

First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock

September 2025 Newsletter

A letter from Pastor Eric

September always brings a shift in rhythm. The days grow a little cooler, routines settle back into place, and backpacks are filled with fresh supplies for the year ahead. Even for those of us not heading back to school, there is a sense of beginning again—a season of renewed purpose and fresh opportunities.

At First Pres, September is a time to regather. Our N.O.W. dinners resume on Wednesday, September 10, with our traditional “corn and brats” meal—a chance to enjoy good food and fellowship in the middle of the week. The following Sunday, September 14, is Rally Day, when we celebrate the return of Sunday School, gather for a brunch after worship, and launch a new Confirmation Class. These are joyful reminders that faith is not a solitary journey but one we walk side by side.

We are glad that our building is alive with community during the week. Scouting America Troop 159 has been meeting here for the past few years, and now a new Girl Scout troop is gathering in our space as well. We are grateful for these partnerships, and we hope others in the community will also find here a place of welcome, encouragement, and growth.

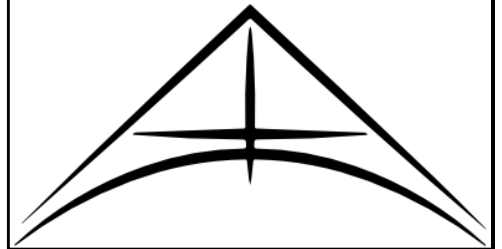
This fall, we will begin a Wednesday evening series after N.O.W. dinners focused on faithful planning for the end of life. These conversations will give us space to reflect both practically and spiritually on how we live as people of hope who trust in God’s promises. Stay tuned for more details on how you can take part in these sessions.

Scripture assures us that “the one who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion” (Philippians 1:6). God’s Spirit is still at work, shaping us as individuals and as a congregation. This season is an invitation to recommit ourselves—to worship, to service, to prayer, to fellowship—and to trust that God is writing the next chapter in our shared story.

Thank you for your faithfulness and for the many ways you embody God’s love in our community. I look forward to walking this season with you—with gratitude, hope, and joy.

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, 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 92-year-old Woodstock resident, keeping up with bills on a limited income was a challenge in August. Help with a past due water bill was requested, and WACM's Direct Assistance Program (DAP) was able to provide payment so she is caught up now. Thanks to the financial support of some local congregations, help with late rent and late utility bills can be provided to local residents through DAP. Gasoline vouchers and vouchers to purchase clothing and shoes are also available to those in need. First Presbyterian is a contributing member of Woodstock Area Community Ministries (WACM). Thank you for your support!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Over the summer, a dedicated group of adults has been meeting at 8:30 a.m. every Sunday to study God's word. This adult Sunday School has been so rewarding we have decided to continue into the fall. New curriculum has been ordered, and the next session will begin on September 7th.

Please consider joining us on Sunday mornings. For more information, please contact [Ray Thuma](#).

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 and access our informational video at <https://youtu.be/ReNWpj6GCzA>.

SEPTEMBER RED WAGON

DONATIONS

Chicken Noodle Soup,
Cream of Mushroom Soup,
Tomato Soup, Cream of
Chicken Soup, Vegetable
Soup, Ramen Noodles

Monetary gifts are
welcomed.



MUSIC MINISTRY

The choir is looking for singers! Join us for some music-making, which is a special way to praise the Lord. Our first 2 rehearsals are Wednesday, Sept. 3 & 10, and we'll sing in church on Sept. 14, Rally Day! We typically have a rehearsal at 7:00 pm on the Wednesday night before we sing.

Choir Sing in Church:

Sept. 14

Sept. 21

Sept. 28

Oct. 5

October 8 rehearsal - Begin cantata music

Oct. 12

Oct. 19

Nov. 9

Nov. 16

Nov. 23

Special Cantata rehearsals:

Dec. 3

Dec. 10

Saturday, Dec. 13 - Final rehearsal

Sunday, Dec. 14 - Cantata

Questions? Contact christy@fpcwoodstock.org



NO NAME KNITTERS

Fall is definitely in the air! The cooler temperatures make our knitting/crocheting much more enjoyable. Now is the time to make our winter hats and scarves, which we donate in October. We would welcome anyone who would love to join us in our mission to reach out to our congregation, as well as our community! We will meet the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m., and the third Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Come visit, and see what we're all about! Call Kay Darby 815-572-1729, for any information.



REMINDER

September 22-26
Is FPC's week to
deliver Meals on
Wheels!

MEALS on WHEELS
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS

GREETINGS SUNDAY SCHOOL FAMILIES

Join us for **Rally Day on Sunday, September 14**, as we kick off a brand-new year of Sunday School! This special day marks the start of our Sunday School season and is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, meet new friends, and start the year growing in faith together. We welcome our preschoolers through 5th graders, with our middle schoolers lending a hand as helpers and role models.

We can't wait to see you there and share this exciting beginning with you!

Blessings,
Miss Erin & Miss Jackie

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

September 14th - Rally Day

September 28th

October 12th

October 26th

November 9th

November 23rd

December 7th

December 14th - Cantata



CARING TOGETHER

September Birthdays

Tom Schaeffer	9/1
Candee McMahon	9/2
Gianna Ferrera	9/3
Steve Kaye	9/5
Emersyn Cook	9/7
Anna Kittle	9/7
Julie Farver	9/8
Christopher Gienko	9/8
Lily Oliver	9/11
Hannah Lara	9/12
Lynne Sobczak	9/13
Landon Huiras	9/15
Imri Petrik	9/15
Jack Dahm	9/16
Reagan Wormley	9/18
Erik Johanson	9/20
Sharon Stanger	9/20
Ellen Dahm	9/22
Larry Collins	9/23
Laura Dahm	9/23
Fred Strauss	9/24
Dick Peters	9/25
Meghan Reilly	9/25
Matilda Botian	9/26
Pat Morozink	9/30

September Anniversaries

Chris & Kathi Carr	9/3
Danielle & Rick Rewiako	9/9
Kyle & Tiffany Sobczak	9/9

N.O.W. TEAM NEWS

We're ready to kick off our Fall 2025 dinners and brunches.

We hope you'll come and join us for good food and even better fellowship.

As the fall begins, we've set aside dates for some key N.O.W. dinner events. The Men's Bible Study will be our hosts on October 15. A week later, October 22, will bring us the Chili Cookoff. It's become a fall classic for the N.O.W. Dinner team and congregation. There will be two special fundraiser dinners. FPCW Youth will be hosting on November 5, and Scouting America Troop 159 will host on November 12.

While we'll announce the menu every week in the Weekly Update, here's a summary of the dates and menus for the next month:

Dinner and Brunch Dates	Host	Menu
Wednesday, September 10	N.O.W. Team	Traditional Corn and Brats, chips
Sunday, September 14	N.O.W. Team	Breakfast Casserole, Quiche, Fruit
Wednesday, September 17	N.O.W. Team	Taco Bar
Wednesday, September 24	N.O.W. Team	Grilled pork
Sunday, September 28	N.O.W. Team	Pancakes, French toast, waffles
Wednesday, October 1	N.O.W. Team	Meatball Sandwiches

All dinners will start at our usual 5:15 p.m. time. Prices will remain at \$4, making your Wednesday nights 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.

THE N.O.W. TEAM

Cheryl Wormley (indepublisher@comcast.net)

Lee NejdI (nejdlwoodstock@hotmail.com)

Matt Thuma (mrthuma@yahoo.com)

Linda Hansen (lkhanzen53@gmail.com)

John Moorhouse (johnmoorhouse54@gmail.com)

Katie Spaldon (kspaldon@gmail.com)

Jane Jensen (jensenjane74@gmail.com)

Mark Bundick (mbundick@comcast.net)



COMPASSION, PEACE AND JUSTICE PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS SPECIAL OFFERING

September 7-October 5, 2025

Support peacemaking, reconciliation and global witness.

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice in the world. The collection period is September 7 to October 5, and our goal is to raise \$1,500. Individual congregations are encouraged to use up to 25% of this offering for LOCAL peacemaking efforts which align with their goals and interests. An additional 25% is used for ministries of peace and reconciliation by the Mid-councils, while the remaining 50% goes to the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence.

Our congregation has reached its goal of \$1,500 for each of the two previous special offerings this year. Please prayerfully consider donating to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. Thank you!

SESSION NOTES:

- Memorial funds will be used for improvements in the kitchen, specifically in the dishwashing sink area.
- The hospitality Team will take over the responsibility of arranging for volunteers to prepare and serve refreshments during Fellowship time after church.
- The Adult Sunday School Class will continue to meet at 8:30 a.m. Sunday mornings in the Fireplace Room. The Fall unit will start the first Sunday in September. All are welcome to join.

HOSPITALITY

The Hospitality Team has taken over scheduling the coffee fellowship time. Right now, we have one opening left, for October 5th. Any questions can be directed to [Pam Moorhouse](#).

DEACONS

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!

You could make someone's day by sending a card to a member of our congregation who is in need of our thoughts and prayers. Stop by the Reaching Out tree found in the entryway to take a name and send a card or a note to a friend. It's a small gesture but would make someone's day!

TOGETHER IN WORSHIP

September Worship Schedule

Date	Text	Liturgist	A/V	Greeters and Ushers
9/7	Luke 14:25-33	Velma Downes	John Moorhouse	Fred Strauss & Carol Brefeld
9/14	Luke 15:1-10	Angie Boe	Kristi & Christopher Corbin	Matilda Botian & Sara Roewer
9/21	Luke 16:1-13	John Moorhouse	Dave Johanson	Pam & Brooke Mathison
9/28	Luke 16:19-31	Tiffany Sobczak	Brayden S., Elin K.	Cheryl Wormley and Beth Elbersen

FINANCE REPORT

Revenue was favorable to the Budget in July by ~\$5,000 and YTD by ~\$48,000. Contributions were favorable to the Budget in July by ~\$5,000 and YTD by ~\$22,000. Thank You for your continued generosity.

Expenses were unfavorable to Budget in July by ~\$10,000 and YTD by ~\$17,000 resulting in Net Revenue unfavorable to budget in July by ~\$5,000 and YTD by ~\$17,000. Contributing to the unfavorable expenses were due to unbudgeted HVAC replacement earlier in 2025 of ~\$17,000.

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

Bob Clark - on behalf of the Finance Team



In our prayers:

Val Ayers, Zurich family, Krone family, William Heim, Evelyn Morales, Pam Mathison, Emily, Fred Strauss, Michael, Katie Spaldon, Paul Thuma, John Hudson, Melinda Gallant, Savannah Karm, Sue Kenady, 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, the friends and family of Loretta Nejd, the friends and family of Peter Anderson, the friends and family of Mamie Drennen.

To add to or remove a name from the prayer list, please contact the church office.

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

Chris Mathews

cwmathews8@gmail.com

Congregational Life
(Hospitality, NOW Team)

Fred Strauss

showski@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

robtmclark@aol.com

(Building & Grounds,
Staff Support)

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

SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 5p Girl Scout Troop 2051 meeting	3 8:30a Lectionary Study 10a No-Name Knitters 4p Diaper Distribution 7p Choir Rehearsal	4 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	5 7a Men's Bible Study	6 7a Men's Bible Study
7 8:30a "The Present Word" Sunday School 9:30a Worship	8 10a TLC Ladies 5:30p Education and Spiritual Growth	9	10 8:30a Lectionary Study 5:15p NOW Dinner 7p Choir Rehearsal	11 2:30p Finance Team 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	12 7a Men's Bible Study	13 7a Men's Bible Study
14 Choir Sings Rally Day 8:30a "The Present Word" Sunday School 9:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School: PreK-5th 10:30a NOW Brunch 11a Confirmation Class	15 4p Deacons 5p Girl Scout Troop 2051 meeting	16	17 8:30a Lectionary Study 5:15p NOW Dinner 6p No-Name Knitters 7p Choir Rehearsal	18 3p Hospitality Team 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	19 7a Men's Bible Study	20 7a Men's Bible Study
21 Choir Sings 8:30a "The Present Word" Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Session 5p Youth-Game Night & Pizza	22 (Meals on Wheels)	23	24	25	26	27 7a Men's Bible Study
28 Choir Sings 8:30a "The Present Word" Sunday School 9:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School: PreK-5th 10:30a NOW Brunch 11a Confirmation Class	29	30 5p Girl Scout Troop 2051 meeting	8:30a Lectionary Study 5:15p NOW Dinner 7p Choir Rehearsal	6:30p Worship Arts Mtg 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting		

SEPTEMBER 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



JOHN 15:12

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WOODSTOCK**

CELEBRATING AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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