

May 3, 2026



GRADUATION SUNDAY



**WORTHINGTON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

In Christ's love, we connect, serve, and transform

In Christ's love, we...

CONNECT ✦ SERVE ✦ TRANSFORM

Worship Team

Rev. Dr. Matt Reeves
Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Tom Rice
Pastor for Discipleship

Rev. Betsy Rice
Pastor for Member
Ministries

Russell Nagy
Director of Music Ministries

Nicholas Robison
Director for Youth Ministries

Annie Barner
Director for Children's
Ministries

Kim Anderson, Organist

*Visit our website for a
complete list of WPC staff.*

Sanctuary Flowers

*The flowers on the chancel
are given to the glory of God
by Judy Hazelton & Family in
memory of the Reverend Dr.
Philip M. Hazelton.*

Serving Us Today

Usher Team E: Ken &
Elizabeth Short, captains;
Andy Balsler, Dennis Decker,
Jack Dicke, John Gray, Joyce
Hinkle, Simmey Ketchum,
Larry & Leslie Snyder, Joann
& Dury Sudduth.

Video: Bill Yost

Carillon: Laura Schlader

Welcome

Welcome to Worthington Presbyterian Church. This congregation has worshiped together in the Worthington community since 1805. We welcome all who seek faith, hope, and joy.

Join us outside after the service for a celebration on the front lawn.

Children & Youth

Children are invited to Sunday School in the chapel after a brief message at 10:15AM. Youth will stay in the service and receive communion. Nursery care begins at 9:45AM in the Nursery outside of Fellowship Hall.

Accessibility

- Handicap parking near east and west entrances
- Wheelchair ramp at the main entrance
- Elevator access
- Multiple accessible restrooms
- T-coil hearing capabilities for those with compatible hearing aids
- Listening devices for the hearing impaired



The Cornerstone Youth Band

Tristan Arthur - acoustic guitar
Katie Becker - vocals, bass guitar
Thomas Becker - piano
Juliette Chang - piano
Mary Joyce Evans - guitar, vocals
Will Frederick - cajon
Caleb Okyere - piano
Ohenewaa Okyere - vocals

Mentors:

Robert Boyd - vocals
LingLing Chen - percussion
Tom Shaffer - guitar

Contact Us

Mon - Thurs: 8am - 4pm; Fri: 8am - 2pm
wpchurch@wpcnow.org | 614.885.5355

Worthington Presbyterian Church
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Fifth Sunday in Easter

May 3, 2026

10:00 AM

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

** Please stand*

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Tom Rice

Invitation to Mission & Discipleship *(Please sign & pass the Friendship Pads)*

Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

CALL TO WORSHIP IN MUSIC

"Hail the Blest Morn"

Gilbert M. Martin

Kim Anderson, organist

The music is a call to open one's spirit to God's presence in our midst.

OPENING SENTENCES *(from Child of Blessing)*

One: Jesus said, "Whoever has seen me has seen God."

We see Jesus feeding--

All: **That's what God does.**

One: We see Jesus serving--

All: **That's what God does.**

One: We see Jesus loving--

All: **That's what God does.**

Let us worship God!

*** HYMN # 519** "You Are My Strength When I Am Weak"

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Loving God, sometimes it is hard to be kind. Sometimes we don't want to help other people. Sometimes we don't want to share. We are sorry. Forgive us and help us to live as your children. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(Silent Confession)

*** Congregational Response**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

* Assurance of Pardon

* Gloria

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.*

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

MESSAGE FOR OUR YOUNGEST DISCIPLES

Annie Barner

Children will attend Sunday School in the Chapel.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 36:5-9

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.

Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains;
your judgments are like the great deep;
you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

They feast on the abundance of your house,

and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

For with you is the fountain of life;

in your light we see light.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place

Johannes Brahms

From "A German Requiem"

The Chancel Choir - Russell Nagy, Director

How lovely is Thy dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

*For my soul, it longeth, yea, fainteth for the courts of the Lord;
My soul and body crieth out, yea, for the living God.*

*Blest are they that dwell within Thy house;
They praise Thy name evermore.*

How lovely is Thy dwelling place.

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 17:16-31

Rev. Dr. Matt Reeves

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, "What does this pretentious babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities." (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means." Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we, too, are his offspring.'

"Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"God Is Not 'Out There'"

Pastor Matt

*** HYMN #37**

"Let All Things Now Living"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

PRESENTATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

Rev. Betsy Rice

Offertory

Run the Race

Shine Robison

The Cornerstone Youth Band

Verse 1

*When we cannot see the path before us
God's promise is true
When we stumble on the rocky road
God's Word is sure*

Chorus

*We will run, run, run this race
To the fullness of God's grace
We press on-ward towards the light
Til eterni-ty's delight*

Verse 2

*Though we know not what tomorrow brings
God's promise is true
When sin threatens to pin me down
God's Word is sure*

Ending

*For we know our story's not done
God's kingdom will come*

Pre-Chorus

*For we know our God is here
Walking with us
Jesus died and rose to life
Our future is secure*

* Doxology (tune: #609)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures, here below.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

* Dedication of Tithes & Offerings

Scan the QR code to give online or visit wpcnow.org/give



RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

Nicholas Robison

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Pastors Matt & Betsy

All who put their trust in Christ are welcome to receive communion. Please remain seated to be served communion in your row. Gluten-free bread is in the center of the plate. Grape juice is red, and wine is white.

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, we give you thanks that by the witness of your word and the sharing of this meal, you have opened our hearts and eyes to the presence of Christ among us. Now send us out from this place by the power of your Spirit to tell this good news to the world: The Lord has risen indeed! Amen.

Music

"It Is Well With My Soul"

arr. Robert J. Boyd

GOING IN GOD'S NAME

* **HYMN #526** "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

* **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

Pastor Matt

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"Psalm of Praise "

Franklin Ritter

Please remain seated during the postlude as it is the final "Amen" to our worship. Those who need to leave before the end of the postlude are free to do so quietly.

Celebrate the end of the Sunday School year with games, treats, and fun on the front lawn after worship!

Also happening today...

Youth End-of-Year Party

Activate Play at Polaris • 4:30–6:30PM

S.O.S. (Seniors Over Sixty) Spring Stroll + Picnic at Park of Roses

Meet in Youth Room to make lunch • Leave for park around noon

\$5 donation • Rain plan: lunch & trivia indoors

Find sign-ups & more announcements

wpcnow.org/next or scan the QR code



What is the Annual Per Capita Campaign?

Per Capita is a set per-member dollar amount that Presbyterian Church (USA) congregations contribute annually to the wider Presbyterian Church. It began over 200 years ago to spread the costs that help Presbyterian churches stay connected. Today, per capita helps fund benefits congregations receive from being part of a larger denomination. For WPC, this has included leadership training and professional retreats attended by our WPC pastors, support of those preparing for ministry, such as our own Nick Robison, and the online pastor search platform used in our process that resulted in calling Pastor Matt Reeves. For 2026, per capita is \$46 per member. Find out more about per capita at wpcnow.org, under the "Give" tab. Click on *Per Capita Q&A*.

How does Per Capita relate to the Mission work of WPC?

Some members may not realize that per capita funds can come back to benefit WPC's mission and our local community. One example is presbytery funding that supports *A Light to the Nations*, an immigrant-led worship service in WPC's chapel on the fourth Sunday of the month. Another example is presbytery support of Jacob's Porch, a campus ministry at Ohio State University, where Taylor Barner, Annie Barner's husband, is a minister on staff.

Why is it important to reach this year's total Per Capita goal?

WPC continues to commit to paying its full per capita obligation. In 2026, this totals \$41,400. This payment is divided among the General Assembly, Synod and our local Presbytery, which receives approximately 2/3 of the total. The annual Per Capita Campaign asks each member to give their individual amount of \$46. These gifts will offset what the church pays out of its budget and are a way for members to recognize the benefits of connection to the larger Presbyterian Church (USA). This year, we are hopeful that more members will step up and donate their individual or household per capita, thus freeing up WPC budget dollars for other missional uses.

What is our goal?

Our goal is to raise 57%, or \$23,600, of the total per capita commitment through the Per Capita Special Offering we will collect on **Sunday, May 17**. If you have not contributed to per capita in the past, please consider donating in 2026. If you plan to give your per capita and can do more, consider extra for those on a more limited budget. Thank you for your generosity!