

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.

January 2023



Happy New Year!

I hope the dawning of 2023 brings blessings to us all. With the changing of the calendar comes new opportunities. What is new in your life this year? What new experiences and avenues of service do you feel God calling you to? In Isaiah 43:19, we read "Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness." Perhaps you are looking to God to indeed make a way in the desert and paths in the wilderness. Perhaps we all are.

A poet named Minnie Louise Haskins wrote over a hundred years ago: And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

Whatever new things are in your life in 2023, always walk with your hand in the Hand of God. While doing so, take a look around and notice that God's hand is also holding the hands of your neighbors, family, and friends, and recall that we are all interconnected. In the month that we commemorate the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., let us reflect on his well-known statement: "We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny." When our world tells us to be independent, let us instead be *interdependent*, on God, and on one another.

I'd like to extend a huge **Thank You** to all who participated in the wonderful holiday festivities, from the decorating to the Chrismon service to Advent candle lighting to the Cantata and Children's Pageant to the readings on Christmas Eve to worshiping in the Great Hall or online. What a wonderful time of preparation and celebration we had together!

With back-to-back services online, it's been a while since we've seen each other, and I hope to see you soon in worship, in meetings, and in fellowship! 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

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Sunday Worship Services

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

Sunday School

After Children's Time

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

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pammoorhouse54@gmail.com

Music Ministry

Christy Johanson, 815-382-5234
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No-Name Knitters

Kay Darby, 815-572-1729
kedarby@icloud.com

T.L.C. (Tender Loving Care)

Mary Hill, 815-338-6051
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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

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Katie Spaldon 815-276-3410
Mark Bundick 815-337-9068
Linda Hansen 815-451-8735
Cheryl Wormley 815-519-7402
indepublisher@comcast.net

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.

Poinsettia Care 101

By Countryside Flower Shop



The Poinsettia, often referred to as the "Christmas Plant," was first brought to the United States from its native land Mexico, in 1825 by the first US ambassador Joel Robert Poinsett. Today, with the multitude of colors, from the familiar red to other vibrant hues, as well as sizes and shapes available, poinsettias offer an abundance of holiday cheer for every decor.

Here are some tips for keeping Poinsettias looking great through the New Year and beyond:

1. Temperature

When you walk out of the store with your poinsettia, remember that the plant needs protection from the weather, especially if the temperature is freezing. Poinsettias should not be exposed (even in the wrapping) to freezing conditions for more than a short trip to the car. Do not leave your poinsettia in your car while you finish shopping. If the poinsettia is chilled below 50°F it may begin to drop the leaves. Immediately unwrap your poinsettia when you arrive at your destination. Keeping the plant in the paper sleeve for more than 24 hours will cause the leaves to droop and may turn yellow before the season is over.

2. Light

At home, place your plant in a spot with bright natural light. If it is in a sunny location, make sure the plant never dries out. Do not place your plant in an area that is exposed to drafts, or heat from appliances, radiators, or ventilation ducts.

3. Water

The soil should be kept evenly moist. Do not let the soil dry out completely. Empty any water that drains into the container under your plant; if you let the plant sit in this water, the leaves will yellow and drop. The color of your poinsettia will last longer with temperatures not over 75°F during the day and 60° - 65°F at night.

CARING TOGETHER

Youth Group News:

Parents, please keep a lookout in your email for information about January's event!

A huge thank you to **Ray and Angela Thuma** for a fun baking event in December that benefited some of our shut-ins!



Sunday School News:

Sunday School returns January 8th! We will be back to our normal 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month schedule.

Exciting news! Please see the WACM news section for some exciting youth information!

A reminder that the battery recycling box is in the front lobby. And parents, we know you go through a lot of batteries! Questions? Please reach out to [Erin Kaye](#) or [Jackie Lawler](#).

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT OUR DIAPER DISTRIBUTION PROJECT?

A year ago, in January 2022, the Compassion Peace & Justice committee within our church began a new local mission project to distribute diapers to families in need.

The pandemic has upended global supply chains and created a run on many products, including diapers. Two of the country's largest diaper manufacturers, have increased the prices of baby products and typical families will spend \$70 to \$80 on each child's diapers every month, with prices expected to continue to rise. We are partnering with the [Woodstock Food Pantry](#) and [the Diaper Bank of Northern Illinois \(McHenry\)](#) to distribute diapers the first Wednesday of each month from 4:00 p.m.– 5:30 p.m. at our church. The Diaper Bank supplies our diapers, and requires our clients to show identification for proof of McHenry County residence, and a SNAP, WIC or LINK card to demonstrate need. A referral from the Food Pantry is also accepted.

The program is gaining momentum and serving more families as word spreads about this new initiative. At our first distribution in January 2022 there were no visitors. At our most recent distribution in December, we supplied 742 diapers for 15 children. Total diapers distributed in 2022 were 4,958. It's exciting to think about how many children and families we might serve in 2023!

We appreciate the willing helpers and support for this new project. If you would like to know more, please contact **Nancy Bingham**, nancycbingham@gmail.com or 815-823-5107 .



Is your will out of date? When you update it, remember your church.

CARING TOGETHER

WACM January 2023 News



| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Caryl Lemanski | 1/02 |
| Dylan Lawler | 1/04 |
| Brayden Sobczak | 1/04 |
| Matthew Oleson | 1/06 |
| Angela Boe | 1/07 |
| Christy Johanson | 1/07 |
| Scott Greenlee | 1/09 |
| Patrick Moorhouse | 1/12 |
| Kirill Norgard | 1/20 |
| Marla Norgard | 1/23 |
| Marcia Gummerson | 1/25 |
| Thea Moorhouse | 1/25 |
| Charles Baker | 1/26 |
| Colin Kaye | 1/27 |



| | |
|------------------------|------|
| Eric and Kristi Corbin | 1/03 |
| Ken and Joyce Maynard | 1/06 |
| Jim & Cheryl Wormley | 1/25 |
| Ryan & Gwen Wormley | 1/25 |



Gayle Abrams, Tom Thennes,
Sue Hunt, Tom Schwarz,
Kristin Harris, Tim Arnold,
Phil Dahm, Jamie Robinett,
Lance Sobczak, Braelen Kittle,
Mary Kittle, Ron Parrish,
Sean Rowe, Dick Sweeney,
Pam Moorhouse, Eugenia Sarabia,
Hank Oleson, and the families of
Jim Higgins & June Haasler.

Financial assistance with past due rent or utilities and gasoline vouchers tops the kinds of financial assistance requested by Woodstock residents through WACM's Direct Assistance Program (DAP). The support of member churches, including First Presbyterian, is essential to run this assistance program, and fundraisers assist with funding too.



This winter, WACM is sponsoring three children's shows to raise money for DAP. A Magic Show will be presented January 28, 2023, by **Kevin Sarnwick**. After showing sleight of hand tricks, he will teach children how to do a magic trick at the end of his performance. On February 25, 2023, **Jason Kollum** will present a Comedy Juggling Variety

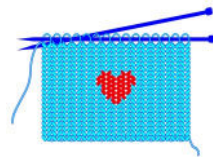
Show filled with technical skills and improvisation. A Wonderful World of Bubbles Show will be held March 25, 2023, featuring **Ben Jiminez** combining art, science, and magic. Come see bubbles dance, float, and explode. All shows start at 9:30 a.m. at First United Methodist Church, Woodstock. Tickets are \$10 for each show or \$25 for all three and can be purchased online at wacmggroups.org or from a church representative to WACM- **Dave Davis**, **Linda Hansen**, and **Pat Morozink**.

In January, First Presbyterian's Sunday School attendees will be treated to a ticket for one of the WACM children's shows. A donor has generously purchased a ticket for each child attending Sunday School. Each child will choose which show to attend. Tickets will be distributed at church after January's Sunday School meetings. *Parents, please discuss these show choices with your child so their preference can be shared when tickets are handed out.*

No Name Knitters

Christmas is over, but the cold weather is upon us! The knitters/crocheters will continue to make hats, scarves, mittens, or headbands for children K-12 in District 200 who are in need. This is a big mission, so if you could join us, or make items at home, it would certainly be appreciated!

This month we will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the church. Please call Kay Darby at 815-572-1729 if you would like to help us!!



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.

N.O.W. Brunch and Dinners Return in January

After a break for the holidays, the N.O.W. team returns to a regular schedule of brunch and dinner to kick off 2023.

Sunday, January 8, we'll host brunch right after worship. The menu will be our standard eggs, sausage, fruit, coffee and milk. Be sure to hang around after worship for some yummy brunch and conversation with friends.

Our Wednesday dinner offerings begin on January 11 with lasagna, garlic bread and salad. We're looking for some volunteers to bring in desserts. If you're able to do that, please let a N.O.W. team member know.

On Wednesday, January 18, we'll open the "All American Diner" with Italian sausage, Italian beef, and burgers. For dessert, treat yourself to a root beer float!

January 22's brunch will premiere a new breakfast item, mini-pancakes, to go along with eggs, sausage, and fruit.

January 25's dinner will close the month with turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy.

Get yourself out of the kitchen this winter and join your fellow FPCers enjoying some good food and companionship. We'll see you at brunch and dinner in 2023!



January Red Wagon Items for the Food Pantry

Canned soup of any kind, Dry mix soups, or Ramen Noodles

Monetary Donations are preferred to provide the nutritious staples for the Pantry.

Giving Tree

Our annual Giving Tree project was a huge success! All 30 tags were taken off the tree and brought back with wrapped gifts for two local families struggling with the holiday this season. Gifts as tiny as a gift card or as large as a microwave were donated and almost everyone had fun shopping for someone in need. There were also many extra gifts bought or created for these ten people. And these two families were very grateful for all these gifts brought to their homes. Thank you to all who participated. The Christmas spirit was certainly evident at First Pres this season.



Meals on Wheels

Volunteers are needed with delivering Meals on Wheels on the following dates. Please email **Marla Norgard** at marlanorgard01@gmail.com if you are able to assist those in need in our community.

Not sure what it means to help out? Volunteering takes about one hour of time. Approximately 5 to 6 meals are picked up from the hospital on Doty Road, delivered throughout our community, and then supplies are returned to the hospital. Feel free to reach out with any questions.

- Mondays, January 16, February 20, March 27, May 1, August 14, September 18, October 23, November 27
- Tuesday, March 27
- Wednesdays, March 29, August 16, September 20, and October 25



Finance Team Report for January Newsletter

November YTD 2022 Operating Budget

| <u>Income/Expense</u> | <u>YTD Actual</u> | <u>YTD Budget</u> | <u>Variance vs Budget</u> | <u>Annual 2022 Budget</u> |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Contributions Income | \$180,774 | \$185,270 | (\$4,496) | \$215,295 |
| All Other Income * | \$39,268 | \$48,930 | (\$9,662) | \$60,960 |
| <u>Total Income</u> | \$220,042 | \$234,200 | (\$14,158) | \$276,255 |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | | | |
| Staff Expense | \$176,593 | \$188,976 | (\$12,383) | \$206,929 |
| All Other Expenses | \$74,136 | \$93,374 | (\$19,238) | \$104,248 |
| <u>Total Expense</u> | \$250,729 | \$282,350 | (\$31,621) | \$311,177 |
| <u>Net Income</u> | (\$30,687) | (\$48,150) | \$17,463 | (\$34,922) |
| * Includes Session Approved fund transfer from McCullough Distribution fund to subsidize Operating Budget Annual Budget = \$50,000; YTD Actual = \$30,000 vs. YTD Budget of \$40,000 | | | | |

We are blessed that contributions are basically keeping pace with the annual budget – THANK YOU! Due to expenses being favorable to the budget we anticipate not needing all the planned transfer of funds from the McCullough Distribution.

We also anticipate having sufficient cash in our operating account, as planned, that will help offset the unfavorable net income for 2022.

About \$9,000 of the favorable YTD expenses are due to lower than budgeted Building & Grounds expenses with the balance of favorable expenses spread across most of the other entities.

Session met with Finance in December to discuss the 2023 Operating Budget which we anticipate being approved in early January. Based upon current and anticipated pledges for the 2023 budget, we are facing a large deficit which will require additional funding, larger than what was transferred from the McCullough Distribution Fund, from another source to fund the operation of your church. Please pray to God for personal guidance regarding our financial situation and for God's support to session for their leadership of our church's ministries.

Memorial Tree

A small evergreen tree has been planted on the church grounds in memory of **Marty Sobczak**. The tree is located along the church entrance road from the Justice Hill subdivision near the east edge of our property. It is a spruce, a favorite tree of Marty's. A movable plaque will soon be placed near the foot of the tree. Marty was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Woodstock from 1997 until his passing in 2021. He had been a deacon, a Sunday School teacher, member of the choir, active part of the mission committee, and a long-term class member of both the adult Sunday School class and the men's Bible study group. He perhaps is most remembered for his active leadership of countless mission trips to Rockford, Kentucky, the Gulf Coast and elsewhere, as well as securing and stocking the church's mission trailer. Greatly missed and remembered!



DEACONS

Leading through Serving.

DEACON UPDATE FOR JANUARY NEWSLETTER:

Thanks to Pam and John Moorhouse

Pam and John Moorhouse have completed their most recent 3-year terms as deacons. This wasn't their first go at being deacons. They have served before. They have shared joys and sorrows with their flocks and assisted fellow deacons in caring for others in the church.

"Helping people out is what we enjoy doing," John wrote in an email.

Pam and John found creative ways to help members of their flocks during the pandemic. Even as things were getting back to normal this past year, they continued some of the outreach that worked so well during pandemic.

For the past two years, John has chaired deacons, and he will be a hard act to follow.

They said they enjoyed working together as a team with the rest of the deacons. "We will miss that interaction," John said.

Thank you, Pam and John!

P.S. Now, there are two more opportunities for members of our church to become deacons. Prayerfully consider being a deacon. When you feel called or if you'd like more information, speak to Pastor Eric or one of the deacons.

Angie Boe 815-338-7782

Kristin Matter 847-609-8340

Sherry Thuma 815-847-8339

Barbara Parrish 815-338-8112

Cheryl Wormley, 815-519-4702

MID COUNCIL MINISTRIES

'Along the Road' podcast: being mindful and connectional

'Nourish' and 'Encounter' episodes discuss individual mindfulness and church polity

Fred Tangeman | Office of the General Assembly - December 7, 2022

Mindfulness helps you be present in different moments. Polity is one way Presbyterians care for each other over time. [Read More](#)

Download the episodes directly from the Mid Council Ministries pages of pcusa.org or podcast providers.

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

robtmclark@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

December Session Notes

Nominating Committee: The committee found one person for the 2023 Nominating Committee and is waiting on responses from potential elders and deacons. **Mark Bundick** had agreed to lead the committee of session to work on long-term issues.

Compassion, Peace and Justice: Session discussed ways to further promote the Diaper Bank, including working with the Woodstock Food Pantry, promotion to D200 preschool parents, and flyers displayed at the Workforce Network.

Ministry Support: Personnel is recommending 5% increases for staff; these would not take effect until the annual reviews are complete. A proposal to have the accompanist report to the worship arts director instead of the pastor will require changing the job description. Session would review the revised description and take a vote on it at a future meeting.

Ministry Support: Finance: An initial look at the 2023 budget shows an \$85,000 deficit based on pledged income down by \$10,000 and expenses up \$25,000. The deficit amount also assumes a \$50,000 allocation from the McCullough Distribution Fund. Session members will review the presented figures for their committees and send any revisions or comments Pastor Eric set a called session meeting to finalize the budget for Thursday, January 5, 2023.

Next Called Meeting: Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 5:00 p.m., via Google Meet

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, January 15, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at the church and via Google Meet

January Worship Schedule

| Date | Lectionary | Text | Liturgist | A/V | Usher | Acolyte |
|-----------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|
| 1/1/2023 | Epiphany of the Lord | Matthew 2:1-12 | Christy Johanson | n/a | n/a | no acolyte |
| 1/8/2023 | Baptism of the Lord | Matthew 3:13-17 | Addie Sobczak | Rob McMahon | Rick and Pat Morozink | Erik Johanson |
| 1/15/2023 | Second Sunday after the Epiphany | John 1:29-42 | Julie Farver | Dave Johanson | Bob Clark | Gracyn Petrik |
| 1/22/2023 | Third Sunday after the Epiphany | Matthew 4:12-23 | Renee Simes | Rob McMahon | John and Pam Moorhouse | Kayden Petrik |
| 1/29/2023 | Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany | Matthew 5:1-12 | Velma Downes | Dave Johanson | Lee and Chris Nedjl | Colin Kaye |

January 2023

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|--|--|---|-----------|---|
| <p>Jan 1, 23</p> <p>9:30am ONLINE only Worship service</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>3</p> | <p>4</p> <p>7:30am Lectionary Study 4:00pm Diaper Bank distribution</p> | <p>5</p> <p>5:00pm Session called meeting 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 159</p> | <p>6</p> | <p>7</p> <p>7:00am Men's Bible Study 10:00am Visitation for Jim Higgins 11:00am Celebration of Life for Jim Higgins</p> |
| <p>8</p> <p>9:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School: PreK-5th 10:30am Brunch 4:00pm Education and Spiritual Growth</p> | <p>9</p> <p>7:00pm Eagle Board of Review Troop 159</p> | <p>10</p> <p>10:00am TLC Ladies 7:00pm Deacons</p> | <p>11</p> <p>7:30am Lectionary Study 5:15pm NOW Dinner 6:30pm No-Name Knitters</p> | <p>12</p> <p>5:00pm Hospitality Team 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 159 7:00pm Finance Team</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p> <p>7:00am Men's Bible Study</p> |
| <p>15</p> <p>9:30am Worship 11:00am Session</p> | <p>16</p> | <p>17</p> | <p>18</p> <p>7:30am Lectionary Study 5:15pm NOW Dinner</p> | <p>19</p> <p>6:00pm Compassion, Peace and Justice 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 159</p> | <p>20</p> | <p>21</p> <p>7:00am Men's Bible Study</p> |
| <p>22</p> <p>9:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School: PreK-5th 10:30am Brunch 11:30am NOW Team</p> | <p>23</p> | <p>24</p> | <p>25</p> <p>7:30am Lectionary Study 5:15pm NOW Dinner 6:30pm No-Name Knitters</p> | <p>26</p> <p>6:30pm Worship Arts Mtg 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 159</p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28</p> <p>7:00am Men's Bible Study</p> |
| <p>29</p> <p>9:30am Worship</p> | <p>30</p> | <p>31</p> | | | | |

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

January 2023



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WOODSTOCK

CELEBRATING AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE

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