

First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock

January 2025 Newsletter

A letter from Rev. Eric Corbin

Stepping Forward in Faith

Happy New Year! As we step into 2025, I'm reminded of Psalm 96:1: *"Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth!"* Each new year offers us an opportunity to look ahead with hope, to consider how God is calling us to grow in faith and service.

I want to express my gratitude for the beautiful Advent and Christmas season we've just shared. From the lovely decorations to the inspiring music to the children's joyful participation, the season was filled with reminders of God's light shining in the darkness. Thank you to everyone who contributed their time and talents to make it so meaningful!

This month, we honor the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., reflecting on his unwavering commitment to justice, peace, and the dignity of every person. Dr. King's words, "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase," inspire us to step into this new year with hope and courage, trusting in God's guidance as we work toward a world that reflects God's kingdom.

As we enter this new season, I invite you to reflect on how you might deepen your connection with God and with one another. Are there ways you feel God nudging you to step out in faith—perhaps by volunteering, joining a study, or reaching out to a neighbor? Even small steps can bring us closer to God and each other.

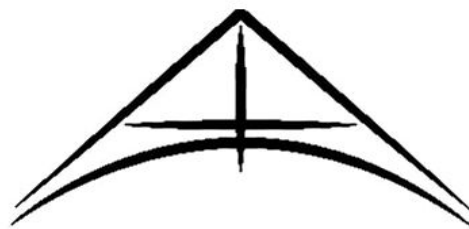
We'll gather for our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 26, following worship. This is an important time for us to celebrate what God has done in the past year, plan for the year ahead, and discern how we can grow as Christ's body in Woodstock and beyond.

May we begin this year with hearts open to God's presence and trust that whatever challenges or opportunities lie ahead, God will guide us. I look forward to seeing how God will work in and through us in 2025!

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 you can schedule 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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF WOODSTOCK



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wise
MEN
STILL SEEK
him

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 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

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Saturday, at 7:00 a.m.

Everyone is invited to join us for a time of learning and fellowship. Together, we trust in God's guidance and grace, experiencing the love of our Creator through a right relationship with 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.

SUCCESSFUL CRAFT FAIR

Approximately \$450 was raised from the December Craft Fair. All proceeds went to the church's Youth Fund for their activities and programs. Thank you so much to those who contributed a wide variety of home-made crafts and to those who purchased those "treasures".

2024 GIVING TREE

Our Christmas season Giving Tree project was a great success with all tags taken off the tree and brought to church on wrapped gifts. The two Woodstock families who benefitted from your generous gifts were amazed and delighted with this help for their holiday gift-giving and very grateful. Heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to this meaningful outreach from our congregation. Bless you!



WACM

Housing issues have been highlighted recently in conversations with WACM's Direct Assistance Program volunteers. We have had applicants share their gratitude for the assistance they received for special needs after the apartment fire in town and happily report about their new apartments. In contrast, 3 out of 12 applicants at the first January DAP session shared their dilemmas of being homeless and living in their cars. The **Direct Assistance Program** assists toward a security deposit or first month's rent for Woodstock tenants. Referrals to other resources are provided when we are unable to provide financial assistance. Support of WACM and its Direct Assistance Program provides funds to help Woodstock residents with their housing needs. Thank you for your support.

NOW DINNER AND BRUNCH NEWS

The Spring 2025 season of N.O.W. (Nurture on Wednesday) dinners is about to kick off! The team met in early December and have planned out most of our spring menus and dates. Here are our upcoming menus.



Dinner Dates	Host	Menu
Jan. 8	NOW Team	Soup, grilled cheese, chips, salad
Jan. 15	NOW Team	Chicken fettuccini alfredo, salad
Jan. 22	NOW Team	Pulled pork sandwiches, salad
Jan. 29	NOW Team	Taco bar, salad
Feb. 5	NOW Team	"Souper Bowl", grilled cheese, salad

Brunch Dates	Host	Menu
Jan. 12	NOW Team	Eggs, sausage, bagels, muffins, fruit
Jan. 26	NOW Team	Breakfast casseroles and quiches, fruit
Feb. 9	NOW Team	Eggs, sausage, bagels, muffins, fruit

N.O.W. Team from left to right::
Katie Spaldon, John Moorhouse,
Matt Thuma, Linda Hansen,
Mark Bundick, Lee Nejd, and
Cheryl Wormley

The N.O.W. Team

Cheryl Wormley
(indepublisher@comcast.net)

John Moorhouse
(johnmoorhouse54@gmail.com)

Katie Spaldon(kspaldon@gmail.com)

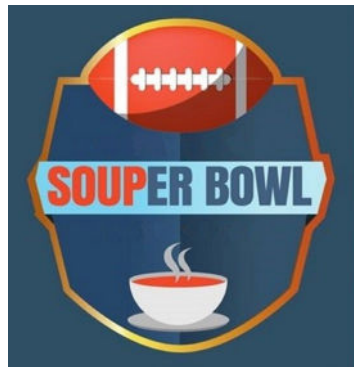
Lee Nejd
(nejdlwoodstock@hotmail.com)

Linda Hansen
(lkhanen53@gmail.com)

Matt Thuma (mrthuma@yahoo.com)

Mark Bundick
(mbundick@comcast.net)

For the "Souper Bowl," we'd like folks to bring a pot of their favorite soup to share. Please let a N.O.W. team member know if you're going to bring soup on February 5. This spring, take a night off and bring your family and friends out for some good food, good fellowship and good fun! And hang around after worship on Sundays that have Sunday School and brunch with your fellow FPCWers!



JANUARY RED WAGON

Canned soup of any kind, dry mix soups, or ramen noodles.

Monetary Donations are always welcome!

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



FOOD PANTRY IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

We are calling on FPCW to Help.

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.

Call Carolyn at 815-338-0897, and leave a message if you have questions about volunteering.

CARING TOGETHER

January Birthdays

Caryl Lemanski	1/02
Dylan Lawler	1/04
Brayden Sobczak	1/04
Angie Boe	1/07
Christy Johanson	1/07
Scott Greenlee	1/09
Mason Nicolai	1/11
Patrick Moorhouse	1/12
Marcia Gummerson	1/25
Colin Kaye	1/27
Evie Roewer	1/29

January Anniversaries

Eric & Kristi Corbin	1/03
Jane & Robert Jensen	1/05
Ken & Joyce Maynard	1/06
Jim & Cheryl Wormley	1/25
Ryan & Gwen Wormley	1/25

In Our Prayers

Paul Thuma, Marla Rigby, Melinda Gallant, Jeri Loiselle, Sue Kenady, Loretta Nejd, Gayle Abrams, Aaron, Tom Schwarz, Kareem, Tim Arnold, Mary Kittle, Cassidy Tullos, Travis Walters, Larry Collins, Braelyn Kittle, Arlene Bernardoni, the family and friends of Alice Moore (Kristi Corbin's grandmother), the family and friends of Larry Riggs.



Christmas Joy Offering Prepare the Way!

The Christmas Joy Offering supports church leaders, retired, present and future. Fifty percent of the money collected through this offering supports our current and former church leaders through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. The other fifty percent assists future leaders for our Church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges in communities of color. We will be collecting this offering throughout January. Our Offering is \$1375, our goal is to collect \$1,500.



DEACONS

Leading through Serving.

Mary Carol Dunker (815) 245-4829

Kristen Matter (847) 609-8340

Barb Parrish (815) 353-2749

Cheryl Wormley (815) 519-7402

We are happy to be continuing to offer coffee hour after church hosted by members of the Deacons and other members of the congregation. Thanks to the NOW Team for Brunches on 12/1, and 12/8! Also, thank you to Pam and John Moorhouse for helping us on Nov. 17th and the Sobczaks on Dec. 22nd; the Hospitality Com. on Nov. 24th and cookies from Sunday school families on Dec. 15th. We would love to have anyone sign up for a Sunday in January.

We will be putting the "Reaching Out Tree" away for a while since we sent Thanksgiving cards with the Advent schedule to everyone.

This was the last meeting for Sherry Thuma as a Deacon. We have appreciated her sharing her talents and "tending her flock." She will be missed!

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.

*Don't forget!
We'll have brief
Congregational
Meetings
on 1/12 and
1/26, following
worship.*



No-Name Knitters
January, the month of new beginnings and fresh starts! As we reflect on the past years, our intentions for the New Year are to bring warmth, comfort, or celebration to our church family and community. If you would like to try something new this year, come join us in our mission to help others. Call Kay Darby at 815-572-1729 for more information.

January Worship Schedule

Date	Text	Liturgist	A/V	Greeters and Ushers	Acolyte
1/5	Matthew 2:1-12	Renee Simes	John Moorhouse	Rick & Pat Morozink	Ryan Traimany
1/12	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Evan Kaye	Christopher & Kristi Corbin	Tom Schaeffer & Chris Mathews	Gianna Ferrera
1/19	John 2:1-11	Tom Schaeffer	Dave Johanson	Cheryl Wormley and Beth Elbersen	Emily Lawler
1/26	Luke 4:14-21	Angie Boe	Brayden S., Elin K., and Erik J.	Mary Hill and Sue Krause	Noa Moorhouse



DECEMBER SESSION NOTES

Nominating Committee: We are still looking for an elder and an at-large Nominating Committee member.

Committee Reports:

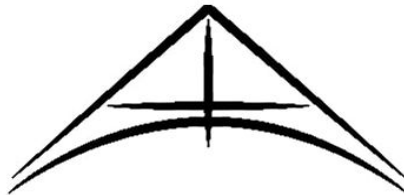
Ministry Support - Building and Grounds: The new refrigerators and freezer have arrived. The office area furnace has been replaced.

Ministry Support - Finance: Eric and Mark are working to execute financial tasks given the medical absence of the office administrator. After extensive discussion, session agreed to have Mark research and find an accountant or accounting firm to help resolve unreconciled accounts.

Finance will need to do contingency planning in case the administrator isn't able to return in January.

Ministry Support - Staff Management: Personnel policy offers up to 8 weeks of any unpaid leave of absence, should the office administrator be unable to return in January.

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, January 19, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.



**Compassion,
Peace & Justice**
(Awareness, Service)
Sue Krause

shkrause1@yahoo.com

Chris Mathews
cwmathews8@gmail.com

Congregational Life
(Hospitality, NOW Team)
Fred Strauss
showskit@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

JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2	3	4 7a Men's Bible Study
5 9:30a Worship 10:30a "Un-decking the halls"	6 <i>Epiphany</i>	7	8 8:30a Lectionary Study 4p Diaper Distribution 5:15p NOW Dinner	9 1p Finance Team	10 <i>WinterXtreme</i>	11 1p Larry Riggs visitation 3p Larry Riggs funeral
12 <i>WinterXtreme</i> 9:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School: PreK-5th 10:30a Congregational Meeting 10:30a NOW Brunch 11a Education and Spiritual Growth	13	14 10a TLC Ladies 7p Deacons	15 8:30a Lectionary Study 10a No-Name Knitters 5:15p NOW Dinner	16 3p Hospitality Team 6p Compassion, Peace and Justice 7p Worship Arts Mtg	17	18
19 9:30a Worship 11a Session	20	21	22 8:30a Lectionary Study 5:15p NOW Dinner	23	24	25
26 9:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School: PreK-5th 10:30a Congregational Annual Meeting 10:30a NOW Brunch	27 <i>Martin Luther King Day</i>	28	29 8:30a Lectionary Study 5:15p NOW Dinner	30	31	

JANUARY 2025



**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

Harrison Cole
Accompanist

Visit us on Facebook

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