

First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock November 2024 Newsletter

A letter from Rev. Eric Corbin

For All the Saints...

This past Sunday, we gathered to commemorate All Saints' Day in worship, taking time to honor the memory of those who have passed away in the last year. We reflected on the impact of their lives, their legacies, and the way they have shaped our faith. We also remembered **all** those who have gone before us—whether connected to us by family or by our shared spiritual journey. As we honor the Saints of the past, we are reminded that we are called to be the Saints of the present, shaping the Saints of the future, and doing so as a united community of faith. Together, we are surrounded by that "great cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1), cheering us on as we continue serving God and others.

The week before, I was incredibly blessed by a thoughtful Pastor Appreciation celebration! I want to express my heartfelt thanks for the cake, the cards, the gifts, the children's notes, and your kind words. It is a true joy and privilege to serve alongside you. I deeply appreciate your love and support!

With Halloween behind us, the end of the year seems to gather speed, and before long, Christmas will be upon us. But let's not rush ahead just yet. Recently, I came across the graphic on the right that reminded me how early the holiday season seems to arrive. Christmas decorations have been in stores since at least early October, Chicago's 93.9 has already switched to non-stop Christmas music, and someone told me this week that she'll be taking down her Halloween decorations and immediately putting up Christmas decorations.

Before we get too far into the Christmas season, I'm really looking forward to what **November** holds for us! This month, we'll gather for brunch on November 10, return our pledges on Stewardship Sunday on November 17, and celebrate Thanksgiving Sunday on November 24. We'll also be decking the halls on that same Sunday (11/24) as we prepare for the First Sunday of Advent on December 1. Along with these special gatherings, I look forward to seeing you at worship services, NOW Dinners, committee meetings, and wherever else we may come together.

If you're unable to join us in person for worship, please know you can always connect online by visiting fpcwoodstock.org/worship. I'd love to hear from you about your worship experience, whether you join us virtually or in person.

As always, feel free to reach out to me anytime—whether by email at eric@fpcwoodstock.org, phone or text at 815-575-9454, or by scheduling a time to chat at fpcwoodstock.org/meetwitheric. You can also 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



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From Pastor Eric	Page 1
Together to Laugh & Learn	Pages 2-3
Caring Together	Pages 4-6
Leading Together	Page 7
Together in Worship	Page 8
November Calendar	Page 9



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,
Lynne Sobczak,
Pat Morozink, Nancy Bingham.

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

[Dawn Cook](#)

Hospitality Team

[Fred Strauss](#)

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 Loisel](#)

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

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 8:30 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.

THE FOOD PANTRY



The Food Pantry is located at [1033 Lake Avenue, in Woodstock, IL](#). It's in the back portion of the Door Township office building, across the street from Niko's Red Mill.

The Food pantry provides food twice a month to any Woodstock School District 200 resident.

Volunteers are needed for the front desk on
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Option of 2 shifts: 8:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m. or 12:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m.

Please consider volunteering for one three-hour shift per month. Duties include checking name & proof of current address (usually a utility bill is shown by the recipient.) A menu is then filled out by the client according to the family size. The volunteer then places the chosen menu items on the side and the client places them in bags. Simple as that!

You will never work alone. Currently, at least two volunteers are scheduled for a shift. As the Food pantry fulfills its obligation to transition to Link 2 Feed software there will be a need to have three volunteers per shift.

A handbook will be available online for answers to basic questions once you have signed up to work a shift.

If you would like to give it a try, or have any questions please contact Joyce, Maynard. She'll be happy to get you started. 815-338-7265.

NOW DINNER AND BRUNCH NEWS

Our Fall 2024 season continues at full steam.

What's coming up as we roll into November, our final month of fall dinners and brunches? Two big events on our radar are the November 6 Youth Group fundraiser, featuring spaghetti and meatballs, salad and dessert, and our November 20 Thanksgiving dinner. Don't miss these two dinners!

Dinner Dates	Host	Menu
November 6	Youth Group	Spaghetti and meatballs, salad, dessert
November 13	NOW Team	Mexican night, dessert
November 20	NOW Team	Thanksgiving with all the fixin's

Brunch Dates	Host	Menu
November 10	NOW Team	Pancakes and waffles, fruit
December 1	NOW Team	Breakfast casseroles, fruit
December 8	NOW Team	Eggs, sausage, bagels, muffins, fruit

The N.O.W. Team

Cheryl Wormley
(indepublisher@comcast.net)

John Moorhouse
(johnmoorhouse54@gmail.com)

Katie Spaldon
(kspaldon@gmail.com)

Lee Nedjl
(nejdlwoodstock@hotmail.com)

Linda Hansen
(lkhansen53@gmail.com)

Matt Thuma
(mrthuma@yahoo.com)

Mark Bundick
(mbundick@comcast.net)

Congrats to our 2024 Chili Cookoff winner, John Moorhouse, and thanks to the five other entries who competed.



We hope you can join us on Wednesdays and Sundays this fall for food, fellowship and fun!

CARING TOGETHER

November Birthdays

Rick Rewiako	11/02
Ray Thuma	11/03
Ben Walters	11/03
Lee Nejd	11/04
Jalina Petrik	11/06
John Rigby	11/06
Mike Downes	11/08
Phil Lauf	11/08
Christopher Corbin	11/11
Lora Totton Schwarz	11/12
Kyle Lafontaine	11/16
Chris Nejd	11/17
Jenny O'Hara	11/17
Tom Schwarz	11/18
Mary Grace Ferguson	11/20
Steve Bingham	11/22
Brenda Bradley	11/23
Annie Nelson	11/23
Kyler Petrik	11/23
Evey Davis	11/28

November Anniversaries

Barbara & Tim Arnold	11/01
Dawn & Cary Cook	11/05
Ken & Julie Farver	11/09

In Our Prayers

Caryl Lemanski, Gayle Abrams,
 Tom & Lora Schwarz, Kareem,
 Tim Arnold, Anna Mae Wenk,
 Mamie Drennen, Aaron,
 Travis Walters, Larry Collins,
 Mary Kittle, Braelyn Kittle,
 Savannah Karm, Cassidy Tullos,
 Jonathan Bundick, Sue Kenady,
 Arlene Bernardoni,
 The family and friends of Ruby
 Kennady,
 the family and friends of Becky
 Kent Medins,
 the family and friends of Tom
 Thennes.

EDUCATIONAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Present: Dawn Cook, Eric Corbin, Ray Thuma, Jackie Lawler

Opening Prayer: Dawn Cook

Sunday School: Started practice of the Christmas program this past Sunday, October 27th. The Sunday School kids made cards for Pastor Eric in appreciation of his service to our church. The students also packed a bucket of supplies to go towards helping cleanup in the southeast devastated by the hurricanes.

Youth Group: The youth went on a trip to the Volo Auto Museum on October 13th to participate on the Haunted Halloween Trolley. The students left after church to go eat at Fratello's and then attended the museum. There were two adults and seven students. The spaghetti fundraiser is scheduled for November 6th at the NOW dinner. December 7th, the youth will bake cookies to be delivered to shut-in church members.

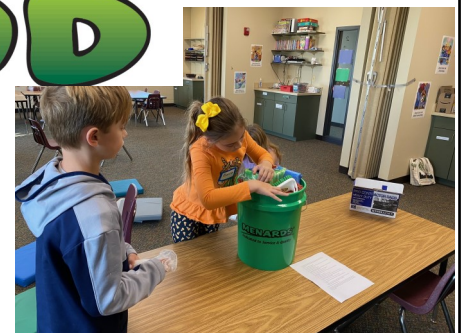
Book Discussion: The book *Mostly What God Does: Reflections on Seeking and Finding His Love Everywhere* by Savannah Guthrie will continue for two more sessions. There are about 15 people participating in this book discussion.

Scouts: They continue to work hard on recruiting. In June of 2026, the scouts will be going to Cimarron, New Mexico on a backpacking adventure in the backcountry. They were selected to attend and it is a two year process. There will be four adults and 8 scouts attending.

Closing Prayer: Eric Corbin



**PRAISE
GOD**



WACM

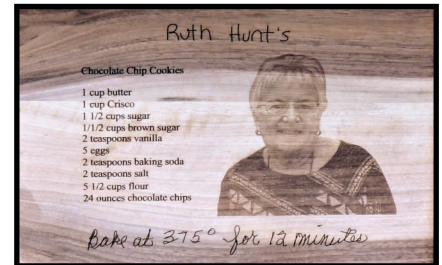
A collection of gently used cold weather gear for adults and children is underway at First Presbyterian. Coats, hats, scarves, long underwear, gloves/mittens, boots, and blankets will be offered to community members in need at WACM's **Share the Warmth Coat Drive**. Items will be selected at First United Methodist Church on Friday, November 15 from 2-7 pm and Saturday, November 16 from 9am-noon. You can drop off any items at the church through November 13. This is one way we serve others through local mission efforts. Thank you for your donations.



RUTH HUNT'S CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

The Memorial Committee is honoring Ruth Hunt and her delicious cookies with a plaque in the kitchen. We are grateful that Lori and Randy Stock found her recipe! When you're baking these this holiday season, remember our beloved Ruth.

- 1 cup butter
 - 1 cup Crisco
 - 1 1/2 cups sugar
 - 1 1/2 cups brown sugar
 - 2 teaspoons vanilla
 - 5 eggs
 - 2 teaspoons baking soda
 - 2 teaspoons salt
 - 5 1/2 cups flour
 - 24 ounces chocolate chips
- Bake at 375° for 12 minutes.*



OCTOBER SESSION NOTES

Pastor's Report: Eric offered highlights of his recent pastors' conference outside Little Rock, AR.

Nominating Committee: The committee is still seeking one deacon candidate, two elder candidates and two at-large Nominating Committee members.

Committee Reports:

Compassion, Peace and Justice: The Food Pantry is implementing a new software program to track statistics. The committee is investigating whether to support the Apartment Box project which supports migrant families.

Education and Spiritual Growth: The current book discussion, *Mostly What God Does*, has been very well attended.

Ministry Support - Building and Grounds: The new refrigerators and the new freezer have been ordered.

Ministry Support - Finance: Financial reports were accepted with thanks. The operating deficit thru September 30 is \$36,661, substantially smaller than budgeted. This is due to income exceeding plan and expenses running less than planned.

Ministry Support - Staff Management: The team will meet to begin the employee annual review process.

Worship, Music and Arts: World Communion Sunday was well attended. Advent planning is complete; decorating for Advent will be early this year, starting Sunday, November 24 after worship.

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, November 17, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

CARING TOGETHER

DEACONS

If you hear, see or know something, tell us!

“If you see something unusual, say something” is an announcement often heard in airports. Your deacons are adopting it for First Presbyterian with a slight change in wording.

If you hear, see or know something, tell us!

If you hear of someone who has a need, tell us.
If you see someone who has a need, tell us.
If you know of someone who has a need, tell us.

Needs come in many forms. It might be needing a ride or help understanding something or maybe its sadness or loneliness or ...

We also like celebrating, so tell us about your joys and accomplishments, too.
Unsure who your deacon is? Check the bulletin board in the hall.

GIVING TREE

Our annual congregational Giving Tree activity is coming soon. We hope to have the tree with gift suggestion tags set up in the entryway by Thanksgiving or soon thereafter.

Wrapped gifts with original tags attached should be placed near the tree by Sunday, Dec. 22 at the latest.

Don't forget to sign the chart with your name and the number(s) of the tags.

Thank you for participating in this project, it means a lot to the recipients!



What are YOU Thankful For?



NOVEMBER FINANCE NOTES

Our September financial report shows the following:

Thru September 2024	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Pledges	\$ 162,603	\$ 148,042	\$ 14,561
All Other Income	\$ 26,110	\$ 16,394	\$ 9,716
Total Income	\$ 188,712	\$ 164,436	\$ 24,276
Expenses			
Staff	\$ 160,100	\$ 160,879	\$ 779
All Other Expenses	\$ 61,880	\$ 75,544	\$ 13,664
Total Expense	\$ 221,980	\$ 236,423	\$ 14,443
Net Income	\$ (33,267)	\$ (71,987)	\$ 38,719
McCullough Funding	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -
Net Income	\$ (3,267)	\$ (41,987)	\$ 38,719

Income and expenses continue running favorable variances thus far. We are continuing the planned drawn down undesignated McCullough Endowment distribution funds to support our deficit spending.

Both the 2025 budget process and the stewardship mailing are underway. Expect to receive the stewardship mailing very soon. Stewardship Sunday will be November 17. Please carefully consider the needs of our church as you fill out and return your pledge cards. You can also complete your pledge card on line by visiting fpcwoodstock.org/pledge-form/

Finally, we can report that the McCullough Endowment fund continues good performance. The account (equity, fixed income, & cash) market values as of 9/30/24 is \$1,187,942.85. Year to date performance for the Balanced Growth Fund as of 9/30/24 was 13.51% us.14.06% for the benchmark/index. The difference between the actual us. the benchmark, known as "tracking error", is well within the range we expect the Presbyterian Foundation to maintain. Current asset allocation of the account per the investment objective of the Balanced Growth Fund is 60% equity and 40% fixed income.

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

Mark Bundick, Finance Team Chair
mbundick@comcast.net



Compassion, Peace & Justice

(Awareness, Service)
 Sue Krause
shkrausel@yahoo.com
 Chris Mathews
cwmathews8@gmail.com

Congregational Life
 (Hospitality, NOW Team)
 Fred Strauss
showskil@aol.com
 815-728-1430

Education & Spiritual Growth
 (Adult, Youth, Child, Intergenerational)
 Dawn Cook
cookdawn82@gmail.com
 Addison Sobczak

Ministry Support
 (Finance, Staff Support)
 Mark Bundick
mbundick@comcast.net
 815-337-9068
 (Building & Grounds, and Stewardship)
 Chris Dahm
cdahm@dahmco.com
 815-378-0273

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

Clerk of Session
 Mark Bundick
mbundick@comcast.net
 815-337-9068

NOVEMBER Worship Schedule

Date	Text	Liturgist	A/V	Greeters and Ushers	Acolyte
11/3/2024	Hebrews 11	Renee Simes	John Moorhouse	Carol Brefeld & Fred Strauss	Noa Moorhouse
11/10/2024	Mark 12:38-44	Dawn Cook	Christopher & Kristi Corbin	Cheryl Wormley and Beth Elbersen	Ryan Traimany
11/17/2024	Mark 13:1-8	Cheryl Wormley	Dave Johanson	Tiffany & Brayden Sobczak	Gianna Ferrera
11/24/2024	John 18:33-37	John Moorhouse	Brayden S. / Elin K. / Erik J.	Tom Schaeffer & Chris Mathews	Emily Lawler

Time to Get Crafty!!

Our congregation will again hold a fund-raising craft fair on Cantata Sunday in December.

Have you started making a craft or two? Can you?

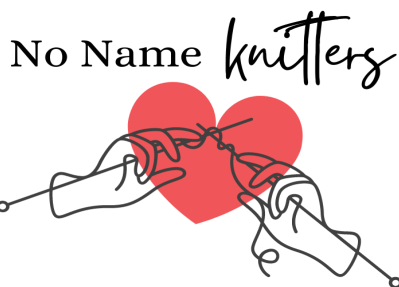
All kinds of crafts are accepted for sale: wooden, cloth, ceramic, paper, etc.

Please consider joining this effort. Proceeds will go to the youth fund for some of their fun/outreach ventures. Thank you!!



NO NAME KNITTERS

Our hope is that everyone's lives will be full of both THANKS and GIVING this November! Please join us as we make items for others, to share God's love, and to show that we care. We meet at 10:00 a.m., on the third Wednesday of each month. Items made at home are also appreciated. Call Kay Darby at 815-572-1729, for information.



FPC Giving Tree

Our annual congregational Giving Tree activity is coming soon. We hope to have the tree with gift suggestion tags set up in the entryway by Thanksgiving or soon thereafter. Wrapped gifts with original tags attached should be placed near the tree by Sunday, Dec. 22 at the latest. Don't forget to sign the chart with your name and the number(s) of the tags. Thank you for participating in this project, it means a lot to the recipients!

NOVEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 7a Men's Bible Study
9:30a Worship	4	5 8:30a Lectionary Study 4p Diaper Distribution 5:15p NOW Dinner 6p Book Discussion -- Mostly What God Does 7p Choir Rehearsal	7 1p Visitation for Becky Medins 2p Memorial Service for Becky Medins 6p Worship Arts Mtg	8	9 7a Men's Bible Study
<i>Daylight Saving Time Ends</i>		<i>Election Day</i>			
10 Choir Sings 9:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School: PreK-5th 10:30a Brunch 11a Education and Spiritual Growth	11 <i>Veterans Day</i>	12 10a TLC Ladies 7p Deacons	13 8:30a Lectionary Study 5:15p NOW Dinner	14 1p Finance Team	15 7a Men's Bible Study
17 9:30a Worship 11a Session	18	19 9:30a Host Blackhawk Presbytery	20 8:30a Lectionary Study 10a No-Name Knitters 5:15p NOW Dinner 7p Choir Rehearsal	21 1p Hospitality Team 6p Compassion, Peace and Justice 6:30p Worship Arts Mtg	22 7a Men's Bible Study
24 Choir Sings 9:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School: PreK-5th 10:30a Pizza & Decorating for Advent	25	26	27 8:30a Lectionary Study	28 Office Closed	29 7a Men's Bible Study
					30 7a Men's Bible Study
					<i>Thanksgiving Day</i>

NOVEMBER 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

Visit us on Facebook

www.fpcwoodstock.org

Website:

office@fpcwoodstock.org

E-mail:

Phone: (815) 338-2627

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2018 N II Route 47
Woodstock, IL 60098