

First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock

April 2026 Newsletter

After the Alleluia

Easter is almost here. We find ourselves standing at the edge of something that changes everything. We have walked through Lent, through reflection and preparation, and now we arrive at the story of resurrection—the good news that life is stronger than death, that hope is not lost, that God is still bringing new life into the world.

Easter morning is a powerful moment. The worship space fills. The music swells. The room is filled with the beautiful aroma of lilies. The words “Christ is risen!” are spoken with joy and conviction.

And then comes the next day. And the next week. The lilies remain, though beginning to fade. The rhythms of life settle back in. And we might wonder: what now?

The good news is that the resurrection was never meant to be contained in a single day! Easter is not just a moment we celebrate; it is a way of living we are invited into, day after day.

In the stories that follow Easter, the risen Christ keeps showing up, *not* in grand, dramatic ways, but in ordinary moments. Walking alongside disciples on a road. Sharing a meal. Speaking a name. Offering peace to people still trying to make sense of everything. That feels familiar, doesn't it?

Most of our lives are lived there—not in big, dramatic moments, but in ordinary days. Conversations. Decisions. Acts of care. Small steps forward.

That is where resurrection continues to unfold.

We see it in kindness that interrupts despair. In community that shows up for one another. In hope that refuses to disappear, even when life feels uncertain.

Easter reminds us that new life is not just something we celebrate. It is something we participate in. So as we move into the season of Easter, the question becomes not just *what* do we believe *about* the resurrection, but how will we live *because* of it?

How will we carry hope into the places that feel so heavy?

How will we extend grace in a world that all too often withholds it?

How will we show up for one another with compassion, patience, and love?

In the life of this congregation, those responses take shape in simple, tangible ways—gathering for worship, learning together, sharing meals, serving our neighbors, and caring for one another.

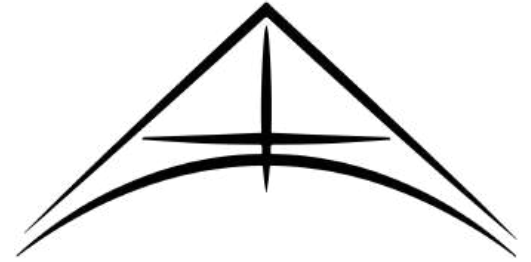
These are not separate from Easter. They *are* Easter, lived out.

As you approach Easter Sunday, may you know that the story continues—and that **you** are an essential part of it.

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

Carol Hubner

REPORTERS

Mark Bundick, Joyce Maynard,
Nancy Bingham, Eric Corbin, Erin Kaye,
Chris Mathews, Pam Moorhouse,
John Moorhouse, Pat Morozink,
Kay Darby, and Ray Thuma

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

Ray Thuma

Hospitality Team

Fred Strauss

Music Ministry

Tiffany Sobczak

815-790-9360

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

Changes to Bible study schedule for April:

- 4/4 - no study
- 4/11 - study will be held
- 4/18 - no study
- 4/25 - normal weekly Saturday study resumes

Meets at 7:00 a.m.

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.

DIAPER DISTRIBUTION UPDATE

First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock is grateful to have served the community through our monthly diaper distribution in partnership with the Woodstock Food Pantry since 2022.

Beginning March 9, 2026, the distribution moved to the new Woodstock Food Pantry site at 708 Washington Street, where Keeping Families Covered offers a monthly mobile diaper pantry from a box truck in the parking lot.

The new distribution is held on the second Monday of each month from 4:00-5:30 PM. Visit keepingfamiliescovered.org to register or use the QR code provided below.

Requirements for registration:

- Photo ID for parent or guardian
- Birth certificate for each child receiving diapers. (May be uploaded online or brought to first visit.)
- Documents accepted as substitutes for birth certificates: passport, WIC paperwork, guardianship papers, or doctor's visit summary.



Care Packages for College Students



The Deacons are preparing spring "Care Packages" for our college students to get them through the end of the year. You can show your care as the students go through their finals and end their year. We are soliciting gift cards and notes of encouragement.

If you would like to contribute to this project you may leave gift cards and notes in a box designated "**COLLEGE CARE PACKAGE HELP**" in the church foyer from **March 15th - April 5th**. Gift cards for food places or places like Walmart and Target would be appreciated in \$5-\$10 increments! Thank you to everyone for showing our college students we care about them as they continue their education!

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

The N.O.W. Team's Spring 2026 dinners have concluded. For those dinners, we served 387 of you with dishes ranging from spaghetti and meatballs to pulled pork to fried chicken. Many of you tried and enjoyed our "Soup Starter" experiment. We hope you enjoyed all our meals and we appreciate your support.

We have two more brunches left in the spring season.

Brunch Dates	Menu
Sunday, April 12, 2026	Breakfast casseroles
Sunday, April 26, 2026	Eggs, Sausage, Fruit



BRUNCH AFTER CHURCH

If you're attending worship on those dates, stick around afterwards for some good eats and extended fellowship.

After those brunches, the N.O.W. Team will be meeting to review how the spring went, and start planning for the summer and fall. It's likely we'll be doing multiple cookouts to take advantage of the summer weather; *al fresco* dining on our patio is always fun in the summer.

Keep an eye out for those summer dinner dates in the May newsletter and the Mid-Week News.

Also, feel free to pass along any ideas you have for menu items or themes for dinner and brunch. We're open to almost anything! Just reach out to any N.O.W. team member.

The N.O.W. Team

Mark Bundick (mbundick@comcast.net)

Matt Thuma (mrthuma@yahoo.com)

Jane Jensen (jensenjane74@gmail.com)

Katie Spaldon (kspaldon@gmail.com)

John Moorhouse (johnmoorhouse54@gmail.com) **Cheryl Wormley** (indepublisher@comcast.net)

Lee Nejd (nejdlwoodstock@hotmail.com)

Woodstock Food Pantry



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.

April Red Wagon Donations

Peanut Butter, Jelly (plastic jars, please), Jello (mix), Pudding (mix)

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

CARING TOGETHER

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- Tony Spaldon, 4/06
- James Reilly, 4/08
- Pam Moorhouse, 4/10
- Chris Mathews, 4/13
- Erin Kaye, 4/13
- Tim Arnold, 4/13
- Caroline Frick, 4/15
- Joyce Chwalisz, 4/15
- Trisha Sowa, 4/16
- Alex Rewiako, 4/17
- Brooklyn Walters, 4/18
- Jerin Ferrera, 4/20
- Jessica Gienko, 4/24
- Sue Sauer, 4/24
- Floyd Lara, 4/28
- Tom Houchins, 4/29
- Brooke Mathison, 4/30
- Hudson Frick, 4/30

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- Sharon & Larry Stanger, 4/22
- Kyle & Jen Oliver, 4/30

IN OUR PRAYERS

*William Heim, Jane Jensen,
John Krauss, Lynne Sobczak,
Lance Sobczak, Sue Sauer,
Dylan Lawler, Sue Arnold,
Melinda Gallant, Glynn &
Brenda Bradley*



Grief Support



The Grief Support group led by Roxie Kaminski over the Christmas holidays was found to be helpful and healing by those attending, as well as by Roxie herself. Roxie has generously offered to lead two more sessions in 2026. There will be a six-week session offered in June, and an eight-week session over the 2026 holiday season. The time and dates will be announced soon. These sessions will be open to anyone in the congregation. After the sessions have begun, they will then be closed to new members to create a feeling of safety and trust within the group.

Birthdays, death anniversaries and other events can trigger powerful feelings that can be difficult to handle alone. Acknowledging this, Pastor Eric will start a monthly “drop in” grief group which will be open to new members at any time. The first meeting will be held April 7 at 10-11 am. Future meetings will be held every first Tuesday of the month at the same time. All are invited to attend. Please reach out to Pastor Eric with any questions.



Sunday School

We are grateful for each of you and for the joy, energy, and curiosity your children bring to our Sunday School community each week.

As we look ahead, here are the remaining Sunday School dates for the rest of the school year:

- April 12
- April 26
- May 10

We look forward to making the most of our time together as the year wraps up.

Thank you for being such an important part of our Sunday School community. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, April 12!

Peace,
Erin & Jackie



Woodstock Area Community Ministry (WACM) NEWS

WACM's Direct Assistance Program (DAP) provides emergency financial support to Woodstock residents facing a crisis. Assistance may include help with rent to prevent eviction, utility bills to prevent shut-offs, car repairs needed to maintain employment, as well as vouchers for gasoline, clothing, and essential needs. Support is provided through payments to vendors and local partners, ensuring that help is both practical and accountable. Your support of WACM makes this vital assistance possible. Thank you for your generosity.



FUNDING LOCAL MISSIONS

Historically, our congregation has supported local mission initiatives through a combination of special fundraising events like the rummage sale (which supports WACM and the Woodstock Food Pantry) and the Christmas craft sale (which supports our youth programs). Prior to the 2026 changes in the structure of PC(USA) Special Offerings, local groups also received gifts through a percentage of the Special Offerings collected each year.

For a number of years, we have budgeted a \$10,000 Mission Gift to support PC(USA) and Blackhawk Presbytery (now Illinois Prairie Presbytery). After conversation with the Presbytery, the Session and the Compassion, Peace, and Justice (CPJ) Committee have chosen this year to realign that giving. This year, \$5,000 will support the wider church, shared equally between Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and PC(USA) Self-Development of People. We have long supported the ministry and work of the Presbytery through full payment of our apportioned per-capita and will continue to do so. This adjustment allows us to dedicate the remaining \$5,000 to mission needs in our local community.

The Session, upon recommendation of the CPJ Committee, has designated these funds for LOCAL MISSION support. The need in the community is always present, and many organizations would welcome partnership. CPJ maintains a structure to vet potential recipients. Eligible organizations are registered 501(c)(3) nonprofits serving residents of Woodstock School District 200. Each selected organization also needs a congregational "champion." This person helps communicate the ministry's impact, assists with the qualification process, and serves as a liaison between the congregation and the recipient of mission funds.

If you have an organization in mind that would benefit from a mission gift from our congregation, please let a member of CPJ or Pastor Eric know so we can follow up and learn more about their work and needs.



Our **"Coins for Kenya"** jar is a simple way we can make a meaningful difference together. By collecting spare change, we support efforts in Kenya like education, healthcare, clean water, and economic opportunities. Small contributions truly add up and change lives.

This project also reminds us that our faith connects us beyond our own community, encouraging generosity and global compassion. We collected **\$63.31**—thank you! Please keep it going by bringing in your spare change and being part of this shared effort.

CARING TOGETHER

No Name Knitters

The spring rains and budding flowers bring a sense of rebirth and renewed energy. The knitters/crocheters hope that freshness may continue to bring comfort, peace, or joy to those who receive our hand-crafted prayer shawls, lapghans, or baby items. We welcome anyone who would love to join us. Call Kay Darby at 815-572-1729 for more information.



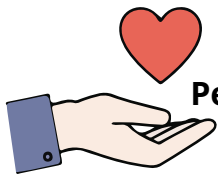
HIGHWAY CLEANUP

Our community of faith is dedicated to helping preserve our environment. One of our most consistent ministries has been the highway cleanup. Three times a year, we gather to pick up trash along a stretch of Route 47 that runs in front of and beyond the church grounds. The work is easy, but keeps hundreds of pounds of litter out of the environment and beautifies the local neighborhood. This year we have scheduled cleanups for three Saturday dates:

- April 18th at 9:00 a.m.
- July 18th at 8:00 a.m.
- September 19th at 9:00 a.m.



Please consider joining us for this important work. It's a simple way to care for our shared home and serve alongside one another. We typically complete the work within two hours. Please wear sturdy shoes and long pants. We will provide trash bags, pick up tools, safety vests, and gloves. There is no need to sign up in advance, but if you have any questions, contact Ray Thuma at rpthuma@sbcglobal.net.



Per Capita Offering



Just a reminder! Per capita apportionment is like a utility bill: just as we pay for essential services to stay connected, we contribute per capita so the Presbyterian system can serve us all. It links our congregations, reflects our unity in Christ, and shares costs fairly across the whole church.

In 2026, the per capita for Illinois Prairie Presbytery (formerly Blackhawk Presbytery) congregations is \$45 per member. We appreciate your support in helping cover this annual amount paid to our presbytery on behalf of each FPCW member.

You may give online at fpcwoodstock.org/giving by selecting "Per Capita," or write "Per Capita" on the memo line of your check. Thank you!



Fulfill your Pledge Avoid Income Taxes

Stock market values have generally moved upward in recent years. If you own mutual funds or stocks that have appreciated, consider using them to fulfill your pledge. The gift of securities to a nonprofit entity, such as your church, is a way to fulfill your pledge and avoid income taxes on the gain.

Contact Treasurer John Moorhouse or Bob Clark of the Finance Committee for assistance in making your gift.





April Session Highlights

- There is some interest in participating in the Memorial Day Parade as a church this year. We would continue to participate in the PrideFest Parade as well. If you would like to march (or ride) in the Memorial Day event, let a member of the Session know so we can start to plan.
- The Coins for Kenya jar is full. Thanks for the consistent donations. The money has been counted and sent along to this mission initiative.

DEACONS (Six) (*Bold=second term*)

<i>Class of 2026</i>	<i>Class of 2027</i>	<i>Class of 2028</i>
Kristen Matter	Carol Brefeld	Mary Carol Dunker
Barb Parrish	Tom Schaeffer	
	Cheryl Wormley	

ELDERS (Six) (*Bold=second term*)

<i>Class of 2026</i>	<i>Class of 2027</i>	<i>Class of 2028</i>
Chris Dahm Buildings & Grounds Staff Management	Bob Clark Finance Staff Management	Tiffany Sobczak Worship, Music, & Arts
Chris Mathews Compassion, Peace, & Justice	Fred Strauss Congregational Life	
	Ray Thuma Education & Spiritual Growth	

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

April Worship Schedule

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

Date	Text	Liturgist	A/V	Greeters and Ushers	Acolyte	Hosting Fellowship
4/5	<u>John 20:1-18</u>	Cheryl Wormley	John Moorhouse	Addison Sobczak, Pam Moorhouse, and Matilda Botian	Dylan Lawler	Pam & John Moorhouse
4/12	<u>John 20:19-31</u>	Chris NejdI	John Moorhouse	Cheryl Wormley and Beth Elbersen	Levi Traimany	<i>Brunch</i>
4/19	<u>Luke 24:13-35</u>	Reneé Simes	Kristi & Christopher Corbin	Chris Mathews & Tom Schaeffer	Colin Kaye	Faith Corbin
4/26	<u>John 10:1-10</u>	John Moorhouse	Brayden S., Elin K.	Fred Strauss & Carol Brefeld	Dylan Lawler	Brunch



Sale Dates April 23, 24, & 25, 2026

Get ready, set, go!

DROP OFF BEGINS APRIL 17

We have a reputation of having AMAZING rummage sales. You can help us continue our winning streak! We welcome donations of clothing, shoes, purses, jewelry, toys, books, CDs, DVDs, magazines, linens, dishes, kitchen items, tools, fishing and camping gear, baskets, pictures, small appliances, sporting equipment, pet supplies, craft supplies, puzzles, games, luggage, gardening supplies, and small furniture.

Drop off begins on Friday April 17th at 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
All weekend long through Wednesday when we end at NOON!
(Please go to the entrance door by the children's classroom)

Please, *please*, PLEASE make sure all items are CLEAN, in working order and have no pieces missing. Please attach a suggested price when you donate large items, furniture/electronics, or collectibles.

We encourage you to fill at least one bag per person at your house.

Volunteer signups are up at the church. Please consider giving an hour or two to help out this important Mission fundraiser. **ALL proceeds** are donated to area organizations helping those in need in our community.

RUMMAGE SALE DATES
Thursday, APRIL 23 FROM 8AM-6PM
FRIDAY, APRIL 24 FROM 8AM-4PM
SATURDAY, APRIL 25 FROM 8AM - NOON

APRIL 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 8:30a Lectionary Study 10a No-Name Knitters 7p Choir Rehearsal	2 10a Education and Spiritual Growth 7p Maundy Thursday service at RCLPC 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	3 8p Good Friday service <i>Good Friday</i>	4
5 9:30a Easter Sunday Worship <i>Easter</i>	6	7 10a Drop-In Grief Group	8 8:30a Lectionary Study	9 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	10	11 7a Men's Bible Study
12 8:30a Adult Sunday School 9:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School: PreK-5th 10:30a NOW Brunch 11a Confirmation Class	13 <i>Meals on Wheels deliveries</i>	14 10a TLC Ladies 11:30a Finance Team 4p Deacons 5p Girl Scout Troop 2051 meeting	15 8:30a Lectionary Study 10a No-Name Knitters	16 3p Hospitality Team 6p Compassion, Peace and Justice 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	17	18 9a Highway Cleanup
19 8:30a Adult Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Session 11:30a Youth Group at John White Stables	20	21	22 8:30a Lectionary Study 7p Choir Rehearsal <i>Earth Day</i>	23 Rummage Sale 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting 7p Worship Arts Mtg	24	25 7a Men's Bible Study
26 8:30a Adult Sunday School 9:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School: PreK-5th 10:30a NOW Brunch 11a Confirmation Class	27	28 5p Girl Scout Troop 2051 meeting	29 8:30a Lectionary Study 7p Choir Rehearsal	30 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting		

APRIL 2026



**JESUS
HAS RISEN**

CELEBRATING AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE

MINISTERS

*All members and
friends of the
congregation*

STAFF

*Rev. Eric Corbin
Pastor*

*Carol Hubner
Office Administrator
and Financial Secretary*

*Harrison Cole
Accompanist*

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