

Welcome, friends!

Did you know that "the power of music" is one of our congregation's six core values? Today, the power of music will be on full display as we celebrate a century at home in this beautiful church. Music is one of the few ways we can traverse so many years in our minds and hearts. Songs of the past will meld with voices of the present. Songs of joy will lift our spirits, and songs of comfort will remind us that God has us and the whole world in his hands, even in trying times. I invite you to give thanks for the gift of music and its power to bring us together; and I invite you to join us for a powerful worship service tomorrow morning at 10:15. To God be the glory!

Pastor Donna Marsh

OUR MUSICIANS

***Joel Raney** spent over two decades in Chicago creating more than 1,000 scores for radio and television commercials, earning numerous awards, including a CLIO for best score of an American Airlines commercial. His music has been heard on countless commercials, including the famed United Airlines campaign in which he regularly performed "Rhapsody In Blue." Joel currently serves as executive editor at Hope Publishing in Chicago, where he composes and publishes choral and instrumental music. He has hundreds of choral anthems in print with numerous publishers, as well as piano solo and duet books, Christmas musicals, handbell compositions, and other ensemble music. He made his conducting debut at Carnegie Hall in 2024, premiering his Christmas musical, "Have You Heard." A sought-after choral and keyboard clinician, Joel stays busy conducting and performing concerts throughout the country. He resides in Elmwood Park with his wife, Susie. They have three grown sons and two grandsons.*

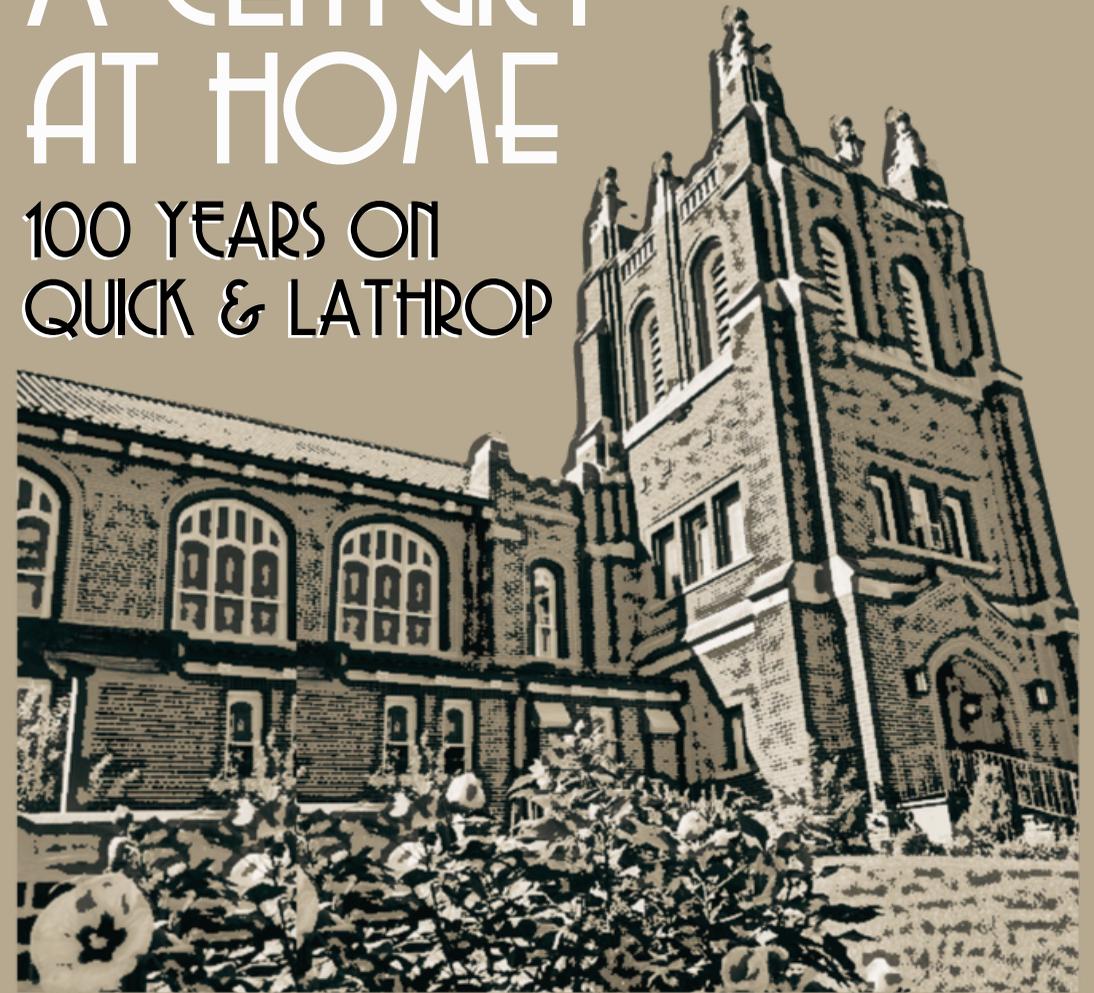
***Jane Holstein** began her music ministry at First Pres in the fall of 1996, making this the beginning of her 30th year. Her greatest joy is leading worship from the organ bench as the congregation sings the great hymns of the church. At First Pres she oversees the adult & children's choirs, handbell choir, and works with associate, Dr. Josh Ring, and Jim Richards, founder of the brass ensemble. Jane retired as music editor at Hope Publishing Company in 2021 after 25 years. During that tenure she edited several hymnal publications, multiple keyboard collections, countless choral publications, and many other church-related products. She stays busy as organist, pianist, worship planner, concert artist, and spouse to David L. Weck.*

THANK YOU for joining us for this special concert. You are invited to join us for a Gala celebration immediately following the concert. The tented event is on the north side of the church on Quick Avenue. You may exit via the front or back of the Sanctuary. Children attending the Children's Gala in the Social Hall must be checked in by a parent or guardian.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF RIVER FOREST

A CENTURY AT HOME

100 YEARS ON QUICK & LATHROP



CONCERT & GALA

OCTOBER 18, 2025
4:00 PM

7551 QUICK AVENUE, RIVER FOREST, IL 60305 | 708-366-5822 | FIRSTPRESRF.ORG

A CENTURY AT HOME—CONCERT

Joel Raney, Piano Jane Holstein, Organ

Welcome

Donna Marsh, Pastor

Coronation March

William Walton

In the tradition of Edward Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance, used frequently for graduation processions across this country, Sir William Walton responded with his own regal march in similar style in 1937. Originally composed for orchestra, it was used for Prince William's royal wedding in 2011, as well as King Charles' coronation in 2023. Considered a masterpiece of grand opulence, this seemed a perfect fit to open this grand 100th-anniversary celebration.

Kum Ba Yah (Come By Here)

Traditional Spiritual

1. Someone's Dreamin'
2. Someone's Laughin'
3. Someone's Singin'
4. Someone's Dancin'
5. Someone's Mournin'
6. Someone's Shoutin'

The first recording of this African American spiritual was in 1926, one year after this church opened its doors at the corner of Quick and Lathrop! Consisting of six variations on this well-known melody, each one is a short musical prayer inviting God to kum ba ya, simply meaning "come by here, Lord." Exploring a wide variety of musical styles, this suite has special significance in that it was the first arrangement Joel penned for this keyboard duo. Written for the 1997 music conference of the Fellowship of the American Baptist Musicians, it is full of musical surprises and as much fun to perform today as it was almost 30 years ago.

The Gift of Love

English Folk Song

This modern day hymn text is a paraphrase of I Corinthians 13 by Hal Hopson centering on the theme of Agape love, and reminds us to love one another as Christ loved us. The English folk song, commonly known as O Waly Waly, is familiar and perfectly suited for this lush sweeping arrangement. The original lyric most often associated with the melody was first published in 1906 as "The Water Is Wide."

In His Hands (Variations on He's Got the Whole World in His Hands)

Traditional Spiritual

- "He's got... 1. The Tiny, Little Baby
2. All the Busy People
3. The Thunder and Lightning
4. The Little "Bitty" Creatures
5. All My Joy
6. All Our Sorrow
7. The Whole Wide Worldin his hands!"

Another set of variations-on-a-theme, "In His Hands" is based on the well known African American spiritual, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" which was first published in 1927. This arrangement looks at seven different styles of music, each one representing a different aspect of life. Again utilizing his colorful and varied musical background, Joel has given each one its own distinct personality. Notice how the musical style is suggested by the title of each movement.

Rhapsody in Blue

George Gershwin

In 1924, one year before this church was founded, George Gershwin composed his popular masterpiece, Rhapsody in Blue. Commissioned by the jazz band conductor Paul Whiteman for a concert titled "An Experiment in Modern Music," it combines elements of both classical and jazz music, and premiered in New York in 1925 with Gershwin himself playing the piano. Despite its enthusiastic reception by the audience, critics gave it mixed and tepid reviews, yet it has gone on to become one of the most performed pieces ever composed for piano and orchestra. In this arrangement, the organ plays the part of the orchestra giving the organist a chance to showcase a wide variety of colorful stops.

America the Beautiful (with Chopin's Etude in E, Op. 10, No. 3)

Samuel A. Ward

When American poet Katherine Lee Bates died in 1929, she left behind the text of this beloved hymn, which she wrote after witnessing the awe-inspiring vista from atop Pikes Peak in Colorado. The beautiful melody we associate with it was composed by Samuel A. Ward. This arrangement cleverly pairs it with Frederic Chopin's Etude in E major. The two melodies intertwine throughout the setting; the piano expressing the Chopin periodically while the organ slowly builds, showcasing the lushness and power of the instrument.

Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2

Franz Liszt

If you grew up watching Saturday morning cartoons like Tom and Jerry or Bugs Bunny, then you are likely already a fan of Franz Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2. Pianists will tell you about its technical demands as it showcases virtuosic feats, but its real charm may be that it is all wrapped up in Hungarian folk music with Liszt's treatment making it sound playful, fun, and enticing. This arrangement tosses some of the feats to the organist, particularly on the exciting cadenza at the end.

MANY THANKS!

To our generous sponsors:

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From the Elders of First Pres
For Maggie Downs and the Sunday School Teachers
In memory of Susie Kovic—our dear sister with the warmest heart for FPRF families
For member care at First Pres
In appreciation for a wonderful church home!
To GOD be the glory!