

# 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*

## **To Sing or Not To Sing (Christmas Music, that is)**

It is now the month of December. Thanksgiving Day has come and gone. The stores have all decked the halls with boughs of holly. The Great Hall is fully decorated, including with our new Chrismons (thanks so much for participating in that fun service!) Radio stations are playing Christmas music 24/7. It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year! It is, until some curmudgeonly pastor like me comes along and says "Slow down. It's not Christmas yet. Stop the Christmas Carols and sing only Advent hymns in a minor key." I used to be fully in that camp. Thankfully, I've become less curmudgeonly about Advent vs. Christmas over the course of my ministry.

However, I do still believe that we need to spend time in Advent preparing for the coming King. What does it mean that "a child is born to us, a son is given to us" (Isaiah 9:6)? What is in our lives that needs to be set aside to make room for the Christ child to be born in us anew? How can we give the gift of presence to one another, even in a global pandemic?

These questions (and others) deserve our attention during Advent, and singing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" in E minor is part of our preparation. However, singing "Joy to the World" (in D major!) might do us all some good in these days that are feeling dreary. So, we'll sing -- especially on December 12th, when our Intergenerational Choir will bring us the Christmas Cantata (talk about Joy -- the songs for the cantata include "Joy Comes in the Morning," "Joy in My Heart," "Good News, Great Joy," and "How Great Our Joy!") The choir will be joined by "Winds Off the Lake" and some other special guests, and our children will be presenting their program. It will indeed be a joyous day of worship together --- invite your friends and neighbors!

We'll gather for worship each Sunday, light more and more Advent candles, and prepare for the coming of Jesus, the light that "shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5) As our Advent candles remind us, this is the season of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy -- so let's share that with everyone we meet!

I've had the opportunity to sit down with a few of you to get to know you better. I'd love to have time with more of you, so grab a time to get together with me at [fpcwoodstock.org/meetwitheric](http://fpcwoodstock.org/meetwitheric). Reach out to me by email: [eric@fpcwoodstock.org](mailto:eric@fpcwoodstock.org) or text/call: 815-575-9454.

In the meantime, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13) Grace and peace, Pastor Eric

December 2021



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### **Sunday Worship Services**

**In the Great Hall @ 9:30 a.m.**



*Come and*  
**WORSHIP**

### **Newsletter Editor**

Mark Bundick

### **Reporters:**

Angie Boe, Eric Corbin, Bob Clark,  
Christy Johanson, Sue Krause, Pat  
Morozink, Chris Nedjl, Lynne Sobczak,

# TOGETHER TO LAUGH AND LEARN

## Men's Group/Bible Study

John Moorhouse, 815-236-7408  
[johnmoorhouse54@gmail.com](mailto:johnmoorhouse54@gmail.com)

## Wednesday Early Bible Study

Velma Downes, 815-245-4043  
[vmdownes@gmail.com](mailto:vmdownes@gmail.com)

## Adult Spiritual Growth Groups

Chris Nejd, 815-337-1070  
[canejd@hotmail.com](mailto:canejd@hotmail.com)

## Hospitality Team

Cheryl Wormley, 815-519-7402  
[indepublisher@comcast.net](mailto:indepublisher@comcast.net)

## Music Ministry

Christy Johanson  
815-382-5234  
[mom@babyjohanson.com](mailto:mom@babyjohanson.com)

## No-Name Knitters

Kay Darby, 815-338-5002  
[kedarby@icloud.com](mailto:kedarby@icloud.com)

## T.L.C. (Tender Loving Care)

Mary Hill, 815-338-6051  
[mary.hill2759@gmail.com](mailto:mary.hill2759@gmail.com)

## Meals-On-Wheels

Marla Norgard, 815-482-4855  
[marlanorgard01@gmail.com](mailto:marlanorgard01@gmail.com)

## WACM Local Mission Team

Pat Morozink, 815-338-7769  
[pmorozink@yahoo.com](mailto:pmorozink@yahoo.com)

## Food Pantry

Joyce Maynard, 815-338-7265

## Fishing Mission

Bob Clark, 847-274-8247  
[robtmclark@aol.com](mailto:robtmclark@aol.com)

## N.O.W. Team

### (Nurture on Wednesdays)

Lee Nejd — 815-546-1731  
Katie Spaldon — 815-276-3410  
Sue Epperson—224-293-2295  
Mark Bundick—815-337-9068  
Cheryl Wormley—815-519-7402

## Children's Christmas Program

The Sunday School children continue working on a Christmas program to be presented during the Cantata on Sunday, December 12th. Please join us on the following dates:

**Sunday, December 5th** - We will hold a special <extra> Sunday School session for practice (during the worship service) and practice for an additional 10-15 minutes after church.

**Saturday, December 11th** - We will have a FINAL DRESS REHEARSAL at 2:00 pm to practice with the adult choir.

**Sunday, December 12th** - We will meet before church for one last run through and then perform during the service this day!

If you cannot make all these practices, that's ok! This is a busy time of year and we know it. If your child is interested and available on December 12th, we'll make it work!

## Book Study

In January, we will hold a discussion of the book *Anxious to Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully about Racism* by Carolyn B. Helsel. ISBN 9780827200722. Available locally at <https://www.readbetweenthehynes.com/book/9780827200722>. Watch for more information in the January Newsletter.

**Reminder:** The Education and Spiritual Growth Committee is not meeting in December.

## Earthcare Congregation message from CPJ

The City of Woodstock Public Works advises that Christmas trees will be picked up the entire month of January and will follow the garbage truck schedule.

Also, discarded Christmas lights can be put in boxes at the Public Library, Opera House, Woodstock City Hall, and the Court House Administration Building for disposal.

**RECYCLE RECYCLE RECYCLE RECYCLE RECYCLE RECYCLE**

## BIBLE STUDY



## Men's Bible Study

The Men's Saturday Morning Bible Study is resuming in January. All are welcome to join with us as we return to the study of God's word to us. Please contact [John Moorhouse](mailto:JohnMoorhouse), 815-236-7408 for details,

## Lectionary Bible Study—Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m.

Join us for lively discussion, thoughtful readings and good fellowship on Zoom. Contact Velma Downes to be added to the mailing list or for more information at 815-245-4043 or [vmdownes@gmail.com](mailto:vmdownes@gmail.com).



### Christmas Joy Special Offering 2021

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

This is the fourth Special Offering collection approved by our Session for 2021. We have set a goal of \$1365 for this collection and hope to “break our goal thermometer” as we have for the first three collections.

Compassion Peace and Justice Committee has expressed an additional goal of increasing the number of donors for all of these offerings. In the first three (One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, and Peace and Global Witness), while we exceeded our goal amount to collect, the number of donors to each collection ranged from 13-18 individual donors. CPJ would like to see the number of donors increase with an ambitious goal of having all congregation members donate. To reassure you, the church finance team takes your privacy very seriously. CPJ is **never** informed of “who” donated “how much” - only of the total amount donated and the number of individual donors.

We encourage you to donate to this Special Offering. Collection will begin now through Advent until Christmas. Donations may be made by check made out to First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock with “Christmas Joy” on the memo line or through the church website donation page. Thank you in advance for your generosity and encouragement through your donation.

### Food Pantry Hours Expanded



To make it a bit easier for working clients, the Woodstock Food Pantry will now be open until 6:00 p.m. the first Monday of the month. Future dates will include December 6th, January 3rd, February 7th, March 7th and April 4th.

Clients are asked to please bring a photo ID and a current piece of mail containing their current address each time they come. Clients may visit the Woodstock Food Pantry two times a month.

Please feel free to share this information with any resident in District 200 who is in need of the Food Pantry.

### Red Wagon Items Requested for November

**Chicken Noodle Soup, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Tomato Soup, Cream of Chicken Soup, Vegetable Soup, Ramen Noodles**

You can leave your donations in the red wagon located at the rear of the Great Hall.

Anyone living in School District 200 may receive food two times each month. If you know someone who needs help with food, please encourage them to visit the Food Pantry, 1033 Lake Avenue (behind the Dorr Township building), Monday, Wednesday or Friday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Also note that the Food Pantry will be open until 6:00 PM the first Monday of each month.



## **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Chris Dahm-12/1  
Noa Moorhouse-12/2  
Patricia Morava-12/4  
Aidan Greenlee-12/5  
Adam Mass-12/5  
Collin Greenlee-12/9  
Matt Thuma-12/13  
Robert McMahon-12/15  
Chris Carr-12/16  
Larry Riggs-12/24  
Logan Jones-12/25  
Jessica Landrey-12/26  
Alison Mcintosh-12/26  
Barb Parrish-12/26  
Pam Mathison-12/28  
Sue Hunt-12/30  
Brooklyn Schnulle-12/31



*Happy Anniversary!*

## **DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Jay & Jessie Justice-12/17  
Dan Chwalisz-12/25

## **Reverse Advent Calendar Benefiting D200 Kindness Closets**

This year, your Advent bag from First Presbyterian included a Reverse Advent Calendar again, but with a different twist! While we encourage you to continue to donate to local Food Pantries to the extent you can, we have a new challenge to our congregation this year as part of the Reverse Advent Calendar project.

School District 200 schools all have “Kindness Closets” where students can “shop” for needed clothes, outerwear, food and other household items. These closets are available free to all children in need in the District.

Please consider purchasing new, unopened items or donating used but in like-new condition items. Once or twice a week during Advent, put something aside in a box to be donated. Bring the box to church when you come at Christmas to be taken to the District to go to the individual school Kindness Closets.

**ITEMS NEEDED:** Shirts, sweaters or sweat shirts, sweatpants, coats, hats, gloves, scarves. Clothing should be marked as intended for High School, Middle school or grade school aged children. Please think like a kid and buy or donate items that you are sure a child that age would wear!!!

Often household and personal hygiene items are needed as well (laundry detergent pods, dish soap, cleaning products, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.) A working mom might appreciate a bottle of hand lotion!!! A working dad might appreciate a pair of slipper socks! Be creative and above all, KIND. If you had little, what would you most appreciate receiving as an unexpected gift? Remember that the kids will be carrying their items in a backpack, so shop and package items accordingly!

Thank you in advance for your generosity. Leave items in the box marked “SCHOOL KINDNESS CLOSET DONATIONS” at church by January 2, 2022.

## **Annual Giving Tree Project**

Local veterans and their families will benefit from our Giving Tree project this season. Tags with specific gift items will be placed on the small Christmas tree in the church entrance hall by Sunday, November 28th. Return your wrapped gifts by Sunday, December 19th. Sign the registration sheet (with tag numbers) when you take tags. Those not wishing to enter the church building, please contact Lynne Sobczak, 815-648-2321 or [sobczak4u@yahoo.com](mailto:sobczak4u@yahoo.com) for assistance.

## **Christmas Craft Fair**

Our second annual Christmas Craft Fair was very successful. Thank you to all who contributed crafts, all who helped with the fair, and all who purchased those wonderful hand-made crafts. We raised over \$300 for the youth programs of our congregation.

## **Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...**

Nick Botian, Tom Schwarz, Jim Higgins, Tim Arnold, Ron Parrish, Paul Thuma, Russ Warye, Loretta Nejd, Sandy Landry, Kristen Matter, Cary Cook and Marilyn Krenger.





### December Update from the Deacons

We discussed Advent Bags and will deliver them to flock members that are unable to pick them up at the church on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>.

Updates on flock members were given.

Our next meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup> will be a joint Session/Deacon meeting.

The updated church directory with photos is ready to be picked up at church. If you are unable to pick it up please let your Deacon know.

Please contact your Deacon as they want to help their flocks with any issues, news to share or needs. We are there for you!

Angie Boe 815-338-7782

Pam Moorhouse 815-814-5585

Matt Petrik 815-209-2835

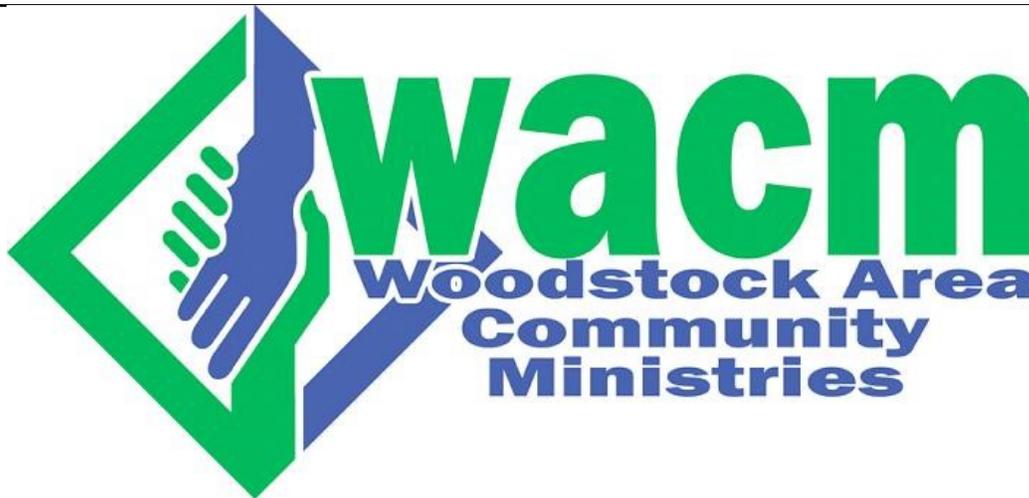
Sue Epperson 224-293-2295

John Moorhouse 815-236-7408

John Rigby 815-236-1780

Joyce Maynard 815-338-7265

Barb Parrish 815-338-8112



### December WACM Notes

The search for a person to serve as WACM's treasurer continues. Some bookkeeping skills and experience with QuickBooks makes the job easier to do. Checks are written to vendors once a week, contributions are deposited, and a monthly accounting is made available to the board of directors. WACM will pay for tax forms to be completed. Our current treasurer needs to end her service to WACM to provide health care to several family members. If your interest and skills match this position, please contact Pat Morozink at [pmorozink@yahoo.com](mailto:pmorozink@yahoo.com).

Requests for assistance with rent, utility shut offs, and gas vouchers continue to be the most common kinds of help that's provided through WACM's Direct Assistance Program. As temperatures fall, we're getting more requests for winter gear too. We send vouchers out so people can make purchases at the Clothing Closet or Salvation Army Thrift Store in McHenry. Our congregation is a member of WACM and provides financial assistance that is then passed on to members of our community. Thank you for your continued support of this local mission!



## November Session Notes

**Clerk's Report:** The Clerk was **approved** to submit the annual statistical report to the PC-USA.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Eric reviewed his list of visits, committee meetings and meetings with community groups. He reported to session about the

Diversity Sunday program being promoted by the City of Woodstock on the second Sunday of each month.

**Nominating Committee:** Sue Krause reported that after multiple requests, the committee is short one vacancy for elder and two vacancies for Deacons. Session will review names and provide any they think might be suitable to Sue.

**COVID Task Force:** One member attending worship has tested positive for COVID-19; no other family member has tested positive. Masks will continue to be required in worship. It was moved, seconded and **approved** to allow a Boy Scout troop to use the church for a private party. Scouts will be responsible for cleaning up according to our COVID protocols.

### Committee Reports

**Ministry Support – Personnel:** The committee recommended posting for an Office Administrator position, expected to be full time, with duties including those of Financial Secretary. Session voted to **table** the recommendation until the cost of the position could be analyzed in the full 2022 budget to be reviewed at the December meeting.

**Ministry Support – Finance:** Session voted to **approve** a recommendation for the purchase of drums from the Undesignated Memorial Funds.

**Worship, Music and Arts:** The committee reported that Advent services have been planned, poinsettia orders are being received, and special music has been scheduled.

**Compassion, Peace and Justice:** The Global Peace and Witness offering raised \$1,483 with our 25% local share being sent to the local group "Standing Up Against Racism".

**Education and Spiritual Growth:** The committee recommended and session approved a January book study using "Anxious to Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully about Racism" by Carolyn Heisel.

**Next Regular Meeting:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., jointly with the Deacons at the church.

**Next Called Meeting:** Sunday, December 19, 2021 at 11:00 AM, at church for the sole purpose of reviewing and approving the 2022 Operating Budget

### Session / Committee Chairs

#### Compassion, Peace & Justice

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

#### Congregational Life

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

#### Education & Spiritual Growth

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

#### Ministry Support

Bob Clark & Dawn Cook  
847-274-8247 or [robtmclark@aol.com](mailto:robtmclark@aol.com)  
815-276-3983 or [dcook@wvusd200.org](mailto:dcook@wvusd200.org)  
(Finance, Staff Support, Building and Grounds & Stewardship)

#### Worship, Music and Arts

Chris Nejdil & Erin Kaye  
815-337-1070 or  
[cnejdl@hotmail.com](mailto:cnejdl@hotmail.com)  
(Worship Arts, Worship Leadership, Audio-Visual)

#### Memorial Committee

John Moorhouse & Angie Boe  
815-236-7407 or  
[johnmoorhouse54@gmail.com](mailto:johnmoorhouse54@gmail.com)

#### Clerk of Session

Mark Bundick  
815-337-9068 or  
[mbundick@comcast.net](mailto:mbundick@comcast.net)

**REPORT FROM THE MINISTRY SUPPORT COMMITTEE**

**Finance Team – December 2021 Newsletter**

<b>October 2021 Operating Budget</b>				
<b><u>Income</u></b>	<b><u>YTD Actual</u></b>	<b><u>YTD Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Variance vs Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Annual 2021 Budget</u></b>
Contributions Income	\$176,772	\$162,461	\$14,311	\$192,622
All Other Income	<u>\$9,077</u>	<u>\$11,270</u>	<b>(\$2,193)</b>	<u>\$27,572</u>
Total Income	\$185,849	\$173,731	\$12,118	\$220,194
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>				
Staff	\$120,300	\$118,656	\$1,644	\$142,626
All Other Expenses	<u>\$70,033</u>	<u>\$84,746</u>	<b>(\$14,713)</b>	<u>\$103,087</u>
Total Expense	\$190,333	\$203,402	<b>(\$13,069)</b>	\$245,713
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>(\$4,484)</b>	<b>(\$29,670)</b>	<b>\$25,186</b>	<b>(\$25,519)</b>

- We appreciate all who submitted their Pledges for the 2022 Operating Budget. If you've not yet returned your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. This will help the Finance Team as they prepare the 2022 Operating Budget for Session.
- 2021 Operating Budget performance – Contributions are expected to be about on target with budget at year-end; the Finance Team is projecting Actual Net Ordinary Income at year-end to be about -\$10,000 to -\$15,000 vs the 2021 Budget of about -\$25,500.

Feel free to reach out to us with any questions or comments.: Bob Clark:[robtmclark@aol.com](mailto:robtmclark@aol.com) or 815-527-5109. or Dawn Cook: [dcook@wcusd200.org](mailto:dcook@wcusd200.org) or 815-276-3983.

**Photos from our Intergenerational Advent Decorating Event**



## Holiday Greetings from the Worship Committee

The Advent Season is underway!

Poinsettia donations are still being accepted to honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion. See below for details. Donors can collect their poinsettias after the Christmas Eve service.

The Great Hall is now ready for Advent following the tree decorating on November 21. Special thanks to John Rigby and his team, Rob McMahon, Steve Bingham, Lee and Chris Nejd, John Moorhouse, and Matt Thuma, for hanging the garland and arranging the poinsettias in time for Advent.

The first Sunday of Advent was a service of Chrismons, when members of the congregation decorated a Chrismon tree with these symbols of Christ.

The First Presbyterian Intergenerational choir returns with a Christmas Cantata accompanied by Winds Off the Lake on December 12. Also featured this Sunday is the children's Nativity scene.

Christmas Eve candlelight services will be held at 4 PM and 7 PM on Friday, December 24. Bring the entire family to celebrate the birth of Christ with scriptures and carols.

Sunday of Carols and Stories closes out the month on Sunday, December 26.



### FPC Worship on YouTube and Facebook



Remember that our services are regularly live streamed on Facebook and archived on YouTube. If you can't get to church on Sunday morning, check out the live stream at our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/fpcwoodstock/>. You can also watch all our worship services on FPC's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxGlfuDXFmONo2cpjMjkoYg>.

## Livestreaming our Services

The Worship Arts Team is looking for interested individuals to join to help with live streaming the worship services. They'll show you all the things needed to successfully broadcast our worship. If you can help out, contact Ray Thuma at [rpthuma@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rpthuma@sbcglobal.net) or Christy Johanson, [mom@babyjohanson.com](mailto:mom@babyjohanson.com).



ORDER  
YOUR  
**Poinsettias**

## Poinsettias for Advent

Donations are now being taken for poinsettias to decorate the Great Hall for Advent. Donate a poinsettia to remember a loved one or celebrate a special occasion. Checks for \$10 per plant can be made out to First Presbyterian and be sure to put "Poinsettia" in the memo line.

## Worship Leadership

The Hospitality Team and Deacons will be greeting again this month. Please contact Cheryl Wormley (815-519-7402; [indepublisher@comcast.net](mailto:indepublisher@comcast.net)) or John Moorhouse (815-236-7408; [johnmoorhouse54@gmail.com](mailto:johnmoorhouse54@gmail.com)) if you would like to assist with this important ministry.

# December 2021

First Presbyterian Church		December 2021				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 7:30 am Lectionary Study 6 pm NOW Team Christmas 7 pm Christmas Cantata Rehearsal	<b>2</b> 6:30 pm Worship Arts Mtg	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:30 am Worship 10 am Children's Sunday School & rehearsal 10:30 am Christmas Cantata Rehearsal	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7:30 am Lectionary Study 6:30 pm No-Name Knitters 7 pm Christmas Cantata Rehearsal	<b>9</b> 5 pm Hospitality Team 7 pm Finance Comm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 2 pm Christmas Cantata Rehearsal
<b>12</b> Choir Cantata 9 am Final Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship 6:30 pm No Meeting-Education and Spiritual Growth	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10 am No Meeting-TLC Ladies 6 pm Joint Deacon & Session meeting	<b>15</b> 7:30 am Lectionary Study	<b>16</b> 6 pm Compassion, Peace and Justice	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:30 am Worship 11 am Called Session Mtg - for budget	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:30 am Lectionary Study 6:30 pm No-Name Knitters	<b>23</b> 6 pm Worship Arts Mtg	<b>24</b> 4 pm Christmas Eve Service 7 pm Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:30 am Worship	<b>27</b> Newsletter Articles Due	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7:30 am Lectionary Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

**MINISTERS**

All members and friends of the congregation

**STAFF**

Rev. Eric Corbin  
Pastor

Dave Davis  
Financial Secretary

Roger Dickman  
Accompanist

Christy Johanson  
Social Media  
Worship Arts Coordinator

**OFFICERS**

Mark Bundick  
Clerk of Session

Cary Cook  
Treasurer

**December 2021**



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF WOODSTOCK**

*CELEBRATING AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE*

Phone: (815) 338-2627  
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Website:  
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