

Announcements 12/21/2025

The Pastoral Search Committee: It is with great joy and faith in our Lord Jesus, and with the help and blessing of the Holy Spirit, that the Woodstock Reformed Church Pastor Search Committee reports that we've made a recommendation for our next full time, solo pastor to the WRC Consistory and that the Consistory has accepted our recommendation. Praise God!

The candidate's name is Reverend Katherine (Katie) Rivera-Torrea and she is from and currently serving a church in Ohio. Pastor Katie, with her husband Juan Pablo, have served a number of churches in New York (Orange County) as well. She comes with years of experience as a solo pastor from small to mid-size churches and she is very excited about returning to New York and partnering with us in ministry here at Woodstock Reformed. Pastor Katie comes from the Presbyterian tradition.

The committee took very seriously the task of seeking the Congregation's input about what was important to you, and indeed, God matched us with someone that meets our needs and hopes for a pastor who will be a true partner in ministry. **Kind, thoughtful, warm, open, good sense of humor, animated, attentive, good listener, relatable, experienced, collaborative, leader, rooted in faith...**these are the words the committee uses to describe Pastor Katie. We were unanimous in our decision to recommend her after going through the multi-step process and meeting a number of wonderful and qualified candidates.

What does this mean? Well, there are a good number of next steps in the process:

First, our candidate has a current church that, much like we went through in early 2025, will need to make plans to part from. We want to give Pastor Katie the space and time she needs to get through the Christmas Season and plan for a transition and move to Woodstock. Patience in this time ahead to support her in her and Juan Pablo's own transition will be a wonderful gift we can give this Christmas season.

Second, we are planning now for January 18, 2026 to do the final step in the process - lead our worship service at WRC, preach at our pulpit and meet everyone! According to the process - we will give 3 weeks written notice to ensure everyone knows. After the service, we will have a Congregational Meeting to allow for a vote of the "will of the congregation" and to allow for direct input from the greater congregation. We are likely to put together an "open house" or "meet and greet" for that Saturday before to give everyone an opportunity to meet Katie in advance.

If all continues to go the way we hope - and we have the "will of the congregation," Pastor Katie would give their notice of departure, and transition from their current church, plan a move, and join us sometime in the spring. Spring time (March) would be approximately 12 months after the WRC Pastor Search Committee formed. That Search Committee Manual sure was accurate with its projected timeframe of 12-18 months!

On behalf of the Pastor Search Committee, we want to thank you so much for your prayers, your patience, your faith in us to engage in this process. It has been and will continue to be no doubt a joyful and faith-building one. If all continues to go the way we hope, our church will now be in a time of great expectation - perfect for the season of Advent we are in! We will need to prepare ourselves, our church, our parsonage, to welcome a new minister. There are many pieces to put into place. To take those steps, the Consistory and the Search Committee have now formed a small subcommittee of the co-chairs of the search committee (Jess and Marlene) to team up with two Elders, Carol Kenyon and Montine Jordan, who will work together to move us through the next and hopefully final phase of the process.

Finally, a **huge thanks to the members of the Pastor Search Committee for your faithful work and discernment in these past few months.**

Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Peace and blessings,
Jess Wisneski & Marlene Hass, Co-Chairs
James Ulrich
Marianna Genson
Bill Pfaff
Howard Whitehouse
Krista Cayea
Kristal Todd

Let's help our new pastor get acquainted with all of us! We thought it would be fun to put together a photo directory which hasn't been done in a few years and here is a great opportunity. Please send a picture of yourself via email or text to one of us as soon as possible. We will surely have our phones ready to take a photo of you on the spot at church if this would be more convenient. Here is our contact information: Kristal Denisulk can be emailed at kristaladinetodd@gmail.com or texted at 845-594-6989, Nicole Arana can be reached at nicarana@gmail.com or texted at 845-943-1243 and Sue Ulrich's email is sue_ulrich@yahoo.com or can be reached via text at 845-750-4494.

We are grateful to have you in worship with us! Please join us for coffee hour after the service. We have two Consistory Vice presidents who welcome an opportunity to become acquainted with you and answer any questions about our church which you may have. Please feel free to reach out to Sue Ulrich sue_ulrich@gmail.com (that is sue_ulrich) or Montine Jordan at montine.jordan@gmail.com.

Advent Bible Study on the Virgin Mary 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Parlor on Tuesday, Dec. 23. Lori Knight-Whitehouse is facilitating these discussions. Only your curiosity and the Bible are required.

Our Christmas Eve Celebration will be Wednesday, December 24 @ 7:00 p.m.: Come, celebrate, and give thanks for the “wonders of God’s love!” Invite friends, family, and strangers to share in the story, sing the carols, light a candle in the darkness, and pray for a world filled with love, hope, peace and joy.

Consistory Report: The Consistory expresses appreciation to Bill Rhoads and Jen Reilly for serving as Elders for the past two years and announces the slate of candidates to fill the office of Elder for the 2026-2028 term. They are Nomita Sonty and Howard Whitehouse. We thank others who expressed their willingness to serve. **There will be a brief congregational meeting directly following worship on Sunday, Dec. 28 for the purpose of a special election.**

Interested in learning about membership at WRC with Pastor Renée: Please email Irene, our office assistant, (woodstockchurch@gmail.com), and let her know of your interest.

Stewardship Report: We have good news to report. As of Wednesday morning, the 17th, we have already received 14 pledges! The worship celebration Sunday mornings, the facilities we provide to so many groups in our community, the outreach, the love shared with friends and openness to newcomers have clearly touched us. We can all do our part. You should have already received your pledge card, and there are cards on the back table along with a small slotted box in which to put your card. You can put it in the offering plate or of course it can be mailed. **We are all in this together.** Be assured that your pledging information is confidential.

Being Thankful: As we think about the blessings in our lives, surely being a part of the Woodstock Reformed Church family comes to mind. Whether you are an “official” member or not, you belong! Now is the time when we think of all that our church does, offering worship, reaching out to others, lending a helping hand to those in need, sharing our faith with friends and new comers. ...And that’s not all.

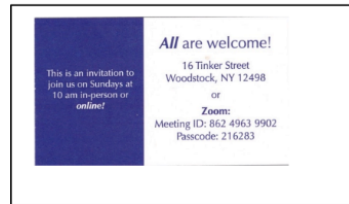
As we all know, we need financial support to keep things going and here we are at the beginning of a stewardship campaign where you have the opportunity to do your part. If you already received a pledge card, we thank you for filling and returning it. There are pledge cards in the back of the church as well as a slotted box to put them in if you would like to make your pledge today. With our generosity we give thanks for God’s abundant blessings.

Save the dates: We are pleased to announce our yearly **Holy Cross Monastery retreat January 28-30, 2026** for 10 guests. The cost- which includes all meals- is \$250, and scholarships are available if you'd like assistance. Questions, contact Bill R. or Nicole A.

Art Gallery News: It is time for a new exhibit which will run through Winter. Please bring your artwork, framed and ready to hang to the Fellowship Hall for this new show. Size limitation is 36”x36”, and you may bring up to 4 pieces. You may hang your work, or if you prefer, leave it in one of the Hall windows and we will hang it. If you submitted work

to the previous show, please take it home. Any questions, call or email Shannon Godfrey: 845-679-5115 or nancyshannongodfrey@gmail.com.

Invite folks to Church: Pick up some cards which Kenny has designed and provided. Put them in your purse or wallet and be able to reach out to others easily. Cards are on the back tables of the church. Thanks Kenny.



Prayer requests:

- Pray for Kinley who had surgery and awaits results of tests to learn if there is cancer or not.
- Pray for negative test results and speedy recovery.
- Pray for good care and good outcomes after being diagnosed with lymphoma for our friend Shannon.
- Pray for more charitable thoughts.
- Pray for Peace on earth.
- Prayer of gratitude for the work of the Search Committee and those who supported them.
- Pray for faith, hope, and patience as we continue with the search process.
- Pray for Pastor Katie, her husband, and our church as the time arrives for us to meet one another.

For assistance, material or otherwise, reach out to the **Deacons – Nicole** at nicarana@gmail.com; **Ken** at texakenny@gmail.com; **Jicky** at Jickyschnee@mac.com; and **Larry** at wd2vex@gmail.com. Their phone numbers can be found in the Church Directory. The **Elders** of WRC are: **Jen Reilly Bluma** at thenewzeitgeistmusic@gmail.com; **Montine Jordan** at Montine.jordan@gmail.com; **Bill Rhoads** at rhoadsw@hawkmil.newpaltz.edu; **Sue Ulrich** at sue_ulrich@gmail.com (that is sue_ulrich) and **Carol Kenyon** at carollkenyon@gmail.com. The Deacons and Elders, along with the Pastor, make up the Consistory of the Church.

If you shop at Adams Fairacre Farms, consider purchasing an Adams Gift Card from Sandy Todd or Annie LaValle. These cards support our church. We buy for 10% less than face value and sell to you at face value. They are good for anything Adams sells. Contact Sandy by phone (845-594-8148), text or email sltodd57@gmail.com. Annie (home) 845-679-2385, (cell) 914-388-5082 or email annettelavalle@yahoo.com. Cards usually available.

Want to provide flowers for the communion table? Coordinate with Marlene & Barbara: marlene194279@yahoo.com, bswagner225@gmail.com