

First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock February 2025 Newsletter

A letter from Rev. Eric Corbin

Love in the Everyday

February brings two well-known moments—one lighthearted, one centered on love. Observing *Groundhog Day* (of course, filmed right here in Woodstock) is a fun tradition, and Valentine's Day reminds us to celebrate love in all its forms. And yet, they share a common thread: the power of daily choices.

In the movie *Groundhog Day*, Phil Connors finds himself reliving the same day over and over. At first, he responds with frustration and self-interest. But as time goes on, he begins to use each repeated day as an opportunity—to serve, to show kindness, to make the lives of those around him just a little better. In the end, not only is he transformed, but so is the community around him.

We may not wake up to the same day on repeat, but we do live in the patterns of daily life. What if we saw those routines not as monotony but as opportunities? Love, as Jesus modeled, isn't just a feeling—it's a choice we make again and again, in the everyday moments of life. Whether through a listening ear, a helping hand, or an act of justice, we are called to love in ways that shape not just ourselves, but the world around us.

Like Phil Connors' daily choices that transformed his community, the civil rights leaders we honor during *Black History Month* understood that lasting change comes through persistent, everyday actions. James Baldwin once wrote, "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." As we step into a new season in our nation, we recognize that progress is never guaranteed. The voices of those who came before us—who fought for civil rights, dignity, and justice—call us to remain vigilant. Let us not only remember their legacy but actively join in their ongoing struggle, ensuring that love and justice shape our communities, even in times of challenge.

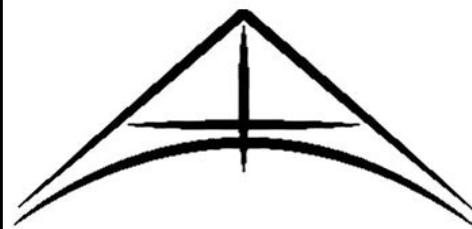
So whether Woodstock Willie predicts a longer winter or an early spring, may we wake up each day ready to love, to serve, and to make the most of the time we've been given.

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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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

[Ray Thuma](#)

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.



"In the heart of winter, February brings warmth and love to all." We hope that anyone who receives one of our handmade projects, will have that same feeling in any season! If you can knit or crochet, please join us at one of our meetings in the Fireside Room. We expanded our times to include both a morning and an evening time, which will follow the NOW dinner when they are serving. The first Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m., and the third Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Come visit! We would love to see you!

FEBRUARY RED WAGON

Spam, Corned Beef, Salmon, Tuna, Beef Stew, Small Hams, Canned Hash, Canned Chicken Breast

Leave your donations in the red wagon located at the rear of the Great Hall.

Monetary Donations are always welcome!



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.

Volunteer anytime during these hours:


Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. 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.

WACM

Serving the community is part of FPC’s vision statement, and there are many opportunities to do that. One way is by becoming a DAP volunteer. Financial help with basic needs is provided through WACM’s Direct Assistance Program (DAP). Volunteers meet with Woodstock residents on the first and third Thursday afternoon each month at Grace Lutheran Church to process those requests for financial assistance.

If you feel the call to serve and have a few hours a month to help at DAP, please contact Pat Morozink at (815)353-0878 or email pmorozink@yahoo.com. WACM/DAP relies on the support of its member churches, which include First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock. Thank you.



DAP - Direct Assistance Program
 The Woodstock Area Community Ministries is a lay-led 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit that was established by the faith congregations of Woodstock. Its Board of Directors and volunteers firmly believe members of a community share the responsibility for caring for those living within the community who are in-need.

DAP provides District 200 residents who are experiencing an emergency financial crisis with gas cards and vouchers for clothing, footwear, and prescription medicines. It also makes monetary payments to third parties for the payment of car repairs, and past due rent and utility bills to prevent evictions and utility shut-offs.

In person aid requests can be made the 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month: 12 noon–3 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church 1300 W. Kishwaukee Valley Rd., Woodstock, IL (Or call us at (815) 529-4370 and leave a message)

WACM does not discriminate in the provision of assistance on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, or any other criteria. All individuals and families who come to WACM for emergency financial assistance are treated with dignity and respect.

For more information visit our website at: wacmgroups.org



Event by St. Mary Catholic Church
 312 Lincoln Ave, Woodstock, IL

Everyone is welcome to attend this free praise and worship event!

Featuring live music from The Believers, free-will donations will be collected for WACM, Woodstock Area Community Ministries.

St. Mary School Gymnasium
 3:00 PM- 4:30 PM

Elderwerks

ELDERWERKS WEBINAR

March 4th, Identity Theft & Scams

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm, Virtual

Join us for this helpful discussion on how to stay safe from scammers. Unfortunately, older adults are frequent targets, losing billions of dollars each year to scams and fraud. Join Agnieszka Lizak for an informative session on the latest scams to be aware of and what you can do to protect yourself, now and anytime.

If you would like to join in this webinar as a group from the Fireside Room, let Pastor Eric know, or feel free to register individually and join in from home.

CARING TOGETHER

February Birthdays

Evan Kaye	02/02
Hunter Johanson	02/04
Jessie Justice	02/09
Jamie Cook	02/11
Kyle Sobczak	02/12
Faith Corbin	02/15
Kathi Carr	02/18
Kristen Matter	02/20
Mary Hill	02/22
Lori Stock	02/23
Diane Messman	02/25
Nancy Bingham	02/26

February Anniversaries

Paul & Vicki Thuma	02/01
Hank and Shari Olesen	02/21

In Our Prayers

John Hudson, Dick Larsen, Ken Walters, Ken Farver, Paul Thuma, Denise Downes, Marla Rigby, Melinda Gallant, Sue Kenady, Loretta Nejd, Kareem, Gayle Abrams, Aaron, Tom Schwarz, Tim Arnold, Mary Kittle, Cassidy Tullos, Travis Walters, Larry Collins, Braelyn Kittle, Arlene Bernardoni, the people who've lost homes in wildfires, those impacted by new federal policies.

FPC Sunday School Schedule

- February 9
- February 23
- March 9
- March 16
- April 13 (Palm Sunday)
- April 27
- May 11 (Last Day)



Youth Group

Anyone that would like to host an event, please contact Jackie Lawler.



WOODSTOCK PRIDE FEST

The Woodstock Pride Festival will be held June 8. As in past years, FPCW is planning to apply for a booth at this event to show our support of the LGBTQ community. This year we are also considering walking in the parade which opens the event. If you would like to help plan and participate in Pride, please come to a meeting to be held after church on February 23rd. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but would still like to be a part of the planning, please contact [Sue Krause](#) or [Chris Mathews](#).



DEACONS

Leading through Serving.



There are times in our lives when we experience trials and sorrows and times that bring us an abundance of joy and happiness. Whether you are in need of spiritual strength and prayer or you have a joy to share and celebrate, please let us know!

We would like to welcome our new deacons Tom Schaeffer, Carol Brefeld, & Ana Corbin (Youth Deacon).

Carol Brefeld
(815) 653-3005

Ana Corbin (*Youth Deacon*)
(815) 575-9472

Mary Carol Dunker
(815) 245-4829

Kristen Matter
(847) 609-8340
Barb Parrish
(815) 353-2749

Tom Schaeffer
(717) 994-3819

Cheryl Wormley
(815) 519-7402

N.O.W. NEWS

Contact a member of the N.O.W. Team to see how you can help.

The N.O.W. Team

Cheryl Wormley
(indepublisher@comcast.net)

John Moorhouse
(johnmoorhouse54@gmail.com)

Katie Spaldon(kspaldon@gmail.com)

Lee NejdI
(nejdlwoodstock@hotmail.com)

Linda Hansen
(lkhansen53@gmail.com)

Matt Thuma (mrthuma@yahoo.com)

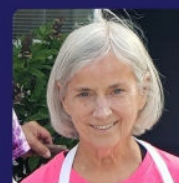
Mark Bundick
(mbundick@comcast.net)



Cheryl Wormley



Mark Bundick



Linda Hansen



Katie Spaldon



Lee NejdI



Matt Thuma



Your Name Here



John Moorhouse

TOGETHER IN WORSHIP

February Worship Schedule

Date	Text	Liturgist	A/V	Ushers and Greeters	Acolyte
2/2	Luke 4:21-30	Addison Sobczak	John Moorhouse	Tiffany & Brayden Sobczak	Braden Ferrera
2/9	Luke 5:1-11	Sue Krause	Kristi & Christopher Corbin	Fred Strauss and Carol Brefeld	Dylan Lawler
2/16	Luke 6:17-26	Cheryl Wormley	Dave Johanson	Rick & Pat Morozink	Ryan Traimany
2/23	Luke 6:27-38	Velma Downes	Brayden S., Elin K., and Erik J.	Tom Schaeffer & Chris Mathews	Gianna Ferrera

Compassion, Peace & Justice
(Awareness, Service)
Sue Krause
shkrause1@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)
Ray Thuma
rpthuma@sbcglobal.net
Addison Sobczak

Ministry Support
(Finance, Staff Support)
Bob Clark
mbundick@comcast.net
(Building & Grounds)
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 SESSION NOTES

Pastor's Report: Eric welcomed new Elders and will be distributing to new session members a link to a short video outlining the duties of session members.



Memorial Committee: The new electronic sign has been ordered and is due to ship in February. Installation may have to wait until warmer weather as 220-volt power is needed to run the sign.

Committee Reports:

Compassion, Peace and Justice: The committee has been asked by Presbytery to produce a video about our diaper bank distribution efforts. The food pantry is preparing to move to a new location. We need to find a second representative to the pantry for 2025. The committee will be discussing the future of the craft sale and highway cleanup.

Education and Spiritual Growth: The youth outing to Timberlee was successful, and the youth want the trip to be an annual event. Other camps are available, one an overnight for middle schoolers. Boy Scout Troop 159 had one Eagle Scout in 2024; they are searching for more scouts.

Ministry Support - Building and Grounds: Our new refrigerators and freezer are working well. The old ones were donated to the food pantry.

Ministry Support - Staff Management: The committee will be reviewing job descriptions to see if any revisions are needed.

Other Business:

Fred Strauss was elected as Commissioner to the February 11, 2025 Blackhawk Presbytery meeting.

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, February 16, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

FEBRUARY 2025

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

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E-mail:

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH