Dear Friends,

With the advent of September, our Program Year gets fully underway. Each page turn of this edition of the Tower Tidings brings a new opportunity for involvement in education, ministry and mission, fellowship, and worship. As your schedules permit, I look forward to participating with you in the many activities and offerings at First Pres and beyond during this autumn season.

Talk has been buzzing around the church for some time now about the possibilities of having new sound production and lighting in the sanctuary. After this week’s August Session Meeting, the “buzz” is coming closer to being realized. The Session approved the lighting project presented by the Faith & Structure Coordinating Team and authorized the engagement of an acoustics consulting firm to evaluate the acoustical needs of the sanctuary and analyze the details of a sound proposal that has been presented.

To fund these projects, some donations have already been received and additional funds have been pledged. In the weeks ahead, we will be hearing more of the details of these systems and be given the opportunity to contribute to their completion. Meanwhile, when 8:30 chapel services begin again on September 8, we can enjoy the new lighting in that space and the beauty of fresh paint on the walls and ceiling.

Blessings and Peace, David

New Wilmington Mission Conference

The 114th New Wilmington Mission Conference, July 19-26, was held on the campus of Westminster College, PA., only 105 miles east of Wooster. Over 600 youth and adults attended the conference. The theme challenged us to run with perseverance the race that is set before us and to fix our eyes on Jesus. Hebrews 12:1,2.

The 9:00 a.m. Bible Study emphasized that God’s mission is universal by breaking the wall that separates Jews and Gentiles. We are to be reconcilers. The texts each day were from the book of Ephesians. The 10:00 a.m. mission hour was led by Marilyn Boart the Assistant Director of the Outreach Foundation, who spoke on the work of Presbyterian churches in Syria, China, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq and Egypt. All of these churches have lessons to teach us on persecution and the need for persistence. The 11:00 a.m. speaker on Sunday in Anderson Auditorium was Dr. Hunter Ferrell who claimed missionaries are effective by their weaknesses, not their sacrifice, persistence or dedicated life. That is what the Lord told the apostle Paul.

The afternoons were free to attend mission workshops on a variety of topics, one being on the persecution of Palestinians by the Israeliites. On Monday evening, all missionaries attending the conference were recognized with the countries they served in and years of service reported. The total was 805 years of service. On Thursday evening the six college age members of the summer service team reported on their six weeks of mission work in Ethiopia.

On Wednesday and Thursday I spent considerable time in meetings of the Niger Mission Network. Our congregation supports financially mission co-workers Rachel and Michael Ludwig and their family. They work in Community Health Evangelism. This involves digging wells for fresh water, teaching nutritious meal preparation, educating children and training evangelists. A picture of their family and an article on their work are posted on the Faith and Practice bulletin board. Niger is 97% Muslim and only 1% Christian with a literacy rate of 29%. The UN has listed Niger as one of the least developed countries in the world. A group from the USA is going to Niger in November. Contact Don Beane if interested.

The mission conference was spiritually uplifting and perhaps others in our congregation would consider attending the conference next year from Saturday, July 18 to Friday, July 24.

Submitted by: Don Beane for Faith and Practice Coordinating Team.
Niger Vision/Mission Trip

The Niger Mission Network of the PCUSA would like to invite you to visit Niger with Niger Mission Network Co-Moderator Greg Cohen (gcohen1973@outlook.com or 502-494-8665).

Tentative Dates—January 23—February 3, 2020

Estimated Cost: $2,400 (see below)

Trip Outline to Include:

- Visit with EERN Leaders—new EERN President Reverend Saley Anaroua, Chako Cheriff, and the Honorable Isaaka Moussa.
- Meet with PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers—Rachel and Michael Ludwig, Jim and Jodi McGill and our soon to be announced new PC(USA) Mission Co-Worker.
- Meet with Regional Evangelists who serve as community builders in the areas of health and community decision making (CHE).
- Water and Sanitation Projects (WASH) including Menstrual Hygiene Management latrines making it possible for girls to attend and stay in school.
- Visit Bible Schools and EERN primary and secondary schools including student hostels and gardens making it possible for students to live on campus.
- Visit community health clinics and the newly opened University of Esperance (Hope Nursing School).

Expectations:

- Participate fully in every aspect of the trip -
  A. Orientation Meeting
  B. Post-trip Debriefing Meeting
- Prepare yourself through prayer, reading, and by learning some basic French language phrases.
- Keep a journal.
- Become an ambassador for the EERN and our PC (USA) Mission Co-workers.
- Share the Good News of the EERN and God’s Work in Niger with Friends, Churches and Presbyteries.

Finances:

The $2,400 (approximately, depending on airfare) trip cost includes airfare, visa fees, food, housing, and all in-country transportation. The cost may vary depending on where your flight originates. Participants are responsible for paying passport fees, any additional luggage charges and immunizations. More details later—Participants are encouraged to seek financial and prayer support from their home churches, families and friends, and commit to share their story after the trip.
Join our Adult Education Class in Room 1 downstairs at 9:15 a.m. beginning September 15th. We will again be offering some thought provoking lessons and discussions. Please join us for a great conversation and of course food! As always snacks and coffee are provided. Hope to see you there!

**BRUEGGMANN IS COMING!**

. . . Not in person, of course. But he will be visiting the adult education group that meets in the parlor by way of a video series beginning on September 15 at 9:15 a.m.

Brueggemann is well-known to many in our church because he has visited our adult education program several times before. This time he will be discussing one of his favorite topics: the meaning of the Covenant for modern-day Christians. The title of the series is COUNTERING PHAROAH’S PRODUCTION-CONSUMPTION SOCIETY TODAY.

The class will be taught by former pastor Jim Collier, who has been serving as transitional pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Wooster while the congregation awaits the arrival of its new pastor, Dr. Éniko Ferenczy.

Put this on your calendar to be sure and hear this contemporary message by our church’s preeminent prophet-teacher. As always, sharing and discussion will be part of the plan!
YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group
Join us for our kick-off youth event on Sunday September 15th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. We will meet in the Youth Center and then head out for a fun scavenger hunt! A few drivers will be needed for this event so please let Amy Baxstrom know if you can assist. This will be a fun event so plan on bringing a friend!

Sunday School Classes

The Jr. High Class will continue to take a look at our Presbyterian faith through it’s history and the Bible. Come take a look at our new classroom design and updated items!

The Sr. High Class will explore the relationship between science, religion and personal faith by investigating what science and religion are, the sorts of things the two fields care about, and what "truth" can mean to each of them. We'll look at topics including the Biblical story of creation, evolution, and using science and technology for good in the world.

COLLEGE OF WOOSTER
THE 51ST ANNUAL FALL ACADEMY OF RELIGION 2019
Wednesdays, 7:30—9:00 p.m.
September 11—October 16
Lean Lecture Hall—Wishart Hall

For more information, pick up a brochure in the Gathering Area.
Immigrant Advocacy Team – A number of members of the downstairs adult Sunday School class have expressed interest in helping immigrants. We are currently exploring options of possible activities. Are there others who are interested in participating in this effort? Possibilities include: assembling backpacks to be given to detainees when they are released (coordinate with Mennonite Charities), provide rides to Cleveland for immigrants having appointments with Immigration (Bill and I have done this and find it emotionally rewarding), assisting legal counsel by organizing scanned documents (can be done from your own computer). We are also looking for someone to step forward and lead this effort within our church. Please contact Carla Hall, 614-761-3906 bchall2005@gmail.com.

Yosmer Ceballos – You may have noticed a new face around First Pres. Yosmer Ceballos came to live with us (Bill and Carla Hall) in Wooster a few weeks ago, and has been accompanying us to various activities. Bill and I are learning Spanish, and this past winter, we joined several Spanish-English meet-up groups in Florida to practice. We met a very nice young man from Venezuela. He was an attorney in Venezuela, fighting the dictatorship leanings of their current government in court, and is now legally pursuing asylum here. In Florida he was driving for Uber and Lyft and working as a food runner in a restaurant, as well as attending English classes three hours a day for the past three years. His primary goal right now is to improve his English skills, which was difficult being surrounded by the Spanish-speaking culture in southern Florida. We invited him to come to Wooster and live with us until he gets established here. Please welcome him to our congregation and to our town. He’s looking for someone for a pick-up game of basketball; any takers? He welcomes opportunities to practice his English skills with you, talking or reading about current events. It would be wonderful for him to join in various activities like children’s soccer games or community activities.
LIBRARY PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION

During the past several years our church library has been undergoing a transformation. For the first time since the Library was moved from its old home off the parlor to its present location next to the sanctuary, all books have been gradually taken from their shelves, cleaned and examined to be sure they are in good shape and still useful. The part of the collection now in the library has been re-catalogued and re-numbered, and an electronic collection list is being created.

A number of private collections have been donated to the library in recent years. A part of Jim Collier’s library, together with books from Jim Bean, Gordon and Betty Shull, and others have been added. Additional shelving in Room 2 has been used to house these books while the team has been reviewing and processing them. The current plan calls for moving processed books to the library this fall. It is anticipated that the library shelves will be almost entirely filled, and some rarely used books and journals may be housed elsewhere.

In future issues of TOWER TIDINGS we will highlight special features of our library. For now, it is worth noting that our library has the largest and most up-to-date collection of Bibles and biblical commentaries of any church library in the area. Current journals provide a regular source of Presbyterian and ecumenical news and opinion. Many people have been involved in this ambitious project to bring new life to our library.

The current team is comprised of Connie Britton, Val Fulton and Charles Cureton.
CHILDREN’S MUSIC @ FPC

Journey Together

IN JOY, LOVE, PEACE, & FAITH

Join us Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour!


Important Dates:
October 6 - World Communion Sunday
October 20 - Children’s Sabbath
November 24 - Youth Sunday
December 15 - Children’s Christmas Program

CONTACT RACHEL FOR MORE INFO! RKING@FIRSTPRESWOOSTER.ORG
Our youth mentorship is a vital and important part of the journey in their faith. Last year we instituted a mentorship that goes throughout the span of their time in the youth group (6th-12th grades). Beginning in the fall, we will be adding 8 (YIPPEE!!!) 6th graders to our Jr High Class! I am looking for 8 people to mentor these youth throughout their time at FPC and beyond. We have found that a strong connection here helps them make better choices along their path. Please see Amy Baxstrom if you would like to participate. This is a 6-year commitment, but each relationship is unique. Some more involved than others.

Join us for our annual Rally Day fun! This year’s theme is Seek and You Shall Find based on Matthew 7:7-8. Many opportunities are awaiting you in this church, this community and this life. Where will your heart take you? What piece is missing in your life? What can you offer others? Meet others who have the missing parts! Sunday September 8th from 9:15-10:30 a.m. This is a great time to invite those that may be seeking a church family!
FREE Family movie night! Sunday September 8th at 6:00 p.m. in Bruch Hall. Refreshments provided. Bring a friend and be entered in to win a snack pack!

Mentor Breakfast
Our first mentor/mentee breakfast will be Sunday, September 15th at 8:30 a.m. Food will be provided. This is a great time to catch up with your mentor/mentee and find out how God has used them this summer!
**Freezer Meals**

Join us on Saturday, September 21st at 10:00 a.m. for our first freezer meal making of the year!

The cost of this event is $40 and it includes 5 ready to cook meals!

Please RSVP to Amy Baxstrom by September 17th.

Recipes include:
- Shredded BBQ Chicken
- Slow Cooker Southwestern Chili
- Crockpot Cabbage Casserole
- Slow Cooker Hawaiian Pork Chops
- Hamburger Vegetable Soup

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**5th Sunday Potluck**

Join us Sunday, September 29th for our 5th Sunday Potluck in Bruch Hall after the 10:45 worship service. Please see the sign-up sheet in the gathering area and let us know what you’ll be bringing. See you there!

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First Friends announcement

We hope everyone has had a wonderful summer! It’s First Friends sign-up time again; Angela and I would like to continue the ‘experiment’ of making this more inclusive, for the fall.

The plan has gone well so far! First Pres members have invited persons from outside our FPC community. Examples have included persons not currently attending FPC, and international exchange students. In addition, church members who are unable to participate long-term in FF, have been included. Other changes from ‘standard’ First Friends practices have been including children, and meeting at different times and locations including local restaurants.

Since our group size is generally 8, the sign-up sheet for FF again has a column for you to indicate your preferences: signing up for a group size of 4, 6 or 8. If signing up for either 4 or 6, the plan would be for you to invite others to join. You may also sign up by emailing us, or giving us a call. We can be reached at 330-641-6688, or earleyd54@gmail.com

Thanks in advance for your interest in First Friends; we will re-evaluate this model at the end of the fall; please see either Angela or myself with any suggestions you might have!

Dave & Angela Earley
Friday Fellowship is Back at First Presbyterian!

This fall we will meet monthly at noon in Bruch Hall with meals provided for $7. Any volunteers to provide casseroles? Salad? Dessert?? Contact Carla Hall, 614-761-3906, bchall2005@gmail.com. For our regular attendees, please think of others you can invite, especially new members.

Sept. 13 will feature new FPC member Erin Guzman, former Director of Student Ministries at Westminster Presbyterian, now Interim Director of Religious & Spiritual Life at the College of Wooster. Come get to know this new member with an exciting new job and possible volunteer and involvement activities. She is also beginning the process of ordination with our church as sponsor.

Oct. 11, The inimitable Ted Bogner, President of Bogner Construction, will share stories of being one of Wooster's primary building contractors, including his special relationship with Stan Gault.

Nov. 15, TBD. Any suggestions? Volunteers?

Dec. 15, our own Eric Gastier is in charge. What fun musical game will enthrall us this year?

WHS Junior, Matthew Nielsen, Competing on U.S. Figure Skating Team USA

Matthew Nielsen, a junior at Wooster High School, is a member of the U.S. Figure Skating Team USA. This past week, Matthew competed in the 2019 International Skating Union (ISU) Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating in France. Be sure to take time and watch the attached video of Matthew’s Short Program.
**FAITH AND WORSHIP**

The Faith & Worship Coordinating Team oversees the worship life of our congregation. Various ministry teams, including the Usher Guild, Greeters, Children’s and Adult Choirs, Liturgists, Communion Preparation Team, and Communion Servers, fall under our purview. In addition to making sure these ministries function, we will be planning special services for the various liturgical seasons and other noteworthy occasions throughout the year (World Communion, Children’s Sabbath, All Saints, Advent, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Lenten Soup Suppers, Holy Week Services, Easter, and Pentecost). We are also anticipating the formation of a new handbell choir (under the direction of Rachel King) this fall, and we are currently working with Faith & Structure and the Resource Development Ministry Team on improving the sound and lighting systems in the sanctuary. If you are interested in any of these activities or would like to learn more, please feel free to contact me or other members of our team (Mickey Asleson, Monica Burrill, Karen McQuate, Maddie Rumbaugh, Gerald Stephan, and Carol Thompson).

Submitted by: James West, chair

**FAITH AND PRACTICE**

The Faith and Practice Coordinating Team will have several projects they are working on and providing as opportunities to the congregation. Among them will be helping to prepare and serve the meal for DZ@6 at Zion Lutheran Church on the first Sunday of every other month (September, November, January, March, May). We will be seeking volunteers to help with the work as well as contribute specific food as we plan the menus. We will also be moving up our traditional “Mitten Tree” as we hope to be able to provide these mittens (and hats) as part of the bags being prepared in conjunction with the Medina Presbyterian Church for the children participating in the Medina-Wayne Head Start program. Keep your eyes open for other opportunities.

Submitted by: Mark Gooch, chair
WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP

SAVE THE DATE

FPC Fall Rummage Sale is Friday, November 8th. Set-up will be on Tuesday, November 5th; Unpacking the “goods” will be on Wednesday; Pricing is planned for Thursday.

The second floor closet at the south end is empty and ready to be filled with items for the rummage sale.

MIXED COMPANY

SAVE THE DATE

MIXED COMPANY

Friday, November 15 at 6:00 p.m.

Honey baked ham, potluck and party games.

Hosted by Diana Day and Frank Rasmussen

At Frank’s Home (1073 Greensview Drive, Wooster Off Oak Hill across from the Country Club).

More details to come.
Wee Care is kicking off the 2019-2020 school year with an Open House on September 4th from 5-7pm.

Fun Events

September 6 - National Storybook Day

*We will be dressing up as storybook characters

September 13 - Friday the 13th so we will be looking silly!!

School Supply Drive

Items Needed Include...

*Washable Markers & Paint  
*Colored Pencils  
*Stickers  
*Glue and Glue Sticks  
*Band-aids  
*Construction Paper  
*Glitter/Pom-Poms/Sequins/Googley Eyes/  
*String/Yarn  
*Beads
Save the date—
October 12th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for our annual Fall Festival.

Plan to dress up, interact with our neighboring families and have some fun!

The Church extends its sympathy to Laura Scott and her family on the passing of her Mother, Carmela Marcantonio on August 25th. Services will be held September 1 in Islip, New York. The obituary can be viewed at Overtonfuneralhome.com.
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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>GREETERS</th>
<th>SUNDAY LITURGIST</th>
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<tr>
<td>SEPT 1</td>
<td>10:00 Jim West</td>
<td>Sophia Baxstrom</td>
<td>Spencer Hodges</td>
<td>Jack Miller, Pam Giffin, Shanna Springer, Jim Black, Roy Hancock, II</td>
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<td>SEPT 8</td>
<td>8:30 Iva Byler</td>
<td>Ashton Dunlap</td>
<td>8:30 College Student</td>
<td>Jon Neill, Mark Gooch, Dave Earley, Jack Miller, Chris Hyser</td>
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<td>10:45 Spencer Hodges</td>
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<td>10:45 College Student</td>
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<td>SEPT 15</td>
<td>8:30 Rick and Elaine Peterson</td>
<td>Olivia Hiner</td>
<td>8:30 Shannon Foster</td>
<td>Mark Gooch, Kent Murphy, Jon Neill, Tim Walker, Bryan Bigley</td>
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<td>10:45 Bob &amp; MaryAnn Wellington</td>
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<td>10:45 Janet Calhoun</td>
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<td>SEPT 22</td>
<td>8:30 Barbara Bostancic</td>
<td>Emily James</td>
<td>8:30 Yvonne Williams</td>
<td>Kent Murphy, Steve Slack, Susie Slack, Charles Baker</td>
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<td>10:45 Carolyn Kearney</td>
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<td>10:45 Lee Patterson</td>
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<td>SEPT 29</td>
<td>8:30 Mimi Lewellen</td>
<td>Zach Miller</td>
<td>8:30 Chris Hyser</td>
<td>Scott Murphy, Darla Campbell, Dena Morgan</td>
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<td>10:45 Sheryl Edmiston</td>
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<td>10:45 Nancy Young</td>
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September 1       Lois Immel
September 2       Bill Ross
September 4       Lois Bruch, Linda Bush, and Ann Gastier
September 5       Madison Hancock, Mary Anne Szarka and Tom Vestal
September 7       Julie Bogner
September 8       Rick Gabriel and Paul Nielsen
September 10      Patrick Kearney and Richard Wenger
September 11      Kaitlyn Baker and Christopher Hyser
September 12      Pat Richard and James Webster
September 14      Elaine Arnold, Roy Hancock II, Elizabeth Hooker, Melissa Lanham and Chandra Loess
September 15      Scott Hannan and Ken Schuesselin
September 16      Elva Kennedy and Gillian Zuchniak
September 18      Jim Burrill
September 20      Virginia Good and James West
September 21      Frank Rasmussen and John Somogy
September 22      Tracy Clyde
September 23      William Walker
September 24      Clara Ann Fain
September 26      Karen Short
September 27      Carrie Gordon, Bill Hall, and Dana Schmidt
September 28      Darla Campbell
September 29      Nancy Anderson and Pearl Grosjean
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<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10:00 Worship/ Communion/ Sanctuary 6:00 NA</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>LABOR DAY OFFICE AND WEE CARE CLOSED</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8:30 Bible Study 10:00 Women’s Fellowship 12:00 Kiwanis 5:30 Wee Care Board 6:00 Cash Investment Club 7:00 Boy Scouts</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>8:30 Worship/ Chapel 9:15 RALLY DAY—Bruch 10:45 Worship/ Sanctuary 6:00 Family Movie Night 6:00 NA</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12:00 Rotary 1:00 Pastoral Care 1:30 Admin 7:00 Good Book</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8:30 Bible Study 10:00 Library 12:00 Kiwanis 1:00 Prayer Shawl 6:00 Wee Care Staff Meeting 7:00 Boy Scouts</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>8:30 Mentor Breakfast 8:30 Worship/ Chapel 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Worship/ Sanctuary 5:00 Youth Scavenger Hunt 6:00 NA</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12:00 Rotary 1:00 Pastoral Care 1:30 Admin 5:30 Faith and Worship</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8:30 Bible Study 12:00 Kiwanis 4:00 Social Justice 6:00 Inky’s 7:00 Boy Scouts</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>8:30 Worship/ Chapel 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Worship/ Sanctuary 6:00 NA</td>
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<td>12:00 Rotary 1:00 Pastoral Care 1:30 Admin</td>
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<td>8:30 Bible Study 10:00 Library 12:00 Kiwanis 1:00 Prayer Shawl 4:015 RDM 6:00 Cub Scouts Tigers/Wolf 7:00 Boy Scouts</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>8:30 Worship/ Chapel 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Worship/ Sanctuary 12:00 5th Sunday Potluck 6:00 NA</td>
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<td>12:00 Rotary 1:00 Pastoral Care 1:30 Admin 5:00 Troop 61 Kitchen Prep.</td>
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Wooster, OH 44691
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Firstpresbyterianchurch-wooster.ohio
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Deadlines

**FPC News Flash**
Wednesday by noon
15th of each month
Wednesday
2nd Monday of the month
2nd Monday of the month

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

**Approximate Delivery**