

First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 18, 2026

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE *Adagio in E-major* *Frank Bridge*
Eric J. Gastier, organ

WELCOME Reverend David Rice

CHORAL INTROIT *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* *Kathleen Thomerson*

*CALL TO WORSHIP + Susie Slack

One: Beloved children of God, let us give thanks for all that God has done for us.

All: **We give thanks for God's presence and steadfast love.**

One: Even in times of distress, we can know the comfort and hope of Emmanuel,
God-with-us.

All: **The Light of the world illuminates our way.**
Come, let us walk in the light of God!

*PRAYER +

We encounter you, O God, in places we might not expect, in people we would never imagine.
Sometimes we see you very clearly and sometimes we pass by without seeing you at all.
Open our eyes to see you here and now, to see you among your people in this congregation
and among the strangers we meet outside these doors. **Amen**

*HYMN 410 *God Is Calling through the Whisper* *W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY*

CONFSSION +

One: Gracious God, we confess that we are uncertain.
We often do not know what we are looking for.

All: **So many things that seemed sure and good have led us astray and exhausted us.**
So much of what we have tried to do has disappointed those we love,
failed to help our neighbors in need, and emptied us of conviction and hope.

One: Deliver us, O God, from all that is desolate and vain.

All: **Set our feet upon solid rock. Open our ears to hear you in the cries of others.**
Fill our hearts with trust and our mouths with praise
for the saving help and steadfast love you show to us.

Here each worshipper may offer personal, silent prayer.

Gracious God, hear our prayers. **Amen**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

Hear this Gospel Good News:

God comes searching for us, calling us by name,
leading us into the peaceable kingdom.

In Christ, we become new people:

broken, we are made whole; lost, we are found,
forsaken, we are restored to new life. **Thanks be to God. Amen**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE *Please take care to maintain some physical distance as we share the Peace*
The Peace of Christ be with you . . . **And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Amy Baxstrom

ANTHEM

Praise

Alec Rowley

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 49:1-7

Pew Bible page 638

SERMON

Chosen

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

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

OFFERTORY

I Love Thee, My Lord

arr. George Shearing

*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**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

April Gamble

**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**

*HYMN 69

Here I Am, Lord

HERE I AM (Schutte)

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

Joseph C. Bridge

* Asterisk indicates places in the service to stand.

+ Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*

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.

330-264-9420 www.firstpreswooster.org Facebook: facebook.com/FPCWooster

WEEKLY CALENDAR AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Sunday Ushers: January 18 – Candace Harrington, Carol McKiernan, Diana Rice, Kathy Turning

Sunday, January 18 8:45 am ARISE 9:15 am Sunday School
9:15 am Congregation Conversation – The Parlor 10:30 am Worship

Monday, January 19 Offices Closed for MLK 12:00 pm Rotary 7:00 pm Boy Scouts
7:00 pm NAACP MLK 2026 Community Celebration Service - Sanctuary

Tuesday, January 20 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Congregation Conversation 4:00 pm Inkies
Wednesday, Jan. 21 10:00 am Memory Café 11:30 am Safety Council

Wednesday, Jan. 21 10:00 am Memory Care
7:00 pm Generation C

7:00 pm Congregation Conversation 7:00 pm
Thursday, January 22 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 22 7:00 pm Chor Rehearsal
Friday, January 23 10:00 am Friends of the Wooster Symphony Orchestra

Saturday, January 24 9:30 am Al Anon 11:00 am Wooster Advocacy 12:00 pm Cub Scouts

Saturday, January 24 9:30 am ARK Kids 11:00 am Webster Advisory 12:00 pm Cub Scouts
Sunday, January 25 8:45 am ARKSE 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship

Donna Bye - Office Administrator

Amy Baxstrom – Director of Family Ministries

Donna Bye - Office Administrator Amy
Rachel King - Dir. of Children's Music; Media Coordinator

Tim Hall – Building Supervisor

Dr. Martin Luther King jr
2026 Community Celebration Service
Everyone Welcome



Standing Up for Justice: Community Voices

Tribute to Lydia Thompson

7pm Monday, January 19th



First Presbyterian Church
621 College Ave., Wooster

**Please bring nonperishable food item(s)
to donate to Wooster Hope Center**

**2026 Dr. Martin Luther King Essay
Contest Winners will be presented.**

Sponsored by:
NAACP