

# First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock

## May 2026 Newsletter

### Along The Way

Faith is something we grow into over time. It doesn't happen all at once, and it isn't something we ever finish. Instead, it is shaped little by little—through questions, through community, and through the ways we learn to trust God in our lives.

This month, we celebrate Confirmation Sunday, as several of the youth of our church take an important step in their faith journey. Over the past several months, they have explored what it means to follow Jesus and to be part of the church, asking thoughtful questions and reflecting on what they believe. What we celebrate is not that they have “arrived,” but that they are continuing to grow—claiming this faith as their own, even as they continue to discover what it means.

In truth, that is the work of all of us. No matter how long we have been part of the church, we are still learning, still growing, still being shaped by God's grace. We do this together—encouraging one another, learning from one another, and sharing in the life of this community.

One of the gifts of the church is the way we share in that life together. In every season, people step forward to offer their gifts—teaching, leading, serving, and helping to shape our worship and our common life. In the last several months, we have been in a season of transition. Some have concluded their roles, others are preparing to step back, and new leaders are beginning to emerge. Through it all, the church continues to grow and adapt, even as the heart of who we are stays the same.

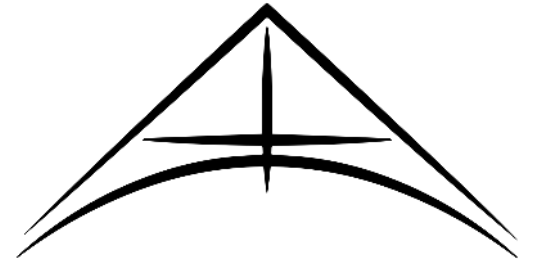
As we move into the summer months, our rhythms will begin to shift a bit. There will be opportunities to gather in new ways, as well as space for rest and renewal. However you find yourself this season, I hope you will stay connected—to one another, to this community, and to the ways God continues to be at work among us.

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

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Carol Hubner

### REPORTERS

Mark Bundick, Joyce Maynard,  
Eric Corbin, Erin Kaye, Chris Mathews,  
Pam Moorhouse, Pat Morozink,  
Mary Hill, Bob Clark,  
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



## First Quarter Generosity Report

Operating Account (*numbers rounded*)

	Income	Budget	Variance
<b>Contributions</b>	\$90,000	\$72,000	\$18,000
<b>Other</b>	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$0
<b>Total</b>	\$98,000	\$80,000	\$18,000

<b>Payroll</b>	\$54,000	\$56,000	(\$2,000)
<b>Other</b>	\$20,000	\$34,000	(\$14,000)
<b>Total</b>	\$74,000	\$90,000	(\$16,000)

<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$24,000</b>	<b>(\$10,000)</b>	<b>\$34,000</b>
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- 1st Quarter Actual vs Budget — YTD Income of \$98,000 is favorable to budget by \$18,000 due to earlier than expected contributions and a slight increase in contributions vs. budget
- YTD Expense of \$74,000 is favorable to budget by \$16,000 mostly due to favorable Building & Grounds expense of \$10,000 (mostly due to no snow removal expense) with the balance across several categories; resulting in Net Revenue of \$24,000 which is favorable to budget by \$34,000

### New Covenant Investment Account

The McCullough Endowment — March value ~\$1,193,000 unfavorable to December by ~\$45,000 due to market decline of ~\$32,500 plus the quarterly distribution of ~\$12,500.

We appreciate your continued generosity.

Prayerfully submitted on behalf of the Finance Team of Ministry Support  
by Bob Clark — Team Lead

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

We've wrapped up our Spring 2026 season. This time is bittersweet for the N.O.W. Team, as we look forward to a little break, but are sad not to see everyone for food and fun.

We've scheduled our 2026 Summer dinners. Mark your calendars for some great food and great nights on the patio. Future newsletters and the Mid-Week Update will also remind you of these dinners.

Summer Dates	Menu
Wednesday, June 17, 2026	Burgers and hot dogs
Wednesday, July 15, 2026	Italian Sausage
Wednesday, August 19, 2026	Pulled pork / pork loin

We'll start serving at 5:15, and pricing remains a bargain basement price of \$4.00! Come join us this summer.

**The N.O.W. Team**

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

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

**Anna Kittle** ([annagramk@aol.com](mailto:annagramk@aol.com))

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

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

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

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

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

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE THIS ONCE A MONTH?**



Would anybody be interested in a game night for adults at the church once a month, with easy and fun games on a Friday or Saturday evening from 6—8 p.m.?  
If you're interested please let me know.

Mary Hill  
815-338-6051



**Woodstock Food Pantry**

**May Red Wagon Donations**

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

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

# 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
- Barbara Arnold, 5/16
- Ben Moorhouse, 5/18
- Dawn Cook, 5/19
- Addison Sobczak, 5/20
- Lydia Johanson, 5/20
- Sandra Landrey, 5/23
- Dave Johanson, 5/24

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- Matt & Sherry Thuma, 5/4
- Hank & Linda Olesen, 5/10
- Mark & Barb Bundick, 5/11
- Matt & Jalina Petrik, 5/29

## IN OUR PRAYERS

*William Heim, Jane Jensen,  
Robert Jensen, John Krauss,  
Lynne Sobczak, Lance Sobczak,  
Sue Sauer, Sue Arnold,  
Melinda Gallant, Angela Thuma,  
Karen Thennes, Tom Houchins,  
Anna Kittle*



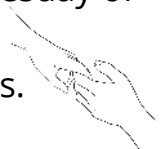
## Grief Support



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 help create a sense 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. Gatherings will be held every first Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. All are invited to attend.

Please reach out to Pastor Eric with any questions.



## VERY Successful 2026 Rummage Sale

Compassion, Peace & Justice (CPJ) extends a heartfelt *thank you* to everyone who supported the Rummage Sale in so many ways. Thanks to your generosity, we raised **\$5,197.60**, which will be shared between the Woodstock Food Pantry and WACM (Woodstock Area Community Ministries).

For those wondering what happens to the remaining items:

- Jewelry is donated to Home of the Sparrow
- Books are given to the library for their May Book Sale
- Coats are set aside for WACM's Direct Assistance Coat Drive
- Socks are also saved for WACM's direct assistance efforts
- All other items are donated to Savers, benefiting the Epilepsy Foundation

Thank you again for helping make this year's sale such a success!

*Coming Soon! We plan to participate in the Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 25 — sign up in the gathering area!*

### Woodstock Area Community Ministry (WACM) NEWS

WACM's Direct Assistance Program (DAP) gets a variety of requests for assistance from Woodstock D-200 residents every month. Why do people look for financial help from DAP?

- In April, a father had a chance to move into a new apartment with his mother and two children. He was able to pay the required security deposit but was short of money toward the first month's rent. DAP made a partial payment to his landlord so he could move his family into a new location.
- A payment to NiCOR for a past due bill helped another tenant avoid her service being disrupted.
- For a man living in a recovery home, a voucher for a pair of steel toe boots makes him now eligible for a new job.
- For another resident, a gasoline voucher makes getting back and forth for medical treatment easier to manage.

Through support of WACM's DAP, we offer a gift of hope and support to people in our community. Thank you to the congregation for your support of WACM with special gratitude to members who recently donated through the Help-a-Neighbor campaign!



### Woodstock Food Pantry

The Woodstock Food Pantry is at 88% of their targeted goal of \$1.25 million for the new location. We are seeking volunteers to help once we move into 708 Washington St. There will be many new and different ways to give of your time and help the pantry when we move in September. Donations of both food and money are still needed as we continue to see our numbers increase. If you are interested in volunteering, please see Pam Moorhouse.

The food pantry is very appreciative of the support from First Presbyterian!



#### 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 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.

# CARING TOGETHER

## No Name Knitters

This month the knitters/crocheters will meet at 10:00 on both the first Wednesday and the third Wednesday, in the Fireside room. If you enjoy knitting or crocheting, please come join us!

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



## Education & Spiritual Growth News



### CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

On Sunday, May 3, we will celebrate Confirmation Sunday, marking an important milestone in the faith journeys of **Braden Ferrera, Colin Kaye, Emily Lawler, Wesley Moorhouse, Noa Moorhouse, Regan Oliver, and Brooklyn Walters**. Over the past several months, these confirmands have explored what it means to follow Jesus and live as part of God's church, engaging questions of grace, the sacraments, Scripture, and the shared leadership that shapes our life together as Presbyterians. Along the way, they have been guided and encouraged by dedicated mentors, whose presence reminds us that faith is formed in community and carried forward together. As these Confirmands prepare to affirm their faith publicly, we give thanks not only for what they have learned, but for the ways they are already living it—growing into lives of discipleship, service, and hope. We look forward to how they will shape the church with the gifts God has given them!



*Need a t-shirt?*

*Order by May 13th!*

If you missed getting one last year—or would enjoy another—we'd love for you to be part of it.

Our church t-shirts are a simple way to feel connected and share a message of faith wherever you go.

They're a soft 50/50 blend and available in sizes for children and adults up to 5XL, with tall sizes in adult L and above.

*≈ \$15 each (prepaid) ≈*

Order forms are available in the gathering area, or you can order online at:

[fpcwoodstock.org/tshirts](http://fpcwoodstock.org/tshirts)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WOODSTOCK

## We're Hiring: Director of Music



We are seeking a part-time Director of Music to help lead worship through music.



We're looking for someone to guide the choir in worship leadership, lead congregational singing, and help nurture a joyful music ministry.



Please help us spread the word to musicians, choir directors, educators, accompanists, and others who may be a good fit.



Full job description and application information: [fpcwoodstock.org/jobs](http://fpcwoodstock.org/jobs)

WORSHIP.  
MUSIC.  
PRAYER.





**SESSION MEETING**

**April Session Highlights**

- The Memorial Committee has approved funds for new and updated cameras and equipment to improve the streaming of our worship services.
- Session is looking into ways to make the service more welcoming to visitors who may not be familiar with our use of slides and not having hymnals at every seat. Any suggestions would be appreciated.
- The job duties for the Director of Music position have been updated and we are actively looking for someone to fill this position. Please help spread the news if you know of someone who may be interested.
- We met our goal of \$1,800 collected for One Great Hour of Sharing. Thank -you to all who participated.

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

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

**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	<b>Tiffany Sobczak</b> Worship, Music, & Arts
Chris Mathews Compassion, Peace, & Justice	<b>Fred Strauss</b> Congregational Life	
	Ray Thuma Education & Spiritual Growth	

**Compassion, Peace & Justice**  
(Awareness, Service)  
Chris Mathews  
[cwmathews8@gmail.com](mailto:cwmathews8@gmail.com)

**Congregational Life**  
(Hospitality, NOW Team)  
Fred Strauss  
[showski1@aol.com](mailto:showski1@aol.com)  
815-728-1430

**Education & Spiritual Growth**  
(Adult, Youth, Child, Intergenerational)  
Ray Thuma  
[rpthuma@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rpthuma@sbcglobal.net)

**Ministry Support**  
(Finance, Staff Management)  
Bob Clark  
[robtmclark@aol.com](mailto:robtmclark@aol.com)

(Building & Grounds, Staff Management)  
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)

## May Worship Schedule

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

Date	Text	Liturgist	A/V	Greeters and Ushers	Acolyte	Hosting Fellowship
5/3	<u>John 14:1-14</u>	Jim Wormley	John Moorhouse	Pam & Brooke Mathison	Dylan Lawler	{Confirmation Sunday}
5/10	<u>John 14:15-21</u>	Velma Downes	Brayden Sobczak	Matilda Botian & Sara Roewer	Colin Kaye	<i>Need a volunteer!</i>
5/17	<u>John 17:1-11</u>	Sue Krause	Kristi & Christopher Corbin	Pam & John Moorhouse	Gianna Ferrera	Faith Corbin
5/24	<u>Acts 2:1-21</u>	Cheryl Wormley	Brayden Sobczak	Mary Carol & Al Dunker	Noa Moorhouse	<i>Need a volunteer!</i>
5/31	<u>Matthew 28:16-20</u>	Dawn Cook	John Moorhouse	Rick & Pat Morozink	Emersyn Cook	Chris Mathews & Tom Schaeffer

### Sunday School

#### *Sunday School Year-End Update*

As we approach the end of another wonderful year together, we want to share that our final day of Sunday School will be Sunday, May 10.

It has truly been a joy and a privilege to spend this time with the youth of the church. Watching them grow in their faith, curiosity, and kindness has meant so much to us. We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be part of their journey and for the support and trust you have given us throughout the year.

With that said, we also want to share that we will be stepping down from our roles as Sunday School teachers at the end of this school year. While this was not an easy decision, we feel confident and excited knowing that the program will be in such capable hands. **Sara Roewer** and **Kate Frick** will be taking over leadership starting next year, and we know they will bring wonderful energy, creativity, and care to the program. We are certain they will do great things with our church's youth.

Thank you again, Sunday School families, for allowing us to be part of your children's lives—it has meant more to us than we can fully express.

Wishing you all a peaceful and joyful spring, and we hope to see you on May 10 as we celebrate the end of a meaningful year together.

With gratitude,  
Miss Jackie & Miss Erin



# MAY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 7a Men's Bible Study
3 Choir Sings Confirmation Sunday 8:30a Adult Sunday School 9:30a Worship	4	5 10a Drop-In Grief Group	6 8:30a Lectionary Study 10a No-Name Knitters	7 10a Education and Spiritual Growth 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	8	9 7a Men's Bible Study
10 8:30a Adult Sunday School 9:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School: PreK-5th  <i>Mother's Day</i>	11	12 10a TLC Ladies 11:30a Finance Team 4p Deacons 5p Girl Scout Troop 2051 meeting	13 8:30a Lectionary Study 7p Choir Rehearsal	14 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	15	16 7a Men's Bible Study
17 Choir Sings Music Appreciation Sunday 8:30a Adult Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Session	18	19	20 8:30a Lectionary Study 10a No-Name Knitters	21 3p Hospitality Team 6p Compassion, Peace and Justice 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	22	23 7a Men's Bible Study
24 8:30a Adult Sunday School 9:30a Worship	25 Meals on Wheels deliveries  <i>Memorial Day</i>	26	27 8:30a Lectionary Study	28 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting 7p Worship Arts Mtg	29	30 7a Men's Bible Study
31 8:30a Adult Sunday School 9:30a Worship						

MAY 2026

MINISTERS

*All members and  
friends of the  
congregation*

STAFF

*Rev. Eric Corbin  
Pastor*

*Carol Hubner  
Office Administrator  
and Financial Secretary*

*Harrison Cole  
Accompanist*



*CELEBRATING AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE*

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