



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF WOOSTER

## TOWER TIDINGS JUNE/JULY 2024

Dear Friends,

From my vantage point, the last days of May have seen refreshing rains turning into brilliant sunshine as we move into June and the joys of summer. In a farewell to spring, our Cinco de Mayo potluck and Annual Congregational Meeting and the Spring Celebration Worship Service on Mother's Day launched us into these next months full of new opportunities for congregational participation.

We open with an outdoor worship service at Oak Hill Park this coming Sunday that will focus on God's good creation and our commitment to Earth Care. Then on the following Tuesday the Over 80's Luncheon offers a time of food, fellowship, and music. Summertime activities include Walk & Talk on Tuesday mornings at 10:00, Sunday afternoon hikes in June and July, Mixed Company meals, and Men's Luncheons on the first Monday of the month.

Our youth are particularly active this summer with a Sr. High Montreat trip in June and a Jr. High Montreat trip in July. On June 19, the day our community celebrates Juneteenth, the youth will participate in a Downtown Civil Rights Tour followed by a Festival of Food at Christmas Run Park. These festivities are for our entire community, so I hope you can take advantage of this celebration.

Closing out the month of June will feature two special opportunities: the beginning of a Presbyterian Women's summer Bible study centering on God's call to care for neighbors and all creation and a handbell choir performance June 28, with a touring group of young ringers from New Jersey.

May we all enjoy this season of long days and different rhythms as we continue our individual and communal journeys of faith and involvement.

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 April/May 2024.

During the Session meeting on May 29, 2024, Jim Webster and Carol Gates were thanked for their leadership the past six years as ruling Elders. Mattie Dunlap was also acknowledged with gratitude for her time as Youth Elder this past year. Steve LoGuidice is joining Session as an Elder (class of 2027). Jeff Perkins and Mark Gordon have agreed to another three-year term (Class of 2027). There is still a need for one Elder for a three-year term (Class of 2027). When this Elder position has been filled, a brief congregational meeting will be held to approve the slate of officers.

Here are excerpts from The Book of Order (PC-USA) 2019-21 edition regarding these important leadership positions within the Church.

Ruling elders and deacons are men and women elected by the congregation from among its members. The nomination and election of ruling elders and deacons shall express the rich diversity of the congregation's membership and shall guarantee participation and inclusiveness (F-1.0403). Ruling elders and deacons shall be nominated by a committee elected by the congregation, drawn from and representative of its membership.

Ruling elders and deacons shall be elected to serve terms of no more than three years on the session or board of deacons, and may be eligible for reelection according to congregational rule. However, no ruling elder or deacon shall be eligible to serve more than six consecutive years, and a ruling elder or deacon who has served six consecutive years shall be ineligible for election to the same board for at least one year. Election shall be to classes as nearly equal in number as possible, with the term of only one class ending each year. The presbytery may, upon written request and by majority vote, grant a congregation a waiver of this limitation on terms.

During this meeting, the lives of Dennis Boen and John Collier were honored as they passed away this month. Communion for the month of June was moved from June 2 (Outdoor Service at Oak Hill Park) to June 9 in the sanctuary.

Tom Rumbaugh from RDM gave the monthly financial report for the month ending on April 30, 2024. Session also voted approval for the proposed 2024 budget for the church, following Tom's explanation.

Rev. Rice reported on his recent activities and shared that he will be undergoing surgery on his hand on June 6, 2024. April Gamble expressed thanks to David for having Rev. Dr. Chan Sok Park preach on 5.26.2024. Laura Neill also complimented David for his message during Dennis Boen's memorial service earlier this month. David was able to honor Dennis' plans and also offer his own message of hope.

Amy Baxstrom reported on her continuing work on her Certification as a Christian Educator. She and Sarah Davis will be taking six youth to Montreat in June. Amy also reported that she is meeting with the leadership group for the Eventide service next week and will update Session on any proposals following that meeting. There will be a summer Eventide series, beginning in July.

Reports from each of the ministry teams were received during this meeting. Minutes from each of their monthly meetings are attached to the Session minutes in the notebook in the gathering area.

There is a need for a church member to serve on the Board of People to People Ministries and then report back to the Faith and Practice Ministry team. Please contact Kris Evans if interested in serving on this important outreach of our church.

Discussion during this evening's meeting continued to circle around the topic of church membership: What does it mean to be a "member" of this community of faith? Is it a public commitment between God, the individual and the church? Is it attendance? Is it being active in church outreach programs? Is it attending on line worship services/in person worship? Is it contributing financially to the church? Is it praying for the church and its care of others? What does it mean to each individual? We, as a group of ruling Elders will continue to discuss these questions as it is important to examine how to welcome each person, encourage each individual in their spiritual journey and most of all, care for all.

Members of Session will continue to meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:sessionclerk@firstpreswooster.org)



The Over 80's Luncheon honoring those in our congregation 80 years and older will be Tuesday, June 4 at 11:30 a.m. in Bruch Hall. A delicious meal will be served and a musical program featuring pianist Todd Swallen will be presented. Please reach out to Carol Gates at 330-264-3413 or [cmgates23@gmail.com](mailto:cmgates23@gmail.com) with any questions.

## **Greetings from the Resource Development Ministry!**

As we close the financial books for the month of April 2024, the RDM is cautiously optimistic as a third of the year is already over!

The 2024 Stewardship campaign has concluded and has surpassed last year. Year to date numbers are higher so far this year compared to this time last year in congregational contributions, loose offerings, and legacy income. The balanced portfolio of stocks and bonds included in our investment holdings are also positive as we proceed through 2024.

One task that the Session has entrusted the RDM is to help protect our Church assets. As we all know, a major asset to FPC is our church structure. A major part of maintaining our church structure is a process called “tuck-pointing”. Quite simply, tuck-pointing is an important, intricate process that involves repairing and replacing the mortar in between the large limestone blocks that make up the outside walls of our church structure. This mortar is eroded by the weather over time, making maintenance is critical to keep the limestone in place, and the integrity of the walls secured.

Faith and Structure is in the process of obtaining bids from contractors to complete this process. The RDM is anticipating a capital campaign later this year in order to help fund this extraordinary expense. More information will be forthcoming in the following months as we devise a plan to keep our building properly maintained and safe for future generations.

Blessing and peace,

The Resource and Development Ministry (RDM)

Tom Rumbaugh, chair; David Rice, pastor; Dana Brooks, treasurer;  
Laura Neill; Stuart Miller; Mark Gordon; Jeff Perkins

























## **WORSHIP AT OAK HILL PARK**

### **SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 10:15AM**

This year our outdoor summer worship service will be held at Oak Hill Park on Sunday, June 2, at 10:15am. ***Note:*** *If the morning turns out to be rainy, worship will be held in Bruch Hall at 10:15am.*

The park is located on the west side of Oak Hill Rd. at the roundabout.

There is ample pavilion space with picnic table-and-benches seating, but feel free to bring your own chairs. There is also ample car parking space within short, flat, walking distance of the pavilion.

Please mark your calendars and plan to come together for worship at this small gem of a park with inspirational views across the hills and valleys of God's creation.







It's summer! Check out the calendar below for events happening this summer.

If you have a special activity you would like to do, please let me know!

### **Upcoming events**

These dates are subject to change based on weather so watch your email/Remind for updates.

**(Not on the Remind list? You definitely need to be-ask me how)**

### **June**

**2-** Outdoor Worship at Oak Hill Park 10:15 am

**4-** Walk and Talk - 10:00 am (it's back!)

We'll meet at the Kinney Building and walk and talk! Bring bikes, scooters, dogs, or whatever you'd like, and join us!

**10th-15th-** Sr High Montreat Trip

**18-** Walk and Talk 10:00 am

**19-** Youth Downtown Civil Rights Walking Tour 4:00 pm Dinner to follow TBA

**23-** Wooster Memorial Park Hike 2:00 pm

**25-** Walk and Talk 10:00 am

**28-** Housing needed for visiting youth Bell Choir- More details coming.

### **July**

**2-** Walk and Talk 10:00 am

**15-** Hike TBD

**16-** Walk and Talk 10:00 am

**17-21-** Middle School Montreat Trip

**23-** Walk and Talk 10:00 am

**28-** Hike- Time and Place TBD



Please keep our youth and leadership in your prayers as they prepare to journey to the Montreat Youth Conference in Black Mountain, NC on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

The 6 youth attending are:

Aiden Hiner

Addy Hiner

Ellen Armour

Megan Armour

Nora Davis

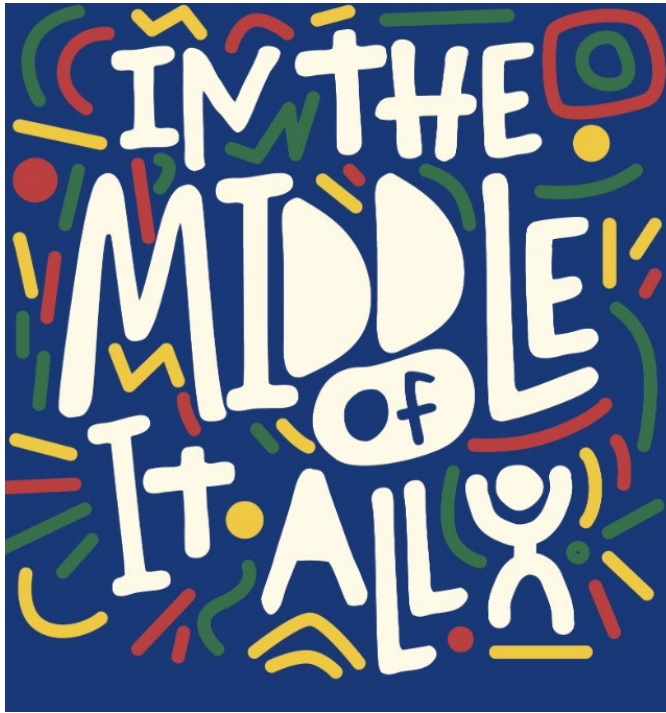
Gabe Reith

The 2 adult chaperones attending are:

Sarah Davis

Amy Baxstrom





**MONTREAT MIDDLE  
SCHOOL CONFERENCE**

July 17-21, 2024  
[montreat.org/msc-24](http://montreat.org/msc-24)

The Junior High youth will be traveling to the  
Middle School Montreat Conference in Maryville, TN  
July 17-21.

Youth attending include:

Eliza Davis

Hope Shaffer

Hudson Baxstrom

Tyler Gordon

JR Wright

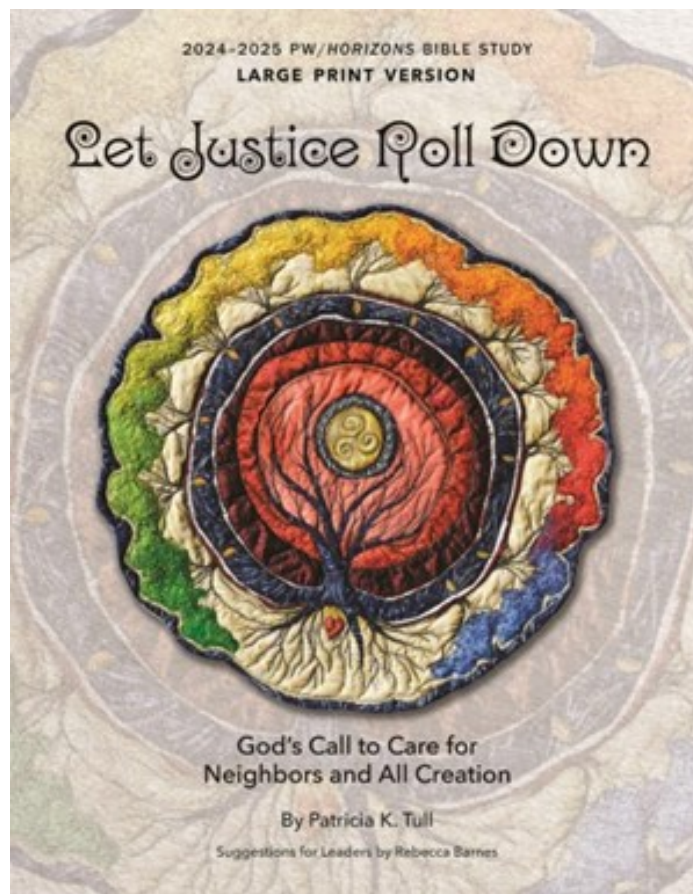
Adult Chaperone:

Amy Baxstrom

Please keep these youth and leadership in your prayers as they travel and  
journey into their own faith, and guide those around them.



The ever-popular Walk and Talk is back! Join us every Tuesday morning beginning on June 4<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the Kinney Building off of Burbank Road at 10:00 am. Bring bikes, scooters, strollers, dogs, friends, etc and we will catch up and enjoy the fresh air! Let Amy Baxstrom know if you can join us!



**Join us beginning Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 for our next Summer Bible Study series. We will be looking at the Presbyterian Women's Study called Let Justice Roll Down- God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation. We are called to care for neighbors and God's creation with all our hearts, with particular care for society's least powerful members who are disproportionately impacted by unjust systems. Please let Amy Baxstrom know if you'd like to attend. No book is necessary.**





***EVENTIDE  
THIS SUMMER 2024***

***LOOK FOR MORE DETAILS TO COME!!***





### **Bell Choir Concert Tour Coming To First Pres Wooster!**

The Walsh Memorial Bell Choir (WMBC) celebrates its 56th Season this year, having been named in 1968 after the Rev. Joseph E. Walsh of The Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains, where the ensemble is still based.

Comprised of auditioned 8th-12th grade students from various communities in Morris County, New Jersey, WMBC ringers tour annually and participate regularly in festivals, conferences, concerts, community outreach performances, and other events.

We are excited to be a stop on their Summer 2024 Tour. Please plan to come to their concert in the FPC sanctuary on Friday, June 28 at 7:00pm.





Join us for Mixed Company. If you are single, a widow, a widower or if your spouse is going to be gone for that day, come and be with us. We meet monthly at a different restaurant in Wooster or sometimes out of town. If we go out of town we car pool. In May, fifteen of us ate at Broken Rocks in downtown Wooster. We had the backroom by ourselves and it was much quieter. We had good food and lots of fun visiting and getting to know people. Watch the Thursday Flash or your email for monthly information.



There will be a Men's Luncheon at The Green Leaf restaurant on Monday, June 3 at 11:30 am.

### **IN SEARCH OF A DONATION OF A LIGHTWEIGHT WHEELCHAIR**

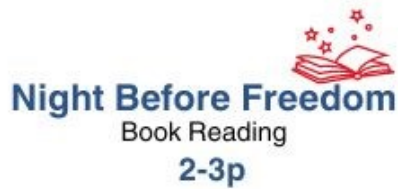
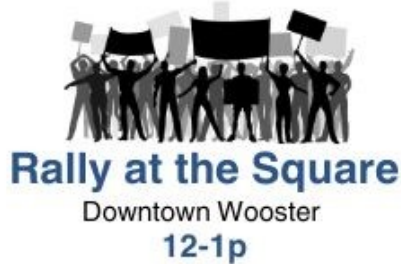


The wheelchair will be added to the two wheelchairs located in the Gathering Area.

A lightweight wheelchair would be utilized by those needing assistance in and out and around our church building.



# Juneteenth Events





# CreateCamp 2024

A Time to Craft

gather - create - inspire -  
2799 Cleveland Rd. Wooster, Ohio

Join us for creative fun again this summer!

What's new:

- We have added an additional evening class time for our Jr and Classic CreateCamp levels this year! You can still register for an entire 4-week session (at a discounted rate per class) or individual weeks as your schedule permits for Jr. and Classic CreateCamp classes.
- CreateCamp Plus classes are now 2 weeks long so we can offer more project options.

## Jr (PreK-Grade 1)

**Tues 9-10 or Thurs 5:30-6:30**

- Each class features a children's book and includes all supplies and instruction to make an accompanying craft project for participants to take home that day. An adult must accompany Jr. CreateCampers during class time.
- \$50/4-week session or \$15/individual class (space permitting)
- Session 1: Tuesdays June 4-25, Thursdays June 6-27 Session 2: Tuesdays July 9-30, Thursdays July 11-August 1

## Classic (Grades 2-5)

**Tues 10:30-12 or 6-7:30 or Thurs 1-2:30**

- Each class time includes all supplies and instruction to make a unique project for participants to take home that day. We will make a variety of different crafts like we have done at CreateCamp in past summers. Classic CreateCampers can have an adult accompany them or can be dropped off and picked up at class times. This class will have a snack break, please let us know of any dietary restrictions that we need to be aware of.
- \$80/4-week session or \$25/individual class (space permitting)
- Session 1: Tuesdays June 4-25, Thursdays June 6-27 Session 2: Tuesdays July 9-30, Thursdays July 11-August 1

## CreateCamp Plus (Grades 6+)

- CreateCamp Plus Classes feature more in-depth skills and projects that require two class times to complete. You must be able to come to both scheduled class times to register for these classes. CreateCampers at this level can have an adult accompany them or can be dropped off and picked up at class times. Class costs vary due to project selection.

CreateCamp Plus Class	Dates & Times	Cost
<b>Get Ready for the Beach</b> - Sew a drawstring backpack and bucket hat	Tuesdays, June 4 & 11 1-3pm	\$45
<b>Fun with Mosaic Tiles</b> - Design and create mosaic tile projects	Tuesdays, June 18 & 25 1-3pm	\$45
<b>Fun with Resin</b> - Design and create projects with epoxy resin	Thursdays, June 6 & 13 3-5pm	\$45
<b>Hand Knit Lap Blanket</b> - Use your hands to knit a chunky lap blanket	Thursdays, June 20 & 27 3-5pm	\$55
<b>Leather Crafting</b> - Design, tool, dye, and stitch small leather projects	Tuesdays, July 9 & 16 1-3pm	\$55
<b>Patchwork Tote Bag</b> - Design and sew a patchwork tote bag with inside pockets	Tuesdays, July 23 & 30 1-3pm	\$40
<b>Embellished Shirt or Jacket</b> - Bring your own sweatshirt or denim jacket to design and embellish with fabric and stitching	Thursdays, July 11 & 18 3-5pm	\$35

**Register at [www.atimetocraft.com](http://www.atimetocraft.com) - Sample photos coming soon!**

Register now for full sessions of Jr & Classic CreateCamps and all CreateCamp Plus Classes. Jr & Classic Classes are limited to 12 participants. Plus Classes are limited to 8-10 participants depending on the project. Registration for individual weeks of Jr & Classic CreateCamp will open June 1 for Session 1 and July 1 for Session 2 if there is still space available for those class times.

Email [atimetocraftwooster@gmail.com](mailto:atimetocraftwooster@gmail.com) with any questions.









The congregation extends its sympathy to the family of FPC member Dennis Boen who died May 3, 2024. Dennis was born in Dayton, Ohio and earned a B.A. in Music Education from Heidelberg College in 1977. Dennis and his wife Elsa were married in 1978.

Music played a profound role in Dennis's life, and he was a talented conductor, pianist, cellist, and vocalist. Dennis retired from a respected career in the insurance industry. He enjoyed puzzles, science, lively discussions and friendly debates, and spending time with his family and his wide circle of friends. He formed many meaningful friendships in college and his career and through his involvement in Trinity United Church of Christ, Kidron Mennonite Church, Central Christian School, FPC, and the Wooster Rotary Club.

In recent years Dennis wrote a memoir outlining his 38-year journey with kidney disease. Dennis was the grateful recipient of kidney donations from his sister Donna, wife Elsa, and a close family friend who wishes to remain anonymous.

Dennis is survived by his wife Elsa, daughter Jean and her husband Jarad, granddaughters Jocelyn and Josie, his mother Jean Boen, one brother, and two sisters. A memorial service was held at FPC on May 14.





The congregation extends its sympathy to the family of John Wayne Collier who passed away on May 10, 2024. John was born in Elyria, Ohio and lived in South Amherst R.E.M. Group Home for 30 years before moving to Wooster Outreach Community Living. Even though John loved spending time with his family and attending the First Presbyterian Church he had a love and an uncanny calming ability and fondness that took over when around animals, especially dogs and horses. He was truly a gift from God- a kind, gentle and loving soul.

John is survived and will be missed by his sisters Shannon Foster and Nancy Collier along with several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Bruch Hall on Friday, May 24, 2024 at 3 pm. We give thanks for the blessing of John's life among us.







The congregation extends its sympathy to the family of former member Nancy Ditmer who died May 1, 2024. Nancy was born in Piqua, Ohio and graduated from Tippecanoe High School. She earned a Bachelor of Music in music education from Capital University and a Master of Arts in music education from the University of Iowa.

Nancy taught music at two public school districts in southwest Ohio before joining the faculty at the College of Wooster in 1984. Over her 35-year tenure at Wooster Nancy taught courses in music education, conducting, and flute performance; supervised student teachers; and directed the Scot Marching Band, Scot Symphonic Band and Jazz Ensemble. Nancy was the founder and director of the Wooster Music Camp, an instructional experience for middle and high school students.

Nancy was active in professional organizations and served terms as president of both the Ohio Music Education Association and the National Association of Music Educators. She was a passionate advocate at the state and professional levels for the inclusion of music education standards in public schools. Locally she transformed the honors band program through the Tri-County Educational Service Center into a multi-day event.

After retiring in 2019, Nancy continued to be a resource for local school music programs and played in the Ashland Community Band. She directed the bell choir at FPC some years ago and last spring she and pianist Pam Yarnell presented a musical program for the Over 80's Luncheon. Nancy enjoyed photography and genealogy.

Nancy is survived by her sisters Jean and Judy, one niece, and one nephew. A memorial service was held at Zion Lutheran Church on May 18, 2024.





## **JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

June 1	Mark Gordon
June 3	Jim 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, Wes 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





## **JULY BIRTHDAYS**

July 1	Jane Blake, Mattie Dunlap
July 3	Dave Tugend
July 5	Norma Shaffer
July 6	Julie Pooler
July 7	Marian Cropp
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
July 20	Sarah Davis, Kris Evans
July 21	Emily Neill, Joyce Gorrell
July 22	Hanna Morgan, Pat Bare
July 24	Tom Buch, Jane Buch, Oliver Davis
July 26	Fran Cammer
July 27	Peter Gooch, George Spencer
July 28	Tammy Brooks
July 29	Cameron Edmiston, Elsa Boen
July 30	Mary Alice Streeter, David Wilkin
July 31	MaryAnn Wellington



## **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!**



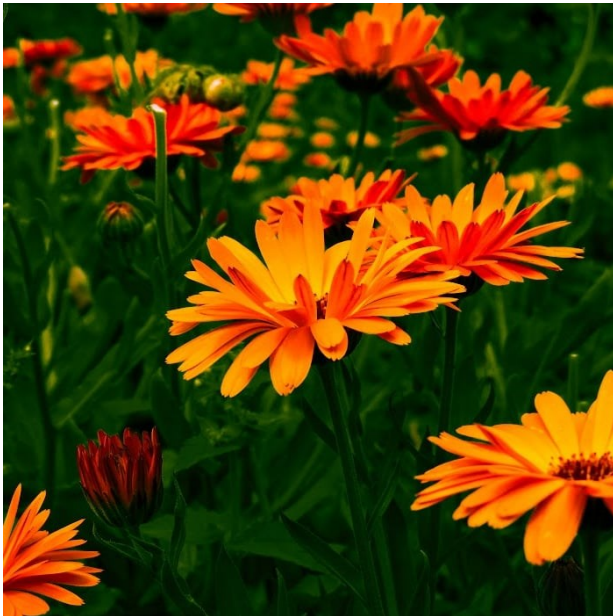


## **FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP YEAR 2024**

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

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Amy Baxstrom  
Rachel King

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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