

First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 28, 2024

10:15 a.m.

PRELUDE

Gavotte & Air
Eric J. Gastier, organ

Samuel S. Wesley

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

CHORAL INTROIT

Alleluia! Laud and Blessing

WEISSE FLAGGEN

CALL TO WORSHIP +

Mark Gooch

One: Thinking we know the answers, yet wondering if we have missed something vital:
we acknowledge you, our God, as Holy Mystery.

**All: Gathered for worship, each of us a mix of saint and sinner:
we gather as one people—your people.**

One: Standing with those of deep and abiding faith
and seated with those who stumble, unsure:

All: we praise you, God of all creation!

PRAYER +

Dynamic God, make us bold to embrace your Way
and open to being shaped by its journey.

God of true joy, speak to us that we may enact your Word
and transform our world in compassion, love, and true justice. **Amen**

HYMN 450

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

CONFESSION +

**All: God of all: when we fill our souls with the cacophony of our culture
and wonder why we are so empty,
let us hear your words of hope, of grace, of peace.
You have called us to serve you with all our strength,
but we confess our wayward wandering from your gracious path.
We recall your generosity to us,
even as we forget to share your gifts with others.
We allow fear and anxiety to be our rule,
failing to trust that you are ever with us.
Forgive our self-centeredness, our short-sightedness, our small-heartedness.
Fill us with your love and show us how to serve,
that our lives may sing your praise in every way.**

Here each worshipper may offer personal, silent prayer.

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

This is the Good News, my friends: God remembers us and forgives us and calls us,
so that we might live as people of love and hope for the sake of all creation.

Thanks be to God! Amen

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Jill Kelly

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

ANTHEM

Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston

Today's anthem, "Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree," is an 18th century poem by an unknown author. The text may be an allusion to both the apple tree in Song of Solomon 2:3, which has been interpreted as a metaphor representing Jesus, and to his description of his life as a tree of life in Luke 13:18–19.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:21-28

SERMON

Renewed Spirits

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

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

OFFERTORY

Siciliano

John Stanley

*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

April Gamble

**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 744

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

FESTAL SONG

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

Joseph C. Bridge

* Asterisk indicates places in the service to stand.

+ Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*

**Today's chancel flowers are given by Kathleen Kearney
celebrating and remembering Carolyn Kearney on her birthday (January 27).**

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 Facebook: facebook.com/FPCWooster

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday Greeters:	January 28 – Clara Ann Fain	February 4 – Diana Day
Sunday Sextons:	January 28 – Megan Armour	February 4 – Aiden Hiner
Sunday Ushers:	January 28 – Deb & Rick Maxwell, Carol McKiernan, Diana Rice	
Sunday, January 28	9:00 am Sunday School	9:45 am Fellowship 10:15 am Worship
Monday, January 29	9:30 am Admin	12:00 pm Rotary 5:30 Meals for All
Tuesday, January 30	9:30 am Bible Study	9:30 am Women's Fellowship Care Packages
	6:00 pm Scouts	
Wednesday, Jan. 31	10:00 am Memory Café	2:30 pm Goodwill Staff Meeting
Thursday, February 1	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	
Friday, February 2	9:30 am Friends of WSO	10:45 am WC Parkinson's Network
	11:30 am Friday Fellowship	
Saturday, January 27	9:30 am Al-Anon	
Sunday, January 28	9:00 am Sunday School	9:45 am Fellowship 10:15 am Worship
	2:00 pm WCCF Youth Foundation	



Let's celebrate our growing church family by creating an updated directory, including photos and contact information. The goal is to include ALL friends who attend FPC Wooster!



Information about you and your family can be added easily online. When you scan this QR code, you can complete an information form and upload a photo if you choose.

Please submit your photos and directory information by February 15!

Women's Fellowship is excited to continue the tradition of sending packages with tasty treats to our college and seminary students and other young adults in our church family.

Volunteers will meet in Bruch Hall on January 30, 2024 at 9:30 am for an hour or two of fellowship and packing goodies to send.



Join us on Friday, February 2nd at 11:30 for our next Friday Fellowship. We will hear from Pleasant Hill Outdoor Camp! Please RSVP to Amy Baxstrom-abaxstrom@firstpreswooster.org



The Senior Men's Luncheon will be held at The Green Leaf Restaurant on Monday, February 5th at 11:30am.



There will be a Deacon's Meeting on Monday, February 5 at 2:00pm in the Parlor.