

The WFPC News

The Winnebago First Presbyterian Church Newsletter for May 2026

*First Presbyterian Church of Winnebago:
Where community, faith, family, and friends come together.*

"Summer Reading"

by Pastor Lisa Lopez-Meyer

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." -Psalm 119:105

I've been thinking about a call I got some time ago, from a parent of an older child who wanted to start Sunday School, but had never been in Sunday School before. The parent was worried that their kid would feel lost, since they hadn't ever been and other kids had been going for years. I get that. It can be intimidating to dive into the Bible for the very first time and feel like you have to "catch up" to others who've been at it longer.

Here's the truth: we are all at different levels of learning, and there are many who, even after attending worship and Sunday School for years, feel like they could have a better grasp of the basis of the Bible themselves.

So as we head into the new rhythm of the Summer months, when many of our regular learning opportunities either shift their schedule or take breaks, I want to share with you a few resources to help you dive into the Bible. Use them to help your kids get a more solid foundation of biblical concepts or simply feel more confident in your own biblical knowledge.

- 1. The Bible Project:** This free biblical resource library can be found online through <https://bibleproject.com/>. It contains hundreds of videos going through the main themes of biblical books, explaining important biblical concepts across the Scriptures and exploring connections across the Old and New Testaments. It also contains a number of additional bible study tools, like comic book-style book outlines, online classes, study guides, podcast episodes on biblical questions and even reading plans. There is something for everyone here. Highly recommended.
- 2. "100 Things Every Child Should Know Before Confirmation: A Guide for Parents and Youth Leaders"** by Rebecca Kirkpatrick: This classic book goes through a list of 100 things (including Scriptures, biblical characters, facts and Christian concepts) that help children and youth build depth of understanding about our Christian faith and the Bible. The chapters are organized by theme, providing some tips on how to introduce the texts or facts to your own children at home or students in a class. The full list in the appendix is worth the book alone!
- 3. "How to Read the Bible Book by Book: A Guided Tour"** by Gordon D. Fee and Douglass Stuart: This book is perfect for adults trying to understand the context behind each of the biblical books and how they all fit into the greater story of Scripture. Each one of the short chapters will provide an introduction to the particular book and a brief annotated outline to follow along. Perfect to read on its own or to read before diving into a particular book of the Bible.

(Both books are available on paper and kindle formats on Amazon, as well as other Christian book retailers. Happy Reading!)



Remember! We gather for worship at 9:30 am June, July and August!



Session Updates

by Stephanie Freimuth

The Session met on Monday, May 4, 2026 with 8 members present.

Greg Rittmeyer read Isaiah 40:31 and God is the Giver of Strength. Then, Pastor Lisa led Session in prayer.

Session received the clerk's, treasurer's, and pastor's reports.

Action items included:

- Sue Jansen was elected as our Presbytery Commissioner for the May 19th meeting.
- Kasey Smith will lead VBS and 2026-27 Sunday School.
- Summer Hours will start May 31st.
- Stephanie Freimuth will set up a committee for outreach.

Session meets June 1 at 6:30 pm, there will be no July meeting.

Trustees

by Lisa Mitchell

The Trustees met at church for a meeting on May 12 at 5 pm. Five members were present, one excused. We spread mulch in the flower beds and around the trees. Repairs were made to a basement toilet.

Maintenance and repairs during the month:

- The church electrical was inspected for insurance purposes. We will make the necessary corrections.

Future Projects:

- Lisa Mitchell will be the representative for the Nominating Committee.
- If the school district requests repair bids for the parking lot, we will obtain a separate quote for the church's portion.

Our next meeting will be June 9.

Save the Date for VBS!

Vacation Bible School starts **Monday, July 13 through Thursday, July 16**. Join us as we explore True North, Trusting Jesus in a Wild World.



PW - Ruth Circle

by Karen Finch

Each CWS kit helps someone during a difficult time. Inside are simple items that bring comfort, encouragement and the reminder that someone cares. This is an opportunity for us to act. Together, we can bring hope and relief to those facing challenging times. Thank you for stepping up to care for your neighbors in need.

PW will be collecting monetary donations to support the Church World Service kit ministry program through June 28. Our goal is \$1,020 to send to CWS so they can purchase supplies for 30 each Kid and Hygiene kits. Envelopes will be available on the pamphlet holder and donations can be given to Cindy Erb, Karen Finch, or placed in the offering plate. Checks should be payable to: The Presbyterian Women with "CWS kits" on the memo line.

PW/Ruth Circle will be going out to lunch in June. Watch the bulletin for further information.



Picnic

by Bev Williams

Our annual church picnic will be June 7, following the worship service. Enjoy some lemonade, outside games and social time with our church family, plus a potluck in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to pass and your own lawn chairs. Please plan to attend!



Music

by Sharon Smith

During the summer when the choir does not meet, anyone can share their talents including: music, readings, instrumental ensembles or solos. This is a wonderful opportunity to for ministering to the congregation! If you have any questions or would like to sign up, let me know.



Spring Cleaning?

Our Workcamp crew is looking for donations of clean, useable items for the rummage sale.

WE CANNOT ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING DUE TO SAFE DISPOSAL CONCERNS AND DISPOSAL FEES:

Computers and any computer equipment, electronics, televisions, pianos or organs.

Sale will be held Thursday June 4 and Friday June 5 from 8:30 am - 5 pm each day.

Volunteers needed please contact Barb Whitney.

Presbytery News!

Did you know? Blackhawk Presbytery is now called Illinois Prairie Presbytery. The boundaries of the Presbytery have not changed, but you will start to notice the name change in communications such as the Presbytery Connections and documents related to our ecclesiastical region. With the name change both the website address and the email addresses for staff have changed. You can access the Presbytery website at <https://ilprairiepres.org/> Spread the word!

Deacons

No new updates due to delayed May meeting. The next meeting is June 16 at 6:30 pm.

Announcement Deadlines...

- Announcements for the **bulletin** by the Monday prior to the desired Sunday.
- Any content for the **newsletter** by the 2nd Wednesday of the month.
- Items to be included on the **website or facebook** at least 3 days prior to when they need to appear.

These **deadlines** help make sure we can format all documents appropriately and deal with any technical issues arising with printing and uploading.

Stewardship Update:

May financial information was not available at the printing time of the newsletter, please check your June 7th bulletin for updates.

Contact Information:

Rev. Lisa Lopez-Meyer (Pastor Lisa)
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Clerk of Session - Stefanie Kluck
stefaniehassel@gmail.com

Deacons - Marilyn Larsen
marilyn.larsen94@gmail.com

Trustees- Rick Carr
rscarr@comcast.net

PW-Ruth Circle - Sue Jansen
LSJan@yahoo.com

*Newsletter items for July
are due by June 10th.*

*On the web at: thewfpc.org and Facebook: @thewfpc208
Located at: 208 W. Winnebago St. Handicap accessible*



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