in the ways of Jesus, yet we too often walk our own way. Forgive us, O God. Guide us as we work toward a new heaven here on earth. Lead us to reconciliation and a vision for your beloved community, as we share your love with your people everywhere...

SILENT CONFESSION
(please pray a silent and personal prayer of confession during this time)
...in Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS
One: Believe the good news: Jesus loves us and forgives us and sets us free. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.
All: Thanks be to God! 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 Chris Urban
Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it along to those around you.

PNC UPDATE Kris Ward

HEARING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Rev. Rebekah Anderson

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 148
(Pew Bible, p. 508) Rev. Rebekah Anderson
The Word of the Lord/Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM “Draw the Circle Wide” Mark Miller
“Draw the circle, draw the circle wide. No one stands alone, we’ll stand side by side. Draw the circle wide. Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still. Let this be our song: no one stands alone. Standing side by side, draw the circle, draw the circle wide.”
Chancel Choir and Youth Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING John 13:31-35
(Pew Bible, p. 877) Rev. Laura Sherwood
The Word of the Lord/Thanks be to God!

SERMON “Love Like That” Rev. Laura Sherwood

✠HYMN 316 “Where Charity and Love Prevail” TWENTY-FOURTH

GIVING THANKS TO GOD

RECOGNITION & PRAYER FOR GRADUATES Rev. Rebekah Anderson

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.) Rev. Sherwood

OFFERTORY “If You Love Me” John Ness Beck
“If you love me, keep my commandments. If you love me, heed my law. If you seek me, you shall surely find me; if you search for me with all your heart. If you seek me, you shall find me, if you search with all your heart.”
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. Laura Sherwood
One: Eternal God, take and use these gifts for your purpose in the world—giving food to the hungry, hope to the despairing and new life to the dead. Teach us to live each day for you, so that future generations will know your goodness and praise your glory; in the name of Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

GOING FORTH IN GOD’S NAME

✠HYMN 634 “To God Be the Glory” TO GOD BE THE GLORY

✠CHARGE & BENEDICTION Rev. Laura Sherwood

✠CHORAL RESPONSE “Peace I Leave with You” Matthew Glandorf
“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give unto you.”
Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE “Trumpet Tune in G Major” Paul Fey

✠Please stand as you are able.

Flowers: Walter Meyer—In memory of Seaman Sandy Rivers, USS Benewah APB35
Bill & Liz Thompson—In memory of our dads, Bill Thompson & Jack Huntley
Fellowship Hosts: Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)
Preaching: Rev. Laura Sherwood
Liturgist: Rev. Rebekah Anderson
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

Mario Alberico	Nancy Johnson
Carole Anderson	Connie Leach
Denise Beihoffer	Mollie Lumsden
Laura Carlson	Kathy Miles
Mary Clarbour	Stu Olin
Nancy Conning	Patty Richard
Bill Dillon	Bea Sonderegger
Mary Hebden	Terry Wade

Friends & Family

John Hayes — friend of Mary Kiepora	Jerry Shields — husband of Dianne Shields
Judy — family of Mark Bishop	James Vasiliades — brother-in-law of Carolyn Nunley
Monica Kotas — sister of Mario Alberico	Pamela Wilson — daughter-in-law of Al & Karen Wilson
Phil Perillo — brother of Kristie Cerniglia	
Betty Sanders — friend of the congregation	

Congratulations to

Jim Nelson, on the birth of grandson, Phillip Roy Kron

Special Prayers to

Kelly Marr, a student at Butler University, is traveling to Kenya as part of Study Abroad program for two weeks

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	Business Administrator: Debbie Walter
Interim Associate Pastor: Barbara Gorsky	Senior Administrative Assistant: Mary Fino
Associate Pastor of Children, Youth and Families: Rebekah Anderson	Administrative Assistant / Receptionist: Carol Vega
Associate Director of Music and Organist: Christopher Urban	Director of First Pres PDO & Preschool: Coleen Anzalone
Director of Children’s Choirs: Nick Pulikowski	Nursery Coordinator: Beth Johnson
Worship Technicians: Amy Senior, Jonah White	Custodian/Facility Monitors: Joe Webb (mornings)

Save the Date

Today	Baccalaureate Sunday
Today	Concert Series: Organ Crawl
May 21	Presbyterian Women’s Salad Luncheon
May 26	Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day
June 1	Pride Parade
June 8	Pentecost Offering
June 14	Summer Concert: Christopher Urban
June 28	Summer Concert: Myroslav Mykhailenko
July 12	Summer Concert: Bruce Blanck and Friends
July 26	Summer Concert: Marianne Kim

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!

Church Life

May 18, 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.

BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY — *Today* — We’ll celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating students and wish them well as they embark on new journeys in both worship services today.

CONCERT SERIES: ORGAN CRAWL — *Today / 4:00 pm* — Join us for four, 20-minute organ concerts at four different Arlington Heights churches. We will begin at St. Peter Lutheran, 111 W. Olive Street at 4:00 pm and conclude around 6:00 pm at First Pres with a light reception. The organ crawl will feature:
Matthew Doran at St. Peter Lutheran
Matt Haider at Our Saviour’s Lutheran
Eunice Son at Southminster Presbyterian
Christopher Urban at First Presbyterian

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE HOSPITALITY HELP WANTED — *Monday, May 26* — First Pres will once again extend hospitality to parade viewers on Monday morning, May 26. If you are interested in helping, contact Arlene Bullerman at abullerman@earthlink.net or 847-670-0319.

HELP REFURBISH OUR HANDBELLS — With such vigorous use, our handbells need to be refurbished. We are looking for a total of \$14,000 to complete the repairs and the good news is we have three individuals who have each pledged \$1,000 towards the work. So, we need only \$11,000 to underwrite the repairs needed. If you would like to give toward the repairs, please contact Chris Urban or select ‘Handbell Refurbishment’ in the drop-down in the online giving portal. Help us keep this vital ministry strong at First Pres!

May 18 — Fifth Sunday of Easter / Baccalaureate Sunday
8:45am – 11:45 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 Preschool Sunday School (3- & 4-year-olds) — Room 206
10:30 am K-5 Sunday School — Room 304
10:30 am Confirmation — Room 109/111
11:30 am Fellowship Time — Parlor, Narthex
4:00 pm Organ Crawl — Off-site, Sanctuary
5:00 pm MS/HS Youth Community Table Food Prep — Fellowship Hall
6:00 pm HSYG — HS Lounge, Gym
6:00 pm Organ Crawl Reception — Parlor



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Upcoming Events

PW CIRCLE MEETINGS — Presbyterian Women (PW) is a community of women helping to make a difference in the lives of others. Join us for the last meetings of the season. For more information, contact Ingrid Kaufman at ingridkaufman@icloud.com.

Circles 1, 2, 3: Wednesday, May 14 / 9:30 am / Parlor
Circle 6: Thursday, May 15 / 7:00 pm / Parlor
Circle 7: Tuesday, May 20 / 7:00 pm / Parlor

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S (PW) SALAD LUNCHEON — *Wednesday, May 21 / 12:00 pm / Fellowship Hall* — Please bring a dish to pass. Following the luncheon we will welcome Amanda Moller, owner of a new store in Arlington Heights called Greener Good. Amanda will explain her vision for this creative reuse shop which receives and shares second hand arts and craft supplies to support schools, non-profits and workshops. All are welcome!

OFFICE CLOSURE — *Monday, May 26* — In observance of the Memorial Day holiday, the office will be closed on Monday, May 26. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, May 27.

 **TIME TO SHOW YOUR PRIDE!** — *Sunday, June 1 / 11:00 am* — The Mission Committee is again sponsoring an entry in the 7th Annual Buffalo Grove Pride Parade. Come out and show your support of our LGBTQ+ community at this fun family-friendly event. Sign up using the QR code on the left. Questions? Contact Kim Hogan K_Hogan2003@yahoo.com or 847-641-1407.

INTRODUCTION TO SYSTEMIC RACISM WORKSHOP — *Saturday, June 7 / 8:30 am - 4:00 pm / Southminster Presbyterian Church* — Join the Mission Committee for a day-long workshop for staff, leaders and members of congregations committed to building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism and eradicating system poverty. It’s led by trained volunteers and staff who work with the Presbytery of Chicago’s Commission on Anti-Racism and Equity (CARE). Coffee and lunch is included. Registration ends May 21.

NEW SUMMER CONCERT SERIES — Mark your calendars for these exciting artists and concerts this summer! These concerts will take place on a Saturday afternoon, with a light reception following. Each concert is free and open to the community. Bring a friend!
Saturday, June 14, 4:00 pm — Christopher Urban, organ
Saturday, June 28, 4:00 pm — Myroslav Mykhailenko, piano
Saturday, July 12, 4:00 pm — Bruce Blanck and Friends
Saturday, July 26, 5:00 pm — Marianne Kim, organ and piano

SUMMER YOUTH MISSION TRIPS — Summer will be here before we know it, which means we’ll have one of the most exciting experiences of our year: **Summer Mission Trips!** **Middle schoolers** will be going to Milwaukee, WI, from June 22 through 27 with Youthworks. **High Schoolers** will go to Asheville, NC, to help with natural disaster relief July19 through 27. If you’re interested in joining either mission trip this summer, please contact Rev. Rebekah Anderson.

Serving, Giving, and Growing

NEW! CONNECTIONS ON CALL — Would you consider yourself a handy person? Do you enjoy fixing things? Do you have any knowledge of plumbing, carpentry or electrical? Would you like to offer your expertise and time to First Pres? If so, we invite you to consider having your name included on our “Connections on Call” list. What is “Connections on Call”? It is a recently formed list of First Pres members who are willing to contribute and consult on small projects and repairs; think of it like a handyman(woman) type of service. We are always grateful for the contributions of members who are generous in sharing their expertise. Should you be willing to have your name added to the list or if you would like to learn more, please email Pastor Barbara at barbaragorsky@firstpresah.org. Thank you for your consideration.

PENTECOST OFFERING — *Sunday, June 8* — The Pentecost offering helps our youth begin life with a strong start — a solid foundation of faith formed in the first third of life, from childhood through young adulthood. Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future. Each year, this celebration is marked by receiving the Pentecost Offering which nurtures the faith of those who are the church. **Congregations keep 40%** to initiate or support programs for young people in their communities. Please consider giving generously!

DONATE BACKPACKS FOR CHRISTOPHER HOUSE — *Sundays, June 1, 8 & 15* — We are again collecting **monetary donations** to purchase backpacks for the students at Christopher House. When school begins in the fall, we want the children to have the excitement of new supplies. The suggested donation is \$20, but all donations are welcome! Please donate cash or checks (made payable to Presbyterian Women) or use the church’s website choosing Christopher House Backpacks from the drop down menu. Your support is needed now more than ever! Thank you!

WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY DINNERS & PRODUCE MARKET — This year we’ll be offering produce and dinner for eight Wednesday evenings, from July 9 to August 27, from 6:00-7:00 pm. ***We’ll be asking for volunteers in June.*** Questions? Please contact Carolyn Selke at 847-977-3865.

REGISTER NOW! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) for 4-year-old preschoolers-4th graders — *July 7-11 / 9:00 am - 12:00 pm* — This year we’ll embark on an exciting journey with Road Trip VBS, based on Joshua 1:9, “The LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” Join us in a fun-filled adventure, taking all “travelers” on thrilling journeys to exciting destinations. We’ll discover God’s presence everywhere as we explore new places, make new friends and experience God’s goodness together. Register online or contact Rev. Rebekah Anderson.

REGISTER NOW! MISSION FACTORY for 5th & 6th graders — *July 7-11 / 9:00 am - 12:00 pm* — Join us for Mission Factory where we’ll learn about sharing God’s love through mission. This summer, we’ll focus on living with peace and non-violence with friends from Novi and Young Peacebuilders. You won’t want to miss this opportunity to grow in God’s love and have fun together. Register online or contact Rev. Rebekah Anderson.

Worship Next Sunday

May 25, 2025: Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

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

Preacher: Rev. Laura Sherwood
Scriptures: Psalm 67; John 14:23-29
Sermon Title: “Peace in the Waiting”


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	\$750.00
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GIVING OPPORTUNITY: *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)* — Our second quarter bookmarks will go to support PDA’s California fire relief efforts. PDA has been actively engaged in responding to the devastating wildfires affecting communities within the Pacific, San Gabriel and San Fernando Presbyteries.

INSCRIBED BRICKS — Inscribed bricks in the Memorial Prayer Garden honor loved ones, living or deceased, in a beautiful setting. You can order an inscribed brick for a donation of \$50 for two lines (of 12 characters and spaces each) or \$65 for three lines. Forms are available in the church office or at firstpresah.org/contact/forms/. ***For installation this fall, all orders are due in the church office by Monday, June 30.*** *Questions?* Please contact the church office.

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.

 **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.

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. Thank you for your past and continued support!