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.

CELEBRATING MINISTRY

1846-2020 and still serving Christ

This is the 175th year that First Presbyterian Church in Woodstock has been serving Christ. Interim time gives us a special opportunity to revel in all God has accomplished in and through this part of the body of Christ.

This is fun with a purpose. Looking at our history helps us to understand who we are and can inform us as we discern for the future. If you haven't yet, take time to look over the timeline. What do we remember and how does this witness to what has been important in our common life as disciples?

Ponder and add to the timeline. Recount your most precious remembrances of the life you have shared here. When was the hardest you laughed? When did you feel the most peace? When did you feel most comforted? When did you feel most energized? Share these stories with each other. Listen to see if themes emerge that help us understand who we have been over these many decades.

What brothers and sisters do you remember most fondly? In what ways did they witness to Jesus Christ in their time? Whose lives did they touch in the congregation, in the community and in the world? What are the ways we are touching lives today?

In all of this, watch for what God is calling this congregation to do and be in the future. How has the congregation changed in response to God's plan in the past? Who are we now as a result of our common history? How is the Spirit forming us into creators of God's tomorrow?

Lastly, share these thoughts by participating in the Mission Study process. The fullness of the report presented by the Mission Study Team will depend on your input.

God has truly blessed us in the past and will surely continue to bless us in the future.

Thankfully, Pastor Cindy

Come sing, O church, in joy!

Come join, O church, in song!

For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!

In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

February 2020



Inside this issue

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

Worship Services

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Fellowship will follow all services.

Communion

February 2nd, 9:30 AM

N.O.W. Dinners

Wednesdays at 5:15 PM

Confirmation Experience 2020

Youth grades 6-8th March 1, April 5 & April 26

Annual Congregational Meeting

February 2nd following Worship Election of one Elder and three at-large Nominating Committee members

Ash Wednesday Service

February 26th—6:00 p.m.

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

Worship Leadership Schedule

February 2

Ushers: Hank Olesen

Lee Nejdl

Sound: Rob McMahon

Matt Thuma

Liturgist: Jim Wormley **Acolyte**: Ben Walters

Greeters: Justin Thuma & Jean Chase

February 9

Ushers: Rick & Pat Morozink

Dave Johanson

Sound: Matt Thuma

Greg Davis

Liturgist: Kristin Matter

Acolyte: Brayden Sobczak

Greeters: Pam & Brooke Mathison

February 16

Ushers: Kyle & Brayden Sobczak

Sound: Greg Davis

Dave Johanson

Liturgist: Dawn Cook
Acolyte: Elin Kaye
Greeters: TBA

February 23

Ushers: Ray & Angela Thuma

Sound: Dave Johanson

Rob McMahon

Liturgist: Brad Bellmore

Acolyte: Kayden Petrik

Greeters: Pam Moorehouse &

We are grateful to Sarah Metivier-Schadt for bringing her musical talents to us in January!!

Lucas Moorehouse

Welcome home
Melinda and Greg Davis!!

TOGETHER IN WORSHIP

Ash Wednesday - February 26th

We will gather at 6:00 p.m. to launch the Lenten season by remembering our deep need for God in our lives. We are dust and to dust we will return. We are ash, and to ash we

will return. But we are created and beloved children of God. All that is divinely created will also be redeemed by the Divine.

Come and commit yourself, together with your brothers and sisters, to turning to God and following in Christ's path.

Create a clean heart for me, God; put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me! Psalm 51:10

Invite friends, neighbors and co-workers to worship

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 January greeters at the front doors:

- ♦ Jean Chase and Justin Thuma
- ♦ The Dunker Family
- ♦ Taylor Radtke and the children and youth
- ♦ Pam and Brooke Mathison

Now is the perfect time to invite friends, neighbors, and co-workers to worship with you at First Presbyterian. Tell them something you especially like about our church, and then say, "How about going with me next Sunday!"

Join the Hospitality Small Group. Just call or talk with Sue Krause (815-451-5385), or Cheryl Wormley (815-519-7402). You'll be glad you did. The more the merrier.

Music Rehearsals

Children's Hand Chime Choir
Weekly on Wednesdays at 4:45 p.m.
beginning February 12

Youth Choir

Weekly on Wednesdays at 5:40 p.m. beginning February 12

JIM-JAM Children's Choir
Weekly on Wednesdays at 6:05 p.m.
beginning February 12

Voices of Faith
Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.
Sundays at 8:45 a.m.

GUEST PREACHERS

Welcome to the pulpit while Pastor Cindy is on vacation

Rev. John Hudson February 9th

Rev. Jeff Borgerson February 16th

Thank you both for sharing Christ's message with the congregation.

TOGETHER IN FELLOWSHIP



ALL AGES GAME NIGHT

February 23rd at 6:00 p.m.
Calling all people who like to have fun!!
What's your favorite game?
Monopoly?
Yatzee? Twister? Scrabble?
Whatever your personnel favorite—bring it on!
We will gather in the Great Room. Bring your favorite game or just come and enjoy.

SAVE THIS DATE!



Music Man Grace Lutheran Church

Sunday, April 26, 2020
The Woodstock Area Community
Ministry is pleased to announce
that Charles Troy will present
"The Music Man" at Grace Lutheran Church Woodstock, Illinois

Let's make a church night of it and join in supporting WACM.

Fishing Mission - "Let's Go Fishing FPC"

We are blessed to experience God's beauty in the locations we fish. During 2019 we fished locally mostly in Geneva and Delavan, but a few times on other lakes as well. Some of us traveled to fish on Lake of the Woods, the Indian Chain, and



Canyon Lake, Ontario as well as the Wisconsin Northwoods and the Boundary Waters in Minnesota.

We fish for many species. Locally it's mostly smallmouth bass, but we also catch largemouth bass, northern pike, and muskies along with early season crappies on Lake Elizabeth. Of note, several muskies were caught (and released) on Geneva in 2019. When traveling to Canada walleyes are the main target but we fish for many of the other game fish too, and we eat great food at Witch Bay Camp (former Pastor Paul Nelson once joined us on a trip there a few years ago). In the Wisconsin Northwoods, the primary target is smallmouth bass.

We are proud that some of our members earned some notable awards with local fishing clubs for 2019. We are also blessed that several friends, that are not members of our congregation, are able to join us on outings to share God's beauty and grace.

We are eager to see more people from FPC participate in this Mission to not only enjoy the outdoors, and the occasionally great fishing, but to get to know one another better, share stories, and learn more about this challenging sport. Some days it is easier to communicate with the Lord while on or near the water.

While we have a limited number of boats that accommodate three or possibly four depending on the type of fishing, we also have members with small boats (canoe/kayaks) that make it easier to fish in smaller bodies of water. When fishing Geneva some can fish from the public pier while others can take turns on the boat. We also hope to plan an event where we can accommodate our children and youth for fishing or other watersports.

Bob Clark

Come for dinner! NOW dinner!

You're invited to dinner – NOW (Nurture on Wednesdays) dinner that is.

NOW dinners are in full swing. Dinner is served buffet style from 5:15 to 6 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Great Hall.

Great food! Great fellowship! Suggested donation: \$3 for everyone 11 and older; \$1 for 10 and younger. No signing up. Just come!

Menus: Hosts:

Feb. 5: Tacos House of Blessing
Feb. 12: Menu TBA Dunker/Greenlee
Feb. 19: Pizza N.O.W. Team

Feb. 26: Soup & Bread Confirmands with Dave Johanson

For information or to volunteer to help cook or clean up, call, text or talk with one of the NOW team Lee Nejdl (815-546-1731), Katie Spaldon (815-276-3410) or Cheryl Wormley (815-519-7402). Mark Bundick is also on the team, but he'll be in Arizona all of February.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Youth Group

Sunday Nights @ 6:00-7:30pm

Sunday, February 2 @ 5:30-7, Superbowl Party!

Middle and High School are invited.

Thank you, Ray and Angela Thuma for hosting! For details regarding the location please contact Taylor for more information. 2/9 @6:00-7:30, Youth Group Night (Chapter 7)

February 72/21-22- Stronghold Retreat Weekend!

For details please contact Taylor for more information.

Taylorradtke.youth@gmail.com

Come and have fun learning about Jesus

2/2 - Little to Big (Luke 13:18-21)

2/9 - Party Time (Luke 14:15-24)

2/16- Lost and Found (Luke 15:1-10)

2/23- The Kind of Glory Comes (Luke19-47)



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.

CONFIRMATION EXPERIENCE 2020

The Confirmation youth did a fabulous job of creating a timeline of the Old Testament. They have been paying attention all these years!! Watch for the timeline to be on display.

Plan to come for dinner before the Ash Wednesday service—February 26, 2020. The youth will be preparing a simple meal and helping to lead worship.

Future schedule meeting dates with Pastor Cindy and Dave Davis are: March 1, April 5, and April 26 from 6:00-7:30 PM

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

February 21-23

See Pastor Cindy or Taylor for details

Confirmation Sunday for 8th Graders

May 3, 2020

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 Nejdl, 815-337-1070 canejdl@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 Nejdl, 815-337-1070 canejdl@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

"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



Souper Bowl of Caring empowers youth and unites communities around the time of the Big Game to help those in need. 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.

Children chose to send the soup and funds to support the Salvation Army.

TAKING CARE OF EACH OTHER

Last year, mission funds were approved to purchase an

Automated External Defibrillator or AED

AED's can someone who is experiencing sudden cardiac arrest at the Church. This is a sophisticated, yet easy-to-use medical device that can analyze the heart's rhythm and, if necessary, deliver an electrical shock, or defibrillation, to help re-establish heart effective rhythm. The AED has arrived and it will be mounted early this month. Watch for it and available training so you know where it is in an emergency.

First Aid Kit

Thanks to Julie Farver for consulting on a new Kitchen First Aid Kit and to Mike Downes for a most excellent mounting job.

SERVING TOGETHER



GIRLS FOR GHANA

Just what is G4G Ghana, you may be asking? It is an exciting program that the mission commission at FPC has chosen to support. It is a vital non for profit organization that provides outreach services to underserved young women of Ghana. Led by Dina Amoo, a born native of Ghana, they are reaching out to young girls to provide feminine hygiene products and the

knowledge of how to use them. Many girls often miss school part of each month because sanitary products are not affordable. On average, girls in Ghana stay in school for 4 years. Through this program, the girls are provided with necessary reusable supplies to allow them to stay in school.

We are going to help by having an open sewing night for making supplies on Tuesday, March 3rd at FPC from 7 to 9PM. All are welcome! You don't need to have sewing skills, lots of help is needed for cutting out fabric and assembling. If you would like to bring a sewing machine, you are very welcome to do so.

Also we are helping out by collecting women's underwear in sizes small to large on Sundays February 9th and 16th.

We are honored to be part of this effort!

If you would like to check them out, they have a Facebook page, or the website g4gghana.org

Thank you!

Blackhawk Presbytery

"Supporting Thriving Faith Communities in Northern Illinois"

Mission Grant Program

Blackhawk Presbytery offers grant funds to Blackhawk Presbytery churches to support the development of mission programs or projects. The Mission Grant Program is funded through contributions to Blackhawk Presbytery's mission funds and is administered by the Mission Committee.

This Program is an example of how we are connected to the mission of the larger Church of Jesus Christ through the PC(USA). When we contribute to, or receive assistance from, this fund—we are in service together.

Here are some of the things supported by these funds:

- ◆ Support for summer UNITE Youth Work Camp Sterling FPC
- ◆ Transport of Medical Supplies to Uganda (Ottawa FPC Project)
- Kitchen Equipment for the Community Dinners at Dekalb WPC
 - ♦ A bus to transport Blackhawk Youth to Triennium
 - ♦ A Community Garden at Dixon FPC
- ♦ Support for Kenya Partnership Mission Team (trip this month)
- Illinois Conference of Churches, a Little Lending Library/Food Pantry
 - ♦ Middle School retreat at Stronghold
- ♦ Support for interfaith and cultural gatherings/dialog requested by Ridgefield-Crystal
 - ♦ Lake (called "Planting the Seeds of Friendship").

Our congregation has generously supported this program over the years, including in 2019. Thank you for your generosity toward Blackhawk Presbytery's mission!

PLANNING TOGETHER

Mission Study Team Report

By Mark Bundick, Rev. Cindy Carlisle, Sue Krause, John Moorhouse, Angela Thuma, and Cheryl Wormley

Your Mission Study team continues to be hard at work, diving into the "nuts and bolts" of our ministry life here at First Presbyterian. Your participation has been a joy to us and a blessing to all of us. Keep up the good work!

We had an excellent presentation of our Church Assessment Tool (CAT) Survey results by Robin Strain of Holy Cow! The Mission Study Team is now beginning small group discussions about the survey. If a Mission Study Team members reaches out to you personally or to a group you're involved in, please try to take time to have conversation with them. These conversations are one step toward understanding better how God is calling us forward.

Four of six planned Community Leader interviews have been completed. Conversations with Mayor Brian Sager, United Way Executive Director Carol Peters, Family Health Partnership and MCC Board member Suzanne Hoban, and Illinois Migrant Council CEO Maggie Rivera show many, many needs in our community with ample opportunities to reach out to many who are in need.

If you've not done so, I hope you take a minute to look at the entertaining and fascinating "Table of Wonder" timeline just outside the sanctuary.

Our series of Youth Engagement sessions is also ongoing. Our youth are full of life and faith and have given the Mission Study Team a lot of great ideas.

We give thanks to all of your for your questions, ideas and support. Please feel free to reach out to any of us as God speaks to you about our bright future together.

| Say good-bye to Pastor Paul | ~ |
|---|----------|
| Interim Pastor search process | ~ |
| Interim Pastor joins congregation | ~ |
| Mission Study Team selected | ~ |
| Information gathered and studied | 3 |
| Feedback to congregation and Session | 9 |
| 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 | |

SAVE THIS DATE!!

CONGREGATIONAL GATHERING AND CONVERSATION

Stay after worship on Sunday, March 1 to share ideas on the future of First Presbyterian Church.

We will share lunch and have small and large group discussions around questions the Mission Study Team has developed from their discernment to date.

The information from this gathering and discussion will be vital as we draft goals and strategies for the final report.

Lunch and child care will be provided.

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

Jeremiah 29:11





Session Highlights

The following are some highlights from the January meetings:

- The resignation of Michael Downes was accepted with thanks and regret.
- The 2019 Financial Reports were reviewed. Approved \$10,000 support of Blackhawk
 Mission Grant Program from year-end balance
- Approved youth group outing to the Recreation Center and plan for Confirmation.
- Discussed governing structure and ways to enhance communication, planning and inclusion in decision-making.
- Approved promoting youth mission trip to Birmingham, Alabama through YouthWorks.
- Approved bringing payroll function in-house.

Your Generosity - A Report from Your Finance Commission

Operating Income Results

YTD Through November 2019

| <u>Income</u> | <u>Actual</u> | 2nd Q Rev Budget | <u>Variance</u> |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Contributions Income | \$180,862 | \$174,729 | \$6,133 |
| All Other Income | \$14,76 <u>3</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 | \$60,362 | <u>\$64,851</u> | <u>(\$4,489)</u> |
| Total Expense | \$185,545 | \$197,883 | (\$12,338) |
| Net Operating Income | \$10,080 | (\$6,097) | \$16,177 |

Net Operating Income was favorable overall and significantly favorable vs. the budget. This was accomplished by reduced pastoral expense as Pastor Cindy was not hired until September. While income from donations was lower than 2018, we were blessed with additional income in December higher than expected. As a result of the extra December income Session approved restoring the historical \$10,000 grant to the Presbytery Mission fund that had not been made in 2018 nor budgeted for 2019.

Balance Sheet

The McCullough Endowment continued growing as did the McCullough Distribution Fund – please see the enclosed Treasurer's report. We plan to include the performance review at the Annual Meeting.

The Capital Fund is essentially depleted as is the Emergency Fund. These monies were used mainly to complete the Storage Building and upgrade our technology in the Great Room. Respectfully Submitted, Bob Clark, Finance Commission

2020 OFFICERS

Session

Mark Bundick
Bob Clark
Scott Greenlee
Sue Krause
Candee McMahon
Chris Nejdl
Kyle Sobczak
Ray Thuma

Board of Deacons

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

MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE ANSWERED THE CALL TO LEAD!



How important is a will?
How does it bless your family?
Your church?

CARING TOGETHER



The Outreach Team will present love-themed programs at Crossroads Care Center on February 20 at 10:15 am and Hearthstone Village at 1:30 pm.

10:15am—Crossroads Outreach

1:30 pm—Hearthstone Outreach

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

DEACONS

Deacon Flocks

As new Deacons transition on to the Board, the flocks are being reconstituted. Know that you are being prayed for and watch for your new Shepherd. Be in prayer for these disciples too.

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.

MEMORIAL SERVICE Rev. Dr. Marvin Paul Nelson November 11, 1951—January 20, 2020

The congregation grieved the death of Pastor Paul and was blessed to host his Memorial Service on January 31st. It was a lovely service prepared by Paul himself before his death and with the wise counsel of his wife Sally and his friend, the Rev. Dr. Daniel Meyer.

So many thanks to the wonderful musicians who warmed our hearts and inspired our souls, to those who prepared the ice cream and treats to celebrate the treat Paul love, and to the many members who helped to prepare the church for our guests. Both Paul and God were honored by your labors.

TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

Kristen Matter's cousin, Scott Snider and his family, Mark Bundick's brother, Michael, Marty Sobczak, Diane Melvin, Tom Thennes, Nick Botian, Tom Schwarz, Sally Wilyat, baby Lyra Grace, Jayne Reicher, Cliff Turrell (friend of Bob Clark), Sherry Thuma, Melinda Davis, Judy Haimbough, the Wedoff child, Jim Higgins, Jeremy Strain, and Tony Seda. Keep in your prayers the family and friends of Tom Thennes at the death of his sister, Martha. Continue to keep family and friends of Rev. Paul Nelson in your prayers.

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.

"It matters little what form of prayer we adopt or how many words we use. What matters is the faith which lays hold on God, knowing that He knows our needs before we even ask Him.."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

| | | MARCH NEWSLETTE R DEADLINE FEBRUARY 15TH | |
|--------------------------|---|--|--|
| sat 7am - Men's Bible | 7am - Men's Bible | Newzietter Artioles Due 7 am - Men's Bible 7 am - Men's Bible | 7am - Men's Bible |
| 11. 10. | Pastor Cindy-out of office | Valentine's Day Stronghold | 28 |
| 1hu 30 | ID. | 6:30pm - Perconnel 7pm - Finance 7pm - Miccion | 10:15am - Croscroads 2pm - Hearthstone |
| Wed 299 | 7:30am - Early Bible 4:45pm - Kide Hand 6:15pm - N.O.W. Dinner 8pm - JiM-JAM 8pm - Worship Comm 7:30pm - VoF Choir | 7:30am - Early Bible 4:45pm - Kide Hand 6:15pm - N.O.W. Dinner 8pm - JIM-JAM 6:30pm - No Name Knit 7:30am - Early Bible 4:45pm - Kide Hand 6:15pm - N.O.W. Dinner 8pm - JIM-JAM 7:30pm - VoF Choir | 7:30am - Early Bible 4:45pm - Kids Hand 8pm - A8H 7:30pm - VoF Choir |
| -1 co | 4 | 10sm - TLC Women's 7pm - Desoons | 2.5 |
| February 2020 | 8:30pm - Girl Booute | 7 pm - Miccion Team 17 8:30pm - Girl Booutc 7 pm - Miccion Team | 24 |
| Februa | 9:30am - Worthip 9:46am - Sun. School 10:30am - Congregatio 1pm - Houce Blecc 6pm - Hudson Worthip 8pm - Youth Super | Pactor Cindy-out of office 9:30am - Worship 9:46am - Sun. School 10:30am - Youth & Ed. 1pm - House Bless 8:80am - Worship 9:46am - Sun. School 1pm - House Bless 6pm - Worship @ 8pm - Youth Group | 8tronghold 8:80sm - Worship 9:45sm - Sun. Sohool 10:45sm - Section 1pm - House Bless |