

First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock

Vision Statement

Loving the Lord our God with all our hearts through fellowship and hospitality; with all our strength, through missions near and far; with all our minds, through Christian education and leadership development; and loving our neighbors as ourselves.



WHY'S SHE ALWAYS POURING WATER?

A sacrament is an outward and visible sign of inward and spiritual divine grace. As Presbyterians, we have two sacraments – Baptism and the Lord's Supper. The baptismal font is filled on Sunday morning as an outward sign of God's grace in Christ: the grace we receive as disciples of Christ and the grace that binds us together as Christ's Church. As the water is poured, you are invited to reflect on Christianity's rich interpretation of the mystery of this sacrament:

- the faithfulness of God
- the washing away of sin
- rebirth
- putting on the fresh garment of Christ
- being sealed by God's spirit
- adoption into the covenant family of Christ
- resurrection and illumination of Christ

As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord on January 12th, we will remember our own baptism. We are baptized only once, but we spend a lifetime learning to live into the gift of new life we receive at the font and receiving the bread of life at Christ's table. As the water is poured, the bread broken and the cup filled, remember that you have been claimed – and we together have been claimed – as Christ's own forever.

Remember your baptism!!

Your sister in Christ, Pastor Cindy

January 2020



Inside this issue

Message from our Pastor	Page 1
Together in Worship	Page 2,3
Together in Fellowship	Page 4
Learning Together	Page 5
Serving Together	Page 6
Planning Together	Page 7
Leading Together	Page 8,9
Caring Together	Page 10
January Calendar	Page 11

Worship Services

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship will follow all services.

Epiphany and Communion

January 5th, 9:30 AM

N.O.W. Dinners Resume

Wednesday, January 8, 5:15 PM

Sunday School Resumes

Baptism of the Lord

January 12th

Remember your baptism!

Congregational Mission Study Gathering

January 19th — 10:30 AM

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Congregational Meeting

February 2nd following Worship

Pastor Cindy will be on vacation February 7th through 16th. Contact the office or Candee McMahon if an administrative or pastoral need arises.

TOGETHER IN WORSHIP

Baptism of the Lord

January 12th

Remember your baptism Baptismal Promises

- ♦ Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? I do.
- ♦ Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love? I do.
- ♦ Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love? I will, with God's help.

Worship Leadership Schedule

January 5

Ushers: Hank Olesen
Lee Nejd
Sound: Dave Johanson
Rob McMahon
Liturgist: Barb Parrish
Greeters: Justin Thuma/Jean Chase

January 12

Ushers: Rick & Pat Morozink
Dave Johanson
Sound: Rob McMahon
Matt Thuma
Liturgist: Velma Downes
Greeters: Dunker Family

January 19

Ushers: Kyle & Brayden Sobczak
Sound: Matt Thuma
Dave Johanson
Liturgist: Dawn Cook
Greeters: Taylor, Children & Youth

January 26

Ushers: Ray & Angela Thuma
Sound: Dave Johanson
Rob McMahon
Liturgist: Renee Simes
Greeters: Pam & Brooke Mathison



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

"Glory to God in the Highest"

The children's interpretation of the
Christmas story was enjoyed by all.

We are so grateful to the children
who led us in worship!!



Chancel Fund Donations

A total of \$770 was donated to the Chancel fund.

Thank k you for supporting this ministry!

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Thanks to all who provided special Christmas music during Advent and Christmas Eve!

January 2020 Music Rehearsal Schedule

Voices of Faith Choir Rehearsals

Rehearsals begin on January 8, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. and continue on January 15, 22, 29

The guest director is Sarah Metivier-Schadt from Ridgefield Presbyterian Church.

No Children's Rehearsals in January

Children's Hand Chime Choir

Rehearsals begin on February 12 at 4:45 p.m.

Youth Choir

Rehearsals begin on February 12 at 5:40 p.m.

JIM-JAM Children's Choir

Rehearsals begin on February 12 at 6:05 p.m.

Special Music in January

January 5 - Chris Nejd and Fred Strauss

January 12 - Voices of Faith Choir

January 19 - Voices of Faith Choir

January 26 - Voices of Faith Choir

TOGETHER IN FELLOWSHIP

Connecting Points

Men's Group/Bible Study

Dave Davis, 815-236-2815
ddavis@ameritech.net

Wednesday Early Bible Study

Velma Downes, 815-245-4043
vmdownes@gmail.com

Adult Spiritual Growth Groups

Chris NejdI, 815-337-1070
canejdI@hotmail.com

Music Ministries

Melinda Davis, 815-455-3570
lynfdavis@aol.com

Hospitality Team

Cheryl Wormley, 815-519-7402
indepublisher@comcast.net

No-Name Knitters

Kay Darby, 815-338-5002
kedarby@icloud.com

Youth & Education

Ray Thuma, 815-338-9780
rpthuma@sbcglobal.net

Mission Commission

Kyle Sobczak, 815-814-3403
kylesobczak99@gmail.com

Worship

Tiffany Sobczak, 815-790-9360
tsobczak82@gmail.com
Chris NejdI, 815-337-1070
canejdI@hotmail.com

Contemporary Worship Group

John & Sue Hudson
815-308-5898
josus@comcast.net

T.L.C. (Tender Loving Care) Group

Shari Olesen, 815-338-0237

Meals-On-Wheels

Marla Norgard, 815-482-4855
marlanorgard01@gmail.com

WACM Local Mission Team

Pat Morozink, 815-338-7769
pmorozink@yahoo.com

Food Pantry

Joyce Maynard, 815-338-7265

Fishing Mission

Bob Clark, 847-274-8247
robtmclark@aol.com

NURTURE ON WEDNESDAYS (N.O.W.)

NOW dinners will begin again at 5:15 p.m. **Wednesday, Jan. 8.** All are welcome. The food is really good and the fellowship is always warm.

January hosts and menu

Jan. 8 NOW Team Italian Night with pasta and sausage

Jan. 15 TBA

Jan. 22 TBA

Jan. 29 NOW Team "Souper" Bowl

(Posted weekly on Facebook – First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock)

- NOW dinners are served buffet style from 5:15 until 6 p.m. in the Great Hall.
- The suggested donations are \$3 for everyone 11 and older, \$1 for diners 10 and younger.
- At 6 p.m., the children in JIM-JAM leave to practice. Everyone else continues to chat around the tables and enjoy delicious homemade desserts.
- NOW dinners will continue every Wednesday night through April 1 (except spring break Wednesday, March 25).

In all there will be 12 NOW dinners, offering ample opportunities to host – either on your own, pairing up with friends, or ordering out. The NOW team will always help, and food costs will be reimbursed.

For information, call or text Mark Bundick (224-242-2451), Lee NejdI (815-546-1731), Katie Spaldon (815-276-3410), or Cheryl Wormley (815-519-7402).

HOSPITALITY

We are a warm, friendly church

Thank you for warmly welcoming guests and each other on Sunday mornings – and wearing your nametags. Joy and love abound at First Presbyterian.

A special thank you to the December greeters at the front doors:

Addison and Brayden Sobczak
Jean Chase and Justin Thuma
The children of the church
Vicki and Paul Thuma
Sue Krause and Cheryl Wormley
Tammy and Ruben Martinez

Marla Rigby has been an important part of our team for several years. Now that she and John are retired, she said she is "bowing out." Please join us in thanking her for all she's done to spread God's love in our family of faith and the community.

Now is a great time to answer God's call and join the Hospitality Team. We meet once a month for one hour; welcome everyone on Sunday mornings; help newcomers and members better connect with what's happening at First Pres; and help sponsor special events (like Touch-A-Truck and African Children's Choir) for the enjoyment and spiritual enrichment of our congregation and the community. And we have fun!

If God is calling you to join us, please call Sue Krause (815-451-5385), or Cheryl Wormley (815-519-7402). You'll be glad you did.

Women's Holiday Gathering—2019

*Good faith, good food,
good friends, good fun!*



LEARNING TOGETHER

Youth Group

Sunday Nights @ 6:00-7:30pm

The Youth Christmas Party was a lot of fun! Thanks to all the kids who came and to Taylor and Tiffany for hosting!

It's time to start up a new year of fun, friends and faith. Together we enjoy food as a family, diving deeper into our relationship with God and each other and games to connect better as a team.

January 12th – Outing to the Woodstock Rec Center

January 19th – Spirit (Who is the Holy Spirit and what does he do?)

January 26th – First gathering for Confirmation (See below)

CONFIRMATION EXPERIENCE 2020

All youth grades 6-8 are invited to be part of this group as we explore what it means to be a disciple and member of Christ's Church. In May, the 8th graders will be invited to affirm the baptismal vows and join the church. For the 6th and 7th graders, this will be a multi-year adventure traveled with the Pastor, mentors and the whole church!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Meet with Pastor Cindy and Dave Davis

January 26, March 1, April 5, and April 26 from 6:00-7:30 PM

Stronghold Camp Confirmation Retreat (7th and 8th Graders)

February 21-23

Confirmation Sunday for 8th Graders

May 3, 2020

Special Activities and Missions

Ash Wednesday

Host NOW Dinner --soup and sandwiches and Lead worship

February 26, 2020

Church clean up (TBA)

Assist with garage sale and other mission projects

Serve as liturgists, ushers and greeters

OFFICER TRAINING

January 12th following Worship

This training is for elected Deacons and Elders. All officers are invited and encouraged to attend as they are able.

Installation will be during Worship on January 26th.



During the Worship Service
after the Children's Sermon

January 12th

Jesus Baptism – Mark 1:1-15

Goal: To explore the meaning
of baptism today

January 19th

Grain on the Sabbath

Mark 2:23-28

Goal: To practice ways to
keeping the sabbath to honor
God and care for people.

January 26th

Jesus Helps in a Storm

Mark 4:35-41

Goal: To identify with the
disciples' fear and to
understand that Jesus offers
peace in times of fear.

Adult Opportunities

Lectionary Study

Wednesdays—7:30 AM

@ Isabel's Restaurant

*Join in thoughtful conversation
about the up-coming sermon
text.*

Men's Bible Study

Saturdays—7:00 AM in
Common Ground Room

Join in fellowship and study of
I Peter.

African Children's Choir Tour Continues

Our church was privileged to host the African Children's Choir and chaperones in September. All who heard them sing and watched them dance were blessed.

The choir's tour in the U.S. continues. In November, while on tour in Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota and Iowa, the 17 Ugandan children played in snow for the first time. Their November experiences also included flying to Washington, D. C., to perform at a global leadership conference. Bryson Powers, one of the chaperones, described the experience as "an amazing opportunity to minister in the midst of government leaders."

In a recent letter, Bryson and Jade, asked us to pray for the children and said they continue to pray for all of us.



**Music
for Life**

**"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink?
38 When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you
clothes to wear? " Matthew 25:37b-38**



Wednesday, January 29th @ N.O.W.

Souper Bowl of Caring empowers youth and unites communities around the time of the Big Game to help those in need. Plan to share a meal of soup and sandwiches. We will be voting for our favorite Super Bowl team with cans of soup and financial contributions for the Pantry. If you cannot make the N.O.W. dinner, we will also take donations on Sunday, February 2nd.

Christmas Joy Special Offering

Together with the larger denomination, we cared for church workers in need and contributed to the building of leadership among young people of color. In total, \$1,087 was given toward these important ministries. Thank you for your generosity.

The Giving Tree

Thank you for your generous support of two local families. The congregation was able to fulfill the wishes and help make Christmas merry. What a beautiful witness to the grace of this season!

January's Food Pantry Challenge

Thank you for your generous contribution of food and funds to the Food Pantry each month. Mission fund and individual donations to the Pantry totaled \$2,132.50 in 2019.



When you are at the store, remember those in need by picking up one or more of the following items requested this month by the Pantry:

**Any kind of soup including Ramen
Noodles**

Financial contributions are also encouraged as the Pantry is able to make bulk purchases at a reduced rate.

PLANNING TOGETHER

Mission Study Team Report

First, thanks to all of you who participated in the recent mapping exercise. It was fun to watch all the personal interaction taking place around the maps. Picture of the “finished product” will be in our team’s final report.

Next up, we need your help on Sunday, January 19, 2020, immediately after worship. Holy Cow! Consulting will be visiting us to present the results of the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) survey. We’ll gather around tables to see the results and begin conversation about what they can tell us about the future of our congregation. Please make every effort to be there.

Preparations are also underway for our “Wall of Wonder” timeline. We’ll have a timeline placed along the walls in our hallways to show key events in the history of First Presbyterian. You’ll be invited to add your own personal histories of your life in our church. Keep an eye open for the “Wall of Wonder”

In addition to your help, our team has two other activities planned for January. We’ve identified a list of community leaders we’d like to interview. These leaders’ perspectives will help us better understand what challenges are out there in the larger Woodstock Community.

Finally, we’re planning multiple engagements with our youth, from college age thru elementary school. Our youth have important things to tell us and important contributions to make to our life here. Parents should keep an eye open for announcements from our team.

The Mission Study Team will be meeting bi-weekly in 2020. Please feel free to reach out to any of us with questions or ideas.

By Mark Bundick, Cindy Carlisle, Sue Krause, John Moorhouse, Angela Thuma, & Cheryl Wormley

Say good-bye to Pastor Paul	✓
Interim Pastor search process	✓
Interim Pastor joins congregation	✓
Mission Study Team selected	✓
Information gathered and studied	🕒
Feedback to congregation and Session	🕒
Report completed/present to Session for approval	
Report approved by Presbytery Committee on Ministry	
Congregation elects Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)	
PNC review & interviews candidates	
Candidate selected; terms of call agreed upon	
Candidate and Terms of call approved by Presbytery	
Candidate Sermon/Congregational vote on call	
Candidate installed as Minister of Word and Sacrament	

WATCH FOR WAYS YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE MISSION STUDY

•Help build the First Presbyterian Church “Table of Wonder” Timeline located in the west hallway.

•Participate in the Congregational Gathering on January 19th after worship. Hear about and discuss the results of the Holy Cow! Survey.

•Attend a Connecting Point small group for a conversation with a Mission Study Team member about the future of the church.

•Watch for future gatherings where we will prayerfully consider who God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do.

•Children and Youth— Watch for an invitation to talk with Team members about what you think we should keep doing, stop doing, start doing as a church.

LEADING TOGETHER



2020 OFFICERS

Session

Scott Greenlee
 Candee McMahon
 Kyle Sobczak
 Mark bundick
 Mike Downes
 Sue Drause
 Bob Clark
 Ray Thuma
 Chris Nejdil

Board of Deacons

Katherine Greenlee
 Renee Simes
 Caryl Lemanski
 John rigby
 Matt Petrik
 Angie Boe
 Joyce Maynard
 Pam Moorhouse
 John Moorhouse

**ANNUAL REPORTS
 ARE DUE TO THE
 CHURCH OFFICE BY
 JANUARY 12.**

Session Highlights

The following are some highlights from the November and December meetings:

- Approved a Child Protection Policy, including screening for staff and persons volunteering with children and youth.
- Approved contracting with Holy Cow! consultant to present survey results to congregation.
- Approved transferring \$90,000 of the \$138,000 current balance of the McCullough Distribution Fund as follows:
 - 55,000 source to balance the 2020 Operating Budget;
 - 25,000 to restore the Emergency Repairs Fund;
 - \$10,000 donation to the Blackhawk Presbytery Mission Grant Program.
- Approved making some benefits available to staff through the Board of Pensions.
- Explored options for future Confirmation programming.
- Began background checks with Protect My Ministry for staff and volunteers w/children.

Your Generosity – A Report from Your Finance Commission

From II Corinthians 9:6-8: "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly nor under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Net Operating Income – Operating Budget

YTD Through November 2019

<u>Income</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>2nd Q Rev Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Contributions Income	\$180,862	\$174,729	\$6,133
All Other Income	<u>\$14,763</u>	<u>\$17,057</u>	<u>(\$2,294)</u>
Total Income	\$195,625	\$191,786	\$3,838
Expenses			
Personnel	\$125,183	\$133,032	<u>(\$7,849)</u>
All Other Expenses	<u>\$60,362</u>	<u>\$64,851</u>	<u>(\$4,489)</u>
Total Expense	\$185,545	\$197,883	<u>(\$12,338)</u>
Net Operating Income	\$10,080	(\$6,097)	\$16,177

November net operating income was unfavorable at (\$6,587) bringing the YTD net operating income still favorable by about \$10,100. The projection for net operating income at Year-End is estimated to remain favorable by \$5,000 vs. the Annual Budget (2nd Qtr. Review) unfavorable of about (\$18,000).

Balance Sheet – no significant changes for the month. Cash Flow – no significant issues.

2020 Operating Budget – As mentioned last month, next year's budget continues to be a challenge by almost \$60,000 based upon pledges received to date and other anticipated income for 2020. It appears that the 2020 Operating Budget, unfortunately, will be balanced by again drawing upon a McCullough funded account. Fortunately, God has blessed us by providing McCullough funds to supplement normal income to fund the operations of our church. More detail will be shared with the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted, Bob Clark – on behalf of the Finance Commission

TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

Marty Sobczak, Diane Melvin, Tom Thennes, Nick Botian, Tom Schwarz, Sally Wilyat, Paul Nelson, baby Lyra Grace, Jayne Reicher, Cliff Turrell (friend of Bob Clark), Sherry Thuma, Judy Haimbough, the Wedoff child, Jim Higgins, Jeremy Strain, and Tony Seda.

Call the church office to share your prayer requests. With the permission of the person in need of prayer, the request will be announced in the bulletin and newsletter. Otherwise, the request will be held as confidential. Please keep the Pastor or the office up to date on the status of these persons. Unless we hear otherwise, names will be listed for 6 weeks and then removed.

"Nothing tends more to cement the hearts of Christians than praying together. Never do they love one another so well as when they witness the outpouring of each other's hearts in prayer." — Charles Finney

CARING TOGETHER

DEACONS

Sunday Morning Fellowship

Do you have the gift of hospitality? Do you feel called to help the congregation enjoy each other? Would you be willing to serve coffee and treats after worship? If so, please see a Deacon or put your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the Great Room.

Advent Blessings

Thanks so much for all who sent the blessing of a greeting through cards this Advent. In so many acts of kindness, small and large, this congregation made room for Christ.

WELCOME ROSAURA BREEN!

We are so happy to have you with us.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!

**Chloe Bellmore
Lauren Toepper**



January, our Outreach Ministry touched the hearts of residents at Alden Terrace, Crossroads Care Center, Hearthstone Manor, Hearthstone Village, and Valley Hi. The residents also filled our hearts with joy.

Nursing home tours are not scheduled for January; however they will resume in February.

Plan to join us and our registered therapy dog, Oliver, and his handler Angela Thuma in this joyful ministry!

Interested in joining us? Contact Melinda Davis at lynfdavis@aol.com or

815-382-1321



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1 New Year's Day Office closed	2	3 7:30am - Bldg. Use	4 7am - Men's Bible
JANUARY 2020						
5 9:30am - Worship 1pm - House Bless 5pm - Hudson Worship 6pm - NO Youth Group	6 6:30pm - Girl Scouts 6:30pm - Theater 121 7pm - WACM Meeting	7 6:30pm - Theater 121	8 7:30am - Early Bible 5:15pm - N.O.W. Dinner 6:30pm - No-Name 7:30pm - Voices of	9 5pm - Personnel 6:30pm - Theater 121 7pm - Finance 7pm - Mission	10	11 7am - Men's Bible
12 9:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sun. Sch. 10:30am - Officer Trng 1pm - House Bless 6pm - Youth Group	13 6:30pm - Theater 121	14 10am - TLC Women's 6:30pm - Theater 121 7pm - Deacons	15 Newsletter Articles Due 7:30am - Early Bible 5:15pm - N.O.W. Dinner 7:30pm - VoF Choir	16 6:30pm - Theater 121	17	18 7am - Men's Bible
19 9:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sun. Sch. 10:30am - Congr. 1pm - House Bless 5pm - Worship @ 6pm - Youth Group	20 Martin Luther King Jr. 6:30pm - Girl Scouts	21	22 7:30am - Early Bible 5:15pm - N.O.W. Dinner 6:30pm - No-Name 7:30pm - VoF Choir	23	24	25 7am - Men's Bible 12pm - Prairie Moon
26 9:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Session 1pm - House Bless 6pm - Confirmation	27	28 7:30am - Early Bible 5:15pm - N.O.W. Dinner 7:30pm - VoF Choir	29	30	FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE JANUARY 22ND	

MINISTERS

All members and friends of the
congregation

STAFF

Rev. Cindy Carlisle
Interim Pastor
Taylor Radtke
Youth Coordinator
Rosaura Breen
Administrative Assistant
Dave Davis
Financial Secretary
Melinda Davis
Music Director
Bob Diss
Organist
Alan Dunker
Custodian
Lauren and Chloe
Nursery Attendants

January 2020

Season of Epiphany

"Arise, Your Light Is Come"

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WOODSTOCK**

*A Family of Faith... praising God and serving
others.*

Phone: (815) 338-2627
E-mail: fpc2018@att.net
Website:
www.fpcwoodstock.org
Visit us on Facebook

-Return Service Requested.

2018 IL-HWY 47
Woodstock, IL 60098

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH