

# First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock

*A fellowship of people in all stages of life who gather together, praising and worshipping God with gratitude for our many blessings, accepting and caring for all God's children, and serving the community and the world with love and joy.*

## Your Gift to Give

Last Sunday I preached on King David's desire to build a temple for the Lord. Maybe I was too hard on David in saying that his desire was more vanity than generosity. He did love the Lord. No doubt he did want to do something special for the Lord. I'm sure he wanted the Lord to be near. But it was just not his gift to give.

Several years ago at a Presbytery meeting in Pennsylvania, I heard one of my favorite sermons of all time. I don't remember the details for sure, but Rev. Michael Ozaki preached about sharing our gifts. He said, though, that some gifts aren't ours to give. For instance, if you need your car's carburetor rebuilt—I'm not the one to ask. I might really want to help you, but that's just not my gift to give.

When it is your gift to give though, it is incredibly wonderful to be asked to share in a mission—especially when that mission is building the kingdom of God. We are committed to intentionally discovering each person's gifts and inviting everyone to contribute as they have been gifted, because the joy of ministry lies in the giving.

There is a lot to be done in Christ's name. None of us can do it all. If what we are doing doesn't bring us joy, maybe that's not our gift to give.

In an earlier draft of this month's newsletter, I set out to thank the people who contributed to worship, NOW picnics and games, lawn and building care, Open Mic Night, the bonfire, leading study and discussions, serving on the Board of Deacons, Session, Committees or Teams. There were so many of you that it just got ridiculous—and I surely would have forgotten people.

I hope we always remember to say thank you to each other; to appreciate our fellow builders of the kingdom and repairers of the breaches. Aren't we also so grateful to have been able to give, to share, to be part of this community-building project to which Christ has called us.

With much gratitude, Pastor Cindy



## OCTOBER 2020



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### Sunday Worship Services

In the Great Hall at 9:30 a.m. Services will continue to be live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube.

### World Communion Sunday

#### Peace and Global Witness Offering

Sunday, October 4th

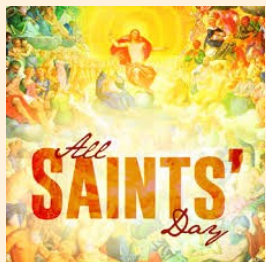
### Halloween Party for all Ages

Friday, October 30th 5-7 PM

Dancing, pumpkin decorating and treats.  
Come and enjoy the fun.

**Due Date for November Newsletter  
Submissions October 23rd**

## WORSHIP, MUSIC AND ARTS



### All Saints Celebration

Sunday, November 1st

We will be remembering the saints who have entered eternal rest this year. If you would like to thank God for the life of a loved one who has died, please give their name to Pastor Cindy.



### P.O.I.N.T WORKSHOP

Saturday, October 10th 10:00 AM to Noon via Zoom

If you would like to think with others about how to engage all ages in all aspects of ministry, join in. See the October Newsletter or contact the office for more information.

*"Allow the children to come to me," Jesus said. "Don't forbid them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to people like these children."*

Matthew 19:14

### Welcome Back to the Great Hall

With winter upon us, we will be moving back to worshipping in the Great Hall. We will miss those who are not able to be with us in person, but join us on Facebook or Youtube.

So that we can plan for socially distanced seating and have contact information in the event of a COVID-19 incident, we are asking that you register in response to the worship notice or by leaving a message with the church office. Please note that masks will be required throughout worship except for worship leaders while they are speaking or singing. The Great Hall, entry areas and restrooms will be disinfected between each worship service.

### GOD IS GREAT—ALL THE TIME!

Thank you, God, for the blessed days you provided for us to worship you and enjoy the gifts of creation together this summer.



# TOGETHER TO LAUGH AND LEARN



## Halloween Party for All Ages

Friday, October 30th—5:00 to 7:00 PM

- Dancing in the parking lot to “spooky” music—D.J. Matt Thuma
- Pumpkin decorating—compliments of Chris and Kathi Carr
  - Costumes encouraged—not too scary please
  - Lots and lots of treats

## Congregational Life

The ministry of this Committee has blessed our congregation so greatly this summer. We are so grateful that they converted NOW dinners into NOW picnics. Now only that—they made room for us to dance and play together!

This month’s Open Mic was a wonderful chance to be together; to sing and play and clap. Let’s do that again!

Pastor Cindy says (only a little in jest) that this is the “party committee.” We are composed of the Fellowship, N.O.W. Dinner and Hospitality / New Member teams. If you like to have fun, God may be calling you to serve on one of this Committee’s teams, to send your ideas to the Committee, to be on a list of helpers for events, or just to come to events and enjoy being part of this committee of Christ.

NOW Dinners/Picnics are on hold, but watch for other opportunities to be together in October.

## Confirmation

Last year we began a rotating, three-year confirmation program. Youth grades 6-8 are invited to participate in learning about God, the church and their gifts for serving Christ. We began the year with a bonfire, s’mores, games and conversation.

For now, we cannot be together indoors, but that won’t stop us from growing by doing—worship leadership, mission activities, building relationships with each other, others in the congregation, and most importantly, with Christ.

This year’s Confirmation Project is to lead FPC Woodstock in becoming certified as an *Earth Care Congregation*. The process begins by making an inventory of the ways we are already lessening our environmental footprint. The youth will be meeting with the various committees to gather this information and to begin to make plans to be even friendlier to the planet God has put under our care.

D365 is a free, daily devotional resource supported by the PC(USA). You can find it on-line at [d365.org](http://d365.org) and, if you like it, you can subscribe to have it e-mailed to your inbox each morning. Be sure to click on the musical note symbol on the bottom left of your screen to hear some amazing music while you take a couple minutes to connect with God.

This is a great devotional for all ages.



## MEN’S GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Saturdays @ 7:00 a.m.

The group is meeting virtually using Zoom Study materials are available at: <https://www.bible.com/116/pro.12.25.nlt>

Contact Dave Davis for more information at [ddavis@ameritech.net](mailto:ddavis@ameritech.net)



## PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

Today, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is actively engaged in peacemaking and reconciliation in more than 50 countries. Through our partner churches and organizations, our reach is extended to 100 countries. Your gift helps us do even more. In too many places around the world, peace is merely a hope. Conflicts between nations, peoples, and ideas put peace at risk everywhere. During the Season of Peace, we recognize that too many people live in situations that are both unsettled and unjust.

Your gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering works to address these deep-seated problems by supporting efforts to inspire, equip, and connect Presbyterians engaging in ministries of reconciliation and peace around the world. Through missions, work projects, and education, we witness to the peace of Christ for our sisters and brothers as they face some of the greatest challenges of our time. To learn more, visit [presbyterianmission.org/peace-global](https://presbyterianmission.org/peace-global).

Our local portion, 25%, will be given to support Turning Point of McHenry County's important work of helping victims of domestic violence.



**PLEASE GIVE AS GENEROUSLY AS YOU ARE ABLE FOR THE WORK OF PEACE!**

### THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We are so grateful for the discipleship of so many people in September...

All who worked so hard to create September's Outdoor Worship: **Singing and Playing:** Barb and Mark Bundick, Bob Diss, Aidan Greenlee, Christy, Hunter and Lydia Johanson, Aiden Johnson, Chris Nejd, Annie Nelson, Lynne and Addie Sobczak, Fred Strauss, and all the ushers, Deacons and greeters who helped us settle in. Leading with liturgy, prayers and preaching: Cindy Carlisle, Velma Downes, Lydia Johanson, Evan Kaye, Sue Krause. Producing sound, video and digital: Dave Johanson, Hunter Johanson, Matt Thuma, Matt Petrik, Rob McMahon. Set-up and take-down: Chris and Lee Nejd, John and Pam Moorhouse. Ushers and Greeters: Bob Clark, Sue Krause, Caryl Lemanski, Chris and Lee Nejd, John and Pam Moorhouse.

NOW and Games: Mark Bundick, Cindy Carlisle, Lydia Johnanson, Lee Nejd, Tony and Katie Spaldon.

Outdoor Clean-up: Cindy Carlisle, Dawn and Cary Cook, Sue Krause, Sue and Gary Mazur, Rob McMahan, Pam and John Moorhouse, Rick Morozink, Matt Thuma.

Yard Care: Ben and Matt Thuma.

Open Mic Night: Barb and Mark Bundick, John Moorhouse, Chris Nejd, Lynne Sobczak, Fred Strauss, Dave Carlisle, Kristen Matter, Larry Riggs, Jim Wormley, and Terry Doran who shared their musical gifts. Thanks to Matt Thuma and Rob McMahon for sound production. Lee Nejd, Mark Bundick, Cheryl Wormley for set up, treats and greeting.

Bonfires, S'mores and Games for the youth in Confirmation and the 4th and 5th graders: Cindy Carlisle, Angela and Ray Thuma, Erin Kaye for hosting. Evan, Addie, Lydia, and Payton for coming and bringing their friends.

Elected Leadership: Session, Deacons, Nominating Committee and PNC

And all the people who took time for worship, study, fellowship, and leadership in book discussions, Bible studies, Deacon meetings and ministry, Session, Committees, Teams, NOW dinners, cleaning, weeding, painting, cooking....

**WHAT AN AMAZING CONGREGATION OF CHRIST FOLLOWERS!!**



## Deacon Ministry

Joyce Maynard and Pam Moorhouse for packaging and sending the 12 care packages.

As winter approaches and COVID-19 is still a threat, please remember that your Deacon are here, are praying for you, are standing ready to help. Your Deacon would love to hear from you—even if it's just to chat.

Also, please remember to stay in touch with each other. Send an e-mail, a card, or make a call to one of your brothers and sisters in Christ.

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

Thanks to everyone who donated gift cards (or money for gift cards) for our college-age members. Thanks also to those who brought greeting notes to be sent along or sent them separately. Knowing that we are remembering them and caring about them is so important—especially in this difficult year. Thanks to

Katherine Greenlee 815-978-8077

Joyce Maynard 815-338-7265

John Moorhouse 815-236-7408

John Rigby 815-236-1780

### Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

Al Kennedy, Scott Snider, Lance Sobczak, Marty Sobczak, Diane Melvin, Tom Thennes, Nick Botian, Tom Schwarz, Sally Wilyat, Lyra Grace, Jayne Reicher, Addie Jo Wedoff, Jim Higgins, Danny, Candy, Sarah Carr, Tim Arnold, Ruth Hunt, Sue Epperson, Sue Mazur, Gail Diss and Jerry Sauer.



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.

Hold in your prayers the members of the Nominating Committee as they prayerfully create a slate of officers for 2021.

Hold the Pastor Nominating Committee in your prayers—Dave Davis, Erin Kaye, Christy Johanson, Rob McMahon, Justin Thuma, Cheryl Wormley. Pray for your next pastor whom God has already chosen to walk with this congregation into the future.

As Election Day approaches, pray for the country. Pray for peace and compassion. Ask for God's Spirit to lead us to civil discussion, respect, a desire for understanding the other point of view, that we care more for the other than for ourselves.

*"When faced with a crisis, do three things:*

*Breathe,*

*Pray,*

*Be kind."*

Anne Lamott

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

October 6

Alex Baker

October 15

Danielle Rewaiko

Reagan Rockwood

October 18

Dave Davis

October 21

Dan Chwalisz

October 22

Lenali Petrik

October 28

Martha Baker

October 29

Sherry Thuma

### OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

October 22

Herb and June Haasler

Ken and Julie Farver



**Christopher Matthew  
Gienko**

*Son of Jessica Thuma  
and Chris Gienko*

*Born September 8th,  
2020*

**AND**

**Jack Christopher Dahm**

*Son of Cindy and  
Bryan Dahm*

*Born September 16th,*

## 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

### Hospitality Team

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

### Music Ministry

Christy Johanson/Bob Diss

### 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)

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](mailto:indepublisher@comcast.net)

## Holiday Craft Market

Handmade crafts are being sought for our new holiday craft market in November. This fundraiser will be held during the NOW dinner on Wednesday, Nov. 18th and after the worship service on Sunday, Nov. 22. Proceeds will be contributed to the Woodstock Area Ministries Direct Assistance program. This event replaces the annual fair-trade gift fair which has been discontinued upon the closing of the fair-trade store in Rockford. Crafts for any ages such as home-made cards, needle work, woodworking and more are welcome. Please leave them at the church after the worship service on Nov. 15 or at the Nov. 22 NOW dinner. Crafters are requested to include suggested prices. Contact Lynne Sobczak at 815-648-2321 for any further information.





### Woodstock Food Pantry

The Woodstock Food Pantry needs volunteer sorters 1-2 hours per week. Also the Board elections are coming up. Anyone interested in 2nd Vice President or treasurer??

Please call me soon!

Joyce Maynard  
(815) 338-7265

## Girls 4 Ghana

G4G is going strong at FPC, despite 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.

There are some pre-cut materials available with instructions on how to sew if you have some extra time before the next event. Contact Joyce or Julie and they will deliver the material to your porch. No problem!!

Unfortunately, Dina and her group were not able to make their recent trip to Ghana due to Coronavirus. We are hoping for another sewing gathering in October. They are going to be busy getting ready for 2021, with over 4,000 pads needed! We would love to have you join us in the cause!!

## Woodstock Area Community Ministries (WACM)

**continue to need our help!**

Contact Pat Morozink @ 815-338-7769 (pmorozink@yahoo.com) to help WACM.

## Mission Study Team

Say good-bye to Pastor Paul	✓
Interim Pastor search process	✓
Interim Pastor joins congregation	✓
Mission Vision 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 creates Church Information Form and Presbytery puts on-line	
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	

## Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) Update

We, your Pastor Nominating Committee, have been meeting weekly since Sept. 14. You, the congregation, elected us to search for and bring a minister to you for election as First Presbyterian Church's next pastor.

The first milestone on that journey is completion of the Ministry Information Form. Our goal is to have the completed MIF ready for session and Blackhawk Presbytery approval by mid October.

We are grateful to the Mission Study Team for leading the examination of "Who have we been?" "Who is our neighbor?" and "What is God calling us to be and do in the future?" Their discernment, analysis, and goal-setting are helping us complete the MIF.

As we undertake this call by God, please pray for us:

Dave Davis and Cheryl Wormley, co-chairs  
Christy Johanson  
Erin Kaye  
Rob McMahon  
Justin Thuma



## Session / Committee Chairs

### **Congregational Life**

Mark Bundick  
(Hospitality, Fellowship & NOW)

### **Ministry Support**

Bob Clark, Dawn Cook, Candee McMahon  
(Finance, Staff Support, Building and Grounds & Stewardship)

### **Worship Arts**

Chris Nejd  
(Worship Arts, Worship Leadership, Audio-Visual)

### **Compassion, Peace & Justice**

Sue Krause  
(Awareness, Service)

### **Education & Spiritual Nurture**

Ray Thuma  
(Adult, Youth, Child, Intergenerational)

### **Clerk of Session**

Sue Krause

Many thanks to the Nominating Committee—Bob Clark (Elder Chair), Pam Moorhouse (Deacon), Alan Dunker, Christy Johanson, and Jim Wormley! At the Session's request, they carefully culled the list of members and friends and presented a slate to Session for 3-person leadership Committees for each of the five ministry areas. These Committees will work over the next few months to develop Teams to provide leadership to accomplish specific tasks. Please prayerfully consider the ministry God has placed on your heart and contact a Committee Chair to talk about your particular passion for serving Christ.

## Our Generosity: A report from our Finance Team – October 2020 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.**

We continue to be grateful that our congregation has continued your generous contributions and giving as we navigate this time of physical separation, meeting outdoors, and some of you being unable to even attend in person. The Finance Team appreciates your response during this pandemic. **God Bless you all!** Feel free to reach out to Cary or Dave with any questions regarding contributions or statements.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of your Finance Team of the Ministry Support Committee by Bob Clark (Co-Chair)  
Finance Team – Cary Cook (Treasurer), Dave Davis (Financial Secretary), Mark Bundick, Scott Greenlee, Pastor Cindy Carlisle (Ex Officio)

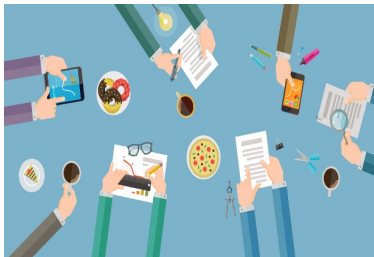
### **Stewardship (Generosity) Team**

Last March, because of COVID-19, we migrated to virtual worship and new ways of serving God and caring for one another. Now it's October and we do not know when this COVID journey will end. What we do know is that we have experienced Immanuel – God with us!

Our mission and ministry continue, perhaps even better than before. We are responding to God's call with our faithful stewardship of energy, time, and money.

Thank you for your outpouring of help, your attendance at outdoor and virtual worship, and your faithful payment of pledges and special gifts that sustain what we do in the name of Jesus Christ.

This is a good time for all of us to express gratitude for our many blessings and to review our stewardship response going forward. Stewardship is a 24/7 commitment. Let it reflect all that God has provided and will provide going forward.



### **September Session Highlights**

Reverend Eric Heinekamp, the newly installed Transformational General Presbyterian/Stated Clerk of Blackhawk Presbytery offered greetings and comments on his role.

Voted to return to services in the Great Hall beginning the first Sunday in October.

Approved:

- ☐ Boy Scout use of Church's firepit in August and September as available.
- ☐ Bonfire for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders on September 20 at 6:30 PM
- ☐ Hosting an Open Mic/concert on the south lawn on Saturday, September 19, 2020.
- ☐ Local portion (25%) of Peace and Global Witness offering to Turning Point.

- ☐ Pastor Continuing Education to attend The Craft of Preaching October 5-7.
- ☐ Local Cub Scout Troop to use the firepit on 10/25/2020.
- ☐ Off-site corn maze event for confirmation age youth.
- ☐ Halloween Trunk or Treat/costume party.
- ☐ POINT workshop for congregation w/Rev. Christina Barry on ZOOM 10/10 @10AM.
- ☐ Contract for Ben Thuma for through December for weekly custodial duties.
- ☐ Sue Krause to Chair Compassion, Peace and Justice Committee through December.

It was reported that:

- ☐ Membership rolls are currently being reviewed.
- ☐ PNC began meeting with a visit from COM Liaison Rev. David Jones. Dave Davis and Cheryl Wormley will co-chair this group.

It was agreed that NOW dinners will continue as long as weather permits outdoor dining but will not move indoors due to COVID-19 risks.

It was also agreed that group meetings would not be allowed indoors until appropriate cleaning after each use could be conducted. This will be reconsidered at Oct. meeting.



# October, 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30pm - Worship Arts	2	3 7am - Men's Study 8am - Highway cleanup
4 9:30am - Worship	5 6pm - W.F. Book Disc @ 7pm - PNC Mtg	6 7:30am - Lection Study	7	8 6pm - CPJ (Mission) 7pm - Finance Comm	9	10 7am - Men's Study 10am - POINT
11 9:30am - Worship 7pm - Educ & Spirit.	12 4am - Hospitality Team 6am - Nominating 5pm - Worship Staff	13 7pm - Deacons 7pm - PNC Mtg	14 7:30am - Lection Study 6:30pm - No Name	15	16	17 7am - Men's Study
18 9:30am - Worship 11am - Session @	19	20 7pm - PNC Mtg	21 7:30am - Lection Study	22	23	24 7am - Men's Study
25 9:30am - Worship	26 Newsletter Articles Due 5pm - Worship Staff	27 7pm - PNC Mtg	28 7:30am - Lection Study	29 Staff Timesheets Due 6pm - Worship Arts	30 5pm - Halloween Party	31 7am - Men's Study

### **MINISTERS**

All members and friends of the  
congregation

### **STAFF**

Rev. Cindy Carlisle  
Interim Pastor

Dave Davis  
Financial Secretary

Bob Diss  
Organist

Christy Johanson  
Social Media  
Worship Arts Coordinator

## **OCTOBER 2020**



**Sunday, October 4th**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF WOODSTOCK**

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