



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WOOSTER

TOWER TIDINGS FEBRUARY 2023

Dear Friends,

As we enter the cold heart of winter, we can rejoice that new boilers have restored heat in our building, and corporate worship, ministry, and fellowship opportunities are restoring the warmth of our relationships together. The following pages reveal that warmth in myriad ways.

February brings us to the end of the season of Epiphany in the form of our Ash Wednesday service of imposition of ashes and shared communion with our sister congregation of Westminster. The following five weeks of Lent, highlighted by our Wednesday Night Soup Suppers, will lead us to Palm Sunday and Holy Week. This month's service of Eventide, a contemplative gathering for prayer and song and reflection at 6:30 in the Chapel, will take place this coming Sunday, February 5.

Before we enter the season of Lent and the beginning of our soup suppers, the Wednesday Fellowship Meals at 11:30 in Bruch Hall will continue to offer midweek fellowship. "The Mid," a pre-COVID evening of fellowship, will be making its return. And a new addition to our contemplative spirituality will be found in the church library, where a place for prayer and meditation is being created.

This month provides ample opportunity for benevolent giving and support of a variety of missions: the Youth Italian Dinner fundraiser; Souper Bowl of Caring, the proceeds of which will be collected by our youth and given to the FPC Meals for All; ongoing collections for Emma LoGiudice and her nursing colleagues, who will be going to the Dominican Republic on a medical outreach mission; a Call to Action evening to address homelessness in Wayne County; and an invitation to serve as a mentor with O'Huddle.

Last but not least, the Resource Development Ministry Team is encouraging those of us who have not yet made a financial pledge to the FPC 2023 Budget to do so in support all our church does for the nurture of our congregation and to meet the many needs of our neighbors near and far.

Stay warm and well this month and celebrate the gradual lengthening of sunlit days!

Blessings and Peace,

David

Session Highlights

2023	2024	2025	Staff
Wes Davis	Carol Gates	Paula Abrecht	Rev. David Rice
April Gamble	Jeff Perkins	Dave Earley	Lisa Rumbaugh, Clerk
Laura Neill	Jim Webster	Kris Evans	
	Mark Gordon	Bobbi Jentes-Mason	
Sophia Baxstrom (YE)		Mimi Lewellen	
Hannah LoGiudice (YE)			
Seth Miller (YE)			

This highlight for Tower Tidings is written to update the congregation on the work of the Session at the meeting held January 25, 2023. No meeting was held the month of December 2022.

The Clerk's report included membership updates due to the passing of two members of the congregation since the last meeting. Annual reports due to Presbytery are being prepared. These reports include membership statistics and financial information.

Updates from the various coordinating teams were received. The Faith and Nurture team highlighted an upcoming social activity, "Return of the Mid": a game night planned on February 10th at the LoGiudice home. Look for reminders of this event in future News Flash publications. Meals for All continues to provide meals and fellowship for community members, once per month. Karen James leads this ministry, along with a great team of volunteers who cook, donate food, serve and clean up. Please join this wonderful outreach program. The Faith and Worship team was complimented on a beautiful Advent worship season and they are now planning for Lent. Soup Suppers will return this year. The Ash Wednesday service with Westminster will be held at FPC Wooster on February 22, 2023.

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

Resource Development Ministry

Greetings from the RDM!

It is still not too late to turn in your 2023 Congregational Pledge card! If you have turned in your family's card, thank you. If you haven't please drop your completed card off at the church office, use the US Postal service, or communicate your promise by e-mail. If you have any questions regarding the stewardship campaign or the church finances, below is a list of the members of the RDM that can address any of your concerns. Your monetary promises are critical as we complete the 2023 budget and plan for our staff salaries and benefits, building maintenance, various worship expenses, and our many mission projects.

So far there has been a significant drop in pledges for 2023, and we are falling short of our stewardship goals. The members of RDM have begun meeting and communicating with the various ministry teams to expect cuts in their budget and make the necessary adjustments as they plan for the 2023 year.

All of us on the RDM are open for questions, suggestions, and comments from any member of our church family. We will strive to be good stewards of our gifts as we continue to plan and make adjustments in the resources available to our ministry teams and staff.

Peace and Blessings,

Tom Rumbaugh, chair

Dana Brooks, church treasurer; Laura Neill; Mark Gordon; David Rice, Stuart Miller, and Jeff Perkins

Faith and Worship

January 2023

For F&W, January means recapping Advent and Christmas and beginning planning for Lent, Easter, and the rest of the program year.

Advent/Christmas Plans-2023

- During the spring and summer Our Team plans to replace the bows on our Sanctuary Christmas wreaths and garlands, invest in new Sanctuary and Mitten trees, and we are looking for two new Nativities to display during next Advent and Christmas, one for Fellowship Hall and one for the Sanctuary/Chapel. If anyone in the congregation has a Nativity they think might work for either place, and you are willing to donate it if it does work, please let Susie Slack or Nancy Young know. (sslack@sssnet.com or nayounghome@gmail.com)
- We are also planning to involve the children, youth, and adults in the congregation in putting together and painting our own Chrismons to decorate the new Sanctuary Christmas tree. We have begun a search for kits and accessories that are affordable and fairly easy to use. Again, if anyone in the congregation has suggestions for this, please let us know.

Lent and Holy Week - 2023

- Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22, at First Pres with a combined service with Westminster at 7:00pm.
- Lenten Soup Suppers return every Wednesday during Lent from 6:00-7:00PM in Bruch Hall with a soup, bread, and fruit meal followed by a short worship service. Meals will be prepared and served by the church Leadership Teams.
- **Soup Supper Schedule:** March 1, March 8, March 15, March 22, March 29. The final soup supper will be on Maundy Thursday, April 6 (6:00-7:00pm) with the Maundy Thursday service to follow the supper.
- Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, April 2 through Easter on April 9th. There will be one service at 10:15 on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.
- The Good Friday service will be at 6:00pm in the Chapel.
- Communion will be served at the Ash Wednesday service and will not be served again until the Maundy Thursday service.

Nancy Young/Susie Slack Co-chairs



KITCHEN CLEANING OVER THE TOP!!

Talk about fast-moving worker bees! Two hours on a January Thursday--- SO much was accomplished.

Corners of cupboards ---- Corners of drawers ---- Tossing out old spices--- New labels--- Sweeping out dust-bunnies -- (then even cleaning the broom!)

Sorting and rearranging dishtowels and pot holders----- "Junk" drawers.

New beverage carafes have been ordered. Thanks to Women's Fellowship for funds for those. Please, everyone, let's try to keep the kitchen organized and neat.

Thanks to Paula, Lisa, Carol, Karen, Karen, Elaine-- and Lois Bruch who is laundering the aprons at home! Great crew! "Many hands..... " Bruch Hall and our kitchen have been in use almost 18 years!

Mimi Lewellen



We will be meeting separately with some moments of fun fellowship to begin our time together in the Youth Center. The Sr High will then stay for some fun activities and the Jr High/Confirmation Class will resume their studies in classroom 3.

Our next youth gathering is February 26th from 2:00-4:00 at Miss Rachel's shop – A Time To Craft. We will be painting a pottery piece of your choice. Pieces are priced up to \$20, so please send money with your youth.

Save the date for these upcoming events-

February 25th- Italian Dinner 5-7pm

February 26th- Youth outing at Miss Rachel's A Time to Craft

April 14-16th — Youth Retreat at Camp NuHop!!

I am STOKED about this opportunity so please mark your calendars now!!



A new prayer room has been created in the Library. This is an intentional place to be in conversation with our Creator in times of gladness, anxiousness, unrest, or any time at all. You will find designated places for praying prayers of gratitude or intercession. This can be a place of silent prayer or one of active prayer through different activities clearly labeled. With the proximity to the Sanctuary, you can have some sacred space there as well. The Prayer Room will be open any time the Library is not in use. Contact Amy Baxstrom for more information.



We have some wonderful opportunities coming up that we want you to know about early!

Youth Italian Dinner- February 25th from 5:00pm –7:00pm

Women's Retreat titled "Path to Purpose" on March 11th from 9:00am –4:00pm

May 6th — Day of Spiritual Practices Fundraiser — Times TBD



Our next Eventide gathering will be Sunday February 5th at 6:30pm in the Chapel.

Eventide is a simple contemplative time of song and prayer.

This month's theme is newness and restoration. Please plan to join us.

MARTHA ROBINSON AWARDS

Attention Senior High Girls!

IF you're a high school senior girl —

IF you're a member of FPC —

IF you're planning to go to college in the fall —

IF you'd like a bit of money for college —

You may be eligible for a long-standing Martha Robinson award.

To express your interest and eligibility, please write a letter telling of your church involvement over the years; your future plans; your other activities and interests and more.

Send it to Women's Fellowship c/o FPC by the end of March. You can leave it at the church office, addressed to Women's Fellowship, or send it in email form to Mimi Lewellen — mlewellen@wooster.edu

Questions? Ask Mimi or Karen McQuate.



Are you caught in the whirlwind of children at home and all their activities?

Do you have college students and are getting used to empty nesting?

Have your kids recently launched into “real” adulthood?

Maybe you’re in the midst of a ton of work responsibilities and in need of new fellowship opportunities

Welcome to *The MID!*

The MID is a relaunched social group

within First Presbyterian Church designed to provide a place for those in the “middle” of life!

Let’s leave this wintry weather behind and set sail on the “S.S. First Pres!” as we play some classic

cruise ship style games (Majority Rules, Match Your Mate,

and our own version of *First Pres Family Feud!*)

It’s sure to be ship-shape fun!

Mark your calendar, bring your friends (and an appetizer or dessert to share)!

When: Friday February 10th at 7pm

Where: LoGiudice-Wereley Home, 1351 Logan Lane

RSVP: Text to Steve ([646-203-5411](tel:646-203-5411))



Since it began in 1989, the Souper Bowl of Caring has provided over one hundred million dollars worth of food and money to local hunger charities all across America. Every year young people collect donations through their churches, schools and other youth organizations for local food banks, soup kitchens and other charities for those experiencing poverty and homelessness.

The Souper Bowl of Caring empowers young people – and often the adults who support them – to lead the way in combating hunger. Youth decide what local charity will receive the donations and give 100% of everything they collect. Collections will be taken through February 12th. You can give online on our website on our Give Now page and use the dropdown Souper Bowl. The youth will also be taking collections February 5th and 12th in the gathering area after worship service. They will be giving 100% of their collection to:

Meals for All. Thank you for your generous support.

**TACKLE
HUNGER**

First Presbyterian Church of Wooster

YOUTH

ITALIAN DINNER

WHEN: Saturday, Feb. 25
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

WHERE: 621 College Ave.
Wooster, Ohio

COST: \$10.00 donation
5 & Under are Free!

*Supporting the Youth of
FPC!*

All Are Welcome!



TICKETS:

Tickets are available during the week in the FPC office, and will be sold before/after worship services on Sunday mornings.

Walk-ins ARE welcome!

CARRY OUT AVAILABLE!

*Join us
for an evening
of casual fellowship
& a classic Italian
dinner!*



OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY

Ohio Northern Nursing Without Borders is a student humanitarian organization that travels to the Dominican Republic every May on a medical outreach trip. Participants include nursing, pharmacy, and other allied health students and faculty.

Ohio Northern Nursing Without Borders is a student humanitarian organization that travels to the Dominican Republic every May on a medical outreach trip. Participants include nursing, pharmacy, and other allied health students and faculty.

My name is Emma LoGiudice and I am currently in my junior year at Ohio Northern and I will be traveling with *Nursing Without Borders* as a nursing student. I am excited to continue to develop my nursing skills while having an opportunity to learn more about the medical needs of developing communities, as well as to be able to make direct connections with families and children in need of healthcare support who might not otherwise have such access.

Ohio Northern *Nursing Without Borders* is seeking donations of a variety of medical supplies, vitamins, clothing, hygiene products. We will be traveling to different neighborhoods to set up and operate health clinics. Each year, health care and donated supplies as well as health education are provided to over 500 Dominican and Haitian people during this outreach trip.

If you are interested and able to offer donations, we are specifically seeking the following and a **labeled box will be placed in the Gathering Area.**

We are hoping to complete the collection by **April 1st** (giving us time to organize the donations and package them for travel and distribution). *Thank you for your support!*

Vitamins:

Adult
Children's (non-gummy)
Children's liquid
Prenatal

Hygiene Products:

Hand Sanitizer (small bottles)
Soap (small bars)
Shampoo/Body Wash (small containers)
Toothbrushes & Toothpaste (small tubes)

Calcium Tablets
Folic Acid Tablets

Misc:

Brown Paper Bags & Snack Size Ziploc Bags

Antibiotic Ointment
Antifungal Ointment
Hydrocortisone Cream

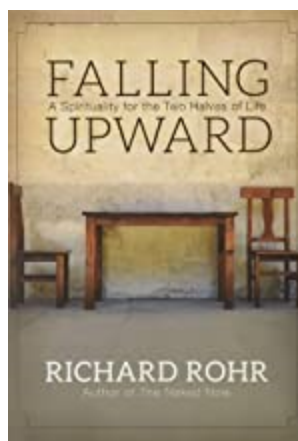
Children's Cough Syrup
Cough/Cold Medicine (Tablets)

Ibuprofen/Motrin
Acetaminophen/Tylenol
Children's Tylenol (elixir)

Pepto-Bismol Tablets
Tums

Lubricating Eye Drops
Saline Nasal Spray
Calamine Lotion

Financial contributions are also welcomed to purchase antibiotics.



Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life
by Richard Rohr

Come one, come all.... for adults of all ages in Classroom 1

"With rare insight, Rohr takes us on a journey to give us an understanding of how the heartbreaks, disappointments, and first loves of life are actually stepping stones to the spiritual joys that the second half of [our spiritual life] has in store for us."

"Falling Upward calls for the promise within us and frees us to follow it into the wider dimensions of our spiritual authenticity. This 'second half of life' need not wait till our middle years. It emerges whenever we are ready and able to expand beyond the structures and strictures of our chosen path...With Richard Rohr as a guide, ...this mystery can become as real and immediate as your hand on the doorknob."---*Joanna Macy, author of World as Lover, World as Self*

We are discussing "the ways in which in the first half of our spiritual journey we may be preoccupied with establishing our identity....but eventually we need to see ourselves in a different and more life giving way"--Richard Rohr

This course incorporates some video excerpts and study questions, available in Classroom 1 or in the church office. You can buy the book on Amazon, if you'd like, but it's not necessary as there are multiple copies available to consult or copy. Here is the link for the study guide from the blog on our website: <https://www.firstpreswooster.org/blog>

See you this Sunday!



PARLOR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Join the adult education class in the parlor at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday for an engaging and meaningful discussion. As part of our commitment to be a Matthew 25 church, we'll be studying institutional racism. Drawing on a variety of resources, we'll dive into the structural factors supporting racism in church and society. All are welcome!

The congregation extends its sympathy to the families of two long-time members, Barbara Bostancic and Ginny Zimmerman, who died in January. We give thanks to God for the gift of Barbara and Ginny among us.



Barbara "Barb" Bostancic died on January 4, 2023 at the age of 89. Barb was born in Neffs, OH and graduated from Bellaire High School. She worked for the Wooster Brush Company, retiring with 27 years of service, and later at Farmer Boy as a hostess. She was involved with Relay for Life from its inception as part of the Wooster Brush team. Barb is survived by her children Bill, Roger, Susan, and Lynne, their spouses, and many nieces and nephews. A service was held January 10 at McIntire, Bradham & Sleek.



Virginia "Ginny" Zimmerman died January 10, 2023 at the age of 85. Ginny was born in Pittsburgh, PA and graduated from Mount Lebanon High School and Ashland College. She married her late husband Lynn Zimmerman in 1962. Ginny spent her professional career in education and worked in several school districts. She taught kindergarten for many years at Melrose Elementary in Wooster. Ginny is survived by her sons Matt, Mitch, and Monti, their spouses, and five grandchildren. A service was held January 14 at FPC.



Housing and Homelessness in Wayne County

*A Call to Action will be held Thursday, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. in
First Presbyterian Church's Bruch Hall, 621 College Ave., Wooster*

The meeting is a follow-up to last year's community meeting on housing and homelessness in Wayne County. This year's meeting, which is free and open to everyone, will be more interactive and will focus on being a call to action. There will be two sessions that will offer opportunities for attendees to ask questions of the presenters.

"We would like people to leave the meeting better informed but also knowing how they can be active on behalf of more housing opportunities and help for the unsheltered people in our area," said Susan Figge, a member of the Wooster Homelessness Task Force and part of the community meeting planning committee. "We will be asking for community support for projects in progress and offering a number of volunteer opportunities as well as information on public policy advocacy."

The meeting is being called to remind the community of the ongoing needs for shelter, to highlight progress that has been made and gather support for new initiatives, to allow community members an opportunity to ask questions, and to offer ways individuals can help.

Finding oneself without shelter is something that can happen to anyone. According to www.knowhomelessness.com, 80% of people experiencing homelessness are temporarily homeless due to sudden changes in their lives, 50% of women and children who are without homes are fleeing domestic violence, and 45% of adults experiencing homelessness have worked in the past 30 days.

Originally an initiative of the Wooster Homelessness Task Force, the upcoming meeting has gained momentum and support from numerous area agencies and organizations. Support is being provided by the League of Women Voters, the Wayne County Housing Coalition and the Wayne/Holmes County Reentry Coalition.

It is hoped the meeting will not only help with understanding the complexities of meeting housing needs, but also will shed light on what it's like to live through the experience of living without a home.

Invitations to the event have been sent to local houses of worship, service clubs, public school administrations, Main Street Wooster, chambers of commerce in the county, Wayne County city administrators, city councils, the Wayne County commissioners, city planning and zoning boards, city police departments, and elected representatives in state government.

The meeting will begin with two presentations. Erica Mulryan, continuum of care director at the Coalition on Housing and Homelessness in Ohio, will present a profile of housing needs and homelessness in Wooster and Wayne County, along with examples of successful efforts in similar communities. Cindy Biggs from the League of Women Voters will serve as moderator.

James Fox, president and CEO of Wayne/Medina Community Action and director of the Wayne County Housing Coalition, will profile the coalition's current initiatives and its short- and long-term goals.

Housing and Homelessness in Wayne County

*A Call to Action will be held Thursday, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. in
First Presbyterian Church's Bruch Hall, 621 College Ave., Wooster*

Page 2

After the presentations there will be two discussion sessions. Krista Kidney, housing director at OneEighty, and Rodney Mitchell, deputy director of the Wayne Metropolitan Housing Authority, will speak briefly about current initiatives in Wooster, then take questions and lead a discussion.

The second session will be led by Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin in discussion with community residents who are currently experiencing homelessness or have recently found housing after being without shelter. Audience questions will be welcome.

The sessions will be repeated so everyone who wishes can attend both.

During the discussion sessions, the staff of the Wayne/Holmes Reentry Coalition will be available in a separate room to answer questions and speak informally with anyone needing information or assistance for returning citizens. Michelle Kelly, director of reentry services; Matt Hankins, reentry services coordinator; and other staff members will be available.

Tables with information on volunteer and advocacy opportunities will be open for browsing between sessions and after the meeting. Volunteers will be on hand to answer questions.

The meeting will be recorded by MCTV and posted on YouTube. Last year's meeting also is available for viewing.

Anyone unable to attend who wishes more information may email the Wooster Homelessness Task Force at whtfoh@gmail.com.

Wooster Homelessness Task Force can be found on Facebook and Instagram. The Coalition on Housing and Homelessness in Ohio's website includes information on how to advocate at the state level, and it offers a newsletter.

There is a snow date scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. at the same location. The event will be postponed if there are weather advisories discouraging travel. Postponement would be announced on Facebook via pages of the Wooster Homelessness Task Force and the sponsoring agencies.

Share this post with your friends:

**WANT TO INVEST IN
YOUR
COMMUNITY?**



BECOME A MENTOR

**OHUDDLE IS TRAINING NEW MENTORS FOR
THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR**

**NOV 14, JAN 9, MAR 13
| 5PM |**

OHUDDLE HOUSE WOOSTER

- OR -

**SEP 21, OCT 19, DEC 14, FEB 1, APR 19
| 12PM |**

OHUDDLE HOUSE WOOSTER

**WWW.OHUDDLE.ORG
969 1/2 BLACHLEYVILLE RD WOOSTER**

**RSVP HWARNER@OHUDDLE.ORG
330-969-2021**

**EMAIL OR
SIGN UP
BELOW**



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!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 4	Meredith Asleson
February 5	Mimi Lewellen
February 6	Pamela DuPree
February 7	Garnett Alexander
February 9	Eric Gastier
February 11	Rita Schuesselin, Shonica Swank,
February 12	Dede Gregory
February 15	James Black
February 16	Maya Galindo
February 17	Erin Guzman
February 18	Joanne Walker, Eleanor Pooler, Lewis Pooler
February 22	Melanie Garcia
February 23	John Strong
February 24	Jacob Gooch, Linda Kirchhofer, Harry Zink
February 25	Jim Lanham
February 26	Mark Boardner, Herman Gibbs
February 27	MeganWereley

First Presbyterian Church
621 College Avenue
Wooster, OH 44691

Phone: 330-264-9420
Fax: 330-262-7305

Address Service Requested



www.facebook.com/FPCWooster/
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