



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF WOOSTER

# TOWER TIDINGS

## AUGUST 2023

Dear Friends,

We are on the cusp of bidding farewell to summer and turning our thoughts to the fall season and the beginning of a new program year for our church. It's hard to imagine that only two weeks separate our school students and teachers from the new academic year. Though summer is soon on its way out, there are still many opportunities to be found in the pages of this newsletter that beckon our attention and invite our participation.

One item I want to focus on is the monthly report from the Resource Development Ministry Team, the committee that is responsible for the stewardship of our finances and investments. It is important that we all read this report, which is found on page 4 of the Tidings, and reflect upon it. What we are experiencing here is mirrored across many churches in our country today. The religious landscape of our society is shifting rapidly in the direction of disaffiliation and disinterest in so-called "organized religion," especially among the younger population. The challenge for faith communities is to strengthen the core of their ministries and mission while embracing the newness that God's spirit blows among them.

First Presbyterian has a long tradition of engaged worship, vital educational programs, welcoming fellowship, intentional mission, and generous hospitality. These qualities along with our extensive facilities depend upon financial support as well as congregational participation. In the coming weeks as we transition from our summer schedules and activities into the rhythms of early fall, I hope each of us will give some thought to our commitments to this community of faith. When we all pull together, in whatever ways we can, new possibilities come into view and God's future opens before us.

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 during the months of June and July 2023. No Session meeting was held in the month of June.

Even though it is summertime, coordinating teams are meeting and preparing for the new program year, which will be kicked off on September 10th. Elders are members and leaders of those coordinating teams. Please review this updated list of members of the various coordinating and ministry teams. Each team is responsible for finding members of the congregation to join their group. If you have an interest in one area of ministry or another, please contact the chair of the coordinating team. If you would like to increase your understanding of the work of each of the teams, please contact the chairperson of each group and/or consult the SESSION notebook on the counter in the Welcoming Area where the polity for each group is described.

### 2023-24 Coordinating Teams

#### Faith and Nurture

Carol Gates (chair, elder)  
Wes Davis (elder)  
Dave Earley (elder)  
Paula Abrecht (elder)  
Amy Baxstrom (staff)  
Megan Wereley  
Diana Day  
Carrie Gordon  
Kim Ogle  
Kristi Hiner

#### Faith and Structure

Jim Webster (elder)  
Roy Haynes  
Joel Beckler  
Nigel Brush  
Scott Buehler  
Paul Edminston  
Roy Hancock  
Steve Slack  
Tim Hall (staff)  
David Rice (ex-officio)

#### Faith and Practice

Kris Evans (chair, elder)  
Carol McKiernan  
Carla Hall  
Karen James  
Don Beane

#### Faith and Worship

Nancy Young (co-chair)  
Susie Slack (co-chair)  
April Gamble (elder)  
Mickey Asleson  
Kathy Turning  
Eric Gastier (staff)  
Rachel King (staff)  
David Rice (staff)

## *Session Highlights*

### **2023-24 Coordinating Teams**

#### **Nominating**

Mimi Lewellen (chair, elder)  
Lorraine Hancock  
Jean Knorr

#### **Personnel**

Laura Neill (chair, elder)  
Tammy Brooks  
Angela Earley  
Tom Rumbaugh  
David Rice (staff)

#### **Resource Development Ministry**

Tom Rumbaugh (chair)  
Mark Gordon (elder)  
Laura Neill (elder)  
Jeff Perkins (elder)  
Stu Miller  
Dana Brooks, treasurer  
David Rice (staff)

The names of current Session members are being updated on the church's website. If you have any questions or need more information about the work of this group, please feel free to contact any of those members listed.

During the July meeting, information was shared about the approval by Presbytery for the sale of the College Avenue manse. The process to list this property for sale continues. The current financial status of the church was presented and will be explained in the RDM report in this Tower Tidings publication. Each of the ministry teams reported their progress. A very successful Fine Arts Camp, drawing children from church membership and the community was held in July. The Youth enjoyed a meaningful mission trip to Steubenville, Ohio and will share their experiences with the congregation at a later date. We continue to celebrate and support the outreach of Meals for All as that volunteer team, headed by the amazing Karen James, serves meals and creates fellowship opportunities for many folks in our community.

Members of Session will continue to meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Our next scheduled meeting will be on August 23, 2023 and church finances will be the focus of this meeting. 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](mailto:sessionclerk@firstpreswooster.org)

Greetings from the Resource Development Ministry!

Here we are finishing the first month of the second half of 2023 already! As of June 30, we are running a deficit of just over \$75,000 of budgeted revenue over expenses. As communicated at the annual meeting in April, a main reason for the deficit is the lower donor base of our congregation pledging compared to the fixed costs of maintaining our structure and meeting personnel expenses.

While we do tend to collect the greater contributions toward the last half of the year, the amount of the deficit is worrisome. The RDM is planning a meeting with a financial representative from Presbytery to gain insight and suggestions to deal with the present and future declining trends that FPC and other churches are facing nationwide.

We are also preparing the College Avenue Manse for a possible sale in order to use the proceeds to retire the debt that we took on when we had to replace the failing boiler system this winter. In addition to saving the interest expense on the debt, selling the vacant manse will also alleviate the monthly cash needs to service this obligation.

The financial markets this year have been good to the health of our endowment funds so far this year! Higher interest rates and positive market returns will help fund our present and future structure, mission projects, and programming needs.

As always, please feel free to contact any member of the RDM with any questions or suggestions

Peace and Blessings,

Tom Rumbaugh, Chair

Dana Brooks, church treasurer; Laura Neill; Stuart Miller;

Jeff Perkins; David Rice, Pastor; and Mark Gordon





**Our next Eventide gathering will be Sunday, August 20 at 6:30pm in the Chapel. Eventide is a simple contemplative time of song and prayer. Please plan to join us.**



**Join us for our annual Blessing of the Backpacks! We invite anyone (preschool, high school, college, student, professor, parent, teacher, staff, ANYONE!) to bring their backpack, briefcase, work bag, computer, etc, to church with you on Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. We will bless you and the journey you are about to embark on. Please plan to attend this special Sunday!**

**HAPPY  
NEW  
(program)  
YEAR**

**Mark your calendars for the start of our Program Year on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. We will kick off our year with a potluck breakfast that morning at 9:00 in Bruch Hall. More details to come!**



At First Presbyterian Church, we strive to provide engaging, thought-provoking, creative, and Christ-centered faith formation. Our teachers are committed to helping facilitate classes that lend to a safe environment no matter where we are on our faith journey. This fall we hope to continue that same feeling. Our faith formation hour has been called "the heartbeat of the church" and we need your help to keep it going. We need the following teachers to keep our Sunday mornings running smoothly. Please consider being a part of the heartbeat of First Pres.

1. **2 Godly Play teachers.** These teachers are assisted by a College of Wooster student. You will be met by children ready and EAGER to sing, learn and play. Godly Play is a Montessori-based curriculum where the students are asked to listen to the teacher tell the story and then are encouraged to play with the story and other stories.

2. **6-8 Adult Education teachers.** These teachers will group up in teams to teach in either the Parlor or downstairs classes. Each of these classes is uniquely taught. Current topics, book studies, outside speakers, and other engaging ways of learning have been used. We have a vibrant children and youth formation hour and we NEED this space for adults as well.

Please consider giving your time to help those in our community grow in their faith, find a relationship with God, and become the hands and feet of Christ.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Amy Baxstrom



**Hosted by Westminster Presbyterian Church**

**When: Wednesday-Friday, August 9-11**

**Time: 9:00 - 11:00 AM**

**Where: Mackey Hall - Westminster Church, 353 East Pine Street**

**Who: Children preschool through sixth grade**

**For more information copy the below link into your web browser and go to:**

<https://www.westminsterpresbyterianwooster.org/worship-and-education/compassion-camp-august-9-11-2023>



**Dear FPC Family,**

**Walter and I would like to extend our deepest thanks to all for your prayers, thoughts, meals, and cards as we just passed the one year anniversary of Lauren's tragic accident. She is nothing short of a miracle, and we credit that to all the prayers, God, and her fighting spirit. We are still working to bring her home. We have learned we have to take one day at a time, and know it will happen in God's time. She would not be this far along without your prayers and concern.**

**Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.**

**Sincerely,**

**Walter and Polly Johnson**





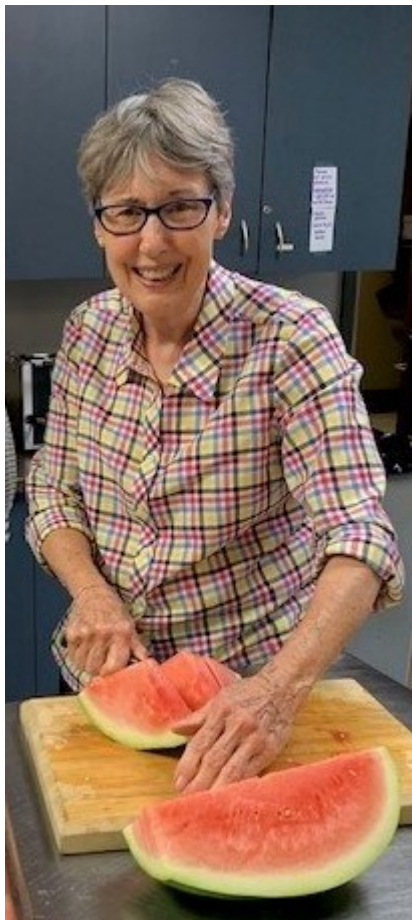
What a success our “Meals for All” has been. At our last meal we had 57 diners. None of this would happen if not for our tireless volunteers who prepare the meal, serve it, and clean up.

Our next meal will be August 28th, we will serve grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, baked beans, salad, and ice cream. Won't you help by volunteering your time and or providing food? Sign up will be in the news flash August 17th and 24th.





# ***MEALS FOR ALL***



**Mixed Company is meeting on Thursday, August 10th at 11:30 am at Mariola Italian Restaurant on East Liberty Street.**

**Please call Kathy Turning at 330-347-6620 by August 8th if you will be joining us. We will be in the back room and not on the patio.**



## **God's Trailblazers**

**If you enjoy the beauty of God's creation and want to spend some time outdoors, please join us for our next gathering on Sunday, August 13th at 1, weather permitting. We will meet at the paved parking lot at Wooster Memorial Park off of Silver Rd. We will start by walking the paved path together, and then those wanting to hike on the more challenging trails may continue. Looking forward to enjoying God's incredible creation with anyone wanting to join!**

**Questions? See Carrie Gordon (or call or text) (614) 565-3541**





## RECYCLING SYMBOLS

Please read important information regarding **Recycling Symbols** by clicking on our website blog link below:

<https://www.firstpreswooster.org/blog/2023/07/18/recycling-symbols>



People to People's Back to School project needs your help! Please consider "adopting" a child for starting their school year. For \$40, you can provide what a child needs to start the school year with clothing and a fully-equipped backpack of supplies. Donations of any amount will be appreciated. Any questions, contact Carla Hall at 614-761- 3906. You may give directly to People to People (mail a check or through <https://ptpm.net/donate/>) or send a check to the church with "People to People" in the memo line. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

## EARTH CARE



My name is Carla Hall, and I am chair of this congregation's Earth Care team, a designation we've earned since 2007. In the fall of 2019, I earned the title of Master Recycler, added to my existing degrees as Master Gardener Volunteer, Ohio Certified Master Naturalist, Bachelor and Master's degrees. The Master Recycler education was perhaps the most immediately useful of all!

Last month, Carrie Gordon – also a Master Recycler – and I, among others, set up shop behind Buehler's at the recycling bins and greeted visitors to assist with their recycling. While doing so, we'd take a look at what was being put in the bins, and used it as an opportunity to educate. The same rules apply to curbside recycling in Wooster (it all goes to the same Kimble's MRF – Materials Recycling Facility).

First about recycling symbols, or more correctly, plastic resin codes. A number inside chasing arrows does *not* mean that an item is recyclable, it simply indicates the type of plastic resin it is made from. For example, #6 is Styrofoam which is notoriously *not* recyclable and will last more than 1,000 years in a landfill.

Plastics probably create the most confusion. Currently only plastics #1 and 2, bottles and jugs, with a neck and shoulders, are accepted here. You might also see clamshells – from salads, nuts, and such with a #1 and #2; these are not recyclable here. No other types or numbers of plastics are recyclable curbside or in other recycling bins in Wayne County.

Please do not place plastic bags in any recycling bin. They complicate the sorting process, and make it more expensive. Instead, bring them to church! Rotary is currently collecting these to trade for park benches made of plastic wood. This includes plastic shopping bags, shrink wrap, bread bags, and the like. Trex is the company that does this, and at the Kohl's drop-off location, also accept softener salt bags.

Columbus, and much of Franklin county, recycles #5 tubs - margarine, sour cream, yogurt. I hope we also get that privilege someday. Dublin and Hilliard now recycle styrofoam! via a compactor that will take Styrofoam the size of an SUV and compress it to the size of a concrete block. There are 24-hour drop-off locations in those two Columbus suburbs.

Wayco, north on 83, recycles many metals, including appliances like dehumidifiers and Christmas lights.

Consider reducing the number of items that you buy in plastic containers. For example, you can make a simple all-purpose household cleaner with equal parts of white vinegar and water in place of expensive spray cleaners. And wouldn't you feel safer using vinegar than some unknown chemicals? And how about bar soap? Liquid soaps in plastic bottles contain cleansers like bar soap as well as extra fat. Who needs more fat?

I've suggested composting before. Many people say no, for fear of odors, animals, and the general yuck factor. To confirm that this is not the case, here is a testimonial from our own Karolyn Rice:

*Your comments some time ago about methane produced in landfills that could be considerably less without the food stuff, made me buy a small counter-top container for composting. We cut things up into little pieces before putting them into the container to condense their size and so, in our yard, it doesn't look like banana peels and the like. We have a corner in our yard where we dump the contents of the container and have had no problems with it. No odor, no animals that we have noticed, and whatever has been dumped blends in with the dirt around it by the time we come with the next container. I like it better than a garbage disposal and, should I ever really begin gardening, I may even use the compost pile to help our gardens.*

If you have any recycling questions, please feel free to ask me anytime. Thanks for listening.



# Wooster Milltown Free Community Shred Day

**Saturday, August 12, 2023**  
**9AM - NOON**

**All residential and businesses welcome!**  
Behind the Wooster Buehler's Milltown store  
3540 Burbank Rd.

smart  to **BE GREEN**

**Questions? Concerns? Call us.**  
**Geri Shie 330-345-5908 x2907**  
**or Nita Murray 330-345-5908 x2908**

## Shredding Guidelines

### ALL PAPER, to include:

(small paper clips and staples do not have to be removed)

- Accounting Ledger paper
- Adding machine tape
- Advertisements
- Booklets, Brochures
- Copy machine paper
- Colored paper – 20 lb.
- Computer paper
- Envelopes
- Faxes
- Manila file folders – bleachable
- Greeting cards
- Laser printer paper
- Legal pad paper
- Post-it Notes
- NCR paper
- Receipts
- All types of white paper

### NO, these products can't be shredded . . .

- Newspapers, Phone Books
- Magazines
- Binders
- Books
- Plastic folders
- Food & candy wrappers
- Waxed paper
- Napkins
- Styrofoam containers



### GATEWAY RECYCLING

4223 East 49<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cleveland, Ohio 44125-1001  
216-341-8777  
Fax: 216/341-8785





The congregation extends its sympathy to the family of FPC member, Sue Schultz, who died July 12. Sue was born in Findlay, Ohio and grew up in North Baltimore, Ohio. She worked for 30 years in the Emergency Room Admitting Department at Wooster Community Hospital. Sue loved sports and outdoor activities and enjoyed traveling around the world with her late husband Bill Schultz Jr., who died in 2020.

Sue is survived by her children Brad and Molly, stepchildren Bill, Karen, and Eric, and ten grandchildren. A funeral service was held July 16 at McIntire, Bradham & Sleek.



## **LITURGIST SIGN-UP - YEAR 2023 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>

Contact information will be in the link.

Also, you can go to the FPC website and go to the tab Worship Services and Resources  
and drop down to the FPC Forms link that you would like to use.

**THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING!**



## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE SIGN-UP YEAR 2023 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>

Contact information will be in the link.

Also, you can go to the FPC website and go to the tab Worship Services and Resources  
and drop down to the FPC Forms link that you would like to use.

**Thank you for Volunteering!**



**FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP  
YEAR 2023**

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>

**USHERS NEEDED– YEAR 2023**

We need 2 volunteers for ushers for Sunday worship!  
Please consider volunteering and sign up at the link below :)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/2ushers>

**Thank you for Volunteering!**



## **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

August 2	Kenneth Barnard, Robert Nielsen, Scott Murphy, Kaye Bartlett
August 3	William Gastier, Cate Strong, Emma Strong
August 4	Andrew James
August 5	Sarah Baker
August 6	Mary Stockton, Dottie Schmid
August 7	Rhonnie Black, Walt Kearney
August 8	Matthew Earley
August 9	Sophia Baxstrom
August 10	Helena Gastier
August 12	Aaron Edmiston
August 13	Ben Rumbaugh
August 14	Lindsey Conrad
August 15	Zachary Miller
August 16	Ashton Dunlap
August 17	Nancy Young, Karina MacMillan
August 18	Tyler Gordon,
August 19	Abigail Earley, Shanna Springer, Russell McQuate, Rhonda Masci, Carl Short, Paula Abrecht, Jill Kelly, Ashley Compton
August 21	Lorraine Hancock, Abby Harrington
August 24	Jeffrey Musselman, Elaine Peterson
August 25	Donald Beane, William Mapel
August 26	Wesley Baker
August 30	Laura Neill, Ruth Odenkirk, Kathy Zink
August 31	Conrad Kennedy

First Presbyterian Church  
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Hours: M, T, Th - 9-4  
Wed & Fri. - By Appt.

Address Service Requested



[www.facebook.com/FPCWooster/](http://www.facebook.com/FPCWooster/)  
[www.firstpreswooster.org](http://www.firstpreswooster.org)

### Office Contact Info

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#### Phone Ext.

ext. 202  
ext. 201  
ext. 204



### Deadlines

**FPC News Flash**  
Tower Tidings  
Bulletin  
Session  
Session Packets

#### Submission Deadline

Wednesday by noon  
15<sup>th</sup> of each month  
Wednesday  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month

#### Approximate Delivery

End of Week  
End of Month  
Weekly  
4<sup>th</sup> Wed. of each month  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month