

First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 23, 2026

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

Prelude in Classic Style & Psalm
Eric J. Gastier, organ

Gordon Young

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

POURING THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

Reverend Karen Webster

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

MUSICAL OFFERING

Prelude

Henry Coleman

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Reverend Karen Webster

One: Across generations, when uncertainty and hardship grew around God's people,
life found a way to flourish, nurtured by a quiet, persistent grace.

All: Our God hears even the softest of our prayers and invites us into healing and hope.

One: When the voices of fear or pressure grow loud in our world,
Christ gently calls us together to ground ourselves in compassion and peace.

All: Where heavy burdens exist, God's light invites us to move forward together.

One: In the stillness of our hearts and the sacredness of this space, Jesus asks us:
"Who do you say that I am?"

All: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God in our midst.

One: You are the steady foundation beneath our feet, guiding us to unlock kindness,
mending what is broken and welcoming all into your love.

All: Let us worship with joyful hearts and open spirits.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

God beyond our knowing, we believe that you care for humble people who seek to follow your Word. You have protected your people when they were surrounded by trouble. You have provided a way of escape in the midst of oppression. Your love never fails. Come, Holy One, to transform us. Work within and among us to renew our minds and build community. Nurse us into the health you intend for all your children. You are our help and our hope. **Amen**

*HYMN 401

Here in This Place: Gather Us In

GATHER US IN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Oh God, we fail to realize that we are among the rich oppressors of this world.
We think we are poor when we cannot have everything we want.

All: Keep us from misusing the power we have.

One: We confess our fear of those who are unlike us.
We set up barriers against them when we are afraid.

All: Keep us from acting in ways that alienate and divide.

One: When we are tempted to conform to the world's standards,

**All: Set before us the higher model of sacrifice and service
that is given to us in Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen**

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

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: God gives us grace to think with sober judgment and to act with confident faith.
By that grace, we have unique gifts to use within the body of Christ.
God forgives and heals and empowers us with new insights
and expanded capacity to serve.
In humble obedience, we learn the joy of following Jesus
and living for the highest good for all.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Amy Baxstrom

ANTHEM

O Rest in the Lord, from 'Elijah'
David Rice, baritone

Henry Coleman

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 1:8-14

Matthew 16:13-20

Pew Bible pages 47, 17

SERMON

The Tyranny of New Kings

Reverend Travis Webster

Henry J. Copeland Interfaith Chaplain, College of Wooster

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF RULING YOUTH ELDER CLASS OF 2027

Lydia Dunlap, Olivia Kelly, Acadia Webb

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

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

OFFERTORY

Song Without Words

Paul Winchester

*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**

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

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Susan Shaffer

*HYMN 726

Will You Come and Follow Me: The Summons

KELVINGROVE

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Tuba Tune

C. S. Lang

* Asterisk indicates places in the service to stand.

The chancel flowers are given today by Leigh Oaks in honor of the Church Community.

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:	August 23 – Ted & Karen Short	August 30 – Kathy Turning
Sunday Ushers:	August 23 – Mark Gooch, Candace Harrington, Diana Rice, Kathy Turning	
Sunday Sexton:	August 23 – Aiden & Addy Hiner, Ellen Armour	August 30 – Hudson Baxstrom
Sunday, August 23	10:00 am	Worship
Monday, August 24	10:00 am	Women’s Bible Study
	12:00 pm	Rotary
	1:30 pm	Staff Mtg.
	6:00 pm	Pastor Nominating
	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts
Tuesday, August 25	10:00 am	Bible Study
	6:00 pm	RDM
	6:00 pm	WACPAC
Wed., August 26	10:00 am	Life Memory Café
	11:00 am	Memory Café Caregivers
	11:30 am	Safety Council
	6:15 pm	Elder Orientation
	7:00 pm	Session
Thursday, August 27	6:00 pm	WACPAC
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, August 29	9:30 am	Al-Anon
	3:00 pm	Celebration for David & Karolyn Rice
Sunday, August 30	10:00 am	Worship

Donna Bye – Office Administrator
Rachel King – Dir. of Children’s Music; Media Coordinator

Amy Baxstrom – Director of Family Ministries
Tim Hall – Building Supervisor



We had a very successful meal in July. The smoked pulled pork was delicious. Many thanks to Brian, the master smoker and to Jenny and Diana for their leadership. This month, as we try to keep the kitchen cool during these hot summer months, we will be offering a "sandwich smorgasbord " along with picnic salads. We love this time of year as we can offer many fresh fruits and those delicious homegrown tomatoes. "A Whole Community " will be offering take home produce as well as our usual Panera And Buehler's baked goods. We appreciate all your contributions and help to serve. Meals for All thanks you so much!



The Boys & Girls Club of Wooster has been busy this summer with the kids using lots of supplies for art and other creative learning projects.

They will be in need of the following:

Fine tip and broad tip color marker sets, glue sticks, masking tape, scissors, construction paper all colors.

Contact Cheryl Gooch if you have questions.