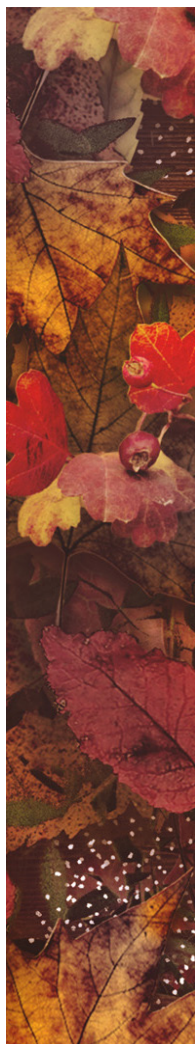




FIRST LOOK

September 2026

Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton



A New Season of Ministry

Church Family,

In September, there is a wonderful sense of new beginnings at First Pres Wheaton. Summer gives way to a new season of ministry and I'm grateful for all that God is doing among us.

This fall, I'm especially excited about relaunching our **Life Groups**. As you'll hear testimonies in worship, our growing emphasis is on helping people connect more deeply with one another and with Jesus. We want our community to be a place where people don't simply believe, but belong.

We also continue to look ahead with anticipation our **For All Generations** project. What we are building together is about far more than new spaces or improvements. It's an investment in the ministry God has entrusted to us and in the generations who will worship, grow, and serve here for years to come.

Thank you for being part of our Christ-centered congregation. I'm looking forward to all that this new season will bring, and most of all, to seeing how God continues to help us flourish **for all generations**.

Blessings,

Pastor Kellen

For All Generations Campaign — Halfway Celebration

Sunday, September 20

Whether running a race, taking a hike, or working on a project, there's something significant about realizing you've come halfway.

This fall, we'll pause to celebrate a significant milestone in our **For All Generations** campaign.

We've seen incredible generosity and faithfulness from our church family and we want to celebrate not simply a financial goal, but what that generosity represents: a shared vision that more people would know and follow Jesus through the ministries of our church.

Join us for our **For All Generations Halfway Celebration** on September 20th as we give thanks for how far we've come, hear impactful stories from our congregation, and look ahead to the exciting work still before us. We pray you'll be part of it!

We're Halfway!



Fall at First Pres

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 5	Choir Retreat
Sunday, September 13	Welcome Back Picnic and resume two services
Monday, September 14	Fall Preschool Begins
Sunday, September 20	For All Generations – Halfway Mark Celebration
Saturday, September 26	“Life in Jesus’ Hometown Amid Crisis” Breakfast and Program
Wednesday, September 30	Kids Midweek Program (8 weeks through November 18)
Wednesday, September 30	The Table Begins (8 weeks through November 18)

OCTOBER

Fri-Sun, October 2-4	Women’s Fall Retreat
Sunday, October 4	Distinguished Preacher Sunday
Sunday, October 4	Blessing of the Animals
Sunday, October 11	Connect Class for Prospective New Members
Sunday, October 18	Preschool Celebration Sunday / 3rd Grade Bible Presentation
Sunday, October 18	Kids Ministry Fall Fest
Sunday, October 25	Generosity Sunday

NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 1	All Saints Sunday
Monday, November 9	60+ Fall Luncheon
Fri-Sun, November 13-15	WF Fall Retreat Stronghold Retreat Center, Oregon, IL
Sunday, November 15	Special Presentation with Dr. Raed Mualem
Wednesday, November 18	Thanksgiving Feast (Last date for The Table)
Sunday, November 29	Advent Begins / Christmas Tree Lighting
Sunday, November 29	5th Sundays Concert – Adam’s Voice



Finding Fathers

Small group of committed fathers with school age children (K-12).
Fridays, 6:00-7:00 a.m. – September 18-December 18
(No meeting November 27)
Church Living Room

D.E.N. for Men

For committed working fathers transitioning to life as empty nesters.
Fridays, 7:00-8:00 a.m. – September 18-December 18
(No meeting November 27)
Church Reading Room

First Light Men's Collaborative

Saturdays, 8:00-9:30 a.m. Year-round fellowship and study
Church Reading Room

Women's Ministry



Circle Leaders & Meeting Times 2026-2027

ATTENTION LADIES! A new season of Women's Ministry is about to begin.

You are invited to join one of our five Circle Groups, become involved in one of our missions, or attend a Women's Ministry meeting or a ladies Bible study.

Be sure to join in the fun and fellowship at one of our monthly events.
Check firstpreswheaton.org/Adults for circle details, and the regular weekly communications for event announcements.

GRACE Circle: 2nd Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. in the Living Room – Dianne Lambert and Jeanne Kovanda

HANNAH Circle: 3rd Wednesday of the month, 9:30 a.m. in the Living Room – Erin Schnack

JOY Circle: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m. by Zoom – Emily Herndon

RUTH Circle: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 9:00 a.m. in the Living Room

SARAH Circle: 2nd Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. at Offsite Location
4th Friday of the month, 9:30 a.m. in the Living Room – Kate Hinson

Horizons Women's Bible Study

First Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the Living Room

All ladies are invited to this year's Horizons Women's Bible Study, ***United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other***, by Rhonda Mawhood Jee. Join Pastor Kat as we explore First Corinthians, written to a diverse church struggling with conflict and division. Books are available in the church office or at the first session for \$14. Questions? Contact Pastor Kat at khatting@firstpreswheaton.org.



Sunday, September 13

Welcome Back Sunday and Fall Picnic



We look forward to seeing you!

- Return to two services: 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.
- Kids Church at 9:00 a.m. / Children's Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.
- A new year of Confirmation kicks off at 9:00 a.m.
 - Adult Education at 10:30 a.m.
- Genesis Middle School Ministry at 10:30 a.m.
 - "WF First" at 7:00 p.m.



The Welcome Back Picnic starts at 12:00 noon on the church lawn

Friends and neighbors are invited!

- Food and fellowship; bounce house, snowcones and games for kids!
- Deacons are grilling hamburgers, hotdogs, brats and chicken breasts
- Church members: Last names A-M, please bring side dishes, and N-Z, please bring desserts.

Adult Education

"C.S. Lewis on Love, Justice and Your Eternal Future"

**Sundays, September 13, 20 and 27
10:30 a.m. in Stewart Hall 106**

Dr. Jerry Root, one of the world's top C.S. Lewis scholars, will join Pastor Greg Anderson to lead a three-session course on "C.S. Lewis on Love, Justice and Your Eternal Future."

We welcome you back to Adult Education with this engaging program.



Distinguished Preacher Sunday

October 4

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Dan Meyer as our 2026 Distinguished Preacher on Sunday,



October 4. Dr. Meyer is a gifted preacher, author, and was the longtime lead pastor of Christ Church Oak Brook. He's known for his thoughtful biblical preaching and ability to connect the gospel with everyday life.

Beyond the church, he's served as Trustee Board Chairman at Fuller Seminary and as host of LIFE FOCUS, a multiple Emmy Award-winning television news-magazine, which aired on PBS and other stations nationwide.

We look forward to welcoming Dr. Meyer to First Pres Wheaton and gathering together for a special morning of worship, encouragement, and proclamation of God's Word. You won't want to miss this Sunday!

LIFE GROUPS

New Life Groups Forming Now!

At First Pres, Life Groups are a place to grow in your life with Jesus Christ by developing close relationships with others, engaging Scripture in community, and supporting one another in prayer. Life Groups offer connection with the First Pres family and play a key role in our faith journey. Groups are formed based on season of life, availability, and areas of interest.

New Life Groups will begin in October and meet weekly for 6 weeks, with the option to continue beyond your initial commitment.

To connect with a Life Group, sign up at firstpreswheaton.org/LifeGroups, scan the QR code, or complete a sign-up card in the Rotunda.



Scan to
sign up online



“Our small life group wanted to share an event we volunteered at on May 20th at the Ronald McDonald House in Winfield. The Ronald McDonald House provides housing and support for families with seriously ill or injured children receiving treatment at nearby hospitals. The Winfield Ronald McDonald House is located across from Central DuPage Hospital. As members of First Presbyterian Church, we were honored to be able to provide dinner for 25 families. Everything must be made at the facility, so we shopped for the ingredients and brought them to the facility, where we barbequed burgers, brats, and hot dogs, made mac and cheese, fruit and Caesar salads, and baked chocolate chip cookies. It was a rewarding experience to minister through service to the families who had spent a long day at the hospital with their young loved ones. Participants were Marty and Pat Dettmer, Don and Sheri Fuller, Peter and Cindy McGivern, Lisa Husten and Kirk Stubbee, and Mark and Diane TeGrootenhuis.

Thank you, Pastor Kat, for challenging the congregation to join a life group. We have found our group to be fun, challenging and rewarding to help us in our spiritual growth.”

Thanks,
Diane TeGrootenhuis

Renovation Update: A New Home for the Scouts

As we prepare for the next phase of our For All Generations renovation project, one exciting milestone has already taken place.

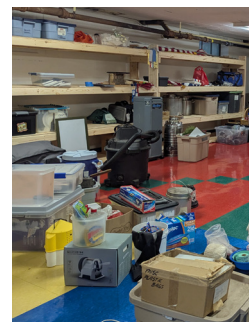
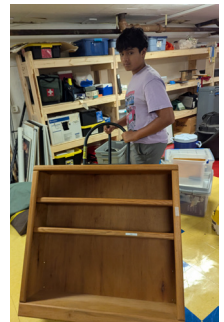
The lower level of the Parish House has been refreshed and renovated to become the new home for Scout Troop 23. After many years of meeting in the Ministry Center, the Scouts are relocating to this newly prepared space, creating a welcoming, functional home for their meetings and activities.

In keeping with the vision of the For All Generations Campaign, it reflects the spirit of thoughtful stewardship and preparing our campus for the future. The move also helps pave the way for the upcoming renovation of the Ministry Center, one of the components of the project.

In collaboration with the Building & Grounds Committee, we are grateful to the many volunteers and staff members who helped make this transition possible, and especially to our Scout leaders for their flexibility and partnership throughout the process.

The Scout Troop has guided generations of young people by helping them grow in character, leadership, service, and faith. We are excited to see them begin this next chapter in a space that will serve them well for years to come.

Please join us praying for our renovation project and blessing our Scouts as they settle into their new home. Pray for the continued success of the For All Generations initiative as we continue renewing our campus.



School Supply Drive 2026 Recap

Thank you to our congregation, friends and staff for supporting the School Supply Mission this year. We were able to supply \$2,568.23 in backpacks and necessary school supplies for 22 students from The Chicago Bridge. In addition, a total of 26 backpacks and school supplies valued at \$1,983.20 and a check for \$1,300.00 was donated to People's Resource Center for their School Supply Drive that helps to support over 1,000 children. The total estimated value of all monetary and supply donations was \$6,040.48.

***Thanks be to God for allowing us
to help the children in this way.***



Kids Ministry

Blessing of the Backpacks

On August 9, students received a special First Pres sendoff for the new school year! Children brought their backpacks and preschool bags to church to receive a special tag and a blessing as they begin a new year of learning and growing.



Starting Sunday, September 13

Kids Church at 9:00 a.m. and Sunday School at 10:30.

Kids Church (9:00): Children ages 4 through 5th grade will begin worship with their families in the Sanctuary and then be dismissed to Kids Church during the service for a Bible story and fun activity. Parents can pick up their children in LL105 after the service.

**Sunday School Kick-Off Sunday School
on September 13 at 10:30 a.m.**

Sunday School is for ages 3 years old through 5th grade.

Children may be dropped off directly in their classrooms:

- LL102: Preschool and Kindergarten* • LL105: 1st Grade
- LL106: 2nd and 3rd Grade • LL107: 4th and 5th Grade

Childcare: Childcare is available during the service in LL103 for children ages 3 years old and younger.

For more information, contact Stacey Chvatal at schvatal@firstpreswheaton.org.



**Rooted Kids, our new mid-week program
for grades K-5 is here!**

Age groups will be determined as registration progresses, so sign up today and help us create the best groups for our kids!

**Wednesdays, September 30 – November 18
3:45–5:30 p.m.**

Kids will begin each afternoon with a snack and hangout time before rotating through four engaging, hands-on activity stations. We can't wait to make Wednesday afternoons the highlight of your child's week and a place to make friends, discover God's love, and grow in faith together.

Volunteer opportunities are available.

See the details below and register at firstpreswheaton.org/RootedKids
Questions? Contact Stacey Chvatal at schvatal@firstpreswheaton.org

Special Opportunities

Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center 50th Anniversary

Sunday, September 20, at 4:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn

Founded in 1976, Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center (CDPCC) has provided counseling, training, and support to thousands of individuals and families across DuPage County, with a focus on accessible, faith-integrated mental health services.

The Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center will celebrate its 50th Anniversary at an event on Sunday, September 20, at 4:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn, 550 N. Main Street, Glen Ellyn, with special musical guest, Ken Medema. Contact the Center for more information and to RSVP for the event at www.cdpcc.org or 630-752-9750.

About CDPCC: The mission of Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center (CDPCC) is to welcome everyone, inspire hope and facilitate healing. We have a variety of highly skilled, licensed therapists that apply their skills, in providing evidence-based, integrated therapeutic care, educational services, testing and consultation. The Center serves individuals across the life-span, couples and families, and has helped thousands of individuals heal as the trusted wellness partner in the community since 1976. www.cdpcc.org.



“Life in Jesus’ Hometown Amid Crisis”

Breakfast and program on Saturday, September 26 at 8:30 a.m.

Join us for this special breakfast and presentation, sponsored by NPI Nazareth Hospital. Christine Farah, spiritual care practitioner and counselor at the Nazareth Hospital in Israel, will present her unique perspective on the daily lives of those living in and around Nazareth, during this breakfast presentation. The event features Farah’s experiences of providing emotional and spiritual support across diverse cultural settings, as well as updates on what life is like for people, of all faiths.

This is an incredible opportunity to hear what is actually happening in and around Nazareth, and to learn of ways we can provide support to those ministering in this troubled land. Christine is highly committed to whole-person care, and to ministry in interfaith and multilingual contexts.

Regarding her interfaith work, Farah said, “we are very lucky in this land; when we meet people of different religions, most of them believe in God, and despite our differences, we can share something meaningful.”



There is no cost to attend the event, and all members of the public are welcome. An offering will be taken to support the chaplaincy work at Nazareth Hospital.

Register by Friday, September 18 by emailing the church office at office@firstpreswheaton.org.



Last day to register is September 2

Wheaton Leadership Prayer Breakfast

Friday, September 11 at 7:00 a.m.

Join your church family at the Wheaton Leadership Prayer Breakfast at Abbington Distinctive Banquets in Glen Ellyn. Longtime church member and former Wheaton Mayor, Jim Carr, will be the featured speaker, reflecting on leadership in uncertain times on the 25th anniversary of 9/11. The breakfast brings together Wheaton business people, civic leaders, and churches to pray for our community and its leaders.

We have 20 reserved seats (10 per table), which are first come/first serve. Registration deadline is Wed., September 2. Register at firstpreswheaton.org/PrayerBreakfast.

Women's Retreat 2026

– Last day to register is Wednesday, September 16 –

Ladies, mark your calendars and grab your spot! Our annual Women's Retreat is returning to the beautiful Siena Retreat Center in Racine, Wisconsin, October 3-4, 2026, with our own Pastor Kat as speaker.



This refreshing weekend will include worship, meaningful teaching, small group discussions, and time to connect with women across generations. Whether you're seeking spiritual renewal, deeper community, or simply a break from the everyday, this retreat is designed to nourish your soul.

Want to start the weekend early? Join us Friday evening, October 2, for a group dinner — a wonderful way to ease in and connect before the full retreat begins.

See the details and register at firstpreswheaton.org/WomensRetreat2026

Serve at The Bridge

On Tuesday, September 15, we will be the host team at The Bridge, a 20-year mission project in Chicago, now supported by First Pres. The Bridge is a weekly worship service for people who are coming out of incarceration, addiction, or the street lifestyle.



What we do:

- Travel to 1443 Roosevelt at Ashland in Chicago, carpooling from First Pres around 5:30 p.m. to arrive at 6:30 (or you can drive on your own)
- Short training/update session, and welcome of our guests (some of whom will be new to The Bridge that night)
- Participate in their worship service, then serve guests a wholesome meal that may be their best (or only) one of the day
- Clean-up and return home around 9:30 p.m.

This will be an unforgettable experience! For details on this service opportunity or to let us know you'll be attending, contact the church office at office@firstpreswheaton.org.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is now accepting submissions for consideration for the offices of Deacon, Elder and 2027 Nominating Committee.



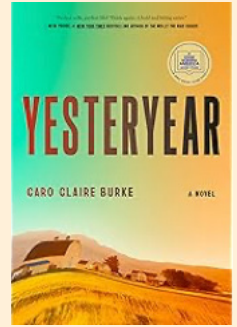
Do you know someone who exhibits the skills, compassion and drive to serve in one of these positions? You can submit names of members and/or your own name by filling out an online Nomination Form, at firstpreswheaton.org/Nominate2027. Nominations are due by Sunday, September 27.

September Book Club

Thursday, September 24 • 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
Yesteryear by Caro Claire Burke

Natalie lives a traditional lifestyle. Her charming farmhouse is rustic, her husband a handsome cowboy, her six children each more delightful than the last. Until one morning she wakes up in a life that isn't hers. Her kitchen is warmed by a fire, she has no electricity, her children are dirty and strange, and her husband is a competent farmer. Yesterday, Natalie was curating photos of homemade jam for her Instagram, and now she's expected to haul firewood and handwash clothes. Has she become the unwitting star of a ruthless reality show? Is she being tested by God? By Satan?

When Natalie suffers a brutal injury in the woods, she realizes two things: This is not her beautiful life, and she must escape by any means possible. A gripping novel that is as darkly funny as it is frightening, and takes on tradition, fame, faith, and the grand performance of womanhood. Join us on Thursday, September 24 at 7:00 p.m. via zoom. Contact Mary Kinsey at marykinsey79@gmail.com for the Zoom link.



First Pres Food Pantry

Join us in showing support for the People's Resource Center and the Interfaith Food Pantry. A collection basket is located in the Rotunda, along with a sign listing suggested items.

The greatest need for September is cooking oils.
Thank you for supporting our neighbors in need.



**Call for
Cooking Oils**



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, September 7,
for Labor Day.***



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