



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WOOSTER

TOWER TIDINGS APRIL 2025

Dear Friends,

It is fitting winter-wise this year that April 1st dawned sporting a temperature of 35 degrees — an April Fool's taunt to spring if there ever was one! That said, the sun is shining and spring blooms are popping out all over. I trust the time is coming soon when we will shut down our furnaces for the season.

However, there is plenty of warmth in our congregational life together as we prepare to leave Lent, enter Holy Week, and celebrate a joyous Easter. Holy Week services feature a Maundy Thursday service of communion preceded by a soup supper, and then a Good Friday Tenebrae service with the reading of the passion story accompanied by the extinguishing of candles. On Easter Sunday, we will receive the sacrament of communion and give to the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering, which supports the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-Development of People for education and vocational opportunities.

We will celebrate Earth Day on Sunday, 27 April, with worship led by the Earth Care Team. During the service, the College of Wooster Director of Campus Sustainability, Brian Webb, will be gracing us with an inspirational message on the care of God's good and fragile creation.

Following our Earth Day worship, we will have a potluck lunch in Bruch Hall and hold our Annual Congregational Meeting, which will include reports on the work of the church this past year, the year-end financial report, the recognition of our church members with 50 or more years with us, and a celebration of Amy Baxstrom's successful completion of the requirements to become a PC(USA) Certified Christian Educator.

Finally, I encourage us in this season to give prayerful consideration to the financial needs of our church as we look forward to Easter newness and the future toward which God is calling us.

Blessings and Peace,

David

Session Highlights

2025	2026	2027	Staff
Paula Abrecht	Wes Davis	Tammy Brooks	Rev. David Rice
Dave Earley	April Gamble	Mark Gordon	Amy Baxstrom, CE
Bobbi Jentes-Mason	Laura Neill	Steve LoGuidice	
Mimi Lewellen	Kris Evans	Jeff Perkins	
		Lisa Rumbaugh, Clerk	

This highlight for Tower Tidings is written to update the congregation on the work of the Session in March 2025. The March meeting was rescheduled to April 2, 2025, which is after this publication. Highlights of the April 2 and April 30 meetings will be shared in the May Tower Tidings report.

First Presbyterian Church, Wooster hosted the stated meeting of Muskingum Valley Presbytery on Saturday, March 15, 2025 with approximately 50 people attending in person and others joined virtually throughout the day. Worship, business, and fellowship were all included in the activities of this time together. Important decisions about amendments to the Book of Order were discussed and voted as approved. Spiritual guidance was offered through videos shared by Matt Skolnik, general Presbyterian and each table group discussed the prompts presented. Other business included motions to approve the sale of a church property that is within the Muskingum Valley Presbytery, approval of Lisa Rumbaugh (FPC Wooster) to be Moderator-elect of MVP Presbytery and the most recent financial report. Attendees appreciated the wonderful hospitality offered by FPC Wooster members which included helpful greeters, food servers, technology support and beautiful music. The day was concluded by the sharing of communion together. Many thanks for the many hands and the combined energy that made this event so meaningful.

Please be reminded that the Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, April 27, following the 10:30 worship service. Please plan to attend to learn about the activities and the needs of our church as we move forward to do the work we are called to do. We will combine that meeting with a potluck meal on that day. We will also be celebrating those in our church family who have over 50 years of faithful membership.

Members of Session will continue to meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. 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 listen, discern and communicate successfully. Minutes from 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 RDM!

As of the end of February 2025, our congregation had year-to-date revenues of over \$97,000 and expenses of just over \$123,000 for a deficit of around \$26,000. Obviously, any deficit is concerning, but it is early in the year and hopefully there are timing issues involved that will even out as we proceed. Regardless, the Resource Development Ministry will keep a close eye out for any unusual patterns and expenses and take advantage of possible revenue streams to improve our 2025 financial picture. Any effort to keep your giving steady and consistent throughout the year will be greatly appreciated as our ministry teams and staff plan for our structural, programming and mission needs throughout the year.

A main goal of the RDM is transparency to the Session and congregation of First Presbyterian Church. Please feel free to ask any questions or share any concerns and ideas that you have with anyone serving on the RDM.

Peace and blessings,

Tom Rumbaugh, Chair

Dana Brooks, treasurer, Stuart Miller, Laura Neill,

Mark Gordon, Steve Logiudice, Jeff Perkins, and David Rice, pastor



SEASON OF LENT 2025

ASH WEDNESDAY – MARCH 5

SUPPER AT 6:00PM IN BRUCH HALL SERVICE AT 7:00PM IN THE SANCTUARY

PALM SUNDAY – APRIL 13

ARISE AT 8:45AM SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:15AM WORSHIP AT 10:30

MAUNDY THURSDAY – APRIL 17

SUPPER AT 6:00PM IN BRUCH HALL SERVICE AT 7:00PM IN THE SANCTUARY

GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 18

SERVICE AT 7:00PM IN THE SANCTUARY

EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 20

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:15AM WORSHIP AT 10:30

**ALL ARE WELCOME IN PERSON OR STREAM SERVICES ONLINE AT
WWW.FIRSTPRESWOOSTER.ORG/WORSHIP**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WOOSTER



Faith and Worship

Lenten Soup Supper

The next Soup Supper will be served on Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 6:00pm with the Maundy Thursday service to follow at 7:00.

Easter Flowers for the Chancel

In Memory/Honor of Easter flowers for the chancel are \$12.00 per pot and must be ordered by April 14. To order, please fill out an order form or call the church office.

Nancy Young/Susie Slack, Co-chairs





Easter Flowers for the Sanctuary

This Easter, remember or honor those special people in your life by ordering a pot or two of joyful spring tulips for our chancel. The flowers are \$12.00 per pot and the names of those you are remembering or honoring will appear in an insert in the Easter bulletin.

Just fill in the form below and put it in the collection plate or call the church office to order: 330-264-9420.

Please order by April 14.

You may take flowers home after the 10:15 service on Easter Sunday.

Name of Donor _____

In Memory Of _____

In Honor Of _____



Palm Sunday – April 13

The Godly Play and Bible Town classes will be singing and processing with palms during worship. We will be joined by some special guest musicians this year! Please plan to join us to practice in Sunday School and to sing during worship on that Sunday. Watch your emails for a practice track to sing with at home.

Thanks! - Rachel



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Repairing the breach

ISAIAH 58

PROVIDING RELIEF FROM NATURAL DISASTERS,
FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY, AND SUPPORT
FOR THE POOR AND OPPRESSED.

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by **One Great Hour of Sharing** (OGHS) — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent (March 5 – April 20), each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need.

Please consider a gift to OGHS either by using special envelopes in the pews or by going to the First Presbyterian website, clicking on GIVE and choosing One Great Hour of Sharing.

THANK YOU FROM THE FAITH AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE



Hello,

I wanted to extend a very heartfelt thank you to all the people that have helped from your organization to provide meals for our guests at Homeward Bound. Our guests look forward to the amazing meals that you have provided them.

We noticed that a lot of the volunteers who have helped serve are interested in doing more than just serving food—they want to interact more with the guests. This is amazing and always welcomed, but we just ask that those folks complete our volunteer training process. This training ensures that all interactions are safe, respectful, and beneficial for both the volunteers and our guests.

The training covers essential topics such as effective communication, safety protocols, and understanding the needs of our guests. It typically takes about an hour to complete.

To sign up for the training, please contact us at volunteer@homewardboundwwc.org. We have virtual sessions planned for April and will look to host in-person sessions again soon.

An exciting update for Homeward Bound is that we have been given the go-ahead to continue our overnight services throughout the entire year, instead of just November through April. We recognize that this request deviates from our initial proposal. However, should your organization be willing or able to provide assistance during these additional months, we would be profoundly grateful for any support you can offer.

If you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you once again for your incredible support! Please share this message with your team, as it was only sent to the primary contacts listed for your organization.

Best Regards,

Brandon Barnes

Director of Services, Homeward Bound of Wooster and Wayne Co.

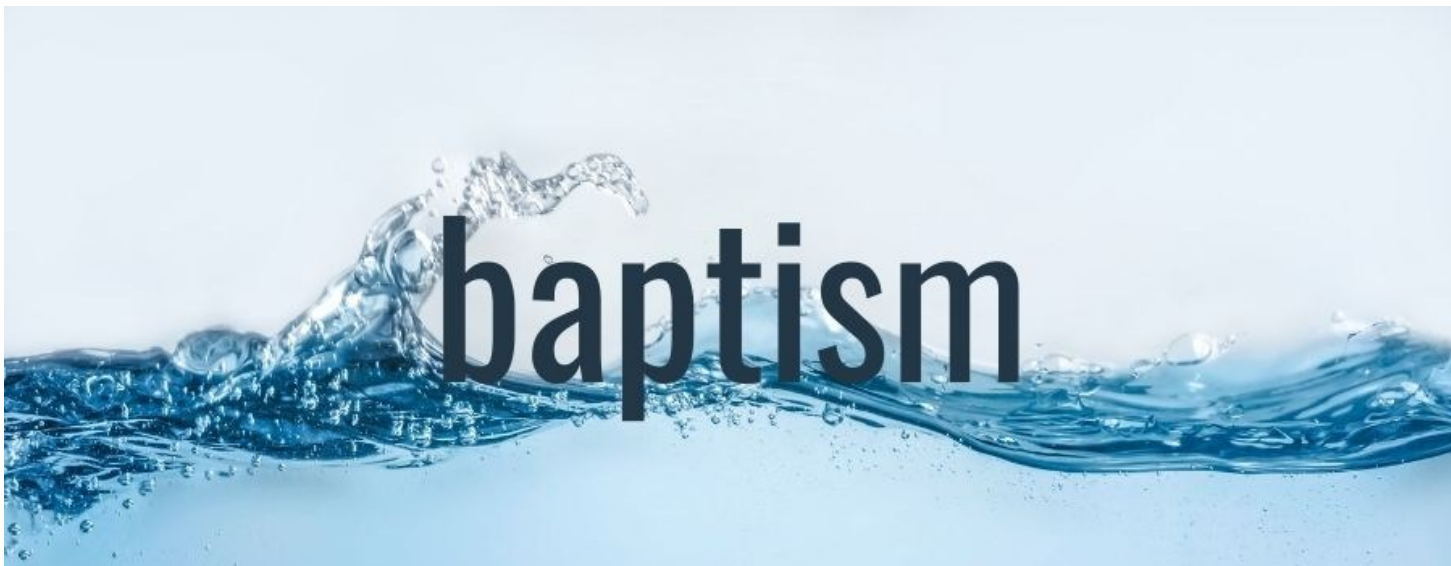
brandonb@homewardboundwwc.org



[LinkTree](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)



JR Wright, a member of the youth group, Confirmation class, and long time friend of Hudson Baxstrom, was baptized on Sunday March 30th. We welcome JR into our faith community with open arms.





CELEBRATE SPRING TOGETHER

Congregational Potluck Lunch

Bruch Hall

April 27, 2025

Following the 10:30 am worship service

Food+Fellowship+Annual Meeting



**All children, toddler through 6th grade,
are invited to join us for our annual egg hunt .
Weather depending it will be outside.
Our youth will fill and hide the eggs!
Please plan to join us at 9:15 on Easter morning.**



Join us for our next potluck- April 27th at 11:30 (after the 10:30 Worship service). During the gathering we will also hold our Annual Meeting where important highlights of the year will be discussed and dreams of the upcoming year brought forward. This is a great time to fellowship with each other before the summer busyness sets in and to hear what wonderful programs, missions, and engagements First Presbyterian Church is involved in. Below is the link to the potluck sign up. There will also be one in the gathering area. See Amy Baxstrom for more information.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F084BAEA72FA7FB6-56062379-annual>

First Friends 2.0 – Spring 2025

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/text 330-641-6688 or email Dave at earleyd54@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Dave & Angela Earley





Update from The Earth Care Committee



Your Earth Care Committee is excited to kick off a year full of specific and simple action items that the congregation can use to become better caretakers of the Earth. Each month we will focus on a topic and provide information with activities you can do to hopefully make them sustainable habits.

For the month of April we are going to focus on reducing plastic waste by suggesting you switch to reusable shopping bags. Please bring old t-shirts to church to use for an activity to turn them into reusable bags. Look for the box in the entrance area.

According to Google, here's a breakdown of the plastic bag situation:

- **Global Use:** Around 5 trillion plastic bags are used worldwide annually.
- **US Consumption:** Americans use over 100 billion plastic bags each year.
- **Environmental Impact:** Plastic bags are difficult to recycle and often end up in landfills, where they can take hundreds of years to decompose.
- **Marine Pollution:** Plastic bags are a major source of marine debris, posing a threat to wildlife.
- **Microplastics:** As plastic bags break down, they release tiny plastic particles (microplastics) that can contaminate soil, water, and even enter the food chain.
- **Alternatives:** Using reusable bags is a simple way to reduce plastic bag consumption and its environmental impact.





*Please join us for our Earth Day service on Sunday, April 27th.

After the service we will do our bag making activity at the potluck and annual church meeting.





The congregation extends its sympathy to the family of longtime member Vallie Tew who died on March 9, 2025. Vallie was born in Dothan, Alabama and studied English at Troy State University. She met her husband Jim in junior high and they enjoyed 56 years of marriage.

Vallie and Jim moved to Wooster in 1978 and she began a long career teaching at the Wayne County Career Center. At FPC Vallie served as a deacon, assisted in the nursery, and hosted First Friends dinners. She was also active in the community and served on the Board of Building and Zoning Appeals and the Oktoberfest committee.

Vallie is survived by her husband Jim; her daughters Lydia, Robyn, and Erin and their spouses; and six grandchildren. A funeral service was held at FPC on March 19, 2025.





The congregation extends its sympathy to the family of former longtime FPC member Marge Treece who died March 20, 2025 in Greenville, South Carolina. Marge grew up in Oswego, New York and graduated from Rochester Business School. She met her late husband Bob while working as a secretary in the department of entomology at Cornell University.

Marge and Bob moved to Wooster when Bob accepted a position in the department of entomology at OARDC. Marge enjoyed volunteering for the Viola Thorne Club and the Wooster Symphony, playing bridge, and dancing. Marge and Bob relocated to Greenville, South Carolina in 2015 to be closer to family.

Marge is survived by her children Diane and Jay and their spouses; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Bob and son Tom. Marge's family will hold a private celebration of life in South Carolina.





APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 1	Aiden Hiner
April 2	Bev Mapel, Everett Kelly, Edith Swank
April 3	Emily Armour
April 4	Bob Wellington, Pam Giffin
April 7	Sam Henderson
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 19	Shirley Beckler
April 20	Gary Miller, Jason Reith
April 21	Henry Perkins, Raegan Bigley
April 22	Mae Kelly
April 24	Gordon Collins, Dena Morgan
April 25	Stacy Hancock
April 27	Addison Hiner, James Wright
	Madelyn Iannantuono
April 29	Dick Wereley, Cindy Webster
April 30	Judy Mallonn



LITURGIST SIGN-UP - YEAR 2025 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!



FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP YEAR 2025

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



www.facebook.com/FPCWooster/
www.firstpreswooster.org

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