

First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



EASTER SUNDAY

April 5, 2026

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Festal Flourish
Pastoral Dance on 'Bunessan'
Festival Procession

Gordon Jacob
Andrew Clarke
Richard Strauss

Eric J. Gastier, organ & Brass Quintet

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

POURING THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

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

CHORAL INTROIT

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

J. S. Bach, arr. Ruppel

*CALL TO WORSHIP +

Susie Slack

One: In the steadfast love of God, in the presence that never leaves us,
in the community that strengthens us, in the deepest moments of living,
in facing our places of life and of death, we have traveled together.

**All: From isolation to common ground, from dying to living,
from grief to mystery, from fear to joy, we have traveled together.**

One: In this morning's light, we set out to travel a new path:
from the tombs of anxiety and despair toward the resurrections of our hope.

**All: Let us walk together into this new day.
Come, let us worship our God of healing and wholeness and newness.**

*PRAYER +

We give thanks to you, O God, that from generation to generation you continue to be our strength and our song. Open our hearts to the gift of your redeeming love that we celebrate this Easter Day and enable us to be bearers of that love to the hurting places of your world. **Amen**

*HYMN 232

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

CONFESSION +

One: On this morning of hallelujahs, we must confess how human we are, Emptier of Tombs.
We have not done great evil, but we have failed to do good when we had the chance.
We have not intentionally hurt anyone,
but neither have we always offered healing to the broken.

We accept the witness of angels at the tomb, but find it difficult
to live the lives of compassion and reconciliation that this hope demands.

All: Bring us new life, Dazzling God.

**Where we are tired and stressed, give us the energy to serve your creation;
transform our hardened hearts into fountains of grace;
forgive us of all the damage we have done to others and to your creation,
and fill us with the joy of your Spirit.**

Here each worshipper may offer personal, silent prayer.

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

This is the Good News, my friends: God remembers us and forgives us and calls us,
so that we might live as people of love and hope for the sake of all creation.

On this once again remembered First New Day,
let us journey together as a people healed and made whole. **Thanks be to God! Amen**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

Jesus Is Alive!

The Easter Story as told by the Bible Town & Jr. High Classes

Response: **“Have you heard? Have you heard? Have you heard the news about Jesus?”**

ANTHEM

Mary Magdalene, from ‘Marienlieder’

Johannes Brahms

SCRIPTURE

John 20:1-18

Pew Bible page 108

SERMON

Unexpected

ANTHEM

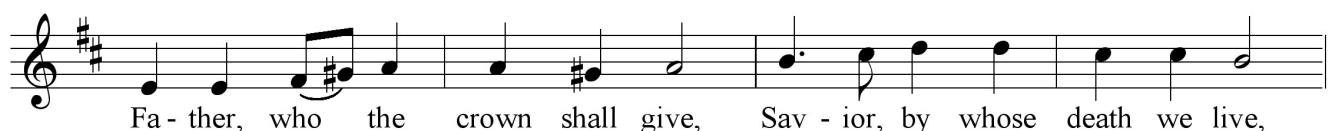
At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing

James Biery

Please join the Choir in singing the concluding section of the anthem:

Latin, 4th cent.; trans. Robert Campbell

James Biery



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

OFFERTORY

Adagio, from 'Symphony V'

Charles-Marie Widor

*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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*HYMN 248

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

ODE TO JOY

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Deus in Adjutorium, from 'Vespers of 1610'

Claudio Monteverdi

* Asterisk indicates places in the service to stand.

+ Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*

We extend a special welcome to our brass players from the Conservatory of Music at Oberlin College:

Luca Ivagnes & Julian White – trumpets

Julia Wineger - French horn

Abe Frato - trombone

Charles Chapman – tuba

Thanks also to the Sanctuary Choir and the Choral Scholars for their contributions to today's service.

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.



Through our monetary gifts, we offer something of our work and ourselves to God. 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 Greeters:	April 5 – Candace Harrington	April 12 – Pam Giffin
Sunday Ushers:	April 5 – Candace Harrington, Mimi Lewellen, Diana Rice, Kathy Turning	
Sunday Sexton:	April 5 – Andrew James	April 12 – Lydia Dunlap
Serving Communion – Wes Davis, April Gamble, Laura Neill		
Sunday, April 5	9:15 am Sunday School and Easter Egg Hunt	10:30 am Worship
Monday, April 6	10:00 am Bible Study	11:30 am Men's Lunch
	5:30 pm Faith & Worship	12:00 pm Rotary
	6:00 pm PNC	6:30 pm Nominating
Tuesday, April 7	9:30 am Bible Study	
Wednesday, April 8	10:00 am Memory Café	11:00 am Caregivers
		5:30 pm Faith & Practice
Thursday, April 9	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	
Friday, April 10	11:30 am Parkinson's Network	
Saturday, April 11	8:00 am FPC Workday	9:30 am Al-Anon
		11:00 am Wooster Advocacy
Sunday, April 12	8:45 am ARISE	9:15 am Sunday School
		10:30 am Worship
	4:00 pm Cantate Singers Concert at Cornerstone Community Church in Dalton	
Donna Bye – Office Administrator	Amy Baxstrom – Director of Family Ministries	
Rachel King – Dir. of Children's Music; Media Coordinator	Tim Hall – Building Supervisor	

Easter Flowers –2026



Honor

In Honor of the Outstanding FPC Staff given by Mimi Lewellen

In Honor of Amy Baxstrom given by Susie Slack

Memory

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Harrison Arnold given by Elaine Arnold

In Memory of Bertha Fouch given by Elaine Arnold

In Memory of Barbara Eisinger Adams given by Elaine Arnold

In Memory of Mary Beth Weidner given by Emily & Luke Armour

In Memory of Elmer & Marie Froelich given by Sue Froelich

In Memory of Harold (Hal) Fulton given by Valerie Fulton

In Memory of Celia & Bob Gates given by Carol Gates

In Memory of Ross & Canny Gooch given by Mark & Cheryl Gooch

In Memory of Charles A. Harrington given by Candace Harrington

In Memory of Andrew M. Harrington given by Candace Harrington

In Memory of Donald Knowlton given by the Knowlton Family

In Memory of Dick Lewellen given by Mimi Lewellen

In Memory of Tom & Libby Bruch given by Mimi Lewellen

In Memory of Jim & Sally Bean given by Mimi Lewellen

In Memory of Jack & Norma Schubert given by Tom & Lisa Rumbaugh

In Memory of Suzanne Rumbaugh given by Tom & Lisa Rumbaugh

In Memory of Carl Schmid given by Dottie Schmid

Come learn more about First Presbyterian Church Wooster! Whether you are brand new, have been visiting for a while, or just want to get more connected, this class is for you. Join us as we explore who we are, what we value, and how we live out our faith in a changing world. We will talk about what our church offers, how the Presbyterian Church (USA) connects us to a wider movement, a bit of our history and, most importantly, how your gifts and passions can find a home here.

Ask questions. Meet people. Find your place.
Let's find it together.



Rooted & Reaching

Discover First Presbyterian Church Wooster

April 19, 26 & May 3

9:15am in the Parlor.

An open, no-pressure class to
learn, connect, and get involved.

Optional opportunity to join at the end.