

First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock

January 2024 Newsletter

New Year's Resolutions

Do you make New Year's Resolutions? You know, those things we think about at the beginning of the year, as we contemplate how we want to better ourselves in the new year. An estimated 44% of Americans set these goals at the turn of the calendar. Very often, these resolutions include things like getting healthy, eating better, exercising more, losing weight, stopping smoking, managing stress, creating a better work-life balance, and prioritizing mental health. These are all good goals, and worthwhile practices to consider. However, this year, I was thinking about New Year's Resolutions for Christians, and found this list online:

1. Be a peacemaker.
2. Go to church regularly.
3. Read the Bible daily.
4. Find ways to serve others.
5. Be an encourager.
6. Start a gratefulness journal.
7. Post only positive things on social media.
8. Pray every day.
9. Be hospitable.
10. Be humble

What do you think about that list? What would you add or remove? I'd love to hear from you about these resolutions, so reach out by email (eric@fpcwoodstock.org) or phone (815-575-9454). Happy New Year!

I'd like to extend a huge **Thank You** to all who participated in the wonderful holiday festivities, from the decorating to the Christmas 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!

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 January. 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

Reporters:

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 Nejdil](#) 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. DINNER AND BRUNCH NEWS

The N.O.W. Team is back rarin' to go for the 2024 spring season!

We're happy to have ace cook Matt Thuma joining the N.O.W. Team.

Welcome aboard, Matt!

As a reminder, dinner prices will be going up this month to \$4. We still think the food is a great bargain at that price.

If you are interested to providing deserts for the Wednesday dinners, please contact any of the N.O.W. Team members; email addresses are below.

Our dinner menus for January will feature lots of good winter fare. Starting January 10, we'll have lasagna, garlic bread, and salad. January 17 will host our 2nd Annual Chili Cookoff! Let us know if you're going to compete. On January 24, you'll have your choice of turkey or meatloaf with mashed potatoes and gravy. Our very own "Souper Bowl" takes place on January 31 with your choice of ham and bean, chicken noodle, broccoli cheese or minestrone.

Brunch will begin on Sunday, January 14 with our standard menu of scrambled eggs, sausages, bagels and muffins and fruit. January 28 will offer biscuits and gravy prepared by Matt Thuma.

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, please reach out to any of us. 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 Nedil (nejdlwoodstock@hotmail.com)

Linda Hansen (lkhanzen53@gmail.com)

Matt Thuma (mrthuma@yahoo.com)

Mark Bundick (mbundick@comcast.net)

MEALS ON WHEELS

Delivering for Meals on Wheels is a rewarding way to volunteer your time and make meaningful connections. If you are interested in delivering on the following dates, please email [Jeri Loiselle](mailto:Jeri.Loiselle@mealsonwheels.org). It only takes about an hour and a half of your time, and makes a big difference!

- **Fridays** - January 5, February 16, March 29, May 10, June 21, August 2, September 13, October 25, December 6.
- **Tuesdays** - February 13, March 26, May 7, June 18, July 30, September 10, October 22, December 3.
- **Thursday** August 1.



WOODSTOCK FOOD PANTRY

January Red Wagon calls for any kind of prepackaged SOUP!

Pantry Hours:

Monday - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday - 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.,

Friday - 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

for information - 815-572-1729.

**Thank You,
Red Wagon Food Drive**



Woodstock Area Community Ministries

WACM's Direct Assistance Program (DAP) makes a difference in people's lives. In December, a woman with two elementary-age children requested help with rent. She and her children had been homeless for six months. She had saved enough money from her job to pay the security deposit and part of the first month's rent for a new apartment. Because DAP and another group provided financial assistance, she and her children are delighted to be able to move in to their new home on January 8th.

Thank you to those who donated to WACM's Help-a-Neighbor-in Need fundraising campaign. Your gifts are going back into the community. Your support lets us continue this important local mission.



THE NO NAME KNITTERS

The No Name Knitters wish everyone a year of love, health, and happiness!

If you would like to start something new,
come visit our fun group of knitters and crocheters
or call Kay Darby for information - 815-572-1729.



CARING TOGETHER

January Birthdays

Caryl Lemanski 01/02

Dylan Lawler 01/04

Brayden Sobczak 01/04

Angie Boe 01/07

Christy Johanson 01/07

Scott Greenlee 01/09

Patrick Moorhouse 01/12

Marcia Gummerson 01/25

Thea Moorhouse 01/27

Colin Kaye 01/27

January Anniversaries

Eric & Kristi Corbin 01/03

Ken & Joyce Maynard 01/06

Jim & Cheryl Wormley 01/25

Ryan & Gwen Wormley 01/25

EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH



We hope you all had a wonderful holiday and we look forward to starting up our second half of the school year! Here is the schedule:

(1/14 & 1/28) (2/11 & 2/25) (3/10 & 3/24 TBD) (4/14 & 4/28)
(5/12 Mother's Day and Last Day of SS)



Please mark your calendars for the upcoming events!

Sunday, January 21st - 5-7pm - Game night and pizza at the church. Enjoy life sized Jenga, board games, balloon hockey and more!!

Sunday, February 11th - Youth Group hosted Brunch after church

March Event - Be on the lookout for a special event this month!

Sunday, April 21st - 10:30 - 12 pm - In celebration of Earth Day the youth group will be cleaning up the highway and have a pizza lunch to follow.

Anyone that would like to either host one of the events listed or another event, please contact Jackie Lawler.

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

Thoughts and Prayers



Travis Walters, Ivan and Eugenia, Loretta Nejd, Shari Olesen, Lee Nejd, Tom Schwarz, Larry Collins, Phil Dahm, Ruth Hunt, Braelen Kittle, Mary Kittle, Tom Thennes, Gayle Abrams, Tim Arnold, Aaron Sommerville, Pam Moorhouse, Shirley Kinell, Tim.

The Ashley Family

*The Boyne Family in the passing of Beverly Boyne.
The Robinett family in the passing of Jamie Robinett.*

ANNUAL GIVING TREE

Thank you to all who bought and brought gifts for this year's Giving Tree project. We provided one family of six with more than five gifts each for all members. And we had lots of extras as well -- socks, games, candy, blankets, etc. You showed our caring Christmas spirit to our community in this way. The family was truly grateful.



ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR



We had another very successful craft fair in December. Proceeds of \$800.00, which was double of last year's total, went to our church's youth fund for trips, outreach and other activities. Thank you to all who contributed wonderful crafts for the sale and to all who purchased them. And start making your plans for next year's sale!

TROOP 159

Troop 159 has been busy. On November 30, 2023, the Troop held a Court of Honor in the Great Hall. Parents and Scouts gathered and heard reports from the Scouts on: The Planes, Trains and Automobiles Camporee; shotgun shooting event; and the Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) campout and hike. Six Scouts were recognized for earning Rank advancements.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in Scouts BSA please contact Ray Thuma, Committee Chair, or Matt Petrik, Scoutmaster.

Committeechair@troop159woodstock.org

Scoutmaster@troop159woodstock.org



GIVING TOGETHER

DECEMBER MINISTRY NOTES

November's financial report looks like this:

Thru November 2023	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Pledges	\$ 180,679	\$ 177,353	\$ 3,326
All Other Income	\$ 24,345	\$ 25,275	\$ (930)
Total Income	\$ 205,023	\$ 202,628	\$ 2,395
Expenses			
Staff	\$ 188,032	\$ 195,265	\$ 7,233
All Other Expenses	\$ 97,436	\$ 102,182	\$ 4,746
Total Expense	\$ 285,468	\$ 297,447	\$ 11,979
Net Income	\$ (80,445)	\$ (94,819)	\$ 14,374
McCullough Funding	\$ 90,000	\$ 100,000	\$ (10,000)
Net Income	\$ 9,555	\$ 5,181	\$ 4,374

While the budget called for taking undesignated McCullough funds in November, income and expenses showed we did not need the planned \$10,000 draw. If the favorable financial trend continues into December's figures, we may not need the total \$100,000 McCullough funding that Session budgeted.

Session members approved the 2024 budget at the December 12 meeting. The projected \$97,000 deficit would again be covered by McCullough Endowment proceeds, but in contrast to 2023's budget, there are only \$70,000 available as of January 1, 2024. Thus, session approved creating a special committee of session to analyze the structural deficit, the current church programming, and financial resources available with a goal to make recommendations to session for addressing the deficit.

Blackhawk Presbytery set 2024 per capita at \$43. Of that amount, \$29.39 stays with the Presbytery, \$3.81 goes to the Synod of Lincoln Trails, and \$9.80 will go to the General Assembly. When you pay your per capita, please make sure to put "Per Capita" in the memo line of your check, or go online and donate via the "Giving" menu on our home page.



Thank you for your generous support of the ministry of First Pres.

DEACONS

The Reaching Out tree is in the entryway, please take a name and send them a card, or give them a call. The Deacons would like to thank all the families who have helped with coffee fellowship. We would love to hear any of your joys or concerns, please let us know.



Angie Boe	815-353-7993
Kristen Matter	847-609-8340
Barb Parrish	815-353-2749
Sherry Thuma	815-847-8339
Cheryl Wormley	815-519-7402

DECEMBER SESSION NOTES

Committee Reports:

Compassion, Peace and Justice: The committee is discussing ways to staff up for the diaper distribution. The distribution is growing larger each month, and more volunteers are needed. The Food Pantry is looking for volunteers to help unload deliveries.

Congregational Life: The committee is working with Worship to staff usher and greeter positions, and will be trying a new, six-week rotation schedule.

Education and Spiritual Growth: The bake sale raised \$187. All but two coasters were sold at the craft fair.

Ministry Support – Finance: Session approved the 2024 budget with the \$97,000 deficit to be covered by McCullough Endowment proceeds. Session approved creating a special committee of session to analyze the structural deficit, the current church programming, and financial resources available with a goal to make recommendations to session for addressing the deficit. The committee would consist of the Finance Chair, Treasurer, one additional session member, one Deacon, and one member at large. A report to session would be due not later than September 1, 2024.

Ministry Support – Staff Management: There is still no progress on finding a new full-time organist.

Worship, Music and Arts: Finance will need to recommend a source to fund replacement of our hearing aids.

Membership Role Review: Letters were sent to five households on November 22, asking them to indicate interest in keeping their membership active: If no response is received, they will be removed from the membership rolls.

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, January 24, 2024 at 11:00 a.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

TOGETHER IN WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	A/V	Ushers/Greeters	Acolyte
1/7/2024	Jim Wormley	Dave Johanson	Julie and Ken Farver	Erik Johanson
1/14/2024	Evan Kaye	Dave Johanson	Cheryl Wormley and Linda Hansen-G, and Chris Nejd-U	Graycn Petrik
1/21/2024	Angie Boe	Rob McMahon	Tiffany and Brayden Sobczak	Colin Kaye
1/28/2024	Ken Farver	Dave Johanson	Mary Hill and Sue Krause	Christopher Corbin



DIAPER DISTRIBUTION UPDATE FROM THE CPJ COMMITTEE

We have just completed our second year of the Diaper Distribution Project. Our church partners with the Woodstock Food Pantry and Keeping Families Covered (the diaper bank in McHenry which supplies our products) to provide diapers to families in need at a monthly distribution. The event occurs the first Wednesday of each month from 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. at our church. In 2023, we served 245 individuals from 171 families, and distributed 12,942 diapers. The project is growing, and we are looking for ways to get more people involved and improve the client experience.

If you are interested in knowing more about the project and what it's all about,
please join us!

Early in 2024, there will be a volunteer signup online through the church website, to make it easier to get involved for those interested in this local outreach.
We appreciate your support!

Questions? Please contact [Nancy Bingham](#) .

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2	3 8:30a Lectionary Study 4p Diaper Bank distribution 5:45p Diaper Bank meeting	4	5	6 7a Men's Bible Study
7 9:30a Worship	8	9 10a TLC Ladies 7p Deacons	10 9a Lectionary Study 5:15p NOW Dinner 6:30p No-Name Knitters	11 1p Finance Team	12	13 7a Men's Bible Study
14 9:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School: PreK-5th 10:30a Brunch 11a Confirmation Class	15	16	17 9a Lectionary Study 10a No-Name Knitters 5:15p NOW Dinner	18 6p Compassion, Peace and Justice	19	20 7a Men's Bible Study
	<i>Martin Luther King Day</i>					
21 9:30a Worship 11a Session 5p Youth Group	22	23 5:30p Education and Spiritual Growth	24 9a Lectionary Study 5:15p NOW Dinner 6:30p No-Name Knitters	25 1p Hospitality Team 6:30p Worship Arts Mtg	26	27 7a Men's Bible Study
28 9:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School: PreK-5th 10:30a Brunch 11a Confirmation Class	29	30	31 9a Lectionary Study 5:15p NOW Dinner			

January 2024



**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

Christy Johanson
Worship Arts
Coordinator

Phone: (815) 338-2627
E-mail:
office@fpcwoodstock.org
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