

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.

Pastor's Annual Report for 2021

I must begin this report with my gratitude to you for welcoming me into your community to be your pastor. The words of Paul in his letter to the Philippians come to mind: "I thank my God each time I think of you." I recently received an email from a person who was formerly part of this church. She stated about you all: "Such a lovely faithful group of people with a strong heart for mission, music and the community." Her words are true. I am delighted to have been called by God to join you in the ministry that God began here just over 175 years ago!

In preparing to write this, I read interim Pastor Cindy Carlisle's two pastor's reports. In her report about the year 2019, she wrote: "The new thing God is doing in Jesus Christ is still underway. Vital churches are always in transition – always changing in response to the Lord's call in their particular time and place." She wrote those words prior to the beginning of the pandemic. They are certainly true of Christ's church in every place at every time. We adapt to new circumstances, always buoyed by God's "Never Stopping, Never Giving Up, Unbreaking, Always and Forever Love" (*The Jesus Storybook Bible* by Sally Lloyd-Jones).

"Always in transition," though, takes on new meaning as we enter a third year of pandemic uncertainty. It is a rare committee meeting now in which the pandemic is not mentioned in some way, as plans continue to change in response. It affects nearly everything we do as we seek to faithfully live out God's call on our communal and individual lives. However, God is faithful to uphold us in these times which challenge us. You have been resilient, carrying out ministry in new ways, gathering in person and online, reaching out to each other across the miles, adapting to changing circumstances at each turn. I am inspired by you and am looking forward to the creative new ways we will follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

In Pastor Cindy's report about the year 2020, she wrote this: "May God bless this congregation again in 2021 with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love." Those four words: "energy, intelligence, imagination, love" come from what are called the "Constitutional Questions" asked to each officer at every level of the PC(USA) at ordination and installation. Those four words have grown to be an identifying mark of our denomination, and they are part of why I am part of the PC(USA) today. I love that we are called to engage those different aspects of our being in the service of God and each other. It is my prayer that God will continue to bless this congregation with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, as we together live into God's call for us all. I can't wait to see how God uses us in 2022!

Grace and peace, Pastor Eric

February 2022



Inside this issue

From Pastor Eric	Page 1
Together to Laugh and Learn	Page 2
Caring Together	Page 3-5
Leading Together	Page 6
Giving Together	Page 7
Together in Worship	Page 8
January Calendar	Page 9

Sunday Worship Services
In the Great Hall @ 9:30 a.m.



Newsletter Editor

Mark Bundick

Reporters:

Angie Boe, Rich Copley, Eric Corbin,
Bob Clark, Sue Krause,
John Moorhouse, Pat Morozink,
Chris Nejd, Ray Thuma, Jim Wormley

TOGETHER TO LAUGH AND LEARN

Men's Group/Bible Study

John Moorhouse, 815-236-7408

johnmoorhouse54@gmail.com

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

815-382-5234

mom@babyjohanson.com

No-Name Knitters

Kay Darby, 815-572-1729

kedarby@icloud.com

T.L.C. (Tender Loving Care)

Mary Hill, 815-338-6051

mary.hill2759@gmail.com

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

Sue Epperson — 224-293-2295

Mark Bundick — 815-337-9068

Cheryl Wormley — 815-519-7402

From the Education and Spiritual Growth Committee

Battery Box

We are pleased to report that the battery recycling box created by our youth is being used by our congregation. We have filled the box with alkaline batteries twice, and are grateful for John Moorhouse's efforts in taking those batteries in for recycling. We estimate that more than 20 pounds of batteries have been diverted from landfills.

A quick reminder, this box is intended only for residential size alkaline batteries. We cannot, at this time, recycle other items like electronics or printer cartridges.

Sunday School and Prayground

Unfortunately, the Omicron surge in the Covid virus has caused us to temporarily suspend Sunday School and close the Prayground. We hope that conditions will improve quickly, and we can resume Sunday School classes. Please watch the midweek update for further information.

In the meantime, children's bulletins and coloring pages are available with crayons and clipboard in bags at the back of the Great Hall. We will also post the coloring pages and bulletins on our Facebook page for those worshipping virtually.

N.O.W. Dinner Update

Due to continued COVID concerns, session has decided to cancel our planned February N.O.W. dinners. They will discuss any return of dinners at their next meeting on February 20th. Never to be deterred, the N.O.W. team got creative and talked about a new approach to dinners.

The team decided to try hosting eight outside, grill-specials dinners at the church before Woodstock City Band Concerts on Wednesdays. Those concerts will take place four times in June and four times in July. With dinner starting at 5:15, you will have plenty of time to enjoy some food and fellowship before heading to the concerts starting at 7:00 pm.

Before those dinners, we'll also bring back our well received post-worship brunches with brunch immediately following church, Sunday May 22.

Mark your calendars now so you don't miss out on the food and fun!

Men's Bible Study Is Back!

We started up again on January 8 and are meeting weekly now again on Zoom. We welcome anyone who would like to join us at 7:00 am on Saturdays. To join our group, just contact John Moorhouse at 815-236-7408 or via email at johnmoorhouse54@gmail.com. Currently we are working on the book of Hosea.

Lectionary Bible Study—Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m.

Join us for lively discussion, thoughtful readings and good fellowship on Zoom. Contact Velma Downes to be added to the mailing list or for more information at 815-245-4043 or vmdownes@gmail.com.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Evan Kaye-02/02
 T.J. Schwarz-02/03
 Hunter Johanson-02/04
 Kathleen Mathison-02/04
 Jessie Justice-02/09
 Mary Carr-02/11
 June Haasler-02/11
 Dana Smith-02/11
 Kyle Sobczak-02/12
 Peter Thennes-02/13
 Nathan Willcockson-02/13
 Faith Corbin-02/15
 Rebecca Rockwood-02/15
 Kathi Carr-02/18
 Kristen Matter-02/20
 Mary Hill-02/22
 Lori Stock-02/23
 Diane Messman-02/25
 Madeline Wood-02/25
 Nancy Bingham-02/26

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES



Paul
&

Vicki Thuma-02/01
 Bob & Gail Diss-02/14
 Henry & Shari Olesen-02/21

NEWS FROM COMPASSION, PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 2022

First Presbyterian is piloting a new project in partnership with the Woodstock Food Pantry and Northern Illinois Diaper Bank. It was brought to our attention that Woodstock Food Pantry is one of two pantries in our county that does not include a diaper service because of lack of storage space. CPJ thought that this was a partnership we could support with our space and person power to make it happen.

On the first Wednesday of each month, from 4:00-5:30 PM, we will distribute packages of diapers to families in need. It will be a "drive up" service as recipients will be able to drive up to the front door of the church, present their referral information and receive a supply of children's diapers in the size(s) needed. Our next distribution will be on Wednesday, February 2, 2022 from 4:00-5:30 PM. Members of all ages are invited to help with this ministry, including youth members! We could use some energetic lifters, carriers, and runners to help us out!

Please contact Sue Krause at shkrausel@yahoo.com or 815-451-5385 if you can volunteer to help with this ministry.



Red Wagon Items Requested for February

**Spam, Corned Beef, Salmon, Tuna,
Beef Stew, Small Hams, Canned
Hash, Canned Chicken Breast**

You can leave your donations in the red wagon located
at the rear of the Great Hall.

Anyone living in School District 200 may receive food two times each month. If you know someone who needs help with food, please encourage them to visit the Food Pantry, 1033 Lake Avenue (behind the Dorr Township building), Monday, Wednesday or Friday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Also note that the Food Pantry will be open until 6:00 PM the first Monday of each month.



Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

Nick Botian, Tom Schwarz, Jim Higgins, Tim Arnold, Ron Parrish, Paul Thuma, Russ Warye, Loretta Nejd, Kristen Matter, Ken Sommerville, Sherry Engstrom, Cary Cook, Christy Johanson and Val Ayers.



February Update from the Deacons

The Deacons would like to welcome new members Sherry Thuma and Cheryl Wormley.

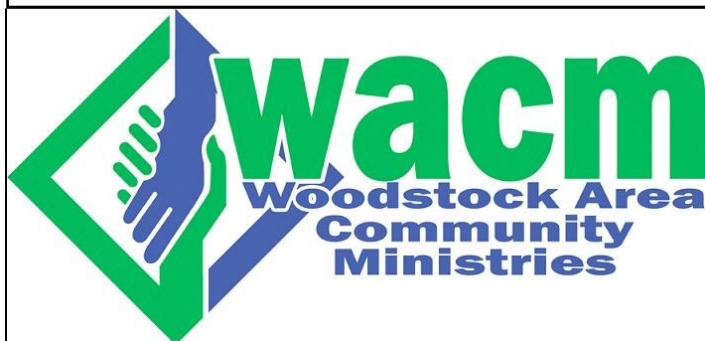
At our next meeting in February, we will be updating our flock lists. At that time, church members may receive a new Shepherd. You will then receive a communication from your Deacon letting you know.

Please contact your Deacon as they want to help their flocks with any issues, news to share or needs. We are there for you!

Angie Boe 815-338-7782
Sue Epperson 224-293-2295

Pam Moorhouse 815-814-5585
John Moorhouse 815-236-7408
Barb Parrish 815-338-8112

Sherry Thuma 815-338-4094
Cheryl Wormley 815-519-7402



February WACM Notes

WACM will be sponsoring fundraising shows in February, March, and April. Profits from these shows will be divided with 50% going to WACM's Direct Assistance Program which provides financial help to residents in need and 50% to Woodstock School District 200's Kindness Closet Programs plus a Fee Assistance Program for Students-in-need.

Charles Troy, a musical theater historian, will present "The Creation of The Music Man" at the Woodstock Opera House on Saturday, February 12 at 7 PM. The background story of how Meredith Wilson's play went from the drawing board to the stage will be shared, and musical numbers from the play will be presented. Tickets are \$20 and are available at the Woodstock Opera House box office, by phone (815)338-5300, or online at woodstockoperahouse.com. The [Woodstock Opera House COVID-19 policies](#) are posted on their website.

WACM is also sponsoring Children's Magic Shows at the Woodstock Opera House Stage Left Cafe. Magician Kevin Sarnwick will perform magic shows on Saturday, February 5, one at 9:30 AM and another at 11 AM. At the end of the performance, each child will learn how to do a magic trick. Tickets are \$5 and are available at the box office, online (go to EVENTS on the Opera House website, click on Stage Left Cafe, then click [Children Magic Shows](#)), or by phone (815)338-5300. Seating capacity is 75, and all attendees must wear a mask.

Please help support WACM by attending a fundraising performance. However, if you are not comfortable attending a performance, please join the WACM \$18 Change-A-Life Donation Campaign. The amount \$18 was chosen because the Hebrew word for life (Chai) is linked to the number 18. This donation campaigns helps change the lives of people-in-need for the better. Donations can be made by check to WACM and mailed to WACM, P.O. Box 682, Woodstock, IL 60098, or donations can be made online at wacmgroups.org.

If you have questions, or are interested in becoming more involved with WACM, please contact Pat Morozink at 815-353-0878 or pmorozink@yahoo.com.

Special Report - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Responds to Colorado Wildfires

by Rich Copley, Presbyterian News Service



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and the Presbytery of Plains and Peaks are responding to wildfires that impacted the area between Boulder and Denver, Colorado in the last days of 2021. More than 35,000 people were forced to leave their homes and nearly 1,000 homes were destroyed in the unseasonal fires that were driven by hurricane-force winds.

“It was just absolutely horrific,” said the Rev. Jim Kirk, PDA’s Associate for National Disaster Response. “Size wise, it was not a huge fire. But impact wise, to people, it was. It started in a residential area and greatly impacted several towns and unincorporated areas.”

Joyce Glazier, a member of PDA’s National Response Team (NRT) who lives in the Denver and Boulder area, says that 991 homes were destroyed, and more than 100 others suffered damage. “We have a lot of folks that are displaced, and will be for some time,” said Glazier.

PDA generally does not deploy NRT members in their own areas so they are free to tend to their own needs and work with local organizations in the aftermath of disasters. But working with the NRT does give Glazier some perspective of the immediate and long-term needs following the fires. Currently, Glazier said first responders are working to meet immediate needs such as food, shelter, and emotional and spiritual care.

Kirk said an initial assistance grant has been approved for the presbytery and PDA is prepared for further requests. No Presbyterian churches were in the impacted areas, but members of churches were, and there are several Presbyterian churches in the Boulder area working to lend assistance.

One of the major challenges, Glazier said, is housing. Housing was already at a premium in the Boulder area before the fires, and the loss of nearly 1,000 homes will only exacerbate that shortage.

The best way people can help, Glazier said, is financial contributions to established organizations such as Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. That allows recipients of the funds to use the money where it is most needed and often keeps money in the local economy that has been impacted by the disaster.

[Click here to give to PDA’s response to Colorado wildfires.](#)



January Session Notes

Clerk's Report: Minutes of the December 14 and 19 meetings were approved.

COVID Task Force: FPC implemented new procedures from the January 6, 2022 report, and canceled Sunday School for January due to rising

covid numbers. NOW dinners planned for February will also be cancelled; session will review status again in February.

Building and Grounds: Deep cleaning of rust stains in the bathrooms was completed. B&G will look into a freezer drain problem reported by the NOW team. Drain repairs at our Route 47 will be addressed in spring.

Ministry Support – Staff: Ministry Support has scheduled an initial interview with each of the five selected finalist candidates (of 10 applicants) by Monday, January 31. Discussion about a part-time Choir Director position has been tabled for now.

Education and Spiritual Growth: ESG will begin planning fundraising activities for the summer Youth Triennium trip. The youth attending will be participants. Work will be done on renewing our environmentally friendly church initiative (Earth Care). A book study organized by Sue Krause begins next week.

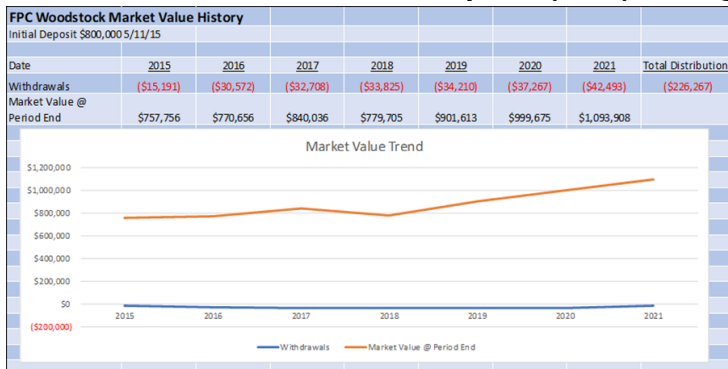
Congregational Life: Discussion about a proposed valet parking service raised liability insurance issues. The Hospitality Team will be asked to work with Finance in order to get a quote from our insurance company, and will consider creating “priority parking” spaces and providing assistance to those in need of help getting into and out of the building.

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, February 20, 2021 at 11:00 AM

McCullough Endowment Investment Portfolio

The portfolio ended the year at \$1,093,908 vs. 2020 year-end value of \$999,675. Distributions for 2021 were \$42,493.

Portfolio Performance Trends – Inception (2015) through 2021



Session / Committee Chairs

Compassion, Peace & Justice

Ray Thuma
815-3389780 or
rpthuma@sbcglobal.net
(Awareness, Service)

Congregational Life

Mark Bundick
815-337-9068 or
mbundick@comcast.net
(Hospitality, Fellowship & NOW)

Education & Spiritual Growth

Jackie Lawler
jackieboe@comcast.net
(Adult, Youth, Child,
Intergenerational)

Ministry Support

Bob Clark & Dawn Cook
847-274-8247 or robtmclark@aol.com
815-276-3983 or dcook@wcusd200.org
(Finance, Staff Support, Building
and Grounds & Stewardship)

Worship, Music and Arts

Chris Nejdil & Erin Kaye
815-337-1070 or
canejdil@hotmail.com
(Worship Arts, Worship
Leadership, Audio-Visual)

Memorial Committee

John Moorhouse & Angie Boe
815-236-7407 or
johnmoorhouse54@gmail.com

Clerk of Session

Mark Bundick
815-337-9068 or
mbundick@comcast.net

REPORT FROM THE MINISTRY SUPPORT COMMITTEE—February 2022

2021 Year-End Results

During 2021, we continued navigating through the COVID-19 pandemic. Your Finance Team wants to let our congregation know how much we appreciate the honoring of your pledges and the regular giving of those who might not have pledged by continuing your generosity through the pandemic. Our 2021 Giving Income was favorable to the Operating Budget by about \$26,000. May God bless the congregation's generosity!

December 2021 Operating Budget			
	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Variance vs Budget</u>
<u>Income</u>			
Contributions Income	\$213,739	\$187,413	\$26,326
All Other Income	<u>\$22,890</u>	<u>\$32,589</u>	<u>(\$9,699)</u>
Total Income	\$236,629	\$220,002	\$16,627
<u>Expenses</u>			
Staff	\$146,558	\$142,626	<u>\$3,932</u>
All Other Expenses	<u>\$84,134</u>	<u>\$103,087</u>	<u>(\$18,953)</u>
Total Expense	\$230,692	\$245,713	<u>(\$15,021)</u>
Net Ordinary Income	\$5,937	(\$25,711)	\$31,648

From the Staff Management Team

Session approved the hiring of a full-time Office Administrator in December. The responsibilities of the new position will include Communications Coordinator, Social Media Specialist, and Financial Secretary as well as other duties assigned by Pastor Eric. The position was posted on Indeed and the FPC website and the team is actively interviewing candidates.

Feel free to reach out to us with any questions or comments.: Bob Clark: robtmclark@aol.com or 815-527-5109, or Dawn Cook: dcook@wcusd200.org or 815-276-3983.

A Reminder from the Generosity Team

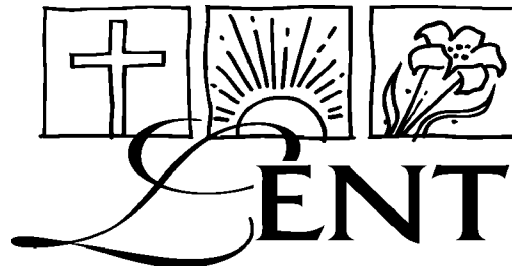
For those of us over age 70 ½ with IRAs, our Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) can be an excellent source of funds to pay our church pledges. All we have to do is direct our IRA custodians to send a check directly to First Presbyterian Church.

We benefit in two ways. First, our pledges are paid. Secondly, the RMD is NOT taxable on our 2022 income tax returns!

Jim Wormley, Generosity Team member

From the Worship Committee

Thank you to all who contributed to the Advent services through special music and readings, in the sound booth, making Chrismon ornaments and decorating the Great Hall. You truly enhanced our worship experiences for the season. The Intergenerational choir will take a pause for the next month. Stay tuned for information about future opportunities for adults and youth to participate in musical performances and dramatic readings for the Lenten season.



Lent begins with an Ash Wednesday service on March 2nd at 7 pm following Confirmation class.

FPC Worship on YouTube and Facebook

Remember that our services are regularly live streamed on Facebook and archived on YouTube. If you can't get to church on Sunday morning, check out the live stream at our Facebook page, <https://fb.com/fpcwoodstock/>. You can also watch all our worship services on FPC's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxGIfuDXFmONo2cpjMJkoyg> or directly on our website at <https://fpcwoodstock.org/worship>



Livestreaming our Services

The Worship Arts Team is looking for interested individuals to join to help with live streaming the worship services. They'll show you all the things needed to successfully broadcast our worship. If you can help out, contact Ray Thuma at rpthuma@sbcglobal.net or Christy Johanson, mom@babyjohanson.com.



Worship Leadership

The Hospitality Team and Deacons will be greeting again this month. Please contact Cheryl Wormley (815-519-7402; indepublisher@comcast.net) or John Moorhouse (815-236-7408; johnmoorhouse54@gmail.com) if you would like to assist with this important ministry.

February 2022

First Presbyterian Church

February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7 pm Earth Care Team	2 7:45 am Lectionary Study 4 pm Diaper Bank distribution 6 pm Confirmation Class	3 6 pm COVID Task Force	4	5
6 9:30 am Worship 6 pm Book Study - "Anxious To Talk About It"	7	8 10 am TLC Ladies 7 pm Deacons	9 7:30 am Lectionary Study 6:30 pm No-Name Knitters	10 5 pm Hospitality Team 7 pm Finance Comm	11	12 7 am Men's Bible Study
13 9:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School-PreK-5th 6 pm Book Study - "Anxious To Talk About It" 7 pm Education and Spiritual Growth	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15	16 7:30 am Lectionary Study 6 pm Confirmation Class	17 6 pm Compassion, Peace and Justice	18	19
20 9:30 am Worship 11 am Session 6 pm Book Study - "Anxious To Talk About It"	21 <i>Presidents' Day</i>	22 6 pm NOW Team	23 7:30 am Lectionary Study 6:30 pm No-Name Knitters	24 6 pm Worship Arts Mtg	25	26 7 am Men's Bible Study
27 9:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School-PreK-5th 6 pm Book Study - "Anxious To Talk About It"	28 Newsletter Articles Due					

MINISTERS

All members and friends of the
congregation

STAFF

Rev. Eric Corbin
Pastor

Dave Davis
Financial Secretary

Roger Dickman
Accompanist

Christy Johanson
Social Media
Worship Arts Coordinator

OFFICERS

Mark Bundick
Clerk of Session

Cary Cook
Treasurer

February 2022



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WOODSTOCK

CELEBRATING AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE

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

Phone: (815) 338-2627

E-mail: office@fpcwoodstock.org

Website:

www.fpcwoodstock.org

Visit us on Facebook