

First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock

February 2026 Newsletter

Remembering Faithfully

February invites us to remember. Not in a nostalgic sense, and not simply to mark the passage of time, but as an act of faith. Scripture reminds us again and again that remembering matters. Remember where you have been. Remember what God has done. Remember the people and stories that shaped who you are. Faith that forgets easily also loses its way easily.

As we observe Black History Month, the church is invited into that kind of faithful remembering. This is not only about history lessons or notable figures. It is about honoring voices and witnesses that have shaped Christian faith in this country, often from the margins, and often at great cost. The story of the church is incomplete when those voices are overlooked.

Black theologians, pastors, and biblical scholars have long insisted that faith must speak honestly about real lives, real suffering, and real hope. **Howard Thurman** wrote that Jesus speaks most directly to the disinherited, and that any spirituality divorced from the realities of survival is no spirituality at all. **James Cone** challenged the church to confront injustice not as an abstract concern, but as a theological one at the very heart of the gospel. **Katie Cannon** insisted that Black women's lived reality—their survival, their resistance, their community-making—is itself a source of moral wisdom the church desperately needs.

More recently, **Wil Gafney** and **Esau McCaulley** have demonstrated that where you stand shapes what you see in Scripture. Their work reveals dimensions of the biblical text that remain invisible when read only from positions of comfort and power.

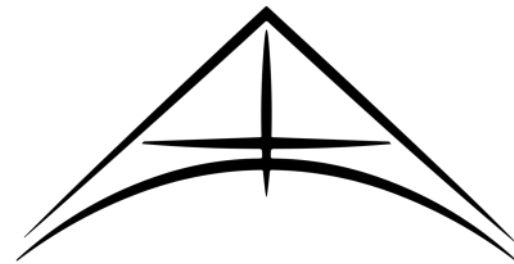
Some of the voices that have shaped my own faith come from Black women and men whose wisdom continues to influence how I read Scripture. In my seminary education, I learned much from professors such as Hebrew Bible scholar **Valerie Bridgeman**, scholar of Rhetoric, Race, and Religion **Andre Johnson**, and pastoral scholar/church statesman **Stan Wood**.

Remembering faithfully is not about dwelling in the past. It is about learning how to live more truthfully in the present. When we remember well, we become better listeners, more attentive neighbors, and a more faithful church.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Eric



THE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF WOODSTOCK



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From Pastor Eric	Page 1
Together to Laugh & Learn	Pages 2-3
Caring Together	Pages 4-6
Leading Together	Page 7
Together in Worship	Page 8
February Calendar	Page 9

2026		FEBRUARY					
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE In the Great Hall @ 9:30 a.m. or online at fpcwoodstock.org/worship

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Carol Hubner

REPORTERS

Eric Corbin, Mark Bundick, Bob Clark,
Kay Darby, Joyce Maynard,
Chris Mathews, Pam Moorhouse,
Pat Morozink, Lynne Sobczak

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

Carol Hubner
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

Saturdays at 7:00 a.m.

All are welcome to join with us during this time of learning and fellowship, trusting that God is in charge and, by God's grace, we experience God's love through right relationship with Jesus Christ.

Contact John Moorhouse,
815-236-7408.

LECTIONARY STUDY

Wednesdays 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.

Woodstock Food Pantry

Our support of the Woodstock Food Pantry through our monthly red wagon donations has resulted in a total of 462.82 pounds of food given in 2025!! Way to go!

The capital campaign has now reached 77% of our targeted 1.25 million dollars. ***We just received a \$25,000 donation!***

I continue to give presentations to community groups and tours of the new facility. If you or if you know of any groups or individuals that might be interested in learning more about the Food Pantry, please feel free to contact me.

--Pam Moorhouse



February Red Wagon Donations

A BIG thank you to all who continue to keep our red wagon filled! The Woodstock Food Pantry is extremely grateful for our congregation's commitment to fighting hunger in our community and assisting in their efforts.



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

To contribute financially online, [click here](#) and type "Food Pantry" in the notes.

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

The N.O.W. Team’s Spring 2026 season is well underway. Thanks to all who have come out to enjoy tasty food and excellent fellowship. Here’s a quick look at our February menus.

Dinner and Brunch Dates	Event	Host	Menu
Wednesday, February 4, 2026	Dinner	N.O.W. Team	“Souper” Bowl
Sunday, February 8, 2026	Brunch	N.O.W. Team	Eggs, Sausage, Fruit
Wednesday, February 11, 2026	Dinner	N.O.W. Team	Jambalaya
Wednesday, February 18, 2026	<i>Ash Wednesday, NO DINNER</i>		
Sunday, February 22, 2026	Brunch	FPCW Youth	Casseroles, Fruit
Wednesday, February 25, 2026	Dinner	Scout Troop 159	TBD
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	Dinner	N.O.W. Team	Taco bar, refried beans

For the “Souper Bowl” on February 4, pull out your favorite soup recipe and bring a pot to share. Unlike some of our other events, this one isn’t a contest. It’s just a chance to share your favorite soup with other FPCers. Please let a N.O.W. team member know if you’re going to bring soup on February 4.

Also, be sure to mark your calendars for the February 22 brunch, hosted by the FPCW Youth. That will be followed on February 25 by Boy Scout Troop 159; this fundraiser will help with the expense of their trip to the Philmont Scout Ranch later this year.

Finally, please note that there will not be a N.O.W. dinner on Ash Wednesday, February 18. 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) **John Moorhouse** (johnmoorhouse54@gmail.com)
Lee Nedjl (nejdlwoodstock@hotmail.com) **Katie Spaldon** (kspaldon@gmail.com)
Matt Thuma (mrthuma@yahoo.com) **Jane Jensen** (jensenjane74@gmail.com)
Linda Hansen (lkhanzen53@gmail.com) **Mark Bundick** (mbundick@comcast.net)



Ash Wednesday – Come and Go Meditation & Ashes

This year, our Ash Wednesday observance will be offered in a quieter, more flexible format. During two open time periods—12:00–1:00 pm and 6:00–7:00 pm—the Great Hall will be open for prayer and reflection, with meditative music, visual prompts for contemplation, and the imposition of ashes. You are invited to come at any point during the hour, stay as long as you wish, and receive ashes as part of this gentle, reflective space marking the beginning of Lent.

CARING TOGETHER

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Evan Kaye 2/2
- Hunter Johanson 2/4
- Kathleen Frick 2/4
- Madison Keefe 2/10
- Jamie Cook 2/11
- Kyle Sobczak 2/12
- Faith Corbin 2/15
- Kathi Carr 2/18
- Kristen Matter 2/20
- Mary Hill 2/22
- Lori Stock 2/23
- Diane Messman 2/25
- Nancy Bingham 2/26

Hello! I am Carol Hubner, and happy to serve as the Office Administrator for First Presbyterian Church. Your faces are becoming more familiar each day and I look forward to meeting again at the upcoming NOW dinners which I enjoy so much.

My regular office hours are **Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**. You may also see me in the office earlier or later, depending on the needs of the day. I'm excited to be part of this community and look forward to connecting with you! You can reach me at carol@fpcwoodstock.org or 815-338-2627.



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- Paul & Vicki Thuma 2/1
- Dan & Caryl Lemanski 2/1
- Hank & Shari Olesen 2/21



.....

You'll find Pastor Eric in the office at various times throughout the week, but you're most likely to catch him during his regular office hours:
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm and
Wednesdays, 1:30 - 4:30 pm.

These hours may shift occasionally if he's called away for visits or meetings, but he's always glad to arrange another time. You can request a specific time at fpcwoodstock.org/meetwitheric.

IN OUR PRAYERS

*William Heim, John Hudson,
Jane Jensen, John Krauss,
Lynne Sobczak, Lance Sobczak,
Karen Thennes, Sue Sauer,
Dylan Lawler, Sue Arnold,
Melinda Gallant, the family of
Karen Patty-Graham.*



RUMMAGE SALE SAVE THE DATES!

Drop off begins for our annual **Rummage Sale** on Friday, April 17. Set-up volunteers are needed Monday through Wednesday, April 19-22. Cashiers and other happy people needed on sale days, Thursday through Saturday, April 23-25.

Mark your calendars!



All proceeds go to local organizations which support those in need in our community!

WACM NEWS

Requests for financial assistance through the Woodstock Area Community Ministries' (WACM) Direct Assistance Program increased significantly in January. A family of six received help to pay a utility bill to prevent a disconnection. Rental assistance was given to a father who cares for his young son. These are examples of a dozen households that received financial assistance with rent or utility bills recently.



Other residents received gasoline vouchers or vouchers to purchase warm clothing and boots. This financial assistance is not possible without the financial support of member congregations. Thank you to First Presbyterian Church for your contributions to WACM. You can donate at www.wacmgroups.org.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change,

and immigration/migration and refugees — serves individuals and communities in need.

This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Typically received during the season of Lent, this Offering helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock has pledged \$1800 this year to support this World Wide initiative of PCUSA. Please prayerfully consider making a special offering donation to OGHS.

Contributions will be collected during Lent (February 18 through Easter, April 5). You may contribute through the special envelope if you have those, through a check made out to First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock with OGHS on the memo line or through the [church website donation page](#).

Thank you for your generous support of a world of people in need!

CARING TOGETHER

No Name Knitters

We have all been experiencing the bitter cold weather. Our knitters' and crocheters' handmade prayer shawls and lapghans provide sustaining warmth for the body, as well as the soul! If you, or someone in your family, would be comforted by one of our items, we encourage you to contact one of our group, or Kay Darby at 815-572-1729.



Finance Report

At the time of printing, we are completing the 2025 year-end financials which you can see in the 2025 Annual Report. The 2026 Per Capita "per member" is \$45.00 which is a \$1.00 increase from 2025. Your church pays this for each of our members. It is an annual, per-member fee paid by congregations to fund the administrative and ecclesiastical costs of the broader church, including presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly. It functions as a "shared mission" cost, supporting services like the Office of the General Assembly and ordained ministry preparation. We will appreciate your donation to cover this cost by noting Per Capita on your check or Online donations. May God bless the congregation for your support toward the financial well-being of our broader church.



Bob Clark – on behalf of the Finance Team

Diaper Distribution Project Update

Since January 2022, First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock has been hosting a monthly diaper distribution in partnership with the Woodstock Food Pantry and Keeping Families Covered (KFC), our diaper supplier in McHenry. This project, which is housed in the Compassion, Peace & Justice committee, has grown from serving a handful of families per month, to an average of over 20 families, as the need for diapers and awareness of the distribution have increased.

An opportunity for the diaper distribution to transition to a monthly mobile diaper pantry has recently been approved, and February 4 will be our last distribution at the church. Beginning March 9, it will be hosted by KFC from a box truck in the parking lot at the new Woodstock Food Pantry location at [708 Washington Street](#), the second Monday of each month. This new location and format will allow for a more efficient and easily accessed distribution.

The support of our church, and the dedicated group of volunteers have been greatly appreciated, and have helped make the diaper distribution successful in serving our neighbors these past four years.



Thank you!

DEACONS

February, the month of love. Scripture reminds us that love is far bigger and far deeper than hearts and flowers. God’s love is patient, kind and enduring. It appears in forgiveness, service, faithfulness and compassion for one another. We, the deacons, want to be able to extend our love and kindness by celebrating your birthdays and/or anniversaries with you! We would appreciate it if you would share these dates with either the office or your deacon, if the church does not already have them. These dates are special and important to celebrate!

Thank you!
Mary Carol



- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| <u>Carol Brefeld</u> | 815-653-3005 |
| <u>Mary Carol Dunker</u> | 815-245-4829 |
| <u>Kristen Matter</u> | 847-609-8340 |
| <u>Barb Parrish</u> | 815-353-2749 |
| <u>Tom Schaeffer</u> | 717-994-3819 |
| <u>Cheryl Wormley</u> | 815-519-7402 |



February Session Highlights

- The annual Congregational Meeting will be held on February 8 after church. Annual report, the report of the nominating committee, the Pastor's Terms of Call, and election of church officers will be on the agenda.
- Starting in 2026, the number of Special Offerings will be reduced to three. These will be One Great Hour of Sharing, World Communion Offering, and Christmas Joy Offering. The collection goal of each offering has been increased to reflect this change.

Compassion, Peace & Justice (Awareness, Service)

Chris Mathews
cwmathews8@gmail.com

Congregational Life
(Hospitality, NOW Team)

Fred Strauss
showski1@aol.com
815-728-1430

Education & Spiritual Growth

(Adult, Youth, Child, Intergenerational)
Ray Thuma
rpthuma@sbcglobal.net

Ministry Support

(Finance, Staff Management)
Bob Clark
robtmclark@aol.com

(Building & Grounds, Staff Management)

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

TOGETHER IN WORSHIP

February Worship Schedule

We are grateful for all who serve in worship leadership each week. Below is the February schedule:

Date	Text	Liturgist	A/V	Greeters and Ushers	Acolyte	Hosting Fellowship
2/1	<u>Matthew 5:1-12</u>	Tom Schaeffer	John Moorhouse	Mary Hill and Sue Krause	Braden Ferrera	Faith Corbin
2/8	<u>Matthew 5:13-20</u>	Tiffany Sobczak	Kristi & Christopher Corbin	Matilda Botian & Sara Roewer	Noa Moorhouse	<i>Brunch</i>
2/15	<u>Matthew 17:1-9</u>	Addison Sobczak	Brayden S., Elin K.	Fred Strauss & Carol Brefeld	Colin Kaye	Evie & Sara Roewer
2/22	<u>Matthew 4:1-11</u>	Velma Downes	Brayden S., Elin K.	Pam & John Moorhouse	Levi Traimany	<i>Brunch</i>

Sunday School

Greetings, Sunday School Families!

We're looking forward to continuing our Sunday School time together as we learn, create, and grow in faith! Below are the remaining Sunday School class dates for the rest of the school year.

Upcoming Sunday School Dates:

- February 8
- February 22
- March 8
- March 22
- April 12
- April 26
- May 10

Thank you for being part of our Sunday School community!

Grace and peace,
Erin & Jackie



FEBRUARY 2026

Celebrating Black voices, resilience, and faith this Black History Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30a Adult Sunday School 9:30a Worship	2	3 4p Deacons 5p Girl Scout Troop 2051 meeting	4 8:30a Lectionary Study 10a No-Name Knitters 4p Diaper Distribution 5:15p NOW Dinner	5 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	6	7 7a Men's Bible Study
8 8:30a Adult Sunday School 9:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School: (PreK-5th) 10:30a Annual Congregation Meeting 10:30a NOW Brunch 11a Confirmation Class	9 <i>Groundhog Day</i>	10 10a TLC Ladies 5:30p Education and Spiritual Growth	11 8:30a Lectionary Study 5:15p NOW Dinner 7p Choir Rehearsal	12 2:30p Finance Team 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	13	14 7a Men's Bible Study
15 winterXtreme (Arctic Blast 4th-5th Grade) 8:30a Adult Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Session	16	17 5p Girl Scout Troop 2051 meeting	18 8:30a Lectionary Study 12p Drop-in Imposition of Ashes 6p Drop-in Imposition of Ashes 6p No-Name Knitters 7p Choir Rehearsal	19 <i>Lincoln's Birthday</i> 3p Hospitality Team 6p Compassion, Peace and Justice 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	20	21 7a Men's Bible Study
22 8:30a Adult Sunday School 9:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School: (PreK-5th) 10:30a NOW Brunch 11a Confirmation Class <i>Washington's Birthday</i>	23 <i>Presidents' Day</i>	24	25 8:30a Lectionary Study 5:15p NOW Dinner 7p Choir Rehearsal	26 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting 7p Worship Arts Mtg	27	28 7a Men's Bible Study

FEBRUARY 2026

MINISTERS

*All members and friends
of the congregation*

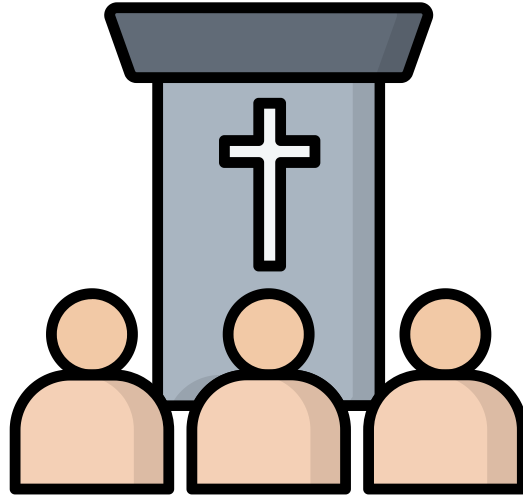
STAFF

*Rev. Eric Corbin
Pastor*

*Carol Hubner
Office Administrator*

*Christy Johanson
Worship Arts
Coordinator*

*Harrison Cole
Accompanist*



CELEBRATING AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE

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



Phone: (815) 338-2627

E-mail: office@fpcwoodstock.org

Website: www.fpcwoodstock.org

Facebook: fb.com/fpcwoodstock