



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WOOSTER

TOWER TIDINGS OCTOBER 2023

Dear Friends,

As the fall season deepens and autumn colors begin to dominate, we also see, reflected in our program year, the many hues of our diverse programs and ministries.

Some of the offerings you will encounter in these pages mark post-pandemic returns to our calendar: Friday Fellowship, Fall Festival, First Friends, our children singing in worship, our Youth-led service, the annual Women's Fellowship Rummage Sale, Senior Men's Lunch, Mixed Company, book studies.

And then there are the new arrivals that offer diverse alternatives: Eventide meditative worship, Find Belonging at the Table, additional Bible studies, creative new activities for youth . . . the list goes on.

World Communion Sunday and the receiving of the Peace and Global Witness Offering leads our worship into the month of October. In the pre-pandemic years, we would feature special worship leadership from international peacemakers sponsored by our denomination and visiting mission co-workers from other countries. My hope is that in the future we might return to this practice, which deeply enriches our worship life and connects us to God's work in the world.

To close our worship this month, our youth will be leading us on the last Sunday of October. As we have experienced each year, we will give thanks for their energy and creativity and the profound demonstrations of their journeys along the Way of Jesus.

Closer to home, we have the opportunity to prepare our former manse to be put on the market and sold as a way of strengthening the financial ministry of our church. As an added bonus, the day after our workday we are invited to tour the house and admire the efforts we expended to help its sale.

May you continue to experience the presence of God's Spirit as we move further along in the year.

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 September 2023.

Session heard reports from each of the coordinating teams. Highlights from these reports included celebrations of increased participation in both new and continuing programs. Please look for the informative pamphlet created by Amy Baxstrom that outlines the many programs and opportunities available. This attractive brochure can be found in the Gathering Area. We will celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 1 and collect the Peace and Global Witness special offering.

The current financial status of the church was updated and discussion followed. Resources for financial planning ideas are being explored as the representative from Muskingum Valley Presbytery that was assisting is no longer available. Members of Session heard an update about the College Avenue Manse. The City of Wooster has approved all of the deed restriction and re-zoning of the property. There are several tasks that need to be completed prior to putting the manse on the market. A congregational Workday is scheduled for Saturday, October 7 at 9:00 a.m. to clear clutter from the interior of the building and complete necessary yard work. On Sunday, October 8, following the 10:15 a.m. service, those who would like to walk through the Manse are welcome to walk across the parking lot and visit the property.

The work of the Nominating Team will begin officially in January 2024. There will be a need for two ruling elders and several deacons next year, so please offer any suggestions to Mimi Lewellen or a current Session member (listed above).

Members of Session will continue to meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Our next scheduled meeting will be on October 25th. 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 Debt Destruction Committee (DDC)??!?!?

While browsing through the FPC history albums located in our gathering area a few weeks ago, I came across an old article from the Daily Record regarding the formation of the “Debt Destruction Committee” (DDC) whose task was to retire the debt taken on by the congregation 10 years earlier to build our present-day structure.

I did find the name of the DDC somewhat humorous and an obvious illustration of the passion that this group and congregation felt toward being good stewards and keeping our church home and family fiscally sound. Although the Resource Development Ministry’s (RDM) name is not quite as dramatic as the DDC, our dedicated group and congregation shares the same passion of fiscal responsibility as our predecessors.

Speaking of fiscal responsibility, as you know, the RDM has recommended to Session and is proceeding with the sale of the recently vacated College Avenue manse. We recently toured the house with our realtor and compiled a list of light tasks in order make it more marketable to potential buyers.

How can you help? The RDM and the Faith & Structure Ministries are planning a congregation workday on Saturday, October 7 starting at 9am. We are also planning a farewell open house to the manse on Sunday, October 8 following the 10:15 services.

Peace and blessings,

Tom Rumbaugh, chair

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





We are excited to bring back Friday Fellowship. This time of conversation, learning, and meal sharing will have a Social Justice theme with speakers from our community. This month we will meet together on **Friday, October 6th at 11:30 a.m. in Bruch Hall**. The speaker will be Carol McKiernan. Carol will be talking to us about the Matthew 25 Project which entails the pill bottle work we have been doing. She will also be giving us more information about the Matthew 25 Organization that is spearheading this. There is a donation asked to cover the cost of the lunch. See Amy Baxstrom for more information and to RSVP or use the link below to sign up

[CLICK HERE](#)



We are excited to be back together on Sunday mornings to learn, explore, and journey together in our faith. We have some new leadership and new ways of spending our time together including monthly service projects and spiritual practices. We hope to see you each to build on those relationships with each other and Christ. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Youth Center. This year Rachel will be using some of our time to start a handbell choir and other musical fun! So please **PLAN ON ATTENDING!** Our youth Sunday school is for anyone in 7th through 12th grade.

Upcoming events

September 27th- Wednesday Meal and Community 6:00-7:00 p.m.

October 8th- Fall Festival 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Please plan to attend DRESSED up to play games and pass out candy!



Join us on the last 2 Wednesdays of the month for some Food, Faith, and Fun with Edible Theology. Over a shared meal we will examine ways the ways food and community are intimately connected, and you will see how God uses food to heal our relationships with our bodies, our relationships with community, and our relationships with God. If you've never considered the spiritual implications of food or you don't think of yourself as a "foodie", that's ok! Each gathering will help our community grow in our understanding of the ways food shapes us- and we will find rest, joy, and healing every time we eat!

Join us on October 18th and 25th from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Each week will focus on a different type or style of food. See Amy Baxstrom for more information.



**Please join us for our Youth-led worship
on Sunday, October 29th at 10:15am.**



Fall Festival/Trunk or Treat

Our annual Fall Festival is Sunday, October 8 from 4:00pm-6:00pm. If you remember this event reaches 100's of people in our community. It's just as much fun for them as it is for me! I am always appreciative of your donations that help make this event happen. Donations of candy, time, car trunks, money, and volunteers are necessary to facilitate this event. If you want to help, please click below and sign-up.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Thank you!

Amy Baxstrom



Children's Music at First Pres Wooster



For Fall 2023, Godly Play and Bible Town classes will begin Sunday School together in the purple room for music at 9:00. Godly Play will head to their classroom by 9:15, followed by Bible Town at 9:25. This allows them to learn, sing, and play together, while giving the Bible Town class a chance to do some things on their own.

Jr. & Sr. High Youth will come to music time together downstairs in Classroom 2 at 9:40 after their Sunday School lessons. They will be doing some singing and ringing this year!

Please mark the dates we are leading music in worship on your calendars and plan to join us those Sundays and the Sundays leading up to them to rehearse. Rehearsal materials will also be emailed (when possible) for those who can't make it every week.

Important Dates:

October 15

Godly Play/Bible Town Music in
Worship – Children's Sabbath

October 29

Jr/Sr High Youth Music in
Worship – Youth Sunday

December 10

Jr/Sr High Music in Worship –
Ringing in Advent

December 17

Follow the Star – Advent
Musical and Special Music for
All Ages

I can't believe it has been 10 years since I started working as the Children's Music Director here at First Presbyterian Church! We will be doing a 10th anniversary production of "Follow the Star" for our Advent musical on December 17. I hope to involve some of the original cast members from 2013 in a special way on that Sunday. Thanks for letting me sing and grow with your children and youth these past ten years, and I look forward to more music to come! – Rachel

Eventide

Sunday Evenings - 6:30PM

First Presbyterian Church of Wooster



*Eventide is a casual gathering for worship, reflection, and fellowship.
Encouraging each other as we wrestle with what it means to live out our faith.*

All ages are welcome.

"The Gospel of John: Darkness and Light"

Join us for this 5 week series focusing on who Jesus was to John, and what that means for us and the world.

Sundays Sept 17 & 24 - Oct 1, 8 & 15



Blessing of the Animals Hosted by The Interfaith Justice Committee

The Interfaith Justice group will be hosting a Blessing of the Animals at **Christmas Run Park at 5:30 on October 1**. This will be a short, ecumenical service to celebrate the animals and creation that God has given us, coinciding with the upcoming feast of St Francis of Assisi. Several area clergy members will preside over the service. If you would like to bring your pet to receive a blessing, please come! Consider bringing a photo to the blessing if your pet does not like crowds or has passed away.



The Senior Men's Group will have their luncheon on Monday, October 2 at the Green Leaf Restaurant - 11:30 am. Bring your appetites and great conversation !!!

Mixed Company will meet Friday, October 6th at 12:00pm at Junipers Restaurant (formally The Pines), 1319 Millborne Road, Orrville. If you need a ride, meet at the church at 11:30am. Call Kathy Turning at 330-347-6620 by Tuesday, October 3rd if you are planning to join us.



First Friends 2.0 – Fall 2023

Greetings from Faith and Nurture – time to sign up for First Friends! For those of you not familiar, this is a dinner group of 6 – 8 persons, meeting roughly once a month, for the next 3 months (or as long as a group wishes to meet!).

No 'rules' here! Dinners can be anywhere the group chooses – each others' homes or restaurants. Also, in the past, some groups have chosen to invite others not currently active in our church community. Finally, some with busy schedules have signed up as substitutes, able to attend occasionally. Keeping the same group together for a few months, allows us to get to know each other better.

There is a sign up sheet hanging in the Gathering area, or you can call either 330-641-6688 or email Dave at earleyd54@gmail.com

Rummage Sale

Friday, November 3, 2023

Save the dates! October 31 through November 3, 2023.

This is an *all hands on deck* project which earns funds for FPC Women's Fellowship. The proceeds are used to support FPC youth programming and scholarships, community outreach, mission, kitchen maintenance, and building improvements.

This is a great way to get involved, get to know others in the congregation, and fellowship with old friends. Many hands make light work. Please consider volunteering for this worthy project. Able bodied helpers are needed especially Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday morning, and late Friday for clean-up.

This is your opportunity to have all those unwanted items in your home moved along. Before recycling, consider reducing and reusing. Your *no-longer-wanted* items will be treasures to our customers from the community.

This year we're asking that you hang on to your items until Sunday, Oct. 29. Bring them to church that day, or Monday and Tuesday from 6:30 am-6 pm. While we've previously collected items ahead, it's a lot of work to move them to storage and then bring them back out (and we aren't getting any younger). Other arrangements can be made if necessary.

Something else we'll try new this year is letting you price your own stuff! Other than items with standard prices (most clothes and books), you are welcome to mark suggested prices on your miscellaneous items.

Drop off sale items Sunday morning, Oct. 29, in the gathering area near the hallway to the parlor, or Monday and Tuesday from 6:30 am-6 pm.

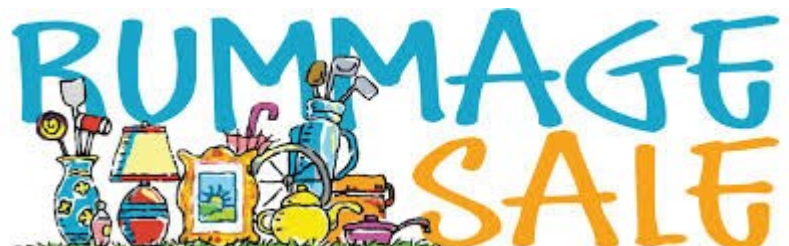
• Tuesday Oct. 31 at 3-5 pm – set-up racks and tables in Bruch Hall

• Wednesday, Nov. 1, 9 am-noon - arrange sale items on hanging racks and tables.

• Thursday, Nov. 2, 9 am-noon - items will be priced.

• Friday, Nov. 2 - The sale will run from 9 am to 5 pm. Help will also be needed from 4-6 pm to place remaining items in Goodwill bins, tear down racks and tables, and cleanup.

Your participation in as many ways as possible will be greatly appreciated. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. It's my first year as chair. Carla Hall; cell 614-761-3906;
carlahall2000@gmail.com.





Faith and Worship

The Advent and Lenten seasons are our busiest times of year as a team, so in August, Faith and Worship began solidifying plans for the rest of the 2023 liturgical year, including World Communion Sunday, All Saints' Day, Advent, and Christmas Eve services. Rachel King gave us an overview of the children's musical activities and tentative dates when they will be participating in worship services this quarter. We will also begin mapping out plans for Lent later this fall.

F&W is purchasing two new Christmas trees this year to replace our well-used and badly fraying Sanctuary and Mitten Trees. We will be decorating the Sanctuary tree with new ornaments—Chrismons (Christian symbols) which we have bought and which F&W will be painting in a uniform color, and with ornaments the children will be creating in Sunday school. The Mitten Tree will be decorated as usual with donations of mittens, socks, scarves, etc., from the congregation. In October, we will begin consolidating our Advent and Christmas decorations, checking wreaths, bows, garlands, Nativity scenes, and planning a mid-November “fluff up the decorations day.” We will also be asking for volunteers to help decorate the church for Advent/Christmas on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, so look for that announcement and more on Advent and Christmas in the November Tower Tidings.

Nancy Young/Susie Slack, Co-chairs



Ruby Newcomber took this shot of a “praying” mantis on the flowers by the entrance. We thought it symbolic that we have an insect in prayer so close to our center of worship.



**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>

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>

Thank you for Volunteering!

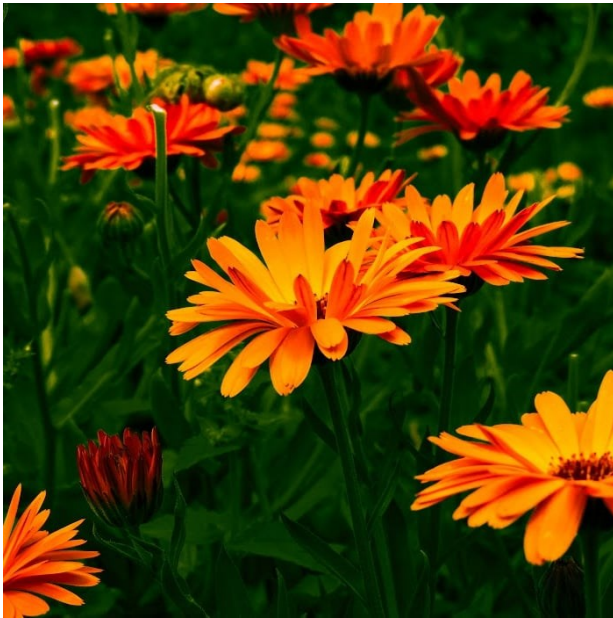


**FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
YEAR 2023**

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>





OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

October 4	Christine Nielsen
October 5	David Knowlton
October 7	Gabriel Walker
October 8	James Clyde
October 9	David Earley
October 10	Stan Burris, Jack Neill
October 12	Nancy Knowlton, Lauren Nielsen
October 13	Tim Fair
October 14	Margaret Miller
October 16	Tom Rumbaugh
October 17	Carl Schmid
October 22	Carla Hall, Gregg Short, Claire Lanham,
October 23	Beth Keck
October 24	Jack Miller
October 28	David Miller
October 29	Carol McKiernan, John Scott



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Hours: M, T, Th - 9-4
Wed & Fri. - By Appt.

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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