

First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 19, 2026

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Carillon

Leo Sowerby

Rachel King, chimes and Eric J. Gastier, organ

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

POURING THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

Ian Webb

In preparation for worship, we pour baptismal water as a sign of our engrafting into the Body of Christ.

CHORAL INTROIT

What Shall I Render? (text: Psalm 116, excerpts)

Austin Lovelace

*CALL TO WORSHIP +

Ian Webb

One: Come, all who would experience the Love of God —
speak from the depths of your being, seek from the shadows of your longing.

**All: When we are laid low, God hears our prayers.
God will lift up our spirits and fill us with joy.
For God moves beyond our daily graves and refreshes us
with the hope of abundant life today and in all our tomorrows.
Come, let us worship our God of Life.**

*PRAYER +

Gracious God, stay with us.

Warm our hearts with the presence of your word, and strengthen our resolve
to extend the hospitality of your love and grace to those in need.

Grant that we may see, and in seeing trust, and in trusting follow. **Amen**

*HYMN 715

The Earth Belongs to God Alone

SIMMONS

CONFESSION +

One: Living Lord, how often you come to us, and we do not recognize you.

**All: In friends and strangers, who seek and offer kindness;
in words that make sense of our lives and the world around us;
in living, enduring promises that we have all but forgotten, you come, O God.**

One: But our hearts are slow to see and experience you.

All: Forgive us, we pray.

Do not leave us but stay with us and awaken us to your presence.

Kindle within us deep and genuine love for you

and for the sisters and brothers you give to us, even when they are strangers.

At this time, each worshipper may offer personal, silent prayer.

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

Whether we hear a voice from the heavens or a still small voice in our hearts,
listen carefully for the Love of God;
look carefully to where that voice and that vision are present in our lives.
Receive God's love and live in God's freedom. **Amen**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rachel King

A TIME OF CELEBRATION

Lydia Dunlap

Celebrating Eric Gastier on the anniversary of his 25 years of making beautiful music among us.

ANTHEM

Stay with Us

Egil Hovland

(text: Luke 24:29 & 'Phos Hilaron,' 3rd or 4th Century)

SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:13-35

Pew Bible page 84

SERMON

Finding Jesus

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE We continue receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.
Through our monetary gifts, we offer something of our work and ourselves to God.

OFFERTORY

Jerusalem, My Happy Home

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 INTERCESSION FOR THE EARTH 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 515

I Come with Joy

DOVE OF PEACE

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Tuba Tune

C. S. Lang

* Asterisk indicates places in the service to stand.

+ Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit* ++ Catholic Earthcare Launch, Brisbane, Australia

**The flowers for today's service are dedicated by the congregation
to honor Eric Gastier's 25 years of making beautiful music
and directing the choir during our worship at First Presbyterian Church.**

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.

First Presbyterian Church
621 College Ave., Wooster, OH 44691
330-264-9420 www.firstpreswooster.org Facebook: facebook.com/FPCWooster

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday Greeters:	April 19 – Kris Evans	April 26 – Shannon Foster
Sunday Ushers:	April 19 – Kris Evans, April Gamble, Mark Gooch, Doug Smith	
Sunday Sexton:	April 19 – Andrew James	April 26 – Aiden Hiner
Sunday, April 19	Women's Trip to Ghost Ranch	8:45 am ARISE 9:15 am Sunday School
	10:30 am Worship	TBD Youth Hike 12:30 pm Party in Bruch
	7:00 pm Central Christian School Choir Concert	
Monday, April 20	10:00 am Bible Study	12:00 pm Rotary 1:30 pm Staff 7:00 pm Scouts
Tuesday, April 21	9:30 am Bible Study	4:00 pm Inkie's Cards 6:00 pm RDM
Wed., April 22	10:00 am Life Memory Café	11:00 am Caregivers 7:00 pm Session
Thursday, April 23	6:00 pm WACPAC	7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Spring Book Group
Saturday, April 25	9:30 am Al-Anon	10:00 am WACPAC 11:00 am Advocacy
	12:00 pm Cub Scouts	4:00 pm Montessori Spring Music Program
Sunday, April 26	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	



Come learn more about First Presbyterian Church Wooster!

Whether you are brand new, have been visiting for a while, or just want to get more connected, this class is for you. Join us as we explore who we are, what we value, and how we live out our faith in a changing world. We will talk about what our church offers, how the Presbyterian Church (USA) connects us to a wider movement, a bit of our history and, most importantly, how your gifts and passions can find a home here.

**Ask questions. Meet people. Find your place.
Let's find it together.**

+



Derby Day Fellowship Feast



**First Presbyterian Church Annual Meeting Potluck
Sunday, May 3 | Bruch Hall | Immediately Following Worship**

Stick around after worship and head to Bruch Hall for our **Annual Meeting Potluck** with a festive **Derby Day Fellowship Feast** theme. We'll share a meal, celebrate together, and take care of important church business, all in good company.

Bring your **favorite Derby-inspired dish** to share.

Think Southern classics, picnic favorites, sweet treats, or anything worthy of the winner's circle.

Hats, bow ties, and Derby flair encouraged but not required.

Come hungry and trot on down for a winning afternoon of food, fellowship, and fun.