Dear Friends,

My thoughts and prayers are with each of you as we continue to practice sheltering in place and social distancing in the midst of pandemic. I am grateful for the many thoughtful ways you are looking out for each other and keeping spirits up.

Thank you for your emails of encouragement concerning the broadcasting of weekly Sunday worship. We also owe Jacob Gooch a great debt of thanks for the professional manner in which he has recorded, edited, and displayed these services each week.

We are respecting the directives from the Governor and Director of Public Health, and this means that the church remains closed through the end of April. Weekly worship will continue via website and Facebook: www.firstpreswooster.org and https://www.facebook.com/FPCWooster/. During the weeks ahead, Amy and Rachel will be posting interesting and uplifting content on their pages.

In these uncertain times, be well and care for one another. There will come a day when we will once again joyfully gather together in worship, fellowship, learning, and ministry. In the meantime, remember that God’s love and grace abound.

Blessings and Peace,

David
Greetings from the Resource Development Ministry!

As the first quarter of 2020 ends, I think that it’s safe to say that most aspects of our lives have changed with this pandemic. David and Company have been doing an awesome job keeping us connected as a church family with his online Sunday services and Amy and Rachel’s ongoing children’s ministry activities. Behind the scenes, “the Donna’s” and Tim have been keeping our church house in order during this challenging time by continuing the maintenance of our facilities and keeping our finances in order.

The work of our church and ministries continue while keeping a social distance! The RDM realizes that many congregants like to fulfill their stewardship commitments each Sunday with the symbolism of placing their check into the offering plate. With the current pandemic and safety measures in place to keep everyone healthy, obviously this presents its own challenge.

Please keep the church and our continuing ministries in mind as you pay your own household bills each week. Let the office know if you need help setting up automatic transfers through your financial institution or have any interest in online giving.

I am looking forward to the eventual return to “normalcy” and the fellowship and worshipping together as the church family that we are. As always, feel free to contact me, or any of the other members of the RDM listed below, with any questions or concerns about our church finances.

Peace,

Tom Rumbaugh, Chair of the RDM
Sarah Baker, Dana Brooks, Laura Neill, Stuart Miller, and David Rice

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE FUNDRAISER

Kris Evans has set a goal of raising $1000 for PTPM energy assistance by giving away her colorful handmade microwave potholders (also known as bowl cozies) in exchange for a minimum $10 contribution to PTPM. Potholders are available on her front porch or can be delivered to your home. Contact her at kevans943@sbcglobal.net to purchase yours or for more information. Checks should be made out to People to People Ministries.
Session Highlights for January—February 2020
The Session

Please keep in your prayers: your church, its needs, and those whom you have elected to serve in leadership roles.

JANUARY 2020

Clerk’s Report: Nancy Young

MOTION (Gooch): to approve PC(USA) Annual Statistical Report; 2nd (Lewellen); PASSED (u). Our current membership is 393, down one from last year’s 394. More information about our yearly statistics will be available in the Annual Meeting Report.

MOTION (Miles): With regret, to transfer membership of Matt and Robin Sharp to First Presbyterian Church of Clarion, PA, 700 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214; 2nd (Rumbaugh); PASSED (u). Robin will be doing pulpit supply preaching for her new presbytery where they have welcomed her with open arms.

Resource Development Ministry: Tom Rumbaugh
Tom reported that the budget has balanced for FY 2019, despite the unbudgeted cost of the lighting project. We absorbed this cost due to the Bruch Foundation distribution and strong congregational giving. The total amount of the endowment through December 31, 2019 was $1,052,255.

Faith and Practice: Mark Gooch
Mark referred to information in the session packets concerning the East Central Ohio Sanctuary Network and discussed that session consider joining the network, not necessarily as a sanctuary church, but in order to do what we can to help the Network. To join is $150.00. Erin Guzman is on the Network board. MOTION (F&P): to join ECOSN; PASSED (u)

Faith and Structure – Steve Slack, Jim Tew reporting
At the November meeting Jim Tew relayed to session that the rooftop air conditioner which cools the sanctuary and most of the first floor of the church has died and will have to be replaced. They also discovered that the dead air conditioner was not large enough for the area it was supposed to cover. At tonight’s meeting, Jim recounted F&S’s investigation into new ACs, their installation, and the costs involved. Tom Rumbaugh informed session that there is approximately 40K left from the fund created when we replaced the shingles on the roof. Since the AC has to be installed on the roof, the RDM agreed that these funds could be used for that purpose. MOTION (F&S): requests authority to purchase and install a rooftop air conditioning unit at a cost not to exceed $35,000; PASSED (u).
Seminary Students
Erin Guzman has been reappointed as Interim Director of Religious and Spiritual Life at the College of Wooster.
She is continuing her studies toward ordination at Ashland Seminary.

FEBRUARY 2020

Clerk’s Report: Nancy Young
MOTION (Lewellen): to call the Annual Meeting for April 26, 2020 following second service with a light lunch to be served; 2nd (Gooch); PASSED (u).

Pastor’s Report: David Rice
David reported that he spent a fruitful weekend with Jimmie Hawkins from the national office in DC and he hopes we may be able to use Jimmie as a resource in the future. David also mentioned that his continuing education weekend at Columbia Seminary was worthwhile and inspiring.

Women’s Fellowship: Mimi Lewellen
Mimi reported that Women’s Fellowship is donating 4K for landscaping around the new sign at the corner of Bowman and College. Session expressed unanimous delight in all the new signage (created and donated by Jim and Cindy Webster). The session was also very pleased with the new lighting at the front of the church (College Ave. entrance).

FAITH AND WORSHIP
Looking for something more from your church experience?
Find a new joy in serving the congregation on Sunday mornings!
There are many different ways to help out.
We are in need of people to serve as ushers, greeters, and liturgists for both the 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. services. Any age is welcome in all areas.
Let us know where you can serve!
Our church has again been certified as a **PCUSA Earth Care Congregation**! Thank you to all who have participated to make this possible, and to all who have contributed to making our earth just a little bit cleaner, healthier, and happier. We have been certified since 2007, and garner many more points than the minimum required. A special thanks to Faith and Structure and to Tim Hall for upgrading so many of our lights to LED, it really makes a difference in the electricity bill too. This past year we also began actually composting our compostable dinnerware at most meals, as well as paper towels from the restrooms and Wee Care. And my favorite project was the beautiful cloth gift bags made by our youth and members and sold by the youth group with proceeds benefiting their mission trip. Thank you to everyone for all you do.

Submitted by: Carla Hall

If you’re looking for something to do, Suzanne Chapman who teaches Gentle Yoga on Friday mornings at FPC now has a YouTube channel (Suzanne Gohs Chapman One Spirit Yoga). There is one breathing/grounding video on there now. She will be working on posting more hopefully soon.

Also, if you follow social media, she is on Facebook and Instagram. Facebook is: Suzanne HeartSong Gohs Chapman. Instagram is: YoginiandTheBoys.
During this COVID 19 health crisis everyone is relying on their social media for communication and interaction in all aspects—whether it is for church services, news information, exercise, games, reading novels, meetings, facetime and skyping to see loved ones that we can’t visit.

We have exciting new pages on our website https://www.firstpreswooster.org/. Each week look for the Sunday worship service on our front page. We also have our recorded sermons under the Resources Tab, the first dropdown is Sermons. You can also access it with the following link https://www.firstpreswooster.org/resources/sermons. Amy Baxstrom has a new page of Uplifting Videos and Messages and Rachel King has a new page of Music Notes, Singing and Stories. Both of these pages in order are the 2nd and 3rd slides on the website. To make it easy to access their pages, all you have to do is click on their slide and it will direct you to their pages! They have great videos of inspiring songs, meditation, prayer, and even dancing! If you want to explore the website their pages are under the tab, What’s Happening at FPC. New Action Alerts have been posted and can be found under the Mission and Service tab on the website and the drop down is Action Alerts from the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

If you would like to see anything new or have a suggestion, just let me know! Email me at dbye@firstpreswooster.org. Thanks!

Donna Bye
Rachel King and I have been working hard to make sure each of our families (young and old!) are feeling engaged and loved by the staff at First Pres. I have been posting videos, prayers, and thoughts on Facebook daily, sending activities, lessons, and videos through email, and hosting Zoom meetings to keep in touch face to face. Rachel has made beautiful videos explaining the origin of a certain hymn and then sings the hymn. These videos are also posted to our Facebook page. She has also sent out lessons and videos through email. All these videos are also posted to our website and facebook page.

[www.firstpreswooster.org](http://www.firstpreswooster.org)

[https://www.facebook.com/FPCWooster/](https://www.facebook.com/FPCWooster/)

In the next coming days and throughout Holy Week, we will be engaging more through those sites. Emails with daily devotionals and scriptures will also be going out. If you would like to be added to any of the things either I, or Rachel send out, please email me at amybaxstrom@gmail.com.

Please know we are praying for all our members and hope you are staying safe and healthy during this uncertain time.

Amy Baxstrom
The senior highs baked cookies at home for the St. James Saturday lunch program, a project they had planned to do during Sunday School in March. St. James is continuing to serve the needy by transitioning to carryout bag lunches.

EMMA LOGIUDICE

SOPHIE GARCIA
In the December 2019 issue of Tower Tidings, the Church Library Committee shared a wish list of books identified as desirable additions to the collection. We are grateful to those who found a title of interest on this list and made a gift to the church to purchase the book for the library.

To make this process (hopefully) easier, with the help of Donna Bye, we have set up an FPC - Library Wish List on Amazon.com. To view this list, go to https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/303IMG6JXP8SJ?ref_=wl_share. From there you can select a title for purchase from the wish list. Click on the “Add to Cart” button and follow the same process you use for any Amazon purchase. You may have the book delivered to your home address and bring it to the office when it arrives, or simply add and select the church’s mailing address to your shipping address list and it will be delivered directly to the church. In either case, please notify the church office of your gift so that it can be properly recognized. Also, don’t forget to use the Amazon Smile program and select First Presbyterian Church Wooster to generate additional benefits for First Presbyterian.

If the process above does not appeal to you, you are welcome to take money to the church office to cover the cost of one (of more) of the titles on the wish list. We will order and process the book for you.

As always, support for the library through donations, suggestions, or by simply using the collection, is greatly appreciated by the Library Committee. Our goal is to cultivate and curate a collection that benefits the entire church family.

We extend the sympathy of the church to the following families:

Paul Tait on the passing of his father, L. Gordon Tait
and
Don and Sandy Randles
on the passing of Connie Holvey
Congratulations to Nicole Spahich and Nick Brandley! They are happy to announce the birth of their daughter Mira Josephine Brandley born on March 21. Nicole has taught with James West at the CoW and her husband Nick is currently teaching with James. Nicole is in her 3rd year of singing with the FPC choir.
APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 2      Bev Mapel and Edith Swank
April 4      Pam Giffin, Garrett Marcum, Vallie Tew, and Bob Wellington
April 8      Drecyo Carlsen-Earley
April 9      Barbara Leonhard and Jean Philippi
April 13     Keyonna Swank and Mina Van Cleef
April 14     Arline Gordon
April 15     Robbie Ross
April 18     Harry McClarran
April 19     Shirley Beckler
April 20     Gary Miller
April 24     Gordon Collins and Dena Morgan
April 25     Stacy Hancock and John Scott, Jr.
April 27     Madelyn Rumbaugh
April 29     Cindy Webster
April 30     Judy Mallonn
First Presbyterian Church
621 College Avenue
Wooster, OH 44691
Phone: 330-264-9420
Fax: 330-262-7305

Address Service Requested

Firstpresbyterianchurch-wooster.ohio
www.firstpreswooster.org

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Deadlines

**FPC News Flash**
- Submission Deadline: Wednesday by noon
- Approximate Delivery: End of Week

**Tower Tidings**
- Submission Deadline: 15th of each month
- Approximate Delivery: End of Month

**Bulletin**
- Submission Deadline: Wednesday
- Approximate Delivery: Weekly

**Session**
- Submission Deadline: 2nd Monday of the month
- Approximate Delivery: 4th Wed. of each month

**Session Packets**
- Submission Deadline: 2nd Monday of the month
- Approximate Delivery: 3rd Sunday of the month