

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.

October 2023



From Pastor Eric: God's Grace

A recent sermon topic was God's grace and whether it is "fair." My thinking is that it isn't "fair" for us to receive God's grace. We can't ever deserve it. We simply receive the gift of God's grace, with gratitude. After that sermon, I ran across an article by Jay Adams. Adams has a hummingbird feeder at his house, and that feeder has four openings for the birds. Yet every day, one hummingbird chases off other hummingbirds that try to get to the sugar water. Adams writes of that one hummingbird, "All day long he sits on the branch of a nearby apricot tree guarding 'his' feeder and defying others to transgress on what he has established as 'his' territory."

Adams notes that it was he who bought the feeder and he who supplies the sugar water. The hummingbirds don't earn it; they simply receive it. Yet, they fight over it. He concludes "How like the people of God! All we have or are that is worthwhile is the gift of God's pure grace. And yet we can be proud, self-centered, envious, and quarrelsome. Often, we fight over God's good gifts rather than expressing our gratitude in humility and sharing what we have been given with others."

God's grace is a wonderful gift for us all, and it is to be shared with others. 2 Peter 1:2 says "May you have more and more grace and peace through the knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord." That is my prayer for each of us – that we may have more and more grace and peace. Ephesians 2:8 says "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." So, let us accept the gift of God's saving grace and share it with all those we meet.

I hope to see you in worship, in various meetings and times of fellowship and service. Read this newsletter to learn more about the activities of the church in the month of October. While worship is a central gathering purpose for the church, we are also called together in many ways throughout our days. *Come and see!*

Let's Connect

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.



Newsletter Editor

Jeri Loiselle

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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

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Lectionary Bible Study

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christy@fpcwoodstock.org

No-Name Knitters

Kay Darby
815-572-1729

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T.L.C.

(Tender Loving Care)

Mary Hill, 815-338-6051

mary.hill2759@gmail.com

Meals-On-Wheels

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 Nejdil 815-546-1731

Katie Spaldon 815-276-3410

Erin Kaye 312-371-7573

Linda Hansen 815-451-8735

Mark Bundick 224-242-2451

Cheryl Wormley 815-519-7402

indepublisher@comcast.net

Men's Bible Study

Saturday, at 7:00 a.m.

All are welcome to join with us during this time of learning, 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.

Contact John Moorhouse,

815-236-7408.

Lectionary Study

Wednesday, at 9:00 a.m.

The group gathers via 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.

All singers are welcome to join the FPC choir!



We rehearse every other Wednesday at 7:00 p.m., and sing the following Sunday. In November, we'll switch gears and start to prepare for the Christmas Cantata, which will be on December 10. Please see dates below.

Let Christy know if you would like to play in the bell choir!

Rehearsals start November 8 at 6:00 p.m. christy@fpcwoodstock.org

Wed, Oct 4-Choir rehearsal

Sun, Oct 8-Choir sings

Wed, Oct 18-Choir rehearsal

Sun, Oct 22-Choir sings

Wed, Nov 1-Choir rehearsal

Sun, Nov 5-Choir Sings

Wed, Nov 8-Bells/Choir rehearsal/Cantata rehearsal

Sun, Nov 12-Choir Sings

Wed, Nov 15-Bells/Cantata rehearsal

Sun, Nov 19-Cantata rehearsal after church

Wed, Nov 29-Bells/Cantata rehearsal

Sun, Dec 3-Bells play, Cantata rehearsal after church

Wed, Dec 6-Cantata rehearsal

Sat, Dec 9-Cantata rehearsal 9:00 a.m.

Sun, Dec 10-Christmas Cantata

WACM NEWS

WACM will be sponsoring its Share the Warmth community coat drive in November. Donations of winter gear-coats, hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, boots, sweatshirts, long underwear, and blankets for infants, children, women, and men- will be collected at church through November 8. All donated items should be clean and functional (no broken zippers, missing fasteners, etc.).

Community members in need are invited to come to First United Methodist Church November 10 from 3-7 p.m. and November 11 from 9 a.m.- noon to select items free of charge. Your generosity in donating gently used winter gear provides warmth for others. Thank you for your donations.

N.O.W. TEAM NEWS



The N.O.W. Team is back at work. Our Fall 2023 dinner and brunch season kicked off with our first brunch on September 10, “Rally Sunday” and the traditional “Corn and Brats” dinner on September 13.

In October, we’ll be serving brunch on Sunday October 15 and 29. N.O.W. dinners will be held on October 11, 18 & 25, and November 1. October 11 will feature meatloaf, mashed potatoes and green beans. What’s more American than that? October 18 will feature guest chef Matt Thuma who always prepares something

yummy, so make sure you don’t miss that dinner! October 25 will bring us fried chicken and tater tots. November 1 will feature our baked potato bar, with all the usual fixings.

If you’ve not made it out to a N.O.W. dinner yet, make sure to put these dates on your calendar. Join us for good food (still only \$3.00) and even better fellowship!

WOODSTOCK FOOD PANTRY

The Pantry is in need of much more help due to increased need in our community. Opportunities to volunteer during the daytime, evenings and weekends are as follows...

- Monday, Wednesday and Friday-3.5 hour shift from 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 12:00 p.m.-to 3:30 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday- Aldi produce pickups anytime. (pickup truck or van suggested).
- Second Thursday each month to unload at the Northern Illinois Food Bank delivery from 7:30 a.m. -10:00 a.m..
- Pickup at the Crystal Lake Pantry at 9:00 a.m. (pickup truck or van suggested).
- Every Tuesday and Thursday-Aldi pickups at 8:45 a.m.-10:00.

Please consider volunteering for one or more of the above shifts. Ask a friend or neighbor to be a team. Each opportunity has a contact person.

October Red Wagon Items
Cereal, Pancake Mix, Oatmeal, Syrup.
Contact Joyce Maynard 815-338-7265 or
woodstockfoodpantry.org.

CARING TOGETHER

October Birthdays

Jen Oliver	10/03
Kristi Corbin	10/06
Jeri Loiselle	10/07
James Kanter Jr.	10/11
Danielle Rewiako	10/15
Reagan Rockwood	10/15
Carey Smith	10/20
Dan Chwalisz	10/21
Lenali Petrik	10/22
Ryan Traimany	10/22
Marilyn McCallister	10/27
Sherry Thuma	10/29
Tammy Robinette	10/31

October Anniversaries

Tim & Kelly Fitzpatrick	10/12
Mary Grace & Alex Ferguson	10/14
Dave & Evey Davis	10/18

Thoughts and Prayers

Shari Olesen, Renee Simes.
 Lee NejdI, Tom Schwarz,
 Larry Collins, Phil Dahm,
 Ruth Hunt, Jamie Robinett,
 Braelen Kittle, Mary Kittle,
 Tom Thennes, Gayle Abrams,
 Kristin Harris, Tim Arnold,
 Lance Sobczak,
 Kristen Matter,
 Aaron Sommerville,
 Pam Moorhouse, and
 Shirley Kinell.

Exodus 23:25

*You shall serve the Lord your God,
 and he will bless your bread and
 your water, and I will take sickness
 away from among you.*

EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Sunday School

We are off to a great new year in Sunday School! Our October schedule is a bit different than normal due to Columbus Day weekend and the breast cancer 5K.



- 10-15-2023 Love God, Love Other
- 10/29/2023 Welcome the Stranger
- 11/12/2023 Lesson TBD/Cantata Rehearsal
- 11/26/2023 Lesson TBD/Cantata Rehearsal
- 12/03/2023 Cantata Rehearsal
- 12/10/2023 Christmas Cantata

Youth Group

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming events!



- Sunday, October 15th, 1-3pm -**
All Season's Corn Maze
- Wednesday, November 8th - NOW**
Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser
- Saturday, December 9th, 1:30pm -**
Christmas Cookie Baking
- Sunday, December 10th -** Bake Sale
after church

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

CRAFT FAIR PREPARATIONS

If you aren't already working on your crafts for the next Craft Fair, now would be a good time to get started. All types of home-made crafts are welcome. Like last year, the Craft Fair will be held in the Great Hall on the morning of the Christmas Cantata, Dec. 10th. Last year's earnings were used to help the youth attend the Go and Serve trip this summer.

[Click here for some crafting ideas](#)

NO NAME KNITTERS

Autumn is here! The leaves are turning, and the days are getting shorter. What a cozy time to sit down with our yarn and create something beautiful for others.

For information on our group, call [Kay Darby](#) at 815-572-1729.

COMPASSION, PEACE, AND JUSTICE

By Sue Krause

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS SPECIAL OFFERING



As we approach World Communion Sunday (October 1st) we are finalizing our collection of contributions for this Special Offering. Twenty-five percent of what is donated can be retained by us to use locally to support Peace and Global Witness initiatives in our community. I asked you last week in church when I did a Minute for Mission, “What breaks your heart when you look at our world?” After church, I did an impromptu survey at fellowship tables. The most frequent answers were people who are homeless, immigrant and asylum seekers, and victims of domestic violence. So, “What breaks your heart?” Help CPJ identify which cause we will direct our 25% to locally. Let Sue Krause, Annie Nelson, Ray Thuma, Nancy Bingham, or Lynne Sobczak know what your passion is.

As of last Sunday, 9/24, we were at just over \$1000 of our \$1500 goal for this collection. Please remember to make your donation or bring it to church on World Communion Sunday. Thanks for your support!!!!



GIRLS 4 GIRLS GHANA

Just what is G4G Ghana, you may be asking? It is an exciting program that the CPJ Committee at FPC has chosen to support. It is a vital non-for-profit organization that provides outreach

services to underserved young women of Ghana. Led by Dina Amoo, a born native of Ghana, they are reaching out to young girls to provide feminine hygiene products and the knowledge of how to use them. Many girls often miss school part of each month because sanitary products are not affordable. On average, girls in Ghana stay in school for 4 years. Through this program, the girls are provided with necessary re-usable supplies to allow them to stay in school. G4G will travel overseas once each year to distribute the supplies personally.

We are going to help by having an open sewing night for making supplies on **Saturday, October 28th** from Noon to 3p.m. All are welcome! You don’t need to have sewing skills: lots of help is needed for cutting out fabric and assembling. If you would like to bring a sewing machine, you are very welcome to do so. We are honored to be part of this effort! If you would like to check them out, they have a Facebook page, or their website is g4gghana.org Thank you!



GIVING TOGETHER

FINANCE NOTES- September Ministry Support

This month's financial report shows we're tracking closely to our budget.

Thru August 2023	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Pledges	\$ 138,074	\$ 145,320	\$ (7,246)
All Other Income	\$ 7,710	\$ 16,498	\$ (8,787)
Total Income	\$ 145,785	\$ 161,818	\$ (16,033)
Expenses			
Staff	\$ 140,365	\$ 141,367	\$ 1,002
All Other Expenses	\$ 66,229	\$ 78,758	\$ 12,529
Total Expense	\$ 206,594	\$ 220,125	\$ 13,531
Net Income	\$ (60,810)	\$ (58,308)	\$ (2,502)
McCullough Funding	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	\$ -
Net Income	\$ 9,190	\$ 11,692	\$ (2,502)

Plans are in place for developing the 2024 budget. Session members will be receiving budget packages for their committees early in October with a target completion date of November 1. This will give Finance time to consolidate the figures and present a first draft budget to session at its November meeting.

Finance will be directly managing the fall stewardship campaign. We will be providing material for the newsletter, Midweek Update and a direct mailing. Stewardship Sunday will be November 12.

Building and Grounds completed the parking lot resealing and restriping project. The work looks great and will extend the life of our parking lot. Thanks, B&G for completing the work before the snow starts to fly!

Staff Management is working with Worship Coordinator Christy Johanson to revise our organist job description. The current posted job description overstates the actual amount of work we expect an organist to do, and we think that may have discouraged applications. We hope to have the new job description posted soon.

STEWARDSHIP

The vitality of FPCW comes from your passion for the Matthew 25 movement and passion to be actively engaged with those in need, whether it be local or around the world. Thank you all for contributing your talents, time and offerings.

It is almost a new year and as you can see from the financial report above that there is a gap between what was pledged and what has been received.. If you are able to fulfill your 2023 commitment please consider doing so. With your pledges, we are able to support ministry near and far, as well as maintain the building and general operations of the church.

It is also that time of year when you will receive your pledge card for 2024. Please pray and begin considering what gift you will pledge for the upcoming year.

Let's be the church, together!

SEMPTEMBER SESSION NOTES:

Memorial Committee: The memorial plaque is finished and work has started on the new stand for the church bell.

Nominating Committee: The committee will begin reaching out to people next month.

Compassion, Peace and Justice: Jeri Loiselle will begin coordinating “Meals on Wheels” deliveries with Eric Corbin, Jim Wormley and Fred Strauss handling deliveries added to the list of volunteers.

Congregational Life: An inquirers class is scheduled for October 1.

Education and Spiritual Growth: The youth group has scheduled several activities for the fall. They will discuss attending the November 10-12 middle and high school retreat at Stronghold. A local one-day project will substitute for a multi-day “Go and Serve” in 2024.

Ministry Support – Building and Grounds: The parking lot has been resurfaced. The welcome banner has been hung.

Ministry Support – Staff Management: Christy Johanson is rewording the accompanist position and will repost for the position when the rewrite is done.

Worship, Music and Arts: A motion to create the “Paul Nelson Memorial Library” in the Common Grounds room was approved.

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, October 8, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.



Wondering who in our church would appreciate a card, visit or a phone call?

Names are available on the reaching out tree. Please let us know if you have anyone that you would like us to add. There is an Inquirers Class that will start on Oct. 1st. The church directory is finished, copies are available in the entryway. If you have college students who would like a newsletter, please let us know their addresses and emails.

- Angie Boe 815-338-7782
- Kristen Matter 847-609-8340
- Sherry Thuma 815-847-8339
- Barbara Parrish 815-338-8112
- Cheryl Wormley 815-571-4702

Compassion, Peace & Justice

Sue Krause
shkrausel@yahoo.com
 (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 & Mark Bundick
 815-861-7002
cookdawn82@gmail.com
 (Finance, Staff Support, Building & Grounds, and Stewardship)

Worship, Music and Arts

Tiffany Sobczak
 815-790-9360
tsobczak82@gmail.com
 (Worship Arts, Worship Leadership, Audio-Visual)

Clerk of Session

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

TOGETHER IN WORSHIP

OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Date	Liturgist	A/V	Ushers	Acolyte	Greeters
10/1/2023	Julie Farver	Rob McMahon	Rick and Pat Morozink	Christopher Corbin	Julie & Ken Farver
10/8/2023	Tom Schaeffer	Dave Johanson	Julie and Ken Farver	Noa Moorhouse	Cheryl Wormley
10/15/2023	Addie Sobczak	Rob McMahon	Kyle and Braeden Sobczak	Emily Lawler	Linda Hansen
10/22/2023	Velma Downes	Dave Johanson	Chris and Lee Nejd	Braden Ferrera	Sue Krause
10/29/2023	Ken Farver	Rob McMahon	Julie and Ken Farver	Erik Johanson	Linda Hansen



OCTOBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30a Worship 10:30a Inquirers' class	2	3 6p Book discussion	4 9a Lectionary Study 4p Diaper Bank distribution 7p Choir rehearsal	5 7p Boy Scout Troop 159	6	7 7a Men's Bible Study
8 Choir sings 9:30a Worship 11a Session	9	10a TLC Ladies 7p Deacons	11 9a Lectionary Study 5:15p NOW Dinner 6:30p No-Name Knitters	12 1p Finance Team 7p Boy Scout Troop 159	13	14 7a Men's Bible Study
15 9:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School: PreK-5th 10:30a Brunch 1p Youth Group activity	16 <i>Columbus Day</i>	17 5p Education and Spiritual Growth 6p Book discussion	18 9a Lectionary Study 10a No-Name Knitters 5:15p NOW Dinner 7p Choir rehearsal	19 10a Hospitality Team 6p Compassion, Peace and Justice 7p Boy Scout Troop 159 7p Nominating Committee	20	21 7a Men's Bible Study 9a Highway Clean-up
22 Choir sings 9:30a Worship 11a Confirmation Class	23	24	25 9a Lectionary Study 5:15p NOW Dinner 6:30p No-Name Knitters	26 6:30p Worship Arts Mtg 7p Boy Scout Troop 159	27	28 7a Men's Bible Study 12p Girls for Girls Ghana sewing event
29 9:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School: PreK-5th 10:30a Brunch	30	31 6p Book discussion <i>Halloween</i>				

OCTOBER 2023

MINISTERS

All members and friends
of the congregation

STAFF

Rev. Eric Corbin
Pastor

Jeri Loiselle
Office Administrator
Social Media
Financial Secretary

Christy Johanson
Worship Arts
Coordinator

**COUNT YOUR
BLESSINGS.**
NAME THEM **ONE BY ONE.**
COUNT YOUR
MANY BLESSINGS
SEE WHAT **GOD** HAS DONE.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WOODSTOCK**

CELEBRATING AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE

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