



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WOOSTER

TOWER TIDINGS NOVEMBER 2024

Dear Friends,

The autumn colors this year have been as beautiful as any I can remember. Even as the trees relinquish their many shades of yellow, orange, copper, and red, I treasure the lush carpet arrayed at their feet. May these images layer our memories as winter seeps in.

We are entering the season of Thanksgiving in preparation for Advent. Within these pages, the theme of thankfulness appears in many different forms. Our first monthly worship service remembers and gives thanks for those in our congregation and wider families and friends who have died since last year's All Saint's Day. The following Sunday, November 10, is a celebration of our youth as they lead us in worship, and during the offertory moment we will also bring our pledges for the work of our church for Year 2025. During the 8:45 time of ARISE this month, "Gratitude Stations" are set up in the chapel.

Thanksgiving is present in our mission and ministry efforts with a soup-making project, continuation of plastic bag recycling, and Christmas cards for local jail inmates. We also lift up Tim and Carol Hall's trip to western North Carolina to distribute laundry supplies to the many folks impacted by Hurricane Helene.

Times of fellowship are especially rich these days and include decorating the church for Christmas and the Downtown Church Walk, Friday Fellowship on November 8, and Mixed Company on November 15. And it will be a special joy to welcome Sonnenberg Station back to our sanctuary for an afternoon concert on Sunday, November 10, at 3:00 p.m.

I am particularly thankful for all the individuals, couples, and families we have welcomed into our midst these past few years. At 8:45 in the Parlor on the Sundays of November 3, 10, and 17, I will be hosting a time to explore church membership in First Presbyterian and to ask questions of me and leaders in our congregation. No reservations are necessary – just come for warm fellowship and conversation.

May this month truly be a time of thanks-giving for all the blessings we have received and those we have shared with others.

Blessings and Peace,

David

2025	2026	2027	Staff
Paula Abrecht	Wes Davis	Tammy Brooks	Rev. David Rice
Dave Earley	April Gamble	Mark Gordon	Amy Baxstrom, CE
Bobbi Jentes-Mason	Laura Neill	Steve LoGuidice	
Mimi Lewellen	Kris Evans	Jeff Perkins	
		Lisa Rumbaugh, Clerk	

This highlight for Tower Tidings is written to update the congregation on the work of the Session in October 2024.

During the Session meeting on October 23, 2024, the dates for the November and December meetings were determined: November 20, 2024 and December 18, 2024 (if needed). Session typically does not meet in December unless needed. There will be a Session meeting on Sunday, December 8 at 9:45 a.m. in the Parlor to welcome any new members who may wish to join that day. Session members honored the life of member Harry S. McClarran, who passed away on 10.17.2024. The names of volunteers for serving communion for the months January-June 2025 were collected. Youth members will begin to help serve communion also.

The Building Use Policy 2024 was reviewed, discussed and approved by Session during this meeting. Tim Hall, Donna Bye and Lisa Rumbaugh worked on the draft of this policy to update it to include current practices and new pricing.

David Rice checked with members of Session that were present this evening about their contacts with prospective new members. Discussion continued on this topic, with planning for informational sessions about membership and the date of December 8, 2024 as a specific date to welcome new members. Of course, anyone is welcome to join the church membership at any time.

Minutes from each ministry team were reviewed by Session prior to the meeting and discussed if needed. Faith and Structure, along with RDM, requested approval to purchase the necessary equipment to replace the HVAC in the lower level Fellowship Hall by the end of 2024 to avoid the price increase predicted for that equipment in 2025. Session approved the motion for the purchase of this equipment. The cost of installation will be added on to the cost of the replacement project when it is completed.

April Gamble thanked Ann Gastier for the meaningful message shared from the pulpit on October 20, 2024. She also thanked Lisa Rumbaugh for her words during the Stewardship message on that same date.

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 Resource Development Ministry!

Our church family is two weeks away from Stewardship Sunday where we finalize our commitments for 2025 by turning in our pledge cards as a group and is a part of this special service. As you know, your commitments are critical to the ministry teams and church staff as we plan for our 2025 programming, outreach and structure needs.

The RDM has scheduled several speakers from among the FPC family throughout the pledge campaign to highlight their commitment and joy received from the church. Please prayerfully reflect on your own FPC experiences and spiritual meaning as you complete your family's pledge card.

If you have not received a 2025 pledge card in the mail, please go to the church office or see one of the members of the RDM listed below.

Blessings and peace,

Tom Rumbaugh, chair

Stuart Miller; Dana Brooks, treasurer; Laura Neill; Steve Loguidice;

Jeff Perkins; David Rice, pastor; and Mark Gordon



FALLING LEAVES, RISING GRATITUDE

A Time to Reflect, A Time to Give Thanks

Join us for gratitude stations this November on Sunday mornings from 8:45-9:15 in the Chapel.

November 3 - Gratitude for those who've gone before us.

November 10 - Gratitude for God's Creation

November 17 - Gratitude for Community

**Traditional ARISE will resume on November 24
with the theme Gratitude for God.**



Faith and Worship

In the fall, F&W moves through Rally Day and the start of the Program Year, to World Communion Day, All Saints Day, and suddenly we are prepping for Advent and Christmas. It's a busy season.

Faith and Worship would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Ann Gastier for the World Communion display this year. Ann collects all the bread herself and then works on the display on Sunday morning. This year F&W members contributed the textiles to the display and the communion chalices and pitchers were from First Presbyterian's own collection. Thank you, Ann, for the meaningful and truly lovely display!



ADVENT and CHRISTMAS SEASON

NOVEMBER

During November/December: Order in honor/memory of poinsettias for chancel

11/21: Fluffing wreaths, swags, and garlands, **1:00pm in the Parlor**; help appreciated

11/24: Decorating the church **after 10:30 worship service**; help appreciated

DECEMBER

1, 8, 15, 22: Advent Sundays; children and youth participation during lighting of Advent candles

12/6: Downtown Church Walk

12/15: Presentation of children/youth musical abilities during the service

12/24: Christmas Eve Service (Candlelight): **Music at 6:45pm; Service at 7:00pm**

12/29: Shared worship service with Westminster Presbyterian;
at First Presbyterian this year

JANUARY 2025

1/5: Undecorate the church **after the 10:30 service**; help appreciated



Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettias in honor or memory of loved ones will be used to enhance the beauty of our sanctuary this Christmas. You may purchase a plant for \$12.00 each. If you do not wish to own a plant, you may choose to donate to the Special Christmas offering or the FPC Flower Fund (indicate on your check's Memo line where your donation should go). Names of your loved ones will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin and scrolled during the broadcast. Plants may be picked up after the service. Those left will be distributed.

Please submit your request to the Office by December 17.

Your Name-----

In Memory: Plant or Donation (circle one)

Name(s) -----

In Honor: Plant or Donation (circle one)

Name(s)-----



Help Decorate the Church

Faith and Worship needs help to decorate the church for
Advent and Christmas on **Sunday, November 24.**

If you can donate a little time after the 10:30 service to hang door swags, wreaths, put up the
sanctuary and mitten trees, set up nativity scenes, or drape garlands,
your help will be **so** appreciated!

We will also need help to UN-decorate on **Sunday, January 5**

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



Help “Fluff” Swags, Wreaths, and Garlands

Do you have a little time to help the Faith and Worship team
“fluff” our Christmas swags, wreaths and garlands this year?

We have found that fluffing these decorations prior
to hanging them makes decorating the church go much more quickly.

If you would like to help us, we will be meeting in the Parlor
on **Thursday, November 21 at 1:00pm.**

The more hands, the merrier!



Check out the calendar below for events.
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)

November 3rd

Youth Pizza and Pies
We will be making pies for the YMCA Thanksgiving Dinner.

November 10th

Youth Sunday 10:30

November

Hiking

A reminder that Youth Sunday is Sunday, November 10th.
We will be working on things during Sunday school prior to that date.
Please plan to attend!





Friday Fellowship

Join us on **November 8th** at 11:30 for our next Friday Fellowship. We will have lunch together and hear from an organization in our community that is helping those in need.

The cost is a \$5 donation.

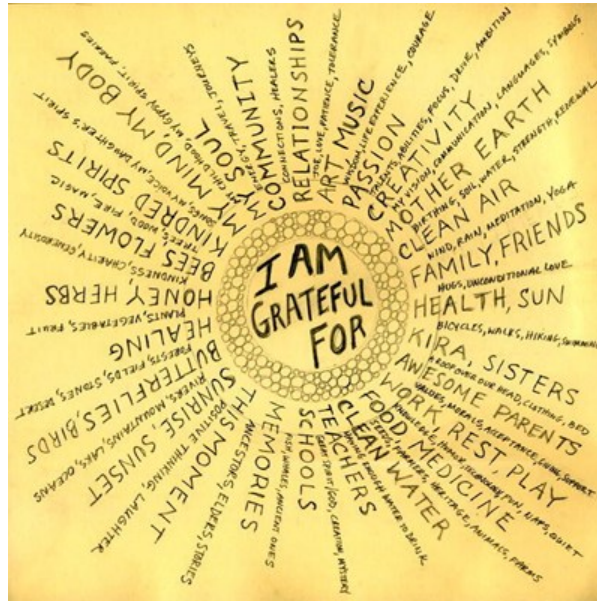
[Register here](#) or email Amy Baxstrom

abaxstrom@firstpreswooster.org



Join us on Sunday Nov 10th for our Youth Led Worship service. **The theme is Healing and Wholeness.**

Please plan to attend to this most important service as we heal as a community after this election season.



Thanking God for those that have gone before us, thanking God for a beautiful creation, thanking God for our Community are aspects of our ARISE Gratitude stations in November. We hope you will take some time on Sunday morning and thank God for the many ways we are blessed. Beginning on November 3 at 8:30, join us in the chapel for our ARISE Gratitude series.



Join us for intergenerational Sunday School in Bruch Hall beginning Dec 1.



The Faith & Nurture Ministry Team welcomes you to the next Euchre Tournament on Friday, November 8th in Bruch Hall. All skill levels are welcome, and you don't even need to bring a partner. There will be an instructional session at 6:30 and the tournament will kick off at 7:00. Bring a deck of cards, a \$5 entry fee, and an appetizer or dessert to share. The winner of the tournament will select a church ministry where the tournament winnings will be donated.

Please RSVP to Kim Ogle at 440-759-8422 (call or text) or kimwestogle@msn.com.

(RSVP is not necessary but will help the team prepare for set-up and the tournament structure.)

Come join us for fun, fellowship and some friendly competition!

A Generous Response And A Successful Trip

On the first of October, Dahlia Northside Laundry Center announced they would be collecting laundry supplies for a relief effort to the victims of Hurricane Helene. Soon donations started coming in from our customers, the community, our church family, and friends. In roughly 14 days we were blessed with almost enough laundry supplies to wash 10,000 loads of laundry. We also had a need for some warm hooded sweatshirts and socks. Our community also responded with 60 sweatshirts and dozens of socks. The generosity did not stop there. A few more donors came to us with cash donations, some of it specifically given for food and gas for our crew to get there and back safely.

We were informed the day before our trip that the organization (Shower up) who we were working with in Asheville, NC was no longer needed and they were going home. They were providing showers and laundry service to victims and first responders. After a couple hours of panic and phone calls, we partnered up with Hope International working out of Burnsville, NC. We agreed to meet them at Evergreen Baptist Church in Erwin, TN. Evergreen is a distribution center for the area. Evergreen Baptist hosted us overnight and on Saturday we met up with our partners from Burnsville.

We were informed by the Burnsville group they had a makeshift road over the mountain to Burnsville and they would be happy to take some of our donations. The folks on the North Carolina side of the mountain were going to be without power for multiple months so they had built a washer/dryer trailer to get up the road and were staying to support the residents of the area.

We were then informed that there was a need for our supplies in the town of Marshall, NC and asked if we could deliver some there. Our adventure took us to Marshall after leaving some supplies with Evergreen. Once in Marshall we were greeted with a large concentration of National Guard troops who promptly unloaded us, and the coordinator of the distribution center was ecstatic to get laundry supplies. The Guard troops were looking a little down, so we handed them the few bags of candy we took with us, and they lit back up.

We asked the coordinator of the center if she had any needs we could help with. She gave us a short list, so we drove back to the Evergreen center and was loaded with the supplies needed and we went back to Marshall. The town had just been opened up so the cleanup work was beginning.

Carol and I would like to express our sincere thanks to all who donated and sent their prayers with us!

Thank You,

Tim, Carol, and Nichole Hall



Hurricane Helene
Relief efforts—Laundry Supplies and Clothes Donations



CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR JAIL INMATES

Faith and Practice is honored to be continuing Don Beane's project of collecting Christmas cards to give to inmates at the Wayne County Jail for them to send to family and friends. These can be a few cards you have left from last year or a new box you might want to purchase. Faith and Practice will give the cards, including a stamp for each one, to the Chaplain at the jail to distribute to inmates.

The Chaplain asks that cards:

- *Be new with no writing on them
- *Include an envelope that fits the card

You may leave your card donations in the designated box in the gathering area. Thank you!





COOKING

WHITE BEAN & SAUSAGE SOUP

Would you like to help make soup? April Gamble will be in the kitchen on Saturday, November 16 from 10am-1pm making White Bean and Sausage soup! If you can't help in the kitchen, April is happy to accept donations of:

- **carrots**
- **yellow onions**
- **celery**
- **canned white beans (canned Navy, Cannellini, or Northern)**

Please contact April at aprilgamble11@gmail.com if you plan on helping or donating!



Mixed Company will meet Friday, November 15th at 11:30am at
The Pine Tree Barn. Please let Kathy Turning know by
November 12th, if you will be joining us.
Her telephone number is 330-347-6620.



Fall Photos of the beautiful, colorful foliage outside at FPC.

Photos taken by: Laura Neill





Plastic Bag recycling isn't just for plastic bags!!! This time of year you may be getting lots of those Tyvek and other plastic shipping envelopes and packages. And various retail bags, even the heavier ones, are all recyclable! Don't forget bread wrappers, plastic overwrap (like from paper towels), newspaper bags, and zip lock bags!

Even better - REUSE! - Air pillows, bubble wrap, brown packing paper, padded envelopes (with bubblewrap or recycled finely shredded paper) can be donated to Friendtique, Mission Thrift, or Goodwill for their reuse in packing sold items or to resell.

Plastic shopping bags and more can be recycled in the container next to the church office, or at Kohl's and other retailers. These are being collected by Rotary to be made into a park bench of "plastic" wood.

If you have questions, contact Carla Hall or Shannon Foster or consult the Trex webpage at: <https://nextrex.com/view/educate#materials1>

Your Earth Care Committee

All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.



PALLET WRAP AND
STRETCH FILM



GROCERY BAGS



BREAD BAGS



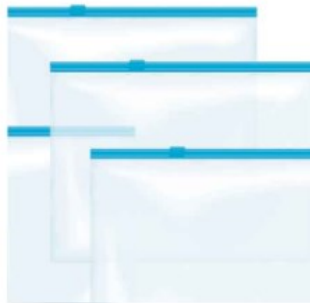
CASE OVERWRAP



DRY CLEANING BAGS



NEWSPAPER SLEEVES



ZIPLOC® AND OTHER
RESEALABLE FOOD
STORAGE BAGS



PRODUCE BAGS



PRODUCT WRAP



RETAIL BAGS



AIR PILLOWS



BUBBLE WRAP



PLASTIC SHIPPING
ENVELOPES



ELECTRONIC WRAP

SONNENBERG STATION

Men's Ensemble

"As the crisp autumn air settles in, Sonnenberg Station once again seeks to celebrate the rich tapestry of fall through song. From traditional choral arrangements to spirited folk tunes, our repertoire reflects the beauty of nature and the camaraderie of community. Together, we'll explore themes of gratitude, reflection, and of course, love. We invite our audiences to share in the joy and nostalgia that autumn brings. Let our harmonies paint the vibrant landscape of this cherished time, as we welcome the season with open hearts and resonant voices."

Fall Concert Series

singing: powerful and primal, delicate and divine

Saturday

November 2nd, 3 PM

Trinity United Church of Christ
915 North Main Street
Akron, Ohio 44310

Saturday

November 2nd, 7 PM

Sonnenberg Mennonite Church
14367 Hackett Rd
Kidron, Ohio 44667

Saturday

November 9th, 7 PM

St Timothy's Episcopal Church
226 3rd Street Southeast
Massillon, Ohio 44646

Sunday

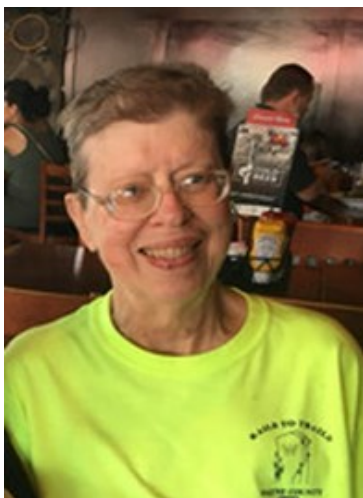
November 10th, 3 PM

First Presbyterian Church
621 College Avenue
Wooster, OH 44691

Sunday

November 10th, 7 PM

First Moravian Church of Dover
319 N Walnut St
Dover, OH 44622



The congregation extends its sympathy to the family of former FPC member Linda Melenbacker who died October 21, 2024. Linda was born in Wabash, Indiana and graduated from Rittman High School. She earned a B.S. in music from Bowling Green State University. Linda was employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for over twenty years and retired in 2010. She supported the Medina County Raptor Center and Medina County Parks and enjoyed working out and astronomy. Linda is survived by a brother, three sisters, and many nieces and nephews.



The congregation extends its sympathy to the family of longtime member Harry McClarran who died October 17, 2024. Harry was born in Wooster and graduated from Wooster High School in 1966 and Salem College in 1970. He received a master's degree in history from Marshall University in 1971.

Harry was employed by the City of Wooster as an operator with the water pollution control plant for over 30 years. Harry most recently resided at Smithville Western Care Center.

Harry was very active in several Masonic organizations. He was also an avid historian with a particular interest in the history of Wooster, Chautauqua, and the Civil War. Harry was declared the "Official City of Wooster Historian" by former mayor Jamie Howey. He worked for decades on a pictorial history of Wooster that was published as "A Glimpse from the Front Porch and Bridge to the Past: A Photographic History of Wooster, Ohio 1808-2008".

Harry is survived by his wife Susan and several children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.





NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November 1	Cy Morgan, IV, Richard Odenkirk
November 3	Mark Elderbrock
November 5	Troy McMillen
November 6	Janet Calhoun
November 7	Donald (Don) James
November 8	Kennedy McMillen
November 9	Karmon James
November 11	Matthew (Matt) Call, Gwen Short Calin Baxstrom
November 12	Diana Day
November 13	Laura Scott
November 15	Kristi Hiner
November 16	Jonathan (Jon) Neill
November 17	Amy Baxstrom, Marcus Ladrach, Beth Ladrach, Charles Pfeiffer
November 18	Vince Giffin
November 21	Susan Clyde
November 23	Richard (Rick) Peterson, Abrielle James
November 24	Tricia Vossler
November 26	Scott Buehler
November 27	Saran Wright
November 28	Mark Gordon
November 29	Eleanor Davis



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!

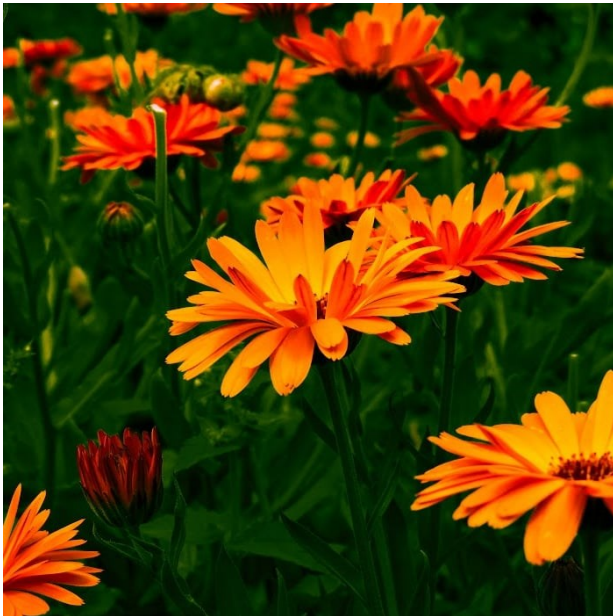


FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP YEAR 2024

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. 201
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