

First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

March 9, 2025

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Elegy

Healey Willan

Eric J. Gastier, organ

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

CHORAL INTROIT

Within Your Shelter, Loving God (text: Psalm 91)

LAND OF REST

CALL TO WORSHIP +

Susie Slack

One: Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

**All: As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit,
even into uncomfortable places.**

One: In those forty days and in that place,
Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt, and temptation.

All: As we seek to follow Jesus, let us be led even into uncomfortable choices.

One: Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God,
rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

**All: As we continue our path to faithfulness, let us be led rejoicing
into the presence of the Lord our God as we worship together.**

PRAYER +

God of our healing and wholeness,
you lead us from the wilderness of despair to life in all its fullness.
May we be joyful recipients and good stewards of your blessing,
so that all the world may share in the abundance which you have shared with us,
through the living example of Jesus. **Amen**

HYMN 712

As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought

FOREST GREEN

CONFESSION +

**All: God of our ancestors, God of our children, God of all of us,
we come knowing we have preferred to test you rather than trust you.
The famine in our souls makes us long to be filled
with the empty promises of the world.
We listen to the soothing words of advertisers,
rather than to the uncomfortable words of discipleship.
Forgive us, God of our lives.**

**Bring us out of dependence on ourselves,
and bring us into the presence of the One we seek to follow,
not only to Jerusalem but beyond—
into life abundant, which is our hope and our calling.**

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

A Lenten Walk

Hal Hopson

Scripture

Luke 4:1-13

Pew Bible page 57

SERMON

In the Wilderness

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

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

OFFERTORY

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

arr. Karl Osterland

*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 783

When We Are Tested

ANGELS OF HEALING

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Rondeau, from ‘Abdelazar’

Henry Purcell

* 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.

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR and ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Sunday Greeters:	March 9 – Candace Harrington	March 16 – Mark Boardner	
Sunday Ushers:	March 9 – Pam Giffin, Jack & Julie Miller, Susie Slack		
Sunday Sexton:	March 9 – Elli Gordon	March 16 – Aiden Hiner	
Sunday, March 9	8:45 am ARISE	9:15 am Sunday School	10:30 am Worship
Monday, March 10	12:00 pm Rotary	1:30 pm Admin Staff	5:00 pm Nominating
Tuesday, March 11	9:30 am Bible Study	6:00 pm Scouts	7:30 pm Great Decisions - Gault
Wed., March 12	10:00 am Memory Café	5:30 pm Faith & Practice	
Thursday, March 13	7:00 pm Choir		
Friday, March 14	10:45 am W.C. Parkinson's Network	11:30 am Mixed Company - Longhorns	
Saturday, March 15	9:30 am Al-Anon	9:00 am Muskingum Valley Presbytery Meeting	
Sunday, March 16	8:45 am ARISE	9:15 am Sunday School	10:30 am Worship
	2:00 pm Laser Tag – Junior High Youth		

Donna Bye – Office Administrator

Amy Baxstrom – Director of Family Ministries

Rachel King – Director of Children's Music and Church Media Coordinator

Tim Hall – Building Supervisor



LECTURE SERIES



Energy Transition & Global Geopolitics

All events at 7:30 p.m.
Free and open to the public

Gault Recital Hall in Scheide Music Center
525 E. University St., Wooster

THURSDAY

FEB.

6



The Geopolitics of the Energy Transition

Dan Scholten Visiting scholar at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota and an expert on the global geopolitics of energy transition.

THURSDAY

FEB.

20



Film + Q&A with Director: *Powerlands*

Directed by **Ivey Camille Manybeads Tso**
Trailer: powerlands.org
Run time: 75 minutes

A young Navajo filmmaker investigates the displacement of Indigenous people and the devastation of the environment caused by the same chemical companies that have exploited the land where she was born.

TUESDAY

MAR.

4



Why Should Christians Care about an Energy Transition?

Jessica Moerman Environmental scientist, pastor, and president of the Evangelical Environmental Network.

TUESDAY

MAR.

11



Global Energy and the Case for Climate Optimism

Chris Turner Expert on the economics of the global energy transition and author of the book *How To Be A Climate Optimist*, which tells a story of a planet in peril and a global effort already beginning to save it.

Learn more about our speakers, visit wooster.edu/great-decisions



With thanks to our Series Sponsors

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THE COLLEGE OF WOOSTER

The Wooster Chorus will be in concert at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, March 23, at 7:30 pm.

Please make plans to attend this wonderful musical presentation!