

# First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 14, 2024

10:15 a.m.

PRELUDE

*Christ ist erstanden (Christ Is Arisen)*  
Eric J. Gastier, organ

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

CHORAL INTROIT

*Children of the Heavenly Father*

*arr. Paul Sjolund*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP +

Julie Miller

One: Come, all who would experience the love of God —  
speak from the depths of your being, seek from the shadows of your longing.

**All: When we are laid low, God hears our prayers.  
God will lift our spirits and fill us with joy.  
For God moves beyond our daily graves and refreshes us  
with the hope of abundant life today and in all tomorrows.  
Come, let us join together in the joyful worship of our Gracious God.**

\*PRAYER +

Christ, you are among us this day. May we see your nail-scarred hands in the vulnerability of this community. May we feel your healing touch in the presence of the body of believers. May we hear your words of forgiveness in the prayers and songs of worship. Having recognized you, may we be filled with new life and a renewed desire to serve. **Amen**

\*HYMN 231

*Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers*

*SUO GAN*

CONFESSION +

One: Living Lord, how often you come to us, and we do not recognize you.

**All: In friends and strangers, who seek and offer kindness;  
in words that make sense of our lives and the world around us;  
in living, enduring promises that we have all but forgotten, you come, O God.**

One: But our hearts are slow to see and experience you.

**All: Forgive us, we pray.  
Do not leave us but stay with us and awaken us to your presence.  
Kindle within us deep and genuine love for you,  
and for the sisters and brothers you give to us along the Way.**

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

Gracious God, hear our prayers. **Amen**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

In the hope of Easter, we find forgiveness, the power to change,  
a path to renewal, and the beginning of healing.  
Let us give thanks to the One who makes all things possible,  
and live this day forward in the love that never lets us go! **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

*See What Love, from 'St. Paul'*

*Felix Mendelssohn*

SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:36b-48

Pew Bible page 85

SERMON

*Hands . . . and Feet*

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

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

OFFERTORY *Alla siciliana, from 'Organ Concerto in F' George Frideric Handel*

\*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 346

*For the Healing of the Nations*

*ST. THOMAS (Wade)*

\*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Fuga-Allegro moderato, from 'Sonata II'*

*Felix Mendelssohn*

\* Asterisk indicates places in the service to stand. + Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*.

**Today's chancel flowers are given with many blessings to our congregation  
by Luke, Emily, Megan, and Ellen Armour.**

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.



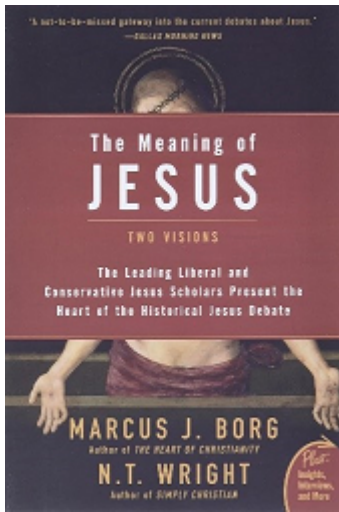
QR (Quick Response) Code for Direct Donations and Contributions — the Code can be read by your smartphone and will land you on the giving page of our website where you can “Give Now” or set up a recurring donation.

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:	April 14 – Mark Boardner	April 21 – Mimi Lewellen	
Sunday Sextons:	April 14 – Calin Baxstrom	April 21 – Aiden Hiner	
Sunday Ushers:	April 14 – Pam Giffin, Jack & Julie Miller, Kathy Turning		
Sunday, April 14	9:00 am Sunday School	9:45 am Fellowship	10:15 am Worship
Monday, April 15	9:30 am Staff Meeting	12:00 pm Rotary	6:00 pm WACPAC
	6:00 pm O’Huddle – Youth Amazing Race		6:45 pm Trout Unlimited
Tuesday, April 16	9:30 am Bible Study	10:00 am Women’s Fellowship	4:00 pm Inkie’s
	6:00 pm Boy Scouts		6:00 pm WACPAC
Wed., April 17	10:00 am Life Memory Café		
Thursday, April 18	6:00 pm WACPAC	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm Book Group
Friday, April 19	5:00 pm Mixed Company at City Square Steakhouse		
Saturday, April 20	9:30 am Al-Anon	10:00 am WACPAC	12:00 pm Parkinson’s Network
Sunday, April 21	9:00 am Sunday School	9:45 am Fellowship	10:15 am Worship

## SPRING BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



You're invited to join a discussion of the book *The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions* by Marcus Borg and N.T. Wright on Thursday evenings from April 11 – May 9. We'll meet from 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. in the church library.

Biblical scholars Borg and Wright present their widely divergent perspectives on important questions of the Christian faith including, "Did Jesus know he was the Messiah?", "Did he intentionally die to redeem humankind?", and "Was Jesus fully human and fully divine?" In each section the authors, who are long-time friends, present their opposing viewpoints on a question at the heart of the historical Jesus debate and invite the reader to draw his or her own conclusions.

*The Meaning of Jesus* is available for purchase online in paperback and electronic formats. Please contact Carol Gates at [cmgates23@gmail.com](mailto:cmgates23@gmail.com) or 330-264-3413 with questions.



Women's Fellowship is a gathering of FPC women that provides opportunities for service and mission, support of church-related needs, and fellowship. All women of the church are invited to a Women's Fellowship meeting on Tuesday, April 16 at 10:00 a.m. in the parlor.

We'll review

activities since our last meeting in November, hear a financial report, and brainstorm about future activities. We hope you can join us!



**Mixed Company will meet at City Square Steak House in downtown Wooster on Friday, April 19th at 5:00 PM. Please call Kathy Turning (330-347-6620) by April 16th if you will be joining us.**



### **The Mid Euchre Tournament**

The Faith & Nurture Ministry Team welcomes you to The Mid Euchre Tournament on Friday, April 26th in Bruch Hall. All skill levels are welcome and you don't even need to bring a partner. There will be an instructional session at 6:30 and the tournament will kick off at 7:00. Bring a deck of cards and an appetizer or dessert to share. Please RSVP to Kim Ogle at 440-759-8422 (call or text) or [kimwestogle@msn.com](mailto:kimwestogle@msn.com). (RSVP is not necessary but will help the team prepare for set-up and the tournament structure.) Come join us for fun, fellowship and some friendly competition!