

First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock

A fellowship of people in all stages of life who gather together, praising and worshipping God with gratitude for our many blessings, accepting and caring for all God's children, and serving the community and the world with love and joy.

Pastor's Letter – March 2021

We find ourselves approaching, we pray, the end of a long wilderness journey. The pandemic has seemed like a year-long lenten experience. Finally, the vaccines are being distributed and it is apparent that we will emerge from this ordeal. We can see the light at the end of this long night. Who will we be in the morning?

So much of the focus of Lent tends to be on our individual reflection and repentance. This is good and necessary. We ask ourselves, "Where have we wandered from God?" We scout out the return road? We remember that Jesus meets us where we are and walks with us. The Spirit guides us.

We practice Lent as a community of faith also though. Through this extended lenten sojourn, we have reflected on many questions together as a congregation. We began asking the standard interim period questions: "Who have we been?" "Who are we now?" "Who is God calling us to be?" Piled onto this already challenging task were questions of how and when we might gather safely? How do we stay connected in this time of isolation? How is God present and active among us through all of this?

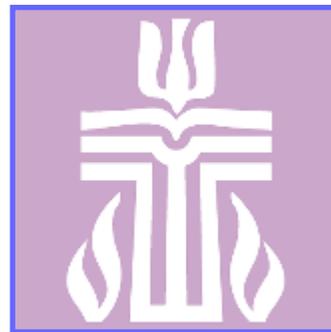
It often felt as if we were stumbling in the dark, but we stumbled with faith, energy, and imagination. So many exciting plans have been made and many executed. Despite or because of the restrictions we have had and the concerns we have faced, innovative, inspiring and fun ways to minister have emerged. We will be back together again, but in a new and better way because God's Spirit has been with us through it all.

Pastor Cindy

"But in all these things we win a sweeping victory through the one who loved us. I am convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers or height or depth, or any other thing that is created."

Romans 8:37-39

March 2021



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Sunday Worship Services

Due to COVID-19 risk, no in-person worship will be held until further notice.

All services are posted and remain available on YouTube and Facebook

Sunday—9:30 a.m.



Next All Church Fellowship

Sunday, March 7

10:15 am - 11:00 am

Newsletter Editor

Mark Bundick

Reporters:

Sue Ayres-Krause, Nancy Bingham, Angie Boe, Bob Clark, Dawn Cook, Joyce Maynard, Ray Thuma, Cheryl Wormley

TOGETHER TO LAUGH AND LEARN

BIBLE STUDY



Men's Bible Study

Join us via Zoom for Bible study on Saturday mornings at 7:00 a.m. Current study is the book of Ecclesiastes as we've begun another wisdom book from the Old Testament. The study curriculum is from our series A Seven-Session Bible Study for Men. Contact Dave Davis at ddavis@ameritech.net to get connected through Zoom and to obtain a copy of the material.

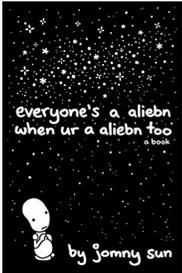
"What is a gnarly book like Ecclesiastes doing in our nice Bible? It is best to ask that question right at the beginning, because it is bound to come up again and again as this study proceeds. If you take a quick look at the introductory sections of each of the seven sessions, you will find that Ecclesiastes plays to very mixed reviews among biblical scholars. The men in our group will not be the first to wonder how this book got into the Bible..." All are welcome to join with us during this time of learning, understanding, and fellowship, as in faith that God is in charge and by the grace of God, we will experience His love in right relationship with Him through His son Jesus.

MEN'S GROUP BIBLE STUDY—Saturdays @ 7:00 a.m.

The group is meeting virtually using Zoom Study materials are available at: <https://www.bible.com/116/pro.12.25.nlt>

Contact Dave Davis for more information at ddavis@ameritech.net

Intergenerational Book Study Coming Now in April



We have postponed our book discussion of *Everyone's a Aliebn When Ur a Alliebn Too* until after Easter. The book is available on Amazon (<https://www.amazon.com/Everyones-Alliebn-When-Ur-Too/dp/0062569023>) and can be ordered from Read Between the Lynes (815) 206-5967. Please consider reading the book as a family and we will have an intergenerational discussion then. If the weather and COVID metrics cooperate we may even gather in person around the fire pit.

Lenten Book Discussion—Lent in Plain Sight by Jill Duffield

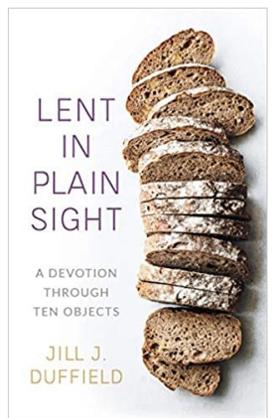
Wednesday evenings @ 7 PM through March 31st

The book study of *Lent in Plain Sight* continues on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm. If you would like to join the discussion, please contact the church office for the zoom link.

The discussion will be via Zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82912531922>

or call 1-312-626-6799 and enter 82912531922#



LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays @ 7:30 a.m.

The group is meeting virtually using Zoom. We select a single reading from the Common Lectionary and take turns leading the discussion. Join us for lively discussion, thoughtful readings and good fellowship.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Contact Velma Downes to be added to the mailing list or for more information at vmdownes@gmail.com

TOGETHER TO LAUGH AND LEARN

Men's Group/Bible Study

Dave Davis, 815-236-2815

ddavis@ameritech.net

Wednesday Early Bible Study

Velma Downes, 815-245-4043

vmdownes@gmail.com

Adult Spiritual Growth Groups

Chris Nejd, 815-337-1070

canejd@hotmail.com

Hospitality Team

Cheryl Wormley, 815-519-7402

indepublisher@comcast.net

Music Ministry

Christy Johanson/Bob Diss

815-382-5234

mom@babyjohanson.com

No-Name Knitters

Kay Darby, 815-338-5002

kedarby@icloud.com

T.L.C. (Tender Loving Care)

Shari Olesen, 815-338-0237

Meals-On-Wheels

Marla Norgard, 815-482-4855

marlanorgard01@gmail.com

WACM Local Mission Team

Pat Morozink, 815-338-7769

pmorozink@yahoo.com

Food Pantry

Joyce Maynard, 815-338-7265

Fishing Mission

Bob Clark, 847-274-8247

robtmclark@aol.com

N.O.W. Team

(Nurture on Wednesdays)

Lee Nejd — 815-546-1731

Katie Spaldon — 815-276-3410

Mark Bundick—815-337-9068

Cheryl Wormley—815-519-7402

indepublisher@comcast.net



Confirmation Gathering

The next confirmation gathering will be March 28, 2021 at 7 pm. All sixth, seventh and eighth graders are encouraged to attend. Please contact the church office if you need the zoom link.

Earth Care Congregation Update—Battery Recycling

As part of their Earth Care Congregation project the confirmands will be collecting batteries for recycling. Please don't discard your dead batteries in the trash. Collect them until we can meet in person again. The confirmands are preparing a container to collect batteries for recycling and we will let you know when we are ready to start collecting them.



Confirmation Youth

Jacob Dunker	Alex Rewaiko
Collin Greenlee	Addie Sobczak
Evan Kaye	Ben Walters
Lydia Johanson	

Contact **Pastor Cindy** if you know of other youth, grades 6-8, who would like to join in the adventure!

Caring for One Another/Safeguarding our Children

Session has approved revisions to two church policies: Safeguarding our Children and Youth and Sexual Misconduct Policy. Both policies are available upon request and are posted on the hallway bulletin board.

The policy states that our "ministry shall strive to reflect the reality that persons in positions of religious leadership in Church are given a spiritual trust by the people of the congregation and the larger Church." The Education and Spiritual Growth Committee are in the process of implementing these policies; ensuring that all staff, officers and volunteers working with children have necessary background checks, policy acknowledgements, and training. If you are contacted for this, please respond promptly.

The policies include safe practices such as a two-adult rule with children and youth, church involvement for at least 6-months prior to volunteering with children, and safe supervision and disciplinary procedures. Procedures are also outlined for reporting and responding, as well as safe, just and compassionate care for all involved.

Please contact the office if you would like the church to send you a copy of these policies. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Cindy or Ray Thuma.

Compassion, Peace, and Justice Committee — Coins for Kenya

The Coins for Kenya collection continues during the pandemic. Finance recently emptied the collection jar and sent over \$81 to Blackhawk Presbytery to share with our sister presbytery in Kenya. Please collect your spare change and drop it off at church when we are back in person or send a donation to the church to support this project.

Coins for Kenya is an active year-round collection that is used to provide food for people in crisis. Send your Coins for Kenya checks to Blackhawk Presbytery. Let's hear about how your donations are used.

Coins for Kenya supports a Seed Distribution program.



Praise the Lord! Thanks to a special Coins for Kenya collection, \$5,100 was wired to our Imenti partners in the spring of 2020 to purchase seed for people in Rwarera, Kenya who after surviving a recent draught were unable to afford seed to plant. The distribution was coordinated by Rev. Joseph. He reported in the following email that Covid-19 complicated the distribution as the government banned people from congregating so the distribution was limited to five families at a time.

Rev. Joseph emailed...

The distribution was a great success. We took the shortest time possible. 290 families got 4kg of maize to plant. We intend to have sampled families that we can follow up till harvest time. Thanks be to God the exercise is now behind us. I can sleep with lots of peace tonight.

I hope you are all well n safe. We are all doing well and hoping for a better tomorrow. God take care of you all and stay safe. Regards.

Rummage Sale: We are hoping the world will be looking more normal by the end of summer! At this time, the Compassion, Peace and Justice Committee hopes to plan the rummage sale for August 26-28. Hold on to your items just a bit longer!

WACM Notes: February has brought many more requests with transportation issues. Bus passes, a voucher for gasoline, or assistance with a car repair have been among the kinds of help provided by WACM's Direct Assistance Program this month. Community members with financial needs can call (815) 529-4370 to discuss the help that can be provided Thank you for the generosity of the congregation's support to WACM.

Red Wagon Items Requested for March

Cereal, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Oatmeal

You can leave your donations outside the church in the box provided by the front door.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- Lydia Dunker, 03/04
- Lynn Idle, 03/04
- Larry Stanger, 03/06
- Lucas Moorhouse, 03/07
- Barbara Bundick, 03/08
- Gwen Wormley, 03/09
- Jeremiah Justice, 03/11
- Hank Olesen, 03/11
- Marty Sobczak, 03/11
- Mary Carol Dunker, 03/14
- Tom Thennes, 03/16
- Gail Diss, 03/21
- Ken Farver, 03/24
- Justin Thuma, 03/25
- Alexandra Norgard, 03/28



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- Ray & Angela Thuma, 03/02
- Christine Johanson, 03/21
- Chris & Ellen Dahm, 03/22
- John & Marla Rigby, 03/29

Introducing “Earth Care Habits” Ideas and Tips

from the Compassion, Peace and Justice Committee



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~ WAYS TO REDUCE AMAZON PACKAGING ~

During the pandemic, people are purchasing products online more than ever, to avoid unnecessary trips to the store, and reduce their risk of exposure. The downside of this convenience is the massive amount of packing materials being used. One of the largest shippers, Amazon, has created some methods for reducing excess materials;

“Frustration Free Packaging” Products in this program come in easy to open packaging that is 100% recyclable and doesn’t require additional Amazon packaging.

Select “No Rush Shipping” when it is offered, which allows time to fit the item to the correct sized box, reducing the amount of filler.

Consolidate your orders instead of placing multiple separate orders throughout the week, reducing the number of deliveries.

~ PLEASE REDUCE WASTE AND CONSERVE RESOURCES! ~



Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

- Caryl (Gail Diss’ mother), Pat Davenport, Al Kennedy, Scott Snider, Lance Sobczak, Marty Sobczak, Tom Thennes, Nick Botian, Tom Schwarz, Sally Wilyat, Jayne Reicher, Addie Jo Wedoff, Jim Higgins, Tim Arnold, Ruth Hunt, Velma Downes, Rev. John March, Pat Morozink, George Witczak, Gayle Abrams, Ron Parrish, and June Haasler and Family

Hold the Pastor Nominating Committee in your prayers. Pray for your next pastor whom God has already chosen to walk with this congregation into the future.

Received into the loving arms of Christ:

Elder Herb Haasler

February 21, 2021



"For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's."

Romans 14:8

CARING TOGETHER

From Compassion, Peace and Justice Committee

First Pres Woodstock is officially a Matthew 25 Church!!!!!!!!!!

On Valentines Day, (how appropriate!) the Session approved becoming a Matthew 25 Church and authorized Pastor Cindy to sign and submit our application to PCUSA. Blackhawk Presbytery has already been notified that we have this designation! Alleluiah!

Matthew 25 in the PC(USA): A bold vision and invitation

What is a Matthew 25 church?

Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, both the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) exhorted the PC(USA) to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor.

By accepting the Matthew 25 invitation, we can help our denomination become a more relevant presence in the world. We recognize Christ's urgent call to be a church of action, where God's love, justice and mercy shine forth and are contagious.

There are three "pillars" to the Matthew 25 program. They are "Building Congregational Vitality", "Eradicating Systemic Poverty", and Dismantling Structural Racism". Our Session has chosen to focus our CPJ team on the first of these for at least the first year. If you would like more information about the Matthew 25 church movement in the PCUSA, you will find a wealth of information on the PCUSA website at www.PCUSA.org. and on the Blackhawk Presbytery website at www.Blackhawkpresbytery.org.

Building Congregational Vitality What is congregational vitality?

You might think that the vitality of a congregation or worshiping community is based on the number of members, the scope of programs, the size of financial gifts or some other statistics.

Rather, a community's vitality is primarily its spiritual strength and its capacity for purposeful mission.

Congregational vitality is evident in a worshiping community when its structural systems, finances and discipleship practices are aligned in such a way that the community is actively engaged in the mission of God in their local community and the world, and they are powerfully focused on growing as disciples in the way of Jesus Christ.

Worshiping communities experiencing congregational vitality will find themselves following Jesus into places of injustice and struggle bearing light and hope, demonstrating love and mercy, and working faithfully for justice and peace. Their efforts will be sustained by personal and congregational patterns and practices of prayer and worship, learning and reflection. They will be stewards of God's abundant gifts in service to God's children here and everywhere. They will demonstrate to the world God's promises and life-giving power in this age and the world to come.

Our Compassion, Peace and Justice Committee (CPJ) will be meeting in a mini-retreat via ZOOM on Saturday, March 6, 2021 at 10:00 AM for two hours to talk and brainstorm about what being a Matthew 25 Church will look like at First Pres of Woodstock. We will be assessing our current mission involvement and strategically planning how to expand mission opportunities and engage every member of our congregation in mission work. We hope to establish some solid, measurable goals that will allow us to measure and report regularly on how we are doing! ANYONE is welcome to join our committee on this planning session and also on the committee moving forward. Please contact Sue Krause at shkrausel@yahoo.com if you would like information for the ZOOM planning session or about CPJ Committee and helping with this sacred work!



March Update from the Deacons

Lenten Bags were handed out to all members on Tuesday, 2/16, from 4:30 – 6:30. Unclaimed bags were distributed by the deacons.

Pam Moorhouse was elected to again represent the deacons on the nominating committee for this year.

Cindy Carlisle and Angie Boe updated our Church Directory and it was sent out by email to all members. Let Cindy know if you are in need of a copy.

Introduction letters were sent out to all of the flocks from each deacon. Please let your Deacon know if you have any needs.

We will be hosting a special event for anniversaries of church membership. Deacons thought that an ice cream social would be fitting to celebrate these anniversaries some time over the summer when (hopefully) in-person services resume..

Your Deacons are praying for you and would always love to hear from you.

Angie Boe 815-338-7782

John Moorhouse 815-236-7408

Sue Epperson 224-293-2295

Barb Parrish 815-338-8112

Joyce Maynard 815-338-7265

Matt Petrik 815-209-2835

Pam Moorhouse 815-814-5585

John Rigby 815-236-1780

Happy 175th Birthday to Us!

The First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock is 175 years old! This is another in a series of articles about our rich life here in Woodstock. Let's look this month at our fellowship life.

Women seemed to come together in groups more than the men through the years. In 1901, a group of young women started the Sorosis Society, a blending of fun with work for the church. It continued into the 1980s. In 1921, the Westminster Guild – later called the Ruth Service Guild – was organized, and in 1940, an energetic group of young women formed the Young Women Under Guild – later called the Adelphete. From 1951 to 1960, there also was a Martha Society.

The women's groups merged into United Presbyterian Women in 1960. There were 90 charter members in three circles. UPW continued into the 1980s. In the more recent past and today, Women's Bible studies, TLC (Tender Loving Care), and No Name Knitters (who make prayer shawls and hats for newborns) have been bringing women together for fellowship, study, prayer, and service.

The Men's Club, 1921 into the 1980s, met once a month for dinner and a program. It was noted that the women of the church served the dinner, except once a year when the men served the women. Today's Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study gathers to study scripture and assists with FPC, Church World Service and Blackhawk Presbytery projects.

Little was recorded about the work and activities of the Junior and Senior Christian Endeavor groups, except for raising money for the purchase of a hand-pump organ, the church's first, in 1896. Youth fellowship groups seemed to ebb and flow through the years with the number of youth in church families and available and committed leadership. One reference noted the youth asked in the 1930s if they could dance and play cards at the church. They were emphatically told "NO." They asked again in 1945 and were told "OK" but only impromptu – no advertising. Under the leadership of the Rev. Hal LeMert and volunteers there was a significant uptick in the youth program beginning in the 1980s. The youth met weekly and participated in nearly annual go-and-serve trips from the late 1980s into the 2000s.



**February Session
Highlights**

Session approved changes to our Sexual Misconduct and/or Abuse Policy and Policy for Safeguarding Our Children and Youth. These changes strengthen our protections and

allow us to get a discount on our insurance. A win-win!

Session reviewed a report from the COVID Task Force (Chris Nejd, Ray Thuma, Mark Bundick) and decided to continue remote worship for now. Status will be reviewed at the March meeting. As weather improves, more outdoor gatherings are likely, so small groups should start planning for that as we move into spring.

Session approved recommendations from the Audio-Visual Task Force (Christy Johanson, Bob Diss, Bob Clark, Matt Thuma, Ray Thuma and Dave Davis) to upgrade our sound system with new equipment and software. You can donate to this project by visiting <https://www.fpcwoodstock.org/> and clicking on the “Giving” link at the top of the page.

Lora Totton Schwarz will be joining both the Worship, Music and Arts and Nominating Committees. Thank you, Lora!

Easter Lilies go on sale today. Check out the announcement elsewhere in the newsletter. If you like, you can request that your lily be planted on the church grounds so we can enjoy them in future years.

Session approved the creation of a team to manage distribution of Memorial Funds. There will be two Deacons and three at-large members of the congregation on the team.

The Congregational Life Committee will establish a multi-committee group to plan 175th anniversary celebration events. Ideas under consideration include a summertime ice cream social, a historical display at the Woodstock Public Library and participation in the Woodstock Memorial Day or July 4th parade. Look for announcements in future newsletters and Facebook.

Next Meeting: (via ZOOM)

03/21/2021 11:00 am Regular Session meeting

Session / Committee Chairs

Compassion, Peace & Justice

Sue Krause
815-451-538 or
shkrause1@yahoo.com
(Awareness, Service)

Congregational Life

Mark Bundick
815-337-9068 or
mbundick@comcast.net
(Hospitality, Fellowship & NOW)

Education & Spiritual Growth

Ray Thuma & Jackie Lawler
815-338-9780 or
rpthuma@sbcglobal.net
(Adult, Youth, Child, Intergenerational)

Ministry Support

Bob Clark & Dawn Cook
847-274-8247 or robtmclark@aol.com
815-276-3983 or dcook@wcusd200.org
(Finance, Staff Support, Building and Grounds & Stewardship)

Worship, Music and Arts

Chris Nejd & Lora Totton Schwarz
815-337-1070 or
cnejdl@hotmail.com
(Worship Arts, Worship Leadership, Audio-Visual)

Clerk of Session

Mark Bundick
815-337-9068 or
mbundick@comcast.net



Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) Update PNC marches on in March

This is a very exciting time! Your PNC has conducted first interviews with five wonderful candidates. Now, we are very busy contacting references and scheduling second interviews. Your prayers are needed even more now, that we listen for God's word as we move

forward. Please pray, too, for the pastor God is calling to FPC.

We close all our correspondence with candidates with the following statement.

*We are a Presbyterian congregation with a rich history in search of a new pastor.
We seek a pastor who feels called to intergenerational ministry and
is gifted with deep knowledge of scripture and in sharing the word
through inspirational messages and teaching –
one who values education, music, fellowship, and mission.
Together with our new pastor we will continue to witness and minister as God calls.*

God Bless,

Dave Davis, Erin Kaye, Christy Johanson, Rob McMahon, Justin Thuma, and Cheryl Wormley

Say good-bye to Pastor Paul	✓
Interim Pastor search process	✓
Interim Pastor joins congregation	✓
Mission Vision Study Team selected	✓
Information gathered and studied	✓
Feedback to congregation and Session	✓
Report completed/present to Session for approval	✓
Report approved by Presbytery Committee on Ministry	✓
Congregation elects Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)	✓
PNC creates Church Information Form and Presbytery puts on-line	✓
PNC reviews and interviews candidates	🕒
Candidate selected; terms of call agreed upon	
Candidate and Terms of call approved by Presbytery	
Candidate Sermon/Congregational vote on call	
Candidate installed as Minister of Word and Sacrament	

GIVING TOGETHER: REPORT FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

The 2021 Per Capita amount is \$38.50. We will appreciate receiving your support for this expense FPC pays each year to Blackhawk Presbytery. You are able to pay this online via our website at <https://www.fpcwoodstock.org/> and then select Giving in the upper right-hand corner of the home page. You may choose the Per Capita to complete your donation. If you are writing a check simply write “Per Capita” on the memo line.

January 2021 Operating Budget Analysis				
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>	<u>Variance vs Budget</u>	<u>Annual 2021 Budget</u>
<u>Income</u>				
Contributions Income	\$46,688	\$46,956	(\$268)	\$187,605
All Other Income	<u>\$100</u>	<u>\$175</u>	<u>(\$75)</u>	<u>\$32,589</u>
Total Income	\$46,788	\$47,131	(\$343)	\$220,194
<u>Expenses</u>				
	-	-	-	-
Staff	\$10,152	\$11,708	(\$1,556)	\$142,626
All Other Expenses	<u>\$3,582</u>	<u>\$4,779</u>	<u>(\$1,197)</u>	<u>\$103,087</u>
Total Expense	\$13,734	\$16,487	(\$2,752)	\$245,713
Net Ordinary Income	\$33,053	\$30,644	\$2,409	(\$25,519)

Let's Clean Our House!



Families, it is time to get our church cleaned and ready for in-person services. There are four Saturdays designated for specific areas need to be cleaned. We would like 2-3 families volunteer to come in and clean while keeping socially distanced.

- March 13th: music room, west side classrooms, and hallway
- March 20th: Fireside room, nursery, and hallway
- April 10th: kitchen, restrooms and meeting room in vestibule.
- April 17th: Sanctuary and front entrance

What we want to focus on is making sure we have dusted the furniture, cleaned windows, swiped down lights, cleaned out the cobwebs and bugs as well as vacuum and/or mopped.

Please contact Dawn Cook to volunteer a date: 815-276-3983 or dcook@wcusd200.org

A/V System Upgrade Project—Donate Today!

We will be upgrading our audio-visual technology so that you will have a more pleasant experience when we meet in-person again. Our Sound Board must be replaced as it is worn out. Some additional enhancements are being installed to help the A/V Team in their ability to operate the technology more efficiently. We are accepting donations specific to this project.

You may donate online via our website at <https://www.fpcwoodstock.org/> and then select **Giving** in the upper right-hand corner of the Home page. On the Donate Online page, scroll down to Special Projects and insert A/V Upgrades in the box (see below). Or simply write A/V Upgrade in the memo line of your check.

Special Programs

Donation to a designated Special Program

-Special Programs: *

Please indicate special program, (i.e. A/V upgrades, etc.)

Frequency:

Donation Start Date: mm/dd/yy 

Thank you in advance for your generous donations!

Planned Giving—Have You Thought About Your Will?

- How important is a will? How does it bless your family? Your church?
- Q: Why change a good will? A: To include a bequest to your church.
- Is your will keeping up with you? With your Christian commitments?
- Is God’s will reflected in your will?
- Is your will out-of-date? When you update it, remember your church.
- Your will can benefit both your family and your church.

Happy 175th Birthday to Us! (continued from page 7)

Couples clubs were popular in the 1940s, and adult fellowship dinners in members’ homes in the recent past are joyfully remembered.

N.O.W. (Nurture on Wednesdays) dinners began in the late 1990s and continue today. Volunteers prepare the meal, which is enjoyed by all – toddlers to senior citizens. Choirs practice and committees and fellowship groups meet before and after the meal.

Look for more FPCW history next month!

A message from Worship Arts Committee by Chris NejdI

As we move into the Lenten season, services will continue virtually. Session continues to monitor the changing health situation in McHenry County and the state. The health and well-being of our church family is of utmost importance to our church leaders, as we strive to meet the spiritual needs of our members at this time. Our dedicated worship staff continue to plan our Lenten Worship services, taking us through the passion narrative to celebrate Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday. Be sure to keep your Lenten bag handy. It contains items for each service in lent

Sunday, March 28, Palm Sunday

Contribute your artistic talents to our Palm Sunday Celebration. Color your own palm frond found in your Lenten bag. Take a picture or video waving your palm frond and text or email it to our Artistic Director, Christy, to see yourself in this year's palm parade.

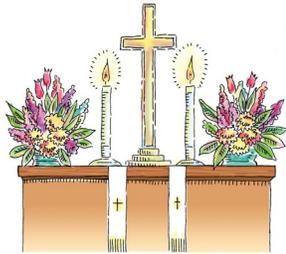
Maundy Thursday, Good Friday.

A combined service will be available to view starting 5 pm on Thursday, April 1.

From the intimacy of the upper room for that Last Supper, we follow Christ's journey from the Garden to the Cross. The story told through music and meditations.

He Is Alive, Easter Sunday, April 4

A joyful service with special music for the celebration of Easter.



Worship Schedule

Liturgist Schedule

Thanks to the February liturgists: Angie Boe, Bob Clark, Katherine and Collin Greenlee and Lydia Johanson.

March Liturgists: March 7—Kayden Petrick; March 14—Renee Simes; March 21—Jim Wormley; March 28—Chris NejdI

Easter Lilies—Think Spring!

Donations for Easter lilies are now being accepted to help decorate for the Easter service. If you would like to donate a lily in memory or in honor of a person or occasion, click on the link below or contact the Church office. The cost is a donation of \$10.00 per plant. You can pay online or send a check to the church.

Lilies will be available to take home after the Easter service has been recorded. You are invited to donate your plant back after Easter to be planted on the church grounds. This is an Earth Care Congregation initiative and will



Miss a Worship Service? Try Catching Up on YouTube!

Did you miss a worship service that you wanted to see, or perhaps you'd like to see it again? You can visit the FPC YouTube Channel where all our services are archived. Point your web browser to [First Presbyterian Church, Woodstock, IL.](#)

March 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31 ● 9:30am Worship	Feb 1 ● 4:30pm Ministry Support ● 7pm Worship Staff	2 ● 7pm PNC Mtg	3 ● 7:30am Lection Study ● 7pm Light on the Bible	4	5 ● 3:30pm Breakout Room Test	6 ● 7am Men's Study ● 9am Improv Study Group
7 ● 9:30am Worship ● 10:15am Zoom Fellowship	8 ● 4pm Hospitality	9 ● 7pm Deacons ● 7pm PNC Mtg	10 ● 7:30am Lection Study ● 7pm Light on the Bible	11 ● 7pm Finance Comm	12	13 ● 7am Men's Study
14 ● 9:30am Worship ● 11am Special Session Meeting ● 6pm Worship Recording	15 ● 7pm Worship Staff	16 ● 4:30pm Lenten Bag Pick-up ● 7pm PNC Mtg ● 7pm Ed & S.G	17 Ash Wed. Service Ash Wednesday 2 more	18 ● 6pm Compassion, Peace and Justice	19	20 ● 7am Men's Study
21 ● 9:30am Worship ● 11am Session ● 7pm Confirmation Gathering	22 Newsletter Articles Due	23 175 Year Anniversary ● 7pm PNC Mtg	24 ● 7:30am Lection Study ● 7pm Lent in Plain Sight	25 ● 6pm Worship Arts Mtg	26	27 ● 7am Men's Study ● 9am Improv Study Group
28 ● 9:30am Worship	Mar 1 ● 7pm Worship Staff	2 ● 7pm PNC Mtg	3 ● 7:30am Lection Study ● 7pm Lent in Plain Sight	4	5	6 ● 7am Men's Study ● 10am CPJ Planning Session



MINISTERS

All members and friends of the congregation

STAFF

Rev. Cindy Carlisle
Interim Pastor

Dave Davis
Financial Secretary

Bob Diss
Organist

Christy Johanson
Social Media
Worship Arts Coordinator

March 2021



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WOODSTOCK**

CELEBRATING AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE

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