

First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock

***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.***

Dear Faithful Servants of our Lord Jesus Christ,

I am so very thankful for the dedication shown to Christ's church over the past many months. When COVID-19 caused us to discontinue all in-person activities, you understood this was necessary for the good of the whole and were patient as we struggled together to figure out a new way to minister in this time. In fact, you were supportive, creative, and energetic--unearthing new strategies and gifts to serve each other and Christ.

In this extraordinary time, your elders and deacons have truly fulfilled their calls with energy, intelligence, imagination and love. The staff have adjusted and grown. So many of you have stepped up when asked, shown great compassion for each other and been an encouraging force behind all that has been accomplished. For all of this, I am profoundly grateful.

Over the past nine months, this congregation has also been taking a long look in the mirror. Gatherings large and small, individual conversations, a timeline, community leader interviews, a whole-church survey, and a review of numerous church documents have helped us to ask the questions: 'Who have we been?' 'Who is our neighbor?' and "What is God calling us to be and do in the future?"

The Mission Study Team has led this examination and discernment with amazing endurance. Each member has devoted untold hours gathering, organizing, and analyzing information; asking and listening and praying; rejoicing and regretting; hoping and dreaming. The honesty and openness of their discernment reflects that of those who so generously shared their ideas, experiences, and dreams.

The conclusions have been considered carefully and are offered prayerfully with great love for each brother and sister Christ has called to serve at this time and in this place. The recommendations offered are in a spirit of hope for the church and confidence in the Christ to whom she belongs. They will take energy, faith and grace to implement. I have no doubt of this congregation's capacity for all three.

It is my great privilege to serve Christ with you. I await the next leg of our journey together with great hope and excitement. May God bless all the plans we make and all the ministries we undertake.

With gratitude to Christ and his Church, Pastor Cindy

JULY 2020



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RETURNING TO OUTSIDE

IN-PERSON WORSHIP!

Outside in-person worship will resume on July 5th at 9:30 a.m. on the south lawn, and will continue weekly through August.

The outdoor services will all be live-streamed on Facebook



Church Office
Closed 7/3/2020
Due to
Independence Day

**THE MISSION STUDY TEAM WILL BE
PRESENTING ITS FINDINGS TO THE
CONGREGATION ON JULY 12TH
FOLLOWING WORSHIP.**

**Due Date for the August Newsletter
Submissions July 22**

JULY BIRTHDAYS**July 1**

Collette Spaldon

July 3

Bob Diss

July 5

Joyce Maynard

Velma Downes

July 8

Sally Wilyat

July 13

Cheryl Wormley

July 18

Jim Wormley

July 19

Sophie Mason

July 20

Sally Nelson

July 22

Kelly Mason

July 27

Ruth Hunt

July 29

Ken Maynard

July 30

Marla Rigby

JULY ANNIVERSARIES**July 1**

Brooke & Pam Mathison

July 5

Tom Schwarz &

Lora Totton Schwarz

July 12

Scott & Katherine Greenlee

**Returning to In-Person Worship****Outdoor Worship Begins July 5th**

In-person worship will resume on July 5th at 9:30 a.m. on the south lawn. Outdoor services will continue weekly through August. If you choose to continue to shelter at home, the services will all be live-streamed on Facebook.

In the case of inclement weather, in-person worship will be cancelled. Worship leaders will live-stream the service from the Great Hall. Notice of cancellation will be given by email no later than 8:00 a.m. We will make every attempt to contact those who do not have internet access.

Ed's Rental has generously donated a 20' x 40' tent. Please bring your own lawn chairs or picnic blanket. Chair will be available if this is difficult for you. For everyone's protection, congregants will be required to maintain physical distance from non-household members.

If you believe you may be ill, we ask that you do not attend, but rather continue to worship with us on-line. **Protective masks must be worn by everyone throughout the service.**

We are limiting meeting size to 50 persons and you will need to register for each service through the e-mail registration sent to you or call the Church office.

Expect the service to be shorter as there will be no bulletins, congregational singing or passing of the collection plate. Special music will be included in the services and an offering collection basket will be available.

Bathroom facilities will be available for use one person at a time (apart from children who need assistance). All other rooms will be closed for use except by staff and commission members as necessary. We ask that you wipe surfaces touched with sanitizing wipes provided in restrooms.

The Session will regularly assess how the first steps of returning to in-person worship is going and will adjust plans for gathering as circumstances in the environment allow or require.

MANY, MANY THANKS!

We are so grateful for the many people who helped us worship every week since mid-March. Your talents and hard work have been so appreciated! For the month of June these people were:

Barb and Mark Bundick, Cindy Carlisle, Dave Davis, Melinda Davis, Bob Diss, Jody and Paul Fields, Christy Johanson, Marty Magnini, Larry Riggs, Jim Seidel, Renee Simes, Addie Sobczak, Tom Vos, and Jim Wormley. In May, Dave & Hunter Johanson and Evan Kaye shared their gifts and we missed them in our acknowledgments.



Deacon Ministry

The Deacons look forward to seeing those who are able to participate in outdoor worship. Please participate in worship on-line if you need or feel more comfortable continuing to shelter at home. Please contact your Deacon if there is any way we can assist you.

Your Deacons,

Angie Boe 815-338-7782

Caryl Lemanski 815-206-0676

Pam Moorhouse 815-814-5585

Matt Petrik 815-209-2835

Renee Simes 815-276-9829

Katherine Greenlee 815-978-8077

Joyce Maynard 815-338-7265

John Moorhouse 815-236-7408

John Rigby 815-236-1780

Guided Meditation

Thanks so much to Deacon Katherine Greenlee for leading us in calming, healing visualizations meditations. Our next meditation will be Saturday, July 18th at 9:00 AM.

Connect at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84676162504>

or by phone at 1-312-626-6799, 84676162504#

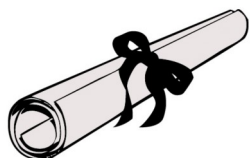
Katherine also leads a Guided Meditations at no cost on Sundays at 5:30 PM through the summer.

WoodstockYogaLounge.com

Click on *Schedule*, scroll down to "*punchpass classes*" and click. Scroll down to the Sunday Guided Meditation Class and register.

UPDATE ON OUR GRADUATES

What's next?



Chloe Bellmore graduated from high school in May. She will be attending Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO. She is starting college with an open mind but is intrigued that CSU is at the forefront of research on COVID-19.

Lydia Dunker graduated this spring from Woodstock North High School. She will be heading off this fall to Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, MI. Lydia has not declared a major but has an interest in the field of elementary education.

Mary Elizabeth Carr graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in Marketing and a Sales Certificate. She will be moving to the Milwaukee area in the fall where she will begin a Sales Associate position with FritoLay.

We will hold you in our prayers!



Received into the
Loving Arms Of Christ

Venus Nienow

June 28, 2020

Please keep her friends
and family in your prayers.

CARING TOGETHER



**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, Addie Jo Wedoff, Jim Higgins, Danny, Candy, Sarah Carr, Caryl Lemanski, Evan Kaye, Trish Sowa, Tim Arnold and Sue Epperson.

Hold in your prayers the family and friends of Venus Nienow. Please continue to pray for the family of Judy Haimbaugh as they grieve.

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.

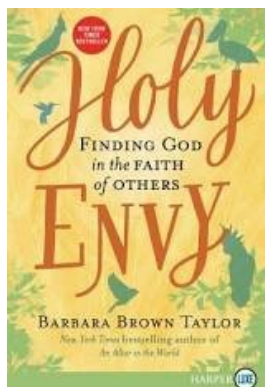
The COVID-19 pandemic has affected us all and so many are struggling physically, emotionally, financially and/or spiritually. Remember that there are community resources available which can be found by calling 211.

Hold in your prayers the members of the Nominating Committee as they prayerfully build a slate for the Pastor Nominating Committee. Pray for the pastor that God has already chosen to walk with this congregation into the future.

TOGETHER TO LAUGH AND LEARN

Holy Envy Book Discussion

Tuesdays @ 10 AM and Wednesdays @ 7 PM beginning July 14th



In this New York Times Bestseller, Barbara Brown Taylor recounts finding the sacred in unexpected places while teaching the world's religions. Troubled and inspired by what she learns, re-imagining some central stories from the religion she knows best, she takes heart in how often God chooses outsiders to teach insiders how out-of-bounds God really is.

We will meet over Zoom which is accessible through computer or phone. You can register on-line by responding to the Constant Contact e-mail or you can contact the office. The Zoom link information will be emailed to you.

The book may be ordered through *Read Between the Lines* or at amazon.com. You may also contact the office and we would be happy to help you with getting the book.

Hope you can join in!

Youth Ministry

Bible Verse of the Month - "And you yourself must be an example to them by doing good works of every kind. Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching." Titus 2:7 (NLT)

Family Intergenerational VBS -2nd Chance

In June we did a "Get the Conversation Going" Family Intergenerational VBS. If you and your family missed out that's okay! You can start the same VBS on July 5th.

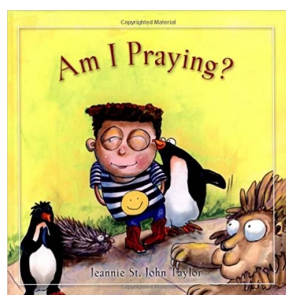
Youth Group Zoom

Sunday Night July 19th @ 7:00pm

Please contact taylorradtke.youth@gmail.com for all of the information.

THANKS SO MUCH...

Dave Davis, John Rigby, Ray Thuma and Pastor for story-telling that entertained and taught us all.



Faith in Action Cards

A big thank you to our children and youth for sending cards to members sheltered at home. Way to minister during COVID! If you haven't sent your card, it's definitely not too late.

Many thanks to all who participated in the

Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church Discussion Groups

In all, 20 people participated in three different Zoom groups over seven weeks in May and June. These were wonderful conversations about our faith and the life of our congregation.

In celebration and as a remembrance of our time together, Kathi Carr gave each participant a *Aralia cordata* plant to each of us. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH KATHI!

If you missed out, we are hoping to hold another discussion group in the Fall.

MEN'S GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Saturdays @ 7:00 a.m.

Men's Group will continue to meet virtually using Zoom video conferencing. Men interested in participating in this small group setting should contact Dave Davis at ddavis@ameritech.net to get connected. All are welcome.

Mission Study Team Report—Session approves Mission Study report

With great joy, the Mission Study Team listened as the session voted June 21 to approve the Mission Study Report, the first step in the Presbyterian process of calling a pastor.

"I'm pleased with the report and excited about the future," said one session member.

"I like the new committee structure," said another member. "The right hand will know better what the left is doing."

"The intergenerational focus is really good," said another.

Sharing the report with all of you is the very, very important next step. The sharing will begin after worship Sunday, July 12. Plan to stay for about a half hour. That will allow for a brief presentation and questions and answers. Additional presentations are being planned, including virtual options, until every brother and sister has been given an opportunity to see, hear, and ask questions. A feedback session will be held after worship July 19.

The report includes new vision and mission statements and six "Responding to God's call" goals. Electronic and paper copies of the report with the analyses, conclusions, goals, action steps, and appendices will be available following the July 12 presentation.

If July 12 isn't doable, please call an MST member to talk about what will work for you.

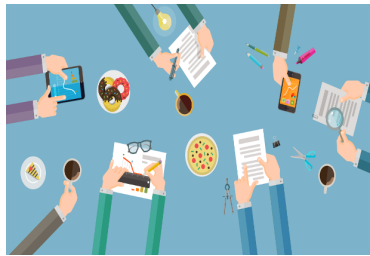
Mark Bundick, 224-242-2451, mbundick@comcast.net

Susan Ayers Krause, 815-451-5383, shkause1@yahoo.com

John Moorhouse, 815-236-7408, johnmoorhouse54@gmail.com

Angela Thuma, 815-338-9780, acthuma@sbcglobal.net

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



Called Session Meeting—June 11, 2020 Returning After COVID-19

At the regular meeting of Session in May, a COVID-19 Task Force was appointed to study and make recommendations related to resuming activities at the church building. At a called meeting of Session on June 11th, Task Force recommendations were presented and reviewed. The following determinations were made:

- Begin outdoor worship on 7/5 with masks, social-distancing, limited attendance.
- Until further notice, refrain from in-door meetings and events.
- Continue to monitor COVID-19 situation and monitor when in-person, in-doors and other activities will be reasonably safe and appropriate cleaning can be ensured.
- The Building and Grounds Commission will be accumulating cleaning and safety supplies as they become available.

Session will regularly assess how the first steps of returning to in-person activities are going and will adjust plans for in-person gatherings as circumstances in the environment allow or require.

June Session Highlights

Session met on June 21st to review and discuss the draft Mission Study Report. The Report was accepted with gratitude to the Study Team. Plans are being made to share the report with the congregation and begin to move forward on the goals presented.

Approved renewed Terms of Call for Rev. Cindy Carlisle as Interim Pastor through August 2021 or arrival of our next installed pastor.

Approved discussion groups via Zoom on *White Fragility* facilitated by Sue Krause and *Holy Envy* by Pastor Cindy.

Approved revisions to Safeguarding Our Children and Youth Policy and appointment of Sue Krause as the designated media contact for the church regarding abuse inquiries.

Requested that the Nominating Committee begin preparing a slate for the Pastor Nominating Committee and inform them when they are ready for a Congregational Meeting.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elder Chair, Bob Clark

Deacon, Pam Moorhouse

Alan Dunker

Christy Johanson

Jim Wormley

The Blackhawk Presbytery Committee on Ministry and the Session have gladly gave their go-ahead for the Nominating Committee to begin creating a Pastor Nominating Committee Slate. This is a deliberate and prayerful process—seeking to select a group which can best represent the congregation. When the slate is prepared, the Session will call a Congregational Meeting at which the Nominating Committee will present the slate for approval.



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

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 Nejd, 815-337-1070
canejd@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
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

N.O.W. Team

(Nurture on Wednesdays)

Lee Nejd — 815-546-1731
Katie Spaldon — 815-276-3410
Cheryl Wormley—815-519-7402
indepublisher@comcast.net

SERVING TOGETHER

Highway 47 Clean-up

Saturday, July 25th from 8-10 a.m.

Come if you are able to help clean up our highway. Please bring a mask if you are able. If you forget, masks will be supplied (and required). We will also be practicing social distancing, but it will still be a great way to be together. This is a great way to give back to our community and keep our area looking good.

Hello from all of us at Stronghold

We're still here for you!

These unprecedented times have had us on our toes to see how things will play out! In the meantime it has been a struggle to keep up with the maintenance of our 365 acres of property with just a few hands on board. At this time we are calling on our family of volunteers to come help support Stronghold in maintaining the beautiful grounds. Please call (815)732-6111 Ext. 613 for volunteering or you can email at reservations@strongholdcenter.org



Family Campground is Open!

Stronghold is offering tent camping at our Family Campgrounds for Social Distancing challenges. \$10.00 per person per night no more than 10 people per site. We have pavilion sites up to \$35.00 per day (comes with tables, trash cans & wood for fire pit). Call to reserve your spot today! 815-732-6111 ext 613.

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. If you prefer to make a monetary contribution in lieu of pantry items, please send a check to:

Woodstock Food Pantry
1033 Lake Ave, Woodstock, IL 60098

If you are able to give some time, please contact Joyce Maynard @ 338-7265 or Karen Meyer @ 338-2237.

The Woodstock Area Community Ministries (WACM)

Direct Assistance Program

Adjustments have been made, but DAP continues to offer some financial and other assistance to those in need. Requests for assistance should be made by phone through July. 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.

Watch for news about the new PADS site.

Our Generosity: A report from our Finance Commission – July Newsletter

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 or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

YTD Through May 2020			
<u>Income</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Contributions Income	\$94,487	\$95,771	(\$1,284)
All Other Income	<u>\$6,502</u>	<u>\$9,839</u>	<u>(\$3,337)</u>
Total Income	\$100,989	\$105,610	(\$4,621)
Expenses			
Personnel	\$69,737	\$71,593	(\$1,856)
All Other Expenses	<u>\$19,486</u>	<u>\$30,151</u>	<u>(\$10,665)</u>
Total Expense	\$89,223	\$101,744	(\$12,521)
Net Operating Income	\$11,766	\$3,867	\$7,899

Highlights to summarize Operating Budget YTD thru May versus plan:

Income shortage (-4,621) – Regular Giving (-1,284) ~on budget with slight shortfalls in Loose Offering & Per Capita. Mission income (-4,237) down primarily do to not having a fundraiser and lower local mission and OGHs donations.

Expense favorable (-12,521) – **Finance** (-1,971) with less office activity, **B&G** (-5,288) with lower building usage and repair needs, **Personnel** (-1,856) lower Professional Reimbursements, **Worship** (-2,124) less spend in flowers and music.

Net Operating favorable (7,899) to plan.

It is particularly joyful that our congregation has found the various ways to continue their generous contributions per their pledges and general giving as we navigate this time of physical separation. The Finance Commission appreciates your effort to keep contributions nearly equal to budget during this pandemic. God Bless you all!

FPC has already paid Blackhawk Presbytery the 2020 Per Capita assessment for each FPC member. If you have not already paid your Per Capita we will appreciate receiving your payment. The per capita assessment for 2020 is \$38.47 (same as 2019); GA-\$8.95, Synod-\$3.81, Blackhawk Presbytery \$25.71. Thank You.

Bob Clark (Chair) on behalf of your Finance Commission – Cary Cook (Treasurer), Dave Davis (Financial Secretary), Mark Bundick, Scott Greenlee, Pastor Cindy Carlisle (Ex Officio)

To support **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** COVID-19 response, you can send a check to the church indicating the purpose in the memo or give on-line at <https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000148/>
We also encourage generous giving to [One Great Hour of Sharing](#).

Consider the work of God by including your church in your will.

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

Director of Music Ministry

Bob Diss

Organist

Alan Dunker

Custodian

JULY 2020



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WOODSTOCK

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

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
2018 IL-HWY 47
Woodstock, IL 60098**