

First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock

August 2026 Newsletter

A Church That Keeps Learning

August brings familiar signs of a new school year: backpacks, supply lists, changing schedules, and a mixture of excitement and uncertainty. For students, families, teachers, administrators, and school staff, this season often brings both fresh possibilities and real challenges. As a congregation, we hold all of them in prayer as another year begins.

This Sunday, August 9, we will offer a Blessing of the Backpacks during the Time with the Children. Students of every age are invited to bring their backpacks, school bags, or another item connected with the new school year as we pray for them and for all who teach, guide, support, and care for them.

Even for those of us whose school days are long behind us, August can remind us that learning is not something we ever truly finish. The word *disciple* means learner. To follow Jesus is to remain open to growth, willing to ask questions, listen carefully, reconsider old assumptions, and discover new ways to love God and our neighbors.

A healthy church is not made up of people who have all the answers. It is a community that keeps learning together. We learn from Scripture and tradition, but also from children, newcomers, neighbors, and people whose experiences differ from our own. We learn through worship, service, fellowship, grief, celebration, mistakes, and change.

The life of our congregation reflects that kind of learning. Sunday School leaders are preparing for a new year. Our N.O.W. Team is planning another season of meals and fellowship. Musicians are inviting new voices to participate. Elders, deacons, committees, and volunteers continue listening for ways to lead faithfully, care for one another, and serve our community. In each of these ministries, we are learning what it means to be Christ's church in this time and place.

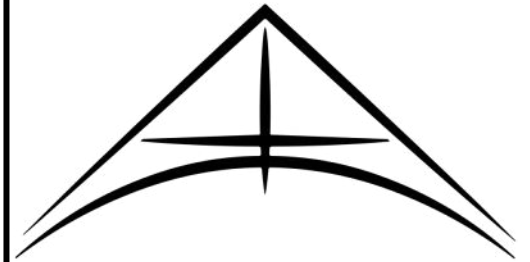
This month also marks five years since my family and I arrived in Woodstock and I began serving as your pastor. I am deeply grateful for all you have taught me, for the ministry we have shared, and for the many ways God has continued to shape us together. I look forward to continuing to learn, grow, and follow Christ with you in the years ahead.

As this new season begins, perhaps each of us might ask: What is God ready to teach me now? May we have the curiosity to notice, the humility to listen, and the courage to keep growing together.

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

Eric Corbin, Mark Bundick,
Tiffany Sobczak,
Pam Moorhouse, Gary Wilhelm,
Pat Morozink, and Kay Darby

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



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

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.



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 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.

— 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! ♥

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

We hope everyone enjoyed the Italian sausage and meatball sandwiches we had for our July dinner. There was also a nice selection of salads and, as always, yummy desserts. Our final summer dinner will be Wednesday, August 19, starting at our normal 5:15 pm time. Take one last dinner prep timeout and join us for delicious pulled pork and pork loin sandwiches. Even with inflation, our pricing remains a bargain basement price of \$4.00!

Summer Dates	Menu
Wednesday, August 19, 2026	Pulled pork / pork loin

The N.O.W. Team will meet after worship on Sunday, August 30, to plan our fall menus. Make sure you look for the September newsletter to get our schedule of Wednesday dinners, which will be held every week until just before Thanksgiving. And be sure to contact any N.O.W. team member if you have menu ideas or a dinner theme you'd like us to consider.

We're always open to hearing your thoughts and suggestions!

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

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

CARING TOGETHER

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- Harrison Cole, 08/01
- Matt Petrik, 08/01
- Ryan Wormley, 08/01
- Braden Ferrera, 08/02
- Calvin Wormley, 08/03
- Cameron Wormley, 08/03
- J.T. Wormley, 08/03
- Sue Slack, 08/08
- Al Dunker, 08/11
- John Moorhouse, 08/11
- Charlie Boe, 08/12
- Angela Thuma, 08/13
- Shari Olesen, 08/13
- Randy Stock, 08/18
- Andy Ferrera, 08/21
- Carol Hubner, 08/22
- Linda Hansen, 08/24
- Vicki Thuma, 08/26
- Cary Cook, 08/27
- Karen Thennes, 08/27
- Will Ferguson, 08/31

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- Steve & Nancy Bingham, 08/06
- Angie & Charlie Boe, 08/13
- Tony & Katie Spaldon, 08/14
- Tom & Pepper Lafontaine, 08/15
- Jack & Kay Darby, 08/17
- Robert & Sandra Landrey, 08/20
- John & Pam Moorhouse, 08/28
- Al & Mary Carol Dunker, 08/30

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, John Krauss and the
family and friends of James Higgins*



Grief Support

The six-week Grief Support group led by **Roxie Kaminski** has come to a close. She will offer an eight-week session over the 2026 holiday season. These sessions are open to anyone in the congregation; however, once each session begins, it will 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 1:30 p.m. All are invited to attend. Please reach out to Pastor Eric with any questions.

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!

TOGETHER, We Make a DIFFERENCE!

ALL CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY!

Building & Grounds will be hosting an **all church clean-up day** as we ready our church for *Rally Sunday!*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29TH
8:00AM UNTIL NOON

Cleanup Day at First Pres. will run from **8:00am-noon** on **Saturday August 29th**. Building & Grounds will provide cleaning supplies and a list of what needs to be done in each room.

When we're finished **pizza will be provided** for our volunteers.

Many hands make short work so please consider helping if even for an hour or two.

Many Hands. One Heart. Beautiful Results.

Woodstock Area Community Ministry (WACM) NEWS

WACM's Direct Assistance Program (DAP) helps neighbors in need with essential expenses such as rent, utilities, car repairs, gasoline, shoes, and clothing. Rather than giving cash directly to those receiving assistance, WACM makes payments to vendors or provides vouchers accepted by participating Woodstock businesses, which are then reimbursed by WACM's treasurer.

This assistance is made possible by donations from member churches, individuals, and other organizations. As a WACM member church, First Presbyterian helps provide this vital support to residents of District 200. Thank you for helping our congregation live out its mission to serve our neighbors.



Woodstock Food Pantry

The Woodstock Food Pantry has now reached **96%** of our \$1.25 million goal -- we're almost there! We've had some minor delays in permitting and have had to go back to our architect a few times, but we feel confident that renovations will begin soon.

Thank you all for your support -- your prayers and monetary contributions have helped us more than you know!



August Red Wagon Donations

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

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



CARING TOGETHER

No Name Knitters

August brings us Back to School month! A gentle reminder to our group to start working on our winter hats, scarves, and headbands. Each Fall, we try to donate these items to District 200 schools. The schools give students who need something warm a chance to choose an item to wear. District 200 has been very appreciative of these handmade items and of our congregation's outreach.

If you like to knit or crochet, think about joining our group. We always need more hands! We meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 10 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. In July, we gathered for devotion, prayer, fellowship, and thoughtful conversation. We also lifted up prayer concerns and concluded with lunch together. We invite you to join us for future gatherings as we grow in faith, friendship, and care for one another.



Have questions, doubts,
or just need a listening ear?

Coffee [☕] with the Pastor



COME AS
YOU ARE.



FRIDAY, AUGUST 7TH
AT 2:00 PM



CONVERSATION,
WELCOME,
AND CONNECTION.



ETHEREAL CONFECTIONS
140 CASS ST, WOODSTOCK, IL

July Deacon Highlights

Deacons met on July 7, 2026, for prayer, pastoral-care updates, and planning. We reviewed ongoing needs within the congregation, discussed visits and other forms of support, and approved assistance funds for July. We also discussed welcoming and following up with newer attendees, planned a Minute for Mission to remind the congregation about what we do, and reviewed the list of college students we will support during the coming academic year.

Please check with your deacon to ensure the information we have for you is accurate -- especially birthdays and anniversaries. If you are unsure who your Deacon is, please check the list on the bulletin board outside the Great Hall, or contact the church office.

First Pres Leadership

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

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Barb Parrish	Carol Brefeld	Mary Carol Dunker
John Rigby	Tom Schaeffer	
	Cheryl Wormley	

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

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
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

(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

August Worship Schedule

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

Date	Text	Liturgist	A/V	Greeters and Ushers	Hosting Fellowship	Streaming Operator
8/2	<u>Ezekiel 34:11-15; Psalm 139:1-14, 16, 23-24</u>	Tom Schaeffer	John Moorhouse	Tiffany & Addison Sobczak	Volunteer needed	Ray Thuma
8/9	<u>Romans 10:5-15 and Matthew 14:22-33</u>	Reneé Simes	Erin & Colin Kaye	Chris Mathews & Tom Schaeffer	Faith Corbin	John Moorhouse
8/16	<u>Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 and Matthew 15: 10-28</u>	Erin Kaye	Kristi & Christopher Corbin	Fred Strauss & Carol Brefeld	Chris Mathews & Tom Schaeffer	Tom Schaeffer
8/23	<u>Romans 12:1-8 and Matthew 16:13-20</u>	Tom Schaeffer	Brayden Sobczak	Pam & John Moorhouse	Volunteer needed	Fred Strauss
8/30	<u>Romans 12:9-21 and Matthew 16:21-28</u>	Tiffany Sobczak	John Moorhouse	Rick & Pat Morozink	Volunteer needed	Ray Thuma

SUNDAY FUN DAY – AUGUST 30

Join us for our Sunday Fun Day & Church Potluck on August 30, right after the morning worship service!

We will enjoy great food, fellowship, and activities for all ages.

Please bring a favorite dish to pass.

Sign up at fpcwoodstock.org/potluck

Stay after lunch for fun summer activities that include Karaoke, Music Trivia, Bags, Gaga Ball, Kites & Bubbles.

🎵 SUMMER PICK-UP CHOIR 🎵 🎶 Love to Sing? Come Join Us! 🎶

Whether you've sung in a choir for years or just enjoy lifting your voice in worship, we'd love to have you! Open to everyone middle-school age and older.

No audition • No experience needed • No long-term commitment

We'll gather for a short rehearsal at 8:30 a.m., then share our music during that morning's worship service.

Next Pick-Up Choir: Sunday, August 23 🕒 Rehearsal: 8:30 a.m.
Come join us — everyone is welcome!

AUGUST 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7a Men's Bible Study
2 8:30a Adult Sunday School 9:30a Worship	3	4 1:30p Drop-In Grief Group	5 8:30a Lectionary Study 10a No-Name Knitters	6 10a Education and Spiritual Growth	7 2p Coffee with the Pastor -- Ethereal Confections	8 7a Men's Bible Study
9 8:30a Adult Sunday School 9:30a Worship 10:30a Pastor Eric's 5th Anniversary Celebration	10	11 10a TLC Ladies	12 8:30a Lectionary Study 2p Finance Team	13 6p Worship Committee 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	14	15 7a Men's Bible Study
16 8:30a Adult Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Session	17 Meals on Wheels deliveries	18 4p Deacons	19 8:30a Lectionary Study 10a No-Name Knitters 5:15p NOW Dinner 6p Short story discussion	20 3p Hospitality Team 6p Compassion, Peace and Justice 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	21	22 7a Men's Bible Study
23 8:30a Adult Sunday School 8:30a Pick-up choir 9:30a Worship 2:30p Youth at Wormleys	24	25	26 8:30a Lectionary Study	27 6p Worship Arts meeting 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	28	29 7a Men's Bible Study 8a Church Clean-Up Day
30 8:30a Adult Sunday School 9:30a Worship 10:30a Church Potluck after Worship - Summer Fun Day!	31					

AUGUST 2026



CELEBRATING AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE

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

Facebook: fb.com/fpcwoodstock

Website: www.fpcwoodstock.org

E-mail: office@fpcwoodstock.org

Phone: (815) 338-2627

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

