# First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 30, 2025 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE Five Noels, from 'L'Organiste'

Eric J. Gastier, organ

César Franck

POURING THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

WELCOME Ann Gastier

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Kyle, Jenna, Macey, and Anna Pagel

One: As we enter this sacred season, we gather around this wreath

and light the first candle of Advent, the candle of Hope.

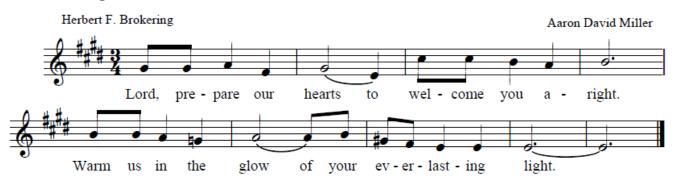
With this candle, we remember the source of our hope for peace, joy, and love and rekindle our imagination for the work of justice. Let us pray:

All: Loving God, once more you come into the world, embodying our deepest longings—enter into our lives again and fill us with your Hope.

In your presence, inspire us to work for that day when your justice and peace will be plain for all to see.

In the name of the Light of the World, we pray. Amen

## All Sing:



\*CALL TO WORSHIP + Calin Baxstrom

One: In Advent we watch and wait and prepare to welcome the Child of Wonder anew.

All: In Advent we prepare for lives of discipleship

and watch faithfully for the signs of God's light breaking into the world.

One: As we await Holy Mystery, we watch for signs of God's action in the world, actions of compassion and grace breaking in around us.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come! Be born anew in our world and in our lives.

All: Gracious and Loving God, we give thanks for the promise of this sacred season and for the joy we find embodied in a child born long ago.

Yet even as we rejoice, we recognize that we often fail to live with the hope of healing and wholeness for all creation.

In this season of anticipation, we know that we are easily distracted by our own projects and preparation.

We lose focus on the one who is the Source of our Hope.

Forgive us, God, and restore our trust in you.

Here each worshipper may offer personal, silent prayer.

Gracious God, hear our prayers. Amen

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

The promise of the season of Advent is the promise of Emmanuel, God with us. Jesus calls us to keep awake so that we are ready to receive Holy Mystery. Therefore, let us lay aside all those things that distract us from faithful watching. As we wait, let us rejoice that in God's grace we are all forgiven. **Amen** 

#### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Amy Baxstrom

ANTHEM Come, Lord Jesus, Come to Earth (text: Herbert F. Brokering) Walter L. Pelz

SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 3:14-16 Psalm 25:1-9 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Pew Bible 659, 475, 192

SERMON Prepare for the Lord Ann Gastier

\*HYMN 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VENI EMMANUEL

*Noel*, from 'Esquisses Byzantine'

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

We continue receiving 2026 Pledge Cards.

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

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\*Doxology 607

OFFERTORY

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

Ann Gastier

Henri Mulet

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 82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus HYFRYDOL* 

\*Benediction: Hymn 106 (verse 1) *Prepare the Way O Zion* Bereden VÄG FÖR HERRAN

POSTLUDE Sortie, from 'L'Organiste' César Franck

<sup>\*</sup> Asterisk indicates places in the service to stand.

<sup>+</sup> Liturgy adapted from Seasons of the Spirit

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.

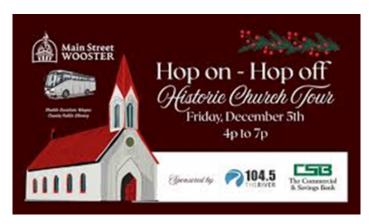
QR (Quick Response) Code for Direct Donations and Contributions – the Code can be read by your smartphone and will land you on the giving page of our website where you can "Give Now" or set up a recurring donation.

330-264-9420 www.firstpreswooster.org Facebook: facebook.com/FPCWooster

#### WEEKLY CALENDAR AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

| Sunday Ushers:   | November 30 – Kris Evans, April Gamble, Mim    |                   | December 7 – Mimi Lewellen<br>ni Lewellen, Doug Smith<br>December 7 – Andrew James |                    |
|------------------|--|-------------------|--|--------------------|
| Sunday, Nov. 30  | 8:45 am ARISE                                  | 9:15 am Sunday    | School   | 10:30 am Worship   |
| Monday, Dec. 1   | 10:00 am Amy's Bible St                        | udy 11:30 am      | Men's Lunch  | 12:00 pm Rotary    |
|                  | 1:30 pm Staff Meeting                          | 7:00 pm           | Deacon Meeting   | g                  |
| Tuesday, Dec. 2  | 9:30 am Bible Study                            | 7:00 pm           | Boy Scout Troc   | op #66             |
| Wednesday, Dec.  | 3 10:00 am Memory Café                         | 7:00 pm           | Session Meeting  | g                  |
| Thursday, Dec. 4 | 8:30 am Rotary Cooks -                         | Kitchen           | 7:00 pm  | n Choir Rehearsal  |
| Friday, Dec. 5   | 4:00 pm Downtown Chu                           | ırch Tour (Sanctu | ary, Bruch Hall  | Set-up $-3:00$ pm) |
| Saturday, Dec. 6 | 9:30 am Al-Anon                                | 12:00 pm AAUV     | V Christmas  |                    |
|                  | 3:00 pm Sonnenberg Station Concert – Sanctuary |                   |  |                    |
| Sunday, Dec. 7   | 8:45 am ARISE                                  | 9:15 am Sunday    | School   | 10:30 am Worship   |
|                  | 11:30 am Holiday Potluck Lunch in Bruch Hall   |                   |  |                    |

Donna Bye – Office Administrator Amy Baxstrom – Director of Family Ministries Rachel King – Dir. of Children's Music; Media Coordinator Tim Hall – Building Supervisor



On December 5<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-7:00pm we will be participating in the Historic Church Tour. We will need volunteers to welcome guests into the church, showcase our beautiful Sanctuary, and invite them to Bruch Hall for some light refreshments and spiritual practices. Please let Amy Baxstrom know if you can help!



You Are Invited...to SEE and HEAR Sonnenberg Station perform at FPC on December 6, 2025 at 3:00pm

The Annual FPC Holly Jolly Holiday Potluck – Sunday, December 7!

Get ready to sleigh the season! Our Annual First Presbyterian Church Holly Jolly Holiday Potluck is coming up, and we can't wait to celebrate together. Join us on Sunday, December 7, right after the 10:30 a.m. service, as Bruch Hall fills with warmth, joy, and all the flavors of the season. This cherished tradition brings our whole church family together to jingle and mingle over a festive shared meal full of community spirit.

**Turkey and ham will be provided**, and we invite everyone to bring a favorite holiday dish to share. Whether it's a treasured family recipe or a **fresh festive favorite**, your contribution adds to the celebration.

Sign-ups are available in the Gathering Area or online.