



WORSHIP

Sanctuary

September 13, 2026 – Rally Day

*Love means to learn to look at yourself / The way one looks at distant things /
For you are only one thing among many. ~ Czesław Miłosz*

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Rigaudon

A. Campra

Bel Canto Ringers – Judy Brame, director

WELCOME

Rev. Brian Paulson

❖ **CALL TO WORSHIP** - from *1 John 4:7, 19* and by *Spacious Faith*, Joanna Harader

Annie Hunnicutt

Leader: Beloved, let us love one another.

People: We love because God first loved us.

Leader: Though we could be resentful, though we could be complaining, though we could be upset about what we lack,

People: we come to give thanks, in gratitude for what we have.

Leader: We enter now into this time of worship.

All: carrying seed to sow, singing songs of joy, rejoicing together.

❖ **HYMN #401**

Here in This Place/Gather Us In

GATHER US IN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Nanette Sawyer

Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love.
We have not loved our neighbors,
and we have refused to hear the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(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

❖ **SUMMARY OF GOD'S COMMANDS**

Our Lord Jesus said:

**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment.**

**And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all
the law and the prophets.**

❖ **PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY – Rally Day

Session Elder Sally Kowal

BLESSING THE CHILDREN

Children are welcomed by our Sunday School teachers and depart for Sunday School.

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 126 (NRSVue)

ANTHEM

Fanfare

Joseph M. Martin

Chancel Choir - David H. Edelfelt, director; Gloria Song, piano

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 1:3-11 (NRSVue)

❖ **HYMN #316**

Where Charity and Love Prevail

TWENTY-FOURTH

SERMON

Love May Overflow

Dr. Paulson

THE RESPONSE

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

❖ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** – *Philippians 1:3-11* adapted

We thank God for every believer in Christ Jesus. We pray with joy for our partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. We are confident of this, that the one who began a good work in us will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. We all are partners in God's grace. So we hold one another in the tender affection of Christ Jesus. This is our prayer, that our love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help us to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ we may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

TABLE TALK

SESSION REPORT

Session Elder Tony Cacich

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

How Can I Keep from Singing

Chancel Choir

arr. Jeffrey Honore

❖ **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 #757**

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

KINGSFOLD

❖ **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**Go to the world! Go into all the earth. Go struggle, bless, and pray;
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant church, you follow Christ's own way. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

❖ *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 (<i>In the Chapel today.</i>)
Interim Associate Pastor	The Rev. Nanette Sawyer
Transitional Minister for Pastoral Care	Alex Barnes, M.Div. (<i>In the Chapel today.</i>)
Music, Dept. Head	Gloria Song

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

Community Notes

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

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are placed to the glory of God by Deb Tischendorf in honor of Grandparents Day! Celebrating grandparents with us and remembering with love those who came before us and helped shape who we are.

Sunday, September 13

- 10:00 AM — Worship (Sanctuary & Chapel)
- 10:15 AM — Sunday School
- 11:00 AM — Program Fair & Walking Taco Lunch (Social Hall)
- Activities for Kids (Youth Lounge)
- 2:00 PM — Confirmation
- 4:00 PM — Youth Group

Wednesday, September 16

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

Saturday, September 19

- 7:30 AM — Mobile Food Pantry Volunteering (Sanctuary Entrance)

Sunday, September 20

- 10:00 AM — Worship (Sanctuary & Chapel)
- 10:15 AM — Sunday School
- 11:10 AM — Current Events, Eternal Question (CEEQ) "Let's Talk AI" (Church Library)
- 2:00 PM — Inquirers Class for Prospective New Members (Dougherty Room)
- 2:00 PM — Confirmation
- 4:00 PM — Youth Group

Looking Ahead

- September 29 — Feed My Starving Children Packing Event
- October 3 — Women's Fall Retreat: "Hidden Gems & Poison Pills"
- October 4 — Vision Plan Celebration
- October 12 — All Committee Night

TODAY: Rally Day Fall Kick-Off

Come to Social Hall after worship for our Rally Day Program Fair! The Deacons are serving lunch!

NEXT SUNDAY: New Members Inquirers Class

Considering First Presbyterian as your spiritual home? Join us for our Inquirers Class next Sunday at 2 PM in the Dougherty Room. Sign up at www.firstpreslibertyville.org. Questions? Contact Michelle at 847-362-2174 or office@boxp.net.

NEXT SUNDAY: Let's Talk AI

Join us next Sunday 11:10 AM–12:00 PM in the church library for the start of our monthly “Current Events, Eternal Questions” (CEEQ) series as we “seek” to connect our faith with what’s happening in the world around us. Our first conversation will explore Artificial Intelligence on Sunday, September 20. No homework, no expertise, and no right answers required—just come ready for a flexible, discussion-based conversation. **Look for a new topic on the third Sunday of each month!**

Help us pack meal boxes at FMSC – Saturday, September 26

We have a packing date coming up at our local **Feed My Starving Children** packing site on Saturday, September 26 from 5:00-6:30 PM. Sign up at www.firstpreslibertyville.org.

Women's Fall Retreat led by Rev. Nanette Sawyer

Hidden Gems & Poison Pills: Searching the Bible for the God of Love

Join Rev. Nanette Sawyer and the Women's Ministry Board on **Saturday, October 3 from 8:45 AM - Noon** for a thoughtful exploration of women’s stories in the Bible, including the passages that are hard, confronting, or confusing. Together, we’ll put these stories into context and look more deeply for the hidden gems: the poetry, wisdom, courage, and glimpses of God’s love that can be found beneath a superficial reading of the text.

Early Bird Registration is now open! Sign up at www.firstpreslibertyville.org.

Sunday School | ages 3–7th grade

Come learn, play, create, and discover! Kids explore Bible stories through games, crafts, activities, and conversation. Families begin together in worship, then children head to their classrooms at 10:15 AM.

Childcare | Birth–4

Free childcare is available in our Nursery (birth–2) and Pre-K room (ages 3–4).

Youth Group

Grades 6–12: Come hang out! Youth Group meets on Sundays from 4:00–5:30 PM in the Youth Lounge. Expect games, laughs, good conversations, and time to be yourself.

Wiggly Worship Tables in Sanctuary & Chapel

Little hands are welcome here! Kids in 3rd grade and younger can join us at our Wiggly Worship tables, where hands-on activities help them participate, explore, and engage with worship. Sit nearby and worship together!