

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.*

*May the grace and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

*I thank my God every time I mention you in my prayers. I'm thankful for all of you
every time I pray, and it's always a prayer full of joy. I'm glad because of the way
you have been my partners in the ministry of the gospel from the time you first
believed it until now. I'm sure about this: the one who started a good work in you
will stay with you to complete the job by the day of Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 1: 2-6

Dear Partners in Ministry,

I do thank my God for you and for your ministry to one another in the name of Christ. Even in this dark time, you have boldly shared the light of Christ with one another.

I give thanks to the members of Session and Board of Deacons who have tirelessly fulfilled their ordination promise to "serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love." I am grateful for the technology that has allowed us to meet electronically to share knowledge and discern how to move forward. Many hard decisions were made with love for the Church and for all her members.

I give thanks to the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock who have called upon and prayed for each other. Thank you for all your offers of help.

I give thanks to the staff who have worked so very hard and creatively to provide worship, devotional and study resources and to ensure that the building and administrative functions of the church are maintained.

I am thankful to all who continue to work that we may have food, medical care and other essentials. I give thanks for our emergency personnel and our other government and non-profit staff and volunteers who have selflessly labored for our safety and security.

I give thanks for Jesus Christ, who taught us how to be bold through the most fearful of times and showed us that evil will not have the last word. This year we have gained a deeper appreciation of the message of his death and resurrection: love is stronger than fear—it is stronger than even death.

Clearly, we are not through this dark valley yet, but we travel together with Christ. He knows the way and he will carry us if we stumble. Thank you Jesus.

Grace and peace to you,

Pastor Cindy

April 2020



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Worship Service

On-line Sundays at 9:30 am
Link will be emailed weekly or find on
Facebook

Holy Week Readings will be provided
Monday through Friday

April Communion Cancelled

**DUE TO CONCERNS RELATED TO THE
CORONAVIRUS, ALL IN-PERSON
EVENTS AND MEETINGS ARE
CANCELLED FOR THE MONTH OF
APRIL**

**MAY GOD WATCH OVER OUR
CONGREGATION, OUR COMMUNITY,
OUR NATION AND THE WORLD.**

**Due Date for Newsletter Submissions
April 22**

Worship Leadership

Many thanks to those who have helped us prepare on-line worship services over the last three weeks of March:

Cindy Carlisle

Melinda Davis

Bob Diss

Sue Epperson

Christy Johanson

Chris Nejd

Fred Strauss

Ray Thuma

Jim Wormley

The Worship Commission and Session for wise and compassionate governance.

WORSHIP TOGETHER YET SEPARATED



In light of the COVID-19 concerns, there will be no in-person worship services in the month of April. Session will continue to monitor the situation and cancel future services as they deem prudent.

Worship is central to who we are and what we do as a church, but the health of our community must take precedence. Please join in worship on Sunday mornings via the internet as you are able. We will also be sending out transcripts of the service for those who cannot access them through the Web. We are also providing other daily devotional materials that we hope you are able to use.

May God bless you and keep you safe until we can be together again.

EASTER LILY ORDERS

HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONALS

April 6-10th

Please look for daily readings on Facebook and sent by e-mail available Monday-Friday of Holy Week. Make this week holy by remembering the last days of Jesus' life with beautiful music recorded by Bob Diss as background.



We will not be worshipping in-person this Easter. The 10 lilies that had been requested at the time the service was cancelled were ordered. They will be used for Easter service pictures. If you placed an order, you may arrange to pick the flower up at the church by calling the office. The Deacons will also deliver your lily to a person in need of a blessing if you prefer.

Thank you for your contribution to the season.

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

Contemporary Worship Group

John & Sue Hudson
815-308-5898
joshus@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

N.O.W. Team

(Nurture on Wednesdays)

Lee NejdI — 815-546-1731
Katie Spaldon — 815-276-3410
Cheryl Wormley—
indepublisher@comcast.net).

TOGETHER TO LAUGH AND LEARN

Youth Ministry

Taylor's Message To The Kids

Hey everyone, I know that there is a lot going on right now, but I just want to remind everyone that we are all still here for you and that God is with us. Psalm 27:1 states, *The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?* The words "light" and "salvation" bring an immediate smile to our faces, as we picture the Savior shining the light of His love over our lives. Even though hardships await us, there is no reason to fear. We have a safe and secure place in Jesus Christ

Prayer

Lord, thank You for lighting the way in this dark time. We depend on You, not only for our salvation but for our day-to-day peace. You are the only stronghold we need. We look to You instead of the world for guidance today. In Jesus' name, amen.

What will April Look like for Youth Ministry

Sunday School – Online lessons will be sent out through email and on the Youth Ministry page on Facebook. Included with this will be dance worship songs and weekly challenges along with coloring activities. *Don't forget about family highs and lows.* This is something we have been doing every Sunday School. This gives the kids a chance to talk about what has been going on in their lives. *What is one or two positive things that have happened within the last week (high), and one thing that we can pray on for this week (low)?*

Youth Group– I am trying to set up a Zoom meeting for our kids to stay connected for the weeks to come. We will be doing highs and lows as well as communicating their thoughts on the world, how God comes into play and how they can still make a difference staying in quarantine.

Activities

- **Holy Week:** Daily activity will be sent for the kids throughout the week following the scripture.
- **Make a difference:** Is there anyone you know that could use a phone call or would appreciate a letter from your child?
- **D365:** I would like to encourage the kids to get on this app for daily devotionals. I will be referencing this in the Zoom call as well.
- **Set Up a Phone Call with Taylor:** I know times are tough right now so I would like to extend the invitation to anyone who needs to talk.

[Taylorrادتke.youth@gmail.com](mailto:Taylorradtke.youth@gmail.com)

Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving and Finding the Church

Rachel Held Evans

We have an opportunity to be together in spirit by reading a book together. Rachel Held Evans is a popular Christian author. With honesty, humor and great love, she weaves major scriptural themes together as she reflects on the messy and wonderful thing we call church.

The book can be purchased on Amazon.com <https://www.amazon.com/Searching-Sunday-Loving-Leaving-Finding/dp/0718022122> or the church has copies available. Leave a message at the office and we would be happy to deliver the book to your door.



**Our Thoughts and Prayers are
with...**

Scott Snider, Marty Sobczak, Diane Melvin, Tom Thennes, Nick Botian, Tom Schwarz, Sally Wilyat, Lyra Grace, Jayne Reicher, Sherry Thuma, Judy Haimbaugh, Addie Jo Wedoff, Jim Higgins, Sarah and Christopher Carr, Danny.

Pray for all who must work and be exposed to danger and all those who have been negatively affected by COVID-19 in any way.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected us all and so many are struggling physically, emotionally, financially and/or spiritually. Remember that there are community resources available and can be found by calling 211.

Please contact your Deacon if the church can help with any difficulty you may be experiencing or if you just need to talk with someone.

The Session set aside monies from the McCullough Mission Fund to be administered by the Deacons to meet the needs of our members and friends arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Contact your Deacon if we can help.



Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

In this time when we are physically separated, the Deacons have been busy keeping us connected. If you have any concerns or prayer requests, we would love to be of service or support.

We are also looking for people willing and able to lend a helping hand. Please contact the church office for additional contact info or to volunteer to lend a hand.

By now you should have received a 2020 Church Directory. We are still working on the Photo Directory, but felt it important to get contact information out to members and friends. Please contact the Church Office if you have not received the Directory or if there is additional or different information you would like included.

If you have not already, please consider the following ways to stay connected to the church family:

Pray together at 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Take comfort in knowing that you are not alone in your prayers.

Pray for the members and friends of our congregation. Give someone a call or drop a note in the mail.

Know that you are being held in prayer by Pastor Cindy, the Deacons and so many others in our congregation. God bless you and keep you in the palm of his hand.

Your Deacons,

Angie Boe 815-338-7782

Katherine Greenlee 815-978-8077

Caryl Lemanski 815-206-0676

Joyce Maynard 815-338-7265

Pam Moorhouse 815-814-5585

John Moorhouse 815-236-7408

Matt Petrik 815-209-2835

John Rigby 815-236-1780

Renee Simes 815-276-9829



The Spring Rummage Sale has been postponed due to COVID-19 concerns. We are hoping to re-schedule and will share that information as it becomes available. Thank you for collecting your items to support WACM and the Woodstock Food Pantry.

The Woodstock Area Community Ministries (WACM)

Direct Assistance Program

Through 4/30, a few adjustments will be made so DAP can continue to offer some financial and other assistance to those in need. Requests for assistance should be made by phone. The DAP phone number is (815) 529-4370. After the stay in place order is over, adjustments will be made as to the kinds of assistance and means of delivery. Thank you for your help in spreading this information to the churches.

Stay healthy and safe.

Blessings to you all,

Pat Morozink

DATE CHANGE!

Music Man

Grace Lutheran Church
Sunday, August 29, 2020
"The Creation of the Sound of Music" at Woodstock North High School Performance Center.

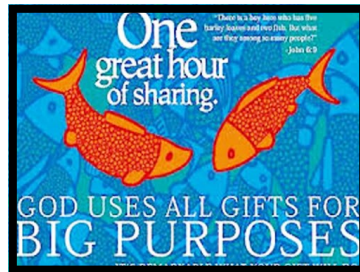
GIRLS FOR GHANA

G4G is going strong at FPC, despite of quarantine!! The Mission Commission has adopted their cause of bringing sanitary supplies to the girls in Ghana who are in need of them. We have hosted one gathering night to work on our project; there are more to come in the coming year! If the walls are closing in on you these days and if you are in need of a project, give a shout out to either Joyce Maynard or Julie Farver! We will give you some pre-cut supplies and the instructions on how to sew them.



One Great Hour of Sharing

Palm Sunday—April 5th



Even though we will not be collecting this offering in-person on Palm Sunday, please remember this important mission of the larger church. You can still contribute by sending this offering in the same way you send/bring your regular offering—indicating "One Great Hour" in the memo field. Your gift will help support individuals and communities in need through disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Woodstock Food Pantry Needs Help!

Even as the COVID-19 threat has increased food insecurity, many volunteers have had to step back for health reasons. The Pantry needs help covering shifts MWF from 8:30-12 or 12-4. Protective measures are in place. If you are able to give some time, please contact Joyce Maynard @ 338-7265 or Karen Meyer @ 338-2237.

New Holiday Gift Market

The Mission Commission is planning a Holiday Gift Market to replace the former Alternative Gift Fair. It will be held in the entrance area of the Great Hall during the NOW dinner on **Wednesday, Nov. 18th** and after the worship service on **Sunday, Nov. 22nd**. Hand-made craft items from the congregation will be sold to benefit local mission activities. Please plan ahead for your own contributions and start constructing your crafts soon. Items can be very small or quite large. Any materials are permissible except for perishables. Completed crafts for the sale can be stored at home until November or brought to the church for storage. For further information contact Lynne Sobczak (815-648-2321).

NURSING HOME

OUTREACH TEAM

Due to the Cononavirus, our nursing home visits have been cancelled.

Our Generosity: A report from our Finance Commission For the April Newsletter

From 2 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 or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2020 Operating Income

YTD Through February 2020				
<u>Income</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Vs. 2020 Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	
Contributions Income	\$60,802	\$58,348	\$2,454	
All Other Income	<u>\$2,993</u>	<u>\$1,894</u>	<u>\$1,099</u>	
Total Income	\$63,795	\$60,242	\$3,553	
Expenses				
Personnel	\$28,966	\$28,351	\$615	
All Other Expenses	<u>\$7,501</u>	<u>\$20,560</u>	<u>(\$13,059)</u>	<i>*incl \$10,000 not yet sent to Presbytery</i>
Total Expense	\$36,467	\$48,911	<u>(\$12,444)</u>	
<i>Special Income Session Authorized from McCullough Distribution Fund</i>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$10,000)</u>	<u>(\$10,000)</u>	
Net Operating Income	\$27,328	\$11,332	\$5,996	

- Lower than budgeted B&G expenses plus slightly higher income, mostly from regular giving resulted in favorable income of \$6,000. Caution – the B&G expenses could exceed budget in the short-term.
- Balance Sheet – no significant issues
- Cash Flow – No significant issues

Please look for a separate communication from Stewardship about how you may continue to tithe and give to the church while we worship in a virtual manner and the office is closed.

On behalf of the Finance Commission – God Bless You for your continued financial support,

Bob Clark, Chair

Stewardship in a Pandemic

COVID-19 is changing the way the world interacts and the church is not immune to those changes. Amid social distancing and shelter in place orders, First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock (FPC) has canceled worship and moved to a virtual form of worship. Pastor Cindy and the Session are looking for creative ways to be the church in a quickly changing landscape.

FPC is using all sorts of technology to stream worship services, share daily prayers, and convene corporately to glorify God, even if it is all online. Through efforts by the Deacons and other small groups we are finding ways to support and care for the most vulnerable church members by organizing grocery and pharmacy trips so that the homebound do not have to go out and risk being exposed. It is in times like these that the church shows its real strength as a community of faith, that loves neighbors, and glorifies God. We truly are a ***“Family of Faith, Praising God and Serving Others”***.

But what about financial stewardship during this time? While we feel financially blessed by a generous giving congregation, many churches operate on a very thin margin and have little to no reserves. Most churches are still heavily dependent on gifts that are made in an offering plate when people are physically in church. According to the National Study of Congregations’ Economic Practices, 78% of gifts are given during a worship service and FPC is no different. Churches living on thin margins are not going to be able to operate if they lose 78% of their revenue during this crisis. So, what is FPC doing to maintain giving revenue when people are not in church?

BE THE CHURCH: One of the most important things FPC can do to sustain stewardship is to continue to serve the Lord and to love her neighbors. Pastors and Sessions are correct in focusing on worship and taking care of people. This initial response is absolutely the right response. We will keep being the best church we can be during this trying time.

COMMUNICATE AND TELL YOUR STORY: FPC will use all the tools available to us (email, texting, social media, phone calls, etc.) and make sure you - our Deacon flocks, know the church is still here and what we are doing through your Deacons, through social media with daily prayer practices, and we’ll seek out and ask church members if they need help. FPC recognizes that many in our church will need help BUT also recognizes that others will still have the capacity give.

ASK & ONLINE GIVING: We often don’t do a very good job of asking for money in the church but during this crisis, it is important to ask.

FPC offers online giving through:

- **FPC website** <https://www.fpcwoodstock.org/> by clicking on “Giving” from the menu options.
- **GivePlus+ Mobile** free app that you can download onto your mobile device. The app is available through *Google Play* or the *Microsoft App Store*.
- Online bill pay or mailing checks to the church. Online giving will be direct deposited into the church’s account and doesn’t require anyone to go to the church or to the bank.

If you need help or assistance with online giving tools, contact finance2018@att.net and we’ll be in contact with [you](#) .

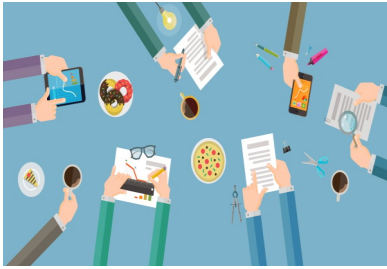
Know that for FPC to make it through this crisis and for the church to continue to support people during a prolonged crisis that it will require people to continue to give.

KEEP BEING THE CHURCH: Again, the most important thing FPC can do right now is to glorify God and love its neighbors. We will keep doing this, we will be in communication with you - our flock, and we offer online giving and other means, and ask people to give in response.

Psalm 46:1 – God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

We pray for all of you, our congregation and your families, in this time of fear and uncertainty. In all this, may we always remember that we are the Church of Jesus Christ together. May God bless and keep you.

The Stewardship Committee



March Session Highlights

The Session met three times in the month of March. The normal business of the church was considered in addition to significant discernment of how to safely and faithfully address the current COVID-19 situation. The following was approved:

- Continuing Education for Pastor Carlisle to attend Presby. Assoc. of Musicians conference at Montreat (6/21-26 or 6/28-7/3)
- Church work day for May 2, 2020.
- Cancellation of worship services, all church events, youth activities, and in-person meetings through 4/5. N.O.W. dinners cancelled until the Fall.
- Establishment a \$2,000 fund to respond to Covid19 related issues of congregants to be administered by the Deacons and to increase petty cash by \$200 to have cash on hand to meet immediate needs.
- Three G4G sewing dates: 5/5, 8/4 and 10/6 and \$200 Materials from Tammeus Fund.
- Proceeds from the rummage sale to be given to WACM and the Food Pantry. Postponing or cancelling until COVID-19 threat passes.
- Approved and then cancelled both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services.
- Intergenerational VBS 6/1-4 4:30 to 7:30 pm and curriculum. VBS date may need to be postponed.
- Shared Book Reading – *Searching for Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans.
- LIFT whole church training on intergenerational ministry through LOGOS.

. Session / Commissions

Mark Bundick—Outreach
 Bob Clark— Finance, Nominating
 Dawn Cook—Building & Grounds
 Scott Greenlee—Finance
 Sue Krause—Clerk of Session
 Candee McMahon—Personnel
 Chris Nejd—Worship
 Kyle Sobczak—Mission
 Ray Thuma—Youth and Education

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elder Chair, Bob Clark
 Deacon, Pam Moorhouse
 Alan Dunker
 Christy Johanson
 Jim Wormley

Keep the Nominating Committee in your prayers as to undertake three major tasks this year:

- 1) Recommend Commission membership to the Session;
- 2) Nominate officers and 2024 Nominating committee members to the congregation
- 3) Nominate to the congregation members of the Pastor Nominating Committee.



Rev. John Richard, General Presbyter of Blackhawk Presbytery retired at the end of March. We welcome Rev. Nancy Dolan as our Executive Presbyter Bridge Consultant. She will be helping the presbytery (pastors and churches) respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting the COM in its work, helping the Council lead and preparing the way for the Transformational Presbyter.

Nancy comes to us from Chicago Presbytery where she was the pastor of Kirk of the Lakes Presbyterian Church and the Interim Head of Staff at the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest. Before attending and graduating from McCormick Seminary, Nancy spent 17 years working in Human Resources Management for the Allstate Insurance Company.

A Note from Rev. Dolan:

Greetings in the name of Jesus, Blackhawk Presbytery!

I greet you from my home desk in Barrington, Illinois, where I am sheltering in place with my husband, Skip, and youngest daughter, Jenna, an Augustana College senior. We have each staked out our personal workspaces and seem to have fallen into a good balance of togetherness and separation. (Although, truth be told, this time likely will serve as solid confirmation for Jenna that she has zero interest in living at home after college!) Our oldest daughter, Abby, is hunkered down with the Hoosiers, working from home in her apartment in Indianapolis.

As I write, I know you are weary and carrying heavy burdens. The last two weeks (which feel like a month!) have been incredibly difficult as you have had to rapidly create and adapt to new and sometimes uncomfortable ways of doing ministry, while also adjusting to changes at home and bearing the weight of the fear and anxiety around us and in us. It is truly a time of disruption. I have noticed that disruption and uncertainty seem to bring out both the best and the worst in us. American poet Theodore Roethke, in his poem, "In a Dark Time" writes, "In a dark time, the eye begins to see." In my transitional work, I have consistently found this to be true if we can be open to what God might be revealing. In such times, it's as if God shines a light that we can only see in darkness, a light that points us to that which goes unnoticed in the glare of daily distractions.

What are your eyes beginning to see? I'm finding this pandemic to be magnifying the needs of the vulnerable among us, revealing support systems that are weak, and exposing the flimsy foundations in which we put our trust. At the same time, I'm seeing us discovering new ways to love our neighbor, and realizing how much we need each other. I'm sure you too have noticed an abundance of examples of creative and beautiful ways we humans are rising to the occasion to connect with our neighbors and provide for one another.

As the Church of Jesus Christ, let us also not miss seeing the tremendous ministry opportunities for us. Times like these have the potential to bring all of us to our knees. It is there that we can't help but acknowledge our utter dependence on God and our need for God's grace. This is a unique time when the door is open and that path made clear for the Church to be a beacon of the light of God's love, and each of us channels of God's mercy and grace.

The Church is needed now more than ever.

We need each other more than ever, too. As long as the need exists, we will continue the regional, pastor Zoom calls started last week. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with, learn from and support one another. In addition, we have formed a COVID-19 response task force to ensure you have the support you need. Later, on April 14, we will all gather by Zoom for Assembly to continue the work to which God has called us.

Please don't do this alone. We are here for one another. Take advantage of opportunities to be connected in ministry. Feel encouraged to also reach out to me at revnancy.dolan@gmail.com or 847.767.2869.

It is my joy and great blessing to serve beside you. My focus during this interim period will be to help us not only weather this storm of pandemic, but also to grow from it and look forward, as we prepare for new leadership and the future for which God is preparing us. I look forward to getting to know you in the months ahead, and especially the day, God willing, when we might see one another in person!

Last, today I give thanks to God for John Rickard's leadership for these past 18 years, and for his love of God and all of you. I know you join me in praying for God's richest blessings on John and Debby, as they enter this next chapter in their lives. Today I also urge you to take care of yourselves. Rest and don't grow weary. Take the yoke of Jesus upon you and be comforted and supported. And learn, too! What is God showing you? What are your eyes seeing in this time?

I pray God's blessing upon us all, that we would be guided and comforted by God's steady rod and staff, shepherding us through this, and that we would have courage and strength to follow where we are being led.

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts and give you rest for your soul.

In Christ's service with you, Nancy

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

APRIL 2020



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WOODSTOCK

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

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