



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF WOOSTER

## TOWER TIDINGS JUNE/JULY 2023

Dear Friends,

The month of May came in on a wet blanket but left in a blaze of sunshine that carries us into June and the glories of summer. It is the season for traveling and picnics, woodland walks and long evenings basking in sunlight. May you enjoy this time in every way possible!

The summer season does not signal an end to the ministry, study opportunities, mission projects, fellowship, and worship of our church. I hope you will read these pages carefully to find ways in which you can continue to be engaged in the life of our congregation. A worship highlight occurs on Sunday, June 11, when we will hold our annual outdoor service at Oak Hill Park. It will be a celebration of the wonders of God's natural world, and I look forward to seeing you there.

An important opportunity we have right now is to help our sister church, Westminster Presbyterian, and their pastor, Enikő Ferenczy, who is a native of Hungary. She has been on track to receive her Green Card, which would allow her permanent U.S. residency and eventual citizenship. With just a few months left in the process, the State Department suddenly changed the rules, which resulted in her being set back possibly as many as five years. This means that her ability to travel outside the U.S. is severely restricted. This summer, she was planning to visit her aging parents, whom she had not seen in ten years. Now, this is not possible, because of the risk that she might not be allowed back in the States. So, the churches in our presbytery are being asked to raise funds for her parents to travel from Hungary to Wooster.

As a gesture of goodwill toward Eniko and Westminster, I invite members of our congregation to contribute to this effort. Checks can be made out to First Presbyterian with a designation "For Enikő" in the memo line. Of course, we will be glad to receive cash, as well, and will forward all proceeds to Presbytery or directly to Enikő.

Thank you for your generous consideration of these efforts to help.

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	
Laura Neill	Jim Webster	Bobbi Jentes-Mason	
Kris Evans	Mark Gordon	Mimi Lewellen	
Sophia Baxstrom (YE)			
Hannah LoGiudice (YE)			
Seth Miller (YE)		Lisa Rumbaugh, Clerk	

### **Pastor's Report:** *The Rev. David Rice*

- David will be away the fourth Wednesday in June when Session is scheduled to meet. A decision was made by consensus to skip meeting in June and to meet next on July 26.
- David will be away the first Sunday in July when Communion is scheduled. David will ask Erin Guzman if she is available to preach and serve Communion on July 3. If Erin is not available, an e-vote will be taken to move Communion forward one Sunday to July 9.
- Ordination/Installation of Officers will be held during worship on June 18 to accommodate the availability of the new Officers.
- David provided an update on Rev. Enikő Ferenczy, Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church. Enikő's application for permanent residency in the U.S. has been delayed by as many as five years and her ability to travel internationally is restricted. She has not seen her parents, who are both nearly 80, in ten years. MVP would like to help support their travel to the U.S. while they are still able to make the trip safely. Concern was expressed about making a contribution from the church budget given FPC's current financial situation.
- **MOTION** (M. Lewellen): That Session request private contributions to a fund being raised by MVP to support the travel of Rev. Enikő Ferenczy's parents to the U.S. given Enikő's current immigration status, the age of her parents, and the long and close relationship between FPC and Westminster; 2<sup>nd</sup> (J. Webster); PASSED (u)

**General Comments:** Appreciation was expressed for all who took part in the wonderful Celebration Sunday worship service on May 21, with special thanks to Kristi Hiner, confirmation class leader, and Rachel King, children's music director.

**Next meeting: July 26, 2023 at 7 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Gates, Acting Clerk of Session

Greetings from the Resource Development Ministry!

As you know from my past communications, the RDM is exploring the possibility of selling the College Avenue Manse just north of the church. This house has served our community well over the past 50+ years with many charitable organizations calling this location “home”.

Ironically, the original intent of the house was for the church pastor and their family to use while serving our congregation. In reality, the “manse model” has become dated and most new pastors coming to FPC Wooster will want to choose the house and location that best fits the needs of their families.

After many discussions over the years, the RDM has decided to take advantage of the Connections organization vacating the house and explore the possibility of selling the property. Freeing up the resources devoted to the manse will allow our congregation to:

- Eliminate the future expenses necessary to maintain the house.
- Divert our resources to further our other missions and programing.
- Reduce or eliminate the debt from the emergency replacement of our heating system last year.
- Help build up our endowment fund to ensure its health for future generations.

Over the next few weeks, you will notice that a surveyor will be placing wooden stakes around the property to mark proposed property lines. The intention is to keep the old garage in the back of the property as that is where Tim keeps the church lawn mower, gasoline, and the garden tools used to maintain our flower beds and our “Adopt a Highway” program.

As always, please feel free to reach out to any of the members on the RDM team if you have any questions dealing with the finances of our church.

Peace and Blessings,

Tom Rumbaugh, Chair

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



# Faith and Worship

Faith and Worship met May 8, 2023 at 5:30pm in the Parlor. We welcomed new member Kathy Turning and were grateful for Mickey Asleson's presence once again after a couple months absence while she waited for her two broken wrists to heal.

Rachel updated us on the Children's Spring Worship Service (May 21) which will also include the Youth and Confirmation class, 3 baptisms, teacher recognition, and possible new member acceptance.

The choir has finished for the year and Eric is lining up guest musicians for our summer worship services.

Speaking of summer worship, our annual outdoor service will be held at Oak Hill Park on Sunday, June 11, 2023 at 10:15. The park is easy to get to, as is the pavilion where we will hold the service.

The Team settled on communion dates for the 2023-24 program year and moved to send them to Session for Session's approval.

We meet again June 12 at 5:30 in the Parlor.

Nancy Young/Susie Slack, Co-chairs



The mission of the Faith & Practice Coordinating Team is to provide ways for the congregation to put our faith into practice. Among their activities are:

- Fulfilling funding requests from various groups;
- Developing a variety of mission opportunities for the congregation;
- Educating and advocating social justice issues;
- Encouraging opportunities for ecumenical dialogues open to the public; and
- Maintaining our designation as a PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation.

If you're interested in joining this dynamic Team, please contact any one of our members.

Kris Evans, Chair. Members: Carla Hall, Karen James, Carol McKiernan, Keith Brown, Don Beane





**Congratulations to our new confirmands and  
members of First Presbyterian Church**

**Calin Baxstrom  
Makena Conrad  
Nora Davis  
Lydia Dunlap  
Elli Gordon  
Addy Hiner  
Aiden Hiner  
Andrew James  
Olivia Kelly  
Gabriel Reith**



Our next Eventide gathering will be Sunday, June 11 at 6:30pm in the Chapel. Eventide is a simple contemplative time of song and prayer. Please plan to join us.



### **Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints**

Join us for our Summer Study sessions titled Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints. This study is designed to introduce people to the concepts of holy trouble-making as modeled by those from diverse faiths, who worked for love, compassion, and justice, even when that rocked the religious boat. These lessons ask questions such as: What is holy and good trouble? What is not? What lessons can we learn from those who have gone before on this path? How do we keep our joy and inner peace while working for a world where all can flourish? What might my contribution be?

**Sessions will begin Wednesday June 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.**  
Books can be purchased through Amazon and other suppliers.  
Contact Amy Baxstrom if you would like to participate!

### **Youth Service Trip in Steubenville**

Our youth will be heading to Steubenville June 15-18 to help with the Joshua Project. We will be doing home repairs, landscaping projects and more.

Neighborhood &  
Community  
Engagement







### **Creative Arts Camp**

Save the Date for July 10, 11, and 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am-12:00pm for an Arts Camp titled “Who is My Neighbor?” for children ages Preschool-6<sup>th</sup> grade. Volunteers are needed so please let Amy Baxstrom know if you can help. Registration forms will be available soon.



### **Children and Youth Family Picnic**

All Children and Youth Families are invited to a picnic at Paula Abrecht’s home on Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm. Please bring a dish to share. Drinks and table ware will be provided. RSVP to Amy Baxstrom!

### **Youth Summer Events! These events are for any youth entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade through exiting 12<sup>th</sup> grade!**

June 12<sup>th</sup>- Hiking at Wooster Mem. Park 7pm

June 15-18<sup>th</sup>- Joshua Project

June 25<sup>th</sup>- Family Picnic at Paula’s 5pm

June 28<sup>th</sup>- Beach Volleyball TBD

July 10-12<sup>th</sup>- Craft Camp Volunteer

July 18<sup>th</sup>- Mohican

August 1<sup>st</sup>- Beach Volleyball TBD



**Mixed Company will meet Thursday, June 8 at 6:00 PM at City Square Steakhouse in downtown Wooster. Please call Kathy Turning at 330-347-6620 by June 5 if you are planning to attend. We will probably be eating on the covered patio.**



## **God's Trailblazers**

If you enjoy the beauty of God's creation and want to spend some time outdoors, please join us! Our next time to meet will be Monday, June 12 at 7 p.m., weather permitting. The plan is to 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**



**PHOC MAPLE SYRUP - Revised prices are:** 1/2 pint - \$6, pint - \$11, quart - \$20, half-gallon - \$32, and gallon - \$60. We continue to have quantities of the most recent production above the coat racks in the Welcome Center. Please make checks out to PHOC. You can also call The Shorts (Ted's cell: 330-466-2763; Karen's cell: 330-466-3404) for pick-ups at their home at 935 Fenwick Circle. Thank you again for supporting a great Christian camping program!



## ***ADOPT A HIGHWAY***



**THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!** Thank you to all who helped on our Adopt-A-Highway project in cleaning our stretch of US 30 and US 250. There were nine of us and we finished in under two hours with perfect weather. Special thanks to newbies Carrie Gordon and Jack Rogers, and returning veterans Paula Albrecht, Karen Brenner, Shannon Foster, Bill and Carla Hall, Don James, and our able leader Linda Bush.



## Recycling at First Presbyterian

As an Earth Care congregation, many of us want to make a better commitment to recycling. While the church has been recycling paper for awhile, we will now have bins available for plastic bottles and metal cans that you might use while at church. You can still find the bin for paper by the doors leading into the sanctuary. The bins for plastic and metal cans will be located in the kitchen under the counter by the microwave. Volunteers will be collecting the recyclables regularly. Please make sure bottles and cans are clean before putting them in the bins! Thank you!



**If you are interested in helping to stream on Sunday mornings, please let Rachel King know! There are times when she needs to be out of the booth to do things related to Children's Music and could use a couple of people who can fill in.**

**No experience needed!**



The congregation extends its sympathy to the family of member Jim MacMillan who died May 4, 2023 at the age of 90. Jim was born in Detroit, Michigan and lived in many states growing up as part of a military family. He attended the University of Michigan and, like his father, enlisted in the Air Force where he tested planes and served as a flight instructor. Following his service in the military, Jim made his career in the computer world. He was an excellent storyteller and self-published a memoir entitled “Simply Jim” in 2019. Jim resided at West View Healthy Living toward the end of his life. Jim was predeceased by his first wife Susan who died when their daughters were young. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Karina, daughters Mary and Janice (Rick Adams), two granddaughters, and four great-grandchildren. A small family service was held in May with internment at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery.





## **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!**



## **JUNE/JULY BIRTHDAYS**

June 1	Mark Gordon
June 3	James Kirchhofer
June 4	Polly Johnson, Jamie Ogle
June 6	Wayne Bare
June 7	Roger Bostancic, Joan Watt
June 8	Carol Miller
June 9	Iva Byler
June 10	Paul Edmiston
June 11	Andrew James
June 12	Kris Burris
June 16	Lillian Davis
June 17	Eliza Davis, Laura Bigley
June 18	Mackenzie Hancock
June 19	Janelle Collier, Scott Perkins
June 20	Mark Gooch
June 22	Dana Brooks, Meredith Thompson, Wesley Davis
June 23	Marlene Zimmerman, Walter Johnson, Elizabeth Perkins, Carol Gates
June 25	Karen McQuate
June 26	Carol Thompson
June 27	Sally Call, Betty Wilkin
June 28	Monica Burrill
June 29	Kailana James



## **JUNE/JULY BIRTHDAYS**

July 1	Jane Blake, Mattie Dunlap
July 3	David Tugend
July 4	Rick Maxwell
July 5	Norma Shaffer
July 6	Julie Pooler
July 7	Marian Cropp
July 10	Pat Arn
July 12	Valerie Lippert, Fred Short
July 13	Mason Garcia
July 15	Joel Beckler, Bobbi Jentes-Mason
July 16	Jane Measure, Sophie Garcia
July 18	Emily James, Jim Tew, Bobby Compton
July 20	Sarah Davis, Kris Evans
July 21	Emily Neill, Joyce Gorrell
July 22	Hanna Morgan, Pat Bare
July 24	Charles Baker, Tom Buch, Jane Buch, Oliver Davis
July 26	Frances Cammer, Debbie Sidle
July 27	George Spencer
July 28	Tammy Brooks
July 29	Cameron Edmiston, Elsa Boen
July 30	Mary Alice Streeter, David Wilkin
July 31	MaryAnn Wellington

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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Amy Baxstrom  
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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