

# First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



## FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 17, 2024

10:15 a.m.

PRELUDE

*Praeludium in d-moll & Siciliano*

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

Eric J. Gastier, organ

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

MINISTRY FOCUS

*Westminster Presbyterian Church Mustard Seed Mission Project* Mark Gooch

CHORAL INTROIT

*Lord Jesus, Think on Me*

*David N. Johnson*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP +

Lydia Dunlap

One: When our faith is lifted high and we move firmly in your love,  
you will be our God and we will be your people.

**All: When the pilgrimage is long and all our paths seem to lead nowhere,  
you will be our God and we will be your people.**

One: When the way ahead is clear and we are surrounded by faithful community,  
you will be our God and we will be your people.

**All: Gather us, know us, teach us, lead us, write your name upon our hearts, O God,  
as we strive to be your people and worship you this day.**

\*PRAYER +

Gracious God, you are as close to us as our own heartbeats.

Even when we run from you, you still draw close to us.

In this time of worship, help us to remember your never-ending love, your boundless grace,  
and the new beginnings you offer us time and again. **Amen**

\*HYMN 30

*O God, in a Mysterious Way*

*DUNDEE*

CONFESSION +

One: O Heart which seeks our own: we yearn for your presence in our lives,  
yet turn away from you time and again.

**All: We want to serve others but become obsessed with our own desires.  
We need your Hopeful Word to fill our emptiness,  
yet let it be silenced by the noise of our world.**

One: God of ancient promises and new covenants, write large upon our hearts  
the promise of the forgiveness which makes us new people.

**All: Engrave our spirits with your grace, so we may share hope with all we meet;  
etch your compassion upon our hands,  
so we may serve the world  
as did your servant Jesus, in whose Way we seek to walk.**

*Here each worshipper may offer personal, silent prayer.*

With hope in our hearts we pray. **Amen**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

A new heart, a generous spirit, a fresh start: these are the gifts our God gives to us.  
We are cleansed, we are healed, we become new people. **Thanks be to God! Amen**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you . . . **And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Amy Baxstrom

*Following the Children's Moment, children are invited to go upstairs with Amy to Joy Worship.*

ANTHEM

*Create in Me a Clean Heart (Psalm 51)*

Ronald A. Nelson

SCRIPTURE

John 12:20-26

Pew Bible page 100

SERMON

*Seeing Jesus*

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

Through our monetary gifts, we offer something of our work and ourselves to God.

OFFERTORY

*Sinfonia*

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

\*DOXOLOGY 607

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen**

\*HYMN 749

***Come! Live in the Light***

*WE ARE CALLED*

\*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Allegro, from 'Concerto in a-moll'*

*J. S. Bach (after Vivaldi)*

\* Asterisk indicates places in the service to stand.

+ Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*.

**Today's chancel flowers are given by the Swank family in memory of Vanessa Swank.**

First Presbyterian Church is a Christian community dedicated to showing God's love  
through worship, study, social justice, outreach, and fellowship.

**More Light Church and Member of Covenant Network  
Earth Care Congregation and Matthew 25 Church**

**The Mission of More Light Presbyterians:** Following the risen Christ, and seeking to make the Church a true community of hospitality, the mission of More Light Presbyterians is to work for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people in the life, ministry, and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society.

**The Mission of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians** is to strengthen the church of Jesus Christ, with the help of God's grace. We are called to achieve this goal by furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, and by working for the unity of the PC(USA).

**Earth Care Pledge:** Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

**The Mission of the Matthew 25 Church:** Matthew 25:31–46 calls us to actively engage the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. We commit ourselves to congregational vitality by acting boldly and compassionately to end systemic poverty and structural racism, serving people who are oppressed, imprisoned, poor.




QR (Quick Response) Code for Direct Donations and Contributions —  
the Code can be read by your smartphone and will land you on the giving page  
of our website where you can “Give Now” or set up a recurring donation.

First Presbyterian Church  
621 College Ave., Wooster, OH 44691  
330-264-9420    [www.firstpreswooster.org](http://www.firstpreswooster.org)    Facebook: facebook.com/FPCWooster

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

Sunday Greeters:	March 17 – Carol McKiernan	March 24 – Russ & Karen McQuate
Sunday Sextons:	March 17 – Lydia Dunlap	March 24 – Mattie Dunlap
Sunday Ushers:	March 17 – Pam Giffin, Mimi Lewellen, Kathy Turning, Nancy Young	
Sunday, March 17	9:00 am Sunday School      9:45 am Fellowship      10:15 am Worship	
	1:00 pm God's Trailblazers – Wooster Memorial Park	6:30 pm Eventide
Monday, March 18	9:30 am Staff Meeting      12:00 pm Rotary      5:30 pm Faith & Worship	
Tuesday, March 19	Board of Elections Voting      9:30 am Bible Study      4:00 pm Inkies	
	6:00 pm Boy Scouts	
Wed., March 20	7:45 am Personnel      10:00 am Memory Café      11:30 am Chamber	
	6:00 pm Lenten Soup Supper/Worship	7:00 pm Faith & Structure
Thursday, March 21	4:00 pm Killbuck District Boy Scout Dinner	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, March 23	9:30 am Al-Anon	
Sunday, March 24	9:00 am Sunday School      9:45 am Fellowship      10:15 am Worship	
	6:30 pm Eventide	




# EVENTIDE

*Lenten Services*

## Chasing vs. Embracing: A Lenten journey through Ecclesiastes

Join us at Eventide for a six week journey through the book of Ecclesiastes. We will consider two key themes: chasing and embracing. Ecclesiastes spotlights the things that we chase that can ultimately leave us feeling empty or disappointed and encourages us to embrace our "lot in life" to find meaning and contentment.

Eventide is a casual gathering of worship, reflection, and fellowship. All ages are welcome.



**SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:30 PM**  
**FEBRUARY 18 THROUGH MARCH 24**  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WOOSTER

## Lenten Soup Suppers

Wednesday Evenings  
February 21, 28 & March 6, 13, 20  
6PM Meal & 6:30 Worship in Bruch Hall



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WOOSTER



## Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday, February 14  
6PM Soup Supper 7PM Service at Westminster Presbyterian Church

Sundays, February 18, 25 & March 3, 10, 17  
9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 6:30PM Eventide

Wednesday Evening Lenten Soup Suppers  
February 21, 28 & March 6, 13, 20 in Bruch Hall  
6PM Meal 6:30 Worship

Palm Sunday, March 24  
9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 6:30PM Eventide

Maundy Thursday Service, March 28  
6:30 PM in the Sanctuary

Good Friday Service, March 29  
6:30 PM in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, March 31  
9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship




FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WOOSTER

God's Trailblazers is back to enjoy the beauty of spring and warmer weather together! This is a group for people who enjoy hiking and walking in the beauty of the outdoors. We will spend time hiking on trails and sometimes we will stick to easier walking paths depending on the needs of the group. If you're interested, please join us on Sunday, March 17th at 1:00, weather permitting.



We will meet at the first paved parking lot at Wooster Memorial Park off of Silver Road.

## NURSES WITHOUT BORDERS

Emma LoGiudice and her nursing student colleagues at Ohio Northern University are having another collection of personal products to take to the Dominican Republic when they give medical help there. The collection for us will begin immediately and will conclude on April 14.