



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WOOSTER

TOWER TIDINGS

OCTOBER 2025

Dear Friends,

As summer is resisting its yielding into fall, our program year is off and running. Following a wonderful Rally Day, we had a delicious chili-cookoff and successful youth quarter auction and celebrated the centennial birthday of Keith Brown. After a summer pause, ARISE has returned on Sundays at 8:45, offering a meditative time of singing, prayer, and scripture to lead us into our sabbath morning.

The Session of our church spent time this summer brainstorming ideas for increasing church membership and participation. One of the focus areas was our Sunday worship and wondering what we might add or reframe to appeal to the diversity of our congregation. One of the immediate "new practices" is beginning our services with the pouring of the baptismal water into the font. Baptism theologically symbolizes our engrafting into the Body of Christ, so the liturgical act of pouring water to begin our worship reminds us of our own baptisms into the faith. Other ideas being considered are enabling those who cannot come to the pulpit to lead us in the liturgy to do so from their seat in the pews And developing a collection of prayers that various members of the congregation can offer during the time of Prayers of the People. Stay tuned for other worship enhancements!

Another area of discussion for the Session is an emphasis on financial giving in order to strengthen our fiscal future. We are now entering our annual Stewardship Season when we consider our financial pledges to the budget for Year 2026. In addition to our yearly pledges, we are also having informal presentations on estate and planned giving. Please take note of when and where these meetings are taking place and plan to attend.

Alongside these newer developments, this month's newsletter gives us information about our annual Fall Festival on Sunday, October 5, and the Women's Fellowship Rummage Sale, which will occur on November 1st. Needless to say, many of us will be digging into our attics and basements to see what we can unload!

As the colors of the season begin to change in earnest and the leaves begin to fall, may the beauty of God's creation inspire us to enjoy the fellowship, study, and worship that graces our life together in First Presbyterian Church.

Blessings and Peace,

David

Session Highlights

2026	2027	2028	Staff
Wes Davis	Tammy Brooks	Paula Abrecht	Rev. David Rice
April Gamble	Mark Gordon	Mark Gooch	Amy Baxstrom, CE
Laura Neill	Steve LoGuidice	Jack Rogers	
Kris Evans	Jeff Perkins	Becky Webb	
Calin Baxstrom-youth			
Elli Gordon-youth			
Aiden Hiner-youth		Lisa Rumbaugh, Clerk	

This highlight for Tower Tidings is written to update the congregation on the work of the Session of First Presbyterian Church. This summary will include information from the regular meeting of Session on September 24, 2025.

As Clerk of Session, Lisa Rumbaugh reported on new members (welcome David and Paige Jones and Mary Saylor) and gave an update from Muskingum Valley Presbytery. Session commissioned Tom Rumbaugh to be the elder representing FPC Wooster at future stated meetings of MVP in December 2025 and the four meetings in 2026. As a commissioned elder from FPC, Tom will vote at those meetings. Lisa Rumbaugh will be attending these meetings as Moderator Elect (2025) and Moderator (2026).

Session heard a report from the small group organized to create a cohesive plan and policies surrounding rental of the lower level of our church building. This group has met, has consulted legal and tax specialists and is working to make a list of factors to discuss with potential renters. Session will have the final approval of all rental agreements. Renovation of this level of the building continues with painting and flooring upgrades. Please offer to help with this project, if your energy and talents allow. If not, please continue to keep development of this resource project in your prayers.

Each of the Coordinating Teams offered updates from their most recent meetings. The need for coordination between teams was expressed, so the chairs of each of the teams will plan a time to discuss ministries and communication. We are thankful for the wonderful leadership and dedication of these leaders and the many people who support the ministries of our church.

As promised, Session continues to look ahead to what our church requires now and in the future. They are currently receiving guidance from the PCUSA/Muskingum Valley Presbytery through a series of meetings where they are discussing our needs as the cultural and church landscape continues to shift.

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 (RDM)

The FPC year-to-date finance numbers through August 2025 include revenue of \$357,879 and expenses of \$397,433 for a deficit of just under \$40k. Please be assured that the RDM and Session are closely monitoring this deficit and formulating financial plans to correct this going forward.

The stewardship season is upon us (already!!) and the RDM is busy planning a campaign in the next few weeks to fund our mission, programming, and operations for next year. Be on the lookout for your 2026 pledge cards and informative fiscal presentations by the members of RDM. If your church group would like an RDM representative to present the FPC budget and answer questions, please feel to contact one of the RDM members listed below.

We also held our first "legacy event" for FPC members last July. This event was the first of a series of events that outline different strategies to possibly save taxes and help FPC with our missions, programming, and operations. Our next legacy event will be held on Sunday, October 26 at 4pm. If you are interested in attending, please contact the church office or one of the RDM members listed below.

Peace and blessings,

Tom Rumbaugh, Chair

Dana Brooks, treasurer, Stuart Miller, Laura Neill,

Mark Gordon, Steve Logiudice, Jeff Perkins, and David Rice, pastor



Check out the calendar below for events.

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

Upcoming Events

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

October 4th
Ramseyer's Fundraiser Help

October 5th
Fall Festival

October 15th
Family Art- Pumpkin Decorating

October 19th
Murder Mystery Dinner

November 9th
Youth Sunday





**Join us for our annual Fall Festival
Trunk or Treat Family Event**

First Presbyterian Church

621 College Ave

Sunday October 5th

3:00pm-5:00pm.

**Crafts– Candy– Free Food– Traditional Fall Fun all outdoors!
In case of inclement weather, we will move it inside.**



Please let Amy know if you are available to help that day.

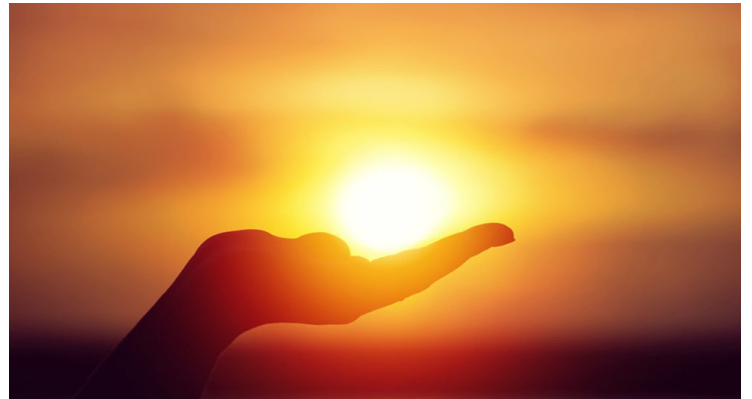
Volunteers for crafts, games, and passing out candy are needed!

Also, donations of candy and money to offset the pizza are welcomed!





ARISE begins in the Chapel at 8:45am on Sunday mornings. ARISE is A Relational Intergenerational Spiritual Experience with soft music, devotions, mediations, prayer and more. These gatherings help stir the Spirit within us.



On Wednesday, October 15th we will host our next Family Art Night- Pumpkin Decorating from 6:30-7:30. This is NOT carving but decorating pumpkins and other fall crafts. Please let Amy Baxstrom know if you can attend!

All Youth and their friends are invited to our Murder Mystery Dinner on Sunday October 18th at 5:00 in the youth center. We will have dinner and a fun game of "who done it?" Please RSVP to Amy Baxstrom so characters can be planned!



FPC Children's Music

October 2025 Update!

October 19 - Children's Sabbath

Sunday, October 19 Godly Play will be singing the song "Praise Him in the Morning" with the help of Bible Town and Jr. High Youth accompanying them on xylophones!

Please plan to come to worship that Sunday and also to rehearse during Sunday School time!

Contact Rachel at rking@firstpreswooster.org for more info!



**Join us for music time each week
during Sunday School!**

Save these dates:

November 9 - Youth Sunday (Jr. & Sr. High Youth)

December 7 & 14 - Advent Celebration

(Everybody! Stay tuned for more info.)

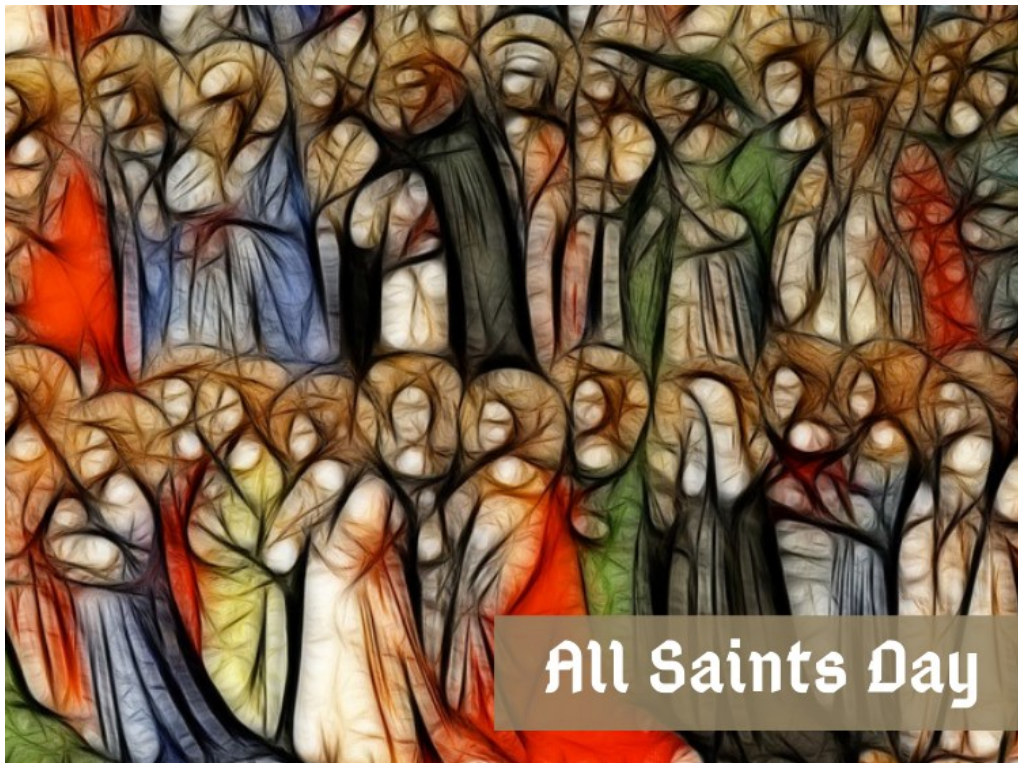
Faith and Worship

"For All The Saints Who From Their Labors Rest"

During the All Saints Day service on November 2, First Presbyterian Church will recognize those saints who have died within the past year. Names will be read and a white rose will be given to a family member or friend.

If you would like a loved one of yours to be included, please contact the church office (330-264-9420) by **October 19th**.

Sponsored by the Faith and Worship Coordinating Team





Fall Rummage Sale - Saturday, November 1, 2025

Save the dates! October 28 through November 1

The Rummage Sale 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. Please consider volunteering for this worthy project. Able bodied helpers are especially needed Wednesday afternoon, Thursday morning, and late Saturday afternoon for clean-up. Many hands make light work.

The Rummage Sale is an opportunity for the entire congregation to have those unwanted items in your home moved along. Before recycling, consider reducing and reusing. Your *no-longer-wanted* items will be treasures to others. Feel free to ask friends, family members, and *anyone* to contribute stuff.

You can price your own stuff – if you want! Other than items with standard prices (most clothes and books), you are welcome to mark suggested prices on your miscellaneous items, or we'll take care it.

- ☐ Starting Sunday, Oct. 26, drop off sale items in the gathering area near the hallway to the parlor. (If you need to bring things earlier, please contact us-see below).
- ☐ Tue., Oct. 28 from 4-6 pm – set-up racks and tables in Bruch Hall; move items from 2nd-floor storage to Bruch Hall
- ☐ Wed., Oct. 29, 9 am-noon - arrange sale items on hanging racks and tables.
- ☐ Thu., Oct. 30, 9 am-noon – help price items.
- ☐ Fri., Oct. 31, 9 am-noon – we'll finish up what needs to be done to take a day off!
- ☐ Sat., Nov. 1 - The sale will run from 9 am to 3 pm. Help will also be needed from 3-5 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 myself (Carla Hall; cell 614-761-3906, carlahall2000@gmail.com) or Shannon Foster (cell 330-439-8376, shannonfoster4353@gmail.com) with questions



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2025

RUMMAGE SALE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

9 AM - 2 PM

\$5 BAG SALE STARTS 1 PM

Clothing, shoes, jewelry, kitchen and
household goods, holiday items, and more!

Proceeds allow Women's Fellowship to carry
out mission and church projects

621 COLLEGE AVE
WOOSTER

***GABE BOSLER-KILMER'S
EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT - AT FPC***



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



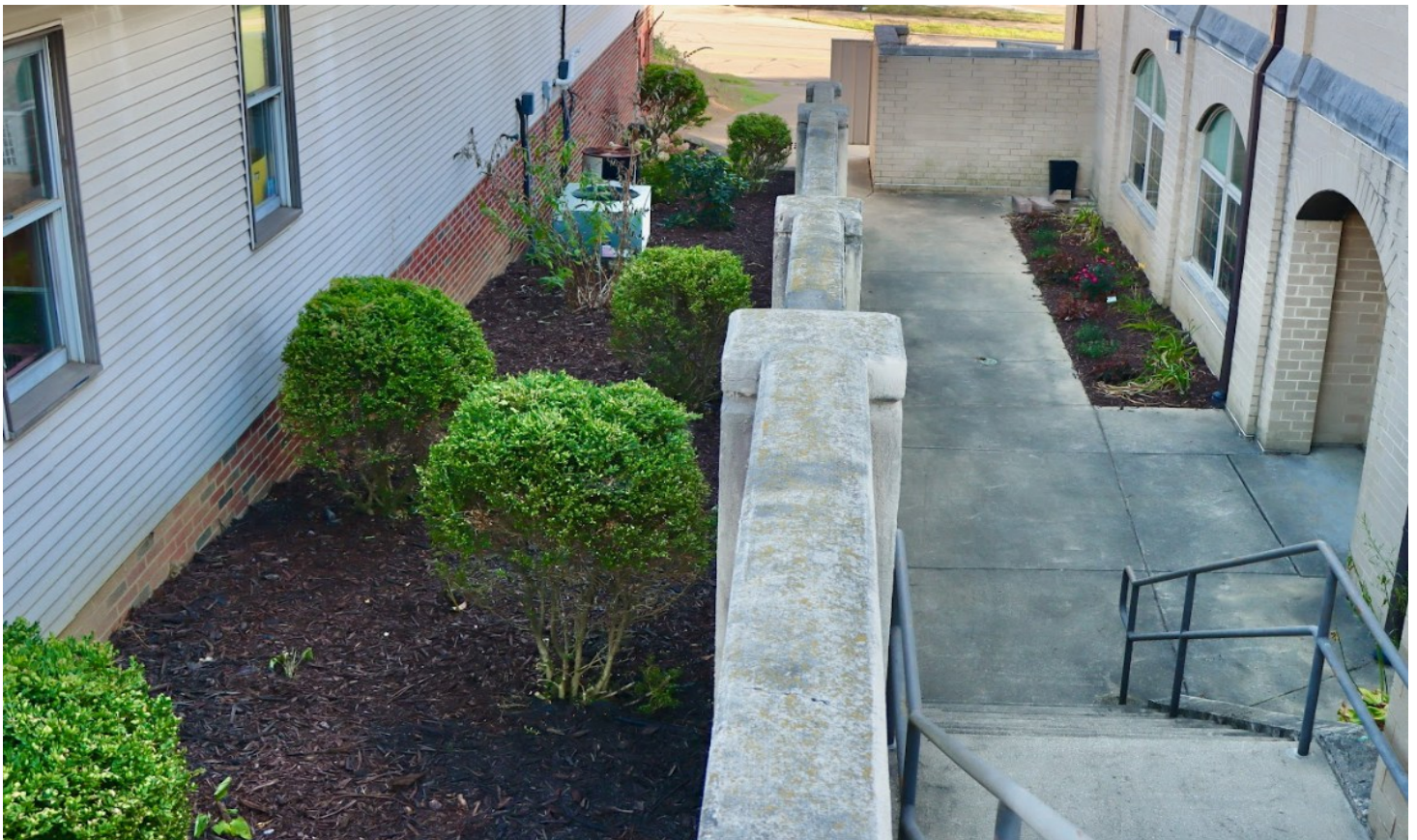
AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



THANK YOU GABE!!





It may be cliché, but one of the quickest and easiest ways to reduce your environmental impact is by swapping out your old incandescent bulbs for LEDs. Traditional incandescent bulbs use 60 watts of energy per hour. If left on 6 hours a day that's \$26 per year and 120 pounds of carbon pollution—just for a single light bulb! Swapping that incandescent for an LED reduces it to just \$4 a year and 18 pounds of pollution. Multiply that times all the bulbs in your house and that's a lot of savings! Especially considering that LED bulbs cost roughly the same as incandescent bulbs and last 10x longer. And don't bother with the twisty CFL bulbs. They use 50% more energy than LEDs and contain toxic mercury.

God tells us to be stewards of earth. In Genesis 2:15, one of God's first statements to Adam in the garden is to tend and keep the garden. The Hebrew words here, 'abad' and 'shamar' can also be translated to 'serve' and 'protect.' It may seem silly to suggest that changing your light bulbs helps serve and protect God's creation, but that's exactly what it does. Not only does cutting electricity save you money, but it also reduces how much coal or methane gas are burned to create that electricity. That means cleaner air, cleaner water, fewer mountaintops being removed for coal mining, and an overall healthier environment in Ohio.

Some people are concerned about the color of LED bulbs, but they come in many different tones. If you like the warmer light of traditional bulbs buy the "warm white" LED bulbs. (Hint: Look for bulbs listed below 3000k temperature, and preferably around 2,700k for a truly warm color). Unsure where to get started? Feel free to reach out to Brian Webb anytime, who has generously offered to help FPC congregants reduce the energy footprint of their homes. He's glad to do a personal tour of your house and offer tips for reducing your energy consumption. (climate.brian@gmail.com or 585-808-4629).



REDUCE, REUSE, AND RECYCLE RELIGIOUSLY

REDUCE WASTE



RETHINK: "DO WE REALLY NEED THIS?"



REFUSE: SAY NO TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS



REDUCE: RESIST OVERCONSUMPTION

REUSE ITEMS SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE DISPOSAL



REPURPOSE: THRIFTING, SWAPS, CRAFT GIFTS WITH REPURPOSED MATERIALS



USE A SPIRIT OF CREATIVITY TO MODEL VALUES OF CONSERVATION



REUSE ITEMS

RECYCLE & ROT



EDUCATE CONGREGATIONS ON WHAT IS AND ISN'T RECYCLEABLE/COMPOSTABLE



CREATE RECYCLING & COMPOSTING PROGRAMS IN YOUR HOUSE OF WORSHIP



WORK INTENTIONALLY TO REDUCE (FOOD) WASTE THROUGH COMPOST & RECYCLING

ALL FAITH, ZERO-WASTE: FAITHFULLY REDUCING PLASTICS

WHY REDUCE PLASTICS?

- Plastic pollution damages ecosystems and harms well-being.
- Microplastics end up in our water and food sources leading to health issues and cancer.
- Serious injustice of which communities are most harmed by our plastic use.



WHAT CAN I DO?

- Try a plastic-free Lenten season or other season
- Reduce single-use plastics by using reusable bags, water bottles, utensils, and straws
- Eat less shellfish - they contain the most microplastics
- Educate yourself on your personal plastic use:
 - How much plastic do you use on a weekly basis?
 - What happens to your plastic waste after you discard it?
- Advocate! Reach out to local, state, and national representatives to support environmental policies



WHAT CAN MY CHURCH DO?

- Reduce the amount of plastics used for community meals (switch to reusable paper or bamboo instead)
- Do a community cleanup around your church/neighborhood
- Donate to support communities impacted by pollution
- Advocate for your denomination to divest from fossil fuels



EMPTY BOWLS

Drive Thru Soup Fundraiser



to benefit

A WHOLE COMMUNITY, INC.

AWC provides farm-fresh produce
to food pantries, meal sites and
low-income neighborhoods

Thursday, Oct. 2nd

3:30 - 6:30 pm

**at Buehler's Wooster Milltown
front parking lot**

3540 Burbank Road (near the pick up lanes)

Dinner Includes

- Your choice of 16 oz. soup:
*Chicken Noodle, Clam Chowder, Tomato Basil,
Chili, Broccoli Noodle or Vegan Vegetable*
- Bakery Dinner Roll & Donut
(food donated by Buehler's)

\$15 Per Dinner

Optional pottery bowls, plates & mugs
available for an additional \$15
(donated by local potter Jack Rogers)



NEW! Pottery Vase & Gift Card Raffle

Tickets: \$1 each or 6 for \$5

Win one of three pottery vases with a \$50 restaurant gift card!
(vases donated by Cozy Kiln Co., Wooster)



Informal Presentation on Estate and Planned Giving

Please join us for an informal, seasonal gathering which will include a presentation on wills and bequests, especially as it relates to First Presbyterian Church Wooster. Seasonal beverages and light hors d'oeuvres will be served.

When: Sunday, October 26, 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Where: Mimi Lewellen's home
1760 West Smithville-Western Road
Wooster, OH 44691

Presenters: Members of the (RDM) Team
Resource Development Ministry

RSVP: By 10/20/25 to:
Laura Neill—lauraneill89@gmail.com

Litigating for Liberation

"....rooted in the belief that no one should be imprisoned for seeking safety"



THE OHIO CENTER FOR STRATEGIC
IMMIGRATION LITIGATION & OUTREACH

OCSILiO Center Fundraiser

with Executive Director & attorney Brian Hoffman,
OCSILiO staff and clients

WHAT

- **Learn about OCSILiO:** Defending detained Ohio immigrants in their high stakes-deportation proceedings. *Q & A time to follow.*
- **Enjoy Central-American finger foods** provided by the Immigrant Worker Project (IWP) AMIGAS Cooperative
- **Free-will offering for OCSILiO** (gifts of time and talent are also appreciated)



WHEN:

Friday, October 24th, 2025

6:30 pm beginning with time
for snacks and conversation

WHERE:

**Mackey Hall @ Westminster
Presbyterian Church**

353 E. Pine St., Wooster, OH 44691



RSVP online encouraged at
wpcwoo.org/litigating
or office@wpcwooster.org

Learn more about OCSILiO
and donate online
www.ocsilio.org



*If you plan to attend this fundraiser for OCSILiO, could you **please RSVP at wpcwoo.org/litigating** or call the Westminster Presbyterian Church Office at 330-263-2398. Your RSVP will help the IWP Amigas prepare adequate finger-foods for the event.*

Litigating for Liberation with OCSILiO

Friday, October 24, 6:30 pm, at Westminster Presbyterian Church Mackey Hall

Learn more about OCSILiO's mission in action in defending detained Ohio immigrants in their high-stake deportation proceedings "....rooted in the belief that no one should be imprisoned for seeking safety." Hear from OCSILiO Executive Director, Brian Hoffman, plus first-hand stories from OCSILiO staff, College of Wooster Interns, and OCSILiO clients, with Q/A to follow. Enjoy Central-American finger foods provided by Immigrant Worker Project AMIGAS co-operative. Free-will offerings for OCSILiO will be accepted (with gifts of time and talent also appreciated).



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

October 4	Christine Nielsen
October 5	David Knowlton
October 7	Gabriel Walker
October 8	James Clyde
October 9	Dave Earley
October 10	Stan Burris, Jack Neill
October 12	Nancy Knowlton, Lauren Nielsen
October 14	Margaret Miller
October 15	Jack Rogers
October 16	Tom Rumbaugh
October 20	Susie Slack
October 22	Gregg Short, Carla Hall, Jacobo Galindo
October 23	Tim Fair, Beth Keck
October 24	Jack Miller
October 26	David Rice
October 28	Jenny Moyseenko
October 29	John Scott, Carol McKiernan



LITURGIST SIGN-UP - YEAR 2025 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!



FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP YEAR 2025

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

Office Contact Info

David Rice

Pastor & Head of Staff

Donna Bye

Office Administrator

Amy Baxstrom

Director of Family Ministries

Eric Gastier

Director of Music & Organist

Rachel King

Director of Music & Media Coordinator

Tim Hall

Building & Maintenance Supervisor

Email

drice@firstpreswooster.org

dbye@firstpreswooster.org

abaxstrom@firstpreswooster.org

organarch@aol.com

rking@firstpreswooster.org

race1959@aol.com

