

# 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.*

March 2023



## A Holy Lent

Lent is the season in the church which consists of the 40 days leading up to Easter (which is April 9<sup>th</sup> this year). It began this past week, with Ash Wednesday. Due to icy weather and then a power outage, our Ash Wednesday service became an *Ash Sunday* service. Whatever the date, we began with the reminder that we are dust and will return to dust, and that we always belong to God. The *Book of Common Worship* of the PC(USA) includes liturgy for the seasons, including Lent. As mentioned in the sermon, this part of the liturgy there comes to my mind each year:

*Beloved people of God,  
I invite you...in the name of Christ,  
to observe a holy Lent  
by self-examination and penitence,  
by prayer and fasting,  
by works of love,  
and by meditating on God's word.*

The invitation speaks to what we are to be about in the Season of Lent – self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, works of love, and meditating on God's word. Sometimes the focus of Lent is primarily on the “giving up of something” which is the fasting part of this liturgy. While fasting can be a powerful part of Lenten discipline, it is not the extent. Keep your eyes open for ways that you can be attuned to the other components of observing a Holy Lent. One option is the Lenten Sharing Calendar, which you can pick up at the Gathering Area or download at [bit.ly/2023sharingcalendar](http://bit.ly/2023sharingcalendar)

## Celebrate Diversity

As I write this, February is coming to a close, and I hope we've all taken some time to honor and celebrate the gifts of our Black siblings during Black History Month. March is Women's History Month, and we are invited to honor and celebrate the gifts of Women. When anyone is diminished, we all are diminished, so let us find ways to promote the gifts of all of God's children. James 2:1 says this “My friends, if you have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, you won't treat some people better than others.”

## Let's Connect

Grab a time to chat at [fpcwoodstock.org/meetwitheric](http://fpcwoodstock.org/meetwitheric). Connect with me on Facebook at [fb.com/ericcorbin](https://fb.com/ericcorbin) or [fb.com/pastorericcorbin](https://fb.com/pastorericcorbin) and the church at [fb.com/fpcwoodstock](https://fb.com/fpcwoodstock).

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Eric

## Inside this issue

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



## Sunday Worship Services

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

### Newsletter Editor

Jeri Loiselle

### Reporters:

Eric Corbin, Sherry Thuma,  
Mark Bundick, Jackie Boe,  
Julie Farver, Ray Thuma, Kay Darby,  
Joyce Maynard, Pat Morozink,  
Nancy Bingham, Cheryl Wormley.

# TOGETHER TO LAUGH AND LEARN

## Men's Group/Bible Study

John Moorhouse  
815-236-7408

[johnmoorhouse54@gmail.com](mailto:johnmoorhouse54@gmail.com)

## Wednesday Early Bible Study

Velma Downes  
815-245-4043

[vmdownes@gmail.com](mailto:vmdownes@gmail.com)

## Adult Spiritual Growth Groups

Jackie Lawler

[jackieboe@comcast.net](mailto:jackieboe@comcast.net)

## Hospitality Team

Erin Kaye  
312-371-7573

[erinlkaye@gmail.com](mailto:erinlkaye@gmail.com)

## Music Ministry

Christy Johanson  
815-382-5234

[christy@fpcwoodstock.org](mailto:christy@fpcwoodstock.org)

## No-Name Knitters

Kay Darby  
815-572-1729

[kedarby@icloud.com](mailto:kedarby@icloud.com)

## T.L.C.

### (Tender Loving Care)

Mary Hill, 815-338-6051

[mary.hill2759@gmail.com](mailto:mary.hill2759@gmail.com)

## Meals-On-Wheels

Marla Norgard  
815-482-4855

[marlanorgard01@gmail.com](mailto:marlanorgard01@gmail.com)

## WACM Local Mission Team

Pat Morozink,  
815-338-7769

[pmorozink@yahoo.com](mailto:pmorozink@yahoo.com)

## Food Pantry

Joyce Maynard, 815-338-7265

## Fishing Mission

Bob Clark, 847-274-8247

[robtmclark@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## 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](mailto:vmdownes@gmail.com).

## NOW DINNERS CONTINUE!

Look forward to a tasty meal every Wednesday night!

Don't forget to stick around after worship on Sunday, March 12th and March 26th, for a delicious brunch. The meal on March 12 will be prepared by our very own Youth Group as part of their fundraising efforts for their Go & Serve trip this August.

Special thanks to the Saturday morning Men's Bible Study for the February 15th NOW dinner. Thanks also to Vicki Thuma and Faith Corbin, NOW dessert queen and dessert princess, respectively, for providing desserts multiple times.

We look forward to some great food and fellowship at our March NOW dinners and brunches. See you there!

## WACM NEWS

March 25 will be WACM's last children's fundraising show, this season. Starting at 9:30 a.m. at First United Methodist Church, the "Wonderful World of Bubbles" will include a mixture of art and science as Ben Jimenez creates bubbles that float, dance, and even explode.

Tickets are \$10 per person and can be purchased online at [wacmggroups.org](http://wacmggroups.org) or at the door.

Profits from the fundraising shows support the Direct Assistance Program (DAP) that offers financial assistance to residents of D-200. Help with past due rent or utility bills, car repairs, or purchases of clothing, shoes, and gasoline are common requests that are funded. More information about WACM and DAP is available at [wacmggroups.org](http://wacmggroups.org). First Presbyterian Church is a supporting member of WACM.



## “BIRDS, BEES, AND BUTTERFLIES: PLANT YOUR OWN POLLINATOR GARDEN!!”



The Compassion Peace & Justice committee is pleased to invite you to a timely and engaging audio-visual presentation on how to start your very own pollinator garden this spring. Sarah Michehl from The Land Conservancy of McHenry County, will speak after the NOW dinner on Wednesday, March 22 at 5:45-6:45 p.m.. Is your yard lacking buzz? Is your vegetable garden un-bee-lievably disappointing? Do you need to earn your landscaping wings and bring some life to your space? Time to introduce pollinators! Come and learn some helpful tips from Sarah on how to turn your space into a productive pollinator garden -- and why that's important!



## MARCH RED WAGON IDEAS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

Spam, Corned Beef, Beef Stew, Small Hams, Canned Hash, Canned fish. Monetary Donations are preferred to provide the nutritious staples for the Pantry.

[woodstockfoodpantry.org](http://woodstockfoodpantry.org)

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**April 20-22**

**DROP-OFF STARTS**  
**Sunday, April 16**



FPCW has a reputation of having AMAZING rummage sales. You can help us continue our winning streak! We are accepting donations of clothing, shoes, purses, jewelry, toys, books, CDs, DVDs, magazines, linens, dishes, kitchen items, tools, fishing and camping gear, baskets, pictures, small appliances, sporting equipment, pet supplies, craft supplies, puzzles, games, luggage, gardening supplies, small furniture and ????

What else ya got?!

**Tips to help you get started...Please, PLEASE, PLEASE make sure all items are CLEAN and in working order and no pieces are missing!**

Go through everyone's closets...Ask yourself:

Does it fit? Do I really like it? Will I really ever wear it again? Will I use it again? Has it been worn in the last 12 months? Why was I saving it? Is it my style anymore?

**Fill at least one bag per person in your house.**



## NEWS FROM EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH



- Lydia Dunker March 4
- Larry Stanger March 6
- Lucas Moorhouse March 7
- Barbara Bundick March 8
- Gwen Wormley March 9
- Jay Justice March 11
- Hank Oleson March 11
- Nicole Rigby March 15
- Tom Thennes March 16
- Eric Corbin March 21
- Ken Farver March 24
- Carol Halma March 24
- Justin Thuma March 25
- Amanda Nicolai March 28



- Ray & Angela Thuma - March 2
- Chris & Ellen Dahm - March 22
- John & Marla Rigby - March 29



- 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,
- Arlene Bernardoni,
- Hunter Johanson,
- Eugenia Sarabia, John Rigby,
- Hank Olesen

### Go & Serve Trip

Thank you to all for your participation in the Youth Group Bake Sale in February! Our goal for the Go & Serve Trip to Kenosha, WI is to raise \$3,000 and we have now raised just over \$1,100! For our next fundraiser, the youth will be hosting the brunch after church on Sunday, March 12th. Parents please be on the lookout for an email to sign up for items to provide. We hope everyone can come out and support their fundraising efforts!

### Youth Group

Come join us for an informal gathering of the Woodstock First Presbyterian's youth group. We'll enjoy music, food, fun and fellowship!

Please save the following dates: Sunday, February 26, March 19 and April 30. Time: 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Kindly hosted by Katherine Greenlee.

"Special thanks to Fred Strauss for playing his guitar (for a sing-a-long) with our youth group last Sunday 2/26"

### Highway Cleanup

Mark your calendars for Earth Day Saturday, April 22nd at 9am! The church will be doing a highway cleanup and we are asking the adults and youth ages 11 and older to please join us in these efforts to clean up our Earth on a very special day!



### Sunday School News

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

March 12th, April 2nd (Palm Sunday)\*\*, 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.

Questions? Please reach out to [Erin Kaye](#) or [Jackie Lawler](#)



Here is a memory of our masked children from the last Palm Sunday at FPCW.

## PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

**By Mark B. Bundick, Clerk of Session**

Session is endorsing three proposed changes to First Presbyterian's bylaws in order to more properly align our leadership positions to the size of our church and to adjust the size of a quorum for congregational meetings.

The first change is to Article VII, Session, from "The Session shall be comprised of eight ruling elders elected by the congregation." to "The Session shall be comprised of six ruling elders elected by the congregation."

The second is to Article VIII, Deacons, from "The Board of Deacons shall be comprised of eight deacons elected by the congregation." to "The Board of Deacons shall be comprised of six deacons elected by the congregation."

The third final change is to Article V, Meetings of the Congregation and Corporation – Quorum from "The quorum of a meeting of the congregation shall be the moderator, the secretary, and no fewer than 25 percent of the active members of the congregation." to "The quorum of a meeting of the congregation shall be the moderator, the secretary, and no fewer than 15 percent of the active members of the congregation." (Shifting to the lower percentage would currently require 23 members instead of 39 to make a quorum.)

The changes were initially suggested by the Nominating Committee. Pastor Eric reviewed the session and deacon suggestions with Rev. Eric Heinekamp, Blackhawk Presbytery Transformational General Presbyter and Stated Clerk. Eric reports that many other churches our size have session and deacon classes of 6 elders. The change to meeting size was reviewed with Rev. Barbara Bundick, former Stated Clerk of Chicago Presbytery. She stated many churches in Chicago Presbytery have quorum limits in the 15% range.

Session voted to call a congregational meeting immediately after worship on **Sunday, March 12** to vote on these changes. A two thirds majority of those members present and voting are required to pass bylaws amendments. Brunch from the N.O.W. team will immediately follow the meeting. Please make every effort to attend and vote on the proposed changes.

**How important is your will? How does it bless  
your family? Your Church?**

## NO NAME KNITTERS

Announcing a new addition!!!!

The knitters/crocheters group is adding a DAYTIME meeting! The new time will be on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. The regular times of the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. will remain the same. We are hopeful that interested people who could not come during our nighttime meetings could join us during the morning time. We are eager and excited to see some new faces! We always need more hands to help us with our knitting and crocheting ministry.

Please call Kay Darby at 815-572-1729 for more information.





**DEACON UPDATE FOR MARCH**

We are in search of one more Deacon! There are not enough of us to care for our congregation properly. Any suggestions as to whom we should contact about becoming a Deacon would help. We have a lot of fun helping others!

We are happy to be continuing to offer coffee hour after church hosted by the Deacons. This month Cheryl Wormley, with the help of members of the congregation, will be serving. Hope to see many of you after church!

Deacon shepherds sent out information about Lent in a Valentine or email. If you did not get this information, please pick up a copy in the foyer of the church.

Eric and Jeri are working on the church directory with the help of the Deacons. We need to update it and possibly list addresses of members in nursing homes.

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. Dinners have also been taken to members in need and prayer shawls made by the "No Name Knitters" have been delivered.

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.

**DEACONS**

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

**February Finance Notes by Mark B. Bundick**

Greetings from your new Finance Team Chairperson! I'd like to begin by thanking Bob Clark, our past chairperson, for his outstanding service to our church for the past six years. During that time, he's been persistent, patient and an excellent steward of all things financial. Thank you, Bob!

It's a little early in the year for us to have any clear financial trends, but we will be keeping a close eye on our expenses throughout the year. As previously reported, our 2023 budget has a substantial deficit which is being covered by funds from the McCullough Distribution Fund. This is only a temporary solution, so expect to hear more about tackling the deficit as the year progresses.

Meanwhile, we have several administrative items we're looking to tackle. At the February session meeting, Finance's recommendations about monitoring the Boy Scout troop's checking account were approved. We'll be getting monthly statements and will also have Treasurer Cary Cook as an authorized signer on the account.

Good Presbyterian polity requires us to have a periodic review of our financial reporting. We're looking to work with another local Presbyterian congregation to review one another's books.

We're also looking to document our IT infrastructure. Infrastructure documentation is good practice in the for-profit world and will help us fix any future IT issues we may encounter.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about anything financial. Thank you for your generous support of our ministry in Woodstock!

## FEBRUARY SESSION NOTES

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Eric reported that he is working with St. Anne's Church on community needs and outreach. He is also discussing FPCW participation in World Peace Day, Thursday, September 21 with the Unity Center.

**Deacon's Report:** The report was received with thanks.

**Nominating Committee:** A motion to elect Cary Cook as Treasurer and Mark Bundick as Clerk was approved. The committee had informal discussion on changing the size of session and deacons to 6 persons and adjusting the percentage of members to constitute a quorum for congregational meetings. Session called a congregational meeting to review and vote on proposed by-laws changes for Sunday, March 12. Please look for the article elsewhere in this issue for details on the proposed changes.

**COVID Task Force:** After discussion, a motion to dissolve the task force with thanks was approved.

### Committee Reports:

**Congregational Life:** The annual rummage sale has been scheduled for April 20-22, 2023.

**Education and Spiritual Growth:** About \$1,100 of the \$3,000 needed for the "go and serve" trip has been raised. The youth are planning either a bingo night or raffle as additional fundraisers.

**Ministry Support: Finance:** A vote to approve ownership of the Boy Scout Troop checking account with the Treasurer as a signer was approved.

**Ministry Support: Staff Management:** A request to reallocate the 5% increase to the Worship Coordinator's salary to outside musicians was referred to Worship for their recommendations.

**Ministry Support: Buildings and Grounds:** Fire and water safety inspections are coming. Rewiring the Great Hall for LED lighting is proceeding. Storage room for some Boy Scout materials has been created in our storage building.

**Worship, Music and Arts:** Maundy Thursday will feature a self-guided service.

**Next Regular Meeting:** Sunday, March 19, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

### Compassion, Peace & Justice

(pending)

[cpjchair@fpcwoodstock.org](mailto:cpjchair@fpcwoodstock.org)

(Awareness, Service)

### Congregational Life

Erin Kaye

312-371-7573

[erinlkaye@gmail.com](mailto:erinlkaye@gmail.com)

(Hospitality & NOW)

### Education & Spiritual Growth

Jackie Lawler

[jackieboe@comcast.net](mailto:jackieboe@comcast.net)

(Adult, Youth, Child, Intergenerational)

### Ministry Support

Dawn Cook

815-861-7002

[cookdawn82@gmail.com](mailto:cookdawn82@gmail.com)

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

### Worship, Music and Arts

Tiffany Sobczak

815-790-9360

[tsobczak82@gmail.com](mailto:tsobczak82@gmail.com)

(Worship Arts, Worship Leadership, Audio-Visual)

### Clerk of Session

Mark Bundick

815-337-9068

[mbundick@comcast.net](mailto:mbundick@comcast.net)



**WORSHIP ARTS NEWS**

Ash Wednesday, to Ash Thursday, to Ash Sunday. Mother Nature certainly gave us an unusual start to Lent! Many thanks to Pastor Eric and all the participants who were so flexible during all the changes, and kept us notified about changes in plans.

Starting March 5th, we will resume passing the offering plates during the service. It is nice to be able to return to the “normal” practices after Covid. The Pew pads will return to the chairs soon, so that guests and members may fill out and share concerns with Pastor Eric, if they wish.

There will be a black fabric in the back of the church that will become part of our Good Friday Service. Please stop and sign your name with the special markers.

Easter lily orders will be \$14 this year. It is a beautiful way to honor your loved ones. May you have a Lenten Season filled with Peace.



**March Worship Schedule**

Date	Liturgist	A/V	Ushers	Acolyte	Greeter
3/5/2023	Evan Kaye	Dave Johanson	Julie and Ken Farver	Erik Johanson	Linda Hansen
3/12/2023	Tiffany Sobczak	Rob McMahon	Kyle and Brayden Sobczak	Brayden Sobczak	Cheryl Wormley
3/19/2023	Cheryl Wormley	Dave Johanson	Lee and Chris NejdI	Elin Kaye	Sue Krause
3/26/2023	Sue Krause	Rob McMahon	Rick and Pat Morozink	Kayden Petrik	Linda Hansen

*Lent and Holy Week* †

**February 22, 6:00 p.m.**  
Ash Wednesday service with imposition of ashes

**April 2, 9:30 a.m.**  
Palm Sunday service with bell choir and palm fronds

**April 6, 7:00 p.m.**  
Maundy Thursday service with communion & self-guided prayer stations

**April 7, 7:00 p.m.**  
Good Friday service with choir

**April 9, 9:30 a.m.**  
Easter Sunday service with bell choir & chancel choir

*services will be live-streamed at [fpcwoodstock.org/worship](http://fpcwoodstock.org/worship)*



**The Easter lilies that decorate our Sanctuary are available to purchase for \$14.00 each.**

Buy one or two to commemorate a loved one. Your loved ones' names will be listed in the Sunday announcements and in the Midweek News.

May the Peace and Blessings of Easter fill your heart and home.

You can submit your order by [Ordering Online](#) or Order forms and envelopes are available in the foyer. Write your check to FPCW, memo: lilies.



# March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9a Lectionary Study 4p Djaper Bank distribution 5:15p NOW Dinner	2 7p Boy Scout Troop 159	3	4 7a Cancelled-Men's Bible Study
5 Choir sings 9:30a Worship	6	7	8 9a Lectionary Study 5:15p NOW Dinner 6:15p Beginning Bells Rehearsal 6:30p No-Name Knitters	9 5p Hospitality Team 7p Boy Scout Troop 159 7p Finance Team	10	11 7a Men's Bible Study
12 9:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School: PreK-5th 10:30a Congregational Meeting 10:30a Youth Group Brunch 11a Education and Spiritual Growth <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>	13	14 10a TLC Ladies 7p Deacons	15 9a Lectionary Study 4p No-Name Knitters 5:15p NOW Dinner 6:15p Advanced Bells Rehearsal 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	16 6p Compassion, Peace and Justice 7p Boy Scout Troop 159	17	18 7a Men's Bible Study
19 9:30a Choir sings 9:30a Worship 10:30a Beginning Bells Rehearsal 11a Session 4:30p Youth Group gathering	20	21	22 9a Lectionary Study 5:15p NOW Dinner 5:45p Presentation from Sarah Mischehl of The Land Conservancy 6:30p No-Name Knitters	23 6:30p Worship Arts Mtg 7p Boy Scout Troop 159	24 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	25 7a Men's Bible Study
26 9:30a Worship	27	28	29 9a Lectionary Study 6:15p Advanced Bells Rehearsal for Sunday 7:30p Choir for GF & Easter	30 7p Boy Scout Troop 159	31	

**March 2023**



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF WOODSTOCK**

*CELEBRATING AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE*

**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

Visit us on Facebook

[www.fpcwoodstock.org](http://www.fpcwoodstock.org)

Website:

[office@fpcwoodstock.org](mailto:office@fpcwoodstock.org)

E-mail:

Phone: (815) 338-2627

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