



FIRST LOOK

March 2024

Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton

EASTER

AT FIRST PRES WHEATON

Pastor Kellen will share a powerful message of hope during our Easter services.

Easter Sunday, March 31

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service

9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Services

(Childcare at 9:00 and 10:30 – Livestream at 10:30)

- **Free Family Photos**

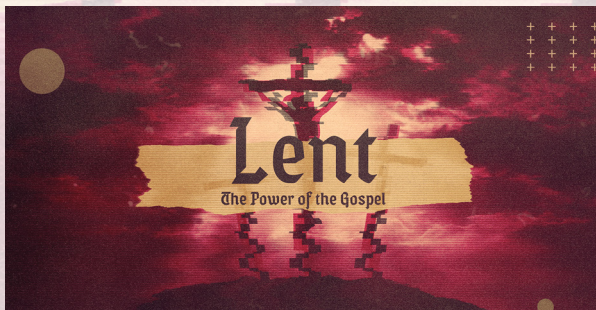
- **Delicious Cinnamon Rolls**

- **For the kids:** During the service, there will be an engaging Easter lesson and activity in Kids Church. Kids will receive an Easter gift and enjoy activities just for them.

Easter Egg Hunt

Starting at 10:00 in the Courtyard

All children through 5th grade are invited to participate. Don't forget to bring your basket!



Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday, March 28

5:30 p.m. Dinner / 6:30 p.m. Service

Good Friday, March 29

6:30 p.m. Service



Patrick's & Pancakes

PANCAKE BRUNCH &
WF MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER

You're invited to the annual Pancake Brunch and WF Mission Trip Fundraiser!

Sunday, March 17 from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

The brunch is served by the WF Mission Trip Team.
Free-will donations are accepted.

February in Photos



Scout Sunday

Troop 23 celebrated Scout Sunday on February 4. The scouts participated in both First Pres services by greeting, ushering, reading scripture, presenting the Minute for Mission, and of course, making and serving 330 donuts as token of appreciation for First Pres past and future support of the troop. Scout Troop 23 is our church's largest youth outreach program. We welcome youth, age 11 and up, and adult participation to support the mission of the Boy Scouts of America, which prepares young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. First Pres should be proud to know that our troop has produced over 250 Eagle Scouts, the highest honor in scouting, that only 4% of scouts achieve. Contact Julee Lockard, charter organization rep at juleelockard@gmail.com or Rick Busse, Scoutmaster, Bussephoto95@icloud.com to learn more.



Fat Tuesday Shrove Pancake Dinner

Over 50 people, all involved with putting on worship each and every Sunday, enjoyed a Shrove Pancake Dinner, celebrating Fat Tuesday on February 13, hosted by Pastor Donte and Pastor Kat.





Women's Ministry Annual Bake Sale

Women's Ministry thanks all the wonderful bakers who contributed a record number of baked treats to the annual Bake Sale held on February 11. Every single delicious morsel was sold raising almost \$1,000 for the various ministries of Women's Ministry.

Painting Party

Women's Ministry hosted an afternoon of fun on a snowy January day, where ladies of our church painted smiling snowmen under the direction of our own Margaret Bucholz.



Kids Ministry Update

February was a busy month in Kids Ministry!

The children had the opportunity to take Communion with the congregation in "big church" this month! We spent a lot of time prepping and learning about the sacrament and the kids did great! A lovely time was had by all at our Kids Ministry Valentine's Day Tea. Everyone had a blast creating their own signature candy mix, making beautiful Valentine's crafts and dancing the night away! This event is always a family favorite and this year was the best yet!

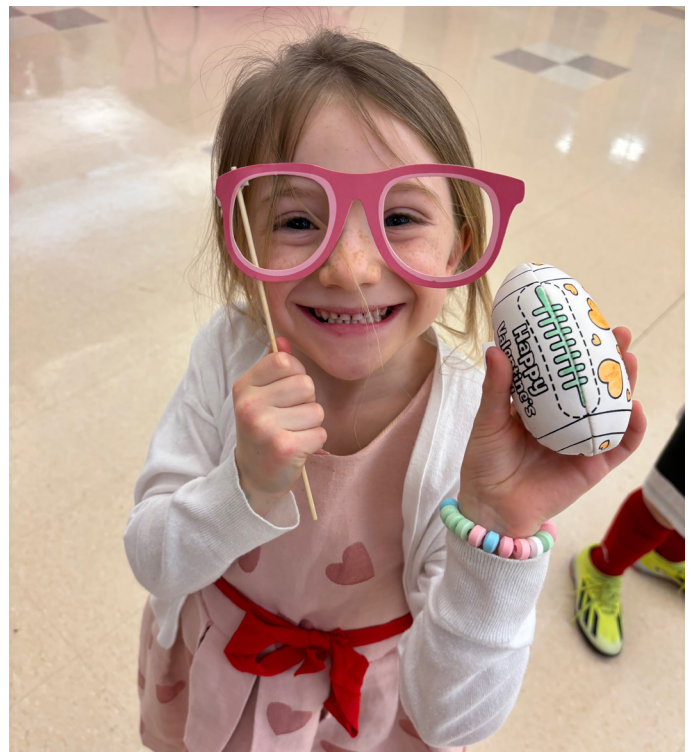


In Sunday School this month, we have been learning about forgiveness through the story of "The Banquet with Simon". We are learning that God loves us no matter what and he will always forgive us no matter how big our sin is. As long as we are sorry, all we have to do is ask! Ask your child(ren) about the story that Mrs. Iliff read to us during Sunday School in the Ministry Center! As we enter the season of Lent, we focus on Jesus' sacrifice and look forward to the Risen Lord and Easter Sunday.

Upcoming Dates to Know:

- Easter Sunday, March 31: Easter Egg Hunt in the Courtyard starting at 10:00 a.m.
- Easter Sunday, March 31: No Sunday School. Children will attend service with their families and be invited to Kids Church during the sermon, where we will have a kid-specific story, lesson and activity. Kids Church will be offered at both the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. service.
- Sunday, May 19: 10:30 a.m. - Sunday School Celebration Sunday
- June 10-14: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. - VBS 2024!

– Stacey Chvatal,
Director of Kids Ministry



Student Ministry Update



Genesis finished out their series on rooting our identity in Christ. God softened the students' hearts to receive these messages with encouragement and motivation to really analyze their lives to see where their identity was rooted in, and how they might better align that with God's truths. The Genesis highlight of the month was going to Timber-lee. Although the lack of snow made the anticipated fun a bit different, fond memories were still had within the group of 8 students that went. Genesis then embarked on a new series on spiritual growth called Rhythms. We'll look at how to create rhythms that help us use our gifts, share our stories, and spend time with others.



High School
Ministry

WF's winter highlight was the Winter Retreat at Timber-lee. There, we focused on what it means to stand firm in our faith by studying Ephesians 6:10-17. The group shared experiences and forged stronger bonds from this weekend getaway. This month also included a Super-bowl Watch-party, ending our series on Paul's ministry in Acts and starting the new series "How to Hear God."



– Hannah Curry
Director of Student Ministry

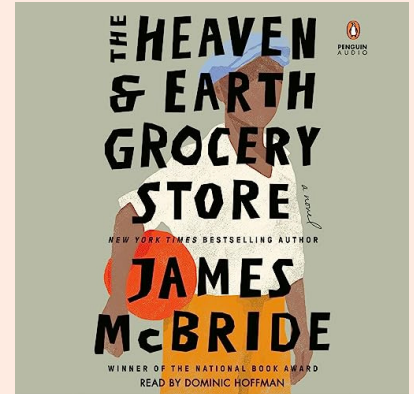
March Book Club

Wednesday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride

ONE OF BARACK OBAMA'S FAVORITE BOOKS OF 2023

In 1972, workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, found a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, where Moshe integrated his theater and where Chona ran the Heaven & Earth Grocery Store. When the state comes looking for a deaf boy to institutionalize him, it is Chona and Nate Timblin, who work together to keep the boy safe. As these characters' stories overlap, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins of white, Christian America struggle and what they must do to survive. When the truth is finally revealed about what happened on Chicken Hill, McBride shows us that even in dark times, it is love and community—heaven and earth—that sustain us. Join your FPC book club via Zoom for a great discussion with good friends. Contact Mary Kinsey at marykinsey79@gmail.com for the Zoom link.



See the online calendar

for up-to-date listings of church events and meetings.

firstpreswheaton.org/calendar

Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday – 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Friday – 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

You can give to the ministry of First Pres quickly and easily by scanning this QR code with your smartphone camera app.



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