



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WOOSTER

TOWER TIDINGS JANUARY 2024

Dear Friends,

A new year has come in with its chill and wintry grayness, yet also with its promise of new adventures and a call to follow together still further along the Way of Jesus. Opportunities for ministry, mission, education, and fellowship can be found in the pages of this Tower Tidings. So, too, are important reminders for upcoming events and necessary things to do.

Once again, we will host the annual community Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration in our sanctuary on Monday evening, January 15th. There are also other related programs at the Wayne County Library and on the College of Wooster campus. Schedules can be found on pages 14, 15, and 16.

Efforts continue to complete the new pictorial church directory, so if your smiling faces are still absent, someone will be calling. Pledges are still being solicited for the 2024 FPC Budget and will be gratefully received as they come in. And, as always, I welcome volunteers to serve as liturgists, to offer the Prayers of the People, and to grace our Sunday worship with beautiful flowers.

To welcome the New Year, I share with you this poem by Ann Weems entitled, "January's Song":

There is a rumor on the streets that Christmas is over.
Lights and ornaments are packed away, trees dragged to the curb,
people back to business as usual.
We're no longer in the party mood; the humbugging is back in vogue.
This is January . . . How can Christmas be over?!
The Child is just newborn, the song of Peace and Goodwill
still rings in our ears.
The shepherds and sages still kneel to this One who is born to us . . .
just born to us!
How can Christmas be over?? The story of the gospel is just beginning.
We who saw the Star now live in its Light. We who saw and heard now believe.
Christmas is not over.
We're just beginning to follow this One who calls us now
to Live in the Light of Love.
Christmas is not over.
It's just beginning and this is January's song!!

Blessings and Peace,

David

Happy New Year from the Resource Development Ministry!!

Early indications from the 2024 Stewardship Campaign are proving to be positive and ahead of last year's campaign. If you have already sent in your campaign card, thank you! For those of you that are tax planning or just procrastinating (certainly not me!!), it's not too late to turn in your cards. We use these important Stewardship Cards to help plan and budget missions, programming, and structure expenses as we enter 2024. Never hesitate to contact the church office or any of the members of the RDM listed below if you need additional information or help with completing your pledge card. Extra cards are available in the church Gathering Area.

The RDM is looking forward to working with each of the ministry teams in 2024 and developing projects to help maintain and build upon the financial health of First Presbyterian. We always encourage and welcome any questions, comments, or suggestions regarding the finances of FPC.

Blessings and peace,

Tom Rumbaugh, chair

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





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>





This month we will be studying scripture and exploring how God speaks to us through it!

Upcoming events

January 21st- 5:30 pm Hike at Wooster Memorial Park

February 24th- 5:00 pm-7:00 pm Italian Dinner

**Please let me know if you have interested youth in Montreat- Jr and Sr high.
We will need to start some planning ASAP!**



All youth are invited to our next youth outing on January 21st at 5:30 pm at Wooster Memorial Park. Plan to meet at the second parking lot on Silver Rd. This is a tech free experience so leave all phones and smart watches in your car. We will use our time in both silent and reflective activities. Trevor Dunlap will be leading us. Please let Amy Baxstrom know if you can attend!

**FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP CANCELED
FOR JANUARY 5**



We're sorry to have to cancel Friday Fellowship this week.

We apologize to those of you who signed up and appreciate your understanding.

Our next gathering will feature our own Gregg Short talking about Pleasant Hill Camp on Friday, February 2. We look forward to seeing you then!



Children's Message

Sunday Worship

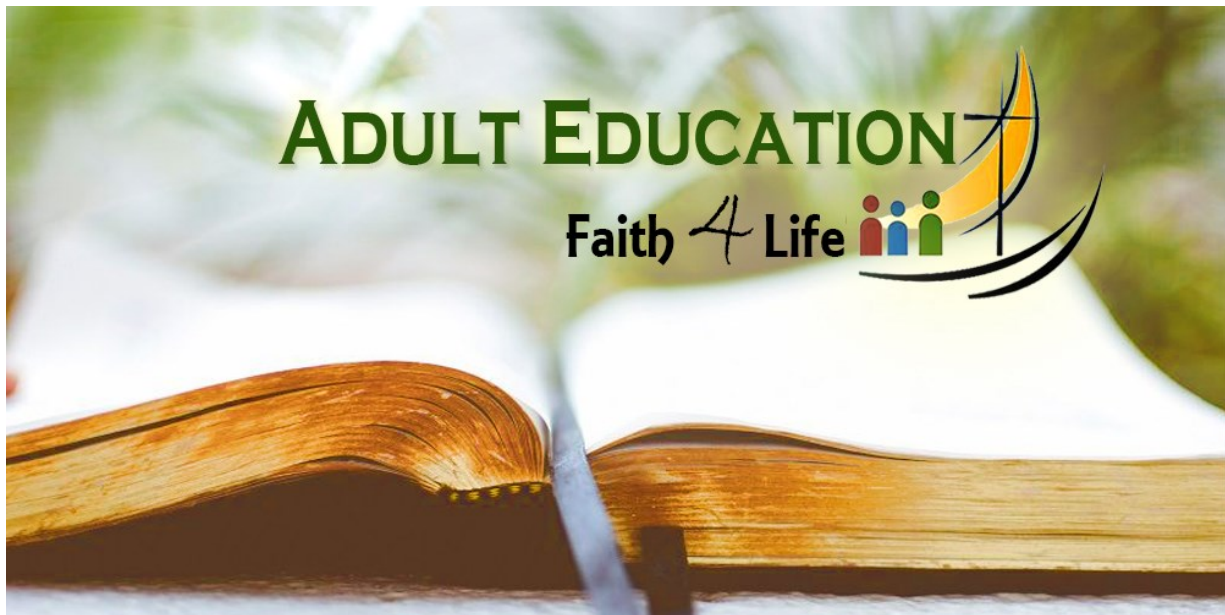












Adult Faith Formation Offerings

We are excited to offer two Adult Faith Formation Offerings starting January 14.

Our Parlor class will resume on January 7 resuming the same curriculum.

We will be offering a second class that will meet in Classroom 1 downstairs beginning **January 14**. The book/study of choice has not been decided upon yet. Please come to this class with suggestions and we will go from there!

As always, if you are willing to help facilitate either of these classes in a rotation with others, please Amy Baxstrom me know!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WOOSTER

CARE PACKAGES for YOUNG ADULTS

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

9:30 a.m.



Women's Fellowship is excited to continue the tradition of sending packages filled with tasty treats to our college and seminary students and other young adults in our church family.

Please help to make this project a success!

Volunteers will meet in Bruch Hall on January 30, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. for an hour or two of fellowship and packing goodies to send.

Please sign up in the Gathering Area if you can join in this event.

Your contributions for this project are most welcome!

Suggested items include:

Yummy treats (home baked or prepackaged), microwave popcorn, packets of hot chocolate mix, and any other small items that young adults may find useful.

Please place items in the marked box in the Gathering Area by Sunday, January 28, 2024.

Monetary donations are welcome.

Care packages should arrive to our young adults in time for Valentine's Day.



Before Christmas, as a special gift to our Choral Scholars, Valerie Wopser made winter hats in Scots' colors for our six singers. Pictured with Valerie are (l to r) Sarah Moldover, Paul Zito, Hudson Davis, Hannah Wells, and Anya Smith. (Not pictured: Ethan Yoder) Thanks, Valerie for the thoughtful gift of your time and talents!



Help UN-Decorate the Church

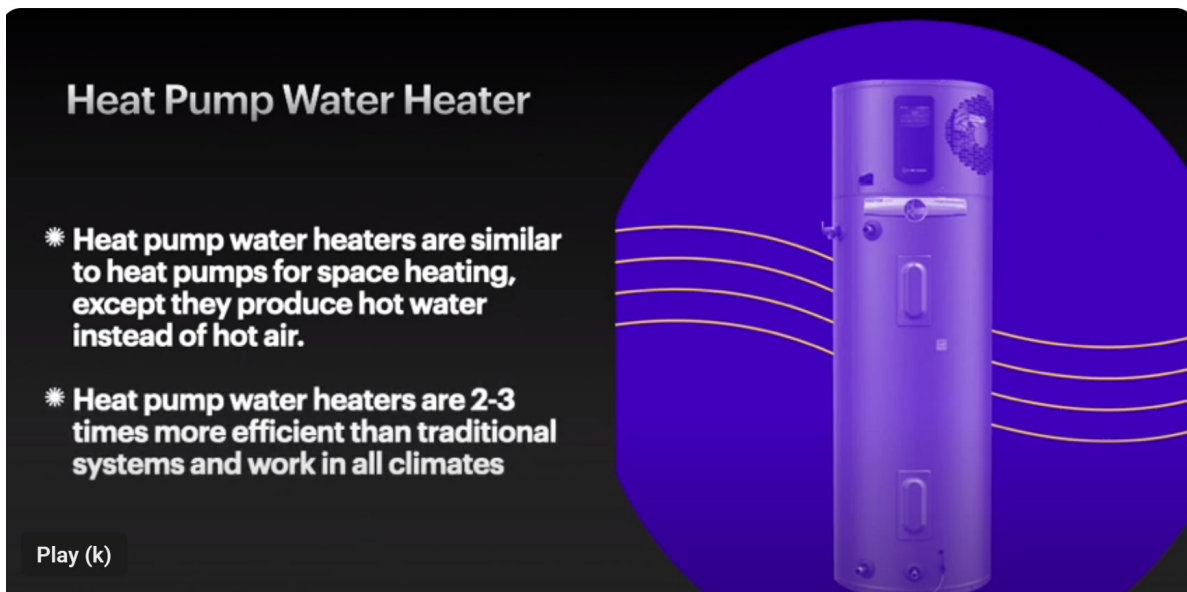
Faith and Worship will be glad for any help this year to UN-Decorate the church on:

**Saturday January 6th
beginning around 10:00AM.**

If you can donate a little of your time to this annual endeavor, your help will be **so** appreciated!

Many hands make lighter (and quicker) work and are such a blessing!

The Faith and Worship Team



While you've probably grown tired of seeing The Inflation Reduction Act talked about in the news - both good and bad - here are some of the benefits that individuals like us can still take advantage of. Did you know there is such a thing as a heat pump water heater? They are much more efficient than either a gas or traditional electric water heater.

Other items covered by the IRA include electric panel and electrical wiring upgrades, heat pump furnace/air conditioner, heat pump clothes dryer, efficiency rebates like insulation and windows, battery power backup storage, geothermal heating installation, EV charger, new and used electric vehicles, and rooftop solar panels.

If we need one of these appliances replaced in the near future, we will certainly be looking into them, and hope you will too. We put in solar panels with a lithium battery backup four years ago, and after the first winter, we haven't paid for any electricity (only the monthly service fee). And when the power does go out, we have sufficient battery backup to run what we need (not everything). It's been tested out a few times.

The link below is for a presentation developed by Wayne County Sustainable Energy Network and presented at the last Wayne County Home Show at their booth. It's now available on Youtube: <https://youtu.be/yIInoMDfQxU>

Your Earth Care Team



Martin Luther King Jr Day

January 15, 2024 11A-1P

Come join us as we honor Martin Luther King jr with a
community art project.

220 W. Liberty St. Wooster

WCAI WAYNE CENTER
FOR THE ARTS
ESTABLISHED 1973



Wayne County
Public Library
— OHIO —



#3208

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
COMMUNITY CELEBRATION
SERVICE 2024



MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 7pm

First Presbyterian Church
621 College Ave., Wooster

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Ric Sheffield
Professor Emeritus Kenyon College
"Building Bridges for Rural Diversity on
the Shoulders of Empathy and Compassion"

Dr. Martin Luther King Essay Contest Winners for
2024 will be presented with their awards.
Sponsored by the Wooster-Orrville NAACP

For additional information contact Rev. Kevan
Franklin 330-264-9250 Email Docksf@aol.com



Ric Sheffield Book Talk

We Got By: A Black Family's Journey in the Heartland

"Life along the color line in rural Ohio was hard. Being Black often meant feeling frightened and alone. For a family like Ric S. Sheffield's, examining this reality closely meant confronting challenges and tragedies that often felt overwhelming, even as their odyssey also included the joyful and inspiring. Navigating day-to-day existence in a world where trusting white neighbors required a careful mixture of caution and faith, Sheffield and his kin existed in a space where they were both seen and unseen.

Spanning four generations and assessing the legacies of traumatic events (arrests, murders, suicide) that are inextricable from the racial dynamics of the small community his family called home, this gripping memoir is a heartfelt, clear-eyed, and rare chronicle of Black life in the rural Ohio...And yet, they overcame the obstacles and managed to persist: they got by."

--*Publisher web site*



Ric S. Sheffield is Professor of Sociology & Legal Studies Emeritus at Kenyon College. He is a former Assistant Attorney General for the State of Ohio. He is founding director and principal investigator for the Knox County Black History Archives.

**ANDREWS LIBRARY,
CORE CUBE**

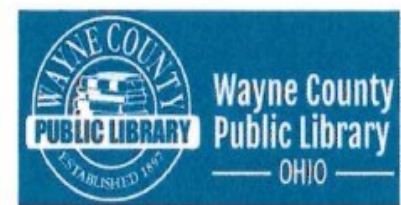
2 p.m., Monday, January 15

Book signing following the talk.
Books available for sale at the environment.

The College of Wooster Libraries
1140 Beall Ave.
Wooster OH 44691



In collaboration with



WOOSTER
Robert C. Mayer Bookstore





JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 2	Jean Knorr
January 6	Kent Murphy
January 7	Jolene Dyer
January 9	Samuel Nielsen
January 10	Tom Richard
January 11	Deb Maxwell
January 12	Val Fulton, Stuart Miller, Mikayla Masci
January 13	Diane Gordon
January 14	Sheryl Edmiston
January 15	Kathryn Dugan, Joyce Gerber
January 17	Julie Miller
January 19	Olivia Kelly
January 21	Diane Wepler
January 22	Tami Musselman
January 28	Cheryl Gooch, Nigel Brush
January 30	Sawyer Conrad
January 31	Hannah LoGiudice





**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!

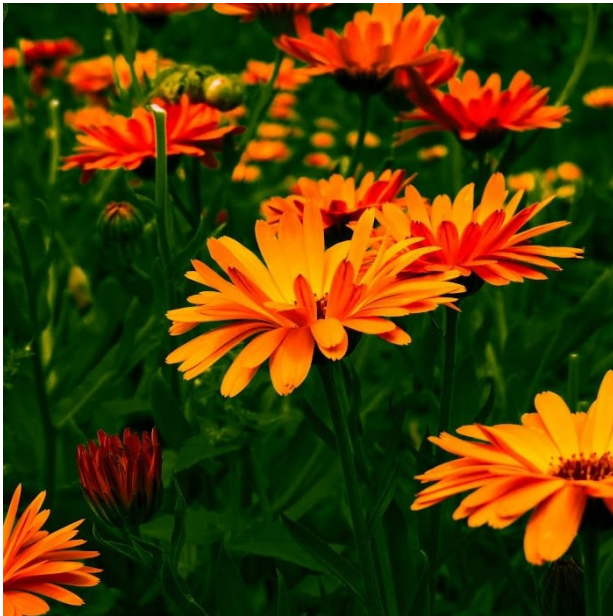


**FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
YEAR 2024**

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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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