



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF WOOSTER

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

621 College Ave, Wooster, Ohio
330-264-9420 www.firstpreswooster.org

May 21, 2023

10:15 a.m. Worship

SPRING CELEBRATION SUNDAY

PRELUDE

Phil Schleich, organ

WELCOME AND SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Reverend David Rice

INTROIT

Let Us Welcome One Another

Traditional Jamaican, arr. Jeremy Russell

CALL TO WORSHIP

Andrew James, Lydia Dunlap

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

All: Worship the Lord with gladness;

One: come into God's presence with singing.

All: Know that the Lord is God.

One: It is he that made us, and we are his;

All: we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

One: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.

All: Give thanks to the Lord, bless his name.

One: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,

All: and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 100

PRAYER (written by Nora Davis and Olivia Kelly)

Olivia Kelly

Gracious God, thank you for blessing us many wonderful things in our lives.

Please help us to remember that there are so many without these blessings.

There are so many possessions that you have given us: loved ones, family, and friends,
and we are grateful. **Amen**

HYMN 769

For Everyone Born

FOR EVERYONE BORN

CONFESSION +

Megan Armour, Elli Gordon and Makenna Conrad

One: Creator God, by your design we are whole people,
yet we deny this gift of wholeness when:

All: we have been willing to be entertained but not changed;

One: we have allowed our insights to harden into cliches;

**All: we have seen our youth as "the future of the church,"
but not as valuable members of the church today;**

One: we have called on you only to hear the sound of our own voices.

**All: Forgiving God, who makes community from the raw materials of our lives,
teach us the humility to learn from those who know a true rejoicing.
Restore to us wholeness through the Oneness we have in your Son,
our risen Savior, Christ Jesus.**

Here each worshipper may offer personal, silent prayer.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Makenna Conrad

The Spirit hovers like a dove of peace over our lives, waiting to give us new gifts each day. When we pause and face ourselves, owning the truth of our lives, God never refuses to gather us into the harmony of love. We are forgiven. Life is restored and renewed. Go in peace to love and forgive others. **Amen**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Elli Gordon

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

MUSICAL OFFERING

Beautiful Savior

arr. Dennis Allen

BAPTISM

We baptize Callum Vincent Brooks, son of Dana and Constance Brooks III.

We baptize Noah James Shaffer and Hope Wynn Shaffer, children of Kevin and Susan Shaffer.

CONFIRMATION +

Today we confirm into the full membership of this church:

Calin Baxstrom, Makenna Conrad, Lydia Dunlap, Elli Gordon, Addy Hiner, Aiden Hiner, Andrew James, Olivia Kelly, Gabriel Reith, Noah Shaffer

One: Sisters and brothers, mothers and fathers, members and friends, before you stand God's people, God's gift to us as we are to them. Let us welcome them with open hearts and continue to guide them in the ways of prayer and service through our word and example and offer them the love and support of our congregation.

Let us receive the new challenges and questions, insights and gifts these confirmands bring. Let us with grace grow with them in our shared journey on the Way of Jesus, so that together we make God's love visible in the world that waits beyond our doors.

All: **With joy we receive you as members of First Presbyterian Church and welcome you to this community that is committed to faith as a journey, compassionate service, and inclusion of all. We pray that through loving and being loved, through serving and being served, we all may be strengthened by our mutual concern for one another and faithfully serve God's world.**

RECOGNIZING OUR TEACHERS

Addy Hiner

One: When there was a need, you came forward.

All: **And so we thank you.**

One: Even in the coldest, darkest part of the year, you helped.

All: **And so we thank you.**

One: Sometimes with the help of many hands, other times alone, you worked.

All: **And so we thank you.**

One: You gave your time, talent, and even your treasure for the life of our congregation.

All: **And so we thank you.**

One: For all things great and small that you have given this congregation, we take time today to recognize you,

All: **to thank you, and to honor you.**

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE SONG

Bible Town Class

RECOGNITION OF OUR GRADUATING SENIORS

(see bios of our graduates on the following pages)

PRAYER OF BLESSING FOR GRADUATES

A Prayer for a Child Leaving Home, by Kayla Craig (see insert)

MARTHA ROBINSON AWARD

Mimi Lewellen, for Women's Fellowship

SPECIAL MUSIC

Amazing Grace

Lydia Dunlap, Soprano

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Aiden Hiner

One: On this day, loving God, we think of you as One who cares for all people:
big and tall, short and small,
those who wander off and those who stay close to home.

All: Mother and father to us all, thank you for your love.

One: We think of parents: those who gave us birth and raised us,
for family, neighbors, and friends, and for those that touched our lives.

All: Mother and father to us all, thank you for your love.

One: We think, too, of those sorrowing today:
those who are missing their parents and children,
those who mourn the dead, worry and wonder,
and for those who dream dreams that never come true.

All: Mother and father to us all, thank you for your love.

One: We thank you for all the groups of people to which we belong:
people far and away and those close to home,
those at school and church, those separated by distance.

All: Mother and father to us all, thank you for your love.

One: Through your loving Child, Jesus, you teach us that we are brothers and sisters
of one human family, at home on this one fragile planet.
Help us to love one another, to honor our elders and our children and, in doing so,
to honor you, our God, who tends and cares for us.

All: Mother and father to us all, thank you for your love.

One: All these things we pray, and we join our voices praying the prayer Jesus taught his
disciples, saying:

**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**

MINISTRY FOCUS

The Pentecost Offering

Mattie Dunlap

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

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

OFFERTORY

Allegro in C (Alexander Reinagle)

Mae Kelly, piano

Village Dance (Carl Czerny)

Everett Kelly, piano

DOXOLOGY 607

You are invited to sing the words most familiar to you.

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (written by Noah Shaffer and Gabe Reith)

Noah and Gabe

O God, Thank you for our lives. Thank you for the lives of others. Help us to be healthy
for we have many days to come. Thank you for everything good. We thank you for the gift of
friendship and for the relationships in our lives. Thank you, God. Amen

HYMN 69

Here I Am, Lord

HERE I AM (Schutte)

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Oscar's Bounce (Jeremy Siskind)

Olivia Kelly

+ Confirmation Promises – First Congregational UCC Church, Boulder, Colorado

**The sanctuary flowers today are given with this dedication: Come with me and celebrate Life!
As we dance and sing, hand in hand with our Lord! Celebrate! Love and Peace, Leigh Oaks.**

Sunday Greeters: May 21 – Mark & Carrie Gordon, Sara & Jason Reith May 28 – Karolyn Rice

Sunday Sextons: May 21 – Olivia Hiner May 28 – Emily James

Sunday, May 21	9:00 am Children/Youth Rehearsal	9:45 am Fellowship
	10:15 am Spring Celebration Worship Service/Baptism/Confirmation	
	11:15 am Cake Celebration	6:30 pm Eventide Service
Monday, May 22	9:30 am Admin Staff	12:00 pm Rotary
		6:00 pm WACPAC
Tuesday, May 23	9:30 am Bible Study	5:30 pm RDM
		6:00 pm WACPAC
		7:00 pm Scouts
Wed. May 24	10:00 am Life Memory Café	6:00 pm Pre-K Graduation.
		7:00 pm Session
Thursday, May 25	Rachel King – Wedding Reception Set-up	6:00 pm WACPAC
Friday, May 26	3:30 pm Rachel King Music Rehearsal	4:30 pm Rachel King Rehearsal
Saturday, May 27	9:30 am Al-Anon	12:00 pm Scouts
		4:00 pm Wedding Music/Ceremony
Sunday, May 28	9:45 am Fellowship	10:15 am Worship
	7:00 pm Concert – Susan Shaw, flute and Ken Shafer, piano	

Graduating Seniors



Sophia Baxstrom will graduate from Wooster High School and attend The Ohio State University in the fall, majoring in Neuroscience. While at WHS Sophia played soccer, was on the swim team, and was involved in various organizations. She would like to thank First Presbyterian Church for their continued support and ongoing experiences. Some highlights for Sophia have been Ghost Ranch, Italian Dinner, and being a Youth Elder.



Dreyco Earley attended Central Christian High School, where he played soccer and basketball. He currently works full time at RBB Industries where he is learning to program and maintain machines used to make advanced electronic circuit boards despite a recent broken arm. When not working, he enjoys family time, pickle ball, hiking, movies, and video games.



Olivia Hiner will be attending Kenyon College with a yet to be determined major. While at Kenyon, she will be running both cross country and track. While at WHS, Olivia was a varsity athlete with the lacrosse, track, and cross-country teams, a member of NHS and the Student Athlete Leadership Team and served as co-editor-in-chief of the Wooster Blade. Her senior year she even dabbled in theater a bit, portraying "Hannah" in the Drama Club's production of "Puffs." She would like to thank the church family for helping her along her Christian journey and cites the Ghost Ranch trip last summer as a spiritual highlight.



Emily James will graduate from Wooster High School and attend Farmer School of Business at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. She would like to thank the church family for supporting and encouraging her since birth. Emily looks forward to reconnecting at the Christmas Eve Service.



Hannah LoGiudice is very thankful for the many wonderful experiences she has had growing up at First Presbyterian, all of which have given her a strong foundation for her life beyond Wooster. After graduating from Wooster High School, Hannah plans to attend Syracuse University, where she will be pursuing a BFA in *Theater Design and Technology*.



Seth Miller will be graduating from Triway High School, where he enjoyed playing soccer and basketball. His experiences and relationships at FPC have been an important part of his life, with recent highlights being trips to Triennium and Ghost Ranch, as well as serving as a youth elder. Seth will be attending Wittenberg University, majoring in finance and joining the men's soccer team.



Jamie Ogle has enjoyed her time at Wooster High School playing on the soccer team, working on the school newspaper, and playing cello in the orchestra. She's grateful for the opportunities First Presbyterian has given to her including making friends outside of school, meeting new people she would have never known otherwise and having the chance to volunteer and help her local community. Jamie will head off to Bowling Green State University in the fall where she will pursue a business degree with specializations in marketing and insurance and risk management. She's excited to meet new friends, join a sorority or social group and get involved in campus organizations like the Justice Student Association and the Environmental Action Group.

Our December college graduates included: Madison Hancock from Baldwin Wallace, Jacob Gooch from Otterbein University. Helena Gastier graduated from Kent State in December with a master's degree in public health. We also want to congratulate our College of Wooster graduates: Ben Read and Emily Hasecke.

You're Invited! Join us this summer at FPC...

Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints

Join us for our Summer Study sessions titled Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints. This study is designed to introduce people to the concepts of holy troublemaking as modeled by those from diverse faiths, who worked for love, compassion, and justice, even when that rocked the religious boat. These lessons ask questions such as: What is holy and good trouble? What is not? What lessons can we learn from those who have gone before on this path? How do we keep our joy and inner peace while working for a world where all can flourish? What might my contribution be?.

Sessions will begin Wednesday June 14th at 10:00am. Books can be purchased through Amazon and other suppliers.

Contact Amy Baxstrom if you would like to participate!



Youth Service Trip in Steubenville

Our youth will be heading to Steubenville June 15-18 to help with the Joshua Project. We will be doing home repairs, landscaping projects and more.

Neighborhood & Community Engagement



Creation Justice Week

Save the Date for July 10, 11, and 12th from 10:00am-12:00pm for an Arts Camp titled "Who is My Neighbor?" for children ages Preschool-6th grade. Volunteers are needed so please let Amy Baxstrom know if you can help.

Registration forms will be available soon.

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 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).

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 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.

A Prayer for a Child Leaving Home

by Kayla Craig

O God, as times passes
I watch the walls of our home
Swell and expand,
And then get smaller, quieter
With the memories of us.

O God, as time passes,
I feel the corners of my heart
Swell and expand,
And then get larger, louder
With the memories of us.

As this child makes their own way
With moving boxes and packing tape,
Hand-me-down couches,
And brand-new dreams of their own,
Guide their heart,
Protect their spirit,
And help me let them go.

For in long days and short years,
I've seen them grow into more
Of who You've made them to be,
And I've grown more into myself too.
As they walk this unfamiliar path,
I see the adult they've become
And the little one they'll always be to me.

As they lift heavy boxes up the stairs,
May they know that with them
They carry years of love,
Poured out from parent to child
And child to parent.

As they rest their head at night
In the new dwelling they call home,
May they know that love carries them-
That You always have
And always will-
Through life's unexpected journeys,
Yesterday's dark nights,
And tomorrow's bright mornings.

As they rise in the light of a new day,
Help their feet find the right path
For where to go and how to walk
In love.
In this big world where
Beauty and brokenness coexist.

Whisper into their hearts
The road to follow as they embark
On this new journey-
One they must navigate on their own.
O God, lead them where we cannot,
For we cannot prepare
The journeys our children must take.
And we pray that somehow,
Through the years,
We have prepared our children
For the journeys set ahead of them.

On the twisting roads,
And winding paths,
May they know that they never need to knock
And that they'll always have a place
In our heart
And in our home.

2023 Confirmation Class Collective Faith Statement

We value and trust:

Kindness, thoughtfulness and awareness
in the people of this church and around the world.

God, for God is all of these things and more.

Faithfulness, honesty, and courage as members of the family of God.

Family, friendship and faith in God.

Jesus Christ and the miracles all around us.

Teaching love and acceptance for everyone like Jesus taught us.

Optimism and inclusivity.

Living a joyful and integrity-driven life.

That living these ideals is important.