

First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock

July 2026 Newsletter

In God We Trust

July brings familiar signs of celebration: flags, fireworks, parades, cookouts, and neighbors gathered in the summer evening. This year carries special weight as our country marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Anniversaries like this invite gratitude and reflection.

One phrase often associated with our national life is "In God We Trust." For Christians, those words are more than a motto or slogan. They are a confession of faith, a statement of what we believe. They remind us that our deepest trust does not belong to any nation, party, leader, court, flag, or human institution. Our deepest trust belongs to God alone.

That trust frees us to love our country with gratitude, humility, and hope. We give thanks for the freedoms so many have worked and sacrificed to secure. We honor neighbors who serve the common good. We participate in civic life with care, seeking the well-being of the whole community.

This kind of faithful witness was visible at this week's General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). In voting to hold the 2028 General Assembly in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the Assembly celebrated more than a future meeting location. It celebrated the inclusive values of the church, the richness of our connectional life, and the joy of belonging to a denomination more beautifully diverse than any one community can see on its own.

One speaker offered words that feel right for this moment: "May we bear witness to the countercultural Christ and recognize the humanity in each other." That is a beautiful calling for every season, especially in these divisive days.

Rev. Victor Kim, Principal Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, described the PC(USA) as a beacon to many denominations around the world. He pointed especially to our commitment to ecumenism, justice, peacemaking, and mission. What a gift, and what a responsibility.

So this July, enjoy the fireworks. Give thanks for the freedoms we cherish. Celebrate the communities that shape us. And let our trust in God lead us toward an ever-wider welcome, ever-deeper compassion, and ever-more faithful witness to the grace and love of God made known in Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Eric



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IN GOD WE TRUST

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Carol Hubner

REPORTERS

Mark Bundick, Eric Corbin,
Pam Moorhouse,
Pat Morozink, Mary Hill,
Bob Clark, Kay Darby,
and Mary Carol Dunker

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

Gary Wilhelm

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

Fishing Mission

Bob Clark

847-274-8247



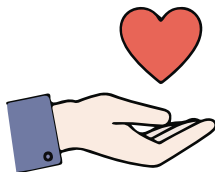
GA 227: Persevering Toward Wholeness in Milwaukee

After several days of online committee meetings, hundreds of Presbyterians gathered in Milwaukee for the 227th General Assembly, a week defined by deep discernment, vibrant worship, and public witness. Under the theme "Persevering Toward Wholeness," the assembly navigated a full schedule of worship, business, and fellowship.

Four major worship services anchored the week, including a Communion service preached by Co-Moderators Rev. CeCe Armstrong and Rev. Tony Larson, an ecumenical worship service, a Taizé-style prayer service, and closing worship.

Beyond the plenary hall, participants engaged Milwaukee through a Community Day. Hundreds marched in the "Healing Not Harm" walk to bear public witness against gun violence. The "Town Square" fair facilitated ministry connections, while various events celebrated groups like the 1001 New Worshiping Communities and the 2026 Women of Faith awardees.

A summary of actions will be available soon.



Per Capita Offering



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 wider Presbyterian connection 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!

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

Thanks to everyone who came out to enjoy our June evening of perfectly-grilled burgers and hot dogs with all the fixin's, including delicious baked beans and salad. The weather forced us inside, but we had a great meal regardless. If you missed the June N.O.W. dinner, you have two more chances to join us this summer.

Summer Dates	Menu
Wednesday, July 15, 2026	Italian sausage
Wednesday, August 19, 2026	Pulled pork / pork loin

Skip your Wednesday night dinner drudgery and let your friendly N.O.W. team handle dinner instead! We'll start serving at 5:15, and pricing remains a bargain basement price of \$4.00! Summer is flying by and it'll soon be fall. The N.O.W. team will soon meet to plan our Fall 2026 schedule. We're always looking for your feedback and your suggestions for future N.O.W. dinners. Let any team member know what you'd like to see on the menu next!



The N.O.W. Team

Mark Bundick (mbundick@comcast.net)
Jane Jensen (jensenjane74@gmail.com)
Anna Kittle (annagramk@aol.com)
John Moorhouse (johnmoorhouse54@gmail.com)
Lee Nejd (nejdlwoodstock@hotmail.com)
Katie Spaldon (kspaldon@gmail.com)
Matt Thuma (mrthuma@yahoo.com)
Cheryl Wormley (indepublisher@comcast.net)



CARING TOGETHER

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- Collette Spaldon, 07/01
- Sandy Brown, 07/01
- Olivia Keefe, 07/03
- Rick Morozink, 07/04
- Joyce Maynard, 07/05
- Velma Downes, 07/05
- Gracyn Petrik, 07/06
- Gary Wilhelm, 07/10
- Carol Brefeld, 07/11
- Cheryl Wormley, 07/13
- Jim Wormley, 07/18
- Sally Nelson, 07/20
- Kyle Oliver, 07/27
- Sara Roewer, 07/28
- Ana Corbin, 07/29
- Ken Maynard, 07/29
- Marla Rigby, 07/30

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- Brooke & Pam Mathison, 07/01
- Scott & Katherine Greenlee, 07/12

IN OUR PRAYERS

William Heim, Lynne Sobczak,
Lance Sobczak, Sue Sauer,
Dylan Lawler, Sue Arnold, Tim Arnold,
Sherry Thuma, Tom Houchins,
Anna Kittle, Gary & Laura Spice,
John Hudson, family and friends of
Melinda Gallant, family and friends of
Adam Wormley, Beth Elbersen,
Rick Strauss, and James Higgins



Grief Support

The Grief Support group led by **Roxie Kaminski** continues. It will be a six-week session, and an eight-week session will be offered over the 2026 holiday season. These sessions are open to anyone in the congregation; however, after the sessions have begun, they will then be closed to new participants 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 hosts a monthly "drop in" grief group which is open to new participants at any time. Gatherings will be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. All are invited to attend. Please reach out to Pastor Eric with any questions.

Sign Up to
HOST
Fellowship

ON SUNDAYS AFTER THE SERVICE

You'll help by:



MAKING THE COFFEE



BRINGING SWEET TREATS
cookies, brownies, muffins--
whatever you love to share!



**SERVING LEMONADE
AND JUICE**
to keep everyone refreshed



CLEANING UP
together we leave the space ready
for the week ahead



ENJOYING THE FELLOWSHIP!
it's the best part!

Hosting
is a pleasure!

A member of the
hospitality team can
help if needed.



Please Contact
Pam Moorhouse
pammoorhouse54@gmail.com



Woodstock Area Community Ministry (WACM) NEWS

Recently WACM was delighted to receive a grant from the McHenry County Community Foundation. As the end of the fiscal year approached on June 30, requests for financial assistance from Woodstock residents to the Direct Assistance Program (DAP) had outpaced the donations we had received to support those requests. By receiving this grant, we can continue the same level of assistance per household. Thanks to treasurer Dave Davis, who skillfully wrote the grant request and to the McHenry County Community Foundation for recognizing our mission for outreach in Woodstock.

We are grateful to all who donate to WACM, including First Presbyterian Church.



Woodstock Food Pantry

Volunteers are always needed especially as we get closer to opening our new location in the fall. If interested, please see Pam Moorhouse.

The food pantry continues to be thankful for our red wagon items and our capital campaign has reached 95% of our \$1.25 million goal.

We are so grateful for the generosity of our church and community.

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



Buildings & Grounds

Buildings & Grounds has been busy sprucing up the patio area with new shrubbery along the north side of the main building and slowly adding new perennials to the flower beds. There's always weeding to be done so if you feel so inclined, please feel free!

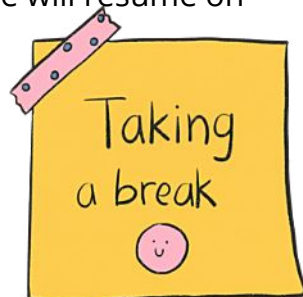
We're hoping to have a cleanup day in August to ready our church for Rally Sunday. More to follow!



BIBLE STUDY

We will be taking a summer break from June 6 through July 25. We will resume on August 1.

Contact John Moorhouse at 815-236-7408 with questions.



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 July brings the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, a historic milestone that represents freedom, unity, and national pride. The No Name Knitters / Crocheters wish you a happy 4th, and a joyful July! As the summer sun gives us brightness, and the warmth wraps around us, we are busy creating handmade items that bring comfort, hope, and joy to others in our church family and larger community.

Please join us! We meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m., in the Fireside Room.

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



Tender Loving Care (TLC)

TLC meets the second Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m. in the Fireside Room at church. The purpose of our group is to try to help people and groups who could use or need assistance. We have various programs. For our July 14 program, Samantha Lacina from the McHenry County Sheriff's Office will speak with us about safety outside our homes.



Woodstock Food Pantry July Red Wagon Donations

*Shampoo, Bath Soap, Deodorant, Toothpaste,
Toilet Paper, Laundry Soap*



To contribute financially online, visit fpcwoodstock.org/giving and type 'Food Pantry' in the notes.

JOIN US FOR

Adult SUNDAY SCHOOL

at
8:30
AM

Grow in Faith Together

REAL PEOPLE. REAL CONVERSATIONS. | GOD'S WORD. RELEVANT TO LIFE. | ENCOURAGEMENT. COMMUNITY. GROWTH.

Everyone is welcome! ♥

July Deacon Highlights

We would like to welcome John Rigby back to Deacons! John, his wife Marla, and their three daughters all have deep roots in our church. John enjoys spending time with his grandkids, taking them camping and watching their sporting events. He is always willing to lend a helping hand, as he has shown through his participation in several hurricane cleanup efforts over the years. He leads with his faith and is a joy to be around. We are excited to have him on board with the Deacons!

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

<i>Class of 2026</i>	<i>Class of 2027</i>	<i>Class of 2028</i>
Barb Parrish	Carol Brefeld	Mary Carol Dunker
John Rigby	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

robtmcclark@aol.com

(Buildings & 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

July Worship Schedule

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

Date	Text	Liturgist	A/V	Greeters and Ushers	Hosting Fellowship	Streaming Operator
7/5	<u>Romans 7:15-25a & Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30</u>	Jim Wormley	John Moorhouse	Pam & John Moorhouse	Volunteer needed	Fred Strauss
7/12	<u>Romans 8:1-11 & Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23</u>	Dawn Cook	Erin & Colin Kaye	Mary Hill and Sue Krause	Volunteer needed	Tom Schaeffer
7/19	<u>Romans 8:12-25 & Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43</u>	Sue Krause	Kristi & Christopher Corbin	Matilda Botian & Sara Roewer	Faith Corbin	Ray Thuma
7/26	<u>Romans 8:26-39 & Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52</u>	Addison Sobczak	Brayden Sobczak	Pam & Brooke Mathison	Volunteer needed	John Moorhouse

Half-Sheet Orders of Worship

We are now producing a simple half-sheet order of worship available each Sunday for those who would find it helpful. Because our worship service is guided primarily through the screens, these printed sheets are not full bulletins, but they do provide the basic flow of the service for visitors, newcomers, or anyone who appreciates having the order in hand. They are available on the hymnal cart near the entrance to the Great Hall.

Sunday School

summer
time

We have an exciting transition for the Sunday School program! With **Sara Roewer** and **Kate Frick** taking the helm, there's a great opportunity for fresh ideas and renewed enthusiasm.

This year, Rally Day falls on September 13, the Sunday after Labor Day. It is always a wonderful way to kick off the new Sunday School year, bringing everyone together for a day of fellowship and fun. It's a time to reconnect after the summer break and to welcome new faces into the community. As the new team prepares for the year ahead, we look forward to engaging and meaningful opportunities for our children and families. We give thanks for Sara and Kate's leadership and look forward to what God will do through this ministry.



JULY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 8:30a Lectionary Study 10a No-Name Knitters	2	3	4
						<i>Independence Day</i>
5 8:30a Adult Sunday School 9:30a Worship	6	7 <i>Meals on Wheels deliveries</i>	8	9	10	11
	10a Grief Group	10a Drop-In Grief Group 4p Deacons	8:30a Lectionary Study	7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting		
12 8:30a Adult Sunday School 9:30a Worship	13 10a Grief Group	14 10a TLC Ladies 11:30a Finance Team 6p Compassion, Peace and Justice	15 8:30a Lectionary Study 5:15p NOW Dinner 6p No-Name Knitters 6p Short story discussion	16 3p Hospitality Team 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	17	18 8a Highway Cleanup
19 8:30a Adult Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Session	20 10a Grief Group	21	22 8:30a Lectionary Study	23 6p Worship Arts 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	24	25
26 8:30a Adult Sunday School 9:30a Worship	27 10a Grief Group	28	29 8:30a Lectionary Study	30 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	31	

MINISTERS

*All members and
friends of the
congregation*

STAFF

*Rev. Eric Corbin
Pastor*

*Carol Hubner
Office and Finance
Administrator*

*Gary Wilhelm
Director of Music*

*Harrison Cole
Accompanist*

JULY 2026

250

HAPPY
Independence
Day

CELEBRATING AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE



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Woodstock, IL 60098
Return Service Requested**

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Website: www.fpcwoodstock.org

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