



FIRST LOOK

September 2024

Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton

The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers... They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.

— Acts 2:42, 47

Church Family,

It's always great to see you on Sundays, but I want to make a special invitation for you to come on the four Sundays in September after Labor Day, as we launch into a new ministry year. I'll be sharing a four-part sermon series called "Community: The Power of Relationships in the Local Church." The church is the people. Forming faithful relationships in the church is at the core of what it means to be the church. We'll be focusing on what it looks like to worship together, serve together, grow together, and invite together. As we take steps on the path of discipleship in community, we follow Jesus' vision for his people. See you on Sunday!

Blessings,

Pastor Kellen

Sunday, September 8 Welcome Back Sunday and Fall Picnic



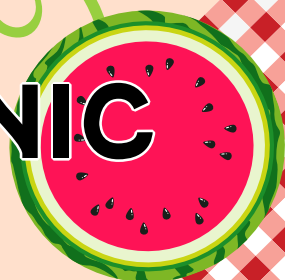
We look forward to seeing you!

- Return to two services: 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.
- Children's Sunday School Resumes at 10:30 a.m.
 - Adult Education Resumes at 10:30 a.m.
- Genesis Middle School Ministry Resumes at 10:30 a.m.

Welcome Back

PICNIC

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 8
AT 12:00 NOON



The Welcome Back Picnic starts at 12:00 noon
on the church lawn

Friends and neighbors are invited!

- Food and fellowship; bounce house, snowcones and games for kids!
- Deacons are grilling hamburgers, hotdogs, brats and chicken breasts
- Last names A-M are asked to bring a dessert to share
- Last names N-Z are asked to bring a side dish or salad to share

September Sermon Series



“Community” The Power of Relationships in the Local Church

As we launch into a new ministry year Pastor Kellen will be sharing a four-part sermon series called “Community: The Power of Relationships in the Local Church.” The church is the people. Forming faithful relationships in the church is at the core of what it means to be the church. We’ll be focusing on what it looks like to worship together, serve together, grow together, and invite together. As we take steps on the path of discipleship, we follow Jesus’ vision for his people.

Adult Education

7 Disciplines of a Joyful Life

Led by Dr. John Armstrong
Sundays, September 8-29
10:30 a.m. in Stewart Hall

Most Christians do not seem to be “fully alive.” We know we should be kind, generous, open and loving but how? Could it be that there are ancient faith practices that can help us? In this class we will look at seven classic theological riches that are psychologically sound and practically powerful in helping to be fully alive. If you desire more joy and hope, then the wisdom of these approaches will prove wonderfully helpful. Join us for this Adult Education series, led by John Armstrong, author, minister and teacher.



Fall Concert

5th Sundays at First Pres

2024 Concert Series



**Sunday, September 29 at 4:00 p.m.
in the First Pres Sanctuary**

Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs: The Vocal Music of Raymond Wise

Join us to enjoy the vocal music (solo, ensemble, and choral) of Raymond Wise, featuring a 60-plus voice mass choir!

FIRST PRES WHEATON

FALL 2024

SEPTEMBER

8

Sunday, September 8

Welcome Back Sunday and Fall Picnic
Services at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. – Picnic at noon

8

Sundays, September 8-29
10:30 a.m.

Adult Education Series – Led by Dr. John Armstrong
“7 Disciplines of a Joyful Life”

29

Sunday, September 29
4:00-5:30 p.m.

Fall Concert
Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs:
The Vocal Music of Raymond Wise

OCTOBER

2

Wednesday, October 2
5:30-6:30 p.m.

“The Table” Midweek Gathering Starts

6

Sunday, October 6
4:00-5:00 p.m.

Blessing of the Animals

20

Sunday, October 20
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Family Fall Fest

27

Sunday, October 27
9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Distinguished Preacher Sunday
– Rev. Dr. Luke Powery



Realm® Connect

We hope you've had a chance to set up your account and download our church app, Realm Connect. We're happy to be bringing you more ways to communicate and connect as a church, all while leaving current methods in place.

The mobile church app allows for real-time connection to church members and events. In Realm Connect, you will be able to:

- Register for events
- Manage online giving
- Sign up for a group or serving opportunity

Please Note: Help is available from trained volunteers to assist you in setting up and using the new app.

Let's get connected. ✨



The Nominating Committee will soon be accepting submissions for consideration for the offices of Deacon, Elder and 2025 Nominating Committee. Do you know someone who exhibits the skills, compassion and drive to serve in one of these positions? You can submit names of members and/or your own name by filling out an online Nomination Form, coming soon. Nominations are due by Sunday, October 6.

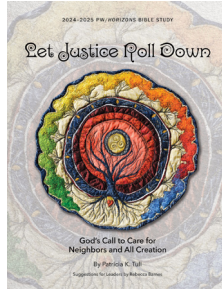
Women's Ministry

Horizons Women's Bible Study

First Tuesday of the month
Starting September 3
10:00 a.m. in the Living Room

All ladies are invited to this year's Horizons Women's Bible Study, *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*, by Patricia K. Tull. Join Pastor Kat as we explore how we are to understand topics like climate change, food, and creation care through a biblical lens.

Books are available in the church office or at the first session for \$10.



NEW – Women's Bible Study: "Women of the Word"

Wednesdays, October 2 - November 6
6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Living Room

Looking for some connection with other women at First Pres? Coming in October, this group is for both career and stay-at-home women who are looking to deepen their faith and form friendships. Each week we'll dive into Scripture, share in discussion, and pray for one another.

Registration details coming soon!

Save the Date

Women's Ministry Program:
Cultivate Calm
Saturday, October 12
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



Cultivate Calm

Meditation and Qigong for Emotional,
Physical and Spiritual Health

Dress-A-Girl Workshops Update:

Thank you to all who made dresses for international girls in need at the Dress-A-Girl Workshop on August 14 and 15. We will be dropping off around 100 dresses to the Dress-A-Girl ambassador in Ohio, thanks to Anthony Lechiara! He is taking them Labor Day weekend.





Finding Fathers

Small group of committed fathers with school age children (K-12).
Fridays, 6:00-7:00 a.m. – September 13-December 13
Church Dining Room

Den for Men

For committed working fathers transitioning to life as empty nesters.
Fridays, 7:00-8:00 a.m. – September 13-December 13
Church Reading Room

First Light Men's Collaborative

Saturdays, 7:00-8:30 a.m. Year-round fellowship and study
Windsor Park Manor

First Pres Food Pantry

Join us in showing support for the People's Resource Center and the Interfaith Food Pantry. A collection basket is located in the Rotunda, along with a sign listing suggested items. The Mission Committee is featuring a monthly focus for most-needed donations.

The greatest need for September is cooking oils.
Thank you for supporting our neighbors in need.



**Call for
Cooking Oils**

Student Ministry



Genesis Middle Schoolers enjoyed a fun evening at Holes & Knolls as we neared the end of summer. To close off our summer schedule, the Genesis group had a bonfire night full of outdoor games and fellowship. We are looking forward to September, when we kick-off our fall programming.

WF High Schoolers finished out their summer format of Bible Study and fellowship by wrapping up their summer series in James. The students learned to engage the Scriptures, how to ask good questions, and how to self-examine. Each week, students were commissioned with a challenge to either pray, or to seek reconciliation in a relationship, and other similar prompts. Together, we are journeying into greater faith and devotion. WF similarly finished out their summer with a bonfire evening.

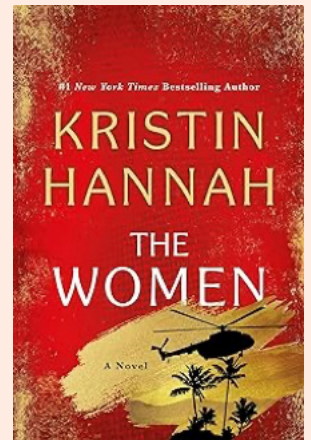


September Book Club

Thursday, September 26 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

The Women by Kristen Hannah

Women can be heroes. When 20-year-old nursing student Frances “Frankie” McGrath, from Southern California, hears these words, it is a revelation. After her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path. In war, she becomes one of the lucky, the brave, the broken, and the lost. However, the real battle for Frankie and her veteran friends, lies in coming home to a changed and divided America, to angry protesters, and to a country that wants to forget Vietnam. A novel about deep friendships and bold patriotism, *The Women* is a richly drawn story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era. Join your FPC book club for a great discussion with good friends. Contact Mary Kinsey at marykinsey79@gmail.com for the Zoom link.



Legacy Partner

What will your legacy be? Please remember the church in your will and beneficiary designations, and become a legacy partner. Contact Beth Spiegel at bspiegel@firstpreswheaton.org for more information.



See the online calendar

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

firstpreswheaton.org/calendar

*The office will be closed
on Monday, September 2
in observance of Labor Day*

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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