



First Presbyterian Church

Twenty-Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time— September 27, 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

Angel's Farewell, from "Dream of Gerontius"
Eric J. Gastier, organ

Edward Elgar

Welcome

Steve LoGiudice

Ministry Focus

Fall Festival

Amy Baxstrom

Pouring the Baptismal Waters

Sarah Davis

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

Choral Introit

God Be in My Head

John Rutter

*Call to Worship

Sarah Davis

One: When we are hungry for a sustaining faith, we ask, "Are you among us, O God?"

All: When we are thirsty for justice and peace, we ask, "Are you among us, O God?"

One: As wandering people who long for mercy, we ask, "Are you among us, O God?"

**All: Secure in the freedom of your love, we ask, "Come among us, O God,
and refresh us as we worship you."**

*Prayer of the Day

God of desert days and wilderness nights, we rest in the comfort of your presence
and trust in the sustaining power of your love.

Provide us with all that we need to live abundantly and serve with abandon. **Amen**

*Hymn 439

O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer

STUTTGART

Prayer of Confession

One: O God, we stand at the brink of what has been and what is yet to be.

**All: We long to receive the gift of your liberation and to taste the sweetness of your promises.
But the way forward is unknown and so we hesitate: discouraged, frightened, insecure,
complaining.**

One: Yet we know we must move ahead on our journey.

**All: Make us mindful of your sustaining presence and, like a bird in full flight, may this
assurance soar within our faith, so we can rise above the challenges of this moment.**

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

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

Assurance of Forgiveness

Even when our cups run dry, God's grace overflows. Even when our plates are empty, God's generosity overflows. And even when our hearts feel barren, God's love overflows. Friends, you have been called and claimed by the God of all things. In the abundance of God's grace and by the power of God's love, may we know and trust that we are forgiven, and may we go in peace to forgive others. **Amen**

***Passing of the Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you . . . **And also with you.**

Children's Moment

Amy Baxstrom

Anthem

When the Morning Stars Together
(Please join the Choir for the final verse of hymn 689.)

arr. John Ferguson

Scripture

Genesis 37:5-11, 50:15-21

Pew Bible page 32, 46

Sermon

We Still Dream

Reverend Chan Sok Park

***Hymn 444**

Forgive Our Sins, as We Forgive

DETROIT

Offering and Substance of Life

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

Offertory

In Green Pastures

Harold E. Darke

***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

Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)
Susan Shaffer, guitar and vocals

Chris Tomlin

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 546**

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

SICILIAN MARINERS

*** Blessing and Benediction**

Reverend Chan Sok Park

Postlude

Postlude in F

Eric H. Thiman

* Asterisk indicates places in the service to stand.

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



Today's Ministry Focus:

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

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

FPC Affiliations:



**More Light
Presbyterians**



**Covenant Network of
Presbyterians**



**Earth Care
Congregation**



**Matthew 25
Church**

Spotlight on 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.

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, September 27

Greeters: Mary Saylor

Ushers: Kathy Turning, Mark Gooch,
Diana Rice, Candace Harrington

Sexton: Hudson Baxstrom

Sunday, October 4

Kathy Turning

Emily Armour, Luke Armour
Val Fulton, Shannon Foster

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 or sessionclerk@firstpreswooster.org and someone will connect with you.

FPC Weekly Calendar:

Sunday 9/27	8:45am ARISE	9:15am Sunday School	10:30am Worship
	11:30am Chili Cook-Off		
Monday 9/28	10:00am Women's Bible Study	12:00pm Rotary	1:30pm Staff Meeting
	5:30pm Meals for All	7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #66	7:00pm PNC Meeting
Tuesday 9/29	9:00am Rummage Sale Planning	10:00am Bible Study	6:00pm WaCPAC
Wednesday 9/30	10:00am Life Memory Cafe	11:00am Caregivers	
Thursday 10/1	6:00pm WaCPAC	7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	
Friday 10/2	11:30am WC Parkinsons Network		
Saturday, 10/3	9:30am Al-Anon		
Sunday, 10/4	8:45am ARISE	9:15am Sunday School	10:30am Worship
	4:00pm Youth Party @ Paula's		

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.

Join us today after worship for First Presbyterian's Third Annual Chili Cook-Off & Fall Tailgate Potluck!

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



Next week is World Communion Sunday!

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.

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



EMPTY BOWLS

Drive Thru Soup Fundraiser



**to benefit
A WHOLE COMMUNITY, INC.**

AWC provides farm-fresh produce to food pantries, meal sites and low-income neighborhoods

**THURSDAY, OCT. 1st
3:30 - 6:30 pm**

**at Buehler's Wooster Milltown
3540 Burbank Road
front parking lot (near the pick up lanes)**

\$15 per Dinner
Includes choice of soup,
dinner roll & bakery donut
donated by Buehler's

\$15 Pottery
Plates, bowls and mugs
will be available for purchase.
donated by local potter, Jack Rogers

cash
or card
accepted



GIFT CARD & POTTERY RAFFLE

Tickets: \$1 each • 6 for \$5 • 15 for \$10

Win one of five pottery pieces with a \$50 local merchant gift card!
(pottery donated by Jack Rogers and Cozy Kiln Co., Wooster)