

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

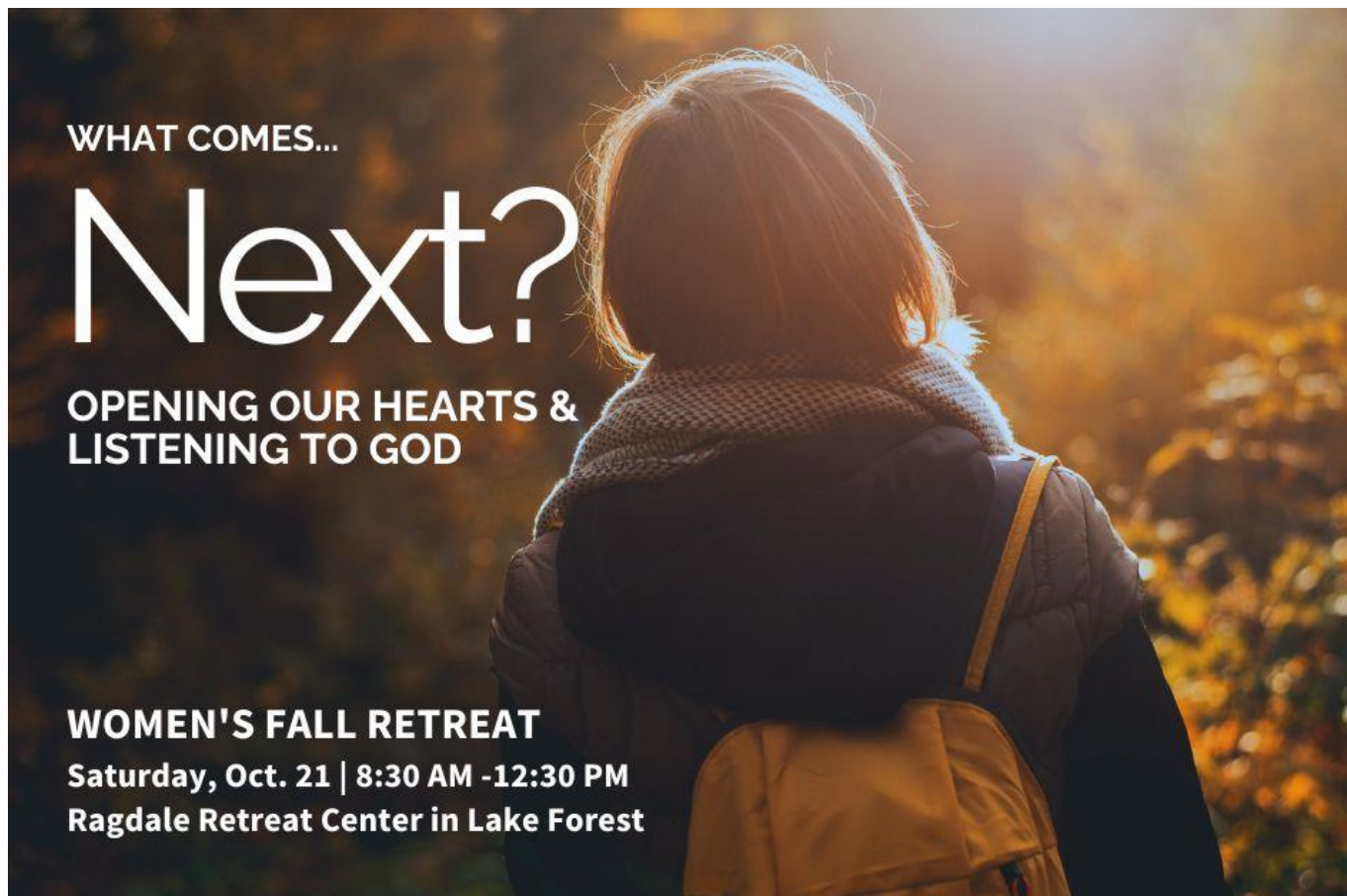


JOY

BREAKS OUT

First Presbyterian Church Libertyville

FALL 2023



Women's Fall Retreat: "NEXT"
When Everything Is Unraveling, What Comes Next?
Opening Our Hearts & Listening to God

Date: Saturday, October 21st **Time:** 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Location:** Ragdale Retreat Center, Lake Forest

Join us for a transformative day at the Women's Fall Retreat, where we'll delve into the theme: **"NEXT? When Everything Is Unraveling, What Comes Next? Opening Our Hearts & Listening to God."**

In a world marked by change, unpredictability and anxiety, this retreat invites you into practices to help you lean into deeper trust in God. Rev. Melanie Hammond Clark, a spiritual director with a passion for deepening discipleship and igniting spiritual transformation, will guide us on our journey.

This event is open to all women seeking an environment conducive to spiritual growth and self-discovery. Don't miss out on this opportunity to find strength in community and guidance in uncertainty.



For more information and to secure your spot, scan the QR code to the left or click [here](#) to go directly to the registration page.

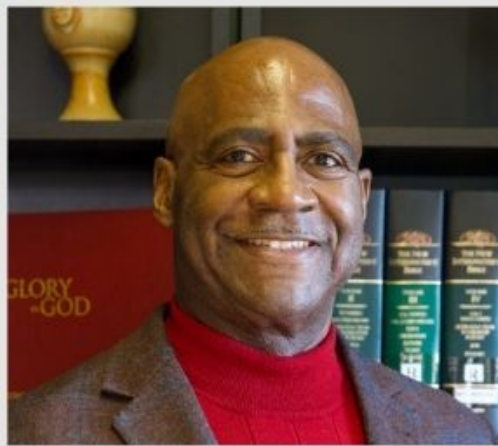
Let's come together for a day of renewal, introspection, and connection. Join with open and trusting hearts as we navigate "NEXT" together.

Questions? Please call the church office at 847-363-2174 or email Michelle Groenke at mgroenke@boxp.net

MEN'S FALL RETREAT



"SO, WHAT DO YOU DO FOR A LIFE?"
FINDING OUR TRUE IDENTITY IN VOCATION



Led by Rev. Dr. Craig M. Howard

FRIDAY, NOV. 10-SATURDAY, NOV. 11, 2023
GEORGE WILLIAMS CONFERENCE CENTER IN WILLIAMS BAY, WI

Our work helps to shine light on our God given identity. Who does our work say that we are? Who have we become through our work? This retreat will focus on work, vocation, and masculinity in the three stages of our lives- Morning (youth), Noon (middle age) and Night (senior).

Come for a 24-hour Men's Retreat to discover your purpose, engage in some spirited conversation, get to know some Christian men and enjoy each other's company.

A \$195 fee for Friday and Saturday includes all meals and lodging in a double room (\$265 for a single room). You may attend Saturday only for a \$60 fee (breakfast and lunch included). We will meet at GW Conference Center between 5 and 6:00 PM on Friday night, and close before 5:00 on Saturday. A map and other details will be provided prior to the event. Make plans to join us today!

REGISTRATION OPENS SOON!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL MIKE CASTNER (847) 650-0253, OR
GARY HOLLAND (847) 367-6254



Tackle Hunger Tailgate on Oct. 1

Grab your favorite team jersey and join us on Brainerd Field right after worship on Oct. 1 for the Tackle Hunger Tailgate! We'll have games for all ages, hotdogs and other treats and we'll be selling raffle tickets to help end hunger in Lake County.

Donations of canned goods and other non-perishable food items are encouraged!

LUNCH & LEARN

Join Us for an Exciting New "Lunch & Learn" Program Series!

Discover, Explore, and Connect in 2023-24

Are you ready for a year of enlightening experiences and engaging conversations? Look no further! Our "Lunch & Learn" program has a fantastic lineup of events designed to inspire, educate, and entertain. **Mark your calendars and invite your friends!**

Tuesday, Sept. 19: Life on the Line: Movements and Mortality in Poland

- Join Rev. Dr. Brian R. Paulson as he shares the inspiring stories of partner churches supporting Ukrainian refugees and the interfaith delegation's journey to learn about Jewish history. Time: 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. | Location: Social Hall | Lunch: \$12 |

Tuesday, Oct. 17: Fall Foliage Walk along the Des Plaines River

- Embrace the beauty of autumn with Rev. Amy Heinrich. Enjoy a delightful picnic inside the Adler Park Lodge followed by a scenic contemplative walk* along the Des Plaines River Trail (*weather permitting). Pre-order your box lunch for \$12 and make it a perfect day outdoors. Time: 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. | Location: Adler Park | Lunch: \$12 |

Tuesday, Nov. 21: ThanksLIVING: Integrating Gratitude & Mindfulness into our Daily Lives

- Dr. Robert Heinrich, a clinical psychologist and meditation practitioner, will guide us on a journey to appreciate the power of gratitude and mindfulness in enhancing our daily lives. Time: 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. | Location: Social Hall | Lunch: \$12 |

Tuesday, Dec. 19: Ringing in Christmas

- Let the enchanting sounds of the Bel Canto Ringers fill the air as we celebrate the holiday season with joyous Christmas music. Time: 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. | Location: Fellowship Hall | Lunch: \$12 |

Tuesday, Jan. 16: Cozy Up to a Good Book

- Bring a favorite book that has positively impacted your life and share the magic of reading with fellow book enthusiasts. Panelists Brian Smith, Judy Beinlich, Phil Hartung and Eileen Sokoloski will tell us about books that have changed their lives and then we'll

break out into small groups to talk about some of our favorites. A perfect opportunity to discover new literary gems. Time: 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. | Location: Social Hall | Lunch: \$12 |

Tuesday, Feb. 20: Travel Tips & Trends

- Planning your next vacation? Join a expert travel advisor for insights into the latest travel trends and valuable tips to make your journeys unforgettable. Time: 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. | Location: Social Hall | Lunch: \$12 |

Tuesday, March 19: Senior Crime Awareness & Safety

- The Libertyville Police Department will empower us with knowledge about community safety and how to protect ourselves from scams. Time: 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. | Location: Social Hall | Lunch: \$12 |

Tuesday, April 15: The Gift of Humor

- Laugh your way to a brighter day with Rosemary Monahan as she explores how humor can transform and uplift our lives. Time: 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. | Location: Social Hall | Lunch: \$12 |

Tuesday, May 21: Explore the Chicago Botanic Gardens

- Immerse yourself in the beauty of nature at the Chicago Botanic Gardens. Enjoy a private tram ride, delicious lunch, and the opportunity to discover the wonders of the gardens. Fee: \$25-\$30* (includes parking, admission, private tram ride, and lunch). Time: 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. | Location: Chicago Botanic Gardens in Glencoe | *\$25 (Early Bird rate Jan 15-April 15) or \$30 (Regular Rate April 16-May 9).

Experience the joy of learning, the delight of discovery, and the warmth of community at our "Lunch & Learn" program series. Questions? Contact the church office at 847-362-2174 or office@boxp.net.



Explore Our Neighborhood is modeled in part after Mister Rogers' trips to places beyond the neighborhood (i.e. crayon factory, emergency room, National Zoo, etc.).

We will share a meal with folks doing good work in Lake County, learn about the work they are doing and how it ties to our lives as followers of Jesus, and then help with their service.

These Sunday afternoon trips (generally from 12:00-3:00 p.m.) are for all ages and we encourage you to invite your friends!

Sunday, November 5, 2023

We will connect with an organization serving veterans and help them with the services they provide.

Sunday, January 21, 2024

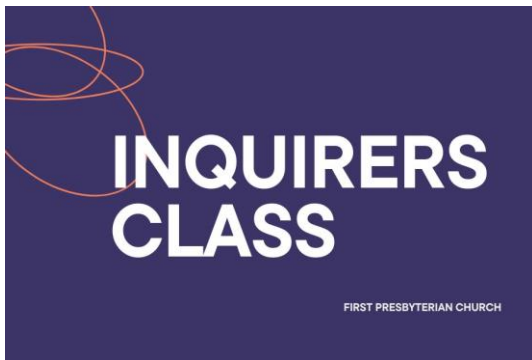
We will head to an organization focused on grief ministries, in conjunction with the **Follow Me** unit on *Comfort Those Who Mourn*, and then help with the services they provide.

Sunday, March 10, 2024

We will head to an organization supporting underserved women to learn more about their ministry, and then work alongside them to help them be ready to serve.

June 23, 2024

TBD



Inquirers Class for Prospective New Members

If you've been worshipping with us and are thinking of becoming a member of First Pres Libertyville, we invite you to attend our Inquirers Class to discover more about our church and how we are joined together by God's love.

Join us on Sunday, Oct. 8 and Sunday, Oct. 15 from 11:15 a.m. -1:30 p.m. upstairs in the Conference Room. If you choose to formally join the church, you'll meet with our Session on Monday, Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. and then be recognized in front of the congregation on

Sunday, Oct. 22. Please email us at office@boxp.net or call 847-362-2174 for more information!

Sunday School for Kids & Youth

Our Sunday School classes for children PreK-12th grade are built around the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s curriculum called **Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living**.

This curriculum is based on practices Jesus did and taught us to do as faithful followers. Written for people of all ages who wish to live out their faith, this curriculum examines where these practices are found in the Bible and how they have been used in Christian faith then and now.

Each week, all grades will be learning about the same biblical principles and stories in age-appropriate ways, allowing us to be in conversation about what we are learning together.

We'll all begin in worship together and then, after the Word for the Children, which follows the second scripture reading, all children who wish to participate in Sunday School may head to their classrooms on the second floor of the Christian Education wing (the northeast corner of the building) with their classroom shepherd. Classes end when worship ends and we ask that students through 4th grade are picked up by an authorized person once worship has ended so our teachers might also enjoy fellowship time during Social Hour.

Confirmation

Our confirmation program is designed for students ages 8th grade and up who wish to learn more about what it means to confirm for themselves the promises made at their baptism. We use the Episcopal **Confirm not Conform: Presbyterian Edition** curriculum, a youth confirmation program that exposes youth to a wide range of topics, including Scripture, sacraments, creeds, heresy, prayer, other religions, and serving others, and asks them to think through what they believe and why.



Confirm not Conform emphasizes finding one's own voice rather than simply conforming to an external standard. It is a program that respects the work youth and adults do as they explore their faith, trusting that when people put in the effort to articulate what they believe and why, they will make good choices about their next step in faith. Classes meet for 18 Sundays throughout the school year. Before the school year begins, we head to Covenant Harbor for a weekend retreat and we end the year with an all-church celebration on a Saturday in the weeks leading up to Confirmation, which is celebrated on Pentecost.

First through Third Friends



First through Third Friends

About once a quarter, first through third graders are invited to build friendships, playing, and eating together from 11:15 AM - 1:00 PM.



Fourth and Fifth Fellowship

About once a quarter, fourth through fifth graders are invited to deepen their friendships, with a meal and activities from 11:15 AM - 1:00 PM.



Junior High Fellowship (JHF)

Junior High Fellowship, or JHF, meets most Sunday evenings from 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM. in the Youth Lounge (accessed by the exterior stairwell on Douglas Ave). We meet for conversation, fellowship, service, and fun. Occasionally, we will meet at other times and places for retreats, service opportunities, or other off-site activities.



Senior High Fellowship (SHF)

Senior High Fellowship, or SHF, meets most Sunday evenings from 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM. in the Youth Lounge (accessed by the exterior stairwell on Douglas). We meet for conversation, fellowship, service, and fun. Occasionally, we will meet at other times and places for retreats, service opportunities, or other off-site activities.



YOUTH SMALL GROUPS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LIBERTYVILLE

Starting this fall we will offer a mid-week opportunity for our youth to gather in a home setting to have opportunities for deeper conversations and nurture of their faith, along with more personalized fellowship.

For each gathering, there will be a simple conversation starter question grounded in our faith. Conversation may center on the question or diverge to something on the hearts of the kids.

The key to it all is to give our youth a chance to pick a small group date that works for them and be part of more intentional faith-building (while growing in relationship with adults from the congregation) with a group of people who share a faith background and bring it to understanding the rest of their lives in community with one another over time.



Joyful Noise Choir (Pre-K and Kindergarten)

Isabelle Esquivel, director

Thursdays 4:30-5:00 p.m. in the Choir Room.

Open all kindergarteners, as well as older preschoolers, this choir is the beginning of our graded choir program. They sing for worship usually every 8 weeks from September through April, plus the Christmas Pageant.

Cherub Choir (1st-2nd grade)

Sue Ellen Skeens, director

Thursdays 4:15-5:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

Cherub Choir is for 1st and 2nd graders. The choir sings for worship every 6 weeks or so from September through April, plus special services including the annual Christmas Pageant.

Faith Choir (3rd-6th grade)

Gloria Song, director

Thursdays 4:15-5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

This choir is open to 3rd through 5th graders. They sing for worship every 6 weeks or so from September through April, plus special services such as the Christmas Pageant.

Alpha Omega Chimers (grades 3-6)

Gloria Song, director

Sundays 11:00-12:00 p.m. in the Belfry

This beginning training group for handbells is open to anyone in 3rd through 5th grade. It provides a chance to start learning the fun of handbell ringing.

Jr. /Sr. High Choir (7th-12th grade)

Kitty Snyder, director

Sundays 11:10-12:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Jr./Sr. High Choir is open to any junior or senior high school student. They lead in worship every 5-6 weeks and on other occasions throughout the year, including the Christmas Pageant.

Youth Bells (6th-12th grade)

Kirk Townander, director

Sundays 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Belfry.

All Jr. and Sr. Highs are welcome to join Youth Bells. They play for worship and special services throughout the year. It's a great way to mingle with other kids and make beautiful music.

ADULT CHOIRS



Experience the joy of singing and performing music that glorifies God. Our music programs are for all ages from preschool to adult. New members are always welcome.

Email Jane at jorth@boxp.net or call 847-362-2174 to learn more!

Chancel Choir

David H. Edelfelt, director

Thursdays 7:30-9:15 p.m. in the Choir Room.

All interested adults are welcome to join at any time. Chancel Choir leads in worship approximately 3 Sundays a month, plus special services throughout the year. The choir presents two large choral works per year.

Motet Choir *

David H. Edelfelt, director

Thursdays 6:30-7:15 p.m. in the Choir Room.

Motet Choir is auditioned from the Chancel Choir and sings for worship approximately once a month, plus selected other services.

* Numerical or audition restrictions may apply. All groups lead in Sunday worship on a rotating basis.

Chapel Music Team

Charles Murphy, director

Adult and youth church members with a passion for worshiping God, a love for a wide variety of musical expressions and an ability to improvise as an instrumentalist or vocalist, may express their interest in participating in this ensemble by contacting the church office. The Chapel Music Team is made up of a community of musicians who rotate through, leading worship in the Chapel Service year-round, in addition to a few other special services.

Bel Canto Ringers

Jane Orth, director

Thursdays 9:00-10:45 a.m. in the Belfry.

This choir of experienced adult bell ringers plays for worship throughout the year. They also play for occasions outside the church, usually around the Christmas season. Membership may be limited by numerical or audition restrictions.

Vesper Bells

Jane Orth, director

Mondays 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Belfry.

Vesper Bells, a choir of adult ringers, plays for worship and special occasions throughout the year. Membership may be limited by numerical or audition restrictions.

Adult Christian Education

ALL of our Adult Ed offerings are designed for dropping in whenever you can, with little or no prep. Attend all classes in a series or just one or two and still be enriched.

“Doing the Right Thing: What Guides a Christian in Tough Moral Decisions?”

Fridays: October 6, October 13, October 20 7:00 PM-8:30 PM

Led Christian Ethics Professor Brian Smith



DOING THE RIGHT THING WHAT GUIDES A CHRISTIAN IN TOUGH DECISIONS

Led by Christian Ethics Professor Brian Smith
Fridays, October 6, 13, 20 - 7:00 PM-8:30 PM
childcare provided

Christians face many moral decisions daily, from small ones like “Should I tell this little white lie?” to larger and more consequential ones.

Christians ponder, along with others, questions of right and wrong, good and bad, just and unjust. But what goes into the Christian decision-making process? The Bible of course, but what other tools and resources does the modern Christian have in making those decisions?

The class will not specifically look at those hot button, often controversial, moral subjects that are present in 21st Century, but rather look at guides available to the Christian when making

those often tough ethical decisions.

Each session will be stand-alone and open to all. Make a night of it - come to learn with friends and then go out for more conversation after! Childcare will be provided.

Love Every Neighbor CARE Conversation – Exploring Filipino-American Perspectives

Sunday, October 22, 2023 from 5:30-7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Love Every Neighbor C.A.R.E. Conversations

- Learn about neighbors with a variety of cultural backgrounds
- Get guidance and practice having conversations about race and equity in a loving environment
- Enjoy dinner and fellowship - all ages are welcome and childcare provided

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
First Pres Committee on Anti-Racism & Equity (C.A.R.E.)

Join us for the return of this popular event, where we will consider the perspectives of our Filipino-American neighbors—their histories, voices, culture and contributions to our community and in Lake County today.

We will hear stories from members of our own congregation who have family roots in the Philippines.

We begin with pizza/salad and fellowship from 5:30-6 p.m. and enjoy program and conversation from 6-7 p.m. This program is best for ages 10-110, and both a children’s program and childcare are provided.

RSVP’s are encouraged for food planning purposes, but not required—drop in if you can.

Coffee & Conversation with Pastors George & Regina Moore, Legacy Reentry Foundation

Sunday, October 29, 2023 after worship (11:15 AM) in Fellowship Hall



Join us after worship to learn more about the vibrant, life-affirming ministry of these two pastors from Waukegan. Together they founded the Legacy Reentry Foundation, a not-for-profit that helps reintegrate formerly incarcerated people back into the community. The organization also works on community development, gun violence prevention, and more. Join us to welcome them and learn more! Registration is encouraged but not required—drop in if you can.

Documentary Screening “Traces of the Trade: A Story of the Deep North”

Sunday, November 12 after worship (11:15 AM) in Fellowship Hall

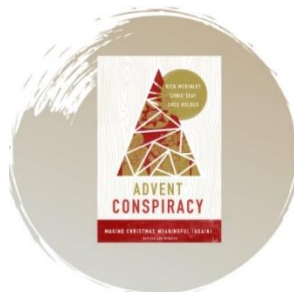


Traces of the Trade

First-time filmmaker Katrina Browne made a troubling discovery as an adult —her New England Ancestors were the largest-slave trading family in U.S. history. She and nine fellow descendants set off to retrace the Triangle Trade: from their old hometown in Rhode Island to slave forts in Ghana to sugar plantation ruins in Cuba. *Traces of the Trade* offers powerful new perspectives on race, hope and paths to healing.

This film and the Sacred Ground study it inspired has been called life-changing by some of our First Pres members, so we’re offering another lunchtime screening. RSVP so we can plan food and join us for this powerful 90-minute documentary that was selected for inclusion in the 2008 Sundance Film Festival.

For a trailer, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMJGGtnlTtw>



Mondays: November 27, December 4, December 11, December 18

Advent Book Study in-person 2:00 PM- 3:00 PM

Advent Book Study Zoom 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

Using the book *Advent Conspiracy*, we’ll dive into four simple but powerful, countercultural concepts - Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, and Love All - to help us substitute consumption with compassion and focus on Jesus’ birth.



WOMEN'S CIRCLES

Our Women's Circles gather once a month (September through May) for a Bible or book study, fellowship, and prayer. These groups are devoted to nurturing and caring for one another. Women of all ages are encouraged to participate!

Let us know which group interests you and we'll put you in contact with them! Call us at 847-362-2174.

Ruth Circle

3rd Tuesdays
7:15 a.m.
Polly Vente

Hannah Circle

2nd Fridays
9:00 a.m.
Kathleen Bromley

Esther Circle

4th Tuesdays
7:30 p.m.
Stephanie Hamrick

Lydia Circle

1st Fridays
1:00 p.m.
Patti Hudak

Hope Circle

2nd Fridays
9:00 a.m.
Rev. Barb Peter

Rebecca Circle

1st Saturdays
9:30 a.m.
Susie Lawson



WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays from 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. on Zoom

Contact: Carol Braunschweig through the church office

This fall we are using "The Wired Word," which is a weekly Bible lesson centered on relevant lessons pulled from weekly news and delivered via email. The lessons confront news events with Scripture and create a unique opportunity for robust discussions.

WOMEN'S DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays (weekly) from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in the Conference Room

Contact: Jan Ellen Shawgo through the church office

We begin our new program year in September with a breakfast gathering and will be starting the year with *Luke* by Adam Hamilton. This year we'll also be studying *Mark* by A.J. Levine, *Apostles Creed* by Adam Hamilton, and *Six Decisions* by Tom Berlin

MEN'S SOUNDING BOARD

2nd & 4th Saturdays, 7:30 am to 9:00 a.m. on Zoom

Contact: David Heusinkveld through the church office

Join us for breakfast, study, conversation, and prayer as we explore passages of scripture, passages of life, contemporary issues, and literature for men. There is no homework, and the leadership rotates among participants. Our goals are fellowship, and to learn and grow in our Christian faith.

For inspiration we typically rely on a book selection and cover a chapter per session with discussion leadership rotating among members. If this sounds like something you might enjoy, we'd welcome having you join our conversation and fellowship.



MEN'S ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays, 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

Contact: Brian Tischendorf at betischendorf@gmail.com or 847-732-4159 (mobile)

Join the Men's Zoom Bible Study for weekly fellowship, prayer and topical Bible-based lessons. We are a locally-led group with members from several different states and churches. We gather in person quarterly for a fellowship lunch. No homework!



LIBRARY

The church library is a valuable resource for books and other materials used in our adult and children's faith formation programs. Drop by anytime the building is open and take a look at the wide range of offerings. Small groups may reserve the library for meetings through the church office. The library is open to suggestions for books on specific topics, or by particular authors.



EARTH CARE TEAM

Meets monthly

Contact: Robert Shears (robert_shears@hotmail.com) or Rev. Amy Heinrich (aheinrich@boxp.net)

As stewards of God's earth, the Earth Care Team at First Pres implements initiatives that demonstrate our commitment to ecological best practices within our church, works to promote earth stewardship events, and focuses on faithful care of creation both in our worship and in our educational opportunities. New members are welcome!

GOD'S GARDENERS

Tuesdays/Fridays/Saturdays (Spring-Fall) at the Care Garden (1200 American Way, Libertyville)

Contact: Amy Scovill through the church office

Grab your garden gloves and join us each week--from spring planting season through the fall harvest--at the Community CARE Garden, where we work with volunteers from other local churches to support Lake County food pantries. Last year we provided nearly 1,500 pounds of produce directly to our own Mobile Food Pantry. Information on upcoming workdays can be found on the garden's Facebook page.



HABITAT QUILTERS

2nd & 3rd Mondays 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. in Social Hall

Contact: Suzanne Jozwiak or Dorothy Roderick through the church office

The goal of Quilt Fellowship is to serve the church through the quilts we make. We present quilts to all families moving into Habitat for Humanity homes built in Lake County. We also support FPC missions by giving quilts to Heifer International and other church causes. All skill levels are welcome any Monday and you may come and go as you wish.

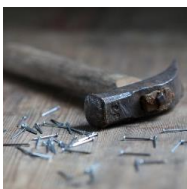


FISHING GROUP

Schedule varies by season

Contact: Rich Monahan at cpaflowers@aol.com

Love to fish? Join Rich Monahan and friends to swap stories, share techniques, and go fishing!



FIX-IT CREW

Meets at various times as needed

Contact: Rich Alexander through the church office

This group of volunteers donates its time and talents to help senior adults and single moms who need a helping hand with "around-the-house" repairs such as painting, carpentry, electrical, plumbing and general "fix-it" jobs.

