



# FIRST LOOK

June 2025

Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton

## Summer Season brings Growth, Mission, and Joy!

Church Family,

Summer is upon us, and with it comes a vibrant season of ministry and fellowship here at First Pres Wheaton. June marks the beginning of a joyful and spirit-filled time in our life together, full of opportunities to grow in faith, serve others, and build relationships within and beyond our walls.

**Vacation Bible School** kicks things off as our church is transformed into a space for laughter, learning, and discipleship. Children from our congregation and community will explore the stories of God's love through crafts, music, games, and scripture. This is always a highlight of the summer — and a wonderful way for volunteers of all ages to share their gifts!

Our **WF Youth Mission Trip to Memphis** is another powerful way God is at work. Please keep our young people and adult leaders in your prayers as they travel to serve others, build new friendships, and encounter Christ in fresh and meaningful ways. These experiences plant seeds of faith that last a lifetime.

We are also blessed this month to celebrate the **Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons** – faithful leaders who have answered God's call to serve the church with wisdom and love. Their commitment strengthens our whole community, and your presence at worship during this special service is a meaningful way to support them.

In June we'll also welcome new faces among us during **New Member Sunday**. It is a joyful reminder that God continues to draw people into our church family. Let's surround them with love and encouragement as they begin their journey with us.

Don't forget our **Neighborhood Cookout**, where we'll fire up the grill, welcome our neighbors, and share the warmth of our congregation in a fun and relaxed setting on the church lawn. This is a perfect chance to invite a friend, connect with someone new, and extend our hospitality.

Finally, we'll close the month with the **5th Sundays Summer Concert**, featuring Bells in Motion. It will be a celebration of music and praise that lifts our spirits and brings our community together in a joyful expression of faith.

Through all of this, our regular Sunday worship remains the heartbeat of our life together. Summer may bring vacations and changing routines, but I encourage you to make worship and ministry participation a consistent part of your season. God is doing great things at First Pres Wheaton – and your presence matters! Let's move into this summer with joy, open hearts, and a willingness to say "yes" to all that God has in store.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Kellen

## Introducing the Renovation Oversight Committee

Following the success of the For All Generations Initiative, we are pleased to announce the formation of the Renovation Oversight Committee, established by Session to guide the upcoming projects made possible through the generosity of our congregation through the recent campaign commitments. This dedicated team will work closely with church leadership, architects, and contractors to ensure that all work aligns with our shared vision and mission. The committee will make regular progress updates. Dick Routson, longtime member of the church and the Building and Grounds Committee, will lead the team. We are grateful for the committee members' willingness to serve and invite the congregation to keep them in prayer as they undertake this important responsibility.



## For All Generations – Campaign Progress

Thank you to our congregation for your participation in the For All Generations Campaign and for your ongoing interest in our progress!

**Here is the most recent financial update:**

- Commitment total to date: \$2,344,268.50
- Total number of commitments: 152
- Amount collected to date: \$627,784.47
- Amount of additional commitment dollars needed to meet the campaign goal of \$2.5 million: \$155,731.50

We encourage you to continue in prayer as we proceed in finalizing and implementing the plans for refreshing and renovating our church campus and expanding our mission into the greater community.

**Commitments may be made at [firstpreswheaton.org/CampaignCommitment](http://firstpreswheaton.org/CampaignCommitment)**



## Summer Sermon Series: Singing Our Faith – The Gospel in Great Hymns

June 8 - July 27

How sweet the sound! This summer, join us for a special 8-week sermon series exploring the rich theology and enduring faith found in some of the great hymns of the Christian tradition. Each week, we'll reflect on a beloved hymn and the Scripture that inspired it – discovering how these songs of faith continue to speak to our hearts, shape our beliefs, and guide our lives.

From “Amazing Grace” to “Be Thou My Vision,” these songs do more than stir our emotions – they proclaim the gospel, anchor us in God’s promises, and give voice to our deepest prayers. Come sing, learn, and grow as we celebrate the God who is always faithful.



## WF MISSION TRIP Prayer Partners for WF Memphis, TN Trip, June 15-21

**A Prayer Partner sign-up sheet is available  
at the Welcome Desk in the Rotunda**

Thank you for committing to prayerfully lift up a participant or leader.



## Neighborhood Cookout

**Sunday, June 22 • 12:00-2:00 p.m.**

**You're invited to our Neighborhood Cookout!**  
Following the 10:30 a.m. service, we'll head outside to the church lawn for free food, inflatables, games, and all kinds of family fun. Bring your friends and family for a memorable afternoon together.

# 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays at First Pres

## 2025 Concert Series



### "Bells in Motion"

**Sunday, June 29 • 4:00 p.m. in the Ministry Center**  
**Free concert – Open to all**

Our summer 5th Sundays Concert will feature "Bells in Motion,"  
presenting *Paper Moon*, with KC Congdon, Artistic Director.

### Community Art Gallery

This beautiful art display of oil on canvas is provided by longtime church member, Edie Gourd, who studied under Lori Kunishigie for 5+ years in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

**Artist Reception: Sunday, June 8, following the 10:30 service.**

### LORI'S ART STUDIO

On display on The Link  
during June and July



## School Supply Drive – July 2025

We are praying that children will get off to a good start this school year, and you can help! Please consider donating backpacks and school supplies to help children supported through People's Resource Center and The Bridge of Chicago's Mission:USA. This annual mission effort is such a blessing to many children who are in need during this time.

**Shopping:** We have created online shopping lists on Amazon and Target. You are also welcome to shop at any store of your choosing. A general supply list has also been created to help you with your purchases. You may ship backpacks and supplies directly to the church or drop off your contributions in the Rotunda.

**Donations may be received through July 10.**

- Amazon shopping list: [firstpreswheaton.org/Amazon](https://firstpreswheaton.org/Amazon)
- Target shopping list: [firstpreswheaton.org/Target](https://firstpreswheaton.org/Target)
- General supply list: [firstpreswheaton.org/SchoolSupplyList](https://firstpreswheaton.org/SchoolSupplyList)

**Financial Contributions:** If you would like to make a financial contribution for this mission, you can do so by giving online or writing a check to First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton and designating "School Supply Drive" in the memo. **If you plan to contribute financially, please make your financial contributions by Thursday, July 10.** This will allow our shoppers some time to purchase necessary supplies. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

**Thank you for supporting the children this year!**

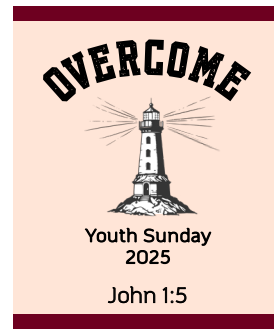




# Youth Sunday

Youth Sunday 2025, held on May 4, was a wonderful, faith-filled day, thanks to the hard work, vision, and dedication of our students. I am thankful for all of the support from the students, their families, and our church family in making this tradition happen, year after year. *Be encouraged -- the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it* (John 1:5). To God be the glory and praise!

– Hannah Curry, Director of Student Ministry





## May Service at The Bridge

Thank you to our team of volunteers who spent their Tuesday evening on May 27 at The Bridge in Chicago, where they served a meal and worshipped alongside people who are coming out of incarceration, addiction, or the street lifestyle.



We celebrated Mother's Day on May 11, with professional photos, Mother's Day flowers, and special refreshments.



Church members and friends age 60+ enjoyed an uplifting time of fellowship and inspiration at the 60+ Luncheon on May 29. The event included a delicious catered lunch and special message from Pastor Kellen.





# Celebration Sunday

On May 18, we celebrated Confirmation for 11 students who publicly professed their faith in Jesus Christ and joined the church. We also blessed the 5th graders who are moving into middle school. Additionally, Kids Ministry hosted their Sunday School Celebration, making it a special day for the children and youth of First Pres!



The annual Women's Ministry Strawberry event was held on May 8, with a delicious brunch and a delightful speaker. The new and retiring WM team members were recognized, and the Honorary Life Memberships were awarded to Susan Drinan and Erin Schnack for their outstanding service to our church and community. This was a wonderful year end event!

Watch for future Women's Ministry programs and events beginning again in September. All women of First Pres and their guests are welcome to attend.



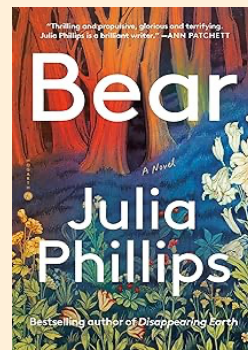


## June Book Club

Thursday, June 26 • 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

**Bear** by Julia Phillips

On the island off the coast of Washington where they were born and raised, sisters, Sam and Elena, and their mother struggle to survive. Sam works on the ferry that delivers wealthy mainlanders to their vacation homes, while Elena bartends at the local golf club. But even together they can't earn enough to get by, stirring their frustration and dreaming of another life. One night on the boat, Sam spots a bear swimming the dark waters of the channel and is convinced it's time to leave the island. But Elena responds and puts their long-held dream in danger. *Bear* is a story about the bonds of sisterhood and the mysteries of the animals that live among us. 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.



## 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:

### Whole Grains

- Whole Wheat Pasta
- Brown Rice
- Cereal
- Oatmeal



## See the online calendar

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

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

## Summer Worship Schedule

One worship service at 10:30 a.m.

*Childcare is available*

Kids Church at 10:30 a.m.  
for grades K-5

Adult Education resumes in the fall

## Church Office Hours

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

Friday – 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



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