



FIRST LOOK

November 2022



Spiritual Clean Up

Over the past few weeks, the leaves have finally started falling and by the end of the month the trees that line our neighborhood streets will be bare. During November, there's often a lot of raking and end of season clean up needed. Our kids love nothing more than playing in a pile of leaves in the backyard. On the other hand, I typically dread the leaf clean up and put it off as long as I can. In the end, the clean up needs to happen, even if I have to do it more than once.

As a Christian, sometimes you need to clean up your spiritual life. Each week in worship, you have the opportunity to do this as part of the prayer of confession. You also don't have to wait until Sundays to spiritually clean up your life. As part of your daily devotional, you can take time for what they refer to in 12-Step programs as a "searching and fearless moral inventory." Your inventory is a list of your resentments, fears, guilt, hate, and hang-ups. In ancient Christianity, spiritual fathers and mothers of the faith have instructed others in doing a daily prayer of Examen. This is where you reflect on the current day, focusing on memories from the events of the day as a way of recognizing God's divine presence, paying attention to where you felt close to or far from the Lord. Any of these prayer exercises can help you clean up your spiritual life and prepare you to receive the Lord's forgiveness.

The Christian band "We The Kingdom" sings a song called *Holy Water* and the chorus says: "Your forgiveness is like sweet, sweet honey on my lips. Like the sound of a symphony to my ears. Like Holy water on my skin."

In the end, confession is the pathway to God's mercy and love. As one of my theology professors often said, "There is more grace in God than sin in us." No matter how many times you falter or how often you fail, God's forgiveness is ready to meet you like a fresh cup of dark roast coffee in the morning or a warm cup of chamomile tea in the afternoon.

Jesus gives us the perfect example of forgiveness. While in agony on the cross, Jesus exclaimed, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34). Last but certainly not least: Wondering how many times the Bible calls us to forgive? Jesus asks us to model our forgiveness of others on the way God has forgiven us, forgiving "not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times" (Matthew 18:22). In other words, immeasurably!

God bless you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kellen".

Pastor Kellen

P.S. I want to thank those of you who have faithfully responded to God's invitation to make a giving commitment as part of our 2023 Generosity Campaign!



Generosity 2023 Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who dedicated their pledge cards in person and online on Commitment Sunday. Your gifts will be realized through the many blessings of this church and God's vision for your life. For those who haven't yet committed, there is still time for you to discern what God's vision and this church mean to you and make a commitment.

Please prayerfully consider a generous gift that will help us continue the wonderful ministries of this church. You may complete a commitment card by hand and return it to the office or complete the online form that can be found at firstpreswheaton.org/generosity2023. Thank you for your prayerful and financial support of God's mission through our congregation.

—Annette Shoemaker
Chair, Generosity Committee

Advent 2023

Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 11

Christmas Eve Services

4:00 Family Service

6:00 and 8:00 p.m. Candlelight

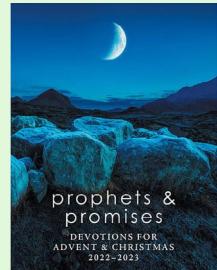
In-person and online at firstpreswheaton.org/Livestream

Join us on Christmas Eve for Pastor Kellen's meaningful message and inspiring music.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Prophets and Promises: Devotions for Advent & Christmas 2022-2023

Now available for pickup in the
church office



Prophets and Promises continues the Christian tradition of setting aside time to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth and to anticipate his return. The Advent season of preparation then unfolds in the joy of the 12 days of Christmas and the day of Epiphany.

SERMONS IN NOVEMBER



“Being Trees” Sunday, November 6

The Hebrew Scriptures say we are like trees. As we celebrate All Saints Day, we'll reflect on what that means for our daily lives. How do we grow into the faith passed down to us? What sustains us during seasons of drought? And what do saints and communion have to do with any of it?



“What’s in a Name?” Bearing and Blessing the Name of God November 13 & 20

In this two-part series, Pastor Kellen will explore the name of God in the Bible. We'll discover what it really means to take the Lord's name in vain and what it looks like to carry the name of Jesus. You'll receive practical encouragement for showing and sharing God's name in your daily life.



We had a perfect weather day on October 2, along with tons of fun at the Family Fall Fest! Families enjoyed food from Doctor Dogs Food Truck, and were treated to Mr. Scott's Giant Bubble Show, lawn games, and more.



A Note From Pastor Kat

I am so privileged to start as Associate Pastor at First Pres this past week, and I look forward to getting to know each of you better. My family and I are excited to be here in Wheaton and begin ministry life with you!



Thank you for the numerous care cards, notes, and welcome gifts we have received. Chad, Levi, Esther and I feel warmly welcomed and are grateful for your hospitality! Thank you for your grace as I learn names and the wonderful history of First Pres. God is good, and I trust his faithfulness to us moving forward!

Peace of Christ to you,
– Pastor Kat

Adult Education

Biblical Migration: Our Migrant Roots in Scripture

Sundays through November 20 at 10:30 a.m.

Led by Dr. Ted Hiebert and Dr. Greg Anderson

This study looks at the Bible's oldest migration narratives, in particular the stories of Israel's ancestors in the Book of Genesis. Our aim is to understand the experience of immigration in the Bible and to think about how biblical perspectives on immigration might influence our experience and views of it today.



Blood Drive

Saturday, November 19

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Schedule your appointment at
firstpreswheaton.org/BloodDrive

As members of the Versiti family, we lift each other up. Time after time, we've seen loyal donors answer the call to save lives, and always we are humbled by and grateful for their generosity.

As a "Thank You" – we have a tasty treat for saving lives. Blood donors will receive a BOGO coupon from our premier partner Noodles & Company, while supplies last. Appointments encouraged; walk-ins welcome!

Abundant Compassion

Matthew 25

We have accepted the Matthew 25 invitation to help our denomination become a more relevant presence in the world. We recognize Christ's urgent call to be a church of action, where God's love, justice and mercy shine forth and are contagious. We rejoice how our re-energized faith can unite all Presbyterians for a common and holy purpose: our common identity to do mission.



Areas of Focus • Building congregational vitality • Dismantling structural racism • Eradicating systemic poverty



Christmas Sharing 2022

**Donation of items may be brought to church between
Monday, December 5 and Friday, December 9**

Financial contributions should be made before Thanksgiving, so we can purchase the gift cards. Financial donations can be made at firstpreswheaton.org/onlinegiving, using the Christmas Sharing drop down.

Christmas Sharing is returning to our church facility in a new format. Please note there will be no collection of used goods this year. First Pres has set high goals to provide for 200 families and pray the congregation will be able to fully support the effort in providing for District 200 families in need.

First Pres will host families on Saturday, December 10 with the goal to provide \$15,000 in \$75 gift cards, winter coats (which were previously purchased on clearance) and new items from the list below. When you are Christmas shopping, please keep this list in mind with all of the sales quickly approaching for the holidays. Questions can be directed to Sharon Carroll at smc803@live.com.

New Items Needed:

- Toys for ages 2-18
- Bath/shower towels
- Twin sheet sets
- Queen sheet sets
- Diapers size 2-6
- Wipes

Sundry boxes and contents lists will be available
for pickup starting November 13.



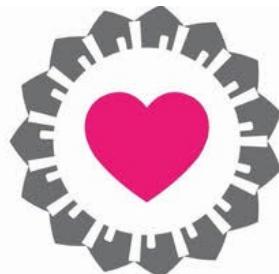
“Be the Light Holiday Market”

Thursday, November 10, 2:00-8:00 p.m.

Friday, November 11, 12:00-6:00 p.m.

In the Rotunda

Come stock up on candles and gifts for the season at the 4th annual ***Be the Light Holiday Market***. All proceeds go to support the mission of Love Your Neighbor, lovebydesign.org.



love your neighbor



**Giving
Trees**

**Watch for information to come about
the Giving Trees for 2022.**

Serve Holiday Joy to a Senior

Friday, December 16

Every year, First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton partners with Outreach Carol Stream and Gary Methodist Church to host a Christmas luncheon at First Presbyterian Church for the Older Adults supported by Outreach. For many of these seniors, this annual event is the highlight of their holiday season, and for many, their only celebration.



First Presbyterian has graciously held the luncheon each year and provided volunteers who contribute in many ways: helping with set-up or clean-up, making food, serving seniors at their tables, as well as making financial donations to make the day possible. A \$12 donation will provide a place at the table and a gift for each older adult. Please make checks payable to Outreach Carol Stream and mail them to Linda Hawkins, 345 S President St., Carol Stream IL 60188 or be on the lookout for the holiday tablescape display during November where donation envelopes can be found. To sign up to volunteer for serving or cooking food, please call Linda Hawkins at 630-260-7600.

This year's luncheon will be held on Friday, December 16th, for approximately 125 older adults. Our guests will enjoy a traditional ham dinner with all the trimmings, a holiday musical presentation by students from Franklin Middle School, and will receive an individual gift of kitchen gadgets. Thank you for joining us to add Christmas joy to a senior's holiday! If you have any questions, please contact Linda Hawkins at 630-260-7600 or lhawkins@outreachcommn.com.

Food Pantry Ministry

A big thank you to our church members for the unending support! We made many trips with carloads of food and personal hygiene items to the local food pantries in the past months. Donations may be deposited in the Rotunda any Sunday (and weekdays too) in the designated basket and grocery cart. Non-perishable food, disposable baby diapers, and personal hygiene and cleaning items are all needed.





Kids Ministry had a busy October full of fun and learning!



Thank you to all who attended and assisted at the Kids Ministry Fall Fest! We had a great time with a bounce house, games, delicious food and an amazing bubble show! Thanks for supporting our Kids Ministry!

Last month in Sunday School, we learned about Queen Esther and how she used her God-given gifts to save her people! The kids had a great time learning and exploring the story through games, drama, baking, science, and art. We have also been enjoying learning new songs with Joshua during our Sunday School music time.

After lots of practice, we sang "This Little Light of Mine" for the congregation on October 23 during the 10:30 service. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!

Keep an eye out for information on our upcoming Kids Ministry event, the "Christmas Jingle Bash!" on December 9.

Wishing everyone a happy November!

– Stacey Chvatal,
Director of Kids Ministry

Troop 23 – Fallen Hero Wreath Laying Ceremony

Thank you for all you who shared their support during Troop 23's wreath and greenery fundraiser. Delivery will occur the weekend before Thanksgiving.

Troop 23 would like to invite our First Pres family to our annual Fallen Hero Wreath Laying ceremony.

**Saturday, December 3 at 10:00 a.m.
Wheaton Cemetery, 1209 Warrenville Road in Wheaton**



Wreaths will be laid on the graves of veterans by Troop 23 scouts, demonstrating their reverence to these souls and their commitment to the community. Troop 23 scouts promoted these wreaths to local residents to honor these great men and women on a very special day. There will be a brief speech from our Scoutmaster, commemorating these efforts.

Prayers and recognition for those who have fallen will be given this day by these young scouts. A Boy Scout Bugler will perform "Taps."

Troop 23 meets on Mondays from 7:00-8:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Rick Busse, Scoutmaster, at bussephoto95@gmail.com or Julee Lockard, Charter Organization Representative, at juleelockard@gmail.com for more information.

– Julee Lockard, Boy Scout Troop 23

Interfaith Breakfast

Hosted By Islamic Foundation
Interfaith & Outreach Committee
Cordially Invites You To:

Friends Giving Interfaith Breakfast

NOVEMBER

SATURDAY

19

AT 9 AM

2022

Islamic Foundation • Banquet Hall
300 West Highridge Rd. Villa
Park, IL 60181

[RSVP via: Eventbrite](#)

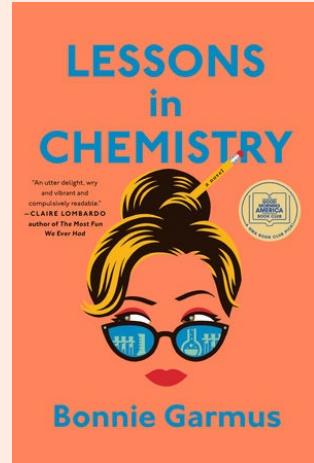


November Book Club

Thursday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

Lessons in Chemistry, a “Good Morning America Book Club” pick is our FPC Book Club book for November. “Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. It’s the early 1960s and Elizabeth is on an all-male team at Hastings Research Institute that takes a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans; the lonely, brilliant, Nobel Prize-nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with her mind. True chemistry results. But like science, life is unpredictable. Years later Elizabeth Zott finds herself not only a single mother, but the reluctant star of America’s most beloved cooking show “Supper at Six.” Elizabeth’s unusual approach to cooking proves revolutionary. But as her following grows, not everyone is happy. Elizabeth Zott isn’t just teaching women to cook, she’s daring them to change the status quo.” For questions and the Zoom link, contact the church office at office@firstpreswheaton.org.



Program Schedules and Church Office Hours

The First Pres calendar of events is available online at: firstpreswheaton.org/calendar.

Church Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. -4:30 p.m.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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