First Presbyterian Church

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – November 15, 2026

621 College Ave, Wooster, OH 44691
330-264-9420 www.firstpreswooster.org Follow:

More Light Church and Member of Covenant Network
Earth Care Congregation and Matthew 25 Church

Prelude *Carillon* *Myron J. Roberts*
Eric J. Gastier, organ

Welcome Jason Reith

Ministry Focus Stewardship Tom Rumbaugh

Pouring the Baptismal Waters Susie Slack
In preparation for worship, we pour baptismal water to show we belong to the family of God.

Choral Introit *Great God of Every Blessing* *AURELIA*

***Call to Worship** Susie Slack

One: The God who had made us calls us to worship this day.
All: God of transforming love, let us meet you today.
One: The God who understands our deepest thoughts calls us to worship this day.
All: God of transforming love, let us meet you today.
One: The God who knows and loves each one of us more than we can ever know calls us to worship this day.
All: God of transforming love, let us meet you today. Come let us worship God.

***Prayer of the Day**

Creator God, in this time of worship fill us, call us, shape us, free us from all that burdens us and strengthen us for the work of being Christ's disciples this and every day. **Amen**

***Hymn 761** *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* *BEECHER*

Prayer of Confession

All: Giving God, you have blessed us with an abundance of gifts and talents.
But we often squander the gifts you give us. So often we fail to use them,
saving them up for a better time or hoarding them all for ourselves.
We are careless with the earth, even though you have entrusted the earth's keeping to us.
We are careless with each other, failing to see your face in the faces of each one of your children.
Forgive us, Loving God, and restore us to the new life you promise.
Give us the grace to be as generous to others as you have been to us.

(Here each worshipper may offer personal, silent prayer.)

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

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear this good news, my friends: God comes searching for us, calling us by name, leading us into the peaceable kingdom. In Christ, we become new people: lost, we are found; broken, we are made whole; forsaken, we are restored to new life. **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	*Lord of All Hopefulness*	*arr. Healey Willan*
Scripture	Philippians 1:3-11	Pew Bible page 185
Sermon	Thanksgiving in an Unfinished Story	Reverend Chan Sok Park
***Hymn 36**	*For the Fruit of All Creation*	*AR HYD Y NOS*

Offering and Substance of Life

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

Offertory	*Aria*	*Dale Wood*

***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

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication Reverend Chan Sok Park

Candle Lighting Meditation

We invite you to come to the center aisle and light a candle in prayer and meditation.

Meditation Music *New Song (Psalm 40)* *The Dodds*

Susan Shaffer, vocals & Luke Armour, guitar

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer April Gamble

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 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 828**	*More Love to Thee, O Christ*	*MORE LOVE TO THEE*
*** Blessing and Benediction**		Reverend Chan Sok Park
Postlude	*Allegro maestoso e vivace, from "Sonata II"*	*Felix Mendelssohn*

Eric J. Gastier, organ

* Asterisk indicates places in the service to stand.

The liturgy for this service was adapted from Seasons of the Spirit.

Prayer and Care for each Other during Worship

If you have a joy or concern that you would like to have read during the Prayers of the People, please fill out a card (found in the pew racks or on the table with the bulletins) and place into the tray up front before or during Passing of the Peace. Please use short messages; taking care that it is permissible to share info if using names.

Please see the Thursday, November 12 email News Flash from the church office for a video update from the Pastor Nominating Committee about the next steps in our process for bring a new pastor to FPC.

FPC Affiliations:



More Light Presbyterians



Covenant Network of Presbyterians



Earth Care Congregation



Matthew 25 Church

Spotlight on the Mission of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians:

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).

FPC Staff:

Amy Baxstrom, Director of Family Ministries
Eric J. Gastier, Director of Music and Organist
Rachel King, Children's Music/Media Coordinator
Donna Bye, Office Administrator
Tim Hall, Building Supervisor

Clerk of Session: Lisa Rumbaugh

FPC Sunday Servers:

	Sunday, November 15	Sunday, November 22
Greeters:	Bill & Carla Hall	Mary Sayler
Ushers:	Kris Evans, Mimi Llewellen, April Gamble, Doug Smith	Jack Miller, Julie Miller, Steve Slack, Susie Slack
Sexton:	Lydia Dunlap	Andrew James

Pastoral Care Support

Please contact the office for any Pastoral Care needs. Call 330-264-9420 and leave a message for Donna Bye or email office@firstpreswooster.org or sessionclerk@firstpreswooster.org and someone will connect with you.

FPC Weekly Calendar:

Sunday 11/15	8:45am ARISE	9:15am Sunday School	10:30am Worship
	2:00pm Frozen at WHS	5:00pm Cantate Singers at Jerusalem Lutheran Church	
Monday 11/16	10:00am Women's Bible Study	12:00pm Rotary	1:30pm Staff Meeting
	5:30pm Faith & Worship	7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #66	
Tuesday 11/17	10:00am Bible Study	4:00pm Inkies Card Group	
Wednesday 11/18	8:00am Personnel Meeting	10:00am Life Memory Cafe	11:00am Caregivers
	11:30am Wooster Safety Council	7:00pm Faith & Nurture	
Thursday 11/19	Carpet Installation - Parlor	7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	
Friday 11/20	9:00am Friends of the WSO		
Saturday 11/21	9:30am Al-Anon	2:00pm Youth Exchange Overnighter	7:00pm Frozen at WHS
Sunday 11/22	9:15am Sunday School	10:30am Worship	2:00pm Frozen at WHS

News and Upcoming Events:

First Pres Gets FROZEN! Today - Sunday, November 15 | 2:00 PM

Adults: $15 | Students/Children: $12 | Ages 8 & Under: $8

Can't make it today? There are also shows on November 21 at 7:00pm and November 22 at 2:00pm. Tickets can be purchased at https://ticketpeak.com/go/whsdrama/events or at the door.

Cantate Singers Concert Today - November 15 at 5pm in Seville

The Cantate Singers, directed by Laurel M. Labbe and accompanied by Ken Shafer, will present their fall concert, "Consolation," featuring Fauré's "Requiem" and other choral selections at 5 p.m. Nov. 15 at Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Seville. We have several church members in this group!

Join us in Bruch Hall on Sunday, November 22 for a special Family Sunday School time.

As we prepare for the Advent Season, each family will make an interactive advent wreath banner to hang in their home. You will be able to "light" a candle each week at home as you work through a provided devotional to guide you through the season of preparation and anticipation leading up to Christmas. There will also be a service project that you can work on together as a family to bless others during the holidays.

We will have some breakfast snacks to share and don't forget that you can purchase drinks from the FPC Cafe run by our youth to enjoy while you fellowship!

Families with kids in Godly Play, Bible Town, and Jr. & Sr. High Youth are welcome to come together for this special day during Sunday School from 9:15-10:15. Jr. & Sr. High Youth are encouraged to come and be helpers even if they are not participating with their family.

Please join Faith & Worship in decorating the church for Advent Sunday, Nov. 22 after the 10:30 service.

Your help to hang wreaths, garland and door swags and assemble trees is appreciated. Please mark your calendars now to stay after church for a short time. Many hands working together = fun and community!

Join us to make Ham and Bean soup for our congregation and for Meals for All November 28th 8:30-10am.

We need 3 volunteers and the following items: 4 bags of yellow onions (one pound bags), 4 bags of carrots (one pound bags), 6 pounds of dried white beans, chicken broth (preferably Better than Bouillon concentrate). Items can be dropped off in the kitchen the week of November 23rd.

Let April know if you can help out or donate: aprilgamble11@gmail.com

Opportunities to Serve Our Community this Advent Season

Bring unused, blank Christmas Cards and matching envelopes with no writing on them for inmates at the Wooster jail and place them in the box in the gathering area.

Ring bells for Salvation Army at Buehler's Milltown on December 14. Sign-up sheet is in the gathering area.

Fill our mitten tree in the gathering area with hats, gloves, and mittens for students in need at Cornerstone Elementary, or bring in adult socks for those in need at Homeward Bound.

SAVE THE DATE! Tim Hall Retirement Reception - Saturday, December 5th from 3:00-5:00 pm

Tim has been so much more than his official title of "Maintenance Supervisor" for more than 20 years. Come and thank him and celebrate his well-deserved retirement.

Alternative Gift Market Sunday, December 6 11:00am – 2:00 pm at Trinity UCC, 150 E. North Street

You may purchase $5 shares in any of 39 different carefully vetted organizations from around the world, everything from backpack medics in Burma to food and healing for Ukraine's refugees to water wells in South Sudan. In addition, we'll have goods from World Crafts of Kidron, handmade bags from Ghana, fair trade coffee, and olive soap and lotion to create awareness for a just peace for Palestine-Israel.

Lunch will be available for a donation and all proceeds will go to Wooster's Homeward Bound Shelter.