



Who wants to invest in the kids at WUMC?

TEACHERS ARE NEEDED!

This fall, WUMC will change how our kid's Sunday school classes are structured. Classes for kids will take place 9-9:50a on Sunday mornings; a class will be offered for their parents during that time as well.

Pre-K-grade 3 will also have their own mini lesson during the service!

Sunday School teachers are needed for both these age groups; contact Lisa Browning-Wiseman for more info (330.466.3980 or lbrowningwiseman@woosterumc.org).

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

Pastor David will be meeting with members of the congregation at neighborhood meetings (10-12 people) in members' homes in August and September.

WANT TO ATTEND AND/OR HOST?

Sign up at the "What's Up at WUMC?" table in Wesley Hall or call the church office.



WUMC is now a Lighthouse Church!

Maybe you're wondering exactly what that means? During this transitional time that has seen UM churches disaffiliating, some members are searching for new church homes. A Lighthouse Church is a beacon to those who feel abandoned, lost, or disconnected. Lighthouse churches are dedicated to the UMC and welcome those seeking a new church home. Learn more at eocumc.com/lighthousechurches.



Circuit Rider

August 2023

WOOSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

connect • grow • serve



RALLY DAY! SEPTEMBER 17

RALLY DAY CELEBRATES NEW BEGINNINGS!

- A NEW YEAR OF SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS!
- WUMC CHOIR RETURNS FROM SUMMER BREAK!
- BIBLE DISTRIBUTION FOR 3 YEAR OLDS AND 3RD GRADERS!



JOIN THE SANCTUARY SUPPORT TEAM

WUMC is looking to add members to the Sanctuary Support Team. The SST helps keep the congregation and community engaged with Sunday services.

Complete training is available; you don't need to be a tech whiz!

Contact Nathan Greene (ngreene@woosterumc.org) for more info.



Wednesday, August 16 • 12:00p

Pizza and beverages provided!

Bring \$5 towards pizza.

Bring a side or snack to share if you wish!

All are invited!



Celebrate with Shirley Buehler—she's turning 90!

Send cards to the address below:

Darby Buehler
350 Caldwell Dr.
Wooster, OH 44691

Please mail cards by August 5 to ensure they reach Shirley by her big day!



AUGUST SERMON SERIES

F O R G I V E N E S S

August 6, 13, 20 & 27 at Wooster UMC



SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



WUMC in the Community Project!

Our collection for Cornerstone Elementary continues through August 20. Bring donations to Wesley Hall!

- Elmer's Glue Sticks • Scissors • Gallon Ziplock Bags • 4 pk. Play-Doh • Clorox Wipes
- Sandwich Ziploc Bags • Boxes of Tissues • Ticonderoga #2 pencils • Headphones or earbuds (wired)
- Composition Notebooks • Crayola 10-pack Classic Markers • Crayola 24-pack Classic Crayons
- Black Dry Erase Markers

Wooster UMC • 243 N. Market St. • Wooster OH 44691 • 330.262.5641

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Pastor David Rittgers
Office Manager, Becky Pickett

drittgers@woosterumc.org
office@woosterumc.org

The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Pastor's Ponderings



Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ! I'm so glad to be with you, members and friends of Wooster UMC, as we begin a new season of ministry together. My hope is to not only share weekly sermons with you in worship, but to also communicate with you on a regular basis in writing. It seems like this monthly Circuit Rider newsletter may be the best place to do that.

Even though I've only been with you for a month, it seems like a lot is already happening. I'm thankful for the warm welcome you gave me and my family as we arrived in town. We feel "at home" here in Wooster and have started to get to know many of you. Your grace and patience as we learn new names - and just as importantly, your stories - are greatly appreciated!

Toward the end of July, I wrapped up my first worship series with you talking about one of the practices that Fruitful Congregations engage in, which is Radical Hospitality. The idea is as simple as this: as God has welcomed us into God's family, so we are instructed by God to welcome others. Said another way, welcome others the same way that Christ has welcomed you.

Friends, the Church should be known for great hospitality. Many churches I've visited have told me that they are a "friendly" church, especially to each other. I always think to myself, "Well, I sure hope so!" It would be a huge disappointment if a church were less than friendly to anyone.

Maybe a better question we should ask is this one: "Is this church hospitable?" Guests are asking, "Will I truly feel welcome here? And not just the first time I visit, but when I return next time? Can I envision myself belonging to this community and participating in the life of Christ with the people here?" Those are much deeper questions than "Is this a 'friendly' church?"

At this stage of church life in 2023, we have a golden opportunity to show hospitality to a particular group of people. Specially, those who are on a pilgrimage to find a new United Methodist Church. You may be aware that several former UM churches in our area have recently disaffiliated, meaning they're no longer United Methodist in name. Among the people who attended those churches, it's likely that some want to remain United Methodist. We, here at Wooster UMC, hope to be the kind of place where those folks might want to belong.

However, I've come to realize that being a Lighthouse Church is really only part of what it means for us to be a church whose culture oozes with Radical Hospitality. The Lighthouse Church movement in the UMC will last for a season, but fruitful congregations will offer hospitality all the time. So, I invite us to take up this challenge together: Let's aim to be a congregation who not only wants to welcome the people who come looking for us, but also a congregation who seeks out and embraces anyone who is seeking to encounter the love of God in their lives.

Thanks Be to God!

Pastor David Rittgers (drittgers@woosterumc.org)

Kind words

Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul, and health to the body. Proverbs 16:24

To my WUMC church family: Thank you so much for the graduation card and generous gift. Love, Hayley Sleek

Thank you so much for your generous donations of treats and toys for our pet food pantry. We have been very busy and everyone who comes in for pet food is super appreciative. Thanks again for your support. The Members of St. James

Dear Funeral Committee: Thank you for your help with the reception after my husband's service on July 8th. My family and I appreciate your assistance. Best, Gennie Johnston

END OF SUMMER FUN!

To wrap up our "Food Truck Party" summer curriculum, **The Rolling Leaf food truck is coming to WUMC on August 20!** Plan to stay after worship and enjoy a free brunch!

To get ready for a new school year, kids should bring their backpacks that day for a **backpack blessing** during the service!

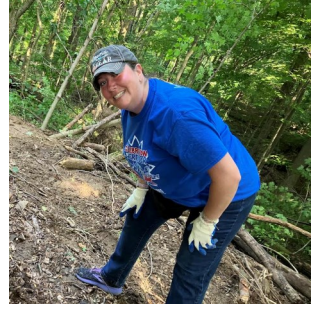
BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Please keep the church informed of illness and hospitalization of any person who may need a caring visit or phone call. Unless specifically requested by the patient, hospitals are no longer able to call the church, or give us information when we call.

Recently ill/hospitalized: Recent deaths: Yvonne Durrant



Above & Right: A mission team from WUMC worked at Christian Children's Home of Ohio clearing pathways for use by CCHO residents.



Left: The WUMC kitchen is getting a facelift! New counters have been installed; wall and cabinet painting is underway!



Below: Sunday school classes are enjoying the "Food Truck Party" curriculum this summer!



WUMC HELPING HANDS

WE'RE READY TO HELP!

WUMC Helping Hands ministry began from a desire to lend a hand to those in our congregation and community who need a little help with small projects around their homes.

- WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?**
- moved a chair upstairs from a basement
 - washed two windows above a sink
 - fixed a keypad (replaced batteries)
 - tilled, raked, and seeded a 4' x 6' area in a yard
 - installed 6 window blinds
 - stained and repaired some deck boards
 - provided transportation to an appointment
 - removed a basketball pole and recycled

COULD YOU USE A HAND?

We're waiting to hear from you!

Contact Mike Mann

- mdm_mann@hotmail.com
- 330.749.1752