



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WOOSTER

TOWER TIDINGS FEBRUARY 2024

Dear Friends,

The oscillation between warmer and cooler days in northeast Ohio is upon us as we enter a new winter month. We are also on the cusp of a new liturgical season beginning with Ash Wednesday and continuing through Holy Week at the end of March.

We will mark Ash Wednesday with a service of the imposition of ashes hosted by Westminster Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, February 14, at 7:00 p.m., preceded at 6:00 p.m. by a soup supper to which all are invited.

Our traditional Lenten observances will begin a week later on Wednesday, February 21, with soup supper at 6:00 p.m. followed by a brief meditative service which concludes by 7:00 p.m. These Lenten Wednesdays will continue through March 20. Between Palm Sunday, March 24, and Easter on March 31, we will share in the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, both held at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

In addition to worship during the season of Lent, Amy Baxstrom will be leading a study entitled, *Pause: Spending Lent with the Psalms*. This exploration will take place on Wednesdays beginning February 14 at 10:30 a.m. Sunday mornings feature two adult Sunday School classes, in the Parlor and in Classroom 1, as well as our ongoing educational faith formation and music for all our children and youth.

Several wonderful opportunities to put on your calendars are the return of the Great Decisions lectures in the Scheide Music Center on the College of Wooster campus and the annual youth fundraiser Italian Dinner on March 2nd.

In closing, I would be remiss if I did not mention once again the urgent call to get your pictures in for the updated church directory by the deadline of February 15. Put on your best smile, and let us have a wonderful month of worship, fellowship, and service together!

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 January 2024

Session met together on January 24, 2024. There was no meeting in December 2023. The clerk's report updated the Session of changes in membership, including the celebration of baptisms and a new member in December and the passing of long- time member, Don Beane this month. The date for the Annual Congregational Meeting was approved and is scheduled for **May 5, 2024**, following the 10:15 service. The meeting will be paired with a potluck lunch that day.

The current financial status of the church was updated and discussion followed. Please see the RDM report in this Tower Tidings publication as it explains the financial status of the church at the end of 2023. Session members were updated on the work of the ministry teams. Tim Hall sent a report about the status of the church's physical plant. Session is very appreciative of Tim's skills, his knowledge and his hard work to keep the building in great condition.

Members of Session will continue to meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of Session is **February 28, 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 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!

There is still time to turn in your 2024 Stewardship Card. As you know, the leadership of our church uses these important cards to help plan for the programming, mission, and structural maintenance of our building. If you misplaced your card, new ones are available in the church office and in the gathering area. Let's finish the Stewardship campaign strong for 2024!!

Speaking of finishing strong, our investment account had a good earnings year in 2023! Last year, the earnings of our investments returned just under 9.8%. Over the last five years, our balanced portfolio of stocks and bonds returned an annualized 7% in earnings. Past and present congregants have generously given contributions and legacy gifts to our endowment fund to help with the sustainability and vitality of FPC for the present and years to come. For more information about our investment portfolio or making a tax-deductible gift, please contact anyone that serves on the Resource Development Ministry.

Peace and Blessings,

Tom Rumbaugh, Chair

Dana Brooks, Church Treasurer; David Rice, Pastor;
Stuart Miller; Laura Neill; Jeff Perkins; Mark Gordon





Lent/Holy Week

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FPC'S TRADITIONAL LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

We offer a simple soup, bread, and fruit supper followed by a short worship service for five (5) Wednesdays in Lent from 6:00-7:00pm in Bruch Hall. The suppers are prepared for you by our leadership teams. Come shed the cares of your day by spending an hour eating simple, nourishing food, enjoying good fellowship, and reviving your spirit with a short, inspirational worship experience. All are welcome!

FEBRUARY SOUP SUPPERS

2/14 (Ash Wednesday at Westminster PC, soup supper @ 6:00pm, service @ 7:00pm)

2/21

2/28

MARCH SOUP SUPPERS

3/6

3/13

3/20

HOLY WEEK

Mar 24 – Palm Sunday, service at 10:15

Mar 28 – Maundy Thursday, service in sanctuary at 6:30

Mar 29 – Good Friday, service in the sanctuary at 6:30

Mar 31 – Easter, service at 10:15

During Lent communion will be served only on Ash Wednesday (2/14), Maundy Thursday (3/28), and Easter Sunday (3/31)

NOTE: In Memory/Honor of Easter flowers for the chancel are \$10.00 per pot and must be ordered by March 15. To order, please fill out an order form or call church office.



Easter Flowers for the Sanctuary

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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 \$10.00 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 March 15.

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

Name of Donor _____

In Memory Of _____

In Honor Of _____

Ash Wednesday, February 14

6PM Soup Supper 7PM Service at Westminster Presbyterian Church

Sundays, February 18, 25 & March 3, 10, 17

9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 6:30PM Eventide

Wednesday Evening Lenten Soup Suppers

February 21, 28 & March 6, 13, 20 in Bruch Hall

6PM Meal 6:30 Worship

Palm Sunday, March 24

9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 6:30PM Eventide

Maundy Thursday Service, March 28

6:30 PM in the Sanctuary

Good Friday Service, March 29

6:30 PM in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, March 31

9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship



Season of Lent
2024



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF WOOSTER



EVENTIDE

Lenten Services

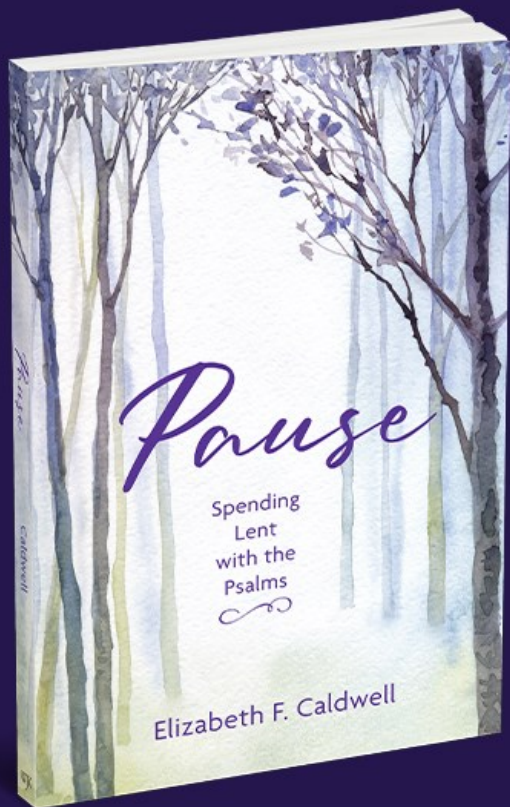
Chasing vs. Embracing: A Lenten journey through Ecclesiastes

Join us at Eventide for a six week journey through the book of Ecclesiastes. We will consider two key themes: chasing and embracing. Ecclesiastes spotlights the things that we chase that can ultimately leave us feeling empty or disappointed and encourages us to embrace our “lot in life” to find meaning and contentment.

Eventide is a casual gathering of worship, reflection, and fellowship.
All ages are welcome.



SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:30 PM
FEBRUARY 18 THROUGH MARCH 24
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WOOSTER



Do you feel drawn to taking something up by doing less?

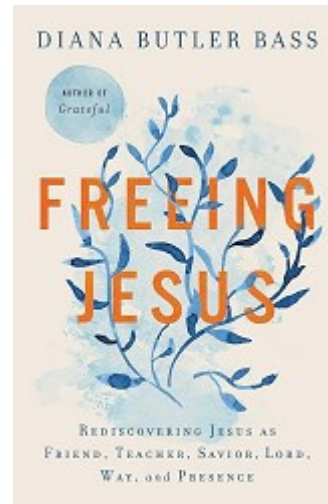
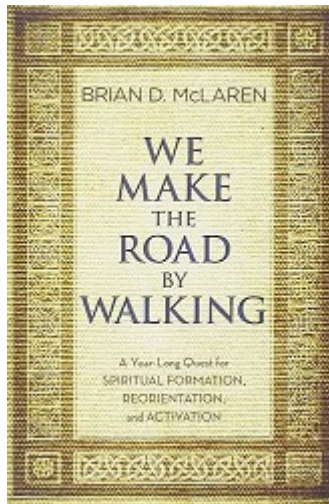
May this Lenten journey be a welcome interruption in the rhythms of your daily life. May you find the space and the time for just a few minutes each day to let God's Spirit awaken and renew your spirit.

The season of Lent encourages Christians to consider a different pace—one of slowing down, noticing, pausing. In *Pause Spending Lent with the Psalms*, Readers are guided into an exploration of Psalm 51 and the theme of a clean heart. Each chapter helps readers to connect an image drawn from that psalm, such as paths, faces, blessing, tables, waiting, thanksgiving, listening, being alone or abandoned, and hands, with their own lives. At the close of each chapter, readers are invited to try a different prayer practice to help them continue to reflect on the theme and psalm each day. This intentional engagement—without feeling burdensome—opens just enough space and time for a creative spiritual practice to flourish, sustaining the life of faith during the Lenten season in ways that can make a difference in God's world.

Join us each Wednesday morning from 10:30-11:30 beginning Wednesday, February 14th. For more information, please watch this video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dsu35JaWovc&t=150s>

**We are excited to have 2 options
for Adult Faith Formation on Sunday mornings!**



- 1) The Parlor Adult Class will continue its study of Brian McLaren's *We Make The Road By Walking*, led by David Rice. This book hopes to help groups and individuals seize the moment and walk wisely and joyfully into the future together. It is a work of Christian theology, but many faith traditions can find meaning in it. It is also a work of constructive theology – offering a positive, practical, open, faithful, improvable, and fresh articulation of Christian faith suitable for any person. We will study scripture, relate it to our lives, and learn from each other through conversation. There is no need to purchase the book to find connectivity to the class, but copies can be purchased through Amazon if desired. Please see Amy Baxstrom if you have any questions.

- 2) The Downstairs Class (Classroom 1) will be using the book *Freeing Jesus Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence*, by Diana Butler Bass. *Freeing Jesus* is an invitation to leave the religious wars behind and rediscover Jesus in all his many manifestations, to experience Jesus beyond the narrow confines we have built around him. It renews our hope in faith and worship at a time when we need it most. In *Freeing Jesus*, Bass challenges the idea that Jesus can only be understood in static, one-dimensional ways and asks us to instead consider a life where Jesus grows with us and helps us through life's challenges in several capacities: as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence. This book can be purchased on Amazon if desired. Please see Amy Baxstrom if you have any questions.

Children's Music at First Pres Wooster



**Please mark these dates on your calendar for sharing
music in worship:**

February 25 – Bible Town Class

March 24 Palm Sunday – All Children and Youth

Godly Play and Bible Town will process in with palms and song. Youth will be accompanying them with handbells and also playing special music.

**May 12 Spring Celebration Sunday –
All Children and Youth**

Worship led by all Sunday School classes this Sunday. Think about what special talents you would like to share!



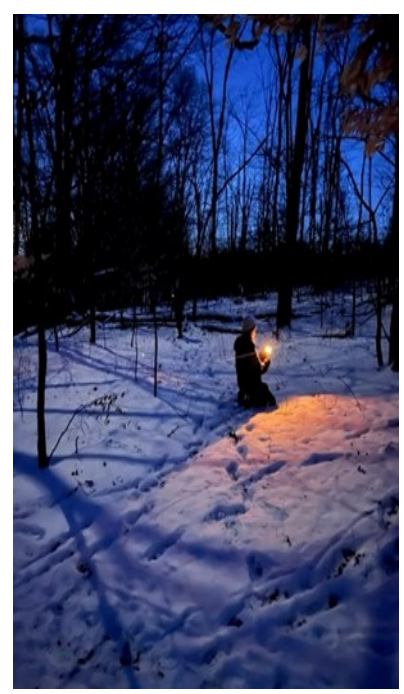
This month we will be studying Christianity and other religions in hopes of visiting some neighboring churches and places of faith.

Upcoming events

- March 2nd - 5:00 pm-7:00 pm Italian Dinner
- Montreat Meeting for anyone interested on Sunday, February 4th at 9:30.



Enjoy these photos from our hike a few weeks ago!
We can't wait to do it again!





Makena Conrad won the Wayne County Spelling Bee!
"Picatta" is a trophy word for John R. Lea Speller
who takes Top Honor at the Wayne County Spelling Bee!
(photo Mike Schenk/The Daily Record)

Wayne Bee champ named after two-speller, four-round final battle!
Ten spellers advance to the Regional Bee at Akron-Summit Public Library in March.

Read the story at the following link:

<https://www.the-daily-record.com/story/news/education/2024/01/24/makena-conrad-takes-top-spot-in-wayne-county-bee-with-word-piccata/72326196007/>



tacklehunger.org

The Youth of FPC will once again be collecting money for a local organization that helps feed those in need in our community. Monetary donations can be made through Super Bowl Sunday- February 11th. You will notice large pots around the church and in the hands of our youth. Thank you for your generosity.



FPC Youth Italian Dinner

March 2nd, 5:00pm-7:00pm

Tickets are \$10 each. Children 5 and under are free.

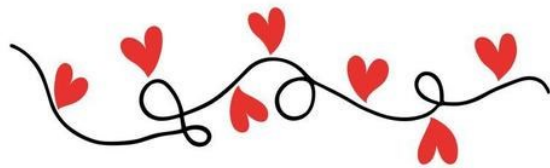
Tickets can be purchased beginning Sunday February 11th during Sunday school and before and after Worship. You can also call the church office to purchase them .

Cash and credit cards are accepted.

The youth group plans to attend the Montreat Youth Conference this summer. All proceeds will go towards this trip and other Service Learning trips in the future.



We are happy to have a staffed nursery once again! We are always blessed with young, energetic students from the College of Wooster and this year is no different. Paired with a volunteer from our church they are ready to rock, color with, play with, and bring God's love into our tiniest of souls. The nursery is available during Sunday school and Worship for infants and toddlers.



LIFE IS A JOURNEY, AN ODYSSEY OF EPIC PROPORTIONS.
 OHuddle is a non-profit organization dedicated to building relationships between school, nominated youth, and caring adults through the art of 1:1 mentorship. Life is a journey, an odyssey of epic proportion. *Who's in your huddle?*

WAYS YOU CAN HELP



VOLUNTEER

Can you mentor a student for a half hour per week? Sign up for training!
<https://goo.gl/forms/dWbplP3SmVyOmHj2>



SPONSOR

Setting up giving of \$15 per month sponsors the cost of supplies and mentor training for one youth.
www.ohuddle.org/donation



JOIN OUR HUDDLE

Witness the power of mentorship
 Like us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/ohuddle.org



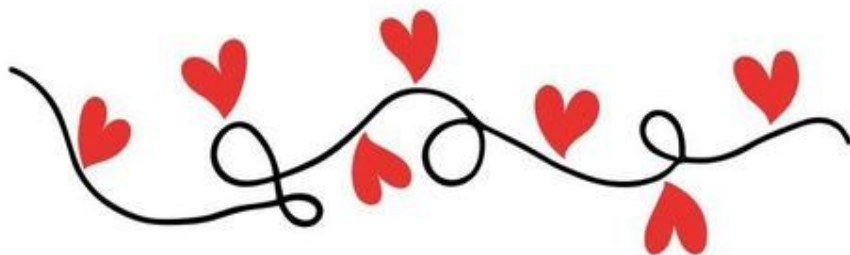
"OHuddle makes the biggest difference for our students and our building. I can't imagine returning to teaching without the support of this program."

-WAYNE COUNTY EDUCATOR

**Young Adult Care Packages put together with lots of love
by Women's Fellowship on Tuesday, January 30 in Bruch Hall**



This lively crew from Women's Fellowship had a great time packing some love and goodies to 36 young adults! Thanks to all who donated treats, money and school supplies for this project so we could send love and care from our FPC family.





SPECIAL OFFERINGS

One Great Hour of Sharing **\$1,524.00**
(promoted and received during the season of Lent)

Pentecost Offering **\$1,532.00**
(promoted and received on Pentecost Sunday or
any other youth-focused Sunday)

Peace & Global Witness Offering **\$1,339.25**
(promoted during A Season of Peace (September)
and received on World Communion Sunday
(the first Sunday in October))

Christmas Joy Offering **\$2,037.00**
(promoted and received during the season of Advent)

Through gifts to the Special offerings, we directly support
people experiencing hunger, homelessness, thirst,
imprisonment, sickness, and deprivation as well as
welcoming the stranger.




LECTURE SERIES

U.S. Foreign Policy in an Election Year

All events at 7:30 p.m.
Free and open to the public

Gault Recital Hall in Scheide Music Center
525 E. University St., Wooster



**TUESDAY
JAN.
30**

Information, Disinformation, and the 2024 Election


Nina Jankowicz Former executive director of the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security's Disinformation Governance Board. Fulbright fellow to Ukraine in 2017. Disinformation Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center.



**TUESDAY
FEB.
6**

Global Security Threats and U.S. Foreign Policy

Kirk Lippold Retired Navy Commander. Senior military fellow with Military Families United. Senior VP for Military Policy and Strategic Development for Phillip Stutts & Company.



**TUESDAY
FEB.
13**

Can the U.S. Support Political Stability Abroad? Reflections on the State and Civil Society in East & West Africa

Alex de Waal Executive director of the World Peace Foundation at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. College of Wooster faculty member **Ibra Sene**, Associate Professor of History; Global & International Studies.



**WEDNESDAY
MAR.
6**

Film + Discussion with Director: *Sound the Alarm*

Directed by John Trainor '16
Trailer: wooster.edu/sound-the-alarm
Running time: 55 minutes
A recent documentary film about a 1995 incident when Norway launched a science rocket into the atmosphere, triggering a cascade of events that nearly caused Russia to launch a retaliatory nuclear attack.



Learn more about our speakers, visit wooster.edu/great-decisions

With thanks to our Series Sponsors



Ralph R. & Grace B.
Jones Foundation

Noble Foundation



WIDOW SUPPORT GROUP

SISTER'S HOPE

SPONSORED BY:



Sister's Hope is a new monthly support group for widows of all ages.

Date: Last Thursday of the month

Time: 6pm-7:30pm

Location: The Connection.

1034 Country Club Dr, Wooster

Losing a life partner is one of the most challenging experiences anyone can face. In times of grief, finding support from those who understand can make a significant difference. We invite you to join our Widow Support Group, a safe space where you can connect with others who have walked a similar path.

What to Expect:

- Share your experiences, thoughts, and emotions
- Gain insights and coping strategies
- Build friendships and a supportive network
- Dinner option (\$12-\$15 per meal)

HOW TO RSVP:

(330) 466-2725

Dianna Stair, RN, LMT



IT'S TIME. . . .

For a new CHURCH DIRECTORY

Let's celebrate our growing church family by creating an updated directory, including photos and contact information. The goal is to include ALL friends who attend FPC Wooster!

The most recent directory was completed in 2019 and was composed by a formal photography company. The 2024 directory will be created here at FPC using resources we already have.

Collection of information and photos for the new directory continues until February 15th, 2024. Please visit this link to access the online information forms and directions on how to upload photos. Contact Lisa Rumbaugh at 330-466-5796 if you have any questions or would like a photo taken at church.

Bring your best smile!

Let's create a wonderful way to put names with faces and make connections with each other.

<https://www.firstpreswooster.org/surveys/fpc-directory-information>





The congregation extends its sympathy to the family of long-time member Don Beane who died January 11, 2024 at the age of 94. Don was born in Aurora, Illinois and graduated from East Aurora High School. He received a B.A. in business administration from Iowa Wesleyan College where he met his late wife Marge. Following graduation, Don enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served on active duty from 1951-1956 and in the Air Force Reserves from 1956-1972.

Don and Marge were married in 1951 and shared almost 60 years together. They lived on Air Force bases in Florida, California, Texas, and South Dakota until 1956 when Don left active duty and enrolled at the University of Illinois. Don received a Ph. D. in mathematics education in 1962 and he and Marge moved to Wooster where he joined the faculty of the College of Wooster. Don also earned a master's degree in mathematics from The Ohio State University in 1965 and continued teaching in the Mathematics Department at Wooster until his retirement in 1994.

Don was an enthusiastic participant in the life of FPC. He served several terms as an elder, sang in the choir for 50 years, and taught Sunday School. He volunteered for highway cleanup and was part of the intercessory prayer and Tuesday morning Bible study groups for many years. Bible study participants remember Don often reciting his favorite verse, Psalm 118:24: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!" Don's passion was mission and in addition to serving multiple terms on the Mission Committee, he was instrumental in FPC becoming a Matthew 25 church. He was a faithful supporter of the Alternative Gift Market and, along with his good friend Roy Haynes, regularly visited FPC members residing in nursing facilities. Don and Marge also served as PC(USA) mission volunteers at Woodstock and Kodaikanal Schools in India and at Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka, Alaska following retirement.

Don was also active in the Wooster community. He tutored students working toward their GED and volunteered at People to People, the Viola Startzman Clinic, Habitat for Humanity, and LifeCare Hospice. His hobbies included travel, biking, singing, and sports. After Marge's death in 2011, Don found love and companionship with fellow FPC member Pat Miles.

Don is survived by his partner Pat, his three children, David, John and Linda and their spouses, eight grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at FPC on March 9, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. with a luncheon reception following.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 1	Anna Weekley
February 4	Meredith Asleson, Yvonne Williams
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 17	Erin Guzman
February 18	Joanne Walker
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	Megan Wereley



**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!

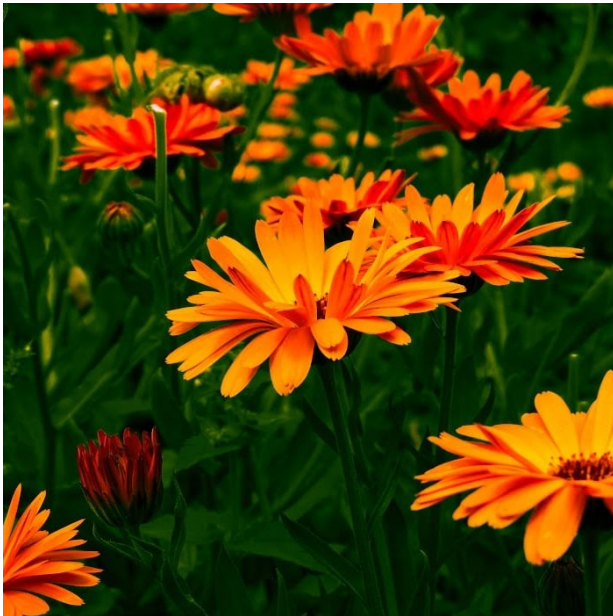


**FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
YEAR 2024**

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



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

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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