



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WOOSTER

TOWER TIDINGS MARCH 2024

Dear Friends,

As we journey more deeply through the liturgical season of Lent, we see ever-growing visible evidence of the Old English roots of that word: “lencten,” which means “Spring” or the “lengthening of day in spring.” Daffodils and other seasonal flowers are signaling that winter is gradually coming to an end and this liturgical time will soon give way to the blossoming of Easter. Yet, as you will see in these pages, Lent still has much to offer us in the life of our church.

When you turn to the page featuring our special worship during the Lenten Season, highlighted are the ongoing Wednesday evening Lenten Soup Suppers, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday Communion Service, Good Friday Tenebrae Service, and Easter Sunday. Eventide continues Sunday evenings at 6:30 through Palm Sunday evening.

A special opportunity that you will not want to miss is the Youth Italian Dinner on Saturday, March 2, from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm. Friday Fellowship midday meal will occur on March 8 at 11:30 am in Bruch Hall, and God’s Trailblazers, a time of enjoying the coming of spring by walking the trails of Wooster Memorial Park, returns on Sunday, March 17, at 1:00 pm. And extend your knowledge of God’s good creation by reading the Earth Care Team’s article on pathways for decreasing our congregation’s carbon footprint.

Our beloved Don Beane’s memorial service will take place in our sanctuary on Saturday morning, March 9, at 10:30 followed by a lunch reception in Bruch Hall. That same evening Don’s love of choral musical will be celebrated as we host the Wooster Chorus Spring Concert at 7:30 in the sanctuary.

Finally, our sister Westminster Presbyterian Church will be celebrating a 150th Anniversary on May 5. An integral part of their celebration will be taking part in the Mustard Seed Mission Project. Page 15 in this newsletter gives the details of this ambitious and most meaningful effort to reduce and even eliminate medical debt for those in our area who are in financial distress. My hope and challenge for the members of our congregation is to join them in this project by donating through the Mustard Seed website at <https://wpcwoo.org/rip> . Let us generously support Westminster’s milestone as we help our neighbors in deep need!

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 February 2024.

Session met on February 28, 2024 to review the activities of the ministry teams, hear the financial update from January and to plan for upcoming events. The Endowment Allowance policy for 2024 was updated and passed unanimously. Session members heard Amy Baxstrom share about her final project to complete her Christian Educator certification. Carol Gates was appointed by Session to be on Amy's team, as required by PC (USA). Pastor Rice and Lisa Rumbaugh will also be part of Amy's support team here at FPC Wooster. The Session meeting for April will be moved to May 1, with two Session meetings scheduled for the month of May. Discussion during the meeting centered around the applying for funds from the ReKindle grant offered by Columbia Theological Seminary. Faith and Nurture ministry team offered suggestions about how those potential funds could be utilized.

Session also approved the statistical report that is submitted to Presbytery annually. This report includes general information about membership changes, ages of members, and basic church financial data. As you may know, Presbytery is one of the levels of the governance of our denomination. The local churches are collectively represented by Muskingum Valley Presbytery, the Synod and on to the General Assembly of PC(USA).

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

Greetings from the RDM!

Thank you all who have turned in your stewardship pledge cards. If you have not turned in your pledge commitments, there is still time as we are putting the finishing touches on the 2024 FPC budget and we would like to include yours as our staff and ministry teams prepare for the upcoming year. Pledge cards can be obtained in the office or gathering area.

At the February meeting, our Session voted to approve the 2024 Endowment Allocation Policy as recommended by the RDM. This important policy determines the sustainable and responsible portion of our legacy funds to help fund our current programming, structure, and missions each year and still maintain a healthy endowment for years to come.

The members of the RDM are committed to the transparency of our church funds. Please feel free to reach out to anyone on the RDM to ask any questions or obtain additional detail regarding the FPC finances.

Peace and Blessings,

Tom Rumbaugh, Chair

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





Easter Flowers for the Sanctuary

|

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



Walk Together

Wooster Chorus

Spring Concert

March 9th 7:30 pm

First Presbyterian Church

Palm Sunday - March 24

All children and youth will be participating in worship.

Godly Play and Bible Town Classes will process in with palms, accompanied by the Youth on handbells. The Youth Class will also be providing a handbell offertory.

We will rehearse during the Sunday School hour.

Please plan to attend!

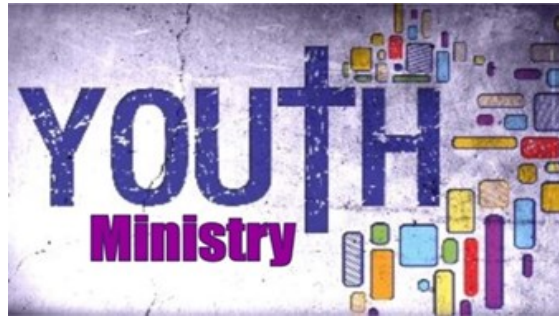


FPC Youth Italian Dinner
March 2nd, 5:00pm-7:00pm
Tickets are \$10 each.
Children 5 and under are free.



Tickets can be purchased at the door. If you would prefer to use a credit card to pay- please use the following link.

[https://www.jotform.com/
form/220862789741063](https://www.jotform.com/form/220862789741063)



This month we will be joining in on a multigenerational Sunday school and learning about and experiencing several Spiritual Practices.

Upcoming events

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

March Fun Fellowship TBD

April 15th joint Fellowship with O'Huddle- Amazing Race 6:00-8:00

May- Party at Paula's!! Date TBD



Our youth prepared a meal for the Severe Weather Shelter and Megan Armour helped serve it with Amy Baxstrom. Thank you to those that help this much needed service.

Youth prepping food for the Severe Weather Shelter





Join us for our February Friday Fellowship on Friday March 8th at 11:30am. Beth Weaver from Habitat for Humanity will be our guest speaker. Please use the link below to sign up!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F084BAEA72FA7FB6-48247046-february>



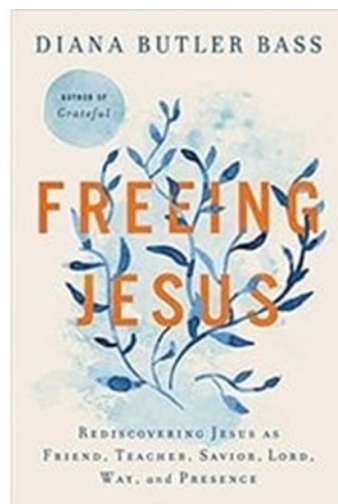
We are happy to have a staffed nursery once again! We are always blessed with young, energetic students from the College of Wooster and this year is no different. Paired with a volunteer from our church they are ready to rock, color with, play with, and bring God's love into our tiniest of souls. The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



Beginning March 17, FPC will have a Multigenerational Sunday school class held in Bruch Hall. This class will learn and execute 6 Spiritual Practices. This class is a project that I am working on to complete my certification process and become a Certified Christian Educator.

Please consider joining us in Bruch Hall beginning March 17 at 9:00 am.

Thank you! Amy Baxstrom



Classroom 1 downstairs continues to have a robust gathering that continues to challenge and engage each participant using Diana Butler Bass' book, Freeing Jesus.

Please consider joining them at 9:00 am downstairs.



GOD'S TRAILBLAZERS

God's Trailblazers is back to enjoy the beauty of spring and warmer weather together! This is a group for people who enjoy hiking and walking in the beauty of the outdoors. We will spend time hiking on trails and sometimes we will stick to easier walking paths depending on the needs of the group. If you're interested, please join us on Sunday, March 17th at 1:00, weather permitting. We will meet at the first paved parking lot at Wooster Memorial Park off of Silver Road. We will be meeting once a month at TBD locations, so please make sure you read the bulletin and News Flash carefully. Looking forward to enjoying God's incredible creation with anyone wanting to join!

Questions? See Carrie Gordon (or call or text)

(614) 565-3541

Our 150th Anniversary Mustard Seed Mission Project

How shall we compare the kin-dom of God? It is like a mustard seed ... the smallest of all the seeds on earth ... when sown, it rises up and becomes the greatest of all vegetables. (Mark 4:30-32, trans. Amy-Jill Levine)



Imagine if we could activate enough mustard-seed-size efforts to transform the quality of life for our neighbors and other hardworking families in our area!

As **Westminster Presbyterian Church** in Wooster, Ohio, celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2024, we invite your help as we reach outside our sanctuary walls to assist our neighbors in Wayne and adjacent counties. As disciples of Jesus, we believe in the promise of the mustard seed parable. Small actions, especially when caringly cultivated, can produce yields of amazing size. Imagine living in a community where every person profoundly experiences the life-transforming power of God's kin-dom: the strengthening of the fabric of the community as resources shared bless both the giver and the receiver! May this vision inspire your consideration and contribution to help erase the medical debt of those in our county and nearby.

Every day 1 in 2 Americans choose between paying medical bills and covering basic needs. Nearly 50% of U.S. adults delayed or skipped medical care due to the high cost. 50% of U.S. adults would not be able to afford an unexpected \$500 bill. 2/3 of bankruptcies cite medical debt as a leading cause. Please learn more about the RIP Medical Debt initiative below. Eligible medical debt within Wayne County and its surrounding communities can be greatly reduced or eliminated with your caring contribution.

Here is how it works:

When a contribution is made, RIP uses data analytics to pinpoint the debt of those most in need: households that earn less than 4 times the federal poverty level (varies by county and family size) or whose debts are 5% or more of annual income. RIP buys medical debt at a steep discount. RIP buys debt in bundles, millions of dollars at a time at a fraction of the original cost. This means your donation of \$100 can relieve \$10,000 in medical debt.

Your contribution can wipe out medical debt. Recipients have no tax consequences or penalties to consider. Just like that, they are free of medical debt! RIP will prioritize the funds first in Wayne County, then in Ashland, Holmes, Medina, Stark, and Summit Counties in Ohio.

Your generosity is a lifeline to someone facing a myriad of challenges brought on by medical debt. Your contribution helps one's "neighbor" in the true sense of the word "neighbor" as taught by Jesus of Nazareth.

(locate the website at: <https://wpcwoo.org/rip>)



Our 150th year celebration. May 5, 2024

1874  2024

WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Save the Date!

Housing & Homelessness in Wayne County

*~ A community meeting with updates on
strategic solutions to provide housing for all ~*

Thursday - April 11, 2024 - 7:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church, Wooster - Bruch Hall

Sponsored by



3 Pathways for Decreasing Carbon Footprint for Congregations

In response to a recent General Assembly policy on lowering church building's impact on climate change, the PC(USA) recommends two excellent structured congregational programs from our partners that will help congregations reduce their carbon footprint. Also shared below are ways a congregation could design their own path to lowering their carbon footprint. Presbyterians are called to take the results of our energy consumption seriously, to pray asking for God's forgiveness and guidance, to reduce energy consumption, and to calculate carbon emissions* and offset their negative impact. We know that we need to make outward changes together in community AND we need structural change, global political will, and massive adaptation/mitigation/funding for climate solutions.

Become a Cool Congregation

An offering from our partners at Interfaith Power and Light, the Cool Congregations challenge is a unique stewardship program helps congregations reduce the carbon footprint of their facilities and engages their members in reducing their carbon footprint at home. The program educates, inspires, and saves money too! Start up Kits, useful calculators and applications for awards are available online at <https://interfaithpowerandlight.org/coolcongregations/>



Energy Star for Congregations

An offering from the EPA that provides the tools, training, and technical support to help your congregation achieve and sustain a high level of stewardship. Offerings include a workbook to serve as a resource and planning guide for clergy, staff, and laypersons of houses of worship who want to increase the energy efficiency of their facilities by implementing realistic and cost-effective energy improvement projects. It is available with the accompanying appendices at www.energystar.gov/congregations.



Design Your Own

Changing to LED lighting, adjusting thermostats to less heat/AC, turning off lights and electronics when not in use, sealing building envelope including window leaks, and otherwise making suggested changes from a localized energy audit are key steps in designing your own program to save energy. The Presbyterian Hunger Program, in conjunction with other partners, offers several resources with suggestions to round out a program designed by your own congregation for carbon footprint awareness and reduction. Some of those include:

- The Climate Care Challenge: www.pcusa.org/ccc
- Blessed Tomorrow's Moving Forward Guide: www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/blessed-tomorrow/
- Presbyterians for Earth Care Webinar Series: <https://presbyearthcare.org/events/>
- Tread Lightly for Lent: www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/tread-lightly-for-lent/
- And more: www.pcusa.org/climate



**Carbon Calculator available at <https://coolclimate.berkeley.edu/calculator>*

The Presbyterian Hunger Program works to alleviate hunger and eliminate its root causes, including environmental devastation and climate change. Learn more at www.pcusa.org/hunger

Maple Syrup Open House

Sunday, March 10th
10am - 2pm

At

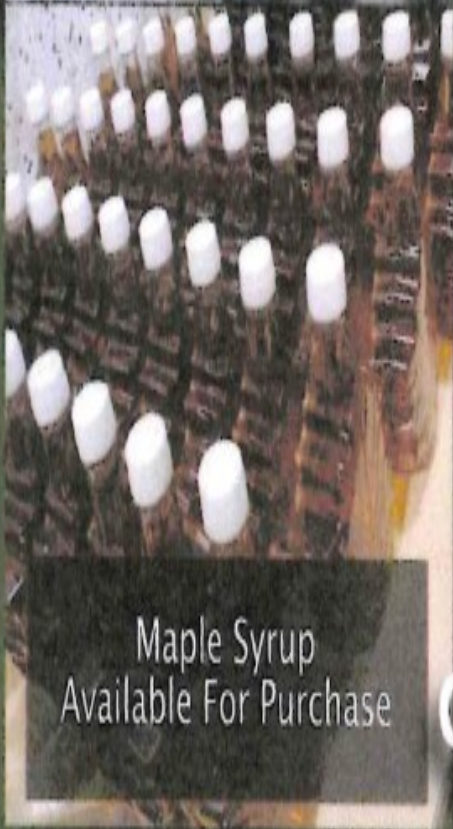
**Pleasant Hill Outdoor
Camp**

4654 Pleasant Hill Rd.
Perrysville OH

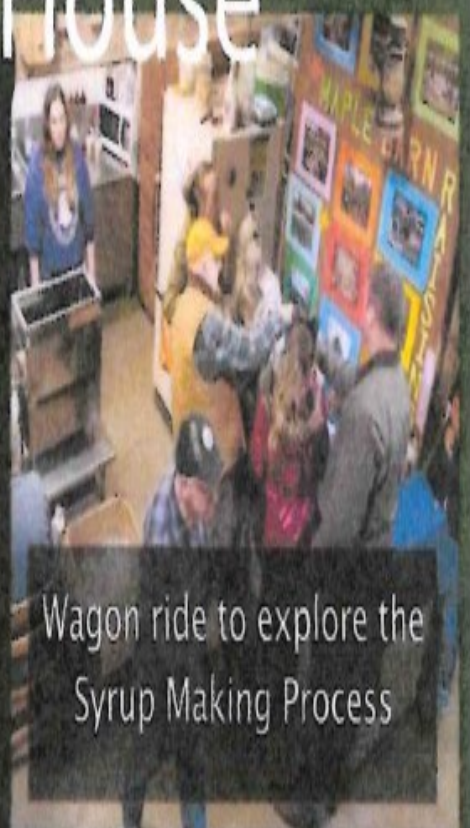
**FREE
PANCAKES
SERVED WITH
SAUSAGE AND
OUR HOMEMADE
MAPLE SYRUP**



Take Home Some
Sweetness



Maple Syrup
Available For Purchase



Wagon ride to explore the
Syrup Making Process



Crafts and Activities
For All Ages



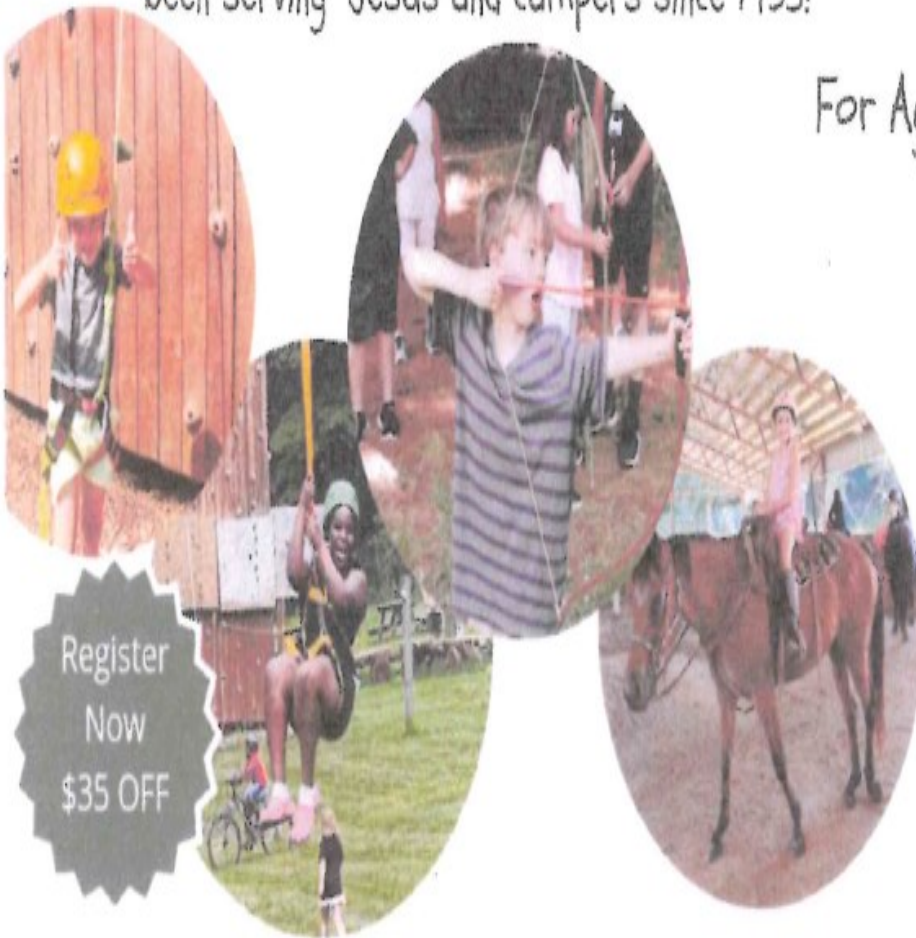
Summer's Best Adventure

A Christian overnight camp & retreat center that has
been serving Jesus and campers since 1953!

Activities

- Rock wall
- 1000' Zipline
- Lake & Beach
- Archery
- Slip n' Slide
- Mountain biking
- Gaga
- Outpost camping
- Hiking trails
- Much more!

For Ages 4-15



Register
Now
\$35 OFF

419-938-3715

Info@phoc.org

PHOC.org

4654 Pleasant Hill Road
Perrysville, Ohio

Kinder Camp: June 7-8 Term 1: June 16-21 Term 2: June 23-28 Term 3: July 7-12 Term 4: July 14-19



The congregation extends its sympathy to the family of long-time member Pat Arn who died February 4, 2024 at the age of 98. Pat was born in Toronto, Canada and graduated from Hathaway Brown School in Shaker Heights where she played softball and was goalie on the ice hockey team. Pat met her late husband Ed in Texas where she had begun nurses training at the University of Texas at Galveston. Pat and Ed were married in 1948 and lived in Dallas and Philadelphia before moving to Wooster in 1958.

Pat raised five children and participated in many activities at church and in the community. At FPC Pat was a deacon and enjoyed Friday Fellowship and Mixed Company gatherings. She was involved in many organizations in the community and served as Beall Avenue School PTA president, Girl Scout leader, Ida Sue School swimming instructor, Cancer Drive captain, Wayne County Mothers March of Dimes chair, Veterans of Foreign Wars Poppy Sale chair, and American Legion Auxiliary officer. She enjoyed travel, knitting and sewing, swimming, and College of Wooster basketball.

Pat is survived by her children Pam, Tim, Heidi, Kit, and Ben, sixteen grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held at McIntire, Bradham & Sleaf on February 17.





MARCH BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|----------|--|
| March 4 | Noah Shaffer |
| March 6 | Karolyn Rice, James Watt |
| March 7 | Jonathan Swank |
| March 9 | Angela Earley |
| March 13 | Ted Short |
| March 14 | Makena Conrad |
| March 15 | Karen James, Madeline Harrington |
| March 16 | LeRoy Foster, Pat Milles, Carmella Scott |
| March 17 | Olivia Hiner |
| March 19 | Stirling Musselman |
| March 21 | Kathryn Turning |
| March 23 | Neil Edmiston, Sarah Dunlap |
| March 24 | Roy Hancock |
| March 27 | Peter Swank |
| March 28 | Shirley Badger |



**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!

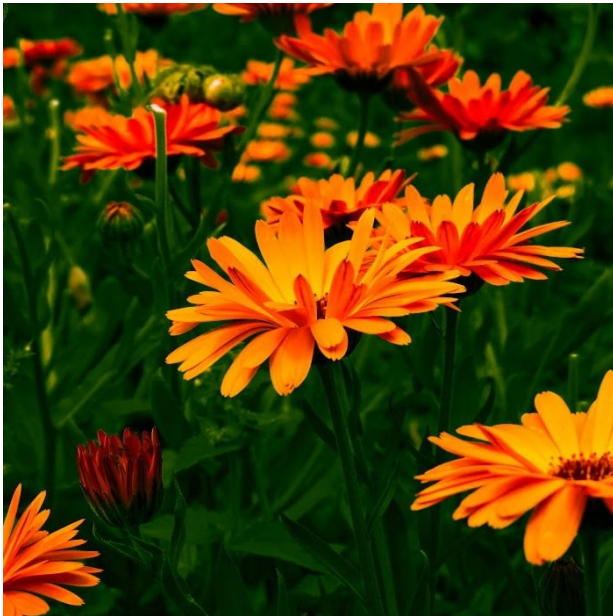


**FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
YEAR 2024**

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