

First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock February 2024 Newsletter

The Season of Lent

“While some Protestants still struggle with what to make of Lent (‘Isn’t that a Catholic thing?’), increasingly Presbyterian congregations are seeking creative approaches for making the season meaningful – including giving people opportunities to explore spiritual practices and to bring depth and a sense of community to the weeks leading to Easter.”

(<https://pres-outlook.org/2015/02/lent-presbyterians-creative-connectional-disciplines/>)

“The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses’ sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah’s journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah’s call to Nineveh to repent and Jesus’ time of testing in the wilderness.”

(<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/worship-resources-lent>)

What should we do with these 40 days? As mentioned above, opportunities to explore spiritual practices are given during this time. One way to do so is by following the Lenten Faith Practices calendar, which you can download here: <https://bit.ly/LFP2024> or pick up a copy at church. This calendar, by Presbyterian author and pastor Traci Smith, leads us through the season of Lent by rotating through three pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting, and service.

Another option is to join in a book discussion of *Pause: Spending Lent with the Psalms* by Elizabeth F. Caldwell. The author “invites us to take up the spiritual practice of encountering, sinking into, and deeply engaging with one psalm each week during Lent and Holy Week.” More information and purchasing options are available at <https://wjkbbooks.com/caldwell> (and a few copies will be available to pick up in the gathering area.) We’ll gather on Wednesdays in Lent to reflect and discuss. Reading the chapter in the book is *not required* to join in this discussion. We’ll meet (online or in person) following our Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 14, and then following NOW Dinners, at 6 p.m..

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 February. 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 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
[Matt Thuma](#) 815-370-4094

THE NO NAME KNITTERS

February is LOVE month!

We like to think we send our love with every handmade item we give away! Our prayer shawls surround a person with love and care, like a big hug! Or we might send our love and good thoughts thru the mail, when someone receives a card and a pocket cross.



The No Name Knitters send our love to all of you, all the time!

Not just in February! Come join us!

Share the warmth!

Call Kay Darby 815-572-1729.

WACM

Faced with a past-due water bill and scheduled disconnection notice from the city, a mother with two children turned to WACM's Direct Assistance Program for help. After verifying the information and need, a check from WACM was sent to the city on her behalf, and the disconnection was cancelled.

This is an example of how WACM's Direct Assistance Program serves people in need in the community. This local mission relies on the support of its member churches and their congregants. The gratitude expressed by recipients of that assistance extends not just to DAP volunteers but to all the people who support WACM. Thank you to members of First Presbyterian Church for your support of WACM and its mission!

WOODSTOCK FOOD PANTRY

February Red Wagon calls for packaged breakfast items.

Pancake Mix, Cereal, Syrup and Oatmeal.

**Thank You,
Red Wagon Food Drive**



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.

MEALS ON WHEELS

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

- Fridays-February 16, May 10, June 21, August 2, September 13, October 25, December 6.
- Tuesdays-May 7, July 30, September 10, October 22, December 3.
- Thursday August 1.

N.O.W. DINNER AND BRUNCH NEWS

Our 2024 spring season is off to a roaring start!

Thanks to all 10 contestants who participated in the “Second Annual FPCW Chili Cookoff.” Congrats to Dave Johanson who took home this year’s trophy. The rest of us have all winter to perfect our chili recipes in preparation for next year’s event.

February 7 will feature a variety of soups for ‘Souper Bowl,’ which is always a yummy treat. February 14 is Ash Wednesday, the start of the Lenten season. There won’t be a dinner on that night. The Boy Scout troop we sponsor will host the February 21 dinner; they will be serving a variety of soups and breads, finishing up with Dutch oven desserts! The NOW team finishes up the month on February 28 with spaghetti and all the fixin’s.

Sunday brunch will continue to be served on those Sundays where Sunday School meets. FPCW’s Youth Group will be cooking on February 11. Make sure you come out and stay for brunch to support our youth! Our menu on February 25 will feature all sorts of breakfast casseroles and plenty of fruit.

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

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 Nedjl (nejdlwoodstock@hotmail.com)
Linda Hansen (lkhanen53@gmail.com)
Matt Thuma (mrthuma@yahoo.com)
Mark Bundick (mbundick@comcast.net)



CARING TOGETHER

February Birthdays

Evan Kaye 2/02
T. J. Schwarz 2/03
Kate Frick 2/04
Hunter Johanson 2/04
Jessie Justice 2/09
Mary Carr 2/11
Jamie Cook 2/11
Kyle Sobczak 2/12
Faith Corbin 2/15
Kathi Carr 2/18
Kristen Matter 2/20
Mary Hill 2/22
Lori Stock 2/23
Nancy Bingham 2/26

February Anniversaries

Paul & Vicki Thuma 2/01
Bob & Gail Diss 2/14
Shari and Hank Oleson 2/21

Thoughts and Prayers

Travis Walters, Angela Thuma, Ivan and Eugenia, Tim Nylander, Caryl Lemanski, Loretta Nejd, Shari Olesen, Renee Simes, 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

EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

February 11th - Valentine Card making
February 25th
March 10th
March 24th - No class - children will wave palms at service
April 14th - Rehearsal for Music Sunday
April 28th - Rehearsal for Music Sunday
May 12th - Last day of Sunday School & Music Sunday Performance



CONFIRMATION

Mark your calendars for Confirmation Sunday, May 5th!

YOUTH GROUP

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming events!



Sunday, February 11th - Youth Group will host Brunch after church - Check emails for signing up.

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](#).

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERING

in a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression

Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by *One Great Hour of Sharing* - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.



Our church will promote this first of four special offerings for the year from February 14 to March 31st.

Our goal for this offering is to collect \$1500 this year.

You may donate through the [church website](#) or by writing a check to First Presbyterian Church Woodstock.

Be sure to indicate that your gift is for OGHS.

Your Impact

Restoring Hope, Feeding the Hungry, Empowering the Oppressed

Open your heart (on Valentine's day 2/14) and let the Holy Spirit lift you up and inspire you (on Easter 3/31) to give generously. There is so much need in the world!

**REPAIRING
THE BREACH**

— ISAIAH 58

THE DIAPER DISTRIBUTION PROJECT NEEDS YOU!

At our most recent distribution on January 3, we served 40 individuals from 29 families, and gave away 1,920 diapers! We've experienced a sustained monthly increase in the number of clients attending the event, and the number of diapers we are distributing. As a result, we are in need of more volunteers. If you feel called to help with this local outreach ministry, please consider joining our dedicated team to learn what it's all about. A Google document has been created to make it easy to sign up online at: fpcwoodstock.org/diapervolunteers. Or, contact Nancy Bingham if you don't have access to a computer. We hope you'll consider getting involved with this fun, rewarding project!

Questions? Please contact Nancy @ 815-823-5107 or nancycingham@gmail.com

GIVING TOGETHER

JANUARY MINISTRY SUPPORT NOTES

Our 2023 year-end financial report looks like this:

Thru December 2023	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Pledges	\$ 213,842	\$ 201,444	\$ 12,398
All Other Income	\$ 31,091	\$ 27,672	\$ 3,419
Total Income	\$ 244,933	\$ 229,116	\$ 15,817
Expenses			
Staff	\$ 209,255	\$ 213,989	\$ 4,734
All Other Expenses	\$ 107,900	\$ 110,758	\$ 2,859
Total Expense	\$ 317,155	\$ 324,747	\$ 7,592
Net Income	\$ (72,222)	\$ (95,631)	\$ 23,409
McCullough Funding	\$ 90,000	\$ 100,000	\$ (10,000)
Net Income	\$ 17,778	\$ 4,369	\$ 13,409

For a variety of reasons, our budget deficit ended up being smaller than projected. We plan to carry the net income over into 2024 to help offset the budget deficit.

A full set of 2023 financial reports along with additional commentary will be in the Annual Report. You will be able to pick up a copy of the report at the February 4 annual meeting.

A reminder that 2024 per capita has been set at \$43. When you pay your per capita, please make sure to put "Per Capita" in the memo line of your check. You can also go online and donate via the "[Giving](#)" menu on our home page.

We are happy to announce that prayers have been answered and we have found a new accompanist, who will start soon. Session has made minor adjustments to the 2024 budget to accommodate the salary for the position, but the total adjustments made did not change the net income figure.

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



JANUARY SESSION NOTES



Committee Reports:

- **Compassion, Peace and Justice:** The committee is working to get more help with the diaper distribution. Look for a sign up sheet listing dates and jobs. Training is provided. Joyce Maynard needs a helper to assist with the April 25-27 Rummage Sale.
- **Congregational Life:** The N.O.W. Dinner Chili Cookoff had 10 participants.
- **Ministry Support – Building and Grounds:** A water line from the sprinkler system froze, triggering an alarm. The temperature in the equipment room was raised above 50 degrees to unfreeze the line and prevent additional problems.
- **Ministry Support – Finance:** The committee gave updates on 2024's projected cash flow.
- **Ministry Support – Staff Management:** An accompanist was interviewed and later hired.
- **Other Business:** A motion to hold the annual meeting on Sunday, February 4 was approved.

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.



Reaching Out Tree

Let's carry the church to those who can't come to us!

Grab a name from the Reaching Out Tree in the Gathering Area and connect with others



Deacons

- 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

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



Date	Liturgist	A/V	Ushers-Greeters	Acolyte
2/4/2024	Tom Schaeffer	Dave Johanson	Rick and Pat Morozink	Noa Moorhouse
2/11/2024	Velma Downes	Dave Johanson	Tom Schaeffer and Chris Mathews	Emily Lawler
2/14/2024 (Ash Wednesday)			Sue Krause	
2/18/2024	Tiffany Sobczak	Rob McMahon	Julie and Ken Farver	Braden Ferrera
2/25/2024	Renee Simes	Dave Johanson	Cheryl Wormley, Linda Hansen-G and Chris Nejd-U	Brayden Sobczak



FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 7a Men's Bible Study
9:30a Worship 10:30a Annual Congregational Meeting	5	6	7 9a Lectionary Study 4p Diaper Bank distribution 5:15p NOW Dinner 7p Choir Rehearsal	8 1p Finance Team	<i>Groundhog Day</i>	10 7a Men's Bible Study
11 Choir sings Scout Sunday 9:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School: PreK-5th 10:30a Brunch-Youth host 11a Confirmation Class	12 <i>Lincoln's Birthday</i>	13 10a TLC Ladies 7p Deacons	14 9a Lectionary Study 6p Ash Wednesday service 6:30p No-Name Knitters 6:45p "Pause" book discussion <i>Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday</i>	15 6p Compassion, Peace and Justice	16	17 7a Men's Bible Study
18 9:30a Worship 11a Session	19 <i>Presidents' Day</i>	20	21 9a Lectionary Study 10a No-Name Knitters 5:15p NOW Dinner 6p "Pause" book discussion 7p Choir Rehearsal	22 1p Hospitality Team 5:30p Education and Spiritual Growth 6:30p Worship Arts Mtg	23	24 7a Men's Bible Study
25 Choir sings 9:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School: PreK-5th 10:30a Brunch 11a Confirmation Class	26 <i>Washington's Birthday</i>	27	28 9a Lectionary Study 5:15p NOW Dinner 6p "Pause" book discussion 6:30p No-Name Knitters	29		

FEBRUARY 2024

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

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