

# First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



## TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

February 15, 2026

10:15 a.m.

PRELUDE

*Vision*

*Josef Rheinberger*

Eric J. Gastier, organ

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

MINISTRY FOCUS

Earth Care

Matt Call

CHORAL INTROIT

*O Wondrous Sight! O Vision Fair!*

*DEO GRACIAS*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP +

Karolyn Rice

One: Once before, God called us to the mountain, to come together and beat swords into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks. God is calling again.

**All: Once before, God called us to the mountain, to receive the gift of the commandments and to become the servant community. God is calling again.**

One: Once before, God called us to the mountain, to see what we could become with God's power shining through our humanity. God is calling again.

**All: Arise, shine, our light has come! Let us meet God as we worship together.**

\*PRAYER +

Holy God, you encounter us in places where we seek you and in places where we flee from you. Ease our fears. Open our ears and eyes to you, wherever and in whomever you reveal yourself to us. Prepare us to journey as you call us to the Way of Jesus. **Amen**

\*HYMN 666

*O Splendor of God's Glory Bright*

*PUER NOBIS NASCITUR*

CONFESSION +

One: For those times we have not followed your call, when we have thought the Way of Jesus too rough for us, when we have walked a more comfortable way, and hidden the Way of Love by doing so, forgive us, gracious God.

**All: For those times we have not followed your word to care for the least ones among us, the widow, the orphan, the stranger, and thereby hidden the truth of the gospel, forgive us, gracious God.**

One: For those times we have not shared your table by keeping your goodness to ourselves, tipping the scales of justice in our favor, and leaving people hungry in so doing, forgive us, gracious God.

**All: For the times we have hidden your light by living in the shadows, refusing to shine in the dark places where people struggle with pain and brokenness and injustice, forgive us, gracious God.**

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

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

When we lay down our fears and defenses, there is room for forgiveness and love.  
The former ways of resistance crumble and we are shaped into a community  
of creative freedom, of spirited living, of peace.      **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

*Prayer for Transfiguration Day*

*John Weaver*

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 24:9-18

Matthew 17:1-8

Pew Bible pages 67, 17

SERMON

*Beyond the Mountaintop*

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

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

OFFERTORY

*Adagio, from 'Sonata I'*

*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**

\*HYMN 79

*Light Dawns on a Weary World*

*TEMPLE OF PEACE*

\*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Fuge in g-moll (the 'Little')*

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

\* Asterisk indicates places in the service to stand.      + Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*

**The flowers today are given by Mark and Cheryl Gooch  
in memory of Mark's father, Ross Gooch.**

First Presbyterian Church is a Christian community dedicated to showing God's love  
through worship, study, social justice, outreach, and fellowship.





# Ash WEDNESDAY SERVICE

**Westminster Presbyterian Church will be hosting a combined  
soup supper/worship service on Ash Wednesday,  
February 18th. Soup supper is at 6:00 pm.  
followed by a 7:00 worship service.  
All are invited to attend.**

**Join the final Congregational Discussion**  
on  
**Sunday, February 15, 2026; 9:15 a.m. Bruch Hall**

As we begin our time of transition in pastoral leadership, it is a natural time to think about our church moving forward. These interactive times together allow us to share ideas and hopes for our church as we consider our future. If there is someone you know who has not had the opportunity to attend a gathering and would like to, please invite them or let a Session member know and we will help to make arrangements so that person may attend.

If you are not able to attend this discussion or prefer to contribute your ideas in writing, there are forms available in the Gathering Area that you are welcome to complete. You may also access the same form online, using the QR code below.



**You are welcome to request a phone call or an in-person discussion with Session members.**

**Session members:**

|                                                |                                |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Paula Abrecht (330-464-3204)                   | Tammy Brooks (330-621-1180)    |
| Wes Davis (330-466-8818)                       | Kris Evans (314-570-1910)      |
| April Gamble (330-601-3188)                    | Mark Gooch (330-465-9857)      |
| Mark Gordon (614-595-3302)                     | Steve LoGiudice (646-203-5411) |
| Laura Neill (330-465-7249)                     | Jeff Perkins (330-262-1910)    |
| Jack Rogers (330-805-0637)                     | Becky Webb (678-849-6229)      |
| Lisa Rumbaugh, Clerk of Session (330-466-5796) |                                |