



WORSHIP

Combined Service

August 23, 2026

The pitcher cries for water to carry, and a person for work that is real. ~ Marge Piercy

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

This Little Light of Mine
Lori Sundberg and Stephanie Pesci, piano

Mark Hayes

WELCOME

Rev. Brian Paulson

❖ CALL TO WORSHIP - *Written by the Rev. Jeny Carlson for the Presbyterian Outlook (used with permission).* Susan Henning

Leader: Hear, O People of God! I am calling! Are you listening?

People: We are here, and we are ready.

Leader: Beloved children, who do you say that I am?

**People: You are our rock and our redeemer. Our trust is in you.
Our hearts, minds and souls belong to you.**

Leader: I created you, named you, and have a calling for your life.

All: We give thanks with our whole hearts for your steadfast love.

❖ HYMN #320 *The Church of Christ in Every Age*

WAREHAM

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley

Holy and merciful God,
in your presence we confess
our failure to be what you created us to be.
You alone know how often we have sinned
in wandering from your ways,
in wasting your gifts,
in forgetting your love.

By your loving mercy,
help us to live in your light
and abide in your ways,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

(Silence for personal confession.)

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

❖ GLORIA PATRI *(Glory to God)*

Hymn #581

❖ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Children remain in worship today.

THE WORD

An NRSV pew Bible is available for your convenience. You may access other versions using your mobile device at biblegateway.com.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 138 (NRSVue)

ANTHEM

Beautiful City
David Pecs, baritone; Stephanie Pecs, piano

Stephen Schwartz

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:1-8 (NRSVue)

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

HYMN #710

We Lift Our Voices (We Are an Offering)
Cantors 1x, Congregation 1x

OFFERING

SERMON

Renewed Minds, Shared Gifts

Dr. Paulson

THE RESPONSE

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

❖ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** – *Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39*

**We believe there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

TABLE TALK

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Leader: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them to the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

OFFERTORY

Abide with Me

arr. Susan W. Henry

❖ **PRAISE GOD** – HYMN #608 (*The Doxology*)

PRAISE GOD

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, DEDICATION, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE SENDING

- ❖ **HYMN #727** *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant (The Servant Song)* THE SERVANT SONG
- ❖ **CHARGE AND BLESSING**
- ❖ **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #399** *God Welcomes All* THEMBA AMEN
- ❖ *Please rise in body or spirit.*

IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

Ministers	The Congregation
Officers	The Session and the Board of Deacons
Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Paulson
Associate Pastor	The Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley
Transitional Minister for Pastoral Care	Alex Barnes, M.Div.
Music, Dept. Head	Gloria Song

A complete list of our staff team is found at FirstPresLibertyville.org

Alex Barnes is away this week

Community Notes

Church Calendar & Parish Life newsletter: www.firstpreslibertyville.org

The flowers are placed to the glory of God by Bob and Helen Jackson in memory of her parents, Joan and Henry Bowden.

Sunday, August 23

- 10:00 AM — Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 AM — Social Hour (Social Hall & Courtyard)
- 11:15 AM — New Deacon Usher Training
- 2:00 PM — First through Third Friends (Offsite)

Wednesday, August 26

- 4:00 PM — PADS Food Donation Drop-Off (Sanctuary Entrance)

Sunday, August 30

- 10:00 AM — Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 AM — Social Hour (Social Hall & Courtyard)
- 11:15 AM — New Deacon Usher Training
- 11:30 AM — Summer Book Read Discussion (Conference Room)
- 2:00 PM — Fourth & Fifth Fellowship (Offsite)

Looking Ahead

- September 1** — Summer Book Read Discussion via Zoom
- September 5** — Coffee Tour to Drip & Culture in Waukegan
- September 11** — "Eleven" A Concert of Remembrance and Reflection
- September 13** — Fall Kick Off & Welcome to Rev. Nanette Sawyer
 - Rally Day Program Fair & Walking Taco Lunch
 - Sunday School, Confirmation, and Youth Group
- September 19** — Mobile Food Pantry Volunteering
- September 20** — Inquirers Class for Prospective New Members
- September 27** — New Member Recognition
- October 3** — Women's Fall Retreat
- October 4** — Vision Plan Celebration



Backpack & School Supplies Fund Drive

Today begins the Deacon Board's Backpack and School Supplies Fund Drive to help kids in need. Your support provides needed supplies to help students start the school year strong. The drive runs through Sunday, August 23. You may give online or by check. We are so grateful for your support.

RSVP for the Summer Book Read

Join us to discuss "James" by Percival Everett and "Big Jim and the White Boy" by David F. Walker and Marcus Kwame Anderson. RSVP online or call the church office at 847-362-2174. In-person: **Sunday, August 30**, 11:30 AM–12:45 PM.

Via Zoom: Tuesday, **September 1**, 7–8:15 PM.

First Pres Coffee Tour: Coffee. Community. Come as you are. On the first Saturday of each month, September–December, we're taking First Pres out for coffee at a different local Black- or Brown-owned business—no program, no agenda, just a chance to grab a drink and hang out with First Pres folks for as much or as little of the hour as you'd like. Our first stop is **Drip & Culture, Saturday, September 5, 10:00–11:00 AM** (2015 Grand Avenue, Waukegan, inside Supermercado Gonzalez), a community-centered coffee shop working to bring people together and create positive change in Waukegan.

Come for the coffee. Stay for the people. Support our neighbors. No RSVP, no awkward icebreakers, just show up!

Rally Day Fall Kick-Off – Sunday, September 13

Celebrate the start of fall at First Pres! Join us for worship in the sanctuary and chapel, the kickoff of Sunday School, the Rally Day Program Fair to explore our ministries and groups, and lunch featuring walking tacos and other treats. Come for fun, fellowship, and a fresh start to the fall program year! **If you lead a group or committee and would like a table at the program fair, please [RSVP](#) by Monday, August 31 to reserve your spot.**

There's still time to sign up to help!

We're excited to kick off the new Sunday School year and we'd love to have you on our Volunteer Team! We need at least **6 more adult volunteers** to make sure our classes are fully staffed each week! To learn more or sign up, visit our website or click the links in *Parish Life*. Questions? Contact Megan at 847-362-2174 or email office@boxp.net.

"Eleven" A Concert of Remembrance and Reflection

Friday, September 11 | 7:00 PM

Join us in the sanctuary on September 11 for an evening of music, remembrance and reflection, featuring some of Chicagoland's finest concert artists — David Edelfelt, Cathy Glickman, Carla Gordon, Beckie Menzie, David Meulemans and Tom Michael. Open to all; \$20 donation suggested.

Inquirers Class – Sunday, September 20

Considering First Presbyterian as your spiritual home? Join us for our Inquirers Class. Sign up at www.firstpreslibertyville.org. Questions? Contact Michelle at 847-362-2174 or office@boxp.net.