

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.

Pray Without Ceasing

Last week, I had the opportunity to visit Allerton Park & Retreat Center in Monticello, Illinois, for a gathering of pastors from our Synod. (If you aren't familiar with that term, the Synod is the next level up from the Presbytery. We are part of Blackhawk Presbytery, which is a part of Synod of Lincoln Trails. If you want to know more, visit <https://bit.ly/pcusamap> to see how all of the presbyteries and synods fit together.) This gathering of pastors was a great time of worship, fellowship, and rest, in the beauty of God's creation.

This week, while walking the family dog at night, I enjoyed looking up at the beautiful stars and listening to the sounds of nature all around me. I'm grateful for our community, close enough to visit or work in Chicago, but far enough away that we are able to enjoy the stars and soothing rhythms of creation. At one point, the dog stopped, seeming to be enjoying the sights and sounds, as well. Rather than encouraging him to keep walking, I followed his cue and stood still as long as he wanted, enjoying the moment.

Today, I read in the recent issue of *Presbyterians Today* an article by Christine Burns. The subtitle of that article is "When Mundane Mowing Becomes Holy." The author writes about how she experiences God while she is mowing. Here's part of what she wrote: "From the seat of my riding mower, wearing noise-canceling headphones, I feel God come alongside for the ride. In the sun and incredible blue of the skies, I feel God all around me...I never feel more alive or balanced in my relationship with God than in that moment."

How about you? Do you connect with God in nature, in the tasks of your daily life, in the busy-ness of your work, school, or play? I hope that we all find ways to connect with our Creator God throughout our days. Perhaps that is one of the ways that we can "pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

I hope to see you in worship, in meetings, and in fellowship soon. Please reach out to me anytime – you can email me at eric@fpcwoodstock.org or call/text me at 815-575-9454. Or, grab a time to chat at fpcwoodstock.org/meetwitheric. Connect with me on Facebook at fb.com/ericcorbin or fb.com/pastorericcorbin and the church at fb.com/fpcwoodstock.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Eric

September 2022



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Sunday Worship Services

In the Great Hall @ 9:30 a.m.

NOW Fellowship

Sunday September 11 @ 10:30 a.m.

Sunday September 25 @ 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday September 14 @ 5:15 p.m.

Wednesday September 21 @ 5:15 p.m.



Wednesday September 28 @ 5:15 p.m.

Newsletter Editor

Jeri Loiselle

Reporters:

Eric Corbin, Angie Boe,

Mark Bundick, Bob Clark,

Christy Johanson, Sue Ayers-Krause,

Joyce Maynard, Pat Morozink,

Ray Thuma, Cheryl 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

Pam Moorhouse, 815-814-5585
pammoorhouse54@gmail.com

Music Ministry

Christy Johanson, 815-382-5234
christy@fpcwoodstock.org

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

Lee Nejd, 815-546-1731
Katie Spaldon, 815-276-3410
Mark Bundick, 815-337-9068
Cheryl Wormley, 815-519-7402
indepublisher@comcast.net

N.O.W. Brunch and Dinners are Back!

The N.O.W. team is back and raring to go for our fall season.



Mark your calendars for the return of Sunday Brunch after worship on September 11 and September 25. September 11 will feature muffins, fruit, eggs, sausage, juice and coffee. The September 25 menu will offer French toast casserole, quiche, mini-bagels, fruit, juice and coffee. Stay after worship for some great food and fellowship!

Fall dinners will kick off on September 14 with our fall favorite, "Corn and Brats". Chris Beck and Tony Spaldon are preparing their ever-popular pulled pork on September 21. Matt Thuma will be handling the menu on September 28. Skip making dinner and come chow down on great grub with your fellow FPCers.

Sunday School Update: RALLY DAY!!



Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 11th - the first day of Sunday School! We will kick off the new school year with a fun activity and lesson. Sunday School will take place every second and fourth Sunday beginning September 11th, immediately following the "Time with Children" during the 9:30 a.m. worship service. We hope to see you there!

No-Name Knitters

The knitters and crocheters will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. If you would enjoy making items for our church members and our community, please join us! Call Kay Darby for more information at 815-572-1729



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

The group is meeting virtually using Google Meet. We select a single reading from the Revised Common Lectionary and take turns leading the discussion. Join us for lively discussion, thoughtful readings and good fellowship. Contact Velma Downes to be added to the mailing list or for more information at vmdownes@gmail.com.

Men's Bible Study — Saturdays at 7:00 a.m.

Join us via Google Meet for Bible study on Saturday mornings at 7:00 a.m. Contact John Moorhouse, 815-236-7408 or johnmoorhouse54@gmail.com to get connected through Google Meet and to obtain a copy of the material.

All are welcome to join with us during this time of learning, understanding, and fellowship, as in faith that God is in charge and by the grace of God, we will experience God's love in right relationship through God's son Jesus.

September Birthdays

Candee McMahon-September 2
Gianna Ferrera-September 3
Steven Kaye-September 5
Julie Farver-September 8
David Bingham-September 11
Sarah Bingham-September 11
Hannah Botian-September 12
Lynne Sobczak-September 13
Reagan Wormley-September 18
Erik Johanson-September 20
Ellen Dahm-September 22
Richard Peters-September 25
Matilda Botian-September 26
Pat Morozink-September 30

September Anniversaries

Barbara and Ron Parrish-
September 4
Tiffany and Kyle Sobczak-
September 9



Our Thoughts and prayers...

Gail Abrams
Tom Thennes
Tim Arnold
Sue Hunt
Tom Schwarz

WACM News

Fall plans are underway for WACM. October 24 will bring a return of the Crandall's Chicken Dinner fundraiser. Tickets are \$15

for the chicken buffet dinner and can be purchased online at wacmgroups.org or in person from a WACM representative in October. We will need help with table service, serving beverages and clearing tables that night and welcome anyone 16 and over who would be willing to help for several hours. Requests for assistance, especially for rent and utilities, have been coming to the Direct Assistance Program in high numbers, and this fundraiser helps provide money to be sent out to members of the community with financial needs.

Also returning this fall will be the Share the Warmth Coat Drive, sponsored by WACM. A collection of winter coats, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, boots and other winter gear will be gathered in October and made available to people in need in the community. We ask that the winter gear to be donated be clean and in gently used condition. More information about this coat drive will be shared next month.

WACM's Direct Assistance Program provides economic assistance to members of our community. It relies on the support of member congregations, of which First Presbyterian is one. Thank you for your support of this local mission.



September Red Wagon Items



Chicken Noodle Soup, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Tomato Soup, Cream of Chicken Soup, Vegetable Soup, Ramen Noodles

The most beneficial way to donate is to donate monetarily. The Pantry uses that money to buy nutritious "staples" to have in stock at all times. You can donate online at www.woodstockfoodpantry.org or by using envelopes in the gathering area.

Annual Craft Fair

FPC's second annual craft fair will be coming soon. We are planning to hold it the same morning as the Christmas cantata -- Sunday, December 11th -- in the back of the Great Hall. Plan to get some great gifts for those on your list. And keep working on your crafts to contribute.

Last year we sold pottery, dish towels, napkins, shopping bags, potholders, and much more. Anything handmade is welcome. All proceeds are contributed to the youth program of our church.



CARING TOGETHER

News from the Hospitality Team

The Hospitality Team has been reviewing worship attendance at our monthly meetings. We're helping Pastor Eric and the Deacons identify where follow-up or pastoral care might be needed.

Our greeters work to welcome everyone attending worship. They're especially mindful when we have new visitors to make sure they know we're happy to see them in worship. The team works to follow up with an email or card, if we get contact information from the visitors.

If you'd like to help spread our famous FPC hospitality, please let Pam Moorhouse or Cheryl Wormley know.

Deacon Update for September

We are once again offering coffee hour after church hosted by the Deacons. Deacon members are doing this with the hopes of having their flocks help out in the hosting. If you get a call, please help out and get to know your Deacon and the congregation better!

Deacons discussed members who are going through certain difficulties who need some special care.

Please let us know if there is anything we can help you with. Concerns, health issues and celebrations are helpful to know about as we continue to care for you.

Angie Boe 815-338-7782

Pam Moorhouse 815-814-5585

Sherry Thuma 815-338-4094

John Moorhouse 815-236-7408

Barb Parrish 815-338-8112

Cheryl Wormley 815-519-7402



DEACONS

Following to Lead | Leading to Serve

Special Offering



The Peace and Global Witness Special Offering is the third of four Special Offerings the Session approved to be collected this year at First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock.

Our goal for this offering is \$1400 and will be collected between September 18th and October 2nd, 2022.

This Special Offering is divided four ways: 25% of the offering will be donated to a local organization helping brothers and sisters in need. Blackhawk Presbytery will receive 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% of the collection will be used by the **Presbyterian Mission Agency** to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

You may make a contribution by check (made out to FPC Woodstock and write Peace Special Offering in the memo line) or cash using a special offering envelope or use the church website to make a contribution. We will report on progress of reaching this goal every couple of weeks during the worship service. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of contributing to this offering.

CARING TOGETHER

Olde English Faire

We would like to invite our middle school and high schoolers (and families) to join us for the Olde English Faire at Stronghold on Sunday, October 2nd, immediately following church. The Faire will feature live performances, food trucks, artisan vendors selling handmade wares, Vikings, royalty, horses, jesters, merriment, dancing, castle tours, and much more! The whole family is invited to attend. We will plan to leave from the church and carpool to the Faire. Please RSVP to Jeri beforehand so we can make sure we have enough room in vehicles. The admission cost will be approximately \$10/person, and you may want to have additional money on hand for purchasing food or items.

Blackhawk

PRESBYTERY

Stronghold Retreat High School & Middle School



Friday, November 11, 7 pm to
Sunday, November 13, noon

\$135/person (\$85 for adult leaders) includes
lodging in the Castle and Carriage House,
3 meals on Saturday + breakfast on Sunday

*Explore your faith and what it means to SEE yourself
and others through the eyes of God*

- Fun, games, music, 'Swing by Choice'
- Mission project
- Campfire and more
- Questions? Contact Steve Bowie
815-962-7889

Retreat is built from the
Triennium-developed theme,

When did we
See you?

Matthew 25: 31-46



August Session Notes:

Deacons Report:

Deacons have returned to hosting coffee hour.

Nominating Committee: Fred Strauss will be nominated for the open slot on session.

The committee continues searching for deacons and officers for next year.

COVID Task Force: Session approved a recommendation to allow others to contribute desserts for N.O.W. dinners.

Committee Reports:

Compassion, Peace and Justice: Session approved committee request to hold the annual Craft Faire on Sunday, December 11, 2022.

Education and Spiritual Growth: Last year's confirmands would like to do something with the funds they raised. The committee will discuss possibilities for a pollinator or vegetable garden with Building and Grounds. The committee is also monitoring possible 2023 mission trips.

Ministry Support – Finance: Given significant increases in electricity and natural gas prices, the committee cancelled our existing contract and now purchase directly from ComEd and Nicor. The committee is investigating new long term (2-4 year) contracts with alternate suppliers.

Ministry Support – Personnel: The committee is beginning the process for annual staff reviews (pastor, office administrator, accompanist and worship coordinator).

Other Business: Session engaged in brainstorming multigenerational fellowship events. Education and Spiritual Growth will investigate the Olde English Faire at Stronghold, October 1 and 2. Later possibilities include the November 27 Christmas Parade and carriage rides on the Square.

Nancy Bingham, Pam Moorhouse, Angie Boe and Julie Farver have agreed to join the task force formed to enhance our worship space.

Our electronic sign is failing, and will need replacement.

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, September 18, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.



Compassion, Peace & Justice

Ray Thuma

815-338-9780 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

robtmcclark@aol.com

815-861-7002 or

cookdawn82@gmail.com

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

Worship, Music and Arts

Chris Nejdil & Erin Kaye

815-337-1070 or

cnejdl@hotmail.com

(Worship Arts, Worship
Leadership, Audio-Visual)

Clerk of Session

Mark Bundick

815-337-9068 or

mbundick@comcast.net

Finance Report For Newsletter September 2022

Operating Actual vs Budget through July 2022

July 2022 Operating Budget				
	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Variance vs Budget</u>	<u>Annual 2022 Budget</u>
Income				
Contributions Income	\$127,420	\$126,310	\$1,110	\$215,295
All Other Income	<u>\$7,462</u>	<u>\$6,825</u>	<u>\$637</u>	<u>\$60,960</u>
Total Income	\$134,882	\$133,135	\$1,747	\$276,255
Expenses				
Staff	\$111,497	\$117,269	(\$5,772)	\$206,929
All Other Expenses	<u>\$51,783</u>	<u>\$65,792</u>	(\$14,008)	<u>\$104,248</u>
Total Expense	\$163,280	\$183,061	(\$19,781)	\$311,177
Net Ordinary Income	(\$28,398)	(\$49,926)	\$21,528	(\$34,922)

Note energy costs are increasing dramatically and are expected to negatively impact expenses vs the Operating Budget for the balance of 2022; energy costs typically represent about 12 percent of "all other expenses," so we anticipate the negative impact to be a few thousand dollars in 2022 and will necessitate an increase for energy costs in the 2023 budget.

Submitted by Bob Clark – FT Lead

RIP Medical Debt Campaign in Blackhawk Presbytery Exceeds \$15K Goal

The final totals are in: \$18,917.33 has been raised to forgive potentially 1.9 million dollars in medical debt! Eleven churches* found ways to raise awareness and encouraged their congregants to support this exciting way to make a huge anti-poverty difference.

The project, directed by the Matthew 25 Task Force, will send the funds to support the ongoing campaign "Reviving Appalachia Through Medical Debt Relief", where the need is great. Nearly one in five people in Appalachia are in poverty, and medical debt makes that poverty impossible to escape. This reality drove the committee's decision to designate our funds there.

*Blessings and thanks to two individuals and the following churches for their support: Apple River First, Ridgefield-Crystal Lake, DeKalb Westminster, Elgin First, Fulton, Plainfield Wheatland, Rochelle First, Shannon Prairie Dell, Sterling First, Winnebago First, and Woodstock First.

You or your church can continue to support this worthy cause at any time by donating via their website: ripmedicaldebt.org. Unless you specifically donate to the organization's expenses, 100% of donations are used to forgive debt.

From the Worship Arts Committee

Rally Day is Sunday, September 11.

Join in the fun as we begin the new worship and education season. The 9:30 a.m. worship service and Sunday School session will be followed by a delicious Sunday brunch prepared by the NOW Team.

World Communion Sunday, October 2.

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. Paul tells us that we are to “discern the body” when we partake of Holy Communion, mindful that we note our relationship to all our brothers and sisters in Christ in the celebration. Celebrate World Communion Sunday here at First Pres.

Help Wanted— Individuals interested in joining our Audio/Visual team. No experience necessary-willing to train the skills needed to assist in the Sound Booth or live streaming the worship services. Contact Christy Johanson for more information.

Sunday School Singers - Mrs. Johanson will be coming in to sing with the Sunday school kids most Sundays! The Christmas Cantata with choir and children will be on December 11, with a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 10.

Bell Ringing Opportunities

Bell Choir A for new ringers: This slower-paced music ensemble will introduce and review the fundamentals of playing handbells and explore an easier repertoire. This group is perfect for younger players or players of any age with little or no bell experience, or anyone who needs a good review after not playing for a long time. Beginner to intermediate music reading skills are recommended.

Bell Choir B for advanced ringers: This faster-paced music ensemble will have more intense rehearsals and explore advanced repertoire. This group is perfect for experienced ringers who are looking for a challenge. Members of this group should be proficient in reading music.

Tentative Schedule for ringers - all rehearsals will be on Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m.

Advanced Ringers

Sept 21
Oct 5
Oct 19
Nov 2
Nov 16
Nov 30 (perform Dec 4)

New Ringers

Sept 28
Oct 12
Oct 26
Nov 9
Dec 7
Dec 14 (perform on Dec. 18)

The choir will return this year!

We plan to have rehearsals every other week on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. after bell rehearsal and sing the following Sunday. Anyone is welcome in the choir who loves to sing, who are ages middle school and older.

Tentative choir rehearsal and performance dates:

Sept 21	Nov 16 (cantata rehearsal)
Sept 25-sing	Nov 20-sing
Oct 5	Nov 30 (cantata rehearsal)
Oct 9-sing	Dec 7 (cantata rehearsal)
Oct 19	Saturday, Dec. 10 - dress rehearsal for the cantata
Oct 23-sing	
Nov 2	
Nov 6-sing	Cantata is Sunday, Dec. 11
Nov 9 (cantata rehearsal)	

Fall Gathering, Presbyterian Women of Synod of Lincoln Trails

Saturday, September 10, 2022, 10 a.m. CDT on Zoom “You Are Worthy / How God Sees YOU”

Presentations by Angela Stephenson, co-founder of Living Abundantly Ministries and by Susan Jackson-Dowd: Churchwide PW Executive Director.

Also hear from other Churchwide representatives: Kathleen Keefer, 2021-2024 PW Vice Moderator; Rhonda Martin, PW Financial Manager; Carissa Herold, PW Marketing Associate; plus Synod of Lincoln Trails PW folks.

Email Jill Sunday for more information: SundaysHomeOffice@gmail.com Register to receive the Zoom link by September 6, 2022. Participate at home or with a group of friends in a home or church. Please notify others who may be interested!

Join us for Yoga at FPC! All experience levels welcome.

Release muscular tension, restore energy and reduce stress. This class will take place on September 28 after NOW dinner. Please dress in comfortable, loose clothing and bring the following items: yoga mat and blanket/towel.

September 2022

September 2022

September 2022

Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

4 5 6 7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14 15 16 17
18 19 20 21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30

October 2022

Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28 29
30 31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 28	29	30	31	Sep 1 6:30pm Worship Arts Mtg	2	3 7:00am Men's Bible Study
4 9:30am Worship 10:30am Ron and Barb Parrish 60th Anniversary fellowship	5	6	7 7:30am Lectionary Study 4:00pm Diaper Bank distribution	8 5:00pm Hospitality Team 7:00pm Finance Team	9 10:00am Jan Kennedy visitation 11:00am Jan Kennedy service	10 7:00am Men's Bible Study
11 Congregational Mtg -- nominating mtg. 9:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 6:00pm Education Mtg	12	13 10:00am TLC Ladies 7:00pm Deacons	14 7:30am Lectionary Study 5:15pm NOW Dinner--Corn and Brats 6:30pm No-Name Knitters	15 6:00pm Compassion, Peace and Justice	16	17 7:00am Men's Bible Study
18 9:30am Worship 11:00am Session Mtg	19 6:30pm PEO Practice	20 6:30pm PEO Chapter Meeting	21 7:30am Lectionary Study 5:15pm NOW Dinner-Pulled Pork 6:15pm Advanced Ringers Rehearsal 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	22 6:30pm Worship Arts Mtg	23	24 7:00am Men's Bible Study
25 9:30am Choir Sings 9:30am Worship	26	27 6:00pm NOW Team	28 7:30am Lectionary Study 5:15pm NOW Dinner-Matt Thuma 6:00pm Yoga 6:15pm New Ringers 6:30pm Knitters	29	30	Oct 1

MINISTERS

All members and friends
of the congregation

STAFF

Rev. Eric Corbin
Pastor

Jeri Loiselle
Office Administrator
Social Media
Financial Secretary

Roger Dickman
Organist

Christy Johanson
Worship Arts
Coordinator

September 2022



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WOODSTOCK

CELEBRATING AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE

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