

First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF LAKE FOREST

Nurturing a community of faith working through love.



Welcome!

October 5, 2025

To all who are weary and seek rest,
To all who mourn and long for comfort,
To all who are lonely and desire friendship,
To all who hunger and thirst for grace,
and to all who will come,
First Pres opens wide her doors and offers
welcome in the name of Jesus Christ.

Today's Service

World Communion Sunday

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. World Communion Sunday was adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1936. It was created as an attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity—in which everyone might receive both inspiration and information, and above all, to know how important the Church of Jesus Christ is, and how each congregation is interconnected one with another.

The Revised Common Lectionary scriptures assigned for today are Lamentations 1:1–6 and Lamentations 3:19–26 or Psalm 137; Habakkuk 1:1–4; 2:1–4 and Psalm 37:1–9; 2 Timothy 1:1–14; Luke 17:5–10.

Prayer for Today

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer

Visiting First Pres?



If you're new to First Pres, please scan this code to get in touch.

Join us for Coffee Hour following worship in the Great Room.

Worship Participants

Rev. Jon Wasson
Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Anna Langholz
Associate Pastor for
Congregational Life

Dr. Robert McConnell
Director of Worship & Music

Dr. Stephen Alltop
Organist

Sanctuary Choir

Prelude

Herzliebster Jesu
O wie selig seid ihr doch, ihr Frommen
Johannes Brahms

The Welcome

Introit

Come, Ye that Love the Lord
Alice Parker

Come, ye that love the Lord,
And let your joys be known;
Join in a song with sweet accord,
And thus surround the throne.

Let those refuse to sing,
Who never knew our God;
But children of the heav'nly King
May speak their joys abroad.

The sorrows of the mind
Be banished from the place;
Religion never was designed
To make our pleasures less.

*Call to Worship

Lamentations 3:22-26

Leader: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
God's mercies never come to an end.

People: They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness.

Leader: The Lord is our portion, therefore we will hope in him.

**People: The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.**

All: Let us wait patiently for the salvation of the Lord.

*Hymn of Praise No. 49

The God of Abraham Praise

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

2 Timothy 1:1-14

(silent confession...) **Merciful God, you have called us to live in sincere faith, but we do not come before you with a clear conscience. We have stifled your gift of faith by living in cowardice, by failing to show love, and by lapses in self-discipline. Above all, we have been ashamed of the message of our Lord and have been unwilling to bare any discomfort for the sake of the gospel. Forgive us, O Lord, and increase our faith, that we might fulfill your holy calling, not according to our works but according to the grace that was given to us in Jesus Christ before the ages began. Amen.**

Kyrie

John Arndt, David Gungor, Ian Cron,
Ben Kilgore, and Evan Wickham



Assurance of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri No. 581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

*Passing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Blessing of the Children

Leader: Holy God, we thank you for the gift of these children,

People: **And for their parents.**

Leader: We know that you have entrusted them to their parents,

People: **And also to our community.**

Leader: To care for them,
to teach them,
to be examples of Christ to them.
Bless these children.

People: **And let us be a blessing to them.**

All: **Amen.**

Following the blessing, children in preschool through 4th grade will go to the Chapel for a group lesson before returning after the sermon to join their families for communion.

Invitation to the Offering



You may give online by scanning the QR code with your mobile phone,
go to firstchurchlf.org/give, or use your Church Center App.
Thank you for your generosity!

Offertory

“How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place” from German Requiem
Johannes Brahms

How lovely is thy dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
For my soul, it longeth, yea fainteth for the courts of the Lord.
My soul and body crieth out, yea for the living God.
O blest are they that dwell in thy house:
they praise thy name evermore.

— Psalm 84:1-2, 4

*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

Gospel Lesson

Luke 17:5-6
New Testament, page 80 in pew Bible

Sermon

Jon Wasson

“Increase our Faith!”

*Hymn of Response No. 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

*Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy
Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from
the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the
Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Communion

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Prayers of the People

The Invitation to the Table and Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

So that all feel welcome at the table, the bread is gluten-free, and the cups contain grape juice. Communion is served by intinction—please take a piece of bread, dip it into the cup, and partake. Ushers will guide your row when it is time to come forward.

Communion Music

Here, O Lord, I See Thee
Percy W. Whitlock

Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;
here would I touch and handle things unseen;
here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,
and all my weariness upon thee lean

Here would I feed upon the Bread of God;
here drink with thee the royal Wine of heaven;
here would I lay aside each earthly load,
here taste and fresh the calm of sin forgiven.

— Horatius Bonar

Schmücke Dich
Johannes Brahms

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Hymn of Sending

The Lord's Prayer
Albert Hay Mallotte

Our Fa-ther, which art in heav-en, Hal-low-ed be Thy name. Thy king-dom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heav - en. Give us this day our dai - ly
bread, And for-give us our debts, as we for-give our debt-ors. And lead us not in-to temp-
ta - tion but de - liv - er us from e - vil; For Thine is the king - dom, and the
power, and the glo-ry for - ev - er, A - men. A - men.

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*Introduction of our New Members

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Response

Dresden Amen

*Postlude

Prelude and Fugue in A Major
William Selby

Welcome our New Members!



Sepehr Akbari

I came to the US to study at Lake Forest College and began coming to First Pres services. I am new to Christianity, but enjoy the community and values of First Pres. I grew up in Iran, in a very non-religious family. Since coming to the US, I have read the Bible, got introduced to the Christian community, and have been greatly enjoying the connection to this faith.



Brittany Carrier

I grew up in Kansas, went to college in Chicago (Illinois Tech), and now work in the city as an architect. My husband Erik and I live in Lake Forest and have three young kids named Lincoln, Sienna and Poppy.

Erik Carrier

I grew up in Lake Forest but went to First Presbyterian of Deerfield and had a positive experience. I also partially grew up in Colorado where my family ran a guest ranch for 8 years (I worked there for 10 years). I went to University of Iowa where I obtained an English degree with a minor in religion and business. I took several construction sales jobs before starting my own company in 2012. I enjoy spending time with my young children and beautiful wife at festivals, concerts, bike rides to the beach and walks to the park.



Richard "Chip" Clark

I grew up in Libertyville and attended First Presbyterian Church in Deerfield where I was confirmed. I attended Miami University (Oxford, OH) and on the day I became an affiliate member of the local Presbyterian Church I was introduced to my wife, Melanie. We lived in Philadelphia, PA, Libertyville, IL, Racine, WI, and returned to Libertyville in 2019, when I joined Northwestern Medicine to help them grow their Primary Care presence in Lake County. We have a son, Kyle, who resides in Cape Town, South Africa, with his wife, Annie, and they are expecting their first daughter. Our daughter, Kat, lives in Mount Pleasant, WI, and is engaged. I love biking, swimming, reading, spending time with my family, and enjoy nature in all its beauty.



Tricia Heinzmann

I moved to Lake Forest in 1978 and was confirmed and married at First Pres. I live in Salem, WI and I am married with four children and two grandchildren. I converted to Catholicism 28 years ago because my husband and children are Catholic, but I am excited to come back. My youngest son was born with Angelman syndrome which keeps our family busy. He is a blessing. My mother is buried in the Memorial Garden (Norma Garrett) and I feel my mom's presence when I am there.



Paul McNamara

I am from Grand Rapids, MI and grew up in a very happy religious home. I was an altar boy for years and my dad was a lector. My dad died suddenly when I was in my 20s and sadly he was the thing that tethered me to church. I was away for awhile but never stopped exploring Christianity. I moved to Chicago after college in 2005 and managed a bike shop but then broke into advertising in 2011 when I moved to NYC. I moved to Los Angeles in 2016 and then to Lake Forest in 2023. My fiancé, Liz, and I live in Lake Forest with our daughter Harriet and our dog Twiggy. In my spare time I love everything to do with bicycles.



Annelise Munger

I grew up in Long Grove and met my husband, Tom, when we were both freshmen at Stevenson High School. We moved from Chicago to Lincolnshire last fall, and in January, we were blessed with the birth of our son, James, who was recently baptized at First Pres. I have a Bioengineering degree from the University of Illinois and an MBA from Northwestern Kellogg. In my free time, I enjoy cycling and baking. I'm excited to be a new member and to raise our son in this wonderful, very welcoming community!

Tom Munger

My family and I moved to Lincolnshire about one year ago. I attended First Pres as a boy and am excited to be back! My parents are members John and Leslie Munger. I studied engineering at the University of Illinois, business at Kellogg, and I work in Product Management for the packaging company Amcor. In my free time, I like to fly small airplanes!



Timothy Murray

I grew up in Wilmette and graduated from New Trier High School in 1970. I received my BA degree from Duke University in 1974 and my MBA from the University of Chicago in 1978. My wife Louellen and I were married for 44 years before she passed due to pancreatic cancer in 2021. We were previously members of First Pres and have three children and three grandchildren. My principal hobbies are golf and jigsaw puzzles.



Erin Murphy

I was born in Ann Arbor, MI, and I met my husband back in middle school, and we have been together since high school. After attending college together, I chose the path of Art Conservation, which took me around the world for internships, graduate degrees and fellowships before starting my position at the Field Museum in Chicago. Since moving here, we've welcomed our wonderful daughter, Isla, and I am eager to raise my daughter in this community. My husband and I were long-time cross-country runners and hope to get back into running. I also love to read, and together we enjoy spending time gardening.



Morgan Parker

I was confirmed Catholic and grew up in a Philadelphia suburb. I met my husband, JJ, while attending Bucknell University. I have worked in nonprofit events and fundraising for Shedd Aquarium, the American Heart Association and Kohl Children's Museum. JJ grew up in Lake Bluff as a member of First Pres and is a physician scientist for Northwestern Medicine and Lurie Children's Hospital. We have three kids named Jack (6), Charlotte (3), and Emilia (1). My hobbies include traveling, spending time with friends and family, running, yoga, and reading.



Thomas Polakow

I grew up in Arlington Heights and later moved to Northfield for high school. I've lived in Lake Forest since 2015. My parents immigrated from Poland, and I'm a first-generation American. My wife, Paige, and I have a six-year-old son, Hunter. I am a nurse by training and work as a Clinical Product Manager in healthcare. Outside of work, I enjoy Jiu-Jitsu, weightlifting, grilling, and spending time with my family.



Julie & Robert Rogers

We moved to Lake Forest in the summer of 2024 and visited First Pres and felt at home immediately. We've been friends since middle school, growing up together in Grosse Pointe, Michigan. After high school, Rob went to the Air Force Academy before joining the Air Force and then attended business school, while I studied at Duke, went to law school at Wash U in St. Louis, and practiced law in Manhattan. Our story came full circle when we started dating in 2012. We were married in 2015, and a year later, we moved back to Michigan before settling in Lake Forest in 2025. I work as an in-house attorney for Reddit and Rob owns his own HVAC franchise, AireServ. We have two wonderful daughters, Ellis (7) and Caroline, who goes by Coco (4). Ellis is at LFCDS and Coco is at MSLF.



Jared Smith

I grew up in Lake Forest, attended First Pres, was Confirmed and participated in the annual High School Youth Group Work Trips. I very recently moved back to Lake Forest with my wife, Kendra, to raise our growing family. Rejoining First Pres has made my return to home that much sweeter. I look forward to reconnecting with old friends and forming new friendships with other members who have also been drawn to this wonderful community. I am always looking for a good pickup hockey game, new hiking trails/ camping spots, ski/ surf vacation ideas, prime tee times, and recommendations on how to keep doing hobbies with newborns.

Sara Sortal



I grew up in Glenview and went to a catholic elementary school and public high school before attending Northwestern for both undergrad and business school. My hobbies include staying active in athletic endeavors, enjoying travel, and chasing our two kids Raegan and Jane.

Scott Sortal

My wife, Sara, and I are raising a young family in Deerfield and expecting a third girl this fall. I grew up in Wilmette, graduated from New Trier, did a postgraduate year at Northfield Mount Hermon in Massachusetts, attended University of Vermont, earned a master's at National Louis, and I am currently taking MBA classes online. I taught for five years at Mount Carmel High School and currently teach at LFHS. I love all things outdoors, playing/coaching sports, reading/listening to books or podcasts. I also enjoy music and play locally.



Nick Standiford

I grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan going to the First Presbyterian Church there. I went to the University of Michigan for undergrad and Michigan State University for law school. I am married to Julie (Seidel) Standiford, we have three kids and live in Lake Forest. My hobbies include ice hockey, cycling, and playing guitar.



Charles Stephens, III

I grew up in First Pres, became an Eagle Scout with Troop 46 as a kid, so my reengagement is very much a homecoming. After LFHS I went to Northwestern for undergrad and Kellogg for my MBA and then moved to San Francisco I jumped from consulting to a career in e-commerce (Gap, Threadless), then mobility (Zipcar, Lyft, Metropolis) and some other startups peppered in. As for hobbies, I've been playing guitar in my current band called Blue Sky Highway. I also like to ski, strength train, and play hockey.



Mary Stephens

My family consists of my parents Kate and Charles Stephens, III, as well as my brother Charlie. I grew up in Chicago and moved here with my family when I was about 9. I go to Lake Forest High School and I love English and History. My hobbies include music and baking.



Katie Taubensee

My husband, John, and I moved back to Lake Forest a few years ago and are grateful to be raising our family here. I grew up in a suburb of Indianapolis, and John and I met while attending DePauw University. After completing my Master's in Occupational Therapy, I worked primarily with adults in various rehabilitation settings. Before having kids, we lived in Indianapolis, Seattle, and Venice, Florida, but ultimately chose Lake Forest to put down roots. I enjoy bike rides and spending time outdoors with our kids, trying out new recipes (with mixed results!), and gathering with family.



Ann Taylor

My husband, David and I have attended a Presbyterian church since we were married in 1987. After living in a quiet Michigan suburb for 27 years, we very spontaneously moved to downtown Chicago wanting to be closer to our kids and it's been a fantastic adventure. David and I grew up in Kokomo, IN and both graduated from Indiana University. We love to be active and enjoy exploring beautiful Lake Forest on our bikes and on long walks.

David Taylor

I grew up Catholic and became a Presbyterian when I married Ann. Faith has been the cornerstone of my life since I was a young child. I began working with General Motors in Indiana, moved to Germany for an assignment and returned to Michigan when we repatriated. My non-working time was spent raising two young men. Ann and I take our exercise seriously. I spend a lot of time on the Peloton bike, some running, outside biking and playing golf and reading.

Paul Waterloo



I grew up in Glen Ellyn and attended the First Congregational Church there. My wife and I have been married for 9 years and have 3 kids, Benny (7), Vivi (5) and Lily (3). We've felt an instant connection to the message and community of First Pres. I graduated from the University of Illinois. I am passionate about our family, real estate, sports and traveling.

Samantha Waterloo

I grew up in Skokie and my family and I recently settled in Bannockburn. I have a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Miami University. I love spending time outdoors with my family, as well as gardening, reading, and attempting creative projects with the kids. We love being active – going on bike rides, jogs, hiking, and swimming.

Bob Zinn



I was brought up in the Congregational church and my wife, Shirley, and I were members of the Winnetka Presbyterian Church. I served terms as a Deacon and an Elder at Presbyterian churches in Largo and Clearwater, FL. I grew up in Montclair, NJ and after college entered the United States Navy as a Naval Officer serving 3 years and went on to serve another 19 years in the Naval Reserve. On my release from active duty, I started my 35-year career with Chubb, a large worldwide insurance company. I retired in 1997 and we moved to Maine shortly after pursuing our lifelong interests in offshore sailing and skiing. Recognizing last year that we needed to make a 'lifestyle' change, we made our move to Lake Forest Place last December.

Shirley Zinn

I grew up in Middletown, CT. I attended colleges in Vermont and southern Illinois. I taught school in Northbrook and met Bob in Chicago at a church coffee hour. We've lived in many towns and have enjoyed many years sailing on lakes and the Atlantic Ocean. We became birders in Maine and I love taking photos of nature. Knitting is a craft I enjoy. We have two children, Gretchen Seymour and husband Jim, and Rob Zinn and wife Anna.

Prayers

Joys

We celebrate welcoming so many new members to our church community this morning!

We celebrate the ministry of our Deacons, who faithfully serve our congregation in times of need and celebration, and help ensure clear communication within our church community.

Concerns

For Todd Litzsinger and his family on the death of his father, Paul "Pops" Litzsinger on October 1. Visitation will be Thursday, October 23, 5-8pm in the Great Room. The service will be Friday, October 24, 11am in the Sanctuary.

For Susan Schlachtenhaufen and her family on the death of her mother, Helen Post, on September 19.

For the family of Dick Mentzinger, who died September 23. A service is being planned for a later date.

For Marilyn Holmes who is hospitalized.

For Nancy Klein who is receiving treatments at the eye clinic in New Jersey.

For Frank Sibley, and his family on the death of his brother, John Sibley on September 17. A service will be held on October 1 at Saint Alphonsus Liguori Church in Prospect Heights, IL.

Community

For the ongoing work of our mission partner A Safe Place.

Prayer Requests

We are a church that prays for each other, celebrating life's joys and supporting each other in times of need. Our staff prays together on Tuesday mornings and would like to include your prayers. For prayer requests please fill out a Joys & Concerns card, email us at pastoralcare@firstchurchlf.org or call 224.544.1958.

Prayer requests will be removed from this listing after two weeks.

Prayer Chain For confidential prayers, you may email prayerchain@firstchurchlf.org. Please know that your prayers will be held in strict confidence.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

October is Meet Your Deacon Month

Each Sunday throughout October, the Deacons will be hosting Fellowship. Please join us after worship and plan to meet your deacon. Unsure of who your deacon is? We will have staff available each Sunday throughout October to assist with introductions.

GenNext Corn Hole & Cocktails Friday, October 10, 5-7pm

The GenNext group, church members whose children are out of the house but are not yet grandparents, is getting together for the second annual Corn Hole and Cocktails event on Friday, October 10th, from 5 -7pm at the Manse. This event offers a fun chance to connect with others in the same stage of life. Sign up by scanning the QR code.



Accepting All Church Nominating Committee Nominations

The All Church Nominating Committee (ACNC) is beginning the process of gathering names of servant leaders for our church Elders, Deacons and Members-at-Large of the ACNC. You are encouraged to offer nominations including self-nominations. The ACNC will consider all nominations and propose a slate of candidates for congregational vote at our Annual Meeting. Nominations are due by October 15. Scan the QR code to fill out a nomination form on Church Center.



Lake Forest College Football Tailgate

Join us as we attend the Lake Forest College football game together on Saturday, October 18. Kickoff is 1pm. We'll have a tailgate spot opening at 12pm in the tailgate lot adjacent to the College Sports & Recreation Center. Tickets are purchased at door (\$5/adults, \$3/kids 6-17, and kids 5 and under are free). For more information and to sign up, visit the Church Center app.



Find First Pres in Church Center Scan here to log in and learn about everything happening in our congregation!



Announcements and Upcoming Events

Pastor's Book Club

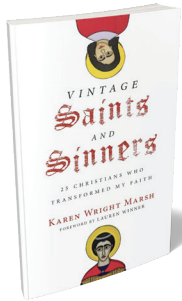
This fall we're kicking off our Pastor's Book Club. We'd love for you to pick up one of these books, read along with us, and then join us for conversation. Books can be purchased online or through the Lake Forest Book Store.

Vintage Saints and Sinners by Karen Marsh

October 29, 7 pm

Karen Marsh introduces us to a colorful cast of saints whose lives reveal God's grace at work in unexpected ways.

These portraits remind us that holiness has always been a matter of God working through imperfect people. Their stories inspire us, comfort us, and sometimes convict us, pointing us toward the same grace at work in our own lives.



Please Wear a Name Tag!

As our church family grows with new staff, members, and guests, name tags are helpful for everyone and create a friendly environment. Make one for yourself at either entrance.

Sunday School Volunteers

Teachers and assistants are needed in the Sunday School classrooms each week. No experience needed and training will be provided. To learn more, contact Rachel Magnusson at rmagnusson@firstchurchlf.org.

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Get Involved Scan this code to get more information about specific ministries, upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.



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