

First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 30, 2026

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

Pastorale, from 'Symphony I'

F. Alexandre Guilmant

Eric J. Gastier, organ

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

MINISTRY FOCUS

GAP Update

Mark Gooch

POURING THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

Karolyn Rice

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

MUSICAL OFFERING

O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer (Psalm 103)

Gustav Holst/arr. EJG

*CALL TO WORSHIP +

Karolyn Rice

One: If not for God, we would be searching for a purpose in lots of dead-end places.
Our help is in the name of God, who made heaven and earth.

**All: If not for God, we would be burdened with the idea that all of this life is up to us.
Our help is in the name of God, who made heaven and earth.**

One: If not for God, we would look at the hard and mean things in the world
and say, "That's the end of the story."

**All: We worship today to tell God's story
and receive renewed purpose, release, and hope.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY +

Creator God, you make us all different, giving to each one of us special and wonderful gifts,
inviting us and challenging us to share who and what we are for the good of community.
In the beauty of our differences, remind us that we are One.
In this time of worship, help us to celebrate the Body of Christ
and the special place each one of us has in that body, through your Grace. **Amen**

*HYMN 320

The Church of Christ in Every Age

WAREHAM

PRAYER OF CONFESSION +

One: Generous God, you have created us in your image.
You have filled us—each one—with wondrous gifts.

**All: Yet we confess that we do not always recognize those talents
within ourselves or others.**

Sometimes we use them to hurt rather than build up.

We confess that sometimes we want everyone to be the same, to do things our way.

Forgive us. Nurture within us the gifts you have given us.

Empower us to offer our own gifts and to value the gifts of others.

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

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

Hear this good news of grace: God does not abandon us to our fears.

God comes to us, God journeys with us—and God can be trusted, even when all seems lost.

Friends, receive this good news: we are forgiven and made whole.

Be at peace with God and with one another. **Amen**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Amy Baxstrom

ANTHEM

How Lovely Are the Messengers, from ‘Elijah’

Felix Mendelssohn

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 16:13-20

Exodus 1:8—2:10

Pew Bible pages 17, 47

SERMON

Futures in Our Hands

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

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

OFFERTORY

Nimrod, from ‘Variations on an Original Theme’

Edward Elgar

*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**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION +

INVITATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

GREAT THANKSGIVING 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**

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether

Harold Friedell

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Grand Chœur

Théodore C. Salomé

* Asterisk indicates places in the service to stand.

+ Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*

**The chancel flowers are given today by Julie & Jack Miller
in Honor of the Birthday of Julie's mother, Jo Anne Beatty.**

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 AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Sunday Greeters: August 30 – Kathy Turning

Sunday Ushers: August 30 – Emily Armour, Luke Armour, Shannon Foster, Val Fulton

Sunday Sexton: August 30 – Hudson Baxstrom September 6 – Lydia Dunlap

Serving Communion: August 30 – Paula Abrecht, Jack Rogers, Lisa Rumbaugh

Sunday, August 30	10:00 am	Worship	6:00 pm	Youth & Families Cookout at Baxstrom Home
Monday, August 31	10:00 am	Women's Bible Study	12:00 pm	Rotary
	5:30 pm	Meals for All	6:00 pm	Pastor Nominating
			7:00 pm	Scouts
Tuesday, Sept. 1	10:00 am	Bible Study	6:00 pm	Religion Fair at the College
	6:00 pm	WACPAC		
Wed., Sept. 2	10:00 am	Life Café	11:00 am	Life Caregivers
			7:00 pm	Faith & Nurture
Thursday, Sept. 3	6:00 pm	WACPAC	6:30 pm	FPC & WPC Family Connections
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal		
Friday, Sept. 4	11:30 am	WC Parkinson's Network – Parlor		
Saturday, Sept. 5	9:00 am	Wooster Chorus Workshop		9:30 am Al-Anon
Sunday, Sept. 6	10:00 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

First Pres Wooster

FALL WORSHIP

Updates

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

- Last Summer Worship at 10:00am

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

- Rally Day Celebration at 9:15am - The Welcome Table

Join us for a breakfast potluck as we work to create a welcoming space for all this year at First Pres Wooster that fosters communication and deeper fellowship with each other.

- Worship begins at 10:30am





SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- ARISE begins at 8:45am
- Sunday School begins at 9:15am
- Worship begins at 10:30am

Everyone is welcome!

621 College Ave. Wooster, OH

www.firstpreswooster.org



There's Always Room at The Welcome Table

"Come, for everything is ready now." — Luke 14:17

Join us on **Sunday, September 13 at 9:15 a.m.** as we gather for our annual **Rally**

Day and begin a new season of ministry with this year's theme: **The Welcome Table**. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells of a great banquet where everyone is invited to the table—neighbors, strangers, friends, and those who never expected to receive an invitation. At God's table, there is always room for one more.