

# First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock

## August 2025 Newsletter

### A letter from Pastor Eric

#### New Beginnings, Shared Dreams

The scent of freshly sharpened pencils and the rustle of blank notebooks signal that a new school year is upon us. Even if we no longer ride the bus or pack a lunchbox, something within us still thrills at the prospect of starting again. August invites children to classrooms, teachers to lesson plans, and all of us to imagine who we might become when God's Spirit sparks curiosity and courage in ordinary days. A new season pushes us to ask, "What will we discover together in the months ahead?" On Sunday, August 10, we will bless backpacks during worship, praying for every student, teacher, school employee and volunteer—public, private, homeschool, preschool, and college. Each bright backpack and eager face whispers a truth we sometimes forget: every generation carries fresh questions, fresh gifts, and fresh capacity to reveal Christ's love.

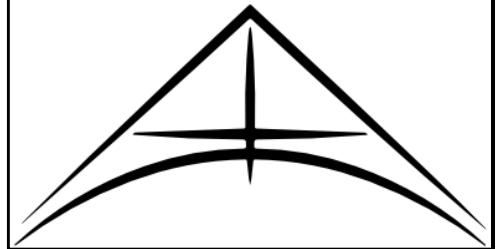
On Sunday, August 3, a small group will gather for a conversation called "Future of the Church." We will listen for God's voice, share hopes, and ask big questions: How can our building serve our community all week, not just on Sundays? What resources will sustain vibrant worship and bold mission? Which partnerships might help us share grace more widely? Prayer will lead the way. Prayer keeps our planning rooted in God's vision rather than our own preferences. If you feel called to join this conversation, just chat with Chris Mathews or Pastor Eric.

Back-to-school season reminds us that growth is rarely tidy. Sharpened pencils dull, plans change, and lessons stretch us in unexpected ways. Yet Scripture assures us that "the One who began a good work in you will bring it to completion" (Philippians 1:6). God is patient with unfinished drafts—whether they are found in a homework folder or in a church strategic plan. As we bless backpacks and seek God's guidance for the church's future, we do so trusting that God is already writing the next chapter.

Thank you for lending your prayers, your presence, and your imagination to this journey. Whether you are packing a backpack, setting a committee agenda, or simply showing up with an open heart, you are part of the story God is writing through First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock. May this season of new beginnings prompt us to ask, "What might God do next?" And may we have the courage to follow where that question leads.

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](https://fpcwoodstock.org/worship)

#### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jeri Loiselle

#### REPORTERS

Eric Corbin, Chris Mathews  
Bob Clark, Ray Thuma,  
Nancy Bingham, Tiffany Sobczak,  
Kay Darby, Pam Moorhouse,  
Pat Morozink, Mark Bundick.

# 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](#) or  
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.

## WACM

For a senior citizen who was facing unexpected bills in July, the Direct Assistance Program (DAP) was able to provide him assistance toward late rent so he could avoid the possibility of eviction. The Woodstock Area Community Ministries (WACM) is supported through the financial contributions of its member congregations and offers this kind of emergency financial assistance to residents living within Woodstock's D-200 boundaries. First Presbyterian is a supporting member of WACM. More information about WACM and the kinds of assistance it provides can be found at [www.wacmgroups.org](http://www.wacmgroups.org). Thank you for your support.

## WOODSTOCK FOOD PANTRY

The Woodstock Food Pantry (WFP) would like to thank First Presbyterian Church for its support of volunteers, food and funds since the pantry's beginning more than 45 years ago.

In 2024 alone, WFP served approximately 4,500 families that included 4,700 children. Due to the large increase in need and food insecurity in our area, WFP has embarked on the purchase of a much larger building to meet the growing need for distribution of food among our residents. There are many ways the churches and wider community can help, which we will share in the coming months.

Please learn more about WFP and its mission by visiting our website at [www.woodstockfoodpantry.org](http://www.woodstockfoodpantry.org) and access our informational video at <https://youtu.be/ReNWpj6GCzA>.

## AUGUST RED WAGON

### DONATIONS

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

Monetary gifts are welcomed.



## N.O.W. TEAM NEWS

We have our final summer dinner on August 13 with burgers, hot dogs and all the fixin's.

The team met on July 20 and planned out most of our main dishes for the fall season. We'll be hosting 12 dinners and 7 brunches during the fall. Keep watching for details on our annual Chili Cookoff coming in October. It's becoming a fall classic for the N.O.W. Dinner team and congregation. There will also be a Scouting America Troop 159 fundraiser in November, details to follow soon.

The dates and menus for the next month or so look as follows:

Dinner and Brunch Dates	Menu
Wednesday, August 13	Last summer dinner, burgers, hot dogs, chips, potato salad
Wednesday, September 10	Traditional Corn and Brats, salad
Sunday, September 14	Breakfast Casserole, Quiche, Fruit
Wednesday, September 17	Taco Bar
Wednesday, September 24	Grilled pork
Sunday, September 28	Pancakes, French toast, waffles
Wednesday, October 1	Meatball Sandwiches

All dinners will start at our usual 5:15 pm time. Prices will remain at \$4, making your Wednesday nights the best food and fellowship bargain in town! Brunches follow Sunday morning worship on Sunday School days, so stick around for more great food and fellowship!

Don't forget the "All Church Potluck", immediately after worship on Sunday, August 10th. There's still time to sign up to bring something ([fpcwoodstock.org/potluck](http://fpcwoodstock.org/potluck)), so clear your calendar and come join everyone for some great dishes!

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

## THE N.O.W. TEAM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# CARING TOGETHER

## August Birthdays

Harrison Cole	8/1
Matt Petrik	8/1
Ryan Wormley	8/1
Jean Chase	8/2
Braden Ferrera	8/2
Calvin Wormley	8/3
Cameron Wormley	8/3
J.T. Wormley	8/3
Sue Slack	8/8
Al Dunker	8/11
John Moorhouse	8/11
Charlie Boe	8/12
Shari Olesen	8/13
Angela Thuma	8/13
Randy Stock	8/18
Andy Ferrera	8/21
Linda Hansen	8/24
Vicki Thuma	8/26
Cary Cook	8/27
Karen Thennes	8/27
Will Ferguson	8/31

## August Anniversaries

Nancy & Steve Bingham	8/6
Angie & Charlie Boe	8/13
Katie & Tony Spaldon	8/14
Kay & Jack Darby	8/17
Sandra & Robert Landrey	8/20
Pam & John Moorhouse	8/28
Mary Carol & Al Dunker	8/30

## In our Prayers

William Heim, Evelyn Morales,  
Pam Mathison, Emily, Fred  
Strauss, Michael, Katie Spaldon,  
Paul Thuma, John Hudson,  
Melinda Gallant, Savannah  
Karm, Sue Kenady, Loretta Nejdil,  
Kareem, Tim Arnold, Gayle  
Abrams, Aaron, Mary Kittle,  
Cassidy Tullos, Travis Walters,  
Braelyn Kittle, those impacted by  
new federal policies, the family  
and friends of Pete Thennes,  
and the family of Bryan Dahm  
(on the first anniversary of his  
passing).

## HIGHWAY CLEANUP

We have scheduled the next highway cleanup of the year for Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00 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.

Many hands make light work and no experience is necessary, so please consider joining us even if it's your first time.

We will provide trash pickers, bags, vests, and gloves. Wear sturdy shoes and long pants. For more information contact Ray Thuma [rpthuma@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rpthuma@sbcglobal.net)

## YOUTH GATHERING

Jim and Cheryl Wormley have graciously invited us to gather at their house in Lake Geneva. High school and Middle School youth are invited to join us for an afternoon of swimming, food and fellowship.



Please meet at the church at 2:30 pm on Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, and we will carpool to Lake Geneva. We will stay at the Wormleys' house until 6 p.m. and then return to the church. Please RSVP to Ray Thuma [rpthuma@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rpthuma@sbcglobal.net) by August 17<sup>th</sup>.

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

We cannot wait to see our Sunday School families! Our season starts on September 14<sup>th</sup> with Rally Day, and continues through the Cantata & Children's program on December 14<sup>th</sup>. On Sunday School days, the NOW Team also provides a brunch, so we invite you all to come for worship and Sunday School, then stay for a delicious meal!

Here's the fall Sunday School calendar:

*September 14th - Rally Day*

*September 28th*

*October 12th*

*October 26th*

*November 9th*

*November 23rd*

*December 7th*

*December 14th - Cantata & Children's Program*

We will follow the same format as previous years, meeting in the Sunday School classrooms during the 9:30am church service immediately following Pastor Eric's, "Time with Children".

We look forward to this upcoming school year and cannot wait to see you all on our **first day of Sunday School: Sunday, September 14.**





**FINANCE REPORT****YTD June 2025 Operating Budget Performance**

Net year-to-date operating revenue is favorable ~ \$3,000 and favorable to budget by ~\$36,000. Contributions to the Operating Budget are favorable year-to-date by ~\$17,000 – Thank You for your continued generosity.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter New Covenant Investment (McCollough Endowment) Report****Executive Summary**

The account market values ending 06/30/2025 was \$1,232,872.92. YTD Performance for the Balanced Growth Fund as of 06/30/2025 was +4.69% vs. +5.75% for the equity index (Russell 3000) and +4.16% for the bond index (Bloomberg US AGG Bond Index). Current asset allocation is approximately 60% equity, 39% fixed income, and 1% cash, as of 06/30/2025. For reference, the endowment's original investment in 2015 was \$800,000 and we've taken approximately a four-percent distribution from the account since its inception.

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

Bob Clark – on behalf of the Finance Team

**SESSION NOTES:**

- Session approved the purchase of needed kitchen items using Memorial funds.
- A keypad door lock system has arrived and will be installed soon.
- A group of congregants who have expressed interest in discussing the future of the church will meet for the first time on August 3 after the worship service. This group will discuss sustainability and future growth of the church's mission, membership and finances. Anyone interested in joining the discussion or who has an idea to share, please let Chris Mathews or Pastor Eric know.
- A new Girl Scout Troop will begin meeting at the church on August 5. We are pleased to be able to share our space with them.
- Pastor Eric noted ongoing discussion about a possible new name for Blackhawk Presbytery and a renewed county-wide Faith Leaders network.

**NO NAME KNITTERS**

August is here already, and so is the beginning of school in a few weeks. The knitters/crocheters continue to make winter hats and scarves for School District 200 students, and other community groups. We can always use your help and hands to help us carry on our mission to help others, and let them know we care. Our next meeting is

Wednesday, August 6th, at 10 a.m.

Call Kay Darby at 815-572-1729 for more information.

# TOGETHER IN WORSHIP

## August Worship Schedule

Date	Text	Liturgist	A/V	Greeters and Ushers
8/3	<a href="#">Luke 12:13-21</a>	Tiffany Sobczak	John Moorhouse	Mary Hill and Sue Krause
8/10	<a href="#">Luke 12:32-40</a>	Tom Schaeffer	Kristi & Christopher Corbin	Pam & John Moorhouse
8/17	<a href="#">Luke 12:49-56</a>	Velma Downes	John Moorhouse	Tiffany & Brayden Sobczak
8/24	<a href="#">Luke 13:10-17</a>	Addison Sobczak	Brayden S., Elin K.	Rick & Pat Morozink
8/31	<a href="#">Luke 14:1, 7-14</a>	Angie Boe	Dave Johanson	Tom Schaeffer & Chris Mathews

**SIGN UP TO HOST SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP!  
HOSTING IS FUN! THE SIGN UP SHEET IS IN THE ENTRYWAY.**

*Everyone is invited to our*

## CHURCH Potluck

*Bring a dish to pass and your best picnic vibes—let's enjoy the sunshine together!*

**AFTER WORSHIP  
AUGUST 10 | 2025**

There'll be music, laughter, and plenty of snacks. Friends and family welcome!

Signup to bring a dish to pass online at:

<https://fpcwoodstock.org/potluck>

A signup sheet is also available in the church foyer

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

Chris Mathews

[cwmathews8@gmail.com](mailto:cwmathews8@gmail.com)

**Congregational Life**  
(Hospitality, NOW Team)

Fred Strauss

[showski@aol.com](mailto:showski@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

[robtmclark@aol.com](mailto:robtmclark@aol.com)

(Building & Grounds,  
Staff Support)

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)

# AUGUST 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 7a Men's Bible Study
3 8:30a "The Present Word" Sunday School 9:30a Worship 10:30a Future of the Church task force	4 5p Girl Scout Troop 2051 meeting	5 8:30a Lectionary Study 10a No-Name Knitters 4p Diaper Distribution	6 6:30p Worship Arts Mtg 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	7	8	9 7a Men's Bible Study
10 8:30a "The Present Word" Sunday School 9:30a Worship 10:30a Church Potluck Picnic	11 Meals on Wheels	12	13	14	15	16 7a Men's Bible Study
17 8:30a "The Present Word" Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Session	18	19 10a TLC Ladies 3:30p Deacons 5:30p Education and Spiritual Growth 5p Girl Scout Troop 2051 meeting	20 8:30a Lectionary Study 5:15p NOW Dinner	21 2:30p Finance Team 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting 3p Hospitality Team 6p Compassion, Peace and Justice 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	22	23 7a Men's Bible Study 8a Highway Clean-up
24 8:30a "The Present Word" Sunday School 9:30a Worship 3:30p Youth at Wormleys	25	26	27 8:30a Lectionary Study	28 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	29	30 7a Men's Bible Study
31 8:30a "The Present Word" Sunday School 9:30a Worship						

**AUGUST 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

*Love  
one  
another*

JOHN 15:12

**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**

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