

# First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 14, 2025

10:00 a.m.

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE *Adagio, from 'Sonata 1 in E-flat'* *Johann Sebastian Bach*  
Eric Gastier, organ

POURING BAPTISMAL WATERS Eliza and Sarah Davis

WELCOME Reverend David Rice

#### WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

We welcome David Jones and Paige Cruzen-Jones, and Mary Sayler into church membership.

MINISTRY FOCUS Chili Cook-off and Youth Quarter Auction Steve LoGiudice

CHORAL INTROIT *Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God* (text: Psalm 51) *Carl F. Mueller*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Karolyn Rice

One: Come together as children of God.

**All: Fill us, creative God, with joy!**

One: Come together to claim freedom.

**All: Set us free, gracious God!**

One: Come together to experience God's love.

**All: As we worship this day, show us how to love as you love, O God!**

#### \*PRAYER +

Transforming God, may you move us from where we are to where you would like us to be:  
from our past into your future, from our hurts into your healing,  
from our silence into your song.

May you move us with your grace that acknowledges all we are  
and longs for who we shall be.

May you move us into life, into love, into worship. **Amen**

\*HYMN 53

*O God, Who Gives Us Life*

*NOEL*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Searching God, you come for us like a shepherd searching for lost sheep.

All: **We hide and we run, sometimes knowing we have strayed,  
and other times completely unaware that we are on the wrong path.**

One: Regardless, you come after us.

With love and compassion and mercy you come after us.

All: **So, we make our confession with hope that you might find us again,  
and wipe away our fears and our failings, and return us to your fold,  
in the name of the Good Shepherd we see in Jesus.**

*Here each worshipper may offer personal, silent prayer.*

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

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

When we call, One who is all love answers and gives us strength for our weariness.

Though we fall short, Love draws near to us again and again,

bringing us out of our fear and resistance and into our calling as reflections of Christ.

We are given strength for the task and love for the journey.

This is Good News today and every day: we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God. Amen**

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Amy Baxstrom

### ANTHEM

*Come, Labor On* (text: Hymn 719)

*T. T. Noble, arr. John A. Ferguson*

### SCRIPTURE

Luke 15:1-10

Pew Bible page 73

### SERMON

*Unbounded Joy!*

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

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

Offertory      *Andante Religioso*, from 'Sonata IV in B-flat major'

*Felix Mendelssohn*

\*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

**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**

## BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

\*HYMN 79

*Light Dawns on a Weary World*

TEMPLE OF PEACE

\*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Prelude and Fugue in e-minor*

*Nicolaus Bruhns*

\* 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.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Sunday Greeters:	September 14 – Carol Gates		September 21 – Tom & Jane Buch			
Sunday Ushers:	September 14 – Jack & Julie Miller, Steve & Susie Slack					
Sunday Sexton:	September 14 – Aiden Hiner		September 21 – Calin Baxstrom			
Sunday, Sept. 14	8:45 am	ARISE	9:15 am	Sunday School	10:30 am	Worship
Monday, Sept. 15	10:00 am	Amy Bible Study	12:00 pm	Rotary	1:30 pm	Staff
	5:30 pm	Faith & Worship	7:15 pm	Clearfork Trout Unlimited		
Tuesday, Sept. 16	9:30 am	Bible Study	12:30 pm	Traveler’s Club	4:00 pm	Inkies
	6:00 pm	Scouts	6:00 pm	WACPAC		
Wednesday, Sept. 17	10:00 am	Memory Café	6:30 pm	Game Night	7:00 pm	Faith & Structure
Thursday, Sept. 18	6:00 pm	WACPAC	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal		
Friday, Sept. 19	5:00 pm	Mixed Company Dinner at TJ’s Restaurant				
Saturday, Sept. 20	9:30 am	Al-Anon	8:00 am	Painting the lower level of the church.		
Sunday, Sept. 21	8:45 am	ARISE	9:15 am	Sunday School	10:30 am	Worship

Donna Bye – Office Administrator

Amy Baxstrom – Director of Family Ministries

Rachel King – Dir. of Children's Music; Media Coordinator

Tim Hall – Building Supervisor

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our next study will be on Monday morning, September 15 at 10:00am in the Parlor. We will be studying the Short Stories by Jesus written by Amy-Jill Levine. Let Amy Baxstrom know if you are interested so materials can be provided. We look forward to seeing you!



**Join us for a fun Game Night in Bruch Hall on  
Wednesday, September 17th at 6:30 pm!**



Mixed Company will meet Friday, September 19th at 5:00 pm at TJ's Restaurant. Email Kathy Turning by September 17th if you will be attending ([kathrynturning@mail.com](mailto:kathrynturning@mail.com)).

**Volunteers are needed for painting the lower level of the church  
on September 20th at 8:00 a.m. !  
No need to bring anything or call.  
Just show up! It will be greatly appreciated. Thank You!**