

First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock

December 2023



Christmas-time is Here

Joy to the World! It is the month of much joy as we prepare for the coming King! We've decked the halls and set up our Giving Tree. This Sunday, the First Sunday of Advent, we will decorate our Chrismon tree with those symbols of our faith. I greatly look forward to this service each year! The word Chrismon is a combination of Christ and monogram. This service is a time when we come together to learn about ancient representations of Christ's life and ministry as we decorate the Chrismon tree. Stick around afterwards for brunch. I hope to see you there!

On the Second Sunday of Advent (December 10), our Great Hall will resound with music, as our intergenerational choir, our children's choir, guest musicians from *Winds Off the Lake*, and pianist Danik Kooistra will bring our Christmas Cantata. Everyone has been working very hard to prepare for this special service, and we can't wait!

On the Third Sunday of Advent (December 17), we'll hear about John, Jesus' cousin, as he reminds us that we need some preparation to do for Jesus' coming.

On December 24th, we'll have two worship services. In the morning, we'll have our service for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, where we'll hear the angel Gabriel announce to Mary that she will be the mother of the Messiah. Then, we'll gather at 5 pm for our traditional Christmas Eve service, complete with candles and singing "Silent Night."

As we gather for worship each Sunday, we'll light more and more Advent candles and prepare for the coming of Jesus, the light that "shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5) As our Advent candles remind us, this is the season of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy -- so let's share those with everyone we meet!

Also, while we sing about this being "the most wonderful time of the year," we know that's not necessarily the case for everyone. On Thursday, December 21st at 7 pm, we'll have a "Longest Night Service" for those of us who are experiencing some amount of grief or sadness during this season. This quiet, reflective service is for all who struggle during the holidays. We'll hold space for each other, just as we are, knowing that God is present with us in our joy *and* in our sorrow.

I pray you all have a meaningful Advent and Christmas this year, and I look forward to preparing and celebrating with you!

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.



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Jeri Loiselle

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Eric Corbin, Sherry Thuma,
Mark Bundick, Jackie Boe,
Julie Farver, Sue Krause, 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

Lectionary Bible Study

Velma Downes
815-245-4043

Adult Spiritual Growth Groups

[Jackie Lawler](#)

Hospitality Team

[Erin Kaye](#)
312-371-7573

Music Ministry

[Christy Johanson](#)
815-382-5234

No-Name Knitters

[Kay Darby](#)
815-572-1729

T.L.C.

(Tender Loving Care)

[Mary Hill](#)
815-338-6051

Meals-On-Wheels

[Jeri Loiselle](#)
815-338-2627

WACM Local Mission Team

[Pat Morozink](#)
815-338-7769

Food Pantry

Joyce Maynard, 815-338-7265

Fishing Mission

[Bob Clark](#)
847-274-8247

N.O.W. Team

[Lee Nejd](#) 815-546-1731
[Katie Spaldon](#) 815-276-3410
[John Moorhouse](#), 815-236-7408
[Linda Hansen](#) 815-451-8735
[Mark Bundick](#) 224-242-2451
[Cheryl Wormley](#) 815-519-7402

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.

N.O.W. TEAM NEWS



The N.O.W. Team has finished our Fall 2023 dinner season. Sunday, December 3 will wrap up our fall brunch schedule. We'll be meeting after the brunch to start planning for 2024. Look for a January newsletter article to outline our plans.

As was mentioned last month, it looks like food prices have finally caught up with us. Dinner prices will be going up in January 2024 to \$4. We still think the food is a great bargain at that price.

Thanks to all who have come out for the food and fellowship, whether to the Wednesday dinners or to Sunday brunch. If you have ideas, suggestions or think you might like to join our team, please reach out to any N.O.W. team member. We love talking to everyone who enjoys our ministry.

Cheryl Wormley (indepublisher@comcast.net)

John Moorhouse (johnmoorhouse54@gmail.com)

Katie Spaldon(kspaldon@gmail.com)

Lee Nedjl (nejdlwoodstock@hotmail.com)

Linda Hansen (lkhanen53@gmail.com)

Mark Bundick (mbundick@comcast.net)

TOGETHER TO LAUGH AND LEARN

WACM

Thank you for the coats and other cold weather items that were donated to the **Share the Warmth** drive. We had over 400 coats donated and almost 300 were selected during the two-day event in November. Many hats, gloves, sweaters, scarves, and other gear were selected too. We have a supply of coats available at DAP and will make the remaining items available as needed during the winter.



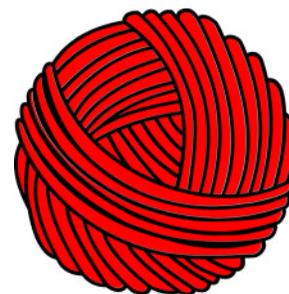
WACM's \$25 Help-a-Neighbor campaign is ongoing. While member congregations contribute about \$15,000 a year to support WACM, last year almost \$45,000 was issued to help D-200 households with emergency financial assistance through its Direct Assistance Program (DAP). Your support will help DAP continue its mission. Donations can be made by contributing online at www.wacmgroups.org or by sending a check payable to WACM, mailed to WACM treasurer Dave Davis, 8220 IL Route 120, Woodstock, IL 60098. Thank you to those of you who have made donations. We appreciate your support!

NO NAME KNITTERS



So winter is truly here, and this is the season of giving. We are so busy trying to make warm winter items for those in need. If you could join us or help us in our mission, we would love it! We meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., and the 3rd Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

Call Kay Darby at 815-572-1729 for information



MEALS ON WHEELS

Thank You to all FPC members and friends who have given the time to deliver meals to those in our community throughout 2023: Dave Davis, Jim Wormley, Velma Downes, Cathy Baxter, Alexandra Norgard, and Marcia Gummerson. Also, a very sincere Thank you goes to Marla Norgard for her dedication to this program.



The schedule is already filling up for 2024. If you are interested in delivering on the following dates, please email [Jeri Loiselle](mailto:Jeri.Loiselle) –We are looking for someone to volunteer on the following Friday's January 5, February 16, March 29, May 10, June 21, August 2, September 13, October 25, December 6.

WOODSTOCK FOOD PANTRY

December Red Wagon Items for the Food Pantry

Corn, Sweet Peas, Green Beans, Tomatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Pork and Beans.

Monetary Donations are always welcome!



CARING TOGETHER

December Birthdays

Chris Dahm	12/01
Elin Kaye	12/02
Noa Moorhouse	12/02
Patricia Morava	12/04
Aidan Greenlee	12/05
Adam Mass	12/05
Alec Botian	12/07
Collin Greenlee	12/09
Matt Thuma	12/13
Rob McMahon	12/15
Chris Carr	12/16
Larry Riggs	12/24
Barb Parrish	12/26
Pam Mathison	12/28
Bryan Dahm	12/30
Sue Hunt	12/30

December Anniversaries

Jay & Jessie Justice	12/17
Dan & Joyce Chwalisz	12/25

Thoughts and Prayers

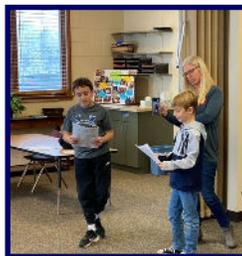
Shari Olesen, Renee Simes, Lee Nejd, Tom Schwarz, Larry Collins, Phil Dahm, Ruth Hunt, Jamie Robinett, Braelen Kittle, Mary Kittle, Tom Thennes, Gayle Abrams, Tim Arnold, Lance Sobczak, Kay Darby, Aaron Sommerville, Pam Moorhouse, and Shirley Kinell.

EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Sunday School



What a fun month for Sunday School! On Sunday, December 3rd we will be practicing for the Cantata the entire classtime. The following weekend will be our big show! We will have a dress rehearsal at the church on Saturday, December 9th, at 9:30am. On Sunday, December 10th, please arrive at the church at 9:15am. Please bring a treat to share for coffee fellowship afterwards. This can be homemade or store-bought.



Youth Group



Please mark your calendars for the upcoming events!

Saturday, December 9th, 1:30pm - Christmas Cookie Baking - Cookies will be sold the following day after the Cantata. Boxes of cookies will be available to purchase for donation to a shut-in or purchase for your own enjoyment!

Sunday, December 10th - Bake Sale after Christmas Cantata

Sunday, January 21st - Game night and pizza at the church. Enjoy life sized Jenga, board games, balloon hockey and more!!



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

ANNUAL GIVING TREE

There are still some tags left on the Giving Tree in the entryway. Please take one or more tags, purchase the suggested gift, wrap it, and place the entire tag on it. Bring wrapped gifts to the church by Sunday, Dec. 17th. There is also a box available for any extra unwrapped items we can share with the recipients. See the sign on the box or peek inside to get some suggestions. Thank you for helping make the Christmas holiday happier for those who are struggling this season.

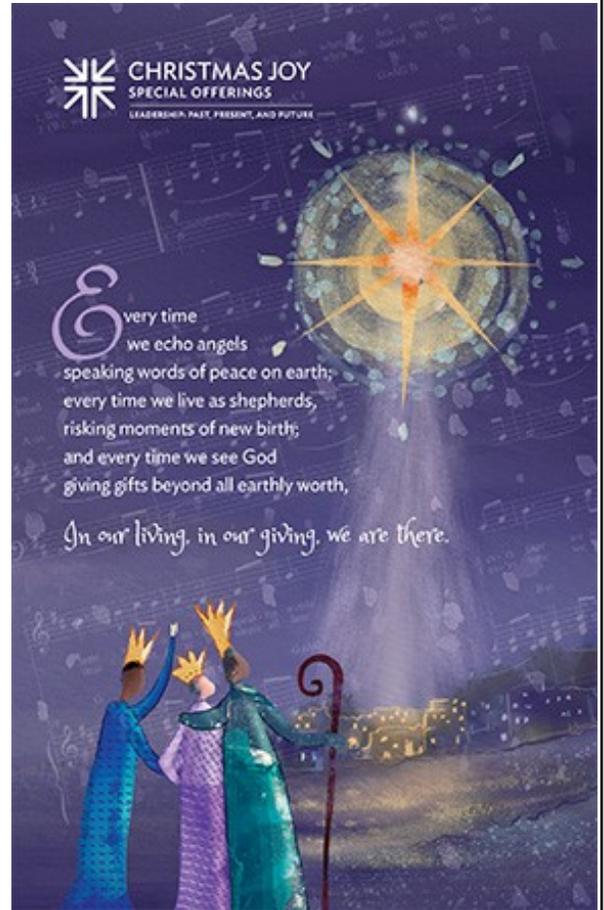
CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERING

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, and Savior.

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities, as well. This offering addresses some of the support needed by our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

Our church set a goal to collect \$1500 in contributions for the 2023 Christmas Joy Offering. You have been incredibly generous with your contributions to Special Offerings this year. Let's finish the year with another thermometer buster campaign!

You may use cash, or a check to the First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock and put Christmas Joy in the memo line with your envelope number, or give through the church website at fpcwoodstock.org/giving



CRAFT FAIR PREPARATIONS

Our Craft Fair fundraiser is set to be displayed on Sunday, December 10th after the Choir Cantata/worship service. Be prepared to purchase some excellent handmade gifts for your family and friends. Checks and cash will be accepted, no credit cards, please. Proceeds will benefit the church's youth group activities and service projects. Please place your crafts to be sold on the tables in the rear of the Great Hall any time after the Dec. 3rd service up until Saturday morning, Dec. 9th. Donation slips will be available on the table for you to fill out.



YOUTH BAKE SALE

**HOLIDAY
BAKE
SALE**

The annual Youth Bake Sale will be held on December 10, after the Christmas Cantata. There will be an assortment of freshly baked goods. These proceeds will be used for youth missions and for faith building events.

NOVEMBER MINISTRY NOTES

This month's financial report looks like this:

Thru October 2023	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Pledges	\$ 167,504	\$ 165,156	\$ 2,348
All Other Income	\$ 21,121	\$ 23,114	\$ (1,993)
Total Income	\$ 188,626	\$ 188,270	\$ 356
Expenses			
Staff	\$ 173,259	\$ 177,191	\$ 3,932
All Other Expenses	\$ 79,997	\$ 93,771	\$ 13,775
Total Expense	\$ 253,256	\$ 270,962	\$ 17,707
Net Income	\$ (64,630)	\$ (82,692)	\$ 18,063
McCullough Funding	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ -
Net Income	\$ 25,370	\$ 7,308	\$ 18,063

The surplus shown is artificial in that we continue to pull in undesignated McCullough funds based on the schedule we laid out in the 2023 budget. That surplus will shrink thru the remainder of the year.

Session members reviewed the first draft of 2024 budget at the November 19 meeting. Finance will be meeting to review all feedback received and prepare Draft Two for session review and approval at its December 12 meeting. We have another deficit that we will have to cover with McCullough funding or expense reductions.

If you have not yet responded to the annual fall stewardship letter, please do so right away. You can turn in a pledge card at worship during the offering. Or you can visit online and complete your pledge there.



Visit <https://fpcwoodstock.org/pledge-form/>.

Thank you for your generous support of the ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock.



The Advent schedule is available in the entryway.

The reaching out tree is in the entryway, please take a name and send them a card, or give them a call.

We need addresses for college students, we would love to send them a gift. We can send the newsletter by e-mail if they want to provide us with an e-mail address.

We would love to hear any of your joys or concerns, please let us know.

NOVEMBER SESSION NOTES:

Clerk’s Report: The clerk reported that FPCW’s minutes were approved by the Presbytery at the November 18, 2023 minute reading at Third Rockford. The clerk requested session members begin planning for attending the 2024 Presbytery Assembly meetings scheduled for February 6, May 14, September 17 and November 19.

Deacons’ Report: The Mazurs have sold their home and will be moving to Kansas City.

Nominating Committee: A verbal report was received. Chris Dahm has agreed to join the session, Addison Sobczak will serve another term as youth elder, Kristen Matter and Barb Parish have agreed to be deacons, and Candee McMahon, Mary Hill and Bob Clark have agreed to serve as at large members of the Nominating Committee.

Committee Reports:

Compassion, Peace and Justice: The team is discussing options for what to do with the trailer. Finance will investigate liability insurance coverage for volunteers and the costs of licensing.

Education and Spiritual Growth: Planning for the December youth bake sale is complete.

Ministry Support – Building and Grounds: Matt Thuma is replacing the emergency light batteries as required by the fire inspection.

Ministry Support – Finance: Mark reviewed the first draft of the 2024 budget. Session approved a Finance recommendation to fund the parking lot resurfacing with \$2,694.51 from the Capital Operating account, and \$6,605.49 from the Stained Glass fund.

Worship, Music and Arts: Session approved proposed 2024 communion dates: January 7, February 4, March 3, March 28, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1, October 6, November 3 and December 1.



Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

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

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Date	Liturgist	A/V	Ushers	Acolyte	Greeters
12/3/2023	Dawn Cook	Hunter Johanson	Rick and Pat Morozink	Emily Lawler	Julie & Ken Farver
12/10/2023	Addie Sobczak	Rob McMahon	Rick and Pat	No acolyte	Cheryl Wormley
12/17/2023	Cheryl Wormley	Dave Johanson	Kyle and Brayden Sobczak	Noa Moorhouse	Linda Hansen
12/21/2023		Dave Johanson			Katie Reilly
12/24/2023	Sue Krause	Rob McMahon	Chris and Lee Nejd	volunteer	Pam Moorhouse & Erin Kaye
12/24/2023		Rob McMahon			Sue Krause
12/31/2023	Online service				



Christmas Poinsettias
\$15

IN MEMORY OF
IN HONOR OF
IN CELEBRATION

Click Here to order a poinsettia

fpcwoodstock.org/poinsettias

2023 FPCW Advent Calendar

December 3, 9:30 a.m., Chrismon service. - Brunch is served after worship.

December 10, 9:30 a.m., Cantata Sunday with performances from the children.

December 21 at 7:00 p.m., Longest Night Service.

December 24, Christmas Eve worship at 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

December 31, New Year's Eve with an online worship service at 9:30 a.m.

Embrace the magic of the season.

Poinsettia donations accepted to remember a loved one.

DECEMBER 2023

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Chrismon Service 9:30a Worship 9-4:5a Sunday School: PreK-5th 10:30a Brunch 11a Cantata rehearsal 11a NOW Team	4	5 6p Book discussion	6 9a Lectionary Study 4p Diaper Bank distribution 7p Cantata rehearsal	7 7p Boy Scout Troop 159	8	9 7a Men's Bible Study 9a Cantata rehearsal 1:30p Cookie baking
10 Christmas Cantata 9:30a Worship	11	12 10a TLC Ladies 6p Deacons/Elders meal 7p Deacons 7p Session	13 9a Lectionary Study 6:30p No-Name Knitters	14 1p Finance Team 7p Boy Scout Troop 159	15	16 7a Men's Bible Study
17 9:30a Worship 11a Session	18	19	20 9a Lectionary Study 10a No-Name Knitters	21 7p Boy Scout Troop 159 7p Longest Night Service	22	23 7a Men's Bible Study
24 9:30a Worship 5p Christmas Eve worship	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26	27 6:30p No-Name Knitters	28 6:30p Worship Arts Mtg 7p Boy Scout Troop 159	29	30 7a Men's Bible Study
31 9:30a Online Worship						

DECEMBER 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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WOODSTOCK

CELEBRATING AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE

Visit us on Facebook

www.fpcwoodstock.org

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Woodstock, IL 60098

2018 IL-HWY 47

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