



9:00 AM WORSHIP

GATHERING

WELCOME

Rev. Laura Sherwood

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Be gracious to us and bless us; O God, show us favor.

All: May your way, O God, be known upon the earth; may your deliverance be known among the nations.

One: Peoples will praise you, O God; all peoples will praise you.

All: Nations will exult and shout for joy, for you rule the peoples with equity; you guide the nations of the earth.

One: The peoples will praise you, O God; all people will praise you.

All: Let us worship God!

✦ “I’VE GOT PEACE LIKE A RIVER”

Spiritual

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND HOPEFULNESS

Rev. Gorsky

Gracious God, we equate our judgment with your judgment, and often consider our ways to be your ways. We define peace as the absence of disruption, holding our comfort as your aim and thinking our preferences reflect your way. Too often we act as if we are your authoritative witnesses, believing our worldview corresponds with your vision, and that our narrative contains your hope for the future. O God, dislodge us from our sinful assumptions. Forgive our selfish views. Correct us with your truth and teach us by your Spirit *(silent prayer)*...

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

✦ SUNG RESPONSE

“Amen”

HYMN 600

✦ TIME OF GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PSALM 67

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

MESSAGE

“Peace In the Waiting”
Scripture: John 14:23-29

Rev. Laura Sherwood

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

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

“Spirit of the Living God”

Daniel Iverson

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

✦ “GIVE THANKS”

Henry Smith

✦ CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Rev. Laura Sherwood

✦ Please stand as you are able.

Music: Laura Sherwood, vocals; JoAnn Thompson, piano; Todd Smith, drums

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 Journal*, 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*



“I have learned that the waiting is not in vain.
There is a purpose in every pause.”
— Sue Monk Kidd

SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 25, 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

“Prelude in C Major”
Sharon Peterson, organist

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

WELCOME

Rev. Laura Sherwood

✠CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Be gracious to us and bless us; O God, show us favor.
All: May your way, O God, be known upon the earth; may your deliverance be known among the nations.
One: Peoples will praise you, O God; all peoples will praise you.
All: Nations will exult and shout for joy, for you rule the peoples with equity; you guide the nations of the earth.
One: The peoples will praise you, O God; all people will praise you.
All: Let us worship God!

✠HYMN 375

“Shall We Gather at the River”

HANSON PLACE

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we equate our judgment with your judgment, and often consider our ways to be your ways. We define peace as the absence of disruption, holding our comfort as your aim and thinking our preferences reflect your way. Too often we act as if we are your authoritative witnesses, believing our worldview corresponds with your vision, and that our narrative contains your hope for the future. O God, dislodge us from our sinful assumptions. Forgive our selfish views. Correct us with your truth and teach us by your Spirit...

SILENT CONFESSION

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

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: It is the Lord who opens eyes to see. It is the Lord who softens hearts to hear. It is the Lord who returns us to God’s presence. Peace, peace, peace—you are loved. You are enough. You belong. In Jesus Christ you are restored.
All: Thanks be to our God forever and ever. 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

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

HEARING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 67
(Pew Bible, p. 460) Rev. Barbara Gorsky
The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

“Prayer for Healing”
Molly Ijames
“Lord of this barren land swept by the flame, Here in my wilderness I call Your name. Refuge of wounded hearts bend low to hear. Binder of broken things, Father, draw near. Friend of the sorrowing, Knower of grief. Tenderly hovering, bringing relief. Be to my weary soul quiet repose, Be in my desert place, blossoming rose. Come like a gentle wind bringing the rain; Come like a healing touch, and soothe my pain. Fill with Your presence this desolate waste; Lord of this barren land, make of these ashes, a beautiful place. Amen”
Chancel Choir; Jennifer Fick, director

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 14:23-29
(Pew Bible, p. 877) Rev. Laura Sherwood
The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“Peace In the Waiting”

Rev. Laura Sherwood

✠HYMN 688

“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”

MORECAMBE

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

“Stand Up and Bless the Lord”
Mark Williams
“Stand up and bless the Lord, O people of God’s choice; Stand up and bless the Lord, your God, with heart and soul and voice. Though high above all praise, Above all blessing high, Who would not fear God’s holy name, And laud and magnify? O for the living flame, From God’s own altar brought, To touch our lips, our minds inspire, And wing to heaven our thought! God is our strength and song, Now is salvation ours; Proclaim God’s love throughout the world, With all our ransomed powers. Stand up and bless the Lord; The Lord, your God, adore; Stand up and bless God’s glorious name, Henceforth forevermore. Stand up and bless 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: 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 295

“Go to the World!”

SINE NOMINE

✠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

“Fugue in F Major”

G. F. Handel

✠Please stand as you are able.

Fellowship Hosts: Presbyterian Women (PW), Circle 7
Preaching: Rev. Laura Sherwood
Liturgist: Rev. Barbara Gorsky
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	Connie Leach
Carole Anderson	Mollie Lumsden
Denise Beihoffer	Kathy Miles
Laura Carlson	Stu Olin
Mary Clarbour	Patty Richard
Nancy Conning	Kathy Sobeski
Bill Dillon	Bea Sonderegger
Mary Hebden	Terry Wade
Nancy Johnson	

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	

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

May 26	Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day
June 1	Pride Parade
June 8	Pentecost Offering / Volunteer Appreciation
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!



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

May 25, 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.

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

OFFICE CLOSURE — Monday, May 26 — In observance of the Memorial Day holiday, the office will be closed on Monday, May 26.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP REFURBISHING OUR HANDBELLS — Our request to fund the refurbishment of the handbells has been fully funded. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, and it will keep our bell choirs equipped to ring well into the future. In June, the bells will be packed up and sent to Pennsylvania in time for their return in August for the start of our next choir season.

COME MEET THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE — Sunday, June 1 / During Fellowship Time — Strong leadership is essential to the health and mission of any church. At our church, the Nominating Committee plays a vital role in identifying members who feel called to serve and who demonstrate spiritual maturity, a heart for ministry and the willingness to lead. One of the committee’s core commitments is to recommend leaders who reflect the diversity of our church in age, gender, background and life experience. The committee receives suggestions from the congregation, reviews each nominee’s gifts and readiness for service, and confirms their understanding of the responsibilities involved. Ultimately, they present a slate of nominees to the congregation for a vote. **If you feel led to serve, or if you know someone whose gifts would bless our church in leadership, please speak with a committee member.** Your input is both welcome and important as we plan for the year ahead. **Come meet the Nominating Committee members on Sunday, June 1, at Fellowship Time.**

MUSIC AND VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION SUNDAY: WORSHIP & BRUNCH — Sunday, June 8 — We celebrate our music ministry and all who volunteer their time and gifts to make all the ministries at First Pres possible. Please join us after worship on Sunday, June 8, for brunch in Fellowship Hall hosted by our children and youth to say thank you. If you can’t stay for brunch, please stop by the Parlor after worship for some fellowship time and continental breakfast offering.

May 25 — Sixth Sunday of Easter

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
11:30 am	Fellowship Time — Parlor, Narthex
12:00 pm	Nominating Committee — Boardroom

Upcoming Events



TIME TO SHOW YOUR PRIDE! — *Sunday, June 1 / 11:00 am / Come to worship at 9:00 am and travel together - parking is limited!* — 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).

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 July 19 through 27. If you’re interested in joining either mission trip this summer, please contact Rev. Rebekah Anderson.

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.

Serving, Giving, and Growing

NEW! CONNECTIONS ON CALL — Would you consider yourself a handy person? Do you enjoy fixing things? Do you have any plumbing, carpentry or electrical knowledge? 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 around the church; 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 contact President of the Trustees, Steve Miller. 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.

ALLP-AGES SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL — We cannot wait for Summer Sunday School to begin! This summer we will have Sunday School from 10:30-11:30 am that is open to all 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 June 8 (Volunteer Appreciation Brunch Preparation), June 15, June 29, July 6, July 20, July 27, August 3, August 10 and August 17. All-ages Sunday School will begin by meeting in Fellowship Hall at 10:30 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 GROUP — The school year may be ending, but that doesn’t mean programming for our youth is over! Throughout the summer, middle and high school youth will continue to meet for games, lessons and fellowship! **Middle School Youth Group** will meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-8:00 pm on June 11, June 18, July 16, July 23, July 30, August 6, August 13 and August 20. **High School Youth Group** will meet on Sunday evening from 6:00-8:00 pm on June 1, June 8, June 29, July 6, July 13, August 3, August 10 and August 17. We hope to see you there!

Worship Next Sunday

June 1, 2025: Seventh Sunday of Easter

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

10:30 am — Worship (Sanctuary)
Music: Chancel Choir and Children’s Choir

Preacher: Rev. Laura Sherwood
Scriptures: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26
Sermon Title: “The Prayer That Holds Us”

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	\$841.00
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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 — 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? Make a donation to benefit causes and organizations supported by First Pres. 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!