

# First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 7, 2024

10:15 a.m.

PRELUDE

*Intermezzo, from 'Sonata VI'*

*Josef G. Rheinberger*

Eric J. Gastier, organ

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

CHORAL INTROIT

*O Sacred Feast*

*Healey Willan*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP +

Carol McKiernan

One: Come! Bring your doubts, your hopes, your faith: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

All: **We come, bringing our questions, our wonderings, our misgivings:  
Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

One: Come! Bring your fear, your sorrow, your joy: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

All: **With thanksgiving and praise let us worship together.**

\*PRAYER +

Come to us, O God. Open our locked doors and hearts. Dust us off and make us new.

Lead us, with all our questions and wonderings, into the exciting mysteries of discipleship.

We long to be your Easter People, to live and proclaim new life with all our being. **Amen**

\*HYMN 817

*We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*

*DUNLAP'S CREEK*

CONFESSION +

One: There are times, O God, when we hide behind locked doors,  
too fearful or preoccupied to venture outside of ourselves,  
outside of our traditions and our own ideas.

All: **Too often we prefer to stay in familiar places,  
even if those places are gripped by gloom, self-pity, and fear.**

One: We are reluctant to dance with our questions  
or allow others the freedom of their doubts;  
we do not honor a holy skepticism.

All: **Like the disciples in the upper room, we hide;  
we cower in fear; we do not trust.**

**Forgive us, gracious God, and set us free.**

**As you broke open the tomb in the mystery of Easter morning,**

**break the locks that keep us shut inside ourselves,**

**and take us into the new and uncertain dawn of resurrection.**

*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

*Peace I Leave with You (text: John 14:27)*

Walter Pelz

SCRIPTURE

John 20:19-29

Pew Bible page 108

SERMON

*Beyond Belief*

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

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

OFFERTORY

*Pastoral Dance on 'Bunessan'*

Andrew Clark

\*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**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION +

INVITATION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING 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**

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

\*HYMN 378

*We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom*

MERLE'S TUNE

\*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*The Strife is O'er*

arr. Noel Rawsthorne

\* Asterisk indicates places in the service to stand.

+ Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*.

**Today's chancel flowers are given for the Beauty of the Earth from the Lewellen Family.**

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 7 – Jon & Laura Neill	April 14 – Mark Boardner	
Sunday Sextons:	April 7 – Mattie Dunlap	April 14 – Calin Baxstrom	
Sunday Ushers:	April 7 – Kris Evans, April Gamble, Mimi Lewellen, Carol McKiernan		
Sunday Communion Servers:	April 7 – Carol Gates, Mimi Lewellen, Nancy Young		
Sunday, April 7	9:00 am Sunday School	9:45 am Fellowship	10:15 am Worship
	2:30 pm Wooster High School Play – “Rosaline Wrecked It All”		
Monday, April 8	9:30 am Staff Meeting	3:14 pm SOLAR ECLIPSE!	
Tuesday, April 9	9:30 am Bible Study	6:00 pm Boy Scouts	
Wed., April 10	10:00 am Memory Café	4:00 pm Faith & Practice	7:00 pm Faith & Nurture
Thursday, April 11	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm Wooster Homelessness Task Force	
	7:00 pm FPC Spring Book Discussion Group		
Friday, April 12	9:30 am Parkinson’s Network	3:00 pm Interfaith Justice Committee	
Saturday, April 13	9:30 am Al-Anon	10:00 am WACPAC – Bruch Hall	
Sunday, April 14	9:00 am Sunday School	9:45 am Fellowship	10:15 am Worship

## **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 go to give medical help there. The collection will conclude on April 14. A list of the items needed can be found on the counter in the Gathering Area. There is more information in the April Tower Tidings. Thank you!

**Housing & Homelessness in Wayne County**

*The 3rd Annual community meeting providing updates from city officials and agencies on strategic solutions to ensure housing for all.*

- Overview of Current Housing Challenges
- Presentation of Strategic Solutions
- Community Input and Q&A Session

*Let's work together to create a more inclusive and supportive community for everyone.*

**Thursday - April 11, 2024**  
**7:00 pm**  
**621 College Ave**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Wooster**  
**Bruch Hall**

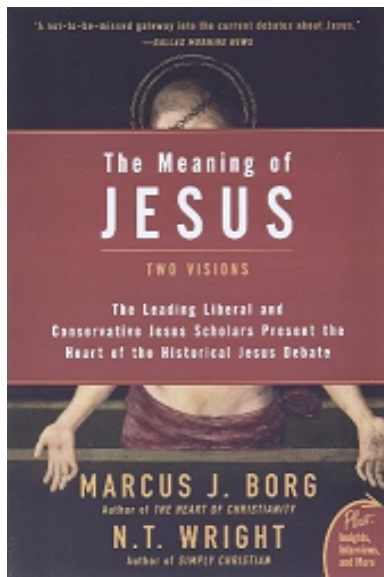
**LWV**  
League of Women Voters®  
of Wayne County, Ohio

**WCHC**  
Wayne County Housing Coalition  
205 North Market Street, Wooster, OH 44691

**COMMUNITY ACTION**  
Wayne County

**HOMeward BOUND**

**Wooster Homelessness Task Force**



## **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.

*The Meaning of Jesus* is available for purchase online in paperback and electronic formats. At our first meeting on April 11, we'll discuss the Introduction and Chapters 1-2. Please contact Carol Gates at [cmgates23@gmail.com](mailto:cmgates23@gmail.com) or 330-264-3413 with questions or to sign up. There is also a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area. Please free to sign up even if you won't be able to attend every week, as each section is self-contained and doesn't depend on reading previous sections.

## **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!



**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.**