



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WOOSTER

TOWER TIDINGS MAY 2024

Dear Friends,

In the opening of my last month's Tower Tidings article, I mentioned the well-known adage that "April showers bring May flowers," and that could not be truer than in these early days of May. God's good creation here in northeast Ohio is literally exploding in multitudinous shades of color and floral variety!

Though we are bearing down on the end of the current program year at the close of this month, there is still plenty of color and variety to be experienced in the life of our congregation. Following our worship service on the first Sunday, May 5, we move to Bruch Hall for a Cinco de Mayo potluck lunch and our Annual Congregational Meeting. This is also the Sunday when we recognize the members of our congregation who have been active participants for 50 years or more. Their faithful dedication is a tremendous inspiration to us all, and we offer our grateful thanks for their tireless service and support in the mission, ministry, and fellowship of our church.

For those who participated in the Mid's Euchre Tournament, we all can see what a fun and successful evening it was, and we can hope it makes a reappearance in the next program year.

A much-anticipated worship service occurs on May 12, with our annual children- and youth-led Spring Celebration. This is always a most joyous occasion as we experience the gifts and exuberance of our young people.

As we turn toward summer, another special worship service welcomes us to the season. On June 2, we will gather at Oak Hill Park in the Rotary Pavilion for outdoor worship overlooking the lush beauty of that landscape. I look forward to seeing you there!

May God's blessing and care keep you as you experience new rhythms in the days to come.

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 April/May 2024.

Session met on May 1, 2024 instead of the fourth week in April, due to the vacation of Pastor Rice. There will be two Session meetings held in May. During the meeting last evening, the Clerk reported no changes in membership during the month of April. Tom Rumbaugh, from the Resource Development Team, presented March 2024 financial information which also included a quarterly update on investments. A budget for 2024 was presented for review and will be voted on by the Session at the May 29th meeting.

Pastor Rice reported on his latest activities and pastoral concerns from within the congregation and community. Reports from the various ministry teams were heard. Fun activities such as a recent Euchre tournament, potluck lunch on May 5, and the Over 80's luncheon in June were presented. The outreach of the Faith and Practice team through Meals for All and other community projects continues to grow. The teams of Faith and Structure and Faith and Worship plan to meet in May.

Mimi Lewellen from Nominating Committee presented the slate of Elders and Deacons that will be voted on at the congregational meeting on May 5. Laura Neill from Personnel reported on upcoming changes in the Board of Pensions benefits and also presented the Pastor's Terms of Call to Session for information only. This also will receive a congregational vote at the annual meeting.

Another attempt was made this month to make the Session meeting accessible via Zoom. Once again, this attempt proved to be unsuccessful, so Amy Baxstrom's report was completed via text to the Clerk. She has completed the intergenerational Sunday School series that she planned as part of her Christian Educator certification. Amy also wrote and submitted a reKindle grant proposal to Columbia Theological Seminary. Pastor Rice reported that Amy has recently met with the leadership of Eventide and some new ideas for that worship experience are forming.

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!

The RDM is busy preparing the financial information for this year's annual meeting. Your submitted stewardship pledge card has allowed us to create a balanced budget for 2024 that we will present to Session for approval. If you have not submitted your card, it not too late! We can still use your information to help plan and "tweak" our finances as the year progresses.

As always, please feel free to ask for any financial information from any of the RDM members listed below, or see Donna in the church office. I am looking forward to the FPC annual meeting and sharing our financial updates with the congregation.

Peace and blessings,

Tom Rumbaugh, Chair; Dana Brooks, church treasurer; David Rice, pastor;

Laura Neill; Jeff Perkins; Stuart Miller; and Mark Gordon.





**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
& CINCO DE MAYO POTLUCK**

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo and enjoy fellowship with your church family at a potluck in Bruch Hall on Sunday, May 5 after worship. The annual meeting of the congregation will follow and will include the election of elders and deacons, a financial report, and an overview of ministries and activities for the past year. Bring your favorite Mexican dish or a traditional potluck dish - there will be something for everyone!

Hope you can join us!





**Join us in worship on May 5 to celebrate congregants who have been members of
First Presbyterian Church for 50 years or more!**

Garnett Alexander, Ken Alexander, Elaine Arnold, Mark Boardner,

Darla Campbell, James Clyde, Susan Clyde, Gordon Collins,

Jolene Dyer, Val Fulton, Rick Gabriel, Herman Gibbs,

Vince Giffin, Pearl Grosjean, Lorraine Hancock, Roy Hancock II,

LeRoy Haynes, Elizabeth Hooker, Betty Howell, Walt Kearney,

Conrad Kennedy, James Kirchhofer, Linda Kirchhofer, Bev Mapel, Bill Mapel,

Harry McClarran, Carol Miller, Gary Miller, Kathy Odenkirk, Richard Odenkirk,

Ruth Ann Odenkirk, Letitia Paterson, Elaine Peterson, Rick Peterson,

Jean Philippi, Bill Ross, Carl Schmid, Dottie Schmid,

Kenneth Schuesselin, Rita Schuesselin, Karen Short, Ted Short,

Mary Alice Streeter, Carol Thompson, William Wepler,

Betty Wilkin, David Wilkin, Yvonne Williams

The Mid



The April 26th tournament was a great success - we had 25 people/6 tables!





The Mid



Euchre
— tournament —





Our last Sunday school gatherings are upon us. On May 5th and May 12th we will meet in the Sanctuary to practice for the Spring Celebration. Please let me know if you can be there for the service on the 12th. May 19th will be a fellowship time during the Sunday school hour where we will talk about upcoming summer events.

Upcoming events

May 12- Spring Celebration

May 19- Party at Paula's!! 5:00-7:00



Mark your calendars for our end-of-year Spring Celebration on Sunday, May 12th at 10:15. We take this time to celebrate our teachers, seniors, children, and more!



Join us for our May Friday Fellowship on Friday, May 3 at 11:30am. The new Director of Open Arms Hispanic Ministry, Pablo Delgado, will join us.

Sign up with the link below or email
Amy Baxstrom

[https://www.signupgenius.com/
go/20F084BAEA72FA7FB6-49262437-mayfriday](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F084BAEA72FA7FB6-49262437-mayfriday)



WORSHIP AT OAK HILL PARK

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 10:15AM

This year our outdoor summer worship service will be held at Oak Hill Park on Sunday, June 2, at 10:15am. ***Note:** If the morning turns out to be rainy, worship will be held in Bruch Hall at 10:15am.*

The park is located on the west side of Oak Hill Rd. at the roundabout.

There is ample pavilion space with picnic table-and-benches seating, but feel free to bring your own chairs. There is also ample car parking space within short, flat, walking distance of the pavilion.

Please mark your calendars and plan to come together for worship at this small gem of a park with inspirational views across the hills and valleys of God's creation.





Adopt-a-Highway - Eight dedicated trash pickers lovingly cared for our stretch of Adopt-A-Highway around the intersection of US 30 and US 250 on April 18. Thanks to Paula Albrecht, Nancy Collier (Shannon Foster's sister) and Allen Stacey, Bill and Carla Hall, Don James, Candace Harrington, Roy Haynes.

Buehler's Community Shred Day will be Saturday, August 10, from 9 a.m. till noon. Please consider doing this rather than shredding paper at home. Putting shredded paper in the recycling bin, even in a paper bag, creates difficulties in the recyclables sorting process. If you compost, you can also compost shredded paper! Another option is, if the paper only has one line of sensitive info, cut or tear out that portion and put it in trash with wet coffee grounds or compost and the rest of the page can be recycled.



Hazardous Household Waste disposal day - May 20. Go to www.timetorecycle.org/resources/schedule-an-appointment/ to select a time, or call 800-678-9839. If you don't make an appointment, you're still welcome. The appointments are just to prevent everyone from arriving at the same time – and save you time in line.



The congregation extends its sympathy to the family of former member Nancy Anderson who died April 16, 2024 in Florida. Nancy was born in Dover, Ohio, graduated from Altoona High School, and earned a BSN from Alfred University. Nancy and her husband Ken, who enjoyed 56 years of marriage, lived in Rhode Island, California, and Wisconsin before moving to Wooster in the mid-1980's. They relocated to the Penney Retirement Community in Penney Farms, Florida in 2018.

Nancy was employed by the College of Wooster for 32 years, starting as a nurse and rising to become director of the Longbrake Student Wellness Center. Nancy was passionate about mentoring young adults and broadening their cultural horizons. She and Ken traveled widely and served as a host family for many C.O.W. international students over the years.

Nancy was an active member of FPC for over thirty years. She served as an elder and member of the Pastor Nominating Committee and worked with youth. She and Ken participated in the FPC trips to Switzerland in 1993 and to Ghost Ranch in 2000.

Nancy is survived by her husband Ken, her daughters Julie and Kate, and three grandchildren. Celebration of life gatherings will be held May 2 in Penney Farms and September 29 in Wooster.





MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1	Mariska Masci
May 2	Kay Rowekamp
May 3	Jeff Perkins
May 5	Shannon Foster
May 6	Steve Slack
May 7	Addy Conrad, Tim Walker
May 8	Katie Walker, Matthew Nielsen
May 10	Grant McMillen
May 11	Gabriel Reith
May 12	Anne Brush, Dick Lewellen
May 13	Seth Miller, Sue Froelich
May 17	Kendall Alexander, Rick Maxwell
May 18	Brett Hiner, Ella Reith
May 21	Sonja Tugend
May 23	Trevor Dunlap, Lisa Rumbaugh
May 24	Steve LoGiudice
May 25	Emma LoGiudice
May 28	Donald Van Cleef, Kathy Odenkirk, Seth Kelly
May 29	James Gorrell
May 30	Leigh Oaks, Kim Ogle



**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

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