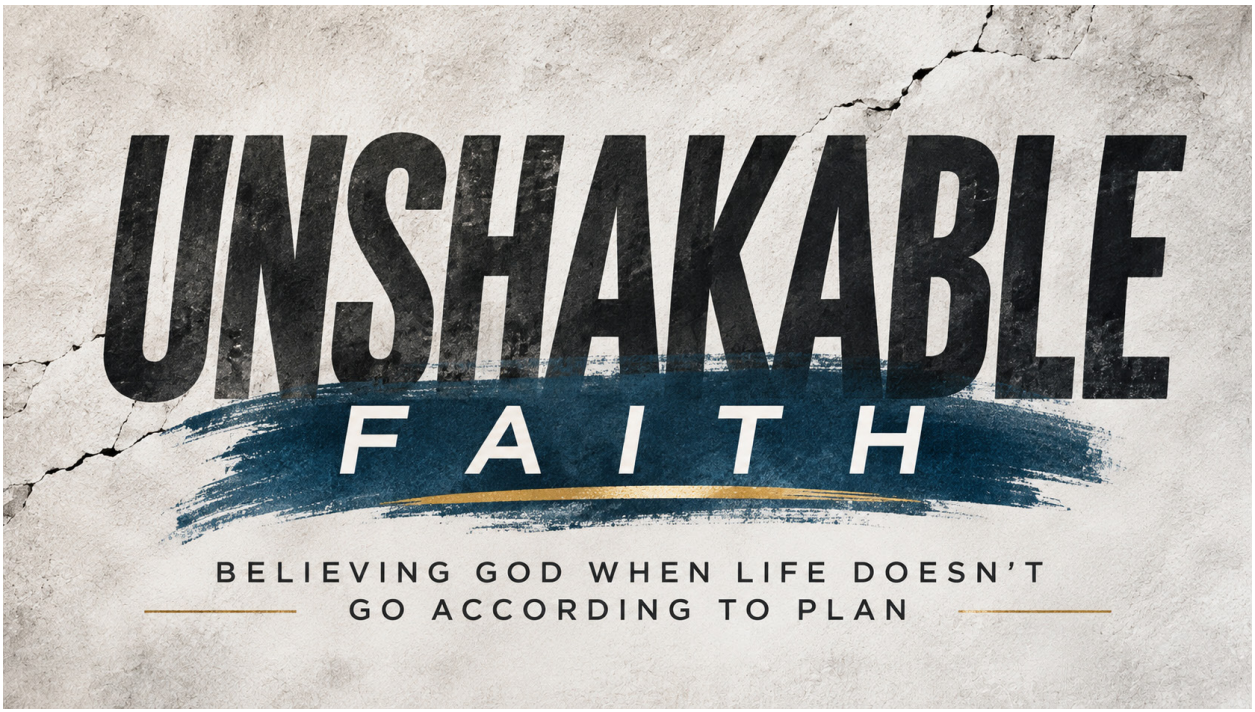
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of Wheaton

November 15, 2026

9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Worship



INVITING ALL GENERATIONS INTO A GROWING LIFE WITH JESUS CHRIST

The Gathering

PRELUDE **"Ein Feste Burg"** Settings by Ralph C. Schultz and Peter Crisafulli
Doug Zimmer, Organ

WELCOME Pastor Kellen Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP *Psalm 46:1-3, 10-11*

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
People: Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea.
Pastor: "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"
People: The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

GREETING ONE ANOTHER

HYMN #275 **"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"**

The Confession

CALL TO CONFESSION — Pastor Greg Anderson (9:00)
Pastor Donté Ford (10:30)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we confess that we often focus on our limitations rather than your power. When you call us to something difficult, we are quick to make excuses, question our abilities, and doubt what you can do through us. We allow fear to keep us from trusting your promises and following your leading. Forgive us for the times we have relied more on our own strength than on yours. Remind us that you are always with us, that your grace is sufficient, and that your power is made perfect in our weakness. Give us courage to trust you and faith to follow where you lead. In Jesus' name.

Please continue in silent prayer for confession of personal matters.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S PARDON

Pastor: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

CONFESSION RESPONSE **"Only A Holy God"** — By CityAlight
First Pres Choral Scholars

The Offering

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE — Pastor Greg Anderson (9:00)
Pastor Donté Ford (10:30)

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO KIDS CHURCH (9:00)

GOOD NEWS

MINUTE FOR MISSION — Sharon Carroll, Christmas Sharing

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Thank you for giving in-person, by text, online, or mailing your gifts into the church office.

MUSICAL OFFERING **"What Can I Do"** By Paul Baloche
First Pres Choral Scholars

DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Pastor Donté Ford

The Word

MESSAGE Pastor Kellen Smith

Unshakable Faith
"Faith When the Circumstances Seem Impossible"
Exodus 3:1-12

HYMN #687 **“Our God, Our Help In Ages Past”**

BLESSING — Pastor Kellen Smith

POSTLUDE **“Processional #6”** — By George Frideric Handel, Arr. by S. Drummond Wolff, Doug Zimmer, Organ

Missed a week? Watch past services at firstpreswheaton.org/livestream.









Sermon Notes

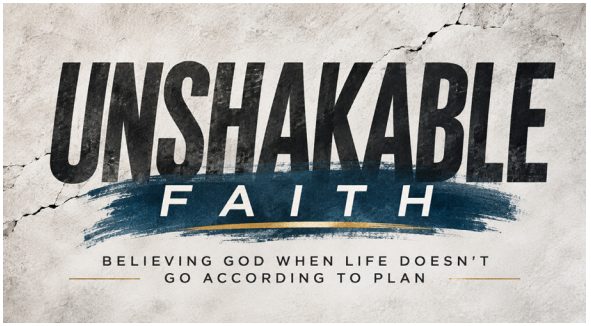
CHURCH LIFE

November 15, 2026

Services at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Unshakable Faith

Believing God When
Life Doesn't Go According to Plan



Livestream at 10:30 a.m.
firstpreswheaton.org/livestream

What do you believe about God? When the future is uncertain, the circumstances seem impossible, or your past makes you feel unworthy, we can struggle having faith in Jesus. Faith is tested in these moments, but it's also when faith is strengthened. Hebrews 12:28 says, "we are receiving a kingdom that can't be shaken."
In Unshakable Faith, we'll explore the stories of Abraham, Moses, and Rahab from Hebrews 11, the Hall of Faith. Their stories remind us that faith isn't about having all the answers, overcoming every obstacle, or earning our place in God's story. We'll discover three dimensions of an unshakable faith: believing God for what we cannot see, believing God can do what seems impossible, and believing God's grace is greater than our past. Together, we'll be invited to hold onto grace.

Today: "Faith When the Circumstances Seem Impossible"

Exodus 3:1-12

God calls Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. Moses sees his own limitations and questions whether he's capable of doing what God is asking. But God's purposes are not limited by our abilities. Faith believes that God can accomplish what seems impossible through us. Can we believe God can do what we cannot? Faith means believing that God's power is greater than our limitations.



You are invited to pray with a member of our Prayer Team after each service at the front of the church (Chancel).

We would be honored to lift up a concern or celebration in prayer with you.

Celebrating 10 New Household Pledges for Open Hands

We're excited to share that 10 new household pledges have been received for our 2027 Open Hands Generosity Campaign! What a wonderful expression of faith and additional commitment to the ministry and mission of First Pres Wheaton.

To date, we have received 102 pledges totaling $635,550. We are grateful for every pledge and for the generosity that continues to shape our life together.

If you've already made your 2027 pledge, thank you! If you haven't yet had the opportunity, there's still time to participate. You can return your pledge card by mail, in person, or complete your pledge easily online. We are grateful for what God is doing in the church through your generosity.

To make a pledge, please fill out a pledge card at firstpreswheaton.org/Generosity2027.

Thanksgiving Feast



Wednesday, November 18
5:30-6:30 p.m.
in Stewart Hall

Join your church family for a celebratory Thanksgiving Feast. The week before the holiday, all generations are invited to enjoy this time of giving thanks while sharing a delicious meal.

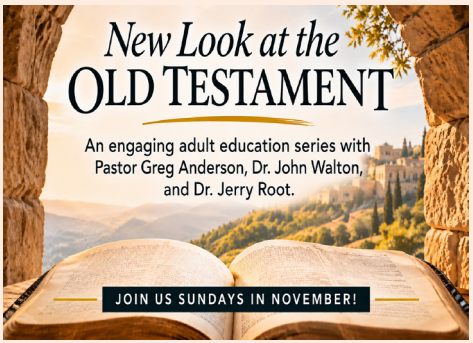
Menu: Sliced Turkey and Gravy, California Blend Vegetables, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Tossed Salad, Dinner Rolls, Apple Pie, and Pumpkin Pie (*Catered by Lee n' Eddies)*

Register by tomorrow, November 16 (9:00 a.m.)

Note: Rooted Kids participants eat free! (Registration required)

firstpreswheaton.org/Thanksgiving

– Adult Education –



New Look at the Old Testament

Sundays through November 29
10:30 a.m. in Stewart Hall

Greg Anderson and John Walton, with several guests, will explore the half of the Bible that most of us neglect.

Today – John Walton on the 10 Commandments

November 22 – Jerry Root on Job

November 29 – Jerry Root on Genesis



Children's Christmas Tree Lighting

Sunday, November 29
11:30 a.m. in the Rotunda

One of our favorite Christmas traditions is back! The Rotunda will once again sparkle with the Children's Christmas Tree, adorned with hand-made ornaments created by our Kids Ministry children and Preschoolers. Following Sunday School and the 10:30 a.m. service, join us as we gather for our annual celebration of the season, the creativity of our children, and the wonder of Christmas. Bring the whole family for hot chocolate, special refreshments and help us kick off the Advent season.



A Christmas Concert Featuring Adams Voice

Sunday, November 29
4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Celebrate the joy of the season with an afternoon of beautiful Christmas music! We're delighted to welcome back Adams Voice for a special Christmas concert featuring beloved holiday favorites and music that captures the wonder and joy of Christmas. Join us for this festive afternoon of music and celebration.

Free admission | Open to all ages

60+ Christmas Luncheon

Tuesday, December 1 – 11:30 am-1:00 p.m. in Stewart Hall
Cost: $15



Inviting all 60+ members and friends to join together for an uplifting time of fellowship and inspiration. We will have a delicious lunch (catered by Sweet Baby Ray's), enjoy entertainment, and welcome a guest speaker. Invite a friend to join for this delightful occasion.

Menu: Pulled Chicken with Sweet Baby Ray's BBQ Sauce, Pasta Primavera, Holiday Steamed Vegetables, Mixed Green Salad, Bread, and French Apple Tarts.

Register at firstpreswheaton.org/60+Luncheon by 12:00 noon on Tuesday, November 24.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

"A Love Worth Giving To You at Christmas"

Author: Max Lucado

Available starting Friday, November 20

An Advent Gift for You – As we prepare for the season of Advent, we have a special gift for every household in our church: a copy of *A Love Worth Giving to You at Christmas* by bestselling author, Max Lucado. This book offers a meaningful way to slow down, reflect on the depth of God's love, and prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christ's birth. We hope you will take a copy home and make it part of your Advent journey this year!

Christmas Sharing

You can help Christmas Sharing at the Portillo's fundraiser!

Tues., November 17
5:00-8:00 p.m.
235 North Avenue
Glendale Heights

Enter promo code **PORTILLOS2** for online/app orders or present this copy in-restaurant.



20% of sales benefit Christmas Sharing Wheaton/Warrenville.

Save the Date: Friday, December 4 is Gingerbread Nativity Night. Watch for details.

Kids Church and Sunday School!

Kids Church at 9:00 – We are offering Kids Church during the 9:00 service for children 4 years old through 5th grade! Children will start in the Sanctuary with their families and then be invited down to LL105 during the service for a Bible lesson and activity.

First Pres Kids Ministry

Sunday School at 10:30 – Sunday School is for ages 3 years old (by Sept. 1) through 5th grade. Please be sure to check in at our kiosks in the Kids Ministry hallway on the lower level before dropping your child off in their classroom.

Childcare: Children 3 years old and younger are welcome in the Childcare Room in LL103.

Questions? Contact Stacey Chvatal at schvatal@firstpreswheaton.org

Student Ministry

Wheaton FP Genesis

wf High School Ministry

Genesis Middle School Ministry meets on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

WF High School Ministry will not meet today, due to the Fall Retreat.

Contact Hannah Curry at hcurry@firstpreswheaton.org with any questions.



The chancel flowers are given in celebration of Mary and Les Lubko; may their memories be a story without end, given by daughters, Leslie Nelson and Lisa Regan.

Poinsettias Dedications



Poinsettias adorn our chancel each Christmas. To dedicate a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, submit this form no later than Monday, December 14. Your dedication will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. You may also pick up your poinsettia following the last service on Christmas Eve or the week after Christmas during office hours.

You can make your dedication in the amount of your choice, and can use the online form, at firstpreswheaton.org/Poinsettias2026 or complete a Poinsettia Dedication form which can be found at the Welcome Desk, Narthex, and the church office.

Welcome to this week's opportunity to pray in community

Prayers for our Church Family

- Healing for Jane Stevens, who is having health issues
- Comfort for the family of Dave Geddes, whose memorial service was Saturday
- Mercies for Andrea Schewe's brother, Trevor Hall, who is in hospice care in Florida

Prayer Requests may be made by filling out the online request form at firstpreswheaton.org/PrayerRequest, or by emailing or calling the church office at 630-668-5147.

Church Office Hours

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

Friday – 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of Wheaton

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