

# First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER – CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

April 27, 2025

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

*Dawn Hymn*

*Alan Hovhaness*

Eric J. Gastier, organ

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

MINISTRY FOCUS

Adopt-a-Highway

Carla Hall

CHORAL INTROIT

*Awake Thou Wintry Earth*

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Julie Miller

One: There is no plant in the ground, but tells of your beauty, O Christ.

**All: There is no creature on the earth, there is no life in the Sea,  
but proclaims your goodness.**

One: There is no bird on the wing, there is no star in the sky,  
there is nothing beneath the sun but is full of your blessing.

**All: Lighten our understanding of your presence all around, O Christ.  
Kindle our will to be caring for Creation . . .**

\*HYMN 664

*Morning Has Broken*

*BUNESSAN*

CONFESSION FOR THE PLANET

One: Creator God, we declare with joy and trust that our world belongs to you.  
For the fierce love with which you hold us and the rest of your creation, we declare

**All: our world belongs to God.**

One: For creation's awesome beauty and its bountiful provision, we declare

**All: our world belongs to God.**

One: For the manifold ways that it reveals your glory and draws us closer to you, we declare

**All: our world belongs to God.**

One: Amidst its present groaning, we declare

**All: our world belongs to God.**

One: To our leaders, who have significant influence over how we treat God's creation,  
we declare

**All: our world belongs to God.**

One: May our leaders be motivated by compassion, and not by fear.  
 May their goal be justice and equity, not power and privilege.  
 For the sake of the people and the ministries of your Church across the globe  
 already being affected by climate disruption,  
 may we seek consensus over controversy; action over apathy.  
 For the sake of our children and grandchildren,  
 we confess our complicity in creation's degradation,  
 recommit ourselves to our earth-keeping task, and gratefully declare

**All: our world belongs to God.**

One: As your people, participating now in your ongoing work of renewal  
 and longing for the day when you will bring that work to completion, we declare

**All: our world belongs to God.**

**Our world belongs to you, O God. Hallelujah! Come, Lord Jesus.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Carrie Gordon

ANTHEM

*All the Earth with Joy Is Sounding*

*Herbert Howell*

SCRIPTURE

Luke 10:25-37

Matthew 20:20-28

Pew Bible pages 67, 21

MESSAGE

*Is Human-Caused Climate Change a Sin?*

Brian Webb, Director of Campus Sustainability for The College of Wooster

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND Life

We receive the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering.

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

OFFERTORY

*So Will I*

*Hillsong*

Susan Shaffer, voice and guitar

\*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 +

Elli Gordon

**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 713

*Touch the Earth Lightly*

*TENDERNESS*

\*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION ++

POSTLUDE

*Tuba Tune*

*C. S. Lang*

\* Asterisk indicates places in the service to stand. ++ Wendell Berry, *The Peace of Wild Things*  
 + Sarah Bessey, *Field Notes for the Wilderness: Practices for an Evolving Faith.*

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](http://www.firstpreswooster.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/FPCWooster](https://facebook.com/FPCWooster)

Sunday Greeters: April 27 – Chris Hyser

May 4 – Jack & Nicholette Rogers

Sunday Ushers: April 27 – Rick & Deb Zeiters Maxwell, Carol McKiernan, Diana Rice

Sunday Sextons: April 27 – Calin Baxstrom

May 4 – Lydia Dunlap

Sunday, April 27	9:15 am Sunday School	10:30 am Earth Day Worship in the Sanctuary
	11:30 am Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck Lunch	
Monday, April 28	12:00 pm Rotary	1:30 pm Staff
	5:30 pm Meals for All	5:30 pm Faith & Worship
		6:00 pm WACPAC
Tuesday, April 29	9:30 am Bible Study	6:00 pm RDM Meeting
		6:00 pm Boy Scouts
Wed., April 30	10:00 am Memory Café	2:00 pm Tri-County Speech
		7:00 pm Session
Thursday, May 1	8:00 am Tri-County Speech	6:00 pm WACPAC
		7:00 pm Choir
Friday, May 2	10:45 am WC Parkinson's Network	
Saturday, May 3	9:30 am Al-Anon	10:00 am WACPAC
Sunday, May 4	8:45 am ARISE	9:15 am Sunday School
	7:00 pm Central Christian School Choir	10:30 am Sanctuary Worship

Donna Bye – Office Administrator

Amy Baxstrom – Director of Family Ministries

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

Tim Hall – Building Supervisor



How are you doing with the April challenge to reduce the number of plastic bags you bring home from shopping? If there were instances when you had to accept a plastic shopping bag, please bring them in for recycling.

Also, in May we will be offering a Native Plant Exchange.

There will be 2 things you can exchange for a new plant:

#1: Hopefully you have saved some of those small plastic pots you got last year when you bought plants for your garden beds or larger planters. Because you can bring those in to exchange for a new plant. Our gardener who sterilizes and reuses these will also accept previously used hanging baskets.

#2 This is the time of year that many of us are “thinning” the plants in our flower beds. You can bring in a plant (or plants) from your own garden and exchange that for a new plant.

Join us for our next potluck- April 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 (after the 10:30 Worship service).



During the gathering we will hold our Annual Meeting where important highlights of the year will be discussed and dreams of the upcoming year brought forward. This is a great time to fellowship with each other before the summer busyness sets in and to hear what wonderful programs, missions, and engagements First Presbyterian Church is involved in. Below is the link to the potluck sign up. There will also be one in the gathering area.

See Amy Baxstrom for more information.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F084BAEA72FA7FB6-56062379-annual>