



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF WOOSTER

## TOWER TIDINGS JANUARY 2025

Dear Friends,

The New Year has made a snow-covered appearance, but that hasn't slowed the activities and ministries of First Presbyterian. We are back in full swing after the extended holidays, as you will see from the pages of this newsletter. A special gift that came to us ahead of the Christmas festivities was the opportunity to welcome a number of new members into our congregation who were already making their presence felt through the work of our church.

Sunday mornings continue to be a focal point of our week, with a new session of ARISE, Adult Education experiencing the thoughtful perspectives of author Barbara Brown Taylor, and our young people nurtured through age-appropriate Sunday School, including our current Confirmation Class.

A new year inevitably brings some changes with it, and for us that means the YMCA Creative Academy is moving on to a new partnership with The Village Network. Hoping not to have our wonderful facilities stand idle for long, we will be looking for another young children's educational opportunity to find a home with us.

Perhaps the highlight of our January will be hosting once again the annual community-wide Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on January 20. In lieu of the customary guest keynote speaker, the program will feature a "jazz oratorio" composed by renowned jazz bassist Christian McBride, entitled *The Movement Revisited: A Musical Portrait of Four Icons*, and conducted by J.D. Steele from Minneapolis. The musical groups involved will be the College of Wooster Jazz Ensemble and the newly reconstituted College of Wooster Gospel Choir, supplemented with musicians and singers from the community. Four narrators will give voice to the words of Rosa Parks, Mohammed Ali, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King, Jr., and I will have the privilege of voicing Dr. King. I hope we fill the sanctuary for this extraordinary presentation!

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 December 2024. No regular monthly meeting was held in December, but a Special Called Session meeting was held on December 8, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in Classroom 1 to welcome new members.

During the month of November, informational gatherings were provided so that those who were considering membership could learn more about our church and the structure and polity of Presbyterian Church (USA).

Sunday, December 8 was a wonderful day of celebration at First Presbyterian Church, Wooster as 18 new members joined the congregational membership. David W. Rice and Angie Audrey Henderson received the sacrament of Baptism. The following individuals were received into membership:

Emily, Luke, Megan , and Ellen Armour, Angie Audrey Henderson, Sue Herman, Jason, Sara, Ella, Gabriel (confirmed previously) Reith, Diana and David W. Rice, Nicholette and Jack Rogers and Brian, Rebecca (Becky), Acadia, Lilee and Ian Webb.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**  
**December 8, 2024**



Front Row (L to R): Lilee Webb, Acadia Webb, Megan Armour, Ellen Armour, Jason Reith, Gabriel Reith; Back Row (L to R): Becky Webb, Ian Webb, Brian Webb, Luke Armour, Emily Armour, Sara Reith, Ella Reith.



Diana and Dave Rice  
Angie Henderson and Sam

Nicholette and Jack Rogers  
Sue Herman





## **Greetings from the Resource Development Ministry!**

### **Happy 2025 from the Resource Development Ministry!!**

The RDM continues to collect and tally the incoming pledge cards from the stewardship campaign completed in November. If you haven't completed pledge card, it's not too late! Please complete your card and turn it into the church office as soon as possible. Additional pledge cards are available in the gathering area or call the church office if you need one mailed to you. These cards are critical for as our staff and ministry teams plan for our 2025 mission projects, worship programming, and maintenance for our church structure.

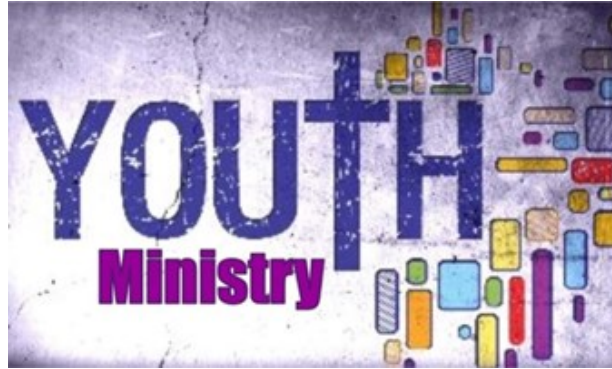
The RDM is cautiously optimistic as we close the financial books for 2024. The positive returns in our investment account and strong congregational giving allowed us to breathe easier as we completed the year. More information to report as we finalize the numbers!

As always, please feel free to contact any member of the RDM team with questions or additional information.

Blessings and peace,

Tom Rumbaugh, RDM chair

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



Check out the calendar below for events.

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

**Senior High Sunday School** will resume in the Youth Center on Sunday January 5<sup>th</sup>!  
**Confirmation** will resume on January 5<sup>th</sup> in our normal classroom!

### Upcoming events

These dates are subject to change based on weather, so watch your email/Remind for updates.  
**(Not on the Remind list? You definitely need to be-ask me how)**

#### January 5<sup>th</sup>

Senior and Junior High to help O'Huddle during Sunday school hour.  
More details to come.

#### Night Hike

Date to come!

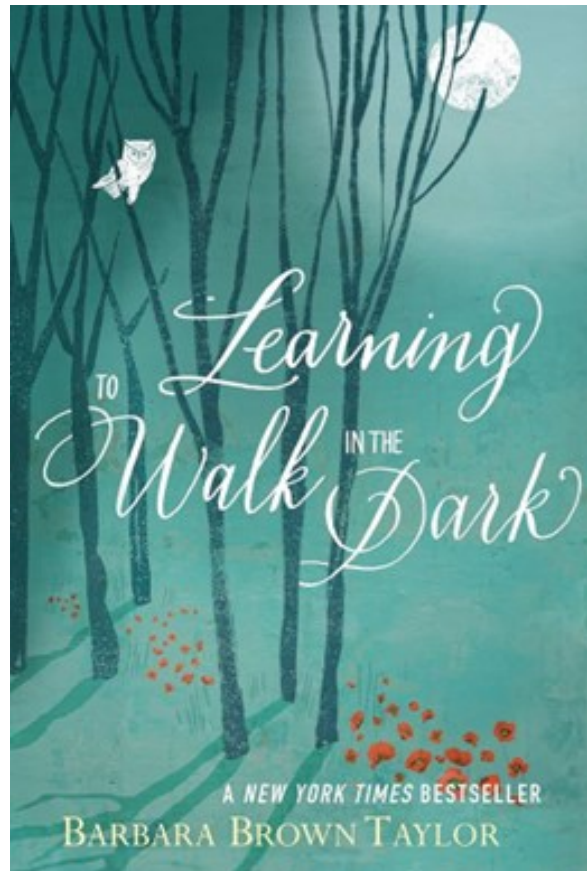


Thank you to everyone who contributed to the gifts for the Salvation Army this Christmas!  
We were able to help over 20 people in our community!





ARISE will begin on January 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 am in the Chapel. Please join us for meditative reflection and spiritual renewal in this new year!



The Downstairs Adult Ed Class will begin January 5<sup>th</sup> in Classroom 1. They will be using the book “Learning to Walk in the Dark” by Barbara Brown Taylor. Books can be purchased on Amazon and other retail sites if desired.



Thank you to everyone who donated to the many projects that First Presbyterian was honored to help with during the holidays!

- Meals for All dinner and gift boxes for guests
  - Alternative Gift Market
    - Soup project
    - Mitten Tree
  - Salvation Army – gifts for families
- Christmas cards and postage for county jail inmates



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 vegetable

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.





## **The Creative Academy Update**

Wooster YMCA has operated a day care (The Creative Academy) out of the lower level of the FPC building for the last several years. Due to the consolidation of their operations, this day care will be ending their tenure in our building on January 31, 2025.

We have welcomed the sounds and joyfulness of children coming and going on a daily basis for many years and are grateful for the interaction with the many families who have found a safe place for their children within these walls.

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.  
COMMUNITY CELEBRATION SERVICE**



**Featuring *The Movement Revisited: A Musical Portrait of Four Icons* directed by J.D. Steele with 4 Narrators, the College of Wooster Jazz Ensemble and Gospel Choir.**

**The Dr. Martin Luther King Essay Contest Winners for 2025  
will be presented with their awards.**

**MONDAY**

**JANUARY 20, 2025-7pm**

First Presbyterian Church  
621 College Ave., Wooster

**Sponsored by the Wooster-Orrville NAACP**



# 2025 Martin Luther King Event Celebrations

## MLK Art Day

**Jan. 3**

1-3pm Wayne County Public Library  
Join us at the library as we create art  
that reflects civil rights.

**Jan. 10**

**MLK Art Submission Deadline**  
WCPL-Children's Department  
All Wayne County students may enter  
Details at [Art.of.Inclusion.org](http://Art.of.Inclusion.org)

**Jan. 20**

**MLK Book Reading**  
2-4pm Wayne County Public Library  
This year's book reading is "*Freedom  
on the Menu*" by Carole Boston.

**Jan. 20**

**MLK Commemorative Service**  
7-9pm First Presbyterian Church  
Martin Luther King Essay Contest Winners  
presented with their awards.  
Performance of a Jazz Oratorio, *The  
Movement Revisited*, that pays tribute to  
Four Civil Rights Icons.

Musical Tribute to The Civil Rights Movement featured at  
January 20<sup>th</sup> Martin Luther King Event.

***The Movement Revisited: A Musical Portrait of Four Icons***

Composer: Jazz bassist **Christian McBride** [a “jazz oratorio” with choral singing and spoken words set to jazz compositions by McBride].

**Performance at the Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration Service, Monday, January 20, 2025 [replacing the Keynote Speaker]**

\*Paying tribute to **Rosa Parks, Mohammed Ali, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King, Jr., and President Barack Obama** through the voices of 4 narrators.

\***Performance time: 42 minutes** [shortened version to accommodate the time limitations of the MLK Service].

\*The musical groups involved will be the **College of Wooster Jazz Ensemble** supplemented with musicians from the community and the reconstituted **College of Wooster Gospel Choir** plus singers from the community.

\* J.D. Steele will be coming to Wooster from Minneapolis as Musical Director for *The Movement Revisited* performance.

\***The MLK Celebration Service** at 7pm will feature the presentation of the Essay Winners, Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing, and the Free Will Offering for a local youth organization in addition to *The Movement Revisited*.



The congregation extends its sympathy to the family of longtime member Elizabeth Hooker who died November 30, 2024. Elizabeth was raised on a farm in Adams Mills, Ohio and graduated from Coshocton High School. She earned a B.A. in Speech from Denison University in 1965 and an M.A. in Speech Pathology and Audiology from Case Western Reserve University in 1967. She worked as a teacher and audiologist in New Jersey and later studied communication disorders and conducted research on aphasia at The Ohio State University.

Elizabeth met her husband Bob at Denison and they enjoyed 55 years of marriage before Bob passed away in 2022. Elizabeth and Bob donated the grand piano in the Sanctuary in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary in 2017.

Elizabeth was a lifelong Presbyterian and a member of FPC for over fifty years. She was an ordained Elder and Deacon, taught Sunday School, and served on many committees. In honor of her service to the church, she received an Honorary Life Membership Award from Presbyterian Women in the PC (USA).

As an advocate of liberal arts education, Elizabeth was a volunteer for The College of Wooster for more than 30 years to provide social, academic and financial support to students, especially women and international students. She served on the Women's Advisory Board for 27 years, including two terms as president, represented the community on the Wooster Leadership Group of the College, and established the Scott Family Endowed Scholarship.

Elizabeth was a founding member of The Women's Fund and Give 365 Wayne County at the Wayne County Community Foundation. She served on the boards of the Wooster YMCA and the City of Wooster Planning Commission and was active in many community organizations.

Elizabeth is survived by her daughter and son-in-law Mary Stockton and Jeff Perkins, her son Scott Hooker, and her grandchildren Scott, Elizabeth, and Henry Perkins and Charlotte and Andrew Hooker. A memorial service was held at FPC on December 21.







The congregation extends its sympathy to the family of longtime member George Spencer who died on December 14, 2024 at the age of 97.

George was born on the family farm near Fredericksburg and graduated from Fredericksburg High School. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy at age 18 during World War II and served on the U.S. Kearsarge. He married his late wife Marilyn in 1955.

George served as the Postmaster in Fredericksburg for a brief time and later worked at Borg Warner and the O.A.R.D.C., where he retired in 1988 as the Maintenance Supervisor. He was active in the Masons, coached Little League, and was an avid golfer and reader. George and Marilyn wintered in Florida for many years and most recently George resided at West View Healthy Living.

George is survived by his daughter Debra and son Rick, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at FPC on January 25 at 12:00 p.m. with lunch following.



The congregation extends its sympathy to the family of the Rev. Susan Russell, who died at her home in Salem, Massachusetts on December 26, 2024. Susan was the wife of former FPC Director of Music and Organist Jack Russell.

Susan was born in Boston and raised in Foxborough, Massachusetts. She earned a Bachelor of Music Education from the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music in 1965 and taught music in elementary schools in Connecticut, Illinois, and Vermont. After moving to Wooster when her husband Jack joined the music faculty at the College of Wooster, Susan served as Associate Director of Admissions at the College for 12 years. Following a period of discernment, Susan enrolled at Seabury-Western Seminary in Evanston, Illinois and received a Master of Divinity degree in 1998. She was ordained a priest in The Episcopal Church and served parishes in Medina, Parma, and several towns in Massachusetts. At the time of her passing she was Associate Rector for Pastoral Care at Christ Church of Hamilton & Wenham in South Hamilton, Massachusetts.

Susan is survived by her husband Jack, her sons David and Timothy and their spouses, and four grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at Christ Church of Hamilton & Wenham on February 22, 2025.





The congregation extends its sympathy to the family of Lois Immel who died November 24, 2024. Lois was born in Rockport, Maine and was the daughter of longtime FPC members the late Leroy and Fran Curtis. Lois enjoyed cooking and for many years prepared meals for Friday Fellowship at FPC. Lois met her husband John at church camp and was devoted to her family and her animals, especially her horses. Lois is survived by her husband John, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.



The congregation extends its sympathy to the family of Sandy McMullen who died on December 10, 2024. Sandy was an administrative assistant at FPC for nearly fifteen years serving under five pastors - Jim Collier, Dick Wereley, Jeff Paschal, Bruce Ballantine, and David Rice. She was a friendly, welcoming, and steady presence in the church office throughout her time at FPC.

Sandy is survived by her husband Jeff, a sister, and several nieces and nephews. A funeral service was held in Shreve on December 11.





The congregation extends its sympathy to the family of former FPC Parish Associate Ralph Fogal, who died on January 6, 2025 at the age of 99. Ralph was born in Greenville, Pennsylvania and raised on a nearby farm. He graduated from Thiel College, where he met his wife Lois, in 1950 and from Western Theological Seminary (now Pittsburgh Theological Seminary) in 1953.

Ralph served as pastor of six Presbyterian churches in Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Ohio during 35 years of active ministry. Following his retirement in 1988, Ralph continued to serve as interim pastor, hospice chaplain, Director of Wayne United Ministries, Parish Associate at FPC, and airport driver for the College of Wooster. Ralph and Lois also spent three months as PC(USA) Volunteers in Mission at Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka, Alaska. In 2001 they moved to a retirement center in Zelienople, Pennsylvania. They enjoyed 68 years of marriage until Lois's death in 2022. In recent years Ralph lived in Lake City, Iowa to be closer to family.

Ralph is survived by his daughter Sylvia and son Paul and their spouses, five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. A Celebration of Life was held in Iowa on January 9, 2025 and a memorial service will be held in Pennsylvania at a later date.



# Prom Boutique

## "Fiery" Godmothers Dress Sale

*Gently used gowns in various sizes, styles, and colors*



**SATURDAY,  
JANUARY 11TH, 2025**

**10 am - 1 pm**

**First Presbyterian Church  
621 College Ave,  
Wooster, OH 44691**



**OHuddle**  
*Fiery Godmother*

[ohuddle.org/news](http://ohuddle.org/news)

**WANT TO DONATE A DRESS?**

Drop off at People to People during business hours.

Fundraiser supporting OHuddle Mentorship program at WCSCC



## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

January 1	Jean Knorr
January 6	Kent Murphy
January 7	Jolene Dyer
January 9	Samuel Nielsen
January 10	Tom Richard
January 11	Deb Zeiters Maxwell
January 12	Val Fulton, Stu Miller, Mikayla Masci
January 13	Diane Gordon
January 14	Sheryl Edmiston, Judy Wereley
January 15	Kathryn Dugan, Joyce Gerber
January 16	Carol Leeson
January 17	Julie Miller
January 19	Olivia Kelly
January 21	Diane Wepler
January 22	Tami Musselman
January 26	Jim Pooler, Diana Rice,
January 28	Cheryl Gooch, Nigel Brush
January 30	Sawyer Conrad
January 31	Hannah LoGiudice, Roy Haynes





**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/](http://www.facebook.com/FPCWooster/)  
[www.firstpreswooster.org](http://www.firstpreswooster.org)

### Office Contact Info

David Rice  
Donna Bye  
Amy Baxstrom  
Rachel King

#### Email

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[dbye@firstpreswooster.org](mailto:dbye@firstpreswooster.org)  
[abaxstrom@firstpreswooster.org](mailto:abaxstrom@firstpreswooster.org)  
[rking@firstpreswooster.org](mailto: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  
15<sup>th</sup> of each month  
Wednesday  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month

#### Approximate Delivery

End of Week  
End of Month  
Weekly  
4<sup>th</sup> Wed. of each month  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month