

First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 4, 2026

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star
Eric J. Gastier, organ

Dietrich Buxtehude

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

MINISTRY FOCUS

Earth Care

Roy Haynes

*CALL TO WORSHIP +

Karolyn Rice

One: We seek Jesus this day as the sages of old sought the Christ Child.

All: We seek to draw near the Mystery of God for our longing souls.

One: May the Spirit of Life breathe into us this day, and the Bread of Life renew us
for our journeys of faith and service into this new year.

**All: May God bring justice and mercy and peace through us for all creation.
Come let us worship our God who makes all things new!**

*PRAYER +

God of new beginnings, like the Magi we are overwhelmed with joy
when we encounter Jesus, child of Bethlehem, gift to the world.
May we continue to seek the Way of Jesus even in unexpected places,
and notice the presence of your love wherever it is present throughout the world. **Amen**

*HYMN 151

We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT

PRAYER OF CONFESSION +

One: God of light and love, we are called to see and reflect your light.

**All: But so often we live in the darkness, swallowed by the shadows of
greed, fear, resentment, jealousy, anger, and violence.**

One: We have hurt each other and spoiled your wonderful creation.

**All: Restore to us the courage to be bold in action
as we reflect your wonderful care and loving grace.**

Let us be your light in the dark shadows of the world.

Here each worshipper may offer personal, silent prayer.

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

One: Here, in this moment and in this place,
the Spirit of gentleness moves in our midst.
Mercy, hope, and joy are the gifts of God
to each and every one of us.

All: **No longer lost, we have found our way home,
surrounded by God's peace, by God's grace, by God's love.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Amy Baxstrom

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12

Pew Bible page 1

SERMON

Finding Our Way Home

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

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

OFFERTORY *Schmücke dich (Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness)* Johannes Brahms

*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 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 749

Come! Live in the Light!

WE ARE CALLED

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fuge in C-dur ('Gigue')

Dieterich Buxtehude

* Asterisk indicates places in the service to stand.

+ 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.

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:	January 4 – Kathy Turning	January 11 – Joan Firmin
Sunday Ushers:	January 4 – Kris Evans, Tim Fair, April Gamble, Mimi Lewellen	
Sunday Sexton:	January 4 – Aiden Hiner	January 11 – Calin Baxstrom
Sunday, January 4	10:30 am Worship	11:45 am Undecorate the Church
Monday, January 5	10:00 am Women's Bible Study	11:30 am Men's Lunch
	12:00 pm Rotary	1:30 pm Admin. Staff
		7:00 pm Boy Scouts
Tuesday, January 6	9:30 am Bible Study	6:00 pm WACPAC Annual Board Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 7	9:30 am OHuddle Fiery Godmother Set-up	10:00 am Memory Café
	11:00 am Memory Café Caregivers	7:00 pm Faith & Nurture
Thursday, January 8	1:00 pm OHuddle Volunteer Groups	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, January 9	1:00 pm OHuddle Volunteer Groups	
Saturday, January 10	9:30 am Al-Anon	10:00 am OHuddle “Fiery” Godmother
Sunday, January 11	9:15 am Sunday School	10:30 am Worship
		Youth-Tubing TBD
Donna Bye – Office Administrator	Amy Baxstrom – Director of Family Ministries	
Rachel King – Dir. of Children's Music; Media Coordinator	Tim Hall – Building Supervisor	

Dr. Martin Luther King jr
2026 Community Celebration Service
Everyone Welcome



Standing Up for Justice: Community Voices

Tribute to Lydia Thompson

7pm, Monday January 19th



First Presbyterian Church
621 College Ave., Wooster

**Please bring nonperishable food item(s)
to donate to Wooster Hope Center**

**2026 Dr. Martin Luther King Essay
Contest Winners will be presented.**

Sponsored by:

NAACP