



# First Presbyterian Church

Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time – September 20, 2026

621 College Ave, Wooster, OH 44691  
330-264-9420 [www.firstpreswooster.org](http://www.firstpreswooster.org) Follow:  

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

**Prelude**

*Cantabile*

*Joseph Jongen*

Eric J. Gastier, organ

**Welcome**

Becky Webb

**Ministry Focus**

World Communion Offering

Diana Rice

**Pouring the Baptismal Waters**

Addy Hiner

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

**Choral Introit**

*Thy Steadfast Love*

*Herbert Beuerle*

**\*Call to Worship**

Addy Hiner

One: From north and south, from east and west, we come:

God's people called to God's table, where simple grace nourishes us.

**All: From down the street to across town, from single households to apartment dwellers:  
God's people are called to community, where we live and serve one another.**

One: From every class, every race, every status;

from little ones with dreams to elders with overflowing hearts:

**All: God's people are called to witness to God's hope, to offer peace to a shattered world.**

**\*Prayer of the Day**

Help us, O God, to recognize the times in which we live and to choose to live faithfully.

Grant us courage to stand with and speak for those at risk. As we are able, help us to preserve community, extend hospitality, and redeem the time you entrust into our hands. **Amen**

**\*Hymn 14**

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

*DIX*

**Prayer of Confession**

One: Forgiving God, we confess that we are a fearful people.

Too often, we live in the midst of the abundance of your world and are afraid that there is not enough.

We covet what little our neighbors have. We hoard the good news of your creation.

We make idols of scarcity and want in order to control the world's resources.

**All: Forgive us. Gently ease our grip and open our hands and our eyes that we,  
trusting in your grace, may truly live out the heart and soul of the Gospel:  
to love you by loving our neighbors as ourselves.**

*(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**

*Give Me Jesus*

*Traditional Spiritual, arr. Larry Fleming*

**Scripture**

Numbers 21:4-9, John 3: 13-17

Pew Bible page 134, 88

**Sermon**

Reverend Mike Parker

**\*Hymn 223**

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

*HAMBURG*

**Offering and Substance of Life**

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

**Offertory**

*Cantelène*

*Gabriel Pierné*

**\*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

**Candle Lighting Meditation**

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

**Meditation Music**

*Reckless Love*

*Cory Asbury*

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 610**

*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

*AZMON*

**\* Blessing and Benediction**

Reverend Mike Parker

**Postlude**

*Festival Voluntary*

*Flor Peeters*

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 Pat and Wayne Bare. As they celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, they want this congregation to know how much you are all appreciated for your many kindnesses.**



**Today's Ministry Focus:**

The World Communion Offering, happening during the weeks before World Communion Sunday, October 4, allows us to "love kindness" expressed in action, supporting projects to promote peace, justice, and interfaith engagement.

## FPC Affiliations:



**More Light  
Presbyterians**



**Covenant Network of  
Presbyterians**



**Earth Care  
Congregation**



**Matthew 25  
Church**

### Spotlight on the 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.

### 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, September 20</u>                                      | <u>Sunday, September 27</u>                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Greeters: Sara and Jason Reith                                   | Mary Saylor                                                 |
| Ushers: Jennifer Moyseenkko, Mark Gooch, Pam Giffen, Jack Rogers | Kathy Turning, Mark Gooch<br>Diana Rice, Candace Harrington |
| Sexton: Addy Hiner                                               | Hudson Baxstrom                                             |

### 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](mailto:office@firstpreswooster.org) or [sessionclerk@firstpreswooster.org](mailto:sessionclerk@firstpreswooster.org) and someone will connect with you.

### FPC Weekly Calendar:

|                |                             |                            |                                |
|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sunday 9/20    | 8:45am Worship              | 9:15am Sunday School       | 10:30am Worship                |
| Monday 9/21    | 10:00am Women's Bible Study | 12:00pm Rotary             | 1:30pm Staff Meeting           |
|                | 5:30pm Faith & Worship      | 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #66 | 7:00pm PNC Meeting             |
| Tuesday 9/22   | 10:00am Bible Study         | 6:00pm WaCPAC              | 6:00pm RDM Meeting             |
| Wednesday 9/23 | 10:00am Life Memory Cafe    | 11:00am Caregivers         | 11:30am Wooster Safety Council |
|                | 7:00pm Session Meeting      |                            |                                |
| Thursday 9/24  | 6:00pm WaCPAC               | 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal     |                                |
| Friday 9/25    | 9:00am Friends of the WSO   |                            |                                |
| Saturday, 9/26 | 9:30am Al-Anon              | 12:00pm BSA Cub Scout 4066 |                                |
| Sunday, 9/27   | 8:45am Worship              | 9:15am Sunday School       | 10:30am Worship                |
|                | 11:30am FPC Chilli Cook-Off |                            |                                |

### News and Upcoming Events:

#### 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.



*Sunday Mornings*  
at  
First Pres Wooster

ARISE @ 8:45 in the Chapel  
Sunday School @ 9:15 for all ages  
Worship @ 10:30 in the Sanctuary



**Our Sunday Mornings are in full swing now, as we begin the new program year!**

Join us for ARISE (A Responsive Intergenerational Spiritual Experience) at 8:45 in the Chapel, Sunday School for all ages at 9:15, and Worship at 10:30 in the sanctuary each week!

All are welcome!

### **FPC Café – Youth Fundraiser**

Don't forget to visit the new FPC Cafe run by the youth group. 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](mailto:abaxstrom@firstpreswooster.org)

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

Join us next 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!

### **Save the Date – FPC's Annual Fall Festival will be Sunday, October 11 from 4-6pm!**

**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](mailto:aprilgamble11@gmail.com)

**Please check last Thursday's News Flash email or the News & Events page on our website to read the latest updates from Session and the Resource Development Ministry Team.**