



First Presbyterian Church

Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time – September 13, 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

Adagio, from "Sonata I in E-flat"
Eric J. Gastier, organ

J. S. Bach

Welcome

Steve LoGiudice

Ministry Focus

FPCafe

FPC Youth

Pouring the Baptismal Waters

Joan Firmin

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

Choral Introit

Ubi Caritas
Where charity and love prevail, there God is.

John Bell

*Call to Worship

Joan Firmin

One: Despite what the reality may be, God's hope, forgiveness, and renewal never fail.

All: The God of Hope empowers us.

One: The depth of God's love calls us to forgive one another.

All: The God of Love encourages us.

One: God's Spirit helps us to let go and be refreshed and renewed through reconciliation.

All: Come, let us worship God, whose love and grace forgives, renews and heals.

*Prayer of the Day

We thank you, God, that you are here with us and in us.

We discover you through those who listen to our loneliness and celebrate our happiness.

We meet you when we share the anxious hours and triumphant moments of others.

We offer ourselves as grateful agents of your spirit and joyful channels of your love.

In Jesus' name, **Amen**

*Hymn 634

To God Be the Glory

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Prayer of Confession

One: God of patience and forgiveness, we come before you in a time self-reflection.

Cleanse our hearts, O God, for we come to be one with your Holy Presence.

All: We name those times when we have held on to our grudges rather than letting them go.
(silence)

We name those times when we have wanted to seek vengeance rather than seek peace and reconciliation. (silence)

We name those times when we let our anger get the best of our judgment and reason.
(silence)

We name those times when we resisted the call to walk in gentleness with your loving spirit.
(silence)

We name those times when we do not trust your wisdom and your caring.
Help us to let go of all that stands between us, O Loving God.

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

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

Assurance of Forgiveness

Spirit's presence is in us, between us, and embracing us always.

Through the unity of this Spirit, we are shaped into a community that lives to fulfill love's expectations.

In the joy of the forgiven, let us live into that hope for ourselves and for the world.

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

There is a Balm African-American spiritual, arr. Wm. L. Dawson

Scripture

Romans 14: 7-12, Colossians 1: 11-20

Pew Bible page 152, 188

Sermon

Assisted Living

Reverend Karen Webster

***Hymn 822**

When We are Living

SOMOS DEL SEÑOR

Offering and Substance of Life

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

Offertory

Sicilienne

Maria Theresa von Paradis

***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 Karen Webster

Candle Lighting Meditation

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

Meditation Music

Live Through Me

Susan Shaffer

Susan Shaffer, guitar and vocals

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 435**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE

*** Blessing and Benediction**

Reverend Karen Webster

Postlude

Praeludium und Fuge in e-moll

Nicolaus Bruhns

Eric J. Gastier, organ

* Asterisk indicates places in the service to stand.

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

The chancel flowers are given this day by Leigh Oaks - to a new beginning and new adventures.

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
Lisa Rumbaugh, Clerk of Session
Donna Bye, Office Administrator
Tim Hall, Building Supervisor

FPC Sunday Servers:

	<u>Sunday, September 13</u>	<u>Sunday, September 20</u>
Greeters:	Wes & Sarah Davis Family	Sara and Jason Reith
Ushers:	Jack Miller, Julie Miller, Steve Slack, Susie Slack	Jennifer Moyseenko, Mark Gooch, Pam Giffen, Jack Rogers
Sexton:	Andrew James	Addy Hiner

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 9/13	9:15am Rally Day Celebration	10:30am Worship	
Monday 9/14	10:00am Women's Bible Study	12:00pm Rotary	1:30pm Staff Meeting
	7:00pm PNC	7:00pm Clear Fork Trout Unltd.	7:00pm Boy Scout Troup #66
Tuesday 9/15	10:00am Bible Study	4:00pm Inkies Card Group	6:00pm WaCPAC
Wednesday 9/16	8:00am Personnel	10:00am Life Memory Cafe	11:00am Caregivers
	5:30pm Faith & Practice	7:00pm Faith & Structure	
Thursday 9/17	6:00pm WaCPAC	7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	
Saturday, 9/19	9:30am Al-Anon	12:00pm BSA Cub Scout #66	
Sunday, 9/20	8:45am ARISE	9:15am Sunday School	10:30am Worship
	4:00pm Youth Party at Paula's		

News and Upcoming Events:

FPCafe (Today's Ministry Focus)

New this fall is the FPCafe run by the youth group. Beginning Sept 13, they will prepare flavored hot and cold coffees at the window in Bruch Hall and provide baked treats all for a donation. All money will go towards activities, trips, and other opportunities to help them on their faith journey. The cafe will be open each Sunday before ARISE, through Sunday School, and will close by 10:30 Worship. Consider supporting them on occasion and treating yourself to a treat! The regular coffee/tea station will still be available weekly.

If you have coffee machines- espresso machine, frothers, etc.- that you no longer use, please consider donating them to this cafe! Contact Amy Baxstrom at abaxstrom@firstpreswooster.org

First Pres Wooster

FALL WORSHIP *Updates*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- ARISE begins at 8:45am
- Sunday School begins at 9:15am
- Worship begins at 10:30am



Everyone is welcome!

ARISE returns starting September 20

Join us in the chapel at 8:45am for A Responsive Intergenerational Spiritual Experience to start your Sunday morning off right each week!

Sunday School begins September 20

Sunday School for all ages begins next week at 9:15am!

Godly Play (pre-K-2) and Bible Town (2-5) will meet upstairs, beginning together for music in the purple room and then splitting into their individual classrooms for Bible lessons.

Jr./Sr. High Youth will meet downstairs in the Youth Center for fellowship, service, learning, and growing together.

There will be two options for Adult Education Sunday School classes offered this Program Year: Dave Earley and Mark Gordon will lead the regular downstairs class in lively conversation, timely topics, and updated content. Come downstairs to classroom 1 to join this group!

There will also be a drop-in class in Bruch Hall called Mornings at The Welcome Table. Here, you will find reflections that nourish your soul, deepen your faith, and connect you to the heart of our community. It's an invitation for everyone to know that you belong!

Mixed Company will meet Friday, September 18th at 5:00 pm

at The Oaks - 5878 Longacre Lane, Chippewa Lake, Ohio. Call or email Kathy Turning (330-347-6620 or kathrynturning@gmail.com) by September 16th if you will be attending.

It's time to kick off fall with First Presbyterian's Third Annual Chili Cook-Off & Fall Tailgate Potluck!

Join us on Sunday, September 27, in Bruch Hall, right after Sunday services. Think your chili has what it takes to earn bragging rights for the season? We want to try it! Not into chili? That's okay, too! Get in the game by bringing your favorite fall tailgate food — an appetizer, side, snack, dessert, or any game-day favorite you'd be happy to pass around. So gear up in your favorite team colors, grab your chili pot or tailgate dish, and come hungry! Sign up in the Gathering area or online! We'll have great food, fun fellowship, fall spirit, and plenty of fall fun. That sounds like a winning lineup!