



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF WOOSTER

TOWER TIDINGS FEBRUARY 2025

Dear Friends,

The physical realities of deep winter in northeast Ohio are manifesting themselves as we journey into February. Though the snow-cover has receded, alternating colder temperatures and teasing days above freezing remind us that spring is still a ways off. Yet, there is much warmth to be found in our weekly gatherings together for worship and study and fellowship and ministry.

There are also opportunities for support and leadership in the ongoing work and mission of our church. The Nominating Committee begins its deliberations this month, inviting new faces and talents to join the Session or serve as Deacons. And there are always open places at the tables of our ministry teams: Faith & Nurture, Faith & Practice, Faith & Structure, and Faith & Worship. This month we also hope to finish up our financial pledge campaign for 2025, so that the work of First Presbyterian may continue unimpeded.

I am still rocking from our performance last month of Christian McBride's jazz oratorio, *The Movement Revisited: A Musical Portrait of Four Icons*. J. D. Steele's and Jeff Lindberg's musical leadership and the enthusiastic participation of musicians from the college and community will long remain a soaring memory for all who filled our sanctuary that evening for the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration.

Looking ahead this month, we have an invitation to support our new Homeward Bound Day Center and Severe Weather Shelter by attending the Valentine's Day Fundraiser hosted by Westminster Presbyterian Church. This center is the dream of so many in our town who have nurtured a passion for the homeless and disadvantaged in Wooster.

This time of year also brings the return of the Great Decisions Lecture Series to the College of Wooster campus. This season's presentations focus on Energy Transitions and Global Geopolitics. The timeliness of these topics cannot be understated in our current political climate. One important note on the series is that the first lecture with Dan Scholten has been postponed to April. More information on that will be coming in the next month.

So, bundle up and enjoy the sunny days as the season grants them!

Blessings and Peace,

David

Session Highlights

2025	2026	2027	Staff
Paula Abrecht	Wes Davis	Tammy Brooks	Rev. David Rice
Dave Earley	April Gamble	Mark Gordon	Amy Baxstrom, CE
Bobbi Jentes-Mason	Laura Neill	Steve LoGuidice	
Mimi Lewellen	Kris Evans	Jeff Perkins	
		Lisa Rumbaugh, Clerk	

This highlight for Tower Tidings is written to update the congregation on the work of the Session in January 2025. This meeting took place on January 29, 2025. It was rescheduled from January 22, 2025 due to weather conditions.

Session members gathered to hear information from the ministry teams, Nominating, Personnel and RDM, as well as Pastor Rice. Several of the teams did not meet in the months of December and January, but their ministries continue as planned. Amy Baxstrom sent a message to be read at the meeting as she is attending the Christian Educator's conference in Memphis this week. She reported that she is thankful for the opportunity to learn and worship with colleagues and is gathering new ideas for FPC.

Mimi Lewellen reported that the Nominating team will have their first meeting next week. They will be working to find members who are willing to be Elders and Deacons for the next three years. Excerpts from FPC Polity are included below to explain the responsibilities of each of these leadership positions.

The Session is the council for the local congregation. The Session shall have responsibility for governing the congregation and guiding its witness...so that the congregation becomes a community of faith, hope, love and witness. (*Book of Order*)

Session Highlights

- Serve as the "ruling body" of the local church while nurturing the corporate Christian faith of the congregation.
- Lead the congregation in participating in the mission of the church.
- Ensure that the programs of the church provide opportunities for worship, Christian growth and fellowship, pastoral care, education and service opportunities.
- Challenge the congregation to responsible stewardship.
- Oversee the maintenance of membership rolls.
- Supervise, evaluate, and approve actions of Coordinating Teams, task forces, and boards within the congregation.
- In conjunction with Faith and Structure, determine appropriate use for all church properties.
- Delegate congregational members to attend meetings of the Presbytery, the Synod and the General Assembly.
- When elected as commissioners to higher ruling bodies, Elders participate and vote with the same authority as a Teaching Elder, and are eligible for any office.
- Maintain ecumenical relationships.
- Appoint members to special task forces.
- Instruct, examine, ordain, install and welcome new Elders.
- Inform the congregation of all significant decisions and activities

The ministry of Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures or anyone in distress. (*Book of Order*)

- Occasions for contact with parishioners may be times of personal celebrations including births, marriages, anniversaries, etc., as well as casual contacts as opportunities arise. Contacts may include personal visits, letters and cards, telephone calls and e-mail communications. Those contacts will be reported to the Moderator of Deacons.
- Each Deacon is assigned a parish. If the Deacon is unable to maintain contact with members in that parish for an extended period of time, the Deacon should contact the Moderator of Deacons who will assign temporary coverage.

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 planning the budget for 2025. The anticipated pledges from our stewardship campaign fell short for 2025 and we need your help! We use the pledge cards that were collected during our stewardship campaign last Fall are critical for the church staff and ministry teams to create and plan their programming and mission projects for this year.

If you haven't already, please turn your completed pledge card into the church office so that we can complete the 2025 budget for Session approval. Extra cards can be obtained from the office and there is also a supply on the counter in the Gathering Area.

Please contact one of the members if you have any questions or need additional information regarding the finances of our church.

Sincerely,

Tom Rumbaugh, RDM chair

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

FIRST PRES WOOSTER

RINGERS NEEDED!



- OUR NEXT SET OF REHEARSALS WILL BEGIN ON SUNDAY, MARCH 2 AS WE PREPARE TO PLAY ON PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER (APRIL 13 & 20)
- REHEARSALS WILL BE SUNDAY MORNINGS FROM 8:30-9:00AM IN DOWNSTAIRS CLASSROOM 2.
- ANYONE AGES 5TH GRADE THROUGH ADULT ARE WELCOME!
- NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!

For more information email Rachel at rking@firstpreswooster.org



JOIN US
THIS
SPRING!

Looking for a fun new way to get involved at church?

Join our handbell choir for the Easter season!

Rehearsals will begin Sunday, March 2.

First Presbyterian Church of Wooster

CHILDREN'S MUSIC NEWS

February 2025

Thanks to all those who participated in candle-lighting and special music each week during Advent!



SAVE THE DATES:

March 16 - Worship Service

GODLY PLAY & BIBLE TOWN MUSIC IN WORSHIP

April 13 - Palm Sunday

HANDBELLS, GODLY PLAY & BIBLE TOWN MUSIC IN WORSHIP

April 20 - Easter

HANDBELLS & YOUTH SPECIAL MUSIC IN WORSHIP

May 11 - Spring Celebration

CHILDREN & YOUTH SPECIAL MUSIC IN WORSHIP
CONFIRMATION & SENIOR RECOGNITION
TEACHER APPRECIATION

Upcoming Dates for Music in Worship

Please mark the dates on the left in your calendar and plan to be here to participate in sharing music during worship in the next few months. Watch for emails from Rachel with at-home practice materials as we get closer to those weeks.

We need handbell ringers again!

We are offering handbells as an option for any youth or adults who are interested, 5th grade and up! We will rehearse from 8:30-9:00 on Sunday mornings seasonally. The next set of rehearsals will start on March 2 to prepare to play on Palm Sunday and Easter. This can be a fun opportunity to participate with your youth. There is no previous experience required and you do not have to be able to read music to participate.

Questions? Contact Rachel at rking@firstpreswooster.org

Valentine's Day Fundraiser

for

Homeward Bound

Day Center/Severe Weather Shelter

Friday, February 14, 6pm

353 E. Pine St, Westminster Presbyterian Church

Dinner by Village Catering

Beef Roast Medallions

Vegan Butternut Squash Stuffed Ravioli

Baked Potato

Whiskey Carrots

Penne Pasta with Marinara Sauce

Apple Pecan Salad

Sopapila Cheesecake

21 & Over BYOB

Music by Mary-Marie Deauclaire

"LOVE" Donation for Meal

Silent Auction*

50:50 Raffle

Dinner RSVP by January 26th

***Silent Auction Donations by February 13th**

at

wpcwoo.org/valentines or WPC Sanctuary Sign-Up Sheet



Westminster
Presbyterian Church



LECTURE SERIES



Energy Transition & Global Geopolitics

All events at 7:30 p.m.
Free and open to the public

Gault Recital Hall in Scheide Music Center
525 E. University St., Wooster

THURSDAY

FEB.

6



The Geopolitics of the Energy Transition

Dan Scholten Visiting scholar at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota and an expert on the global geopolitics of energy transition.

THURSDAY

FEB.

20



Film + Q&A with Director: *Powerlands*

Directed by Ivey Camille Manybeads Tso
Trailer: powerlands.org
Run time: 75 minutes



A young Navajo filmmaker investigates the displacement of Indigenous people and the devastation of the environment caused by the same chemical companies that have exploited the land where she was born.

TUESDAY

MAR.

4



Why Should Christians Care about an Energy Transition?

Jessica Moerman Environmental scientist, pastor, and president of the Evangelical Environmental Network.

TUESDAY

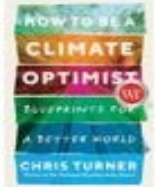
MAR.

11



Global Energy and the Case for Climate Optimism

Chris Turner Expert on the economics of the global energy transition and author of the book *How To Be A Climate Optimist*, which tells a story of a planet in peril and a global effort already beginning to save it.



Learn more about our speakers, visit wooster.edu/great-decisions



With thanks to our Series Sponsors

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THE COLLEGE OF WOOSTER



The holidays are over but the need continues.

We hope you'll consider helping the People to People pantry with any or all of the following items:

Canned vegetables

Canned fruit

Pasta sides

Rice sides

Peanut Butter (16 oz or less)

Laundry Soap (Travel Size)

Dish Soap (Small)

Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant

TP / Paper Towels



People Caring For People

Please drop off your items and put them in the boat in the gathering area by the office doors.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 1	Anna Weekley
February 4	Mickey Asleson, Yvonne Williams
February 5	Mimi Lewellen
February 7	Garnett Alexander
February 9	Eric Gastier
February 11	Rita Schuessselin, Shonica Swank
February 12	Dede Gregory
February 15	Jim Black
February 16	Maya Galindo
February 17	Erin Guzman
February 18	Joanne Walker, Eleanor Pooler, Lewis Pooler
February 22	Melanie Garcia
February 23	John Strong
February 24	Jacob Gooch, Linda Kirchhofer, Harry Zink
February 25	Jim Lanham
February 26	Mark Boardner, Herman Gibbs
February 27	Megan Wereley



**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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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

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