

First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock

May 2025 Newsletter

A letter from Rev. Eric Corbin

As the calendar turns to May, the signs of spring are all around us—blossoming trees, longer days, and the unmistakable feeling of transition. In our church and community, this is a season marked by change: school years drawing to a close, graduations approaching, and summer plans taking shape.

These transitions bring both celebration and reflection. Whether you're cheering on a graduate, packing away school supplies, or simply noticing how fast the year is moving, May reminds us that time doesn't stand still. But neither does God's presence. Through it all, God remains with us—steady, present, and faithful—guiding us with grace as we navigate whatever comes next.

As we continue to live into the joy of the Easter season, I want to offer deep thanks to everyone who helped make our Holy Week worship services so meaningful. From the joyful procession of palms to the celebration of two baptisms, and from the moving Good Friday service to the beauty of Easter morning—each gathering was rich with meaning, beauty, and a deep sense of community. Thank you to all who led, served, sang, decorated, welcomed, and prayed. Together, we embodied the story of Christ's journey in a way that touched hearts and deepened our faith.

As schedules fill up and routines shift, I encourage you to keep making space for your church family in the rhythm of your week. Whether in worship, fellowship, or small acts of service, these connections help ground us in what truly matters.

On May 18, we'll celebrate Music Appreciation Sunday, giving thanks for the many people who help us lift our hearts to God through song and sound. From the chancel choir to the children's choir, guest musicians, bluegrass group, and those who lead us from the keyboard and behind the scenes—it's a rich and joyful ministry. We're especially grateful to Christy Johanson for the thoughtful leadership she brings to our music ministry—planning, writing, coordinating, and helping it flourish in ways that enrich us all.

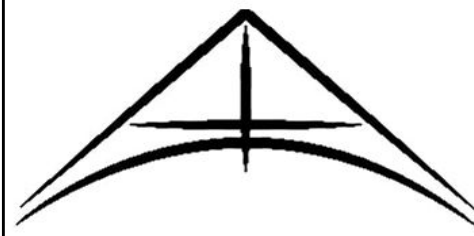
In May, I'm also trying something new: a weekday devotional series tied to the previous Sunday's sermon. Each morning, I send a short reflection to your inbox: a thought from the sermon, a scripture passage, and a couple of reflection questions. It's a gentle way to connect Sunday with the rest of the week—to linger with the themes of worship and listen for how God might be speaking in daily life. If you'd like to receive these, let me know, and I'll add you to the list.

As always, I'd love to hear what's on your heart this season. Remember that you never walk alone! You can reach me by email at eric@fpcwoodstock.org, call or text 815-575-9454, or schedule a time to chat at fpcwoodstock.org/meetwitheric.

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, Mary Carol Dunker,
Bob Clark, Sue Krause, Kay Darby,
Joyce Maynard, Pat Morozink.

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.

MAY RED WAGON DONATIONS

Macaroni & Cheese, Spaghetti Sauce, Spaghetti, Ravioli, Spaghetti O's

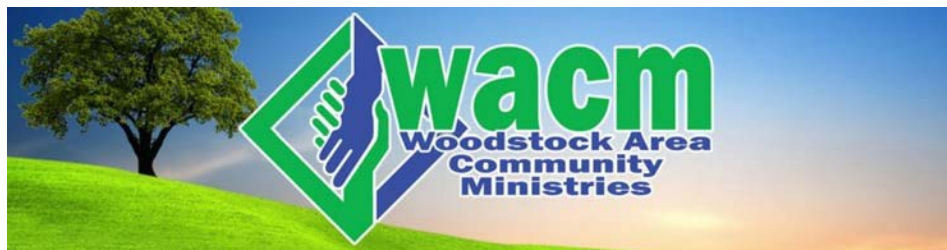


FOOD PANTRY IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

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.

People wanting to volunteer should call the Woodstock Food Pantry at 815-337-0375 and leave their name and phone number. The volunteer coordinator will then get in touch with them.



When a Woodstock couple spoke with city staff about their difficulty paying a water bill and the risk of disconnection, they were directed to WACM's Direct Assistance Program (DAP) for possible help.

Verification of need was made, and WACM was able to pay almost half of the bill, preventing the disconnection from happening. Referrals to two other groups for financial help were also provided to the couple by DAP. Gratitude for the financial assistance was expressed, and now the couple can continue to focus on overcoming health challenges.

WACM's Direct Assistance Program exists with the support of its member congregations. First Presbyterian Church was one of the founding members of WACM, and DAP continues its mission to provide emergency financial assistance to Woodstock residents. Thank you for your support of WACM.

Nurture on Wednesday (N.O.W.) Team News

Our Spring 2025 season has ended. We hosted 13 dinners and 8 brunches. We appreciate everyone’s attendance and support of our food and fellowship ministry.

April 16 saw our first ever “Dessert Bake Off.”
Our contestants were:

- Faith Corbin:* Surprise Chocolate Cake with whipped cream and chocolate chip center, topped with peanut butter pecan frosting;
- Vicki Thuma:* Cherry Cheesecake
- Matt Thuma:* Brownies with ice cream
- Kristen Matter:* Brie Caramel Delight
- Thai Tolentino:* Brownie and White Bundt Cake



After yummy sampling and voting, Faith Corbin was declared the winner of the first Dessert Bakeoff. Congratulations, Faith!

After our last brunch, the team met to review the spring season and think about our summer and fall plans. We won’t set a fall schedule until late summer, but we did establish three summertime picnics. The dates and menus look as follows:

Dinner Dates	Menu
Wednesday, June 11	Burgers, hot dogs, baked beans, chips
Wednesday, July 9	Sloppy Joes, hot dogs, Cole slaw, chips
Wednesday, August 13	Grilled pork chop sandwiches

All dinners will start at our usual 5:15 pm time, and remain priced at \$4, the best food and fellowship bargain in town!

If you have ideas or suggestions for future dinner or brunch dishes or themes for our events, please let any N.O.W. Team member know.

Thanks again to all who have eaten with the N.O.W. Team this spring season. We’re glad you were able to join us!

Nurture on Wednesday

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

Mark Bundick
mbundick@comcast.net
224-242-2451

Linda Hansen
lkhanen53@gmail.com
815-451-8735

Jane Jensen
jensenjane74@gmail.com
847-293-4358

John Moorhouse
johnmoorhouse54@gmail.com
815-236-7408

Lee Nejd
nejdlwoodstock@hotmail.com
815-546-1731

Katie Spaldon
kspaldon@gmail.com
815-276-3410

Matt Thuma
mrthuma@yahoo.com
815-370-4094

Cheryl Wormley
indepublisher@comcast.net
815-519-7402

NO NAME KNITTERS

It’s a beautiful time of year, and as always, the knitters and crocheters are busy replenishing our supply of handmade items to share with others. Most of our work is done in the comfort of our own home. Our meetings are a time of sharing ideas, working on our projects, and having fun and lively fellowship with each other. Come visit us, and see if our group is a good fit for you! If you, or someone you know, would benefit from a prayer shawl, or lapghan, please don’t hesitate to let us know. It’s our way of giving a hug! ❤️ We meet the first Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m., and the third Wednesday at 6 p.m. Call Kay Darby at 815-572-1729 for more information.

CARING TOGETHER

May Birthdays

Kayden Petrik	5/1
Paul Thuma	5/1
Ben Thuma	5/3
Reneé Simes	5/5
Victoria Gienko	5/6
Jackie Lawler	5/10
Barb Arnold	5/16
Dawn Cook	5/19
Lydia Johanson	5/20
Addison Sobczak	5/20
Sandra Landrey	5/23
Dave Johanson	5/24
Katie Spaldon	5/25
Sue Krause	5/26
Jack Darby	5/27

May Anniversaries

Matt & Sherry Thuma	5/4
Hank Jr. & Linda Olesen	5/10
Mark & Barbara Bundick	5/11
Matt & Jalina Petrik	5/29

In our Prayers

Michael, Katie Spaldon, Dick Peters, Kris, Pete Thennes, Paul Thuma, Marla Rigby, Melinda Gallant, Sue Kenady, Loretta Nejd, Tim Arnold, Gayle Abrams, Aaron, Mary Kittle, Cassidy Tullos, Travis Walters, Larry Collins, Braelyn Kittle, those impacted by new federal policies.

Woodstock Pride 2025

The Woodstock PrideFest, scheduled for June 14 and 15 this year, is touted as the best Pride event in the area by attendees and vendors who often come from a distance to participate. They often observe that it is the friendliest, calmest, and most joy-filled event they attend and that they look forward to participating every year. FPC Woodstock has proudly participated in and supported the event for the past three years.

This year, we plan to “up our game.”

Besides sponsoring a booth at the Fest on Sunday afternoon, June 15th, we also plan to walk in the parade beginning at 11:00 a.m. that day. We have purchased a banner to identify our church in the parade and at the booth on the square. We will need numerous volunteers to help represent our church and welcome Fest participants into fellowship with us that day and hopefully, in the future as well. Tasks will include the following: Booth Set up: 9-11 a.m., Walking in parade: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Two-hour shifts helping to staff our booth: 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Booth tear down and return materials to church: 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m., A sign-up sheet will be available at church for sign-ups, as well as being available on the church website and via social media. PLEASE take this opportunity to demonstrate our love for ALL of God’s People and sign up to help us make this our best year of participation in Woodstock PrideFest yet!

Thanks for showing Woodstock who we are by our love!





Thank You from Troop 159

Troop 159 would like to thank everyone who contributed to our NOW Dinner and *Sponsor a Tent* fundraisers. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, we raised enough money to Purchase logo patches (designed by the scouts) that will be used to make new Troop neckerchiefs. We also received enough sponsors to purchase nine new tents (just under our goal of ten). The tents and neckerchiefs will be used repeatedly in the coming years. The scouts genuinely appreciate the support of the congregation for our growing Troop.

[Ray Thuma](#)

Troop 159
Committee Chair

Session Notes April 2025

Compassion , Peace and Justice:

The Rummage Sale was a success, raising \$3100. Proceeds will go to support the Woodstock Food Pantry and WACM.

FPCW is participating in Woodstock PrideFest again this year. In addition to having a booth, we will be walking in the parade.

Building and Grounds:

The new digital church sign has been installed and is working well.

Deacons:

Six people participated in the Painted Prayer activity. The paintings decorate the lobby.

A newly formed Girl Scout troop has been approved to use the church building as a meeting place starting in the fall.



OPERATION DROP BOX

Every year during May, the McHenry County Department of Health partners with local organizations for "Operation Dropbox," collecting donations for *Veterans Path to Hope* to support veterans in McHenry County. About 3,000 veterans and their families benefit from this drive.

Donations will be collected at FPC, other churches, libraries, and organizations across McHenry and Lake counties. A list of desired items is available at the church. In McHenry County, Medical Reserve Corps volunteers will collect and deliver donations to Veterans Path to Hope.



EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND YOUTH GROUP

Save the Date

Mark your calendars.

On Sunday, June 8th, Middle School and High School youth are invited to an evening of fireside fun. We will gather from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. for hot dogs, s'mores, and games around the fire pit. Watch the June Newsletter for more details or contact Ray Thuma at rpthuma@sbcglobal.net

CP&J EarthCare Highway Cleanup

We have rescheduled the first highway cleanup of the year for Saturday, May 17th at 9:00 a.m. Please join us as we beautify the sides of the highway in front of our church. We have committed to picking up trash along Route 47 between Ware and Charles Roads.

We will provide trash pickers, bags, vests, and gloves. Wear sturdy shoes and long pants. Come to help and enjoy the camaraderie and fellowship as we walk along the road. For more information contact Ray Thuma rpthuma@sbcglobal.net



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.



Your Deacons

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

A Special Thank You From the Memorial Committee

Our new electronic sign is up and running! This wonderful addition to our church would not have been possible without the generous memorial donations that funded this project. To everyone who contributed in memory of loved ones, your gifts continue their legacy of caring and support of our church’s mission.

A special thanks to Matt Thuma for volunteering his expertise and time with the installation. His dedication ensured the sign was properly set up to help us better communicate with our community.

This sign will help us share important information about church hours, special events, and urgent needs—increasing our ability to fulfill our mission.

To all who made this possible, thank you for helping First Presbyterian shine brighter.

FPCW HAS T-SHIRTS

First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock now has t-shirts. They are a 50/50 blend and come in all sizes, both children and adults up to 5XL.

Tall sizes are available in adult sizes L and above.

All orders need to be prepaid at \$15.00 each.

There will be order forms in the greeting area and on the website.



FINANCE TEAM

Net operating revenue is favorable ~ \$4,000 and unfavorable to budget by ~ (\$5,000). Contributions to the Operating Budget are favorable year-to-date – Thank You for your continued generosity.

The Treasurer’s Job Description has been revised with some previous responsibilities transferred to other positions which will hopefully make it more attractive.

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

Bob Clark – on behalf of the Finance Team

Once again, we did it! Thank you however you supported the Rummage Sale. Without all of you in your own ways, we wouldn’t have been able to raise \$3,100 to share with WACM and the Woodstock Food Pantry. You all make my job easy.

Thanks so much,
Joyce Maynard

Special Thanks to
Kay Darby and
Linda Hansen

TOGETHER IN WORSHIP

May Worship Schedule

Date	Text	Liturgist	A/V	Greeters and Ushers	Acolyte
5/4/25	John 21:1-19	Jim Wormley	John Moorhouse	Cheryl Wormley and Beth Elbersen	<i>open</i>
5/11/25	John 10:22-30	Tiffany Sobczak	Kristi & Christopher Corbin	Mary Hill and Sue Krause	Ryan Traimany
5/18/25	John 13:31-35	Evan Kaye	Dave Johanson	Tiffany & Brayden Sobczak	<i>open</i>
5/25/25	John 14:23-29	Renee Simes	Brayden S., Elin K.	Fred Strauss & Carol Brefeld	<i>open</i>

**Compassion,
Peace & Justice**
(Awareness, Service)
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)
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
Chris Mathews
clerk@fpcwoodstock.org

🚨 SCAM ALERT 🚨

Scammers are once again targeting our congregation by sending fake emails or texts claiming to be from Pastor Eric. These messages often mention a “discreet request” or an urgent need for gift cards or financial help. (Please see the example below.)

⚠️ Please be aware:

- Pastor Eric will NEVER ask for gift cards or other financial favors via email or text.
- These scammers use a spoofed email address or phone number—not Pastor Eric’s correct contact information.
- Any legitimate church collections, including for gift cards (such as for college student care packages), are always announced through official church channels (Mid-Week News or Newsletter), not personal messages.
- If you receive a suspicious message, DO NOT REPLY.

Instead:

- ◇ Start a new email using Pastor Eric’s actual church email address to confirm with him whether the email or text is legitimate.
 - ◇ Call or text the church office to verify.
 - ◇ DO NOT send money or gift cards in response to an email or text request.
- These scams can seem convincing because they appeal to your kindness and sense of urgency. But no matter how real they seem, they are not legitimate. Always pause and verify before responding.

Learn more: <https://consumer.ftc.gov/consumer-alerts/2024/09/gift-card-helping-your-congregation-or-paying-scammer>

Thank you for helping protect our community and spread the word!

Open Schedule?

RE Rev. Eric Corbin <revvfr280@gmail.com>
To [redacted]@gmail.com 9:06 AM

What's your schedule like? I have a request for you to handle for me. I'll be expecting to hear from you.

Blessings!
Rev. Eric Corbin.
Pastor

SCAM

MAY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	2	3 7a Men's Bible Study
4 Choir Sings 9:30a Worship	5	6	7 8:30a Lectionary Study 10a No-Name Knitters 4p Diaper Distribution	8 1p Finance Team 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	9	10 7a Men's Bible Study
11 9:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School: PreK-5th 11a Education and Spiritual Growth <i>Mother's Day</i>	12	13 10a TLC Ladies 3:30p Deacons	14 8:30a Lectionary Study 7p Choir Rehearsal	15 3p Hospitality Team 6p Compassion, Peace and Justice 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting 7p Worship Arts Mtg	16	17 7a Men's Bible Study 9a Highway Cleanup
18 Choir Sings - Music Appreciation Sunday 9:30a Worship 11a Session	19	20	21 8:30a Lectionary Study 6p No-Name Knitters	22 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	23	24 7a Men's Bible Study
25 9:30a Worship	26 <i>Memorial Day</i>	27	28 8:30a Lectionary Study	29 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	30	31 7a Men's Bible Study

MAY 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

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