

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.*

"The Pastor is Having Another Baby! Now What?"

by Pastor Lisa Lopez-Meyer

By the time this newsletter has reached you, I'll be very close to taking maternity leave. You might be wondering who will take over particular responsibilities or who to contact for needs that arise while I'm healing from birth and tending to a new life.

Many arrangements have been made so that our church ministries continue to thrive.

Worship: Elder Stefanie Kluck, Chair of Worship Committee, is finalizing Pulpit Supply for the 11 weeks that I expect to be away, starting June 14. Through this time you'll see familiar faces like Pastor Norm and Pastor Carroll, as well as other clergy from our Presbytery. We will also have some of our own filling the pulpit on selected weeks: Joe Erb (June 21), Frank Finch (July 12), Bill Newkirk (August 9). Communion is still planned for July 5th and August 2nd. Services will continue to be live streamed through YouTube and accessible on our website. I should be back in the pulpit on Sunday, August 30th.

Pastoral Care: Deacons will be handling most visits and contacts with those who are sick or in crisis. Please reach out to Marilyn Larsen, Moderator of the Deacons, with information on members and friends ill/hospitalized/struggling so visits and communion can be arranged. Should any families require funeral services, Pastor Carroll can be contacted to officiate. The Clerk has his information and Session is holding a list of other clergy that could serve if need be. Please call/email Betsy Carr, Office Administrator, with any information on deceased members/friends so the congregation can be notified.

Youth Group: Teresa Ackerman and Stephanie Freimuth will be lead contacts for Youth Group through the Summer.

Communications: Contact the Office during Office Hours for any information that needs to be shared publicly. For prayer needs, you can always submit your request directly to the prayer chain through our website, thewfpc.org, using the Prayer Chain button on the homepage. In addition, Session members have created a schedule to carry the pastoral phone and attend to matters as they arise. You can call that number and ask for help, if needed.

Thank you to everyone who is stepping up!

Finally, a personal note: my husband Jonathan and I are blessed to have many people in our lives who want to support us in our parenting journey, including the WFPC church family. One way to support us is to allow us privacy (no visits, please) for the first month of the baby's life. I'll need to adjust to new feeding/sleep schedules, and Jonathan works from home. My parents will be staying with us then, so we will have help. We promise to share relevant updates with the Office so you will have news of how we are doing, including a cute picture of the new baby. If you'd like to express your care, we'd love to get cards welcoming the new baby into the world. We will save them and one day show him how loved he was from the beginning.

Please take this time as an opportunity to reconnect with one another. I look forward to catching up when I get back!

Session Updates

by Stefanie Kluck

The Session met on Monday, April 13, 2026. All Session members were present, except Ryan Bomgarden, who was excused.

Joe Erb led us through devotions by reading the following scriptures: Luke 2:8-10, John 1:29, and Isaiah 53:5-7. The three passages are intimately connected, tracing the journey of Jesus from his humble, prophetic birth to his sacrificial death. They demonstrate a cohesive narrative: The Savior Born (Luke) is the Lamb Promised (Isaiah) who takes away sin (John).

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

Action items included:

- Spiritual discernment on how we can encourage engagement during Pastor's maternity leave.
- Evaluated Holy Week Services.
- Discussed preparations for the Picnic on June 7th.
- Approved support for Mobile Market Project from the Deacons.

The next Session meeting will be May 4 at 6:30 pm.



by Bev Williams

Join us May 3rd after worship for Fellowship, hosted by the Trustees and the Worship Committee.



Deacon Ministry

by Julie Nichols

The meeting was opened with the Deacons' Prayer. Seven members present, one excused. Julie led the devotional with Matthew 7:12. Reports were received.

Old business:

- A Thank You note was shared.
- Evangelism/contacts were suggested and cards will be sent, and future contacts continued.
- Easter lilies had been successfully delivered.
- Follow up with the Driving for Care List.
- Mobile Food Bank - Pastor Lisa submitted a grant application to Presbytery.

- Flyers for Rural Winnebago County Rides distributed.

New Business:

- Congregational Concerns.
- Initial discussion held regarding summer outreach.
- Deacons for May and June were confirmed.
- Communion for Care list set up through August.
- Suitcase project potentially for the fall discussed.
- Meetings to continue during the summer.

Our next meeting is May 19, 2026 at 6:30 pm.

Trustees

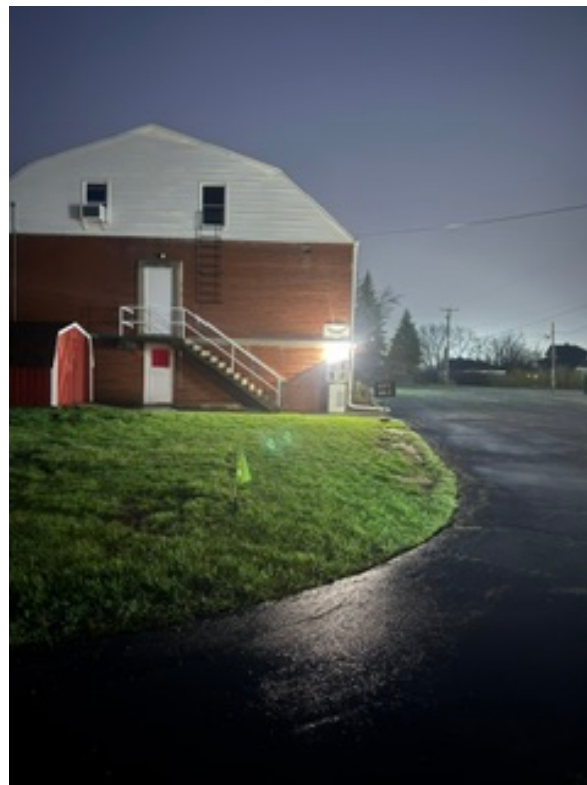
by Gwen Vietmeier

The Trustees met on April 14 with all members present.

We completed: yard and grounds clean-up, planted grass seed, added a new light adaptor at the front entrance, posted 'no smoking' signs (required by our insurance), adjusted the sanctuary clock, installed an outside door handle near the micro-pantry, and installed the office AC units.

Maintenance and repairs during the month:

- Completed the insurance survey for our insurance.
- Frank installed an outlet and dusk to dawn yard light above the micro-pantry.



Our next meeting is scheduled for May 12 at 5:00 pm.

Thank You Notes...

I want to thank everyone including Pastor Lisa, the Deacon's and Ruth Circle for the cards, thoughts, visits and prayers over the last few months. *Alta Straley*

Thank you to everyone for the cards and prayers after my fall. Special thanks to Pastor Lisa for her visit, Sheree Sensel who took over my micro-pantry duties and to Karen Finch who conducted the PW/Ruth Circle Meeting. *Sue Jansen*



by Barb Whitney

Chicks with Sticks

Chicks meet on Tuesday, May 12 and 26 from 10 am-noon. Projects include: baby items for babies born too soon and prayer shawls. We have non knitting projects, let Barb know so she can have materials ready for you.

N. IL Food Bank

Our volunteer day is May 20 from 9-11 am. We have a few openings available if you would like to help.

Workcamp

We are excited for our 29th Group Mission Trip with 13 campers this year! Workcamp shares are available for \$10 each. Shareholders are invited to a program and meal where campers will share their experiences. Shareholders will also receive a message from a camper. Thank you for your support!

The Annual Workcamp Rummage

Sale dates are: June 4 - 5 from 8:30 am - 5 pm each day. Clean, useable items may be dropped off May 31 - June 3 (noon deadline for June 3 so we can get items set up).

WE CANNOT ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING DUE TO SAFE DISPOSAL CONCERNS AND DISPOSAL FEES: Computers and any computer equipment, electronics, televisions, pianos or organs.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Barb Whitney for more information.



Sunday, May 10 - Dinner at Culver's and Video Project Planning. Meet at 6:30 pm at Culver's for dinner and preparing for an exciting opportunity. (Church covers dinner)

Sunday, May 24 - Game Night! Join us as we celebrate the past year and have some fun together! Light supper provided 6:30-8 pm Youth Room.

Stewardship Update:

March Income:	Year to Date:
\$15,534.65	Income: \$55,700.19
March Expenses:	Expenses: \$56,048.90
\$14,985.81	Difference: -\$348.71
March Gain: \$548.84	

Contact Information:

Rev. Lisa Lopez-Meyer (Pastor Lisa)
(815)742-7503 or thewfpcpastor@gmail.com

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 June
are due by May 13th.*

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



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