



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WOOSTER

TOWER TIDINGS

SEPTEMBER 2025

Dear Friends,

As August has slipped into September, ushering in a bit of autumn chill, the new program year is beckoning. The school year has begun with all the anticipations, expectations, and perhaps even hesitations that each new academic year brings to students and teachers alike, from kindergarteners up through college seniors. In preparation for what is to come, reviewing the content of this newsletter reminded me how varied and engaging the life, ministry, and mission of First Presbyterian continues to be.

Our kick-off is Rally Day this coming Sunday, September 7, with a morning starting at 9:00 in Bruch Hall featuring light breakfast, fellowship, ministry information, and new ideas for the year ahead. We will continue with Rally Day worship and communion in the sanctuary at 10:30 featuring our youth and including the Ordination and Installation of new classes of Elders and Deacons. The following Sunday, September 14, will mark the return of ARISE in the chapel at 8:45, followed by the beginning of Sunday School for all ages at 9:15 leading to worship at 10:30.

Highlights of this newsletter cover the broad diversity of our programs, opportunities for study, times of fellowship, and ministries for youth and adults. I especially want to lift up the Wayne County Fair events in which some of our youth will be participating. I hope we can support them with our presence. Also, the Earth Care Team has a number of articles from proper recycling to pollinator gardens and a list of appropriate pollinator plants. We should all educate ourselves with an eye to our own home gardens.

As we begin a new program year together, may God's spirit of healing and wholeness keep us and bring us joy in our communal lives of faith.

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 a June Work Session and the August 27th meeting of Session.

Rev. Rice was not available to moderate the June meeting of Session, so a work session to discuss Growth and Outreach with Steve LoGuidice as facilitator was held. Steve reported on the four goals set by RDM:

Create a cohesive plan for rental space within the church building.

- * Create and use a systematic plan for pursuit of grants
- * New approach to stewardship
- * Develop a Legacy gift program

Steve created a deck of information that was the result of the brainstorming session in May 2025. Four “themes” emerged from that discussion:

- * Worship/Music
- * Marketing/External Outreach
- * Fun/Small Groups
- * Develop an intentional program around welcoming visitors and incorporating them into the life of the church

The Worship/Music topic was the first one discussed and it centered around how to incorporate different elements into the worship experience that may increase interaction and expand our welcome. A small group was charged with researching different worship styles and reporting back to Session in August. This was done at the August meeting and ideas will be shared with the Faith and Worship Coordinating Team at their next meeting. For example, some of the ideas looked at how to easily involve more people in worship (liturgy, prayers of the people, etc.).

Session Highlights

Marketing/External Outreach was the next topic discussed and those conversations linked the Small Groups and Welcoming/Hospitality topics also. Paula Abrecht took ideas for increased hospitality back to the Faith and Nurture team and shared plans for a Welcoming Table in the Gathering Area.

Lisa has been in touch with the Clerk of Session at Westminster Presbyterian Church regarding FPC's invitation to discuss how our two congregations can potentially combine efforts and resources in joint ministry to our shared community. The Session at Westminster Presbyterian Church was meeting on the same evening as FPC's Session. Communication regarding their discussion is expected in the near future.

It is important to remember the organization of our church community. Ideas for activities, fellowship, worship, ministries, etc. are welcomed, valued and may be offered by anyone in the church family. Small groups around those ideas can be formed and become "ministry teams" under the care of a Coordinating Team (Faith and Nurture, Faith and Practice, Faith and Structure, Faith and Worship). Those Coordinating Teams share their work and needs with Session each month so ruling elders are aware of the many ministries of FPC. We are thankful for this organizational framework and strive to keep it intact through strong, consistent communication and caring discernment.

Please reach out to any Session member (listed above) or a chair of a Coordinating Team if you have an idea or a need to share. Chairs of Coordinating teams are: Paula Abrecht (F&N), Kris Evans (F&P), Nancy Young and Susie Slack (co-chairs F&W) and David Rice or Tim Hall (F&S).

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 Resource Development Ministry held its first “legacy event” recently to a group of First Presbyterian congregants! As RDM member Stu Miller explained in last month’s Tower Tidings, Jeff Musselman, a local estate attorney and FPC congregant, described different ways to include the church as part of your estate planning to benefit our church for generations to come as well as to reduce the tax burden for you and your family.

If you would like to be included in future events, please let anyone on the RDM team know to send you an invitation. If you have a group of FPC friends that would like to form and/or host your own legacy event, please contact me about the details and the RDM team and event presenters can come to you at your home or meeting in the church building.

Peace and blessings,

Tom Rumbaugh, Chair

Dana Brooks, treasurer, Stuart Miller, Laura Neill,

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



FALL
Worship Updates

AT FIRST PRES WOOSTER

AUGUST 31

LAST SUNDAY FOR 10:00AM WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER 7

RALLY DAY CELEBRATION AT 9:00AM
WORSHIP AT 10:30AM

SEPTEMBER 14

FIRST SUNDAY OF OUR REGULAR
PROGRAM YEAR SCHEDULE:

ARISE - 8:45AM IN THE CHAPEL

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES - 9:15AM

WORSHIP - 10:30AM IN THE SANCTUARY





SAVE THE DATE!

SEPTEMBER 7TH

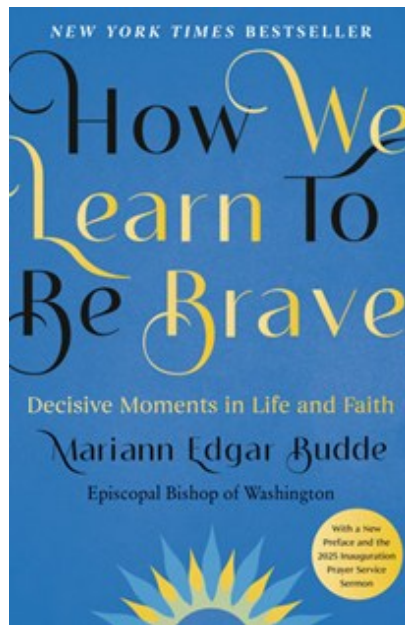
FOR AN ENGAGING START

TO OUR PROGRAM YEAR!

Beginning at 9:00 am, we will have a light breakfast and connecting activities to draw attention to the new and exciting programs and ministries we have set this year. These activities will flow right into worship at 10:30 am, so please plan to come at 9:00 am and stay for the duration.

The logo for "mixed company" is displayed on a solid orange rectangular background. The word "mixed" is in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font, and the word "company" is in a smaller, lowercase, sans-serif font directly beneath it.

Mixed Company will meet Friday, September 19th at 5:00 pm at TJ's Restaurant. Email Kathy Turning by September 17th if you will be attending (kathrynturning@mail.com).



FALL BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

You're invited to join a discussion of the book *How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith* by Mariann Edgar Budde on four Thursday evenings from September 25 through October 16. We'll meet from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the church parlor.

Budde, the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington D.C., explores how key decisions in our lives, if navigated with faith and discernment, pave the way for us to become our most courageous selves. She weaves stories from her own life, religious texts, the Civil Rights movement, literature, pop culture, and current events to illustrate what goes into "being brave." Part memoir, part history, and part theological treatise, the book focuses on the virtue of courage as a choice that we make.

How We Learn to be Brave is available for purchase online in various formats. At our first meeting on September 25, we'll discuss the Introduction and Chapter 1. Please contact Carol Gates at cmgates23@gmail.com with questions or to sign up. There is also a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area.



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.

September 7th
RALLY DAY!!!

September 13th
Scavenger Hunt 4:00pm

September 14th
1st Sunday School!

September 27th
Quarter Auction Fundraiser

October 4th
Ramseyer's Fundraiser Help

October 5th
Fall Festival



This Program Year we will be introducing Community Groups. These groups of church members and friends will meet monthly when it is convenient for them, for study, fellowship, and prayer. These Community Groups will provide the opportunity to get to know others in our church, invite friends who are looking for a safe place to learn and worship, and grow in our own spiritual journey. To begin these groups, I am looking for 4-5 people who would be willing to facilitate a group. All materials and activities will be provided. Please prayerfully consider leading one of these groups and let Amy Baxstrom know. A sign up to join these groups will be sent out at a later date.



Freezer Meals- Saturday September 6th at 1:00pm.

Cost is \$50 and you will prepare 5 meals to pack your freezer for the busy moths ahead.

RSVP to Amy Baxstrom.

GOD CALLS US TO NEW BEGINNINGS



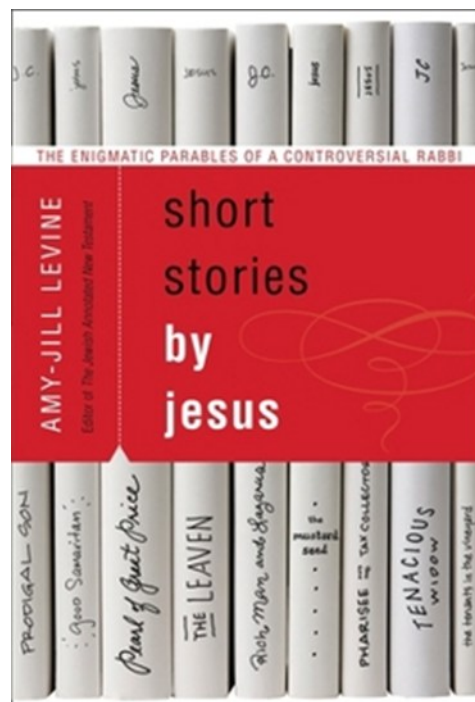
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up;
do you not perceive it?

ISAIAH 43:19

This year's Rally Day theme is New Beginnings! As we begin this new program year with joy and abundance in our heart, we hope you will feel the Spirit move you in new ways. Ways of connecting to new people. Ways of listening to God's calling. Ways of being vulnerable in your faith journey.

Join us on Sunday September 7th at 9:15 in Bruch Hall for a light breakfast and LOTS of participatory activities that will carry over into 10:30 Worship. This event is for everyone and the perfect way to see what's bubbling in our committees, Sunday school classes, and more

Our next study on Monday morning will be the Short Stories by Jesus by Amy-Jill Levine. We meet Monday mornings at 10:00 in the Parlor. Let Amy Baxstrom know if you are interested so materials can be provided.

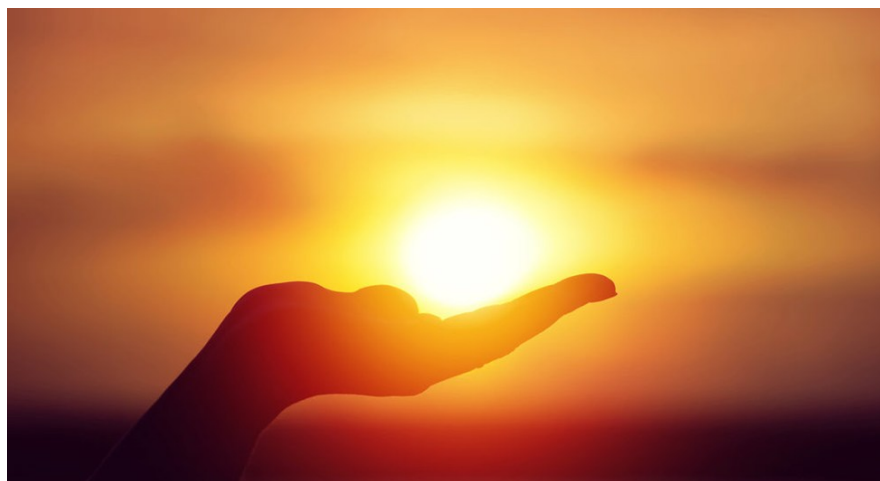




ARISE begins in the Chapel at 8:45am on Sunday September 14th.

ARISE is A Relational Intergenerational Spiritual Experience
with soft music, devotions, mediations, prayer and more.

These gatherings help stir the Spirit within us.





FPC FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Join us for a fun game night with
family, friends, and neighbors.

Activities Include

CARD & BOARD GAMES,
PUZZLES, AND MORE
SNACKS PROVIDED

SEPTEMBER 17

6:30-7:30

RSVP to Amy Baxstrom

abaxstrom@firstpreswooster.org

FPC Youth Group Invites you to a

QUARTER AUCTION

IN SUPPORT OF LERARNING OPPORTUNITIES

*Bid on
amazing service
opportunities,
handmade
goodies, and
more!*

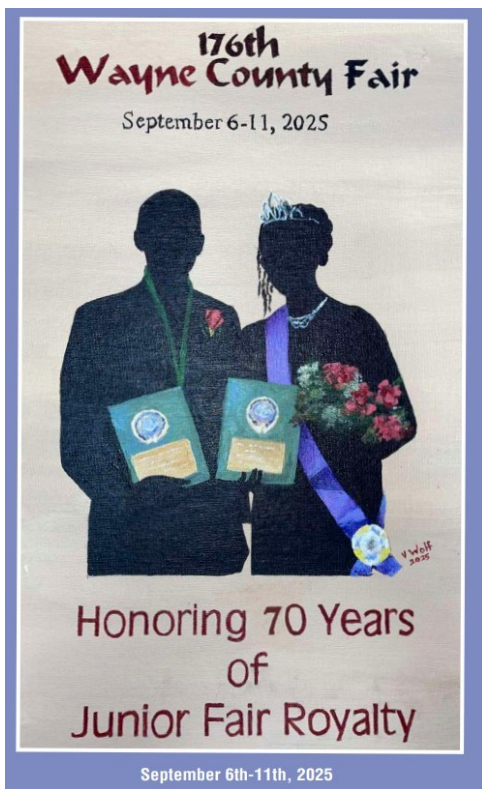


SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER
27

BRUCH HALL
FIRST PRES CHURCH
3:00PM-5:00PM

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Unique auction items & experiences
- Delicious refreshments
- A chance to connect with new people
- All proceeds support the youth gorup



If you are headed to the 176th annual Wayne County Fair you can find FPC youth members Nora (Eleanor) and Eliza Davis along with siblings Lillian, Oliver and their parents Sarah & Wes in the beef, swine, or sheep barn representing the Madisonburg Pioneers 4-H club. Aniyah Odenkirk has 2 different projects displayed on the 4H Barn during the fair. She has 2 frames, 8x10 photography entries, and several crocheted pieces. Look for Valley College Grange. Gabe Bosler-Kilmer will be riding his horse on Saturday evening during the open Wayne County Saddle Club racing and speed show. It is at 5:00 pm in the 4H horse arena. You can also look for the Mac-Bo signs representing the McCoy-Bowen family

farm on Friendsville Road. If you make it down you may catch the girls showing during the following:



Saturday Sept. 6th

- 10:00 am — Early Afternoon Market Steer and Breeding Beef show at the colosseum
- 5:00 pm — Wayne County Saddle Club racing in the 4H horse arena

Monday Sept. 8th

- 9:00 am — Early afternoon Swine Showmanship in the Events Center
- 1:00 pm — Market Lambs in the Small Show ring

Tuesday Sept. 9th

- 8:00 am — Market Swine Show in the Events Center
- 4:00 pm — Breeding Sheep Show in the Small Show Ring
- Evening — Pee-Wee Sheep Showmanship



Greetings from your Earth Care Team!



For the month of September we are focusing on “How to Recycle Properly” and want to review some important reminders with everyone. When you think of the “3 R’s (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), recycling should always be the last option. **Please try to REDUCE your waste and REUSE things as much as possible!** The Stark-Tuscarawas-Wayne Recycling District mails a Recycling Guide out to everyone in the county each year. It contains a lot of helpful information. If you missed it, there is very helpful information available at timetorecycle.org in the “How to Recycle” section and then click “Residents.” Below you will find helpful information summarized from their guide and website.



Proper Plastic Recycling



Many people are most often confused about how to recycle plastic properly. One common mistake is people think plastic bags can be recycled in your curbside containers or drop off bins. **PLEASE DO NOT PUT PLASTIC BAGS IN THESE CONTAINERS!** Plastic bags can only be recycled at specific sites. Our church has a white bin in the gathering area to collect these for a Rotary project. Buehler’s and Kohl’s also collect plastic bags for recycling. If you put your recyclables in a plastic bag, you can dump the contents out into the recycling bin and leave the bag in the container as a liner to reuse.

Unfortunately, our recycling district can only collect plastic bottles and jugs with a neck and shoulders. Please rinse and air dry thoroughly! They **DO NOT** collect containers for things like yogurt, cottage cheese, sour cream, take-out, and clamshell containers for foods like lettuce and berries. This is unfortunate and confusing because they used to collect these kinds of plastics. **If you are ever in doubt, it is better to throw it out because it contaminates the recycling stream!**



Proper Paper and Cardboard Recycling



Please break down cardboard and remove any packaging. You need to throw styrofoam and other materials that can't be recycled away. Then flatten it before putting it in the bin. Flattened cardboard takes up less space and helps facilities run more efficiently, so please take this extra step! Paper, junk mail, newspapers, magazines, and paper shopping bags are all accepted.

Glass Bottles and Jars



All colors of glass bottles and jars are recyclable. Labels don't need to be removed. Please rinse and air dry before recycling.

Metal Cans



Steel and aluminum cans are accepted. Labels don't need to be removed. Please rinse and air dry before recycling. ****Aluminum foil is NOT recyclable.** It should be reused or thrown away.

We hope you found some of this information useful!
Feel free to talk to a member of the Earth Care team if you have any questions.





Hello to all our Earth Care Team Members

Work on the new pollinator garden on the south side of the church, where there had previously been a vegetable garden, is progressing well. We have met several times with Denise Ellsworth from CFAES to discuss our project. She met with us earlier this summer to look over the plot on the south side of the church and give us advice on how to proceed. The first step was to "smother" the healthy crop of weeds which had set up residence in the approximately 10' x 70' plot. The entire plot was first covered with cardboard. Cardboard was procured from Lowe's and Wooster Appliance Center (a BIG thank you to both of those local businesses!!). A thick layer of wood chips was placed on top of the cardboard and we waited for rain and heat to begin the process of curtailing weed growth. We surely got lots of HEAT. And plentiful rainfall in June and July. Now we are planning the first planting step. We will begin this in late September or the first week of October.

Here's where you can help. The plants which have been chosen for this project are listed below. We are primarily using native Ohio plants for this pollinator garden. If you have any of these plants in your garden and would be able to share/donate some of them to our project, we would greatly appreciate it.



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PLANT LIST FOR NEW POLLINATOR GARDEN

Purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)
Brown-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia triloba*)
Appalachian mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum flexuosum*)
Hairy mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum verticillatum* var. *pilosum*)
Great Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)
Scaly Blazing Star (*Liatris squarrosa*)
Stiff Goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*, *Oligoneuron rigidum*)
Bee balm (*Monarda didyma*)
Wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)
New England Aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*)
Downy (ashy) sunflower (*Helianthus mollis*)
Hairy beardtongue (*Penstemon hirsutus*)
Foxglove beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)
Sweet Joe-pye-weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*)
False indigo (*Baptisia australis*)

If you would like to donate plants or help with planting the garden this Fall, please contact me

Nichollette Rogers (for the Earth Care Team)

drnichollette@sbcglobal.net

you can text me at: 330-805-5844

Below is a link to the CFAES website which has very helpful information on planning and planting a garden which supports a wide variety of pollinators; butterflies, moths, bumble bees, specialist bees, hummingbirds, etc. There are even cool sample designs for small spaces, called "Plant by Numbers"

[Bee Lab | Education, research and outreach related to honey bees, wild bees and other pollinators](#)

[Plant by Numbers | Native plants, Garden Guides and sample designs to support bees, birds, butterflies and other beneficials](#)





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.

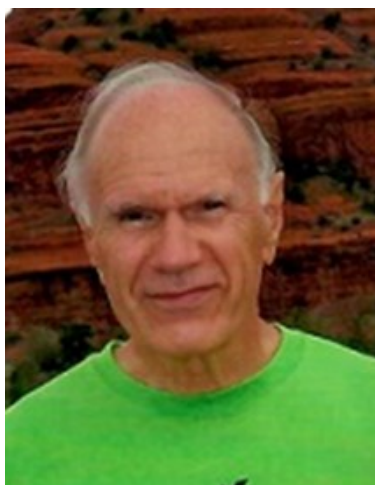
This is a great way to get involved, get to know others in the congregation, and fellowship with old friends. Please consider volunteering for this worthy project. Able bodied helpers are especially needed Wednesday afternoon, Thursday morning, and late Saturday afternoon for clean-up. Many hands make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



The congregation extends its sympathy to the family of Ed Blake who died August 20, 2025.

Ed was the husband of FPC member Jane Blake and a long-time attendee.

Ed married Jane in 1964 after serving three years in the U.S. Army, including 16 months stationed in Korea. He worked at Wooster Brass, Addressograph Multigraph, and in various schools as a custodian. Ed was active in the community and volunteered with many organizations including the Salvation Army, Meals on Wheels, and Mountain Vision. He served as treasurer of the CROP Walk for 20 years and as a councilman in Shreve for two terms. He enjoyed walking, bowling, and attending local sporting events.

Ed is survived by his wife Jane and his children Violet and Mark. A funeral service was held at McIntire, Bradham & Sleaf on August 27, 2025.





SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 2	William Ross, Hope Shaffer
September 4	Lois Bruch, Ann Gastier, Doris Stammer
September 5	Madison Hancock, Thomas Vestal
September 7	Julie Bogner
September 8	Paul Nielsen
September 10	Patrick Kearney
September 11	Chris Hyser
September 12	Pat Richard, Jim Webster
September 14	Elaine Arnold, Roy Hancock, Melissa Lanham, Chandra Loess
September 15	Ken Schuesselin
September 20	James West, Virginia Good, Jorn Baxstrom
September 23	William Walker, Doug Smith
September 24	Clara Ann Fain, Ruby Newcomer
September 26	Karen Short
September 27	Dana Schmidt, Carrie Gordon, Bill Hall
September 28	Keith Brown, Darla Campbell, Jim Collier, Dorothea Prech



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>

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Hours: M, T, Th - 9-4

Wed & Fri. - By Appt.

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www.facebook.com/FPCWooster/
www.firstpreswooster.org

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