

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.

February 2023



More winter?

As I write this (a bit late), Woodstock Willie has prognosticated. Six more weeks of winter, according to our favorite groundhog. As we continue to gather in the cold and wintry conditions, my thanks go out to Chris Dahm for keeping our parking lot cleared for activities at the church, as well as to the list of volunteers who take care of the sidewalk and entryway! Around our house, when someone mentions the cold, one of us very often will quote Elsa from the Disney movie *Frozen* when she says “the cold never bothered me, anyway.” Though I am quite hot-natured, that’s not entirely true – the cold does get pretty rough. As it does, think of your friends and neighbors, particularly those who might be homebound. See if you can pick up something from the grocery store for them, or run some errands, or just phone to check on them.

Speaking of Disney movies, in *Frozen II*, one of the key songs is called “The Next Right Thing.” Anna sings about her despair in a really tough situation. She faces uncertainty, not knowing where to turn. She realizes she must carry on, and sings this: “Just do the next right thing; Take a step, step again; It is all that I can do The next right thing.”

Sometimes, that is the best advice for each of us, as we face difficult situations, or even difficult decisions. We might be looking further down the road, when we need to just do “the next right thing.” One of my mentors often pointed out that the Psalmist wrote “Your word is a *lamp* to my feet,” not a *floodlight*. A lamp to our feet gives us enough light to see the next step, rather than looking further out into the future. Sometimes, that’s all we need. Today, and each day, why don’t we just try to do “the next right thing.”

In the month of February, one of those “right things” is to commemorate Black History Month. In worship, we’ll be singing “We Shall Overcome” as our sending song each week, reminding us of that anthem of the civil rights movement and the work that still remains to be done. May we do the next right thing in areas of greater unity.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Eric

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Sunday Worship Services

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

Newsletter Editor

Jeri Loiselle

Reporters:

Eric Corbin, Sherry Thuma,
Mark Bundick, Bob Clark,
Julie Farver, Sue Ayers-Krause,
Joyce Maynard, Pat Morozink,
Ray Thuma, Cheryl Wormley

Photo Credit:

Ken Farver

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
Erin Kaye 312-371-7573
Linda Hansen 815-451-8735
Cheryl Wormley 815-519-7402
indepublisher@comcast.net

Lectionary Bible Study Wednesdays at 9:00 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.

The No Name Knitters are Making a name for Themselves



Members of the No Name Knitters pause for a photo: (from left) Sue Mazur, Kay Darby, Julie Farver, Sue Maggio, and Vickie Thuma. Not pictured are Joyce Maynard and Barb Campion. (Independent photo by Ken Farver)

FPCW's own "No Name Knitters" were featured in an article by Janet Dovidio in *The Woodstock Independent*.

<https://www.thewoodstockindependent.com/2023/01/knitters-lack-name-but-know-their-purpose/>

February Red Wagon Items for the Food Pantry

Cereal, Pancake Mix, Oatmeal and Syrup. Monetary Donations are preferred to provide the nutritious staples for the Pantry.



**Education and Spiritual Growth February News
Youth Group Go & Serve Trip**

We are happy to announce that the Youth Group will be attending the Week of Hope in Kenosha, WI from July 30th - August 4th put on by Group Mission Trips! This trip is available for children 6th grade through 12th. Please register at <http://fpcwoodstock.org/goandserve> by Wednesday, February 8th to ensure your spot!

In order to make this happen the youth will be hosting at least 2 more fundraising events. Please mark your calendars accordingly:

**Youth Group
Brunch**

Sunday, March 12th after the service

Details: The Youth Group will be hosting a brunch after the service this day.

Bake Sale

Sunday, February 12th during the brunch, which follows the worship service

Details: We ask that your child bring in a baked good of their choice to sell. We would like to have a minimum of 40 servings to sell. Packaging in small groupings or individually would be preferred. This is also Super Bowl Sunday so perhaps they want to be creative and make a Super Bowl or Valentines Day themed item! Please include a list of ingredients so that people with allergies can make informed decisions.

Youth Group

February 5th from 3-5pm!

The Youth Group will be creating Valentines to be sent to a local nursing home and our homebound members. They will also decorate their own heart shaped sugar cookies for their own enjoyment or to share with their family! This event is kindly hosted by Lynne Sobczak.

Sunday School News

Sunday School dates are as follows for the remainder of the year:

February 12th and February 26th,

March 12th,

April 2nd (Palm Sunday)** and April 23rd.

May 14th (Mother's Day and the Final Sunday School Class)

**We tried to be as consistent as we could with meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. We canceled class on March 26th and April 9th, due to spring break and Easter respectively. We added an extra class on April 2nd for Palm Sunday. As this date also falls over spring break, we'll decide as we get closer if it will be an actual class or just our annual children's' parade of palms during the worship service.

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](#)

HAPPY

Birthday



- Evan Kaye-February 2
- T.J. Schwarz-February 3
- Hunter Johanson-February 4
- Kathleen Frick-February 4
- Mary Carr-February 11
- Kyle Sobczak-February 12
- Peter Thennes-February 13
- Faith Corbin-February 15
- Kathi Carr-February 18
- Kristen Matter-February 22
- Mary Hill-February 22
- Lori Stock-February 23
- Nancy Bingham-February 26

HAPPY

Anniversary



- Paul & Vicki Thuma, February 1
- Bob & Gail Diss, February 14
- Hank & Shari Olesen,
February 21

THOUGHTS
AND

Prayers



- Gayle Abrams, Aaron,
- Tom Thennes, Cary Cook
- Tom Schwarz, Tim Arnold,
- Kristin Harris, Phil Dahm,
- Jamie Robinette, Mary Kittle,
- Braelen Kittle, Ron Parrish,
- Pam Moorhouse.

EARTHCARE CONGREGATION NEWS FROM THE CPJ COMMITTEE

First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock received certification as an “Earth Care Congregation” (ECC) in February of 2021. Becoming an ECC required a robust application process, defining goals and embracing the Earth Care Pledge stated below:

“Peace and justice is God’s plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God’s. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.”

The Earth Care goals are spread among four areas: WORSHIP, EDUCATION, FACILITIES, and OUTREACH. One of our goals for 2023 in the area of EDUCATION is to host an Earth Care speaker. In that regard, we have invited Sarah Michehl, from The Land Conservancy of McHenry County, to present a program after the NOW dinner on Wednesday, March 22 from 5:45-6:45 p.m. The topic of the program will be about pollinators, and will tie into a potential project at church. Tune in to next month’s newsletter in March for a full description, but in the meantime, mark your calendars!



N.O.W. Team News

We hope everyone has been enjoying the return of N.O.W. dinners and brunch!

For February, we’ve got some good fun coming up. February 1 gives us a chance to celebrate Groundhog Day; our menu that evening will feature sloppy joes and tater tots.



February 8 brings us the first annual “Super Bowl Chili Cookoff”. We’re asking you chili fans to bring in your own crock pot full of your best chili. We’ll have a vote to see who claims the bragging rights for the best chili at FPC. Contact Cheryl Wormley or Lee Nejd1 if you plan to enter.

Our February 12 brunch will bring out our standard eggs, sausage and fruit supplemented with mini-muffins and hash browns. The Saturday Morning Men’s Bible Study will be our hosts for the February 15 dinner. *Wednesday, February 22 is Ash Wednesday, so there will not be a N.O.W. dinner on that date.* At the February 26 brunch, the N.O.W. team will be serving up pancakes.

Please come out and join us for some good food and fellowship!

Welcome Troop 159

You may see some new faces around the Church and they will likely be wearing khaki and green. At the end of December, our church became the Chartering Organization for BSA Troop 159, which was formerly chartered by the First United Methodist Church. The scouts started meeting in our building in January.

You will also see some familiar faces among the scouts and leaders. Ray Thuma is the committee chair for the troop, and Matt Petrik is a committee member. Kayden and Gracyn are youth members.

Our relationship with the troop goes back years. Ben Thuma was a member and built the fire pit on our property as his Eagle scout project. Troop 159 is one of the oldest scouting units in the nation. Its original charter was issued in 1911. The troop meets Thursday nights at the church, and the boys can proudly say they camp twelve months out of the year. Scouting uses an outdoor program to teach moral and ethical decision making, leadership, and life skills to youth.

Please welcome the scouts if you see them around the building. If you would like more information on Scouts BSA or Troop 159, please talk to Ray or Matt..



WACM News

In January over \$3,000 was issued to D-200 residents through WACM's Direct Assistance Program. That assistance often helped households with past due rent and utility bills or provided gasoline vouchers to people with transportation needs. While WACM relies on support from member churches, fundraising events also raise money that is then passed on as assistance.

WACM is sponsoring three fundraising shows this winter. In January, magician Kevin Sarnick entertained the audience while they tried to figure out how the magic tricks worked. On February 25, Jason Kollum will demonstrate his juggling skills in a comedy juggling variety show. A unique bubble show will be held on March 25. Each show begins at 9:30 AM at First United Methodist Church.

Tickets are \$10 and available from Linda Hansen, Pat Morozink, or Dave Davis. Sunday School students are being offered a ticket to a show thanks to a generous donor in our congregation. Your support helps WACM assist people of our community who are struggling with financial needs. Thank you.

Per Capita Reminder

It has been said that per capita apportionment is like a utility bill. Just as we pay for heat, light, water, and telephone in order to remain connected to the utility systems and benefit from the services provided, we also pay per capita so that the Presbyterian system can function on behalf of all of us. It is the necessary linkage in our system. The payment of the per capita apportionment can be seen as a sign of healthy relationships within the church, giving tangible witness to the unity and wholeness promised to us in Jesus Christ, and is a way of sharing the costs that equitably belong to the whole Presbyterian Church. You may learn more about Per Capita at blackhawkpresbytery.org/percapita-and-mission-giving/. The Per Capita for Blackhawk Presbytery Congregations in 2023 is \$42.00 per individual member.

We will appreciate receiving your support for this expense that your church pays for each member of FPC each year to Blackhawk Presbytery. You can pay this online via our website at fpcwoodstock.org/giving. You may choose the Per Capita option to complete your donation. If you are writing a check, simply write Per Capita on the memo line. Thank You!

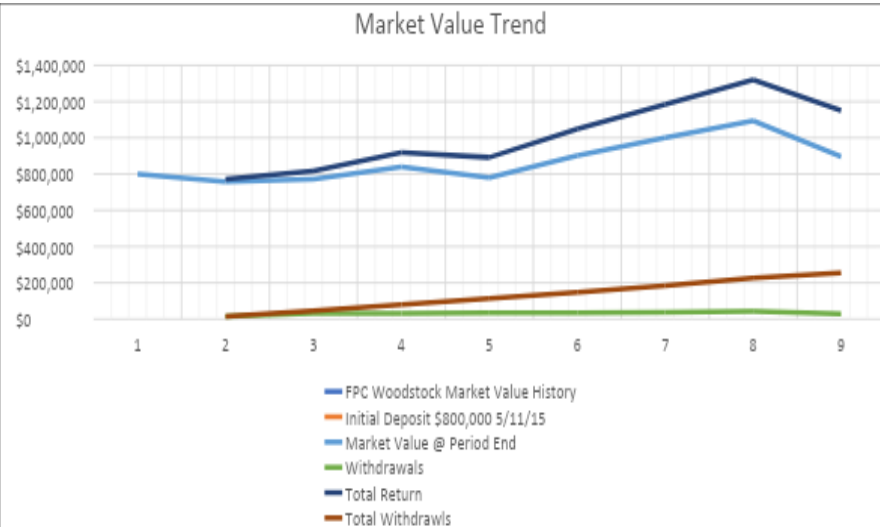
Finance Team Report for February Newsletter

December 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	\$212,365	\$215,295	(\$2,930)	\$215,295
All Other Income *	\$71,201	\$110,960	(\$39,759)	\$60,960
Total Income	\$253,566	\$276,255	(\$22,689)	\$276,255
Expenses				
Staff Expense	\$194,637	\$206,929	(\$12,292)	\$206,929
All Other Expenses	\$86,593	\$104,248	(\$17,655)	\$104,248
Total Expense	\$281,230	\$311,177	(\$29,947)	\$311,177
Net Income	(\$27,664)	(\$34,922)	\$7,258	(\$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

Here is the link to all the financial reports from the 2022 Annual Report.

McCullough Endowment Investment (managed by the Presbyterian



Note: Quarterly withdrawals were suspended during the fourth quarter of 2022.

Comments:

The Portfolios ended 12/31/22 at \$896,292 vs. previous quarter end value of \$854,167 with no withdrawals or additions

Performance was +4.93% for 4Q22 vs. the index +5.11%. Performance for the year 2022 was -15.56% vs. the index -15.09%

Asset Allocation remains at target 60% Equity and 40% Fixed Income

Expenses after waivers = .87%

Please reach out to Bob Clark with any questions regarding the McCullough Endowment performance.

Respectfully submitted by Bob Clark, Finance

FPC Woodstock Market Value History 2022 Year-End

Date	Inception	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Market Value @ Period End	\$800,000	\$757,756	\$770,656	\$840,036	\$779,705	\$901,613	\$999,675	\$1,093,908	\$896,292
Withdrawals		\$15,191	\$30,572	\$32,708	\$33,825	\$34,210	\$37,267	\$42,493	\$29,019
Total Return		\$772,947	\$816,419	\$918,507	\$892,002	\$1,048,119	\$1,183,449	\$1,320,175	\$1,151,578
Total With-drawals		\$15,191	\$45,764	\$78,471	\$112,297	\$146,507	\$183,774	\$226,267	\$255,286

DEACONS

Leading through Serving.

Deacon Update

We are continuing to offer coffee hour after church hosted by the Deacons.

This month, Kristen Matter with the help of members of the congregation, will be serving.

We elected Deacon organization positions they are:

Meeting chair-Cheryl Wormley Secretary-Angie Boe

Flock organizer -Pastor Eric Corbin Newsletter-Sherry Thuma

We will be postponing dividing up Pam and John Moorhouse's flocks until we have more Deacons. Deacons helped with Jim Higgins' funeral and luncheon on January 7th. Deacons discussed members who are going through certain difficulties who need some special care. We have been in contact with them through phone, email and in person.

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

Angie Boe (815) 338-7782

Kristen Matter (847) 609-8340

Sherry Thuma (815) 847-8339

Barbara Parrish (815) 338-8112

Cheryl Wormley (815) 519-4702

Romans 12:13, NIV

Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Compassion, Peace & Justice

(pending)

cpjchair@fpcwoodstock.org

(Awareness, Service)

Congregational Life

Erin Kaye

312-371-7573

erinlkaye@gmail.com

(Hospitality & NOW)

Education & Spiritual Growth

Jackie Lawler

jackieboe@comcast.net

(Adult, Youth, Child, Intergenerational)

Ministry Support

Dawn Cook

815-861-7002

cookdawn82@gmail.com

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

Worship, Music and Arts

Erin Kaye

312-371-7573

erinlkaye@gmail.com

(Worship Arts, Worship Leadership, Audio-Visual)

Clerk of Session

Mark Bundick

815-337-9068 or

mbundick@comcast.net

Worship Arts Committee

February 2023

After 10 years of devoted work, Chris NejdI has decided to retire from Worship Arts this year. We all want to thank her for her patient and knowledgeable leadership for all that time. We all wish her the best, and may she find lots of enjoyment in her new spare time! We are happy to announce that Tiffany Sobczak has joined us in our group. Tiffany brings a lot of former experience from Worship Committee and will be a wonderful addition.



February 22, 2023 is Ash Wednesday, and will mark the beginning of Lent. We have been busy working on plans for the upcoming Lenten Season, with both music and worship.

An early reminder- it's never too soon to think about those you would love to honor with an Easter lily on Easter Sunday! Soon we will be taking orders for them. The names and dedication will appear in the Easter Sunday PowerPoint and you may take your lily home to make your home festive.

February Worship Schedule

Date	Liturgist	A/V	Usher(s)	Acolyte	Greeter(s)
2/5/2023	Jacob Kagan	Rob McMahon	Rick and Pat Morozink	Kayden Petrik	Sue Krause
2/12/2023	Kristen Matter	Dave Johanson	Julie and Ken Farver	Noa Moorhouse	Linda Hansen
2/19/2023	Ken Farver	Rob McMahon	John and Pam Moorhouse	Emily Lawler	Linda Hansen
2/22/2023 <i>(Ash Wednesday)</i>	John Moorhouse	Dave Johanson	Lee and Chris NejdI	N/A	Sue Krause
2/26/2023	Jim Wormley	Rob McMahon	Rick and Pat Morozink	Braden Ferrera	Sue Krause



February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
			7:30am - Lectionary Study 4pm - Diaper Bank distribution 5:15pm - NOW Dinner	7pm - Scout Troop 159		7am - Men's Bible Study
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30am - Worship 2pm - "Why?" book discussion 3pm - Youth Group			9am - Lectionary Study 5:15pm - NOW Dinner 6:15pm - Beginning Bells Rehearsal 6:30pm - No-Name Knitters 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	3:30pm - Hospitality Team 7pm - Scout Troop 159 7pm - Finance Team		7am - Men's Bible Study
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30am - Choir sings 9:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday School: PreK-5th 10:30am - Brunch 10:30am - Youth Group Bake Sale 11am - NOW Team 2pm - "Why?" book discussion		10am - TLC Ladies	9am - Lectionary Study 5:15pm - NOW Dinner	6pm - Compassion, Peace and Justice 7pm - Scout Troop 159 7pm - Deacons		7am - Men's Bible Study
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30am - Worship 11am - Session 2pm - "Why?" book discussion			9am - Lectionary Study 6pm - Ash Wednesday service 6:30pm - No-Name Knitters	5pm - Education and Spiritual Growth 6:30pm - Worship Arts Mtg 7pm - Scout Troop 159		7am - Men's Bible Study
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
9:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday School: PreK-5th 10:30am - Brunch						

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

February 2023



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WOODSTOCK**

CELEBRATING AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE

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Phone: (815) 338-2627

Woodstock, IL 60098

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CHURCH

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