

First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock

October 2026 Newsletter

Love Takes Shape in Our Life Together

A warm hat. A shared meal. A listening ear. A stretch of highway cleared of litter. These may seem like small things, but they are among the ways God's love takes shape in our life together.

We begin October with World Communion Sunday, remembering that Christ gathers people around a table far wider than our own congregation. Across languages, cultures, and borders, we belong to a body whose life is rooted in grace. At Christ's table, we receive the love that sustains us and sends us to care for our neighbors.

You will find many expressions of that care in this newsletter. Our knitters make warm clothing for students. Our congregation collects winter gear and supports the food pantry. Volunteers prepare meals, welcome children, share music, and tend the places we share with our community. A grief support group will offer space for people to carry sorrow together through the holidays. Each ministry gives us an opportunity to practice the love we proclaim.

Sometimes we are the ones offering care. Sometimes we are the ones who need it. Many of us find the first role easier than the second. Yet we do not have to earn our place in this community by being useful, cheerful, or strong. We also belong when we are grieving, tired, uncertain, or simply unable to do what we once could. Receiving care is part of our shared life in Christ, too.

As you read these pages, consider where you might take one small step. Perhaps you could donate a coat, help with a meal, check on someone, or join a ministry that interests you. Perhaps your faithful step is to tell someone what you need and allow them to walk beside you.

Our mission statement is "Celebrating and Sharing God's Love." This month, may that love take shape through our hands, our words, our willingness to listen, and our openness to receiving care. We have much to offer one another, and much to receive.

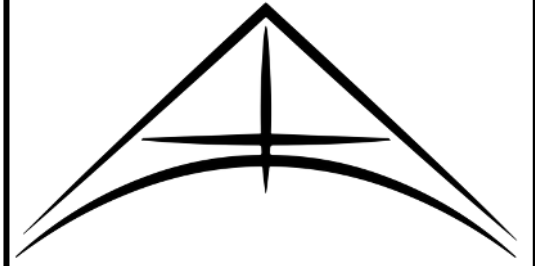
I look forward to seeing you in worship, study, fellowship, and around the table – the Lord's Table as well as others!

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,
Chris Mathews, Bob Clark,
Pam Moorhouse, Gary Wilhelm,
Mary Carol Dunker, Sara Roewer,
Kate Frick, Mary Hill, 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: Growing in Faith and Friendship



We were so excited to see everyone's smiling faces on Rally Day! We began the year by getting to know one another, decorating angels that reflected each child's interests, and sharing a little about ourselves. Each child received two cross bracelets—one to keep and one to share—as a reminder of the importance of sharing our faith and building community.

In our most recent session, we explored the story of God's creation in Genesis 1:1–2:3. The children created crafts representing the first seven days and shared their thoughts about God's beautiful world. We also discussed the importance of rest and how we can share God's goodness with others.

Looking Ahead: Join us Sunday, October 11, after the Time with the Children, as we read Genesis 3 and continue growing in faith and friendship. Please remember to bring your Sunday School tote bags! There is always room for more kiddos, so invite a friend to join us. Parents are also welcome to stop by and say hello!

Thank you for sharing your sweet little ones with us. We are excited and honored to be part of their faith journey!

Miss Kate & Miss Sara



Youth Group Events

We have some exciting youth group events coming up this fall that we would like to get on your calendar!

- Sunday, October 25 – All Seasons Orchard from 1-3 p.m. – our previous fundraising efforts will be covering most of the cost, but we request each participating youth bring \$5 for entry and any extra spending money. Friends are welcome! Please RSVP by Wednesday, October 21.
- Sunday, November 15 – All-church event with pizza, karaoke, and games.
- Sunday, November 22 – Brunch Fundraiser (used to subsidize a fall and spring activity and pay for our youth to attend Camp Timberlee's WinterXtreme event in January).
- Sunday, December 13 - Cookies and Crafts

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

Our fall season of dinners and brunches is well underway. We hope you're enjoying both the fellowship and the food. We are thankful for the multiple groups that have volunteered to host a dinner this fall. So far, we have Boy Scout Troop 159, our TLC ladies, and the Youth Group lined up. If your group would be interested in hosting, let us know.

When other groups lead a dinner, the N.O.W. Team doesn't disappear; we assist the host to make sure everyone has fun and the dinner is successful.

Here's a look at our October schedule. Dinners begin at 5:15 p.m., and brunches begin right after the conclusion of the Sunday morning worship service.

October Dates	Type	Menu
Wednesday, October 7	Dinner	Rotisserie chicken, cheesy potatoes
Sunday, October 11	Brunch	Eggs, Sausage, Fruit
Wednesday, October 14	Dinner	Meatloaf, Mac & Cheese
Wednesday, October 21	Dinner	TBD
Sunday, October 25	Brunch	Breakfast Casseroles, Fruit
Wednesday, October 28	Dinner	Scouts Fundraiser

Looking ahead to November, you will not want to miss the Chili Cookoff and our Thanksgiving bash.

We're always open to hearing your thoughts and suggestions! 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. Or just chat with us when you see us at dinner or brunch. Come hungry, and leave well fed with food and fellowship!



The N.O.W. Team

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Cheryl Wormley
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CARING TOGETHER

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- Jen Oliver, 10/3
- Kristi Corbin, 10/6
- Danielle Rewiako, 10/15
- Noah Frick, 10/18
- Dan Chwalisz, 10/21
- Lenali Petrik, 10/22
- Ryan Traimany, 10/22
- Tommy Roewer, 10/22
- Jane Jensen, 10/24
- Sherry Thuma, 10/29
- Tammy Robinett, 10/31



October is here already, with cooler weather to quickly follow! The knitters/crocheters are ready with our first donation to District 200 schools. The headbands, hats, and scarves are made in various sizes, colors, and yarns.

They are distributed to the schools, and given to any student who is in need of something warm to wear.

If you knit or crochet, and you would enjoy joining us, we welcome anyone! We meet in the Fireside Room on the first and third Wednesdays, at 10:00 a.m. Check us out!

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

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- Tom Schaeffer & Chris Mathews, 10/12
- Mary Grace & Alex Ferguson, 10/14

IN OUR PRAYERS

*Tim Arnold, William Heim,
Travis Walters, Lynne Sobczak, Lance Sobczak,
Sue Sauer, Sue Arnold,
Gary & Laura Spice,
Beth Elbersen, John Krauss,
Fred Strauss, Keith Cerk*

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Eric
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and
Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Carol Hubner
Monday - Thursday,
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

TLC meets the second Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m. in the Fireside Room at church. We gather for devotion, prayer, fellowship and thoughtful conversation. We conclude with lunch together.



At our October 13 meeting we will discuss crafts to make and sell at the church's December craft sale. After our October meeting, we'll head to Royal Oaks Orchard for lunch and shopping. We invite you to join us for our gatherings as we grow in faith, friendship, and care for one another.

What is a Deacon?

We are a group of people who serve and care for our congregation. We extend a helping hand where needed, pray for those who are going through a difficult time, offer encouragement to our church spiritually, help with hospitality for special services and lend a listening ear whether for joy or concern.

Are you wondering who the Deacons in our church are or who your Deacon is? Outside of the Great Hall are our pictures along with a list of members who are assigned to each of the Deacons. Go and check it out! Reach out to these people if you need help, have a concern or a joy to share. If you are unable to get to the building, feel free to contact the office for info. We are here to serve!





Grief Support Group



Grieving the loss of a loved one is a process that is different for everyone, but which often has common challenges. Having a place to share with others on this journey can be both helpful and healing. The holiday season can be especially challenging for those who are grieving. With that in mind, Roxie Kaminski will facilitate a grief support group this holiday season, as she did last year and again this summer.

Roxie has spent the past seven years navigating life after the death of her son, Mike. Mike was 43 when he passed away following a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer.

Roxie welcomes you to join her as together you explore ways to carry grief forward, one day at a time. This will be a closed group, meaning the same participants will meet each week to foster trust, consistency, and supportive relationships. All who are struggling with the loss of a child, parent, spouse, friend, or relative are welcome, whether they are a member of the church or a member of the greater Woodstock community.

The group will meet at the church in the Fireside Room on Mondays from 10 am-11:30 am for eight weeks, from November 16, 2026 through January 4, 2027. If you have any questions or need more info, please contact Chris Mathews, Roxie Kaminski, or Pastor Eric, or the church office.



**First Presbyterian
Church of Woodstock**

Highway Cleanup

**Saturday, October 17th
at 9:00 a.m.**



CARING TOGETHER

Woodstock Area Community Ministry (WACM) NEWS

WACM's collection of cold weather gear will begin October 18 and will continue through November 11 at First Pres. Clean and gently used coats, hats, scarves, gloves/mittens, long underwear, boots and blankets for men, women, and children will become part of WACM's *Share the Warmth* coat drive. Donated items will be available to the public on Friday, November 13 from noon-7 p.m. and Saturday, November 14 from 9 a.m.-noon at First United Methodist Church, 201 W. South Street. As you start sorting through your winter gear at home, please consider donating extras or little used items to WACM so all Woodstock residents can stay warm this winter. Thank you.



Woodstock Food Pantry



Big things are happening at the new location!

Drive past 708 Washington Street, the site of the new food pantry, and you'll see how nice the building looks with its new windows! Electricians have been busy working to make sure we have the power to run all the freezers and refrigerators needed to operate the pantry. We don't have an opening date to announce yet but we'll be sure to let everyone know when we do.

A training session is to be held on October 27 to ensure that all volunteers are ready to go when we do open. If interested, please see Pam Moorhouse or call the pantry at 815-337-0375.

October Red Wagon Donations

Please continue to remember those who face food insecurity and support the Woodstock Food Pantry through your Red Wagon donations. The number of people served by the pantry continues to grow, and all donations are greatly appreciated.



Cereal, Pancake Mix, Oatmeal, Syrup

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



WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING

September 6 - October 4

"Cultivating reconciliation around Christ's table open to all."

The PC(USA) General Assembly approved several changes to the denomination-wide *Special Offerings* which took effect January 1, 2026. As a result, the Peace & Global Witness Offering has been transformed into the World Communion Offering.

Please consider supporting the *World Communion Offering* and help us reach our goal of \$1,800. Funds collected are used to cultivate reconciliation by supporting racial and gender justice, peacemaking efforts, global witness, and nurturing ecumenical and interfaith relations. If you are unable to bring your offering on World Communion Sunday, October 4, feel free to get it to the church soon thereafter.

Thank you from the Compassion, Peace & Justice Committee!

Session Notes

- Worksheets are being sent to the various church committees and teams in preparation for the 2027 budget. The Finance Team has a goal of completing the budget process, including Session approval, by Thanksgiving. Please speak to a member of Session or the Finance Team with any questions, suggestions or concerns.
- The last highway cleanup day was cancelled due to weather. It has been rescheduled for October 17 at 9 a.m. Thanks to all who helped with church clean up day. It was quite a success!
- There are still a few chairs that require cleaning. Matt Thuma and Chris Dahm will arrange a time for this and would love volunteers to help.
- There will be a staffed and supervised nursery during the church service on children's Sunday School weeks.



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 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!

Office Schedule

Regular office hours for Office Administrator Carol Hubner are Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. You may also see her in the office earlier or later depending on the needs of the day.

Pastor Eric is in the office often, though you are most likely to catch him during his regular office hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m. These hours may vary due to pastoral visits and meetings.

To schedule a time with Pastor Eric, visit fpcwoodstock.org/meetwitheric, email eric@fpcwoodstock.org, or call the church office at 815-338-2627.

Please note: Pastor Eric will be out of the office October 5 - October 12.

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

October Worship Schedule

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

Date	Text	Liturgist	A/V	Greeters and Ushers	Acolyte	Streaming Operator	Hosting Fellowship
10/04	Philippians 3:4b-14 & Matthew 21:33-46	Sue Krause	Matt Thuma	Rick & Pat Morozink	<i>open</i>	Tom Schaeffer	Barbara Parrish
10/11	Philippians 4:1-9 & Matthew 22:1-14	Chris Nejd	Erin & Colin Kaye	Sue Krause and Mary Hill	Lucas Moorhouse	Fred Strauss	<i>Brunch</i>
10/18	Matthew 22:15-22	Jim Wormley	Brayden Sobczak	Cheryl Wormley and Pam Mathison	Gianna Ferrera	Ray Thuma	Faith Corbin
10/25	Matthew 22:34-46	Tom Schaeffer	Kristi & Christopher Corbin	Fred Strauss & Carol Brefeld	Levi Traimany	John Moorhouse	<i>Brunch</i>

Music Ministry: Share Your Musical Gifts!

Our Director of Music, Gary Wilhelm, invites everyone interested in music to explore opportunities at FPCW! **The Choir rehearses Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.** and is looking for a few more voices in all parts, especially soprano and alto. All are welcome! **The Bell Choir rehearses at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday except the third Sunday of the month.** New members are welcome!

Gary is also offering voice lessons and basic musicianship classes covering music reading, key signatures, time signatures, and other fundamentals. Classes may be held at the church on Mondays between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. There is no charge for these classes. (No piano or other instrumental instruction is included.)

Additionally, Gary is looking for a volunteer to help enter choral and bell music into a spreadsheet for easier access and organization.

Whether you enjoy singing, ringing bells, learning music, or helping behind the scenes, there's a place for you! For more information or to get involved, contact Gary Wilhelm at (815) 483-5902 or gary@fpcwoodstock.org.

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.



October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
	Meals on Wheels deliveries					
				10a Education and Spiritual Growth 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting		
World Communion Sunday 4 8:30a Adult Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Handbell practice	5	6	7 8:30a Lectionary Study 10a No-Name Knitters 5:15p NOW Dinner 7p Choir Rehearsal	8 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	9	10
11 8:30a Adult Sunday School 9:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School: PreK-5th 10:30a NOW Brunch 11a Handbell practice	12 <i>Indigenous Peoples' Day</i>	13 10a TLC Ladies 11:30a Finance Team 1:30p Drop-In Grief Group 4p Deacons 5p Girl Scouts Troop 2051	14 8:30a Lectionary Study 5:15p NOW Dinner 6p Book Discussion 7p Choir Rehearsal	15 3p Hospitality Team 6p Compassion, Peace and Justice 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	16	17 7a Men's Bible Study 9a Highway Clean Up
18 Woodstock Breast Cancer 5k 8:30a Adult Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Session	19	20	21 8:30a Lectionary Study 10a No-Name Knitters 5:15p NOW Dinner 6p Book Discussion 7p Choir Rehearsal	22 6p Worship Arts meeting 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	23	24 7a Men's Bible Study
25 8:30a Adult Sunday School 9:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School: PreK-5th 10:30a NOW Brunch 11a Handbell practice 1p Youth-All Seasons Orchard trip	26	27 9a Woodstock Food Pantry training session 5p Girl Scouts Troop 2051	28 8:30a Lectionary Study 5:15p NOW Dinner 6p Candy Corny Jokes by the firepit 7p Choir Rehearsal	29 7p Scouting America Troop 159 meeting	30	31 7a Men's Bible Study <i>Halloween</i>

OCTOBER 2026

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*



CELEBRATING AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE

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