



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WOOSTER

TOWER TIDINGS APRIL 2024

Dear Friends,

The old adage “April showers bring May flowers” seems to be operating in overdrive this early spring as April rains combined with a warmer end to winter has flowers already bursting out all over! And as the pages of this newsletter will attest, along with the blooming in our gardens comes the blossoming of programs and ministries in our congregational life.

April fellowship opportunities begin as soon as this coming Friday at 11:30, with Friday Fellowship featuring a meal together and a word from O’Huddle. As the month rolls on, Mixed Company, The MID, and First Friends offer times to be together in various configurations. In addition to fellowship times, a spring discussion group will explore the book entitled, “The Meaning of Jesus.”

Mission and ministry are at the heart of who we are and what we do at First Presbyterian. We continue to collect health and hygiene items for Emma LoGiudice and her fellow Ohio Northern University nursing students as they prepare to make another “Nurses without Borders” trip to the Dominican Republic in May. Other mission projects are the monthly Meals for All, a community meeting on Housing and Homelessness in Wayne County, supporting Westminster Presbyterian’s Mustard Seed Project, and the Women’s Fellowship Gathering to consider their next service opportunities.

This coming weekend features the Wooster High School play and a chance to enjoy the dramatic talents of some of our young people and their gifted adult directors and managers. Then there is next Monday’s solar eclipse! To prevent permanent eye damage, be sure to obtain the proper safe viewing glasses with the safety requirements of the ISO 12312-2 international standard.

As we head toward the end of the month, we celebrate Earth Day in our worship service on April 21, preceded by the 2024 Scarlet, Gray and Green Fair at Secrest Arboretum on Saturday, April 20. And looking toward May, mark your calendars for the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 5, in conjunction with a potluck celebrating Cinco de Mayo.

May you revel in the joys of spring and the rebirth of God’s good creation as the days continue to lengthen!

Blessings and Peace,

David

Session Highlights

2024	2025	2026	Staff
Carol Gates	Paula Abrecht	Wes Davis	Rev. David Rice
Jeff Perkins	Dave Earley	April Gamble	
Jim Webster	Bobbi Jentes-Mason	Laura Neill	
Mark Gordon	Mimi Lewellen	Kris Evans	
Mattie Dunlap (YE)			
		Lisa Rumbaugh, Clerk	

This highlight for Tower Tidings is written to update the congregation on the work of the Session in March 2024.

Session met on March 27, 2024 and heard reports from each of the coordinating teams. Pastor Rice reminded Session that the deadline to apply for the ReKindle grant offered by Columbia Theological Seminary is April 30. Session will continue to consider applying for a grant to fund a revisioning project. Jeff Perkins reported for the Resource Development Ministry that the church has received a generous gift from the estate of Don Beane.

Amy Baxtrom sent an update on her progress toward Christian Educator Certification. She has held two multi-generational Sunday School classes on spiritual practices, each attended by about 30 children, youth, and adults. Four more classes planned for April.

Tim Hall sent a report about the status of the church's physical plant. Repairs have been made to the elevator and adjustments made to the sound system. Sealing and striping of the parking lot will be scheduled soon.

Mimi Lewellen reported that the Nominating Committee has completed its work and will present a slate of candidates for elder and deacon at the annual meeting on May 5. The annual meeting will be preceded by a potluck with a Cinco de Mayo theme hosted by Faith & Nurture.

Members of Session will continue to meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., with the exception of April 2024 when there will be no Session meeting. Session will next meet on **May 1, 2024**. Please reach out to any of the elders listed above with any questions or concerns. Positive feedback is also welcomed as this team is working diligently to learn, discern, and communicate effectively. Minutes of each Session meeting are located in a notebook in the Gathering Area. If you have any questions or concerns to be shared with the Clerk of Session, please use this email address:

sessionclerk@firstpreswooster.org

Greetings from the Resource Development Ministry!

A big “thank you” to all that submitted a 2024 pledge card. As you know the information taken from these cards are used to plan for this year’s operational, programming, and the mission work that we support. Feel free to ask any one of us on the RDM if you have any questions about the FPC finances or need help completing and submitting your 2024 pledge card.

Over the years, our church has been the benefactor of many legacy gifts given by many congregants as a part of their estate planning. The accumulation of these gifts have allowed our FPC family to have a sizable endowment and to include a responsible portion to our annual operating budget and expand our programming and mission work.

The most recent legacy gift came from our family member Don Beane. As you know, Don passed away earlier this year and his commitment and passion for First Presbyterian was/is without question. Don’s generous legacy gift came in the form of naming FPC as a beneficiary of the remainder of his retirement account. Don’s gift will continue to benefit our church family now and for years to come!

For more information about including FPC in your estate planning, please contact anyone on the RDM listed below.

Peace and blessings,

Tom Rumbaugh, Chair; Dana Brooks, church treasurer; David Rice, pastor; Laura Neill; Jeff Perkins; Stuart Miller; and Mark Gordon.



A Mission Support Opportunity

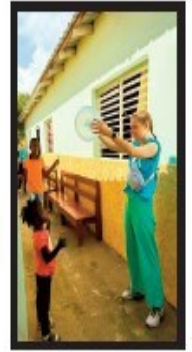


First Pres member Emma LoGiudice, a nursing major at Ohio Northern University, will be returning to the Dominican Republic in May to serve once again with *Nurses Without Borders*.

Northern Nursing Without Borders is a group of nursing, pharmacy, allied health, and other students, along with alumni and faculty, who travel to San Juan de la Maguana, Dominican Republic, to operate medical clinics in surrounding villages. During the clinics, team members obtain vital signs and medical histories, facilitate visits with health care providers, fill needed prescriptions, and distribute donated items such as vitamins, hygiene supplies, shoes, clothes, toys, etc. During this year's trip, participants will also be staffing education stations for children and adults on the topics of oral hygiene, handwashing, cough etiquette, UTI prevention, and self-breast

examination. NNWB works with Solid Rock International, a Christian missionary organization based in the Dominican Republic, to help with logistics, transportation, and housing.

Emma is very grateful to all who supported this mission last year and asks for your help again in providing any of the supplies listed below to assist the families there. A box will be placed in the Gathering Area for the next several weeks to collect donations for the group to take to the Dominican Republic. Monetary contributions for antibiotics and other pharmaceutical needs are also welcome. Checks may be made out to First Presbyterian Church with NNWB noted in the memo line.



Nurses Without Borders

Items Needed:

Items needed for hygiene kits: Cloth drawstring bags, Bars of soap, Washcloths, Dishcloths, Scrubbies, Deodorant, Q-Tips, Hand sanitizer, Baby wipes, Diapers, Lotion, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Mouthwash, Floss, Combs/Shampoo, Conditioner.

OTC Medications: Acetaminophen - reg/xtra strength, Ibuprofen, Naproxen, Children's + Infant's Acetaminophen suspension, Children's + Infant Ibuprofen suspension, Children's chewable Acetaminophen, Children's chewable Ibuprofen, Acetaminophen infant rectal suppositories, Prenatal vitamins, Adult vitamins, Children's vitamins, Children's Liquid Multivitamin, Vitamin B, Folic Acid, C, D Iron Supplement, Guaifenesin (Mucinex adult cold medicine), Kid's cold medicine, Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) tablets, Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) liquid, Allergy Medications, Famotidine 20mg, Exomeprazole tablets 20mg, Tums/Antacids, Anti-diarrheal meds.

First Aid Items: Band Aids, Gauze pads/sponges (Sterile 2 pack), Chapstick.

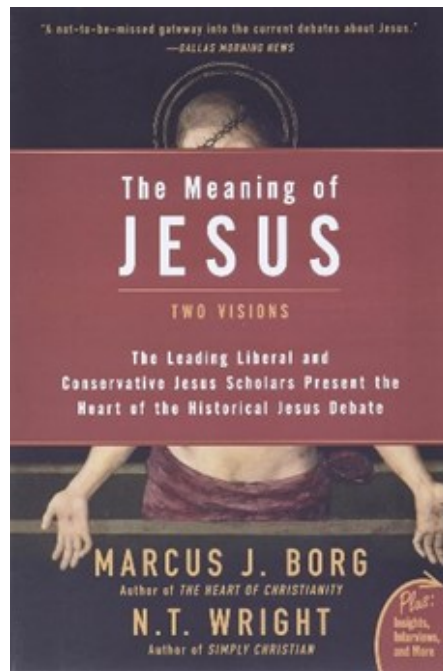
Diabetes Support: Glucometers with test strips and batteries, Lancets.

Storage and Containers: Brown paper bags, Plastic trash bags for barrio clinics, Plastic ziploc bags — small for pills, Plastic ziploc bags — snack size, Plastic ziploc bags — sandwich size, Plastic ziploc bags — gallon size, Pill bottles, empty and clean.

Miscellaneous: Pill Counter trays, Pill Cutters, Small plastic cups with lids, Pregnancy Test Kits, Reading glasses, Pens, Dumdum Suckers, Small Toys, Bracelets, Large suitcase with wheels.

The collection will conclude on April 14.





SPRING BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

You're invited to join a discussion of the book *The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions* by Marcus Borg and N.T. Wright on Thursday evenings from April 11 – May 9. We'll meet from 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. in the church library.

Biblical scholars Borg and Wright present their widely divergent perspectives on important questions of the Christian faith including, "Did Jesus know he was the Messiah?", "Did he intentionally die to redeem humankind?", and "Was Jesus fully human and fully divine?" In each section the authors, who are long-time friends, present their opposing viewpoints on a question at the heart of the historical Jesus debate and invite the reader to draw his or her own conclusions.

The Meaning of Jesus is available for purchase online in paperback and electronic formats. At our first meeting on April 11, we'll discuss the Introduction and Chapters 1-2. Please contact Carol Gates at cmgates23@gmail.com or 330-264-3413 with questions or to sign up. There is also a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area. Please free to sign up even if you won't be able to attend every week, as each section is self-contained and doesn't depend on reading previous sections.

Here's a tentative discussion plan for *The Meaning of Jesus*:

April 11: Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2 (through page 30)

April 18: Chapters 3-6 (pp. 31-110)

April 25: Chapters 7-10 (pp. 111-170)

May 2: Chapters 11-14 (pp. 171-206)

May 9: Chapters 15-16 (pp. 207-250)

The Mid



The Faith & Nurture Ministry Team welcomes you to The Mid Euchre Tournament on Friday, April 26th in Bruch Hall. All skill levels are welcome and you don't even need to bring a partner. There will be an instructional session at 6:30 and the tournament will kick off at 7:00. Bring a deck of cards and an appetizer or dessert to share. Please RSVP to Kim Ogle at 440-759-8422 (call or text) or kimwestogle@msn.com. (RSVP is not necessary but will help the team prepare for set-up and the tournament structure.) Come join us for fun, fellowship and some friendly competition!



First Friends 2.0 – Spring 2024

Greetings from Faith and Nurture – spring may be upon us, so it's time to sign up for First Friends! For those of you not familiar, this is a dinner group of 6 – 8 persons, meeting roughly once a month, for the next 3 months (or as long as a group wishes to meet!).

No 'rules' here! Dinners can be anywhere the group chooses – each others' homes or restaurants. Also, in the past, some groups have chosen to invite others not currently active in our church community. Finally, some with busy schedules have signed up as substitutes, able to attend occasionally.

Keeping the same group together for a few months, allows us to get to know each other better.

There is a sign up sheet hanging in the Gathering area, or you can call either 330-641-6688 or email Dave at earleyd54@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Dave & Angela Earley



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GATHERING

Women's Fellowship is a gathering of FPC women that provides opportunities for service and mission, support of church-related needs, and fellowship. All women of the church are invited to a Women's Fellowship meeting on Tuesday, April 16 at 10:00 a.m. in the parlor. We'll review activities since our last meeting in November, hear a financial report, and brainstorm about future activities. We hope you can join us!



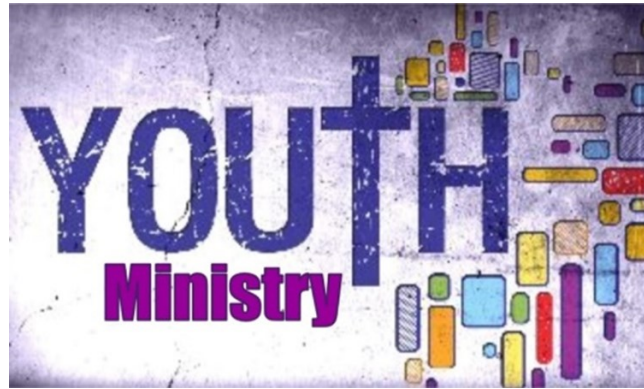
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION & CINCO DE MAYO POTLUCK

All are invited to a potluck and the annual meeting of the congregation on May 5 following worship. The annual meeting will include the election of new elders and deacons and an overview of ministries and activities over the past year. Since May 5 is Cinco de Mayo, you're encouraged to bring your favorite Mexican dish. Other more traditional potluck favorites are welcome too!



Lenten Soup Suppers





This month we will be joining in on a multigenerational Sunday school and learning about and experiencing several Spiritual Practices.

Upcoming Events

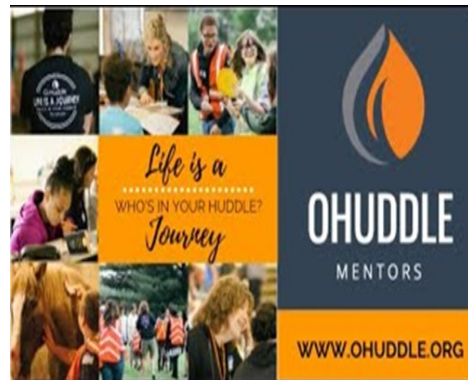
April 15th joint Fellowship with O'Huddle- Amazing Race 6:00-8:00

May 19- Party at Paula's!! 5:00-7:00

Thank you for your continued support of our youth and their ongoing efforts to support our community and grow in their faith journey.

Our Italian Dinner was a success because of YOU!

Thank you!



Join us for our February Friday Fellowship on Friday, April 5th at 11:30am.

David Newbery-Yokley from O'Huddle will be with us.

He will share stories of success and how we might get involved.

Sign up with the link below or email Amy Baxstrom:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20Fo84BAEA72FA7FB6-48742458-april>

Rosaline Wrecked It All

April 5-7, 2024

The Wooster High School Drama Club is putting the finishing touches on their production of "Rosaline Wrecked It All." The play, written by Stephen Kaplan, is a modern day sequel to Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet." It examines who is *really* responsible for their deaths, calls into question the power, which is sometimes destructive, of social media, but ultimately lands on the importance of hope and friendship in the lives of teenagers. Show dates are April 5 & 6 @ 7:30 pm and April 7 @ 2:00 pm. Tickets are NOW on sale at www.ticketpeak.co/whsdrama (or they can be purchased at the door).

First Pres Folk:

Lydia Dunlap = Juliet, Acadia Webb = Understudy for Rosaline and Jack,
Sara Lewellen (granddaughter of Dick and Mimi) = Production Assistant,
Gabe Vossler = Stage Manager,
Brett Hiner = Director,
Kristi Hiner = Assistant Director,
Steve LoGiudice & Megan Wereley = House Managers



Mixed Company will meet at City Square Steak House in downtown Wooster on Friday, April 19th at 5:00 PM. Please call Kathy Turning (330-347-6620) by April 16th if you will be joining us.

SOLAR ECLIPSE

Here comes the Great North American Solar Eclipse! On Monday, April 8, 2024, the Moon's 115-mile-wide dark shadow will sweep from Mexico to Eastern Canada, traversing the U.S. from Texas to Maine in the process. Virtually all of North America will have at least a partial solar eclipse that day. If you can get into the path of totality, where the Moon completely blocks the Sun's bright face, you won't regret it! Be sure to obtain safe viewing glasses with the requirements of the ISO 12312-2 international safety standard.



The CFAES Wooster Campus will be home to the

2024 Scarlet, Gray and Green Fair

at the Secrest Arboretum Welcome and Education | Center. on Saturday April 20 from 10 to 4 pm. Coinciding with the 54th anniversary of the world-wide celebration of Earth Day, the fair celebrates, educates and demonstrates that “Green is for Life!” It features exhibits and demonstrations by non-profits, citizens, educational groups and speakers whose focus is improving community and global sustainability. There will be recycling of a variety of items

(<https://u.osu.edu/sggf/recycling/>), food vendors,

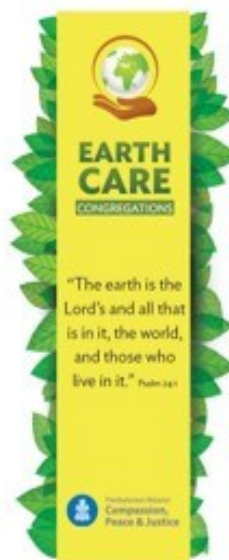
music, activities and a Green Vehicle Cruise-in, all in a fun-filled environment.

The Scarlet, Gray and Green Fair is sponsored by the OSU CFAES Wooster and the Wayne County Sustainable Energy Network. The Fair is free and open to the public.

The 54th Earth Day will be April 20, 2024. We will celebrate this in our church on Sunday, April 21. Watch for more in the weekly Flash.

Your Earth Care team

is proud to announce that we have been certified as an Earth Care Congregation for our 17th year! Thank you to all who have contributed to this effort. Special thanks to Carrie Gordon for getting our full-scale recycling program started this past year, as well as to all those who participate in our Adopt-A-Highway program.





**EARTH
CARE**
CONGREGATIONS

“The earth is the
Lord’s and all that
is in it, the world,
and those who
live in it.” Psalm 24:1



Presbyterian Mission
**Compassion,
Peace & Justice**



PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM

certifies

**First Presbyterian Church
of Wooster, Ohio**

as an

EARTH CARE CONGREGATION

on this

10th+ year of certification

*for its outstanding environmental stewardship achievements in worship, education,
facilities and outreach in the life of the church.*

Through February, 2025

Signature

Jessica Mandolin

Date: 3/8/2024

Associate for Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns

Save the Date!

Housing & Homelessness in Wayne County

*~ A community meeting with updates on
strategic solutions to provide housing for all ~*

Thursday - April 11, 2024 - 7:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church, Wooster - Bruch Hall

Sponsored by



Our 150th Anniversary Mustard Seed Mission Project

How shall we compare the kin-dom of God? It is like a mustard seed ... the smallest of all the seeds on earth ... when sown, it rises up and becomes the greatest of all vegetables. (Mark 4:30-32, trans. Amy-Jill Levine)



Imagine if we could activate enough mustard-seed-size efforts to transform the quality of life for our neighbors and other hardworking families in our area!

As Westminster Presbyterian Church in Wooster, Ohio, celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2024, we invite your help as we reach outside our sanctuary walls to assist our neighbors in Wayne and adjacent counties. As disciples of Jesus, we believe in the promise of the mustard seed parable. Small actions, especially when caringly cultivated, can produce yields of amazing size. Imagine living in a community where every person profoundly experiences the life-transforming power of God's kin-dom: the strengthening of the fabric of the community as resources shared bless both the giver and the receiver! May this vision inspire your consideration and contribution to help erase the medical debt of those in our county and nearby.

Every day 1 in 2 Americans choose between paying medical bills and covering basic needs. Nearly 50% of U.S. adults delayed or skipped medical care due to the high cost. 50% of U.S. adults would not be able to afford an unexpected \$500 bill. 2/3 of bankruptcies cite medical debt as a leading cause. Please learn more about the RIP Medical Debt initiative below. Eligible medical debt within Wayne County and its surrounding communities can be greatly reduced or eliminated with your caring contribution.

Here is how it works:

When a contribution is made, RIP uses data analytics to pinpoint the debt of those most in need: households that earn less than 4 times the federal poverty level (varies by county and family size) or whose debts are 5% or more of annual income. RIP buys medical debt at a steep discount. RIP buys debt in bundles, millions of dollars at a time at a fraction of the original cost. This means your donation of \$100 can relieve \$10,000 in medical debt.

Your contribution can wipe out medical debt. Recipients have no tax consequences or penalties to consider. Just like that, they are free of medical debt! RIP will prioritize the funds first in Wayne County, then in Ashland, Holmes, Medina, Stark, and Summit Counties in Ohio.

Your generosity is a lifeline to someone facing a myriad of challenges brought on by medical debt. Your contribution helps one's "neighbor" in the true sense of the word "neighbor" as taught by Jesus of Nazareth.

(locate the website at: <https://wpcwoo.org/rip>)



Our 150th year celebration, May 5, 2024

1874  2024

WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



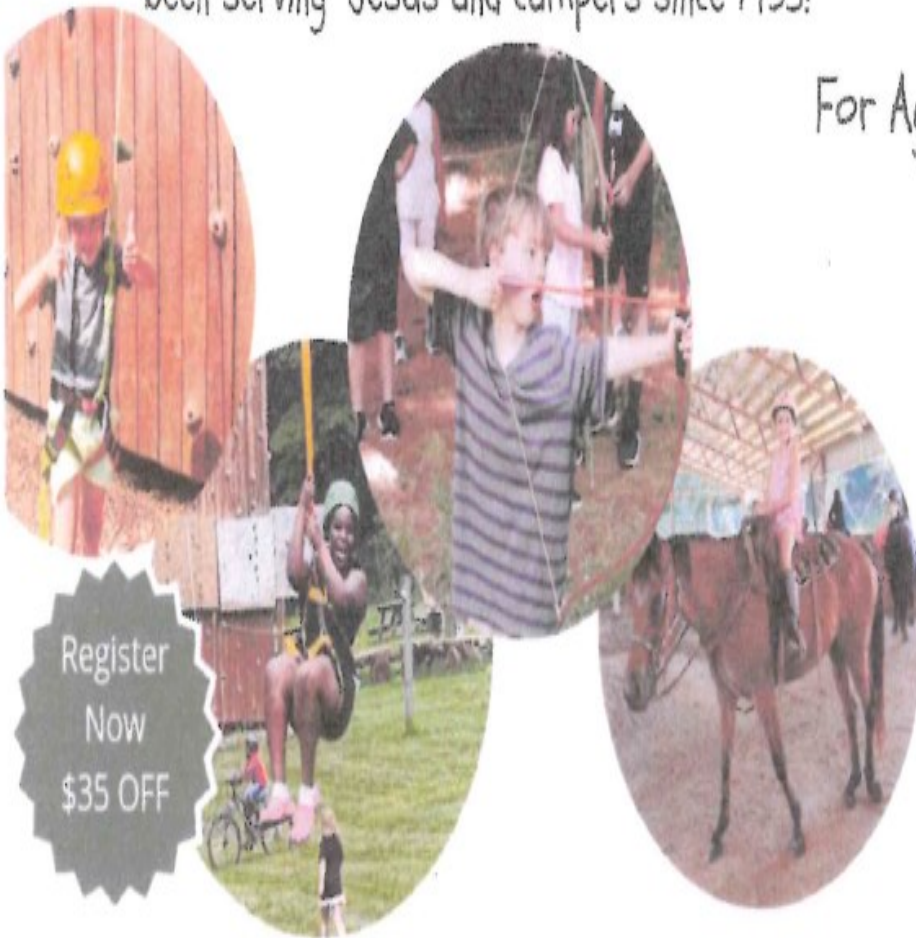
Summer's Best Adventure

A Christian overnight camp & retreat center that has been serving Jesus and campers since 1953!

Activities

- Rock wall
- 1000' Zipline
- Lake & Beach
- Archery
- Slip n' Slide
- Mountain biking
- Gaga
- Outpost camping
- Hiking trails
- Much more!

For Ages 4-15



Register
Now
\$35 OFF



- 419-938-3715
- Info@phoc.org
- PHOC.org
- 4654 Pleasant Hill Road
Perrysville, Ohio

Kinder Camp: June 7-8 Term 1: June 16-21 Term 2: June 23-28 Term 3: July 7-12 Term 4: July 14-19



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 1	Aiden Hiner
April 2	Bev Mapel, Everett Kelly, Edith Swank
April 4	Bob Wellington, Pam Giffin, Vallie Tew
April 8	Dreyco Earley
April 9	Jean Philippi
April 13	Mina Van Cleef, Keyonna Swank
April 15	Lydia Dunlap, Roberta Ross
April 16	Josh Conrad
April 18	Harry McClarran
April 19	Shirley Beckler
April 20	Gary Miller
April 21	Henry Perkins, Raegan Bigley
April 22	Mae Kelly
April 24	Gordon Collins, Dena Morgan
April 25	Stacy Hancock, John Scott, Jr.
April 27	Addison Hiner, James Wright, Madelyn Iannantuono
April 29	Dick Wereley, Cindy Webster
April 30	Judy Mallonn



**LITURGIST SIGN-UP - YEAR 2024
IN THE SANCTUARY**

If you or a member of your family (all ages are welcome)
would like to sign-up to be a liturgist during the 2023 year,
please sign-up at the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/liturgistsfpc>

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING!



**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE SIGN-UP
YEAR 2024
IN THE SANCTUARY**

If you would like to sign-up for Prayers of the People during the 2023 year,
please sign-up at the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/prayersofthepeople>

Thank you for Volunteering!

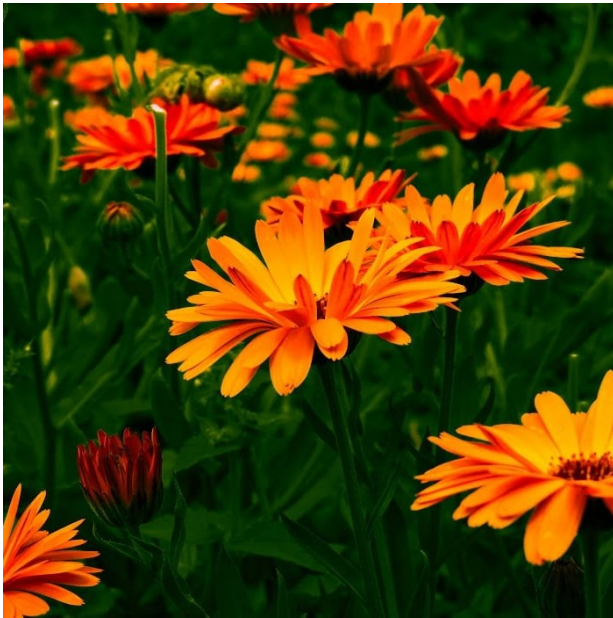


**FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
YEAR 2024**

If you would like to dedicate flowers in honor or memory
of a loved one in the Sanctuary
on Sunday mornings during the year 2023,
please sign-up at the following link:

Thank you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/sanctuaryflowers>



First Presbyterian Church
621 College Avenue
Wooster, OH 44691

Phone: 330-264-9420
Fax: 330-262-7305
Hours: M, T, Th - 9-4
Wed & Fri. - By Appt.

Address Service Requested



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www.firstpreswooster.org

Office Contact Info

David Rice
Donna Bye
Amy Baxstrom
Rachel King

Email

drice@firstpreswooster.org
dbye@firstpreswooster.org
abaxstrom@firstpreswooster.org
rking@firstpreswooster.org

Phone Ext.

ext. 202
ext. 201
ext. 204



Deadlines

FPC News Flash
Tower Tidings
Bulletin
Session
Session Packets

Submission Deadline

Wednesday by noon
15th of each month
Wednesday
2nd Monday of the month
2nd Monday of the month

Approximate Delivery

End of Week
End of Month
Weekly
4th Wed. of each month
3rd Sunday of the month