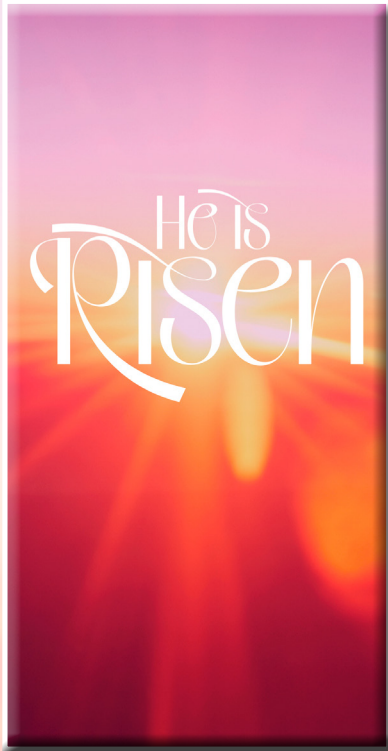




FIRST LOOK

May 2026

Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton



Christ is risen indeed!

Easter was a wonderful celebration! Thank you for being part of witnessing the resurrection. The Lord's presence was palpable on Easter morning from sunrise in the courtyard to the final hallelujahs.

We had our best attended Easter service in more than a decade, with over 400 people attending 10:30 a.m. worship. Between services, 100 kids took part in the Easter Egg Hunt, and there were over 200 views of the 10:30 service on YouTube.

I want to say a special word of thanks for inviting someone to church on Easter. Whether it was a conversation with a neighbor, text message to a friend, or sharing an invite card with someone you just met, you helped us share the good news of Jesus' resurrection.

I pray that Easter alleluias continue to ring in your ears and the Risen Christ live in your heart.

Blessings,

Pastor Kellen



May
24

Summer Worship Schedule Begins

Starting Sunday, May 24, we will begin the summer schedule, with one worship service at 10:30 a.m. Childcare is available.

Kids Church at 10:30 a.m. for grades K-5

Sermon Series



May Sermon Series The Spirit Among Us

In the month of May, you have an invitation to rediscover the Holy Spirit—not as a distant idea, but as God’s living presence moving in and among us right now. What if the Spirit is closer than you think? Perhaps the Spirit of God is already opening your eyes in uncertainty, accompanying you in ordinary days, shaping you in seasons of waiting, and nudging you toward a life of courage and purpose. Over four weeks; through Scripture, prayer, and real stories from our community, we’ll explore where the Lord’s Spirit is already at work and how we might begin to notice, trust, and follow.

May 3 — “Eyes Opened: The Spirit Gives Courage”
(Acts 7:55-60)

May 10 — “Not Alone: The Spirit Is With You”
(John 14:15-21)

May 17 — “In the Waiting: The Spirit Forms Us”
(Acts 1:6-14)

May 24 — “Set on Fire: The Spirit Empowers Us”
(Acts 2:1-21)

Adult Education



Upcoming classes led by Dr. John Walton

Sundays, May 10 & 17
10:30 a.m. in Stewart Hall

We’re delighted to welcome Dr. John H. Walton, Professor of Old Testament Emeritus at Wheaton College, for a special two-week Adult Education series. A widely respected biblical scholar and author of more than 30 books, Dr. Walton is known for helping readers see Scripture through the lens of the ancient Near East—bringing fresh depth and clarity to familiar texts. His engaging teaching style and passion for making the Old Testament accessible and meaningful promise a rich and thought-provoking experience. Don’t miss this unique opportunity to learn from one of today’s leading voices in biblical interpretation.



Renovation Oversight Committee Update

By Gary Blausler, Committee Chair

The ROC is pleased to give you an update on the progress to date.

Architects: During January and February, the proposals of various architectural firms were reviewed. After in-person presentations by the firms, the committee made the unanimous decision to recommend Williams Architects. Williams is the company that designed Stewart Hall and the Rotunda that was completed in 2000. On February 17, Session approved Williams Architects as the architectural firm for the project.

General Contractor: Proposals from four companies were received and reviewed by the committee. The companies toured the building for reference, and later gave in-person presentations. Committee members submitted their impressions of the firms. After reviewing the compilation of the input, the committee made the unanimous decision to recommend Ostrander Construction. On March 17, Session approved Ostrander as the General Contractor.

Next Steps: We are in the process of meeting with Williams, Ostrander, and members of the Renovation Oversight Committee to map out next steps. We will keep you apprised of our progress as we go forward.

Timeline: We are targeting a fall 2026 start date for renovations.

Security & Life Safety Committee Formed

On Tuesday, April 21, Session officially approved the formation and direction of a Security & Life Safety Committee. The new team will be addressing safety and security concerns within the church. The committee is chaired by Rick Tampier.

Watch for updates to come.



Genuine Brass

Sunday, May 31 at 12:00 p.m., following the 10:30 service

Come enjoy Genuine Brass as they help lead us in worship and offer a 30-minute recital after the 10:30 am service, which will conclude with a Patriotic sing-along to commemorate America's Semiquincentennial (250th Anniversary). Refreshments will be served after the 10:30 am service, before the recital.

The performance is free and open to the public. Join us!





Mother's Day – Sunday, May 10

On this special day, we'll honor all of the wonderful moms in our lives with mini muffins and Mother's Day flowers.

Interested in Membership or Learning More?

Connect Class for Prospective Members

Sunday, May 17
11:30 a.m. in the Living Room

Would you like to explore First Pres a little deeper? We would love to share our mission and tell you about our congregation. Whether you are new to our church, attending livestream worship, exploring faith, or want to become a member, our Connect Class is an ideal place of learning.

Refreshments will be provided and childcare is available.



Mission Fest 2026

Third Annual Mission Fest Sunday, April 12

During Mission Fest 2026, we welcomed several of our local mission partners and involved them in both Sunday services. Between services, we hosted a reception for our mission partners, encouraging church members and friends to get involved in serving with them. We were also pleased to have Trygve Johnson, of the PreachFor Foundation, return as Guest Preacher on this special morning.

This year Mission Fest welcomed: • Exodus • The Bridge (Mission:USA) • Outreach • Administer Justice • Partners in Mission



Women's Ministry



Strawberry Luncheon!

All women of the church are invited to A Strawberry Luncheon on Wednesday, May 6, at 11:00 a.m.



Our special feature: "The Good Life Café," will be presented by Jenna Eisenberg. This one-woman show explores realizing your dreams through three unique characters—a French chef, an outrageous New Yorker, and a Jewish grandmother—who share their perspectives through story, song, and humor. You'll laugh, cry, and think as Jenna brings to life three unforgettable characters, each with their own take on realizing your true purpose.

Join us for a catered luncheon, sweet fellowship, and a time you won't forget. We hope to see you there—bring a friend!

Please RSVP by Sunday, May 3, at firstpreswheaton.org/Strawberry.

Women's Retreat 2026

Ladies of First Pres
Mark your calendar for
October 2-4!

Join us at Siena Retreat Center in Racine, Wisconsin, with Pastor Kat as our speaker. Enjoy worship, teaching, small groups, and meaningful fellowship. Registration opens in July, but save the date today. Interested in helping plan the retreat? Contact the [church office](#).

Dress-A-Girl Around the World

We had a great time at the spring Dress-A-Girl event last month, and tried some new, easy patterns in addition to our original.

If you're interested in helping us make dresses for girls in other countries who normally don't have access to new clothes, we'd love to see you this fall, at our next event!



Student Ministry



Youth Sunday –
On April 26, we were led in worship by our high school students. This special morning is one that is anticipated by many each year. The students were thrilled to organize and lead the worship services. Our students were living testimonies to the work that God is so clearly doing in all of them. We hope you left that Sunday blessed and encouraged in your faith by the energizing faith of our students.



Confirmation Sunday –
On April 19, we celebrated eight freshmen students who were confirmed. The group have diligently spent the past nine months learning, serving alongside their mentor, and experiencing what it means to be an active member of our church family.



WF -- Beyond our regular Sunday evening gatherings, WF loves to share in fun times together, including playing disc golf and enjoying soda floats!



Genesis -- Beyond our Sunday morning gatherings, Genesis students have enjoyed serving at Feed My Starving Children throughout the year.

*– Hannah Curry
Student Ministry Director*

Information Meeting for Next Year's Confirmation Class

An information meeting for next year's 9th grade students and parents will be held on Sunday, May 17, from 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. in Stewart Hall Room 104. Contact Hannah Curry at hcurry@firstpreswheaton.org if interested in Confirmation, but are unable to attend.





Our 60+ members and friends enjoyed a delicious meal and time together at the Spring Luncheon on April 27. A special thank you to Steve Kellough, former Associate Pastor at First Pres, who delivered a meaningful message to our group.



Courtyard Crew

Do you like to garden, chat and meet new FPC folks with the same interest? Join the "Courtyard Crew" on Thursdays from 9:30 -11:00 a.m. in the church parking lot. Bring your favorite clippers, trowel, garden gloves and a yard waste bag. We can't wait to meet you!



Volunteer opportunity for 3rd-5th graders with parents

(Parent must accompany their child in order to participate)

Saturday, May 16 – 5:00-6:30 p.m. at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora

Please register at firstpreswheaton.org/FMSC. (You will need to create an account.)

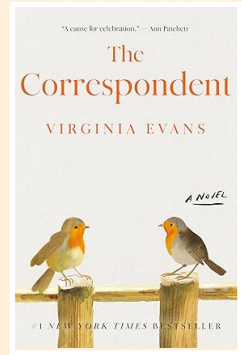
All volunteers must be registered by Saturday, May 9!

Sunday School Celebration – May 17

Fifth graders will begin in the 10:30 a.m. service to receive a special blessing as they move from our Kids Ministry program to Genesis! All other students will begin in their classrooms before heading to the gym with their class to enjoy a bounce house, games, snacks and crafts! We hope all of our Sunday School kids can join us for this fun end of the year celebration!

May Book Club

Thursday, May 28 • 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
The Correspondent by Virginia Evans



#1 New York Times Bestseller, "an intimate novel about the transformative power of the written word and the beauty of slowing down to reconnect with the people we love." Throughout her life, Sybil Van Antwerp has used letters to make sense of the world and her place in it. When she receives letters from someone in her past, Sybil is forced to reexamine one of the most painful periods of her life. In order to move forward, she must find it in her heart to forgive. Join your FPC book club to discuss this wildly popular book about the power of finding solace in literature and connection with people we might never meet in person. Contact Mary Kinsey at marykinsey79@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

First Pres Food Pantry

Local food pantries are seeing an increase in the number of people seeking assistance. While our focus this month is on collecting household items, we invite you to bring any non-perishable food or personal hygiene items to help meet the needs.

All donations support our partners at the Interfaith Food Pantry and the People's Resource Center. Thank you for your generosity and care for our neighbors!

The greatest needs
this month are
High Protein

- Peanut Butter
- Tuna
- Canned Chicken
- Beans



See the online calendar
for up-to-date listings of
church events and meetings.

firstpreswheaton.org/calendar

Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday – 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday – 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

*The office will be closed
on Monday, May 25,
for Memorial Day.*



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