



FIRST LOOK

October 2024

Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton

Generosity 2025 Campaign

Our theme for the 2025 generosity campaign is **The Giving Church**. Inspiring our giving is this scripture verse from Hebrews 13:16, *"Don't forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices."*

You are invited to make a 2025 Giving Commitment at firstpreswheaton.org/Generosity2025.



First Pres Wheaton is a giving church:

- Our church tithes 10 percent to mission. For those new to our church, that means that, from our budget each year, a tenth goes to outreach and community causes.
- Our pastors tithe. Our pastoral leaders give ten percent of their personal budgets right back to the church. They understand that we can't be a giving church if our spiritual leaders are not modeling generosity for members and friends of the church to follow.
- If you're not already in the habit, we pray this is the year you begin giving in a significant way, even tithing, to support God's mission through our church.

Our giving church has been growing in generosity and attendance. From 2022 to 2023, total giving increased by 6 percent and from 2023 to 2024, average Sunday attendance increased by 15 percent. We need your help to keep growing in health and vitality!

In October, Pastor Kellen will share a sermon series on The Giving Church, focusing on generosity of time, talents, and resources. In the coming week, you'll receive a letter from him encouraging your response, which will include a commitment card. Commitment Sunday is October 20. You can also make your commitment [online](#). Jesus said, *"where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"* (Matthew 6:21).

Pray that God would bless us with abundant resources to fulfill our mission as a church, and pray for how the Lord may be leading you to give generously, to even tithe, in support of our vision of *inviting all generations into a growing life with Jesus Christ*.

Thank you!
Dave Trumpy, Elder for Generosity

Distinguished Preacher Sunday

October 27

Rev. Dr. Luke Powery, Dean of the Duke University Chapel

Our 2024 Distinguished Preacher is the Rev. Dr. Luke A. Powery. Dr. Powery is the Dean of Duke University Chapel and Professor of Homiletics and African American Studies. A national leader in the theological study of the art of preaching (homiletics), Dr. Powery regularly delivers sermons at Duke Chapel, as well as churches throughout the United States and abroad. He is often a keynote speaker and lecturer at educational institutions, conferences, symposia, and retreats.

About Distinguished Preacher Sunday: *Around the anniversary of Pastor Kellen's installation each year, we welcome a nationally-known speaker to share a special Sunday with us.*





**Beyond Existence:
Psalm 116 and Ministry in India
Sunday, October 6 at 10:30 a.m.
Led by Rev. Rocky Marpna**

We welcome back Pastor Rocky from the Presbyterian Church in India who is pursuing his Phd at Trinity Divinity School. Learn about Pastor Rocky’s pathway into ministry through the lens of the story of David in Psalm 116. You’ll be inspired by Pastor Rocky’s journey and understand more deeply the challenges and opportunities in the Presbyterian Church of India.

**Spiritual Health and Wellness
Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center
Sundays, October 13-27 at 10:30 a.m.**

In partnership with CDPCC, you’re invited to a series of classes on cultivating spiritual health and wellness. As a key discipleship step in the Christian life, pursuing spiritual wellness inspires hope and promotes healing. From a faith-based approach, classes will cover subjects including dealing with anxiety, navigating relationships, and extending forgiveness. Skilled presenters will integrate perspectives of psychology, physiology, and culture, to apply them to everyday life.

**Welcome
Lauren Waters,
New First Pres
Wedding Coordinator**



Lauren and her husband, Ryan, have been members of First Pres since 2018. They live in Wheaton with their three kids (Claire – 8, and twins Owen and Eleanor – 6) who have grown up in our church. For most of her time with our church, Lauren has been involved with both the Kids Ministry and Sunday School teams. She is currently a preschool teacher, as she is passionate about working with young kids.

Lauren enjoys reading, cooking and baking, staying active, volunteering at her kids’ school, and she adores their Ragdoll cat named Winston!

Lauren is excited for her new role as Wedding Coordinator and thankful for the opportunity to work with couples on the happiest day of their lives.

Your Visual Arts Committee

Have you ever wondered what the committee does besides decorate for Christmas and place lilies at Easter?

We have been very busy this summer. By now, we hope you have seen the new photos on canvas in Stewart Hall. In the Rotunda, to the right of the coffee tables, there is a beautiful lithograph of Jesus as Carpenter donated by a church member. There are two copper planters on the wall leading to the stairs to the Ministry Center. They were made from the gutters that were on the Manse – the Pastor’s residence torn down for the 2002 addition. Another new piece of artwork is a needle work hung in the kitchen, donated by a Wyndemere resident who appreciated the church’s Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Our ongoing responsibilities are to coordinate the banners and paraments that hang on the lecterns according to the liturgical season as well as to coordinate art hung on the ramp to Stewart Hall. Periodically, you will also see additions to the Communion Table.

Now, on to planning for Christmas decorations! If you would like to join us, please contact the [church office](#).

– Mary Stollberg



We were blessed with a beautiful day on September 8 for our annual Welcome Back Picnic, where we enjoyed great food and great company.

A special thank you to all who brought side dishes and desserts, and to our deacons, who prepared the main courses for our feast!



Midweek refreshment for all ages

Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. starting October 2

Cost – Adult: \$15
 Child (age 4-12): \$5
 Infant/Toddler (age 3 and under): Free
 Maximum Family Cost: \$40

RSVPs are requested by the Sunday prior to each Wednesday gathering.

The Table Returns October 2

Last October we started a new weekly mid-week program, “The Table,” which concluded for the season in April. It was a wonderful seven months of connecting with our church family on Wednesday evenings!

We now look forward to a new season of The Table, as we share a catered, buffet-style meal each week. You’ll enjoy seeing old friends and making new ones around the table. We’ll celebrate birthdays and anniversaries, be led in song, and have a brief teaching. There will be activities for children and a Toddler Corner for kids two and under.

NEW THIS YEAR:

- The Kids Table! During the adult devotional time after dinner, kids will be invited to experience an age-appropriate lesson each week.
- You will now be able to pay online when you register.
- Receive text reminders! When you register, you’ll have the option to opt in to weekly text reminders, so you won’t forget to RSVP each week.

Share this information to invite a friend or neighbor to join us for midweek refreshment!

RSVP for our first night, October 2, at firstpreswheaton.org/TableOct2 or scan the QR code.





A lot is happening on Sunday, October 6.
We look forward to seeing you!



preschool Sunday

Preschool Celebration Sunday

Sunday, October 6 at 10:30am

Preschool families, teachers, and alumni are invited to a special service to celebrate 57 years of First Pres Preschool. Join us as we thank God for the ways children and families in our community and church have been blessed by the preschool. The morning will include programming for children, refreshments, and a service of celebration.



All children are invited to attend Sunday School at 10:30am and will join their families in the Sanctuary for the Preschool portion of the service. Please email preschool@firstpreswheaton.org with any questions.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Celebrating God's Love For All Creatures



Sunday, October 6 – 4:00 p.m.
on the church lawn

As caretakers of God's creations, we are hosting a Blessing of the Animals service on October 6. Saint Francis first blessed animals early in his ministry sometime between 1210-1215, and First Pres Wheaton will carry on this tradition. All animals ... and humans ... are invited to attend this special service, where we will be witnesses to God's love and concern for his cherished creations. A short group service will be held, followed by a blessing line for those who would like their pet to receive a personalized blessing.

Note: Animals must be on leash or in appropriate carriers for the safety of all.

Devoted Community



We extend a special thank you to our devoted team that puts an “extra layer of love” on our courtyard and grounds to keep the church looking beautiful throughout the year!

Many thanks to Rich Clark, Conrad Stoll, Lynn Emerson, Mary Kinsey, Gary Blausser, and Janet Stoll (not pictured).

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.

Thank you for supporting our neighbors in need.

**The greatest needs this month are:
Boost/Ensure and Adult Depends**



Christmas Sharing

You can help get Christmas Sharing off to a great start this year at the Panera fundraiser

**Thursday, October 3 from 4:00-8:00 p.m.
Danada Panera, 167 Danada Square East**

In Cafe • Drive-Thru • Pick-up • Delivery
Enter promo code **FUND4U** at online checkout

25% of sales benefit Christmas Sharing of Wheaton/Warrenville

RAISE SOME DOUGH
Help support us!



Panera FUNDRAISING



**Scout Troop 23
has kicked off its wreath sales!
– Sales end October 28 –**

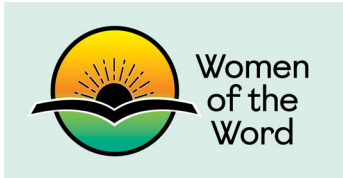
If you are so called, church members are welcome to support our home troop by purchasing Christmas greenery, a fundraiser the church troop has been offering since 1966. We will also be taking orders for our “Fallen Heroes Wreaths” and are planning our annual Wreath Laying Ceremony in honor of Pearl Harbor Day, at the Wheaton Cemetery. We encourage your attendance to this meaningful ceremony.

Please contact Carrie Olso, carrieolson1@gmail.com or Rick Busse, bussephoto95@icloud.com with any questions or to express your interest in purchasing greenery. We will connect you to a scout who will be happy to help. We appreciate your prayers and support of our church's largest youth outreach.

Women's Ministry

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

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



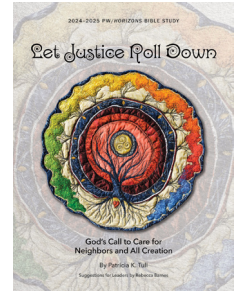
Looking for some connection with other women at First Pres? Coming in October, this group is for both career and stay-at-home women who are looking to deepen their faith and form friendships. Each week we'll dive into Scripture, share in discussion, and pray for one another. [RSVP at firstpreswheaton.org/WOW](https://www.firstpreswheaton.org/WOW)

Horizons Women's Bible Study

First Tuesday of the month
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 for \$10.



Save the Date

Women's Ministry Program:
Cultivate Calm

Saturday, October 12
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
\$10 fee



Scan for details
and registration



Cultivate Calm

Meditation and Qigong for Emotional,
Physical and Spiritual Health

Community Art Gallery

Mary Ann Asan – Mixed Media Artist

Art on Display during the month of October

Artist Reception: Sunday, October 6 at 10 am between services

Illness set the course for an art career that began later in life. Having a new appreciation for life prompted me to take advantage of opportunities that came along, and here I am, years after I first discovered my love of creating and putting media to paper and canvas.

Schooled in my youth at the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago Academy of Art, College of DuPage, and Illinois State University, I was unable to pursue a career that utilized my talents during my early adult life. Typically, because life gets in the way of our pursuits, it wasn't until creating became a healing force that I became serious about, once again, painting and creating.

My focus is to give life to a subject, bringing depth, shape, light, and shadow to it. Creating brings that life into me and comes from a place within me that loves to share those elements with the subject and with you. I hope my paintings touch your soul and take you to magical places that bring you great joy and peace. www.asanart.gallery

– Mary Ann Asan



First Pres Preschool



First Pres Preschool is back in session!

We had a wonderful September welcoming back our students and families. The 2024-2025 school year marks the 57th year First Pres Preschool has been open as a mission of the church, serving the community by providing quality early childhood education to local families. This year our preschool's theme is **Color the World with**

Kindness. While we always encourage and nurture kindness, this year we are exploring kindness through children's literature and discovering how we can show kindness at preschool, at home, and in our community. We thank the church and its members for their love and continued support of our preschool program!



– Melissa Coyne,
Director of Preschool

Kids Ministry



We've made a lot of updates to our Sunday School hallway and classrooms over the summer!

We added a new classroom! Sunday School classes are now assigned as follows: Preschool 3's & 4's / Kindergarten & 1st grade / 2nd & 3rd grade ***new!*** / 4th & 5th grade.

We have online check-in! When you arrive in the Sunday School hallway, you may notice the new addition of two check-in kiosks. Online check-in is an easy, fast and secure way to check children into their Sunday School classes, take attendance, contact families and monitor allergies/special needs.

We have new tables and chairs! One of the most obvious changes you may see downstairs are our new tables and chairs in LL105, LL106 and LL107. Not only are these tables sized for kids, but they add a much needed pop of color to our classrooms!

We introduced a new curriculum! We are excited to introduce the **Grow** curriculum to Sunday School this year. The Grow curriculum uses different Bible stories and Scripture each week to reinforce overarching themes that can be applied to everyday life.

We have new teachers! Along with our amazing team from last year, join me in welcoming Amy Grant to K/1st grade, Nick Smith and Erin Hack to 2nd/3rd grade, Jeremy Lederhouse to 4th/5th grade and Jodie Puzio as an assistant to preschool and K/1st grade. We are so happy to have them in our classrooms this year.

In addition to all of these fun updates, our Sunday School classrooms have been busy learning important spiritual habits that help us to be better disciples for Christ, singing in church, and working hard on this month's memory verse – "Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path" – Psalm 119:105.

We are looking forward to more fun, faith-building and fellowship in Sunday School this year!

– Stacey Chvatal,
Director of Kids Ministry



This fall for Student Ministry comes with an incredibly hopeful and aspirational attitude

God has very clearly been working amidst our students and many new friends throughout this summer and that is even flowing into this fall.

Genesis restarted its regular gatherings on Sunday mornings, where we embarked on our first series called Restart. We are using **Grow** curriculum for the second year, and this series tackles some of God's core promises from the Old Testament and the Gospels. We have explored the ideas: when you feel like a failure, God helps you restart. When you feel overwhelmed, God takes care of you. When you feel stuck, God gives you guidance. And when you feel unwanted, God says you belong. The energy has been high, and the discussions have been thorough.



WF began our gatherings in the Attic, featuring a game, a time of worship, a time of teaching, a time to privately reflect on the teaching prompt, and a discussion-based debrief in small groups. The beginning part of this fall, we will be diving into how to practically prioritize our private relationship with God through spiritual disciplines/sacred rhythms. This theme was prompted by a very clear longing and optimism coming off of this summer, with a communal desire to take deeper steps in their faiths. Praise God!

I ask for continued prayers that our students may encounter the Lord in a way that catalyzes them into deeper faith.



– Hannah Curry,
Student Ministry Director

October Book Club

Thursday, October 31 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
A Most Agreeable Murder by Julia Seales

Feisty, passionate Beatrice Steele has never fit the definition of a true lady, according to the strict code of conduct that reigns in her small English township. Nevertheless, she lives a perfectly agreeable life, except for the fact she harbors the dark secret she is obsessed with true crime. If anyone in her etiquette-obsessed community found out, she'd be deemed a morbid creep and banished from respectable society forever. When eligible bachelor, Edmund Croaksworth, drops dead in the middle of a minuet at the autumnal ball, the evening descends into a frenzy of panic, fear, and betrayal, as it becomes clear that the guests are trapped with a killer. With decorum and decency against her, Beatrice must pursue justice and her own desires — before anyone else is murdered. 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.

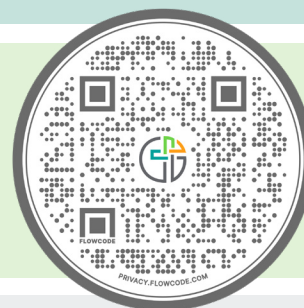
firstpreswheaton.org/calendar

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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