



WORSHIP

Sanctuary

September 27, 2026

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Beach Spring

Kevin McChesney

Bel Canto Ringers – Judy Brame, director

WELCOME

Rev. Nanette Sawyer

❖ CALL TO WORSHIP - *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*

Hannah Stieber

Leader: Beloved, let us love one another.

People: Give thanks to the Lord.

Leader: The works of the Lord are great. Remember what God has done.

People: Give thanks to the Lord.

Leader: God has done miracles, and the Lord always remembers God's covenant.

All: Give thanks to the Lord. Glory and praise to the Lord our God!

❖ HYMN #301

Let Us Build a House (vv. 1, 3, 5)

TWO OAKS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION - *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*

Alex Barnes, M.Div.

God of Grace, we confess that we have not lived obedient to your Word. We have honored you with our words, but we have denied you with our actions. We have not pursued the mind of Christ, who took the form of a servant, for we have acted with selfish ambition. We have put our interests before the interests of others and have not regarded them in humility. Forgive us our arrogance, awaken our hearts to sincere repentance, and enable us to will and to work for your good pleasure, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(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

❖ RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS

❖ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST AND BLESSING THE CHILDREN

As the congregation greets one another, children are welcomed by our Sunday School teachers and depart for Sunday School.

MOMENT FOR MISSION – PADS

Dave Marsden

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

Session Elder Devin Stieber

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 25:1-9 (NRSVue)

ANTHEM

Just As I Am

Ralph Manuel

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

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 1:27-2:11 (NRSVue)

SERMON

Joyful Partners in the Spirit

Rev. Nanette Sawyer

THE RESPONSE

❖ AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – United Methodist Church, Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes

We believe in God, Creator of all things, heavenly father and mother, Soul of infinite love, wisdom, and power, ruler of all that is and all that is to come, who is mystery, yet revealed.

We follow Christ, God's chosen one, who loved and served humbly, who healed the broken and included the outcast, who chose to suffer rather than harm for the sake of the healing of all Creation, who gave his life for our redemption, and who was raised by God to new life.

We trust that Christ accompanies us in all circumstances and will help, guide, heal, and defend us through all difficulty and suffering. We believe the Holy Spirit sustains us, guides and empowers us as servants of God's grace. We live as the body of Christ, in the power of forgiveness and the reality of resurrection, and the light of eternal life. 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

I Sing As I Arise Today
Chancel Choir

arr. Joseph W. Clokey

❖ 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 #320

The Church of Christ in Every Age (vv. 1, 3, 5)

WAREHAM

❖ CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Allegro
Bel Canto Ringers

Cynthia Dobrinski

❖ *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 (*In the Chapel today.*)

Interim Associate Pastor

The Rev. Nanette Sawyer

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

Dr. Paulson is away on study leave.

Community Notes

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

The flowers in the sanctuary today are placed to the glory of God by Business Affairs in gratitude for Sue Bogseth for the time and talent she devoted to assuring good stewardship of FPCL resources; and by Gale Dewar in gratitude to God and in loving memory of Mildie Whedon on her 99th birthday. The blue rose on the organ is in placed in celebration of the birth of Wesley William Stockwell on September 21 to David, Jan & Madeline Stockwell; grandparents are Bob & Sue Stockwell.

Sunday, September 27

10:00 AM — Worship (Sanctuary & Chapel)

11:00 AM — Cake Reception in honor of New Members

4:00 PM — Youth Group

Wednesday, September 30

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

Saturday, October 3

8:45 AM — Women's Fall Retreat (Offsite)

10:00 AM — First Pres Coffee Tour (Offsite)

Sunday, October 4

10:00 AM — Worship (Sanctuary & Chapel)

4:00 PM — Youth Group

Looking Ahead

October 6 — Adult Ed Series "Following Christ While Confronting Injustice" begins

October 4 — Vision Plan Launch Celebration

October 12 — All Committee Night

Give to the Deacon Board's PADS Fund Drive

Your generous gifts will allow the PADS leaders to purchase groceries and other supplies needed to keep the PADS facilities fully stocked for their clients. We are so grateful for your support for this critical mission. Please mark PADS Fund Drive on your check or visit www.firstpreslibertyville.org to give online

Women's Fall Retreat led by Rev. Nanette Sawyer | Saturday, October 3

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.

Sign up at www.firstpreslibertyville.org.

Coffee at Euforia Cafe in Waukegan | Saturday, October 3 at 10 AM

Buy a coffee. Find some First Pres folks. Stay for 10 minutes, or the whole hour! In October, we're going to Euforia Cafe in Waukegan, located at 2202 Grand Ave. All are welcome!

Learn about the Vision Plan next Sunday

The congregation is invited to Fellowship Hall next Sunday, October 4 from 11:00–11:45 AM as we share the new Vision Plan with the congregation. You'll hear what we found and how you can be part of the next steps. This plan is the result of months of work. Thank you for your input in the three listening sessions this spring. We collected so much valuable feedback, and your commitment to the process and to the future of this church was overwhelming. Since then, the Leadership Team has reviewed everything you told us, studied data on our surrounding community, and shaped what we learned into a final Vision Plan, which Session reviewed and approved at their August retreat.

Adult Ed Series: “Following Christ While Confronting Injustice”

Tuesdays, Oct 6, 13, 20 & 27 | 7 PM | Conference Room

This four-part class led by Brian Smith will explore ways followers of Christ have resisted and addressed injustice for centuries. Through Scripture, political theory, and theology, we will consider the options available to us as we seek faithful answers to the question: “What can I do?” 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!