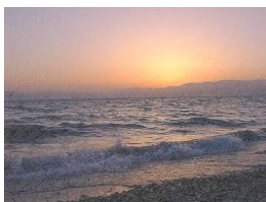


First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 4, 2025

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Chant de Mai (May Song)
Eric J. Gastier, organ

Joseph Jongen

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

MINISTRY FOCUS

Earth Care Team

Nichollette Rogers

CHORAL INTROIT

O Taste and See
Ethan Yoder, soloist

Ralph Vaughan Williams

*CALL TO WORSHIP +

Mark Gooch

One: From the shores of our lives, Jesus calls us into this celebration of worship.

All: Come, let us worship our God.

One: From the edge of our worries and concerns, Jesus calls us into hope.

All: Come, let us claim the promise of hope.

One: From the shallow places in our hearts,

Jesus calls us into the depths of God's love.

All: Come, let us celebrate the gift of this love and worship our God.

*PRAYER +

Welcoming God, may our welcome to others be as great as yours has been to us:

to those who are hungry, may we offer bread; to those who are broken,
may we offer healing; to those who are lost, may we offer nourishment;
to those who are doubting, a new adventure.

May we be a community of grace where our many offerings serve all in your redeeming love.

Amen

*HYMN 246

Christ Is Alive!

TRURO

PRAYER OF CONFESSION +

**All: Renewing God of Hope, we confess that we are often swept up
in the tide of our generation.**

**We fail in our calling to be your holy people,
a people set apart for your divine purpose.**

We live more in apathy born of fatalism than in passion born of hope.

We are moved more by private ambition than by social justice.

We dream more of privilege and benefits than of service and sacrifice.

Forgive us, restore us, and reshape us in your loving image.

Here each worshipper may offer personal, silent prayer.

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

When we lay down our fears and defenses, there is room for forgiveness and love.
The former ways of resistance crumble and we are shaped into a community
of creative freedom, of spirited living, of peace. **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

For You Shall Go Out in Joy

Kent Newbury

SCRIPTURE

John 21:1-19

Pew Bible page 109

SERMON

Following Jesus

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE We are still receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.
Through our monetary gifts, we offer something of our work and ourselves to God.

OFFERTORY

Prière

René Vierne

*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**

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATING SENIORS

Megan receives the Martha Robinson Scholarship.

Megan Armour, Emma LoGiudice, Sophie Gamble, Ignacia Mendez, Jessie Breth, Dorothea Prech
Choral Scholars: Hannah Wells, Paul Zito, Ethan Yoder

*HYMN 529

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

UNION SEMINARY

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*HYMN 726

Will You Come and Follow Me

KELVINGROVE

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

Jacques Lemmens

* 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: May 4 – Jack & Nicholette Rogers May 11 – Kris Evans
Sunday Ushers: May 4 – Kris Evans, Tim Fair, April Gamble, Mimi Lewellen
Sunday Sexton: May 4 – Lydia Dunlap May 11 – Calin Baxstrom
Communion Servers: Tammy Brooks, Lydia Dunlap, Mimi Lewellen

Sunday, May 4	8:45 am ARISE	9:15 am Sunday School	10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
	11:30 am Lower Level Open House	7:00 pm Central Christian School Choir	
Monday, May 5	11:30 am Men's Lunch	12:00 pm Rotary	1:30 pm Staff
	4:00 pm Board of Elections Setup	6:00 pm WACPAC	
Tuesday, May 6	VOTING	9:30 am Bible Study	6:00 pm Boy Scouts 6:00 pm WACPAC
Wed., May 7	10:00 am Memory Café	7:00 pm Faith & Nurture	
Thursday, May 8	6:00 pm WACPAC	7:00 pm Choir	
Friday, May 9	10:45 am WC Parkinson's Network		
Saturday, May 10	9:30 am Al-Anon	10:00 am WACPAC	11:00 am Wooster Advocacy Group
Sunday, May 11	8:45 am ARISE	9:15 am Sunday School	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

A Blessing for Graduating Seniors

For the Journey Ahead

Loving Presence full of grace,
today we give thanks for these graduating seniors —
for their resilience, their growth, their questions, and their dreams.
We honor the path that brought them here,
and we bless the path that lies ahead.

God of Becoming,
as they step into the next chapter,
may they carry more than diplomas —
may they carry compassion for others and for themselves,
a hunger for justice,
and a deep sense of the worth of creation.

May they know they are not defined by achievements, titles, or the approval of others,
but by the sacred truth that they are enough, just as they are—
beloved, worthy, and capable of changing the world.

Give them courage to speak up when silence is easier,
to make room at every table,
to listen deeply,
and to live authentically.

In times of uncertainty, be their grounding.
In times of joy, be their song.
In times of challenge, remind them they are never alone.

May they be bold enough to imagine a world more just, more kind, more whole —
and brave enough to help build it.

So, we bless them now—
not to escape the world,
but to engage it with fierce hope,
open hearts,
and hands ready to serve.

Go with grace.
Go with love.
Go with purpose.

May your journey be a blessing —
and may you be a blessing to the world.

Amen



Megan Armour will be graduating from Wooster High School this year. She has appreciated the community that First Presbyterian Church has given her. Megan has grown close to almost everyone here and looks forward to coming every Sunday to see her favorite people. Next year, Megan plans on attending Denison University, majoring in Data Analytics.



Emma LoGiudice is graduating on May 18th, 2025, with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Ohio Northern University. In August, she will move to Orlando, FL to begin a six-month internship with the Disney Corporation (working in Disney World). Upon completion of her internship, she plans to return to Ohio to seek a full-time position in pediatric nursing. She is grateful for the continued support that First Presbyterian offered throughout her college experience (including supporting her work in the Dominican Republic with Ohio Northern Nursing without Borders).



Sophie Gamble is graduating from Hamilton College this year. Sophie is an anthropology major with a minor in French Government. She will be attending The University of Pennsylvania next year for a graduate program in educational policy.



Ignacia Mendez is an economics major, political science and Mathematics minor at the College of Wooster graduating in May 2025. After Wooster she will be starting a Quantitative Economics Master at Boston University. She is super excited for what comes next!



Jessie Berth will graduate from the College of Wooster this May with major in Psychology and a Studio Art minor. Next year, she will be starting a Master Program in Sport, Exercise, and Performance psychology at Minnesota State University, Mankato. During her first year she will apply to a second master's program for Mental Health Counseling, so ideally, she will complete two Master's in 3 years.



Dorothea Prech will be graduating with a bachelor's degree in psychology at the College of Wooster. She is from Cleveland Heights, Ohio and will return to Cleveland this fall to pursue a master's in social work at Case Western Reserve University. Although she currently attends Wooster Mennonite church, First Presbyterian was a great place of spiritual growth for Dorothea. She had the honor of being baptized here by Rev. David Rice. She found it very special to attend this church over her college experience and prays that students continue attending as it's such a welcoming and nurturing church.



GABBY HOO | '26
— KINGSTON, JAMAICA —

Biochemistry/Molecular Biology
Music
Double Major



SARAH MOLDOVER | '26
— STERLING, VA —

Music Therapy
Major

Our Choral Scholars

As the academic year draws to a close, we extend our sincere thanks to this year's Choral Scholars. We have been fortunate to have had five College of Wooster students singing with us for the 2024-2025 academic year. In addition, we send our three graduating seniors - Hannah, Paul, and Ethan off with our congratulations. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

- Eric Gastier



HANNAH WELLS | '25
— DOVER, OH —

Music Education
Major



PAUL ZITO | '25
— MAYFIELD HEIGHTS, OH —

Music Education
Major



ETHAN YODER | '25
— GRANGER, IN —

Music Composition
Major