



First Presbyterian Church

Twenty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time— September 6, 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

Intermezzo, from "Sonata IV"
Eric J. Gastier, organ

Josef G. Rheinberger

Welcome

Tammy Brooks

Ministry Focus

Joy and Concern Cards

Lisa Rumbaugh

Pouring the Baptismal Waters

Joan Firmen

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

Choral Introit

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Kathleen Thomerson

*Call to Worship

Joan Firmen

One: How shall we live in the love of God?

All: We will treat one another with fairness and dignity.

One: How shall we witness to God's forgiving love?

All: We will reach out to others with compassion.

One: Come, let us worship God who has always loved us.

All: Let our worship of God be reflected in our lives of hope and peace.

*Prayer of the Day

Loving God, we come this day to worship and to thank you for the many ways you guide our lives.

We also come seeking your healing presence in our lives.

Help us always to be open to you, and give us the courage to let your love be our way in the world,
our way of relating to each other. **Amen**

*Hymn 403

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

UNSER HERRSCHER

Prayer of Confession

One: God, our hope and refuge the Way of Jesus teaches us to let our anxieties go
and trust in your goodness.

All: Yet our human natures want to be in control.

We yearn for security or the illusion of it. We shun vulnerability.

One: Hear us as we pray for healing and wholeness for ourselves and our relationships.

Lead us in the ways of compassion and justice and peace.

**All: Grant us the confidence of faith that nothing can separate us from you,
through the loving example of Jesus of Nazareth.**

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

Teach Me, O Lord

Thomas Attwood

Scripture

Romans 13:8-14

Pew Bible page 152

Sermon

Reverend Mike Parker

*Hymn 203

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

CHEREPONI

Offering and Substance of Life

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

Offertory

There is a Happy Land

arr. George Shearing

*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

Arioso

J. S. Bach

Karolyn Rice, flute

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 722

Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak

CANONBURY

* Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Fanfare (Psalm 81:1-3)

John E. Cook

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 from Tom and Lisa Rumbaugh in honor of their 42nd wedding anniversary

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

FPC Sunday Servers:

<u>Sunday, September 6</u>	<u>Sunday, September 13</u>
Greeters: Mark & Cheryl Gooch	Wes & Sarah Davis Family
Ushers: Kris Evans, Mimi Llewellen, April Gamble, Doug Smith	Jack Miller, Julie Miller, Steve Slack, Susie Slack
Sexton: Lydia Dunlap	Andrew James

FPC Weekly Calendar:

Sunday 9/6	10:00am Worship	
Monday 9/7	Office Closed for Labor Day	7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #66
Tuesday 9/8	10:00am Bible Study	6:00pm WaCPAC
Wednesday 9/9	10:00am Life Memory Cafe	11:00am Caregivers
Thursday 9/10	6:00pm WaCPAC	7:00pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday 9/11	11:30am WC Parkinson's Network	
Saturday 9/12	9:30am Al-Anon	
Sunday 9/13	9:15am Rally Day Celebration	10:30am Worship

News and Upcoming Events:

Rally Day – Sunday, September 13: There's Always Room at The Welcome Table

"Come, for everything is ready now." — Luke 14:17

Join us next Sunday at 9:15 a.m. as we gather for our annual Rally Day and begin a new season of ministry with this year's theme: The Welcome Table. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells of a great banquet where everyone is invited to the table—neighbors, strangers, friends, and those who never expected to receive an invitation. At God's table, there is always room for one more.

We'll begin the morning with a family-style breakfast, sharing food, conversation, and laughter as one church family. Throughout the morning you'll have opportunities to connect with our ministry teams and committees, discover ways to serve both within our congregation and throughout the community, learn about classes and programs for all ages, and celebrate the many ways God is calling us to grow together.

Whether you're returning after a busy summer, visiting for the first time, or have been part of our church family for years, your place has been prepared. Come to the table. Find your place. Discover where God is inviting you to serve, grow, and belong.

Everyone is welcome, because Christ has already set the table.

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.

First Pres Wooster

FALL WORSHIP

Updates

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

- Last Summer Worship at 10:00am



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

- Rally Day Celebration at 9:15am - The Welcome Table

Join us for a breakfast potluck as we work to create a welcoming space for all this year at First Pres Wooster that fosters communication and deeper fellowship with each other.

- Worship begins at 10:30am



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

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

Everyone is welcome!

621 College Ave. Wooster, OH

www.firstpreswooster.org