

First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock

July 2024 Newsletter

A letter from Rev. Eric Corbin

Patriotism and Faith

As Independence Day approaches, our thoughts naturally turn to love of country. But what does it truly mean to be a patriotic American, and how does that align with our Christian faith? There's a difference between healthy patriotism and the more recent concept of Christian nationalism, and it's important to understand that difference.

Patriotism, at its core, is a love for our country, its ideals, and the people who call it home. It's about appreciating the freedoms we hold dear, the sacrifices made for those freedoms, and the ongoing journey towards a more just and perfect union, as envisioned by our founders. As a nation founded on the principles of religious liberty, our patriotism embraces the beautiful tapestry of faiths that contribute to our national character.

Christian nationalism, however, takes a different approach. It suggests that America is, or should be, a Christian nation, privileging one faith tradition above others. This not only contradicts the core American value of religious liberty, but also creates a narrow definition of who is truly American. The Gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to love our neighbors, whoever they may be, and to build bridges across divides. Christian nationalism risks driving wedges between us.

So, how can we live out our faith as patriotic Americans? We can be active citizens, engaged in our communities and advocating for justice. We can work to ensure our country reflects the values of welcome and compassion that our faith teaches. We can celebrate the rich diversity that makes America strong, recognizing that different faiths can all contribute to the common good.

As the Presbyterian Church (USA), we have a long history of social justice activism, rooted in our belief in the inherent dignity of every person. This aligns well with a healthy patriotism that seeks a more perfect union for all. Let us celebrate our country this July 4th with hearts full of love, not only for America, but for the rich tapestry of faiths that make it a beacon of hope in the world.

For more about the PC(USA)'s efforts, visit

www.presbyterianmission.org/what-we-do/advocacy-social-justice/

— I hope to see you in the worship, meetings, fellowship, and service of the church! Let's continue to BE the Church; not just GO to church!

— This month brings many activities in the life of the church, which you can read about in the pages of this newsletter. Take a look at the various ministries of the church, and then *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 SERVICE

In the Great Hall @ 9:30 a.m. or online at fpcwoodstock.org/worship



NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jeri Loiselle

REPORTERS

Eric Corbin, Angie Boe,
Mark Bundick, Dawn Cook,
Sue Krause, Ray Thuma,
Kay Darby, Joyce Maynard,
Pat Morozink, Nancy Bingham.

TOGETHER TO LAUGH AND LEARN

<p>Men's Group/Bible Study John Moorhouse 815-236-7408</p> <p>Lectionary Bible Study Velma Downes 815-245-4043</p> <p>Adult Spiritual Growth Groups Dawn Cook</p> <p>Hospitality Team Erin Kaye 312-371-7573</p> <p>Music Ministry Christy Johanson 815-382-5234</p> <p>No-Name Knitters Kay Darby 815-572-1729</p> <p>T.L.C. (Tender Loving Care) Mary Hill 815-338-6051</p> <p>Meals-On-Wheels Jeri Loiselle 815-338-2627</p> <p>WACM Local Mission Team Pat Morozink 815-338-7769</p> <p>Food Pantry Joyce Maynard 815-338-7265</p> <p>Fishing Mission Bob Clark 847-274-8247</p> <p>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</p>	<p>MEN'S BIBLE STUDY</p> <p>Saturday, at 7:00 a.m. <i>(Resuming in September)</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Contact John Moorhouse, 815-236-7408.</p>	<p>LECTIONARY STUDY</p> <p>Wednesday, at 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>The group gathers via Google Meet. We select a single reading from the Revised Common Lectionary and take turns leading the discussion.</p> <p>Join us for lively discussion, thoughtful readings and good fellowship.</p> <p>Contact Velma Downes to be added to the mailing list or for more information.</p>
	<p>WACM</p> <p>Who does WACM's Direct Assistance Program (DAP) serve? Residents living within D-200's school boundaries are eligible for emergency financial assistance. In June, 28 applicants requested help at one of the in-person sessions at Grace Lutheran Church. They received help with past due utility bills, past due rent, gasoline, clothing and shoes. 49 people benefited from that help, 11 of whom are children. Requests for assistance are also made through the DAP phone at (815) 529-4370.</p> <p>When people support WACM, that support spreads throughout our community. Thank you to members of First Presbyterian Church for your support of WACM!</p>	
	<p>HIGHWAY CLEANUP</p> <p>Our next highway cleanup is July 6 at 8:00 am. Please consider joining us as we beautify the little corner of God's creation entrusted to First Presbyterian. We pick up litter along Route 47 between Ware Road and Charles Road.</p> <p>Mark your calendars—Our final cleanup of the season will be October 19.</p> <p>The cleanup takes less than two hours and goes faster with more volunteers. If your small group is looking for an easy way to add a mission component to your ministry, consider adopting a cleanup day. Children 11 years and older are welcome, so why not bring the kids and make it a family affair? For more information, contact Ray Thuma.</p>	
		<p>MUSIC MINISTRY</p> <p>Summer brings a rest for the choir, but we are looking for people to provide special music - vocal and/or instrumental. Please contact Christy Johanson to secure a summer date!</p> <p>Open dates: July 14, July 21, August 4, August 18, August 25, September 1.</p>

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THE FOOD PANTRY

The Pantry is looking for help serving the people in our community who rely on us.

Can you commit to ONE day a month?

Below are the shifts that need coverage.

- Every Tuesday and Thursday- 8:45 a.m.-11:00 a.m. to pick up food at Aldi or the Food Coop.
- Every Tuesday and Saturday- pickup at the Farmers Market and deliver to the Food Pantry.
- Saturday and Sunday- Aldi produce pickups anytime. (Pickup truck or van suggested).
- Second Thursday each month to unload the Northern Illinois Food Bank delivery from 7:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
- Second Tuesday each month- 9:00 a.m. pickup at the Crystal Lake Pantry (pickup truck or van suggested).
- Front desk workers are needed Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Call Carolyn and leave a message if you have questions about volunteering at 815-338-0897. or visit the [Pantry Website](#)



Little red wagon items for July

Shampoo, Bath Soap, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Toilet Paper, Laundry Soap

We appreciate donated food that is not past the expiration date. When donating items: food must be in separate bag from soap and detergent.

BOY SCOUTS

Our troop trailer has been refreshed with new graphics—including our new chartering organization.



If you would like you learn more about Scouting, contact [Ray Thuma](#) or visit the [BSA Troop 159 website](#).



TENDER LOVING CARE

Invitation to July Meeting

TLC is a small group for women of the church. We meet monthly on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at church. The meeting usually takes an hour and a half and those who can then go out to lunch together after the meeting.

At our June meeting, we heard a report about the Woodstock PrideFest and our booth at the event - staffed by volunteers from our church. For the third year in a row, we have sponsored a booth to let the LGBTQIA community know that we support and welcome them into our community and our church. It was a great event on a beautiful day in the Woodstock square and our presence and support was definitely noted and appreciated.

We proceeded to have a great discussion about acceptance of LGBTQIA and other gender concepts and various ways that we can support others to be who they are. We discussed the position of the PCUSA and Blackhawk Presbytery and First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock re: gay rights, ordination of gay people in the church, and acceptance of others into our community of love. Many examples were given of small and large things that we might do to be an accepting and welcoming community. We ran out of time and agreed that we would like to continue this discussion at our July meeting.

At that meeting, besides usual business items, Chris Mathews will offer a devotion and prayer. We will address the following question: "How do WE, as Christians, mend a world where there is so much division and vilification of those perceived as 'other?'" We believe we can do this in Christian love, following the message of Jesus and the scriptures to love one another without bringing politics into the discussion.

ALL women of the church are invited to join us on Tuesday, July 9th at 10:00 AM for our meeting and discussion and join us for a social lunch afterwards if your schedule allows. We usually meet in the Fireside Room, but can relocate to a larger space if needed. Come and See! We would love to have you there!

CARING TOGETHER

July Birthdays

Rick Morozink	7/4
Velma Downes	7/5
Joyce Maynard	7/5
Gracy Petrik	7/6
Carol Brefeld	7/11
Collette Spaldon	7/11
Cheryl Wormley	7/13
Jim Wormley	7/18
Sally Nelson	7/20
Kyle Oliver	7/27
Sara Botian	7/28
Ana Corbin	7/29
Ken Maynard	7/29
Marla Rigby	7/30

July Anniversaries

Brooke & Pam Mathison	7/1
Tom Schwarz & Lora Totton Schwarz	7/5
Scott & Katherine Greenlee	7/12

In Our Prayers

Mary Hill, Hank Olesen, Sam Hunt, Kay & Jack Darby, Bob Boyne, Renee Simes, Katie Stebbins, Aaron, Tom Schwarz, Shari Olesen, Angela Thuma, Tim Arnold, Tom Thennes, Larry Collins, Mary Kittle, Caryl Lemanski, Kareem, Pam Moorhouse, Gayle Abrams, Tim Arnold, Barry Summers, Travis Walters, Mamie Drennen, Braelyn Kittle, the family and friends of Ruth Hunt, the family and friends of Rob McMahon, the family and friends of Michael Krause, and the family and friends of Albert Ideler.

FPCW AT PRIDEFEST

Sunday, June 8th dawned as a beautiful summer day: not too hot, not too cold, with plenty of sunshine. Early morning volunteers from FPCW brought a truckload of supplies including a tent, tables, chairs, ice water, and decorations to the square to set up our church booth in our allocated space.



The square filled with Fest attendees by 10:00 a.m. for the parade at 11:00 a.m. The newspapers estimated that several thousand people attended this year. The festival ran until 5:00 p.m. and it was a beautiful love-filled day.

The FPCW booth was well received and many people of all ages and sexual orientations visited our booth and engaged in brief, loving conversations prompted by the give-away items we had, as well as some books and information about our church. Pastor Eric and Velma Downes had a competition going for Free Pastor Hugs and Free Nana Hugs and many, particularly young people, asked for and received heartfelt hugs.



Several people stayed to talk about their past experience of rejection by the church. They seemed encouraged by our presence, along with representatives from several other local churches. We shared the good news that many churches now acknowledge past mistakes and try to live out the true meaning of scriptures' teachings, like "Love your neighbor as yourself" and "the greatest of these is love."

The PrideFest, and indeed our participation in the event, have grown every year. It was a wonderful fulfilling day for all of the volunteers and attendees. Church volunteers included Pastor Eric Corbin, Sue Krause, Tom Schaeffer & Chris Mathews, Ray Thuma, Matt & Sherry Thuma, Jessica & Christopher Gienko, Velma Downes, Tiffany, Addison, & Brayden Sobczak, Lynne Sobczak, Beth Elbersen, Joyce Maynard, Barb Bundick, Annie Nelson, Jennifer O'Hara, and Sue Sauer, who donated many, many, many of the give-away items we had for the crowd.



Our booth was planned and organized by the Compassion, Peace & Justice Committee and supported by the Hospitality Committee which purchased candy to give away out of our booth.



EARTHCARE CONGREGATION NEWS

From the CPJ Committee

The environmentally friendly pollinator garden planted last spring is in full bloom! Butterflies and bumblebees are very happy with this garden that was spearheaded by the Education Committee, and made possible with funds raised by the Sunday School and a generous donation from Angie Boe. Visit the patio area and take a look!

And we hope that everyone got to see the lilies while they did their annual flowering the third week in June! They are the result of church Easter Lily bulbs which were saved and planted in 2021 and 2022...another Earth Care Congregation initiative!

JUNE FINANCE NOTES

Our May financial report shows the following:

Thru May 2024	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Pledges	\$ 114,903	\$ 102,499	\$ 12,404
All Other Income	\$ 16,247	\$ 15,789	\$ 458
Total Income	\$ 131,150	\$ 118,288	\$ 12,862
Expenses			
Staff	\$ 79,121	\$ 88,551	\$ 9,430
All Other Expenses	\$ 37,189	\$ 41,409	\$ 4,220
Total Expense	\$ 116,310	\$ 129,960	\$ 13,650
Net Income	\$ 14,840	\$ (11,672)	\$ 26,513

Income and expenses are running favorable variances thus far. This is a pattern we've seen for a while, but if the pattern holds, the summer months show drops in income while expenses continue. We expect these favorable variances to shrink or even turn negative as we go thru the summer. Next month, Finance will be conducting a mid-year review and will ask committees for any changes in their budgets.

We continue to study the new Presbyterian Church (USA) Board of Pensions medical insurance plan. Many churches, including FPCW, will face sharply rising insurance bills for 2025 and beyond, due in large part to medical expense increases all across the United States. A preliminary analysis shows we'll pay in excess of \$10,000 more for 2025 insurance. We could reduce that a bit by adopting the Transitional Plan. Expenses under this plan would go up \$3,150 more each year for the next 3 years. Not good, but not as bad. Finance will look for ways to reduce budget pressures from other areas of church operation, as we can't do anything about the PCUSA insurance program changes.

Thank you for your generous support of our ministry in Woodstock and the world!

Mark Bundick, Finance Team Chair

mbundick@comcast.net

DEACONS UPDATE

We are happy to say that Jane Jensen has joined the church.
She will be in Angie Boe's flock.



We are happy to be continuing to offer coffee hours after church this summer hosted by the Deacons and other members of the congregation. Please sign up on the Host sign up sheet in the entryway.

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.

We will be encouraging involvement of Confirmands and encouraging in them a sense of belonging.

The Deacons did a "Minute for Mission" on June 9th. This is what we talked about:

Barb Parrish - We send cards for birthdays and other church events.

Mary Carol Dunker - We send college student "Care Packages."

Sherry Thuma - We set up the coffee fellowship and help with memorial/funerals.

Angie Boe - We take care of our flock by delivering food or setting up a "Meal Train" and help with needs.

Kristen Matter - We pray for our flock for the good and bad things.

Cheryl Wormley - She wrapped up what we said and added additional items we might have missed.

Please think about taking a name off of the "Reaching Out Tree" in the church entryway.
Send a card, call or visit in person.

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.



[Angie Boe](#) (815) 353-7993

[Mary Carol Dunker](#) (815) 245-4829

[Kristen Matter](#) (847) 609-8340

[Barb Parrish](#) (815) 353-2749

[Sherry Thuma](#) (815) 847-8339

[Cheryl Wormley](#) (815) 519-7402

JUNE SESSION NOTES

Pastor's Report: Eric reviewed the "AI, Ministry and You" online workshop he attended.

Compassion, Peace and Justice: Session discussed our participation in the Woodstock PrideFest and suggestions for future participation.

Congregational Life: The fall Rally Day will be on Sunday, September 8.

Education and Spiritual Growth: Scouts will be attending camp at Rice Lake, WI on June 23.

Ministry Support - Finance: The QuickBooks migration to QuickBooks Online was successfully completed. The Boy Scout trailer has been insured against damage and theft. The committee plans to investigate moving from AT&T to T-Mobile in an effort to improve our streaming service.

Worship, Music and Arts: Outdoor worship with a church potluck / picnic will be Sunday, July 28.

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, July 23, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The middle and high school students are looking at a retreat at [Stronghold](#) on November 1-3. More details will come. Pastor Eric volunteered to look into an Escape Room (at the church) for the youth this summer. Rally Day and Sunday School will be September 8th.

A church member mentioned the book *Mostly What God Does: Reflections on Seeking and Finding His Love Everywhere* by Savannah Guthrie. Eric will research this and discuss it as an option for the next book club.

The scouts trailer has the First Presbyterian logo on it as well as FPC's information on their [website](#). Ray Thuma will check into the Memorial Fund to help pay for this. The Scouts will be attending camp at Rice Lake in Wisconsin June 23rd.

Our next meeting will be July 14th at 11:00 am after church service.
Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Cook-Chair person



Compassion, Peace & Justice

(Awareness, Service)

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Chris Mathews

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Congregational Life

(Hospitality, NOW Team)

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Education & Spiritual Growth

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Dawn Cook

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Addison Sobczak

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Clerk of Session

Mark Bundick

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815-337-9068


July Worship Schedule

Date	Text	Liturgist	A/V	Greeters and Ushers
7/7/2024	Mark 6:1-13	Evan Kaye	Dave Johanson	Sue Krause and Mary Hill
7/14/2024	Mark 6:14-29	Angie Boe	Dave Johanson	Rick & Pat Morozink
7/21/2024	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56	Velma Downes	TBA	Tom Schaeffer & Chris Mathews
7/28/2024	John 6:1-21	Jim Wormley	Dave Johanson	Tiffany & Brayden Sobczak

**OUTDOOR
WORSHIP &
POTLUCK**

7/28/2024

Worship, Food, Music and Fun



Bring your Kites!

Have FUN!

Enjoy Fellowship

Play Gaga Ball

Outdoor Worship

Bring a dish to pass

9:30 am: Worship followed by Potluck

JULY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 8:30a Lectionary Study 4p Diaper Distribution	4	5	6 8a Highway Clean-up
7 9:30a Worship	8 10a TLC Ladies 7p Deacons	9	10 8:30a Lectionary Study	11 <i>Independence Day</i> 1p Finance Team	12	13
14 9:30a Worship 11a Education and Spiritual Growth	15	16	17 8:30a Lectionary Study 10a No-Name Knitters 5:15p NOW Dinner	18 6p Compassion, Peace and Justice	19	20
21 9:30a Worship 11a Session	22	23	24 8:30a Lectionary Study	25 1p Hospitality Team 6:30p Worship Arts Mtg	26	27
28 Outdoor Worship and Church Picnic/Potluck 9:30a Worship	29	30	31 8:30a Lectionary Study			

JULY 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

Harrison Cole
Accompanist



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WOODSTOCK**

CELEBRATING AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE

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