

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.

Shepherd of Israel, listen!

Wake up your power!

Come to save us!

Restore us, God!

Make your face shine so that we can be saved!

-Psalm 80:1-3

The Advent Season is here. The time of waiting in anticipation has arrived. Yes, we are waiting to get that tree, decorate it, give and receive gifts. This year we are desperately searching for ways to make Christmas special even as we are distanced from family and friends. It is hard to imagine that anything will be particularly spectacular, or even joyful this year.

We need God to come and stir us up. Isn't that what the Season is about? Advent is time to notice God intervening to dispel our despair; to boot our apathy; to stir up our hope; impose peace; inspire joy; remind us of love.

The stories of this first part of the Christian year center around the miraculous pregnancies of Elizabeth and Mary. The stories themselves are pregnant with promise and shocking possibility. There is something exciting in the air—something even more than the anticipation of a birth. These are not ordinary conceptions.

In *Light of the World*, Amy-Jill Levine describes the way the Gospel writers portray the response to the message of good news of Jesus' birth. She uses phrases like "shake up," "knock us over," "end time as we know it," and "bring us home." God's power has awakened and nothing will be as it was.

This year, can we hear these stories anew? Can they inspire in us excitement that Christ is coming; eager expectation that amazing things are going to happen; that everything is going to change. If we can, this will truly be a Season of hope and peace and joy and love. Indeed, Christ is already offering such desperately needed gifts to the world.

May your heart be filled with Christ's gifts this season, Pastor Cindy

December 2020



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Sunday Worship Services

Services will be live-streamed at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday morning on Facebook and YouTube. **No in-person Worship will be held until further notice.** Session will re-evaluate the COVID-19 risk monthly to determine when it is safe to return to in-person worship.

Fellowship Time

Enjoy some time visiting with your friends via Zoom

Sunday, Dec. 6—10:15 a.m.

<https://tinyurl.com/y2fsbewz>

Or call 1-312-626-6799

When prompted enter 88005961219#



Newsletter Editor, Mark Bundick
Proof-reader, Velma Downes

TOGETHER TO LAUGH AND LEARN



Christmas Poinsettias have been donated by:

- ◇ Jim and Cheryl Wormley in memory of Diane Melvin
- ◇ Pam & John Moorhouse in memory George Dahm & John and LaVerna Moorhouse and in honor of our family
- ◇ Ray & Angela Thuma in honor of our frontline workers
- ◇ Erin Kaye in honor of Mrs. Jane Dahm
- ◇ Barbara Parrish in memory of Mason Parrish and in honor of our children & grandchildren
- ◇ Beth & Jim Johanson in honor of Hunter, Lydia & Erik Johanson
- ◇ Karen Thennes in memory of Martha Peters
- ◇ Caryl & Dan Lemanski in memory of the Roskie family
- ◇ Charles & Angela Boe in memory of George Dahm and Carl and Evelyn Boe
- ◇ Pam & Brooke Mathison in memory of Andrew L. Mathison and in honor of our children and grandson
- ◇ Christy & Dave Johanson in honor of Jim & Beth Johanson and Dave & Linda Swengel

WACM (Woodstock Area Community Ministry)

Thank you for the coats that were brought to church. They have been delivered to the Clothing Closet. Community members who are in need of winter wear can request a voucher through the Direct Assistance Program to get coats and other winter gear for the cold weather.

The Direct Assistance Program helped one couple avoid a water service disconnection and a mother and daughter have their electricity service restored during one week in November. Financial assistance goes into the community to help people in need thanks to the church's support of WACM.

Blackhawk Presbytery Advent Devotions

Dear Blackhawk Congregations,

We are excited to offer our churches the unique perspectives of 26 Blackhawk pastors and lay leaders as they reflect on the 2020 Advent journey. Based on the four candles representing "Hope", "Peace", "Joy" and "Love", each of these volunteers will be featured in a brief, 4-5 minute video posted to the [Presbytery's YouTube channel](#). A new reflection will be available every day, from November 29 - December 25. The organizer of this project, Rev. Catherine Martin, is "hopeful that it will bless many of our congregations in the Presbytery, as well as give you a bit of a relief from all that you are being called to do during this unique time in history!" Google: "Blackhawk Presbytery YouTube"

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

WEDNESDAY LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays @ 7:30 a.m.

The group is meeting virtually using Zoom

Contact Velma Downes for more information at vmdownes@gmail.com



Our Giving Tree

Our church is again sponsoring two local families for our Giving Tree project this December. This year both are veterans' families. Please select from the following list and contact Lynne Sobczak with your choice. (815-648-2321 or sobczak4u@yahoo.com) (Have a second choice ready in case your first choice is already taken.) If the jackets are too expensive, they can be shared by two contributors. Purchase the gift, wrap it, and place a tag on it with the number on it and who the intended recipient is. Drop off for the wrapped gifts will be on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 9 to 11 a.m. and Sunday, Dec. 13 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Anyone having difficulty with these times may contact Lynne Sobczak for special pick-up.

Family A:

Father: 1. hoodie, black, size L; 2. warm gloves - L; 3. winter hat
 Mother: 4. slippers, size 8; 5. jewelry; 6. warm gloves, size M
 Boy age 17: 7. hoodie, any color, size XL; 8. warm gloves, size L; 9. winter hat
 Girl age 13: 10. crochet stuff (starter kit); 11. winter hat; 12. warm gloves
 Boy age 11: 13. art stuff; 14. winter hat; 15. warm gloves

Family B:

Father: 16. gas card; 17. warm gloves, size L; 18. hoodie, size L
 Mother: 19. chocolates; 20. warm jacket, black, size L; 21. jewelry
 Girl age 8: 22. craft kit; 23. warm jacket, size 8; 24. jewelry
 Boy age 1 1/2: 25. hat & mittens; 26. "educational" toy; 27. stuffed toy

December Mission Opportunities By Sue Ayers-Krause (shkrause1@yahoo.com)

The Compassion, Peace and Justice Committee (formerly Mission Commission) has several projects going on for December that will support local needs in our community and the world. (See separate article about the Christmas Joy Offering)

When you get your Family Advent Bag, there will be a reverse Advent Calendar included. These donations will go to the Woodstock Library to help stock and supply their free pantry and cupboard for the community.

This year, our Family Giving Tree will be help two Woodstock veterans and their families to be able to enjoy Christmas by gathering gifts of clothing and other gift items for parents and children. The pandemic situation has affected the way we will conduct the Giving Tree this year. Look for a Constant Contact email with lists and sign up, and instructions for dropping off items at the church. Our target is to have items dropped off at a specific time at church on the 12th and 13th of December.

We are also working to re-introduce our Red Wagon Food Pantry program. Each month, we will send a list of items needed at the Woodstock Food Pantry and challenge our congregation to contribute at least 50 items to fill the Red Wagon. At Communion service each month, the donations will be brought forward to be blessed as part of the Communion Service and then will be taken to the Food Pantry. Please be generous in this time of food insecurity for many families who are impacted by the pandemic and its effect on their income.

Red Wagon Items Requested: Soups: Chicken Noodle, Cream of Mushroom, Tomato, Cream of Chicken, Vegetable, and Ramen Noodles,

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/2 Elin Kaye
12/4 Pat Morova
12/5 Aiden Greenlee
12/9 Colin Greenlee
12/13 Matt Thuma
12/16 Chris Carr, Sr.
12/17 Cindy Carlisle
12/21 Kaden Combs
12/26 Jessica Landrey
Barb Parrish
12/28 Pam Mathison

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12/17 Jay & Jessie Justice
12/25 Dan & Joyce
Chwalisz



***Received Into the Loving
Arms of Christ***

**Jane Ann Kennedy
Dahm**

November 24, 2020
“Well done, good and
faithful servant”

December Mission Opportunities (con't from page 3)

A quick report – First Presbyterian donated \$750 for the Peace and Global Witness Special Offering recently collected (one of the four Special Offerings supported by PCUSA). 25% of that amount will be given to a local charity selected by our church – Turning Point programs and shelter for victims of Domestic Violence. 75% will be sent on to the greater church for peace and reconciliation efforts in the USA and around the world. Thank you for your generosity!



Deacons helped with the Advent bags adding Christmas cards to the bags and helping with the distribution of bags to the congregation.

The Advent bags were a joint effort between several groups in the church (Hospitality,

Congregational Life, Mission, Worship, and the Deacons). We hope the Advent season brings joy to everyone during this difficult time.

Please feel free to reach out to the Deacons with any need for assistance or any prayer concerns.

Your Deacons,

Angie Boe 815-338-7782

Caryl Lemanski 815-206-0676

Pam Moorhouse 815-814-5585

Matt Petrik 815-209-2835

Katherine Greenlee 815-978-8077

Joyce Maynard 815-338-7265

John Moorhouse 815-236-7408

John Rigby 815-236-1780

Guided Meditation

Deacon Katherine Greenlee will once again be offering us some moments of peace and relaxation during this anxious time.

Saturday, December 12th @ 9:00 a.m. via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89458418897>

Or by cell or landline

call 1-312-626-6799 and enter 89458418897# when prompted

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...



Pat Davenport, Barb & Ron Parrish, Al Kennedy, Scott Snider, Lance Sobczak, Marty Sobczak, Tom Thennes, Nick Botian, Tom Schwarz, Sally Wilyat, Lyra Grace, Jayne Reicher, Addie Jo Wedoff, Jim Higgins, Tim Arnold and Ruth Hunt.

Keep Sue Sauer and her family in your prayers as they grieve the death of her father, 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 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.

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

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
Mark Bundick—815-337-9068
Cheryl Wormley—815-519-7402
indepublisher@comcast.net

Ministry Support Committee Update



BUILDING and GROUNDS

Volunteer Snow Removal Plan for our Church Entrance Areas

Attention all able bodied First Presbyterians! We are looking to create a Volunteer Program to ensure that our sidewalk entryways to the Church Entrance and our Offices are cleared of snow and ice for safety reasons for any activity at our Church. (Our Parking lot and driveways thankfully will continue to be cleared by a volunteer donor for those services.) Volunteer teams are needed for weekly periods running for Monday thru the next Sunday from November 30th , 2020 thru March 28th, 2021.

A volunteer would be responsible for any snow removal necessary during that week period. Snow would need to be removed by 4:30 PM on Wednesday's and by 8:45 AM on Church Sundays. For any other scheduled activities, each team would clear the snow and put down salt as necessary so that the entrances remain clear at all times. Folks who are regularly at the church will shovel a small path to the entrance for them as needed. If we can get eight individuals set up, they would only have to cover two, one week periods during the four month cycle.

Please call or text Cary Cook at 815-382-8879 or email at ccooks55@earthlink.net with questions or to signup. Once volunteers are identified, a schedule will be posted and reminder calls will be made. Snow removal tools (shovels and salt) will be provided in the entryway to the church or teams could bring their own. If we get lucky, someone may donate a snowblower for use which could be stored in the entryway or the garage. Access to the church entry or the garage would be provided in an outside key lock box.

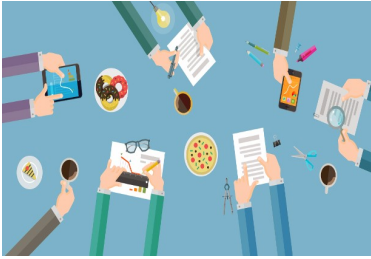
Respectfully Submitted,
Building and Grounds
Cary Cook

Woodstock Area Community Ministries (WACM)

continues to need our help!

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

November Session Highlights



10/28/2020 Called Meeting:

- Approved changes to bylaws for presentation to congregation for approval.
- Agreed with our Covid-19 Task Force recommendation to suspend in person worship for at least three weeks.

- Called a Session meeting for 11/8/2020 to review and approved Ministry Information Form (MIF) from Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).

11/8/2020 Called Meeting

- Approved with heartfelt thanks, FPC's Ministry Information Form (MIF) from the Pastor Nominating Committee.

11/15/2020 Regular Session Meeting

- Coordinated Advent Bag offering for member families.
- Approved motion to continue virtual only services through Advent or until Covid numbers in McHenry County decrease to a safe level.
- Approved purchase of additional A/V equipment to improve worship visual and sound experience.
- Called a joint meeting of Deacons and Session for 6-8 PM on December 8, 2020.
- Note that all budget requests for 2021 budget are to be turned in to Dave Davis by 12/1/2020.

A FEW OF THE THINGS BLACKHAWK PRESEBYTERY HAS DONE

WITH OUR PER CAPITA OFFERINGS THIS YEAR

- ◇ Helped several of our congregations receive COVID-19 grants to support their ministries;
- ◇ Held three assembly meetings using Zoom which included worship, small group breakout discussions, local pastor commissioning, the celebration of life of closed congregation as well as on-going business;
- ◇ Launched the COVID-19 Task Force to assist congregations in navigating the pandemic;
 - ◇ Hosted weekly Pastor Care and Share calls to support pastors;
 - ◇ Kicked off a Presbytery-wide Matthew 25 initiative;
- ◇ Participated in the General Assembly via Zoom with five members participating;

In addition, the Synod of Lincoln Trails has provided personal coaching for interested pastors, guided and supported the Transformational Presbyter Nominating Committee and is planning a seminar for retired pastors.

And much, much more. That's a lot for \$38.47 per member. If you have not made your annual per capital payment, please do so before the end of the year.

Session / Committee Chairs

Congregational Life

Mark Bundick

815-337-9068 or

mbundick@comcast.net

(Hospitality, Fellowship & NOW)

Ministry Support

Bob Clark, Dawn Cook, Candee McMahon

847-274-8247 or robtmclark@aol.com

815-276-3983 or dcook@wcusd200.org

815-529-7659 or

candeecanbea@gmail.com

(Finance, Staff Support, Building and Grounds & Stewardship)

Worship Arts

Chris Nejdil

815-337-1070 or

cnejdl@hotmail.com

(Worship Arts, Worship Leadership, Audio-Visual)

Compassion, Peace & Justice

Sue Krause

815-451-538 or

shkrause1@yahoo.com

(Awareness, Service)

Education & Spiritual Growth

Ray Thuma

815-338-9780 or

rpthuma@sbcglobal.net

(Adult, Youth, Child, Intergenerational)

Clerk of Session

Sue Krause

815-451-538 or

shkrause1@yahoo.com

Welcome and Thank You

Class of 2023 Officers

Session

Jackie Lawler

Lora Totton-Schwarz

Board of Deacons

Barb Parrish

Sue Epperson



| | |
|---|---|
| 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

Good, exciting news! Since the last newsletter, our session and Blackhawk Presbytery approved our church's Ministry Information Form (MIF).

It was uploaded to the Presbyterian Church USA online Church Leadership Connection (CLC) matching system on November 20. As soon as our MIF was posted, the matching system identified pastors seeking a new church, who were best fits for our church. Within days, the matching system had forwarded dozens of those pastors' Personal Information Forms (PIFs) to us.

Please pray for us as we, with God's help, review and evaluate the PIFs and as we continue to network in search of the pastor God is calling to First Presbyterian Church.

Joy and peace,

Dave Davis and Cheryl Wormley, co-chairs

Christy Johanson

Rob McMahon

Erin Kaye

Justin Thuma

Ministry Support Committee

The Committee Members are Elders Candee McMahon, Dawn Cook, and Bob Clark – Dawn and Bob are Co-Chairs; Pastor Cindy is an Ex-Officio Member.

The Committee continues working with Pastor Cindy to become more efficient in how we get work done with fewer staff members. We will be reaching to ask for some volunteers to help with a few administrative tasks.

We are beginning the year-end review of staff members and reviewing policies and procedures as we enter a new year. We will also be putting together an Operations Manual that will be helpful to staff and volunteers as responsibilities are reassigned.

News from the Finance Team

The Finance Team is diligently working on implementing recommendations from the recent Audit.

We are extremely grateful for how the congregation has maintained giving throughout this pandemic to keep our Operating Budget income on budget throughout this year. God Bless all of you!

Remember that your Pledge for the 2021 Operating Budget was due December 1st. We appreciate all who paid their Per Capita payments for 2020. If you forgot to make the contribution; the per capita assessment per member for 2020 is \$38.47.



Generosity Team Updates

Thank you for mailing your pledge card to the church or completing your pledging information online, thank you.

In this time of virtual worship, why not switch to virtual giving? It's an easy process. Go to fpcwoodstock.org. Click on "Giving" in the upper right hand corner of the home page and then on "Donate Online." If you have questions, call the church at 338-2627.

Your Generosity Team,

Jan Kennedy, Rob McMahon, Sherry Thuma, and Jim Wormley

December 2020

First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock

Dec 2020 (Central Time - Chicago)

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|--|--|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 29 Advent Begins 9:30am - Worship | 30 | 1 7pm - Advent Book 7pm - PNC Mtg | 2 7:30am - Lection | 3 | 4 | 5 7am - Men's Study |
| 6 9:30am - Worship | 7 7pm - Worship Staff | 8 6pm - Joint 7pm - PNC Mtg | 9 7:30am - Lection 7pm - Advent Book | 10 6pm - CPJ (Mission) 7pm - Finance | 11 | 12 7am - Men's Study |
| 13 9:30am - Worship 7pm - Educ & Spirit. | 14 | 15 7pm - Advent Book 7pm - PNC Mtg | 16 7:30am - Lection | 17 | 18 | 19 7am - Men's Study |
| 20 9:30am - Worship 11am - Session @ | 21 Newsletter Articles 7pm - Worship Staff | 22 7pm - PNC Mtg | 23 7:30am - Lection | 24 | 25 Office Closed- | 26 7am - Men's Study |
| 27 9:30am - Worship | 28 | 29 7pm - PNC Mtg | 30 7:30am - Lection | 31 | 1 | 2 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

December 2020



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WOODSTOCK

CELEBRATING AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE

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Woodstock, IL 60098**

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