



First Presbyterian Church

Twenty-Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time – October 4, 2026
World Communion Sunday

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

Adagio, from "Symphony VI"
Eric J. Gastier, organ

Charles-Mare Widor

Welcome

Mark Gooch

Ministry Focus

FPC Craft Night

Rachel King

Pouring the Baptismal Waters

Diana Rice

In preparation for worship, we pour baptismal water to show we belong to the family of God.

Choral Introit

I Sat Down Under His Shadow
(text: Song of Solomon 2:3-4)

Edward Bairstow

*Call to Worship

Diana Rice

One: We gather from the west to the east, from the south to the north,
to celebrate the God of peace who accompanies us in our acts of peace.

**All: This God of peace accompanies us in each and every circumstance around us.
We praise God's name! Amen!**

*Prayer of the Day

Our God who is, Our Creator God, Our Heavenly Father:
Bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships.
Bless us with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people.
Bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war.
Bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world.
In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

*Hymn 504

We Come as Guests Invited

WIE LIEBLICH DIR MAIEN

Prayer of Confession

One: Gracious Lord, creator of this universe, in your generosity you have given us a world of abundance and diversity, yet we live guided by greed and selfishness.

All: We confess that we have defaced your creation and poisoned our environment through our consumerist behavior and for personal gain.

One: In Christ, you made us brothers and sisters and intended for us to be united, and yet we have built walls to separate us from those who are different from us. You gave us wisdom and creativity and we have used those to trick each other and to develop weapons of destruction and death. You gave us laws to order our lives and we have abused them to take revenge and punish our enemies.

All: We love war rather than strive for peace. We ignore the poor and the weak and honored the rich and powerful. In all this we have not lived according to your will.

Forgive us, Lord, for daring to boast in our human achievements and for failing to recognize that you alone are worthy of praise. Forgive us.

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

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

Assurance of Forgiveness

God does not abandon us in our fear. God comes to us, God journeys with us — and God can be trusted even when all seems lost. Friends, receive this good news: we are forgiven and restored.

Be at peace with God and with one another. **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

Look at the World
Children's & Sanctuary Choirs

John Rutter

Scripture

Philippians 3: 4b-14

Pew Bible page 187

Sermon

Reverend Mike Parker

Offering and Substance of Life

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

Offertory Anthem

Let Us Break Bread Together

trad. Spiritual, arr. John Ness Beck

***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 Mike Parker

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation: The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

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 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

Lisa Rumbaugh

***Hymn 846**

Fight the Good Fight

DUKE STREET

*** Blessing and Benediction**

Reverend Mike Parker

Postlude

...and thanksgiving may follow, from "Rubrics"
Eric J. Gastier, organ

Dan Locklair

* Asterisk indicates places in the service to stand.

Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*.

FPC Affiliations:



**More Light
Presbyterians**



**Covenant Network of
Presbyterians**



**Earth Care
Congregation**



**Matthew 25
Church**

Spotlight on 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.

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:

	<u>Sunday, October 4</u>	<u>Sunday, October 11</u>
Greeters:	Ellen Armour	McMillen Family
Ushers:	Emily Armour, Luke Armour Val Fulton, Shannon Foster	Kris Evans, Mimi Llewellyn April Gamble, Doug Smith
Sexton:	Hudson Baxstrom	Lydia Dunlap

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 10/4	8:45am ARISE	9:15am Sunday School	10:30am Worship
	4:00pm Youth Party at Paula's		
Monday 10/5	10:00am Women's Bible Study	11:30am Men's Luncheon	12:00pm Rotary
	1:30pm Staff Meeting	4:00pm Scout Troop #61 Cooking	7:00pm Deacon's Meeting
	7:00pm PNC Meeting	7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #66	
Tuesday 10/6	10:00am Bible Study	6:00pm WaCPAC	
Wednesday 10/7	10:00am Life Memory Cafe	11:00am Caregivers	7:00pm Faith & Nurture
Thursday 10/8	9:00am Coats for Kids Set-Up	6:00pm WaCPAC	7:00pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday 10/9	9:00am Coats for Kids Set-Up	11:30am W. C. Parkinson's Network	
Saturday 10/10	8:00am Coats for Kids Distribution	9:30am Al-Anon	
Sunday 10/11	8:45am ARISE	9:15am Sunday School	10:30am Worship
	4:00pm FPC Fall Festival		

Prayer and Care for each Other

Complete a Prayer and Care card found in designated boxes near the bulletins or in the pews (short messages; taking care that it is permissible to share info, if using names). Place completed cards in box in the front of the sanctuary during Passing of the Peace. If you are not able to travel to the front, please wave your card and someone will retrieve it and help it reach its destination. The information from the collected cards will be compiled for inclusion in Prayers of the People or Prayer after Communion later in the service.

Let's continue our care for each other in new and intentional ways.

Don't forget to visit the FPCafe and grab a hot or cold beverage from the youth each week before worship!

News and Upcoming Events:

FPC's Annual Fall Festival is Sunday, October 11 from 4-6pm!

We're getting ready for our Fall Festival – and we need you to make it happen!
We'll be welcoming our community for an evening of free food, crafts, games, trick-or-treating, and lots of fun!

There are lots of ways to join in:

- Decorate your car and pass out candy.
- Make a financial donation to help cover food, candy, and supplies.
- Donate bags of individually wrapped candy.
- Volunteer with games, crafts, food, setup, or cleanup.

Sign up at the counter in the gathering area or online through the newsflash!

Classroom 1 Adult Sunday School Opportunity

We are doing a video study series in our downstairs class: "Reading the Bible with Bonhoeffer". Each week we will start with a 15-minute video by Rev James C Howell on an aspect of Bonhoeffer's work, followed by discussion. Rev Howell is considered an excellent interpreter of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's work.

Please join us each Sunday morning at 9:15!

FPC Craft Night – October 22 (Today's Ministry Focus)

Join us at A Time to Craft (2799 Cleveland Rd.) for a craft night on Thursday, October 22 from 6-7pm to make your very own suncatcher using crushed glass and resin! You can see an example on the bulletin board in the gathering area near the restrooms. No experience is needed and all ages are welcome, but those 10 and under will need an adult to craft with them. Suggested donation \$15 per project to cover supplies.

RSVP to Rachel at rking@firstpreswooster.org or sign up on the counter in the gathering area!

Fall Book Discussion Group starting soon!

You're invited to join a discussion of the book *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. We'll meet on three Thursday evenings this fall, October 22, October 29, and November 5, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the church parlor.

In this slim volume Kimmerer, a botanist and member of the Potawatomi Nation, explores what we can learn from Indigenous wisdom and the plant world about interconnectedness, reciprocity, and gratitude. We'll have the opportunity to hear Kimmerer speak at the College of Wooster on Wednesday, November 4 and to discuss her lecture the next day.

The Serviceberry is available for purchase online in various formats. At our first meeting on October 22, we'll discuss pages 1-50. Please contact Carol Gates at cmgates23@gmail.com with questions or to sign up. There is also a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area.

Please join us to make Ham and Bean soup for our congregation and for Meals for All on October 24 in the Bruch Hall kitchen from 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 in Bruch Hall the week of October 24.

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