



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WOOSTER

TOWER TIDINGS

April 2021

Dear Friends,

After one year and three weeks, it finally came to be: we worshipped in-person in our beautiful sanctuary on Easter Sunday! What a joy it was to be together safely, to hear the organ music in all its glory, to sing hymns and experience the liturgy. And, as long as Wayne County remains at a low alert level, we will continue worshipping in the sanctuary at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. The service will always be available online through our website and Facebook page. During the month of April, we will move from pre-recorded services to online live-streaming at the 9:30 hour, which will also then be available for later viewing through our website and Facebook.

Easter Sunday featured a gathering of our families and others at 8:30 in front of the steps to the main doors of the sanctuary on College Avenue. We were led in meaningful worship by Sarah Davis, Carol Gates, and Trevor Dunlap. Afterward, our children and youth joyously hunted for Easter eggs as the visiting and “catching-up” went on. This time of worship and fellowship will continue as we move forward, with the hopes that it will serve as the beginning of our return to the Sunday School hour.

Our Easter worship marked the debut of the new sanctuary sound system. Though there are still some adjustments to be made, the general reaction was very positive. As time goes on, please do not hesitate to offer suggestions on how things can be improved. Also, we have a great need for interested members of the congregation to learn the simple basics of running the system. For this considerable investment in good sound to make a difference in our worship for the future, we need help.

With more of us being vaccinated every week, the end of this interminable season of COVID-19 may be on the horizon. It is faithfully fitting that the Easter season is ushering in this tangible measure of hope for the revitalization of our congregational life, ministry, and worship. For this gift of grace, we can joyfully say, “Thanks be to God!”

Blessings and Peace,

David

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session

2021	2022	2023	Staff
Carol Gates	Dave Earley	Charles Baker	Rev. David Rice
Mark Gooch	Bobbi Jentes-Mason	Wes Davis	Nancy Young, Clerk
Pat Miles	Mimi Lewellen	Paul Edmiston	
Jim Webster	Stuart Miller	April Gamble	
James West	Tom Rumbaugh	Laura Neill	

MARCH 2021

RDM

- Session unanimously approved the 2021 church budget of \$617,932. Session also unanimously approved the Endowment Allocation Policy which allows for up to 5% of endowment interest to be used for the church budget if needed. Since 2017 when this policy was enacted, we have never had to use the entire 5% and in 2020 we were able to give money back to the endowment.

Wee Care/YMCA

- Within a day of public knowledge of Wee Care's closing, the CEO of the YMCA, Gwen Sommer, got in touch with David and Amy to ask if First Presbyterian would be interested in partnering with the Y as part of their child care program. They have a waiting list for their program and would like to expand using our child care facilities. They would handle all administrative duties including hiring, payroll, etc. The name of the center would change. Weekly meetings are currently taking place to make sure the terms meet our mission goals and to hammer out details. Stay tuned. Apparently, the Holy Spirit does not want us to relinquish our child-care mission.

College of Wooster Board of Trustees

- As David Rice is now on the College of Wooster's Board of Trustees, the session unanimously passed a motion to match, from church funds, his personal contribution of \$500.00 to the College as a member of the Board for the next three years, bringing his total contribution to \$1,000 per year.



*To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything
God has given us – and God has given us everything.
Every breath we draw is a gift of God's love, every moment of existence is a grace,
for it brings with it immense graces from God.*

--Thomas Merton

With warm gratitude to our friend, Gordon Shull

As we launch into the Easter season, we write with immense excitement on the occasion of utilizing the new Sound and Lighting System in the church. The members of the Resource Development Ministry (RDM) team would like to express its overwhelming gratitude to Gordon Shull for the way in which he honored his wife of 68 years, Betty. Gordon initiated a personal giving match challenge to the congregation, and it is now fully funded. Gordon's vision was done in his typical extraordinarily thoughtful way.

Betty enjoyed singing in the choir especially and equally significant were her other church involvements. Gordon shared that last Christmas he was re-reading nearly 40 years-worth of their Christmas letters, and was struck by all the activities and teams with which Betty was involved. She added something each year in her involvement which included many terms on Session, several Pastor Nominating Committees, church restructuring and evaluative committees and, of course, adult education.

Gordon's intention was simple; he wanted to honor Betty and her legacy at First Presbyterian Church Wooster. When he saw the need for all of the enhancements planned in sound and lighting and learned of the amount still needed from individual gifts, he decided that setting up a match challenge might inspire the congregation to give. Gordon and Betty Shull have always been both insightful and sensitive to the several ongoing needs of our church, including mission, worship and education.

We can all learn from Gordon's visionary legacy giving. As our church moves into the next stage of its life following a challenging year of remote worship and limited fellowship, RDM thought it only appropriate to thank Gordon, and all those who have been giving in myriad ways to support our church's daily life. As we open the church for modified in-person gatherings, we can truly celebrate the Gordon & Betty's legacy. Thanks be to God.

Thomas Rumbaugh, Chair

Sarah Baker

Dana Brooks, Treasurer

Stuart Miller

Laura Neill

David Rice, ex officio



Faith and Structure

February's Meeting

March Meeting

The Faith and Structure Committee held their March Zoom meeting. The following was included in the discussions.

Sound/Video Project: Progress on the new sound and video installation continues to move forward. The majority of the work is expected to be completed in time for Easter services. A special thank you to Steve Slack for spearheading this project!

Roof Leak: There was a minor roof leak where the two buildings adjoin. The leak has caused some damage to the interior dry wall. The leak and dry wall have been repaired.

Removal of Pews: Two center pews located approximately halfway back in the sanctuary (1 pew on each side of the aisle) will be removed. The removal will improve traffic flow as well as offer an area for wheelchairs. The pews are expected to be relocated elsewhere in the church prior to Easter services.

Wee Care: The committee was informed Wee Care has suspended operations.

Committee: Joel Beckler, Scott Buehler (chair), Paul Edmiston, Roy Hancock, Roy Haynes, Steven Slack, April Gamble and Jim Webster. David Rice and Tim Hall, ex officio.

Submitted by: Scott Buehler





DZ at 6

First Presbyterian Church provided a meal at Dz at 6 on March 7. It was a sack lunch which included a sandwich, soup, chips, granola bar, banana, and mandarins. It was distributed to the homeless and needy in the area.

If you would like to be included by helping or providing food for our next meal on May 2, please email james1548@msn.com and you will be added to our sign up sheet. We welcome any donations made to our DZ fund at the church to offset our expenses.



Spring has arrived and the team of gardeners who tend the church's gardens are getting ready to do some spring cleaning. Needed are three other gardeners. The areas which need a person or a family to tend are the following:

The two areas adjacent to the arbor entrance to the Encompass house. They are outlined in brick and would take an hour or two every other week to maintain.

The two areas flanking the main parking lot entrance to the church. The two areas have mostly perennials. However, in the spring, when the daffodils and iris are blooming, stopping by to deadhead the flowers and prop up the iris a couple of times each week would be needed. Once the flowering season is over, some weeding every other week would be all that's needed.

The sloped area between People to People and the church. This area has many day lilies and a few boxwood bushes. Weeding and general cleanup every other week is all that's needed.

Please consider volunteering to maintain one of those gardens. If you have questions, email Roy Haynes at haynes@wooster.edu. Thank you.

EARTH CARE

Thanks to our dedicated Earth Care team, and the whole congregation, our church has AGAIN been certified as an Earth Care Congregation! We first achieved this certification in 2006! Thank you all for your participation. As a reminder, here are some of our ongoing activities:

- Landscaping – Thank you to LeRoy Haynes for organizing members to update and maintain the landscaping areas around our church, starting with the parking lot. Thanks to all who help.
- Church garden - Keith Brown (and helpers) plants a garden and puts out the produce on Sunday for anyone to pick up. Leftovers are taken to People to People on Monday. Part of it is on Bowman Street and more just west of the main parking lot. Thank you, Keith!
- Highway clean up - Linda Bush organizes clean up two times per year of a section of Rt. 30 and Rt. 250 that has been First Presbyterian's for many years.
- Shannon Foster puts up bulletin boards with Earth Care themes. Look for it next to the mail room door. Thanks, Shannon!
- Our kitchen is stocked with compostable plates, bowls, and cups rather than less-earth-friendly Styrofoam or plastic. Thank you, Mimi
- Two pollinator gardens have been established. Keith has put one in next to the garage north of the church. The other is on Bowman Street, between the Memorial Garden and the vegetable garden.
- Battery Recycling - We collect household batteries (in the gathering area) and have them recycled. Thanks to Shannon.
- Obviously, 2020 was an unusual year. In many ways, our earth became "greener" as people drove cars less and stayed home. We had many more church services without printed bulletins and created less waste in other ways. We look forward to getting back to "normal", but at the same time, remaining cognizant of how we can make do with less.

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.





**EARTH
CARE**
CONGREGATIONS

“The earth is the
Lord’s and all that
is in it, the world,
and those who
live in it.” Psalm 24:1



Presbyterian Mission
Compassion,
Peace & Justice



PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM
certifies

First Presbyterian Church

as an

EARTH CARE CONGREGATION

on this

10th+ year of certification

*for its outstanding environmental stewardship achievements in worship, education,
facilities and outreach in the life of the church.*

Through February, 2022

Signature

Jessica Manollin

Date

3/15/2021

Associate for Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns

**LITURGIST SIGN-UP - YEAR 2021
IN THE SANCTUARY OR FROM HOME**

If you or a member of your family (all ages are welcome)
would like to sign-up to be a liturgist during the 2021 year,

please sign-up at the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/liturgists2021>

Contact information will be in the link.

Also, you can go to the FPC website and go to the tab Worship Services and Resources
and drop down to the FPC Forms link that you would like to use.

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING!



**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE SIGN-UP
YEAR 2021
IN THE SANCTUARY OR FROM HOME**

If you would like to sign-up for Prayers of the People during the 2021 year,
please sign-up at the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/prayersofthepeople2021>

Contact information will be in the link.

Also, you can go to the FPC website and go to the tab Worship Services and Resources
and drop down to the FPC Forms link that you would like to use.

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING!



**FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
YEAR 2021**

If you would like to dedicate flowers in honor or memory of a loved one in the
Sanctuary
on Sunday mornings during the year 2021,
please sign-up at the following link:
Thank you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/sanctuaryflowers2021>



If you have a passion in working with video or sound, let us know! We would love to train you to be a
part of the FPC worship media team! Sign-up below at the following link!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoC4CAFAB28A6F8C43-video>

Contact information will be in the link.

Also, you can go to the FPC website and go to the tab Worship Services and Resources
and drop down to the FPC Forms link that you would like to use.

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING

The YMCA of Wayne County is excited to partner with First Presbyterian Church and open the Creative Academy Childcare and Preschool on June 1st. First Presbyterian has a great facility located in the basement and a long history of supporting a quality childcare program. The YMCA of Wayne County has a childcare and preschool in collaboration with Schaeffler and 5 before and after school and summer camp sites throughout Wayne County. Katie Troyer, will oversee The Creative Academy and began enrolling children on April 5th. The Creative Academy will accept ODJFS, and provide scholarships for families that may need assistance. There will be an Open House on Tuesday, May 11th from 5-7pm. Please feel free to stop by and check out all the changes that have been made to the facility. If you have any questions please feel free to call or email Katie, her contact information is on the flyer below.

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Gwen Sommer

CEO

YMCA of Wayne County

(330) 264-3131





CHILDCARE & PRESCHOOL
at First Presbyterian Church

NOW ENROLLING

The Creative Academy

Childcare and Preschool

- 2 1/2 - 3 1/2 Classroom (children do not have to be potty trained to attend)
- 3 1/2 - 5 Classroom
- Play based Pre-K classroom for kids going to Kindergarten in 2022 seeking a full day and no nap option for their preschooler
- Preschool Camp for children going to Kindergarten in Fall of 2021
- School Aged Camp for children going in to 1st through 3rd grade

OPENS JUNE 1st

Email for TOURS and QUESTIONS

Katiet@ymcawayne.org

424 E Bowman St, Wooster

330-262-1401

OPEN HOUSE * MAY 11th * 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

	2 DAYS	3 DAYS	4 DAYS	5 DAYS
Member Toddler	\$70	\$105	\$140	\$175
Non-Member Toddler 2-3yrs	\$77	\$111	\$154	\$192
Member Preschooler	\$67	\$100	\$134	\$167
Non-Member Preschooler	\$80	\$110	\$148	\$184
Member School Ager	\$120 weekly All Day/\$50 weekly B&A/ \$30 Before OR After			
Non-Member School Ager	\$140 weekly All day/ \$60 weekly B&A/ \$35 Before or After			

*Oldest child receives a 10% discount *Half Day Rates for Pre-K available *JFS Accept *Scholarships available





APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 1	Aiden Hiner
April 2	Bev Mapel, Everett Kelly, Edith Swank
April 4	Garrett Marcum, Robert Wellington, Pam Giffin, Vallie Tew
April 8	Dreyco Earley
April 9	Barbara Leonhard, Jean Philippi
April 13	Mina Van Cleef, Keyonna Swank
April 14	Arline Gordon
April 15	Lydia Dunlap, Roberta Ross
April 18	Harry McClarran
April 19	Shirley Beckler
April 20	Gary Miller
April 21	Henry Perkins, Laura Bigley
April 22	Mae Kelly
April 24	Gordon Collins, Dena Morgan
April 25	Stacy Hancock, John Scott
April 27	Addison Hiner, James Wright, Madelyn Iannantono
April 29	Richard Wereley, Cindy Webster
April 30	Judy Mallonn

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Address Service Requested



www.facebook.com/FPCWooster/
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Deadlines

FPC News Flash
Tower Tidings
Bulletin
Session
Session Packets

Submission Deadline

Wednesday by noon
15th of each month
Wednesday
2nd Monday of the month
2nd Monday of the month

Approximate Delivery

End of Week
End of Month
Weekly
4th Wed. of each month
3rd Sunday of the month