

First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 8, 2026

10:15 a.m.

PRELUDE *Mein Jesu, der du mich (My Jesus Calls to Me)* Johannes Brahms
Eric J. Gastier, organ

WELCOME Reverend David Rice

MINISTRY FOCUS *CAMO Baby Bundles* Mary Saylor

POURING THE BAPTISMAL WATERS Tammy and Dana Brooks
In preparation for worship, we pour baptismal water as a sign of our engrafting into the Body of Christ.

CHORAL INTROIT *O Come and Sing unto the Lord (text: Psalm 95)* IRISH

*CALL TO WORSHIP + Susie Slack

One: In the driest desert, God provided a rock that held a fountain for those who were thirsty.
All: In a place of quarreling, God provided an answer that held life for those who hope.
One: In a place of wonder, God provided living water for those who met there.
All: In this place of gathering, God provides the grace that surrounds those who wait.
Come let us worship our God.

*PRAYER +

May this be a place of meeting with you, O God, and may you speak to us in living words,
quench our thirst with living water, and hold us all with living love. **Amen**

*HYMN 307 *God of Grace and God of Glory* CWM RHONDDA

CONFESSION +

One: When we quarrel, hear us, O God.
When our faith in you is thin, and we turn on each other, we thirst for unity.
All: Forgive our words that hurt, and may we drink again from the water of life.
One: In our prejudice, hear us, O God.
When our insecurities bring on a fear of others, we thirst for trust.
All: Forgive our narrowness of grace,
and may we drink again from the water of life.
One: In our hurt of others, hear us, O God.
When we sum up people on hearsay, rather than meet them in their living,
we thirst for honesty.
All: Forgive the untruths we believe, and may we drink from the water of life.

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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Today, we baptize Reece Christian Bedolla and Mila Daveigh Bedolla,
son and daughter of Jose and Jaime Bedolla.

ANTHEM

Wondrous Love *American folk hymn, arr. Robert Hunt*
Lydia Dunlap and Rachel King, bell ringers

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 17:1-7

Pew Bible page 61

SERMON

Among Us . . . or Not

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

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

OFFERTORY *The Peace may be exchanged, from 'Rubrics'* *Dan Locklair*

*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**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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**

*HYMN 767

Together We Serve

SAN ANSELMO

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Zwei Vorspiele

Anton Bruckner

* 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.



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

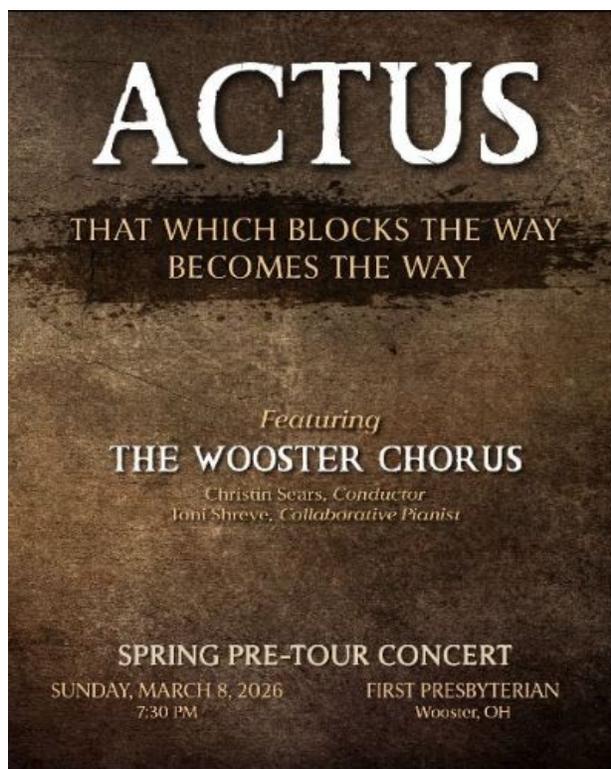
Sunday Greeters:	March 8 – Rick & Deb Zeiters-Maxwell	March 15 – Joan Firmin	
Sunday Ushers:	March 8 – Emily Armour, Luke Armour, Shannon Foster, Mark Gooch		
Sunday Sexton:	March 8 – Lydia Dunlap	March 15 – Elli Gordon	
Sunday, March 8	8:45 am ARISE	9:15 am Sunday School	10:30 am Worship
	7:30 pm Wooster Chorus Concert		
Monday, March 9	10:00 am Women's Bible Study	12:00 pm Rotary	1:30 pm Staff
	7:00 pm Scouts	7:15 pm Clear Fork Trout Unlimited	
Tuesday, March 10	9:30 am Bible Study		
Wed., March 11	10:00 am Memory Café	5:30 pm Faith & Practice	6:00 pm WACPAC
Thursday, March 12	7:00 pm Choir		
Friday, March 13	11:30 am WC Parkinsons Network		
Saturday, March 14	9:30 am Al-Anon	11:00 am Wooster Advocacy Group	
Sunday, March 15	8:45 am ARISE	9:15 am Sunday School	10:30 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	



CAMO BABY BUNDLES

CAMO is a non-denominational, Christian-based, humanitarian organization that brings life-saving medical services, education, and community development to Central America. CAMO provides more than 140,000 life-saving services each year to impoverished people who otherwise would not have access to aid.

FPC member Mary Saylor, who has 20 years of experience teaching neonatal care to the Honduran staff in the CAMO hospital and has just returned from another week volunteering there, invites us to participate in a project to collect baby items for the CAMO hospital in Honduras.



Join the Wooster Chorus this Sunday, March 8, at 7:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church as they present their Spring Pre-Tour Concert entitled, *ACTUS*. The program draws inspiration from an ancient aphorism attributed to the Roman emperor and Stoic philosopher Marcus Aurelius: “*That which blocks the way becomes the way.*” Through thought-provoking music exploring adversity, hope, and the courage to move forward, the program *ACTUS* reminds us that the obstacles we face may become the very path that shapes us.