



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WOOSTER

TOWER TIDINGS SEPTEMBER 2023

Dear Friends,

Is it my imagination or a function of aging that summers seem to be getting shorter each year? June seemed to evaporate, and the successive months followed suit. So, here we are on the cusp of Program Year 2023-24. However, looking through the pages of this newsletter gives me a renewed appreciation for the riches of worship, study, ministry, and fellowship that each program year brings.

The newness kicks off Sunday, September 10, with the celebration of Rally Day. A potluck breakfast will get us started at 9:00 a.m. and offer fellowship and introductions to the teams and committees that engage and lead the work of our church. Our 10:15 morning worship in the Sanctuary will be led by the Eventide team, who will be expanding the frequency of their Sunday evening spiritual reflection and worship times beginning September 17.

As a preamble to the weekend, Friday Fellowship makes a comeback at 11:30 a.m. on September 8, with the promise of mealtime conversation and a guest speaker. Additional times for food and fellowship this fall include First Friends dining groups, twice-a-month Wednesday's "Find Belonging at the Table," and Mixed Company.

The strong emphasis on Christian education that has always been a historic feature of First Presbyterian can be experienced as Sunday School classes for all ages begin on September 17 and in special offerings throughout the year such as book studies and Bible groups. Our youth ministry also swings into action on the 17th with the annual "Party at Paula's," followed by ongoing events and mission opportunities.

This coming weekend, September 9 and 10, brings two especially meaningful events. A memorial service for our beloved Gordon Shull will take place on Saturday the 9th at the church, with visitation at 10:00 a.m., followed by the service at 11:00 and a reception in Bruch Hall.

Sunday, September 10, is Lauren Johnson's birthday. Lauren has been making a very slow recovery this past year from a serious accident she suffered as a pedestrian hit by a car. As a way of supporting her during this difficult time, we are invited to send her birthday cards in the form of a "card shower." The mailing address is c/o Walter and Polly Johnson, 5098 S. Honeytown Road, Wooster, OH 44691. Thank you for your care and concern.

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 August 2023.

Session members read the minutes from coordinating team meetings this month as everyone is preparing for the new program year, which will be kicked off on September 10th. Many exciting fellowship opportunities will be announced soon, including the return of Friday Fellowship! Rev. Rice reported on the changes in the Sunday evening Eventide service. Keep watching Tower Tidings and the weekly News Flash for updates. Many thanks to the Eventide planning team for their dedication to this ministry. Amy Baxstrom, Carla Hall and Rev. Rice have recently participated in two events at the College of Wooster, meeting students and welcoming them to worship at First Presbyterian Church.

The current financial status of the church was updated and discussion followed. Jeff Perkins thanked the staff and the ministry teams for their continued diligence to provide quality programming and keep costs to a minimum. Discussion also centered around the ideas presented in a book recommended by Muskingum Valley Presbytery. Elders who read the book shared key points that will be considered when financial information is communicated to the congregation.

We continue to celebrate and support the outreach of Meals for All as that volunteer team, headed by the amazing Karen James, serves meals and creates fellowship opportunities for many folks in our community. Laura Neill, chair of Personnel ministry team, reported that the annual performance evaluations for staff are almost completed. Mimi Lewellen announced that the annual Rummage Sale, organized by Women's Fellowship, will be held November 3, 2023 in Bruch Hall with Carla Hall as the leader this year.

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 September 27th. 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 RDM is pleased to announce that the First Presbyterian Church of Wooster is the recipient of a legacy gift from the Gordon and Betty Shull family. As most of us know, Gordon, Betty and their family were dedicated, longtime leaders at First Presbyterian. I do not believe there was any mission or ministry of our church that the Shulls were not involved with, or supported, at one time. It is only fitting that their generosity continues onward. We miss you Gordon and Betty!

FPC is also benefitting from the continued generosity of the Bruch Family. This month, RDM has begun the process of applying for the annual allocation from the Bruch Family Foundation as administered by the Wayne County Community Foundation. Several years ago, Tom Bruch established this foundation to help our church family supplement their missions, programs, and structure for years and generations to come.

If anyone wishes to learn more about the benefits of legacy giving and including the First Presbyterian Church in their estate planning, please feel free to connect with any one of the members on the RDM listed below.

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. We will begin this time together on **Friday, September 8th at 11:30 a.m. in Bruch Hall**. The speaker will be Charlie Brain. Charlie will speak on the newly formed organization called Homeward Bound. This new organization will be assisting in the Severe Weather Shelter and hopes for more to come. Please sign up on the sheet in the gathering area. There is a donation asked to cover the cost of the lunch. See Amy Baxstrom or Carla Hall for more information.



Rally Day- Sunday September 10th

We are excited to be in community once again with each other. The leadership of Faith and Nurture and FPC have been working over the summer to design, implement, and discern the callings of God. Our theme for the year is listening for the Calling of God. This year as we fill our rooms with children, and our Sanctuary with music, listen. In the wilderness hikes and the shared meals, listen. In the service to others and the fellowship opportunities, listen. What is God calling you to do? Where might the nudge take you?

Please plan to join us for our Rally Day breakfast and information session on Sunday, September 10th at 9:00 am in Bruch Hall.

Please sign up on the sheet in the gathering area.



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 17th – Party at Paula’s!!! It’s THE hit of the year! RSVP to Amy!
- September 20- Wednesday Meal and Community 6:00-7:00 p.m. (see more details in TT)
- September 27th- Wednesday Meal and Community 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- October 8th- Fall Festival 4:00-6:00 p.m.



Our Bible Town class (3rd through 6th grade) is excited to be together this year! We will be using the curriculum titled *Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints*. It is sure to get our young children connected to those who have paved....and are paving...the path forward for our faith journeys! Class begins at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday.



GODLY PLAY

We are excited to greet a new teacher into our Godly Play class.

Lindsay Conrad will be joining the teaching team
and we are sure to be touched by her soft spirit.

She will be a perfect addition to our team of Sarah Davis and Carrie Gordon.

Godly Play is for our youngest learners- preschool through 2nd grade.

Class starts with Miss Rachel in music at 9:00 a.m.



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 the way 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 way food shapes us- and we will find rest, joy, and healing every time we eat!

Join us on September 20th and 27th from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Each week will focus on a different type or style of food. **For the first gathering on September 20th, each participant should bring a dish that is meaningful to them in some way. We will share stories behind each dish. See Amy Baxstrom for more information.**

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.

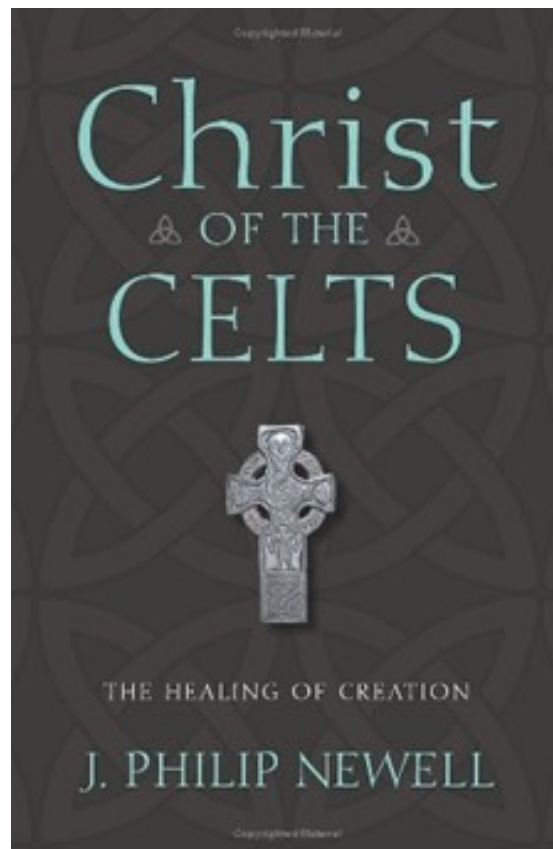
Sundays Sept 17 & 24 - Oct 1, 8 & 15

BOOK STUDY GROUP

You're invited to join a discussion of the book *Christ of the Celts* by J. Philip Newell on Thursday evenings from September 21 through October 12. We'll meet from 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. in the church library.

Newell, one of the foremost experts on Celtic spirituality and former Warden of Iona Abbey in the Western Isles of Scotland, offers a reflection on the "forgotten" Jesus, the Christ of the ancient Celtic tradition. Drawing on the gospels of Thomas and the Acts of John and early Celtic writers, Newell outlines the Celtic vision of sacred unity and harmony between God, nature and humankind, and contrasts it with more conventional Christian beliefs.

Christ of the Celts is available for purchase online in paperback and electronic formats. At our first meeting on September 21, we'll be discussing the preface and chapter 1. Please contact Carol Gates at cmgates23@gmail.com or 330-264-3413 with questions or to sign up.





Would you like to enjoy a little time outdoors and commune with nature? Our next Adopt-a-Highway workday will be Thursday, Sept. 14 from 9-11 am.

We'll meet and park at Oak Chapel United Methodist Church at 4203 W Old Lincoln Way. From there, I'll provide reflective vests, picker-upper-sticks, and garbage bags. We will work in pairs. Wear garden or work gloves and boots or sturdy shoes.

Please let me know if you can help. And let me know if anyone wants to work the weekend. We can certainly arrange a second crew if there are enough interested. Carla Hall, cell 614-761-3906, carlahall2000@gmail.com.

Your Earth Care Committee



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.



There will be a Memorial Service for Gordon Shull on Saturday, September 9. Visitation is from 10:00-11:00. Service is at 11:00 with Reception to follow in Bruch Hall.



WHERE DO YOU VOLUNTEER?

A few years ago we did a survey, asking members to tell us all the places they volunteer – People to People, Kiwanis, Hospice, Humane Society, One Eighty, etc. It was inspiring to see in how many places our members helped others!

It's time to update that list and we'd like you to tell us all the organizations you've volunteered for in the past year or so. Faith and Practice members will be querying church members at Rally Day but if you're not able to be there we'd like you to send us an email.

Please list all the places you've volunteered and return it to Kris Evans, Chair, Faith and Practice. Email address is kevans943@sbcglobal.net.

Thank you for helping us with this project; we'll share it with you when we have all the responses tallied and you, too, will be amazed at what an incredible, caring group of people we have in our church.



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

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Dave & Angela Earley

The Wooster Interfaith Justice Committee is sponsoring a screening of the film *The Letter* on Thursday, Sept. 21, 6.30 pm



Interfaith Power & Light has made available to congregations screenings of the film *The Letter*.

The documentary film (80 minutes) tells the story of the *Laudato Si* encyclical letter by Pope Francis seen through the eyes of frontline leaders battling the ecological crisis across continents. Featured are a climate refugee from Senegal; an environmental defender and leader in the Brazilian Amazon; a youth climate activist from India and biologists studying coral reefs in Hawaii.

The film includes footage from their encounter with Pope Francis, alongside their personal stories and scientific findings.

**Westminster Church House
in Mackey Hall
353 E. Pine
Wooster**

According to Interfaith Power & Light, the encyclical was written for all people to read and has sparked meaningful discussions in diverse faith communities.

Published on May 24, 2015, *Laudato Si* is translated as “Praise be to you” with a subtitle “on care for our common home.”

The film is for all audiences, including teens and children.

Following the screening will be an opportunity for viewers to share comments about the film.

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>

Contact information will be in the link.

Also, you can go to the FPC website and go to the tab Worship Services and Resources
and drop down to the FPC Forms link that you would like to use.

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>

Contact information will be in the link.

Also, you can go to the FPC website and go to the tab Worship Services and Resources
and drop down to the FPC Forms link that you would like to use.

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>

USHERS NEEDED– YEAR 2023

We need 2 volunteers for ushers for Sunday worship!
Please consider volunteering and sign up at the link below :)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/2ushers>

Thank you for Volunteering!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 1	Lois Immel
September 2	William Ross, Hope Shaffer
September 4	Lois Bruch, Ann Gastier
September 5	Madison Hancock, Di Springer, Thomas Vestal
September 7	Julie Bogner
September 8	Rick Gabriel, Paul Nielsen
September 10	Patrick Kearney
September 11	Christopher Hyser
September 12	Pat Richard, Jim Webster
September 14	Elaine Arnold, Roy Hancock, Elizabeth Hooker, Melissa Lanham, Chandra Loess
September 15	Kenneth Schuesselin
September 18	James Burrill
September 20	James West, Virginia Good, Jorn Baxstrom
September 23	William Walker
September 24	Clara Ann Fain
September 26	Karen Short
September 27	Dana Schmidt, Carrie Gordon, William Hall
September 28	Keith Brown, Darla Campbell, James Collier
September 29	Pearl Grosjean

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



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www.firstpreswooster.org

Office Contact Info

David Rice
Donna Bye
Amy Baxstrom
Rachel King

Email

drice@firstpreswooster.org
dbye@firstpreswooster.org
abaxstrom@firstpreswooster.org
rking@firstpreswooster.org

Phone Ext.

ext. 202
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