

# First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock

## March 2025 Newsletter

### A letter from Rev. Eric Corbin

Dear Friends,

As we step into the season of Lent, we find ourselves walking the road toward Jerusalem alongside Jesus. He journeyed toward the cross with purpose, knowing the trials ahead yet holding fast to hope. As his followers, we are called to walk in his footsteps, trusting that even in seasons of struggle and uncertainty, resurrection is coming.

Lent reminds us that we are people of hope, even when the way forward feels unclear. The days are growing longer, and signs of spring are beginning to appear, even if winter still lingers. Likewise, in our spiritual lives, we may experience seasons of grief or change, but we hold fast to the promise that God is at work, renewing us day by day.

This year, as part of our Lenten journey, we are offering a devotional series titled *Grieving Change and Loss: The Unpredictable, Non-Linear, Faith-Filled Journey Toward Resurrection*. It invites us to reflect on the many kinds of loss we experience—not just in death, but in transitions, disappointments, and the unexpected shifts of life—and to consider how our faith helps us navigate them. Those who wish to participate will read the devotional on their own and gather weekly for discussion. Printed copies of the devotional are available upon request, or I can send you a PDF copy if you prefer to read it digitally. If you're interested or have any questions, please contact me.

As we prepare our hearts for Easter, I invite you to consider: What burdens are you carrying on this journey? What might you need to release? Lent is a season of reflection, but it is also one of renewal. Just as Jesus walked toward Jerusalem with purpose, we, too, are called to step forward in faith, trusting that God's love leads us through every season.

I hope you will join us in worship, in study, in service, and in prayer as we walk this road together. May this be a season where we are shaped by hope and drawn ever closer to the promise of resurrection.

As always, feel free to reach out to me anytime—whether by email at [eric@fpcwoodstock.org](mailto:eric@fpcwoodstock.org), phone or text at 815-575-9454, or you can schedule a time to chat at [fpcwoodstock.org/meetwitheric](https://fpcwoodstock.org/meetwitheric). You can also connect with me on Facebook at [fb.com/ericcorbin](https://fb.com/ericcorbin) or [fb.com/pastorericcorbin](https://fb.com/pastorericcorbin), and the church at [fb.com/fpcwoodstock](https://fb.com/fpcwoodstock).

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Eric

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF WOODSTOCK



#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From Pastor Eric	Page 1
Together to Laugh & Learn	Pages 2-3
Caring Together	Pages 4-5
Together in Worship	Page 6
March Calendar	Page 7

#### SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

In the Great Hall @ 9:30 a.m. or online  
at [fpcwoodstock.org/worship](https://fpcwoodstock.org/worship)



#### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jeri Loiselle

#### REPORTERS

Eric Corbin, Cheryl Wormley, Angie Boe, Jackie Lawler, Bob Clark, Sue Krause, Kay Darby, Joyce Maynard, Pat Morozink, Nancy Bingham.

# TOGETHER TO LAUGH AND LEARN

## Men's 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

## Diaper Distribution

[Nancy Bingham](#)

815-823-5107

## Fishing Mission

[Bob Clark](#)

847-274-8247

## 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.



March - the days are becoming noticeably longer, and Spring is on the horizon. We are always busy knitting/crocheting our prayer shawls, lapghans, winter hats and neck scarves, and baby items. More hands are always needed! Meetings are held on the first Wednesday, at 10 a.m., and the third Wednesday of each month, at 6 p.m. Call Kay Darby for any information, 815-572-1729.



## MARCH RED WAGON

**Cereal, Pancake Mix,  
Oatmeal, Syrup**

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

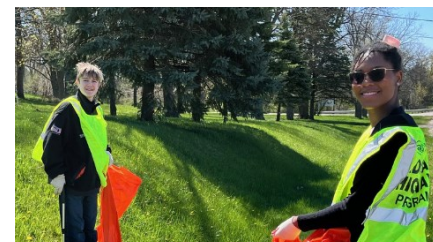
Monetary Donations are always welcome!

## FOOD PANTRY IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

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.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH WOODSTOCK



# MARCH NOW MENU

TUESDAY MAR 4 DINNER FAT TUESDAY – JAMBALAYA, RED BEANS & RICE, SALAD, PĄCZKI

SUNDAY MAR 9 BRUNCH CASSEROLES, EGGS & SAUSAGE

WEDNESDAY MAR 12 DINNER CHICKEN PARMESAN

SUNDAY MAR 16 BRUNCH WAFFLES, BACON, EGGS

WEDNESDAY MAR 19 DINNER STIR FRY PORK, FRIED RICE

WEDNESDAY MAR 26 DINNER ITALIAN



Katie Spaldon



Jane Jensen



Linda Hansen



Lee Nejd



Cheryl Wormley



John Moorhouse



Matt Thuma



Mark Bundick

## Nurture on Wednesday NEWS

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

**Mark Bundick**

[mbundick@comcast.net](mailto:mbundick@comcast.net)

224-242-2451

**Linda Hansen**

[lkhanzen53@gmail.com](mailto:lkhanzen53@gmail.com)

815-451-8735

**Jane Jensen**

[jensenjane74@gmail.com](mailto:jensenjane74@gmail.com)

847-293-4358

**John Moorhouse**

[johnmoorhouse54@gmail.com](mailto:johnmoorhouse54@gmail.com)

815-236-7408

**Lee Nejd**

[nejdlwoodstock@hotmail.com](mailto:nejdlwoodstock@hotmail.com)

815-546-1731

**Katie Spaldon**

[kspaldon@gmail.com](mailto:kspaldon@gmail.com)

815-276-3410

**Matt Thuma**

[mrthuma@yahoo.com](mailto:mrthuma@yahoo.com)

815-370-4094

**Cheryl Wormley**

[indepublisher@comcast.net](mailto:indepublisher@comcast.net)

815-519-7402

## FAT TUESDAY NOW DINNER

Join in the fellowship and food for Fat Tuesday, March 4 (No dinner Wednesday, March 5). The N.O.W. team will be serving up jambalaya, red beans, and rice, and delicious Polish paczkis (filled donuts). Same time 5:15 p.m. and same price \$4.

### Planning ahead?

- No N.O.W. dinner Wednesday, April 9 – the week of the rummage sale
  - April 16- Last spring season dinner
- FPCW Dessert Bake Off -- Anyone can enter – only one entry per person. The winner will be chosen by vote of people at the April 16 dinner.
  - Four more brunches following Sunday school and worship

Now we're eight. We proudly announce and warmly welcome Jane Jensen to the N.O.W. Team!



# CARING TOGETHER

## March Birthdays

Lydia Dunker	3/04
Larry Stanger	3/06
Lucas Moorhouse	3/07
Barbara Bundick	3/08
Gwen Wormley	3/09
Hank Olesen Jr.	3/11
Mary Carol Dunker	3/14
Chris Gienko	3/17
Eric Corbin	3/21
Carol Halma	3/24
Justin Thuma	3/25



**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

## March Anniversaries

Ray & Angela Thuma	3/02
Chris & Ellen Dahm	3/22
John & Marla Rigby	3/29

## In Our Prayers

Shepherd Quinlan, Pete Thennes, Tim Arnold, Vickie Thuma, Tom Schwarz, John Hudson, Paul Thuma, Denise Downes, Marla Rigby, Melinda Gallant, Loretta Nejd, Kareem, Gayle Abrams, Mary Kittle, Cassidy Tullos, Travis Walters, Larry Collins, Braelyn Kittle, Danielle Rewiako (at the loss of her Aunt Marty), the people who've lost homes in wildfires, those impacted by new federal policies.

### SPECIAL OFFERING

**One Great Hour of Sharing  
March 5-April 20, 2025**

**Ending hunger, repairing after disasters, and promoting the self-development of all people.**

Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to **One Great Hour of Sharing** supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. All three programs 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 congregational goal is to collect \$1500 for this Special Offering to alleviate suffering and offer hope and a future to people around the globe who need support and sustenance due to food insecurity, war and natural disasters.

Please consider your donation prayerfully.

Donations may be made by check to FPC (please write OGHS in the memo line) or through our [website](#) online payment portal.

THANK YOU!

**FINANCE REPORT**

As typical, due to early pledge donations from members, our January Net Revenue was positive – \$29,725 which was over \$9,000 favorable to the January Budget.

As noted in the Annual Report, the projected annual budget deficit is well over \$100,000. To fund this – per session approval, we have resumed the four percent distribution from the McCullough Endowment Fund and we will take a one-time distribution of \$50,000 from this fund. We had paused the four percent distribution about a year and one-half ago, when the fund’s value had declined, due to not needing the cash at that time.

We are pleased to welcome Jim Wormley to the Finance Committee to join Vicki Thuma, Pastor Eric, and me.

We need a new Treasurer for the church. If anyone has any questions or suggestions feel free to contact me so that I can pass the information on to the Nominating Committee.

May God bless you for your support toward the financial well-being of our church.

Bob Clark – Finance Team Lead



**[SAVE THE DATES!](#)**

**[April 10-12, 2025](#)**

**[Drop Off begins on Friday April 4](#)**

FPCW has a reputation for having AMAZING rummage sales, with all of the proceeds benefiting organizations which care for those in need in our community.

You can help us continue our winning streak!

We're accepting donations of Clothes, shoes, purses, jewelry, toys, books, CDs, DVDs, magazines, linens, dishes, kitchen items, tools, fishing and camping gear, baskets, pictures, small appliances, small furniture and????

What else ya got?!

**Please make sure that all of you items are clean and in working order, with nothing missing. When you make your donations, please put a suggested price to help us decide its value.**

**Tips to get you started:**

**Go through everyone's closet, fill one bag per person in your home.**



- Mary Carol Dunker**  
(815) 245-4829
- Kristen Matter**  
(847) 609-8340
- Barb Parrish**  
(815) 353-2749
- Carol Brefeld**  
(815) 653-3005
- Ana Corbin**  
*(Youth Deacon)*  
(815) 575-9472
- Tom Schaeffer**  
(717) 994-3819
- Cheryl Wormley**  
(815) 519-7402

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

If you hear, see or know of someone who is ...

- sick
- hurting
- scheduled for or recovering from surgery
- facing challenges
- sad
- lonely ...

Please call, so we can offer our love, support, and prayers.

We also like celebrating, so tell us about joys and accomplishments, too.

# PAINTED PRAYER

Painted Prayers: An Abstract Art Journey

Discover peace, express your soul, and create with heart.

March 9

After service

Materials Provided: All painting supplies included

No experience needed—just an open heart



Use Code to sign up  
(preregistration required)



**FEBRUARY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

**•People in new offices:**

Chris Mathews was elected as Clerk of Session and Ray Thuma was elected as Assistant Clerk of Session

Ray Thuma was appointed chair of the Nominating Committee.

**•Financial Decisions:**

\$50,000 was approved for transfer from the McCullough Funds Account to the General Fund.

Changes were made to check signers for the checking account

**•Committee Updates and Actions:**

The Deacons are working on a Memorial Guide and considering duties for the new Youth Deacon role.

The Education and Spiritual Growth Committee is planning a Lenten Book Discussion.

The Lenten schedule of services has been finalized and distributed.

**•General:**

Reports from various committees (Pastor; Deacons; Compassion, Peace, & Justice; Congregational Life; Education & Spiritual Growth; Finance; Worship, Music and Arts) were received and approved.



When temperatures fall, utility bills rise and requests for DAP assistance increase. That describes the number of requests for assistance made in February. Experiencing a gas service shut off, a mom and her two young sons were referred to DAP for help through the school's Kindness Closet. DAP was able to make payment toward that bill, and together with help from several other groups, heat was restored to their apartment in a couple days. WACM is grateful for the support of its member churches so financial assistance can be provided to Woodstock residents. Thank you for your support.

There is an opening for a First Presbyterian congregant to serve on the board of WACM. Responsibilities include attending monthly meetings on the second Thursday of the month and helping with special projects during the year. Volunteers with the Direct Assistance Program are always welcome too. You do not have to be a member of WACM to volunteer with DAP. If you are interested in learning more about WACM and DAP, please contact [Pat Morozink](#).

# March Worship Schedule

Date	Liturgy	Liturgist	A/V	Ushers/Greeters	Acolyte
3/2/25	<a href="#">Luke 9:28-43a</a>	Jim Wormley	John Moorhouse	Cheryl Wormley and Beth Elbersen	Emily Lawler
3/5/25	<a href="#">Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21</a>			Mary Hill and Sue Krause	
3/9/25	<a href="#">Luke 4:1-13</a>	Tiffany Sobczak	Kristi & Christopher Corbin	Tiffany & Brayden Sobczak	Noa Moorhouse
3/16/25	<a href="#">Luke 13:31-35 or Luke</a>	Dawn Cook	Dave Johanson	Fred Strauss and Carol Brefeld	Braden Ferrera
3/23/25	<a href="#">Luke 13:1-9</a>	Renee Simes	Brayden S., Elin K.	Rick & Pat Morozink	Dylan Lawler
3/30/25	<a href="#">Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32</a>	Addison Sobczak	Dave Johanson	Tom Schaeffer & Chris Mathews	Ryan Traimany

**Compassion, Peace & Justice**  
(Awareness, Service)  
Chris Mathews  
[cwmathews8@gmail.com](mailto:cwmathews8@gmail.com)

**Congregational Life**  
(Hospitality, NOW Team)  
Fred Strauss  
[showskil@aol.com](mailto:showskil@aol.com)  
815-728-1430

**Education & Spiritual Growth**  
(Adult, Youth, Child, Intergenerational)  
Ray Thuma  
[rpthuma@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rpthuma@sbcglobal.net)  
Addison Sobczak

**Ministry Support**  
(Finance, Staff Support)  
Bob Clark  
[mbundick@comcast.net](mailto:mbundick@comcast.net)  
(Building & Grounds)  
Chris Dahm  
[cdahm@dahmco.com](mailto:cdahm@dahmco.com)  
815-378-0273

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

**Clerk of Session**  
Chris Mathews  
[clerk@fpcwoodstock.org](mailto:clerk@fpcwoodstock.org)





# MARCH 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7a Men's Bible Study
9:30a Worship	3 5:15p NOW Dinner- Fat Tuesday	4 8:30a Lectionary Study 10a No-Name Knitters 4p Diaper Distribution 6p Ash Wednesday service 6:45p Lent Discussion 7p Choir Rehearsal	6	7	8 7a Men's Bible Study
9:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School: PreK-5th 10:30a NOW Brunch 11a Education and Spiritual Growth 11a Painted Prayer event	10 10a TLC Ladies 3:30p Deacons	11 8:30a Lectionary Study 5:15p NOW Dinner 6:15p Lent Discussion 7p Choir Rehearsal	13 1p Finance Team	14	15 7a Men's Bible Study
9:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School: PreK-5th 10:30a NOW Brunch 11a Session	17 6p Compassion, Peace and Justice	18 8:30a Lectionary Study 5:15p NOW Dinner 6p No-Name Knitters 6:15p Lent Discussion 7p Choir Rehearsal	20 3p Hospitality Team	21	22 7a Men's Bible Study
9:30a Worship	24 8:30a Lectionary Study 5:15p NOW Dinner 6:15p Lent Discussion	25	27	28	29 7a Men's Bible Study
9:30a Worship	31				

**MARCH 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*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**2018 N II Route 47  
Woodstock, IL 60098  
Return Service Requested**

Phone: (815) 338-2627

E-mail:

[office@fpcwoodstock.org](mailto:office@fpcwoodstock.org)

Website:

[www.fpcwoodstock.org](http://www.fpcwoodstock.org)

Visit us on Facebook