



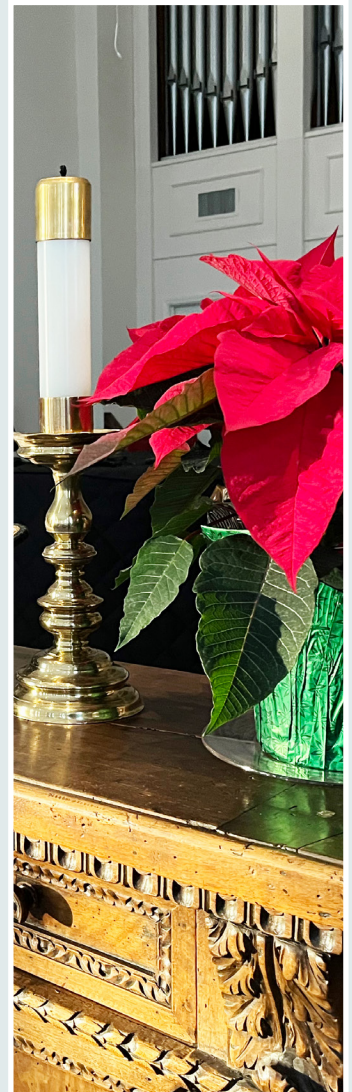
# FIRST LOOK

January 2025

Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton

## A Beautiful Christmas Eve at First Pres

We celebrated the birth of Jesus with three beautiful services on Christmas Eve. The Family Service was held at 10:30 a.m., with the nativity story being presented by the children of First Pres, and two Candlelight Services, held at 6:00 and 8:00 p.m.





## Save the Date

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26, following the 10:30 worship service.

Jan  
26



## Master Plan Town Hall Meetings

Thank you to those who attended the Master Plan Town Hall Meetings, held on December 11 and 15, for an update on the master planning process. Below are some resources for those were not able to attend:

- Watch the meeting at [firstpreswheaton.org/TownHallMtg](http://firstpreswheaton.org/TownHallMtg)
- The Meeting Handout can be read at [firstpreswheaton.org/TownHallHandout](http://firstpreswheaton.org/TownHallHandout)
- To provide feedback, please email [masterplan@firstpreswheaton.org](mailto:masterplan@firstpreswheaton.org)

## Micah 6:8 Event: Practicing Presence: What Does It Look Like To Do Justice?

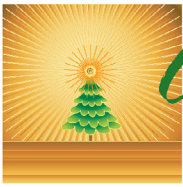
Wednesday, February 5  
6:30 p.m. in Stewart Hall  
(immediately following The Table)



Please join us to hear Pastor Jonathan Brooks (Pastah J) talk about what justice looks like in practice. God's call in Micah 6:8 is to "love mercy, do justice and walk humbly with God." What does that "do justice" piece look like, practically speaking and in action?

Jonathan Brooks is the Lead Pastor of Lawndale Community Church in the Lawndale neighborhood of Chicago. Pastah J, as he is affectionately called, is a sought-after speaker, writer and artist. Along with speaking, training and consulting, he has written numerous blogs and contributed to various books. He is the author of the book *Church Forsaken: Practicing Presence in Neglected Neighborhoods*, published by InterVarsity Press. During his tenure at Canaan (where he previously pastored), the church released a gospel album titled *Recommend Jesus* to be used as an avenue to share faith as an integral component in community transformation. Lastly, Pastah J has also recorded four hip-hop albums with the group Out-World and a mixtape to accompany the book *Church Forsaken*.

All are welcome! This event is sponsored by the Micah 6:8 group of First Pres.



## Christmas Sharing

**On Saturday, December 14, 171 families came through the First Pres Ministry Center and were blessed by Christmas Sharing.**

The following items were given to those local families in need:

- Each family received a generous Walmart Gift Card
  - 400 coats
  - 461 toys
- 188 sundry boxes
  - 129 sheet sets
  - 20 boxes of diapers
- Approximately \$38,000 worth of gift cards and donated items were distributed

***It was amazing to see this operation happen! Thank you for all who gave and volunteered, and for your generosity and support of this annual mission.***



***A very special thank you to all who supported our Christmas missions this year:***

- *Christmas Giving Trees* • *DuPage Pads*
- *Outreach Senior Christmas Luncheon*

*Be it through volunteering or financial support, your gifts of time and finances made a difference in the lives of many people within our community this Christmas. THANK YOU!*

*Outreach Senior Christmas Luncheon*



# December Fellowship

Families celebrated the Christmas season together at the annual Gingerbread Nativity Night on December 6.



**Lessons and Carols** was held on December 15. This annual musical worship service featured congregational song, choir anthems, and instrumental music.



The annual Christmas Dinner on December 18 included a catered meal, Christmas carols, a teaching, and children's activities. The dinner was enjoyed by 150 people of all generations!



### Men's Christmas Breakfast

The men of First Pres shared time together at the Men's Christmas Breakfast on December 13, which included a special message by Pastor Kellen and a catered breakfast.



### Wyndemere and Windsor Park Gatherings

Pastor Kellen and Pastor Kat made visits to residents of Wyndemere and Windsor Park for Christmas fellowship on December 16.





**The Scout Troop 23 Wreath Laying Ceremony** was held on December 7 at the Wheaton Cemetery. Scouts and guests layed over 106 donated Fallen Hero Wreaths on veteran graves.

## Community Art Gallery

**The Community Art Gallery is featuring the work of artist Marcia Whitney-Schenck during the months of January and February on The Link**

**An Artist Reception will be held for Marcia on Sunday, January 12 at 10:00 a.m. between services.**

**Be sure to stop by to say “hello” to Marcia.**

Marcia Whitney-Schenck was a reporter for the Tacoma News Tribune. In 1980, she moved to Chicago and established herself in the public relations business. In 1991, she started the quarterly journal Christianity and the Arts that within its eight-year span garnered numerous awards and a circulation of 5,000. It closed in 2001. She has a masters degree in art history from the University of Chicago (1987). As an artist, she is interested in spirituality and the relationship between words and images.

Marcia’s January exhibit will focus on “Creative Interpretations of State Birds.” The February exhibit will showcase the “Cloud of Witnesses (Hebrews 12:1) in preparation for Lent.



## 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:  
Canned Goods**

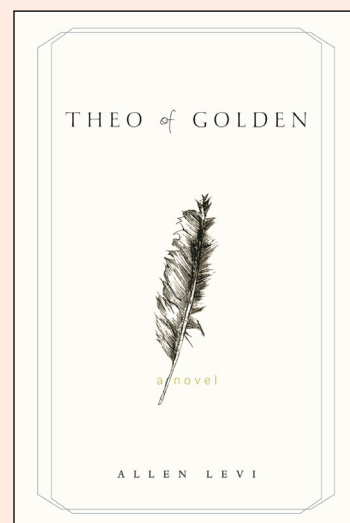
## January Book Club

Thursday, January 30 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

*Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi

Theo, a pleasant but mysterious stranger, arrives early one spring. By chance he visits a coffee shop where 92 framed pencil portraits are on display. Inspired, Theo sets out on a mission of purchasing all the portraits one at a time and quietly bestowing them on their 'rightful owners.' Stories are told; friendships are born; and lives are changed. Questions linger about Theo, who is he, and why is he here?

*Theo of Golden* is a beautifully crafted story about the power of creative generosity, the importance of wonder to a purposeful life, and the far-reaching possibilities of anonymous kindness. Join your FPC book club for a great discussion with good friends. Contact Mary Kinsey at [marykinsey79@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:bspiegel@firstpreswheaton.org) for more information.



**See the online calendar**  
for up-to-date listings of church events and meetings.

[firstpreswheaton.org/calendar](http://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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