

**YOUTH BAKE SALE**

WUMC youth will hold a bake sale on Sunday, November 5 following worship in Wesley Hall. Support their efforts by purchasing and/or providing baked goods to sell. Proceeds to 2024 youth mission trip. Contact Deb (dclow@woosterumc.org/ 217.799.0594) with questions.

**WUMC LUNCH BUNCH**

**Wednesday, November 15 - Noon**  
 Pizza and beverages provided!  
 Bring \$5 towards pizza.  
 Bring a side or snack to share if you wish!  
 All are invited!



**WUMC OUTDOOR WORK DAY**  
**Saturday, November 18**  
**9:00a-noon**  
 Bring your rakes and leaf blowers to help spruce up the WUMC grounds!

**"OUR SANCTUARIES"**

Wednesday, November 15 · 10:30a  
 Presented by the Mary Martha Circle


Rev. David Wilcox will give a historical presentation, "Our Sanctuaries". All are invited to attend!

**United Women in Faith**

**QUARTERLY DINNER: "Angels"**  
**Wednesday, December 6**  
**(gather at 5:30p; dinner at 6:00p)**

Tickets for this catered dinner are \$20 each and are available for purchase in Wesley Hall through November 19.

**WUMC IN THE COMMUNITY**

 WUMC will ring the bell for the Salvation Army on Friday, December 15, 8:00a-8:00p. Sign up for a slot at the "What's Up?" table in Wesley Hall or call the church office.

**GRIEF SHARE SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS**

Thursday, November 16 · 10:00a-noon  
 Morton Room

WUMC will present a two-hour seminar "GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays" for those who may be facing the holiday season after losing a loved one. Pastor David will facilitate the video-based teaching and group discussion. You will receive a devotional to take home. Sign up at the "What's Up at WUMC?" table in Wesley Hall or by calling the church office.

**PEOPLE TO PEOPLE CANNED FOOD COLLECTION**  
 NOVEMBER 12-19



WUMC wants to help People to People Ministries stock their pantry as the holidays approach! To help, bring canned goods to the collection bin in Wesley Hall between November 12-19. The Missions Team will make sure all the cans are delivered to People to People!

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE**

- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER!** Looking for some festive folks to stay after worship on Sunday, November 26 to decorate WUMC for the holiday season. Pizza will be served! Signing up in Wesley Hall or by calling the church office will let chair Misty Hostetler know that she will have some helping hands!
- LAST CHANCE TO DONATE!** WUMC in the Community is partnering with Meals Together to collect money for the purchase of heat-reflecting Mylar blankets to be distributed to Meals Together patrons. Each blanket is \$13; donate by November 10 via woosterumc.org, at the "What's Up?" table in Wesley Hall, or via your usual method (note that the donation is for the blanket drive).
- LADIES NIGHT OUT** takes place on Wednesday, November 15 @ 6:30 in Wesley Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$23, payable that evening, which includes dessert, devotion and your choice of a winter sign design to craft! Go to woosterumc.org to register or visit the "What's Up at WUMC?" table in Wesley Hall.
- NEW BIBLE STUDY** On November 5, 12 and 19, the NEW adult Sunday school class will tackle a short book called "Three Simple Rules" by Bishop Reuben Job. This class meets at 9:00a on the 3rd floor (SW corner of the building in the room with the comfy couches).

 WUMC has printed invitational cards for the Advent season. If you'd like to invite friends or neighbors to join us for Advent this year, pick up some cards at the "What's Up at WUMC?" table in Wesley Hall.

**Circuit Rider**

October 2023

WOOSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

connect • grow • serve

**FEAST OF Thanks CONSECRATION SUNDAY**

The WUMC church family will gather in Wesley Hall on November 12 following worship. WUMC will provide turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, hot vegetables, rolls, beverage and table service. Congregation members are asked to bring a cold side and/or dessert to share.

Volunteers still needed: sign up at the "What's Up at WUMC?" table in Wesley Hall!

WUMC also celebrates Consecration Sunday on November 12. WUMC members should have received a letter in the mail inviting them to take part in Consecration Sunday and to be prayerfully considering how they might choose to take a "step up" in their giving for the coming year.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20  
 6:00P • OAK CHAPEL  
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Prayer for Peace Gathering**

We are invited to gather and pray for the concerns of our world.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20**  
**6:00P**  
**OAK CHAPEL UMC**  
**4203 W. OLD LINCOLN WAY, WOOSTER**

In the midst of unresolved turmoil in our world, we are invited to gather and pray. United Methodist Pastors John Finn, James Lance, and David Rittgers will lead a time of worship and prayer. The service will last no longer than an hour.

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 drittgers@woosterumc.org  
 Office Manager, Becky Pickett office@woosterumc.org

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

# Pastor's Ponderings: A "New" Year Begins



## Giving Thanks in EVERY Situation

Happy November! The season of Thanksgiving is just around the corner. Advent and Christmas are soon to follow. It's a time of year when we try to speed up and slow down all at the same time. We redouble our efforts to gather with those who mean the most to us to let them know how important they are in our lives. We attempt to take stock of the year that's ending, while also making plans for the year that lies ahead of us.

In the midst of it all, we pause to give thanks. In particular, we pause to thank our Creator God for all that's been given to us that makes life what it is. However, if we're honest, we struggle to give thanks for everything that has happened. I mean, there are some things (and some relationships) we aren't so appreciative of, right? In our broken humanity, we tend to be selective about what's worth giving thanks for and what we wish we didn't have to experience.

As a follower of Jesus, I find that this is one of my biggest challenges to live into. For in the Scriptures, we are invited to "Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in EVERY situation because this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, CEB; emphasis mine). Am I thankful in every situation? No, I'm not. Frankly, I'm tired of dealing with some situations that feel well beyond my control. Maybe you feel that way, too.

So, what's the remedy? It's taking on the mind of Christ, seeing things his way. When we see life through a heavenly perspective, we begin to see how some of the circumstances of our lives that we don't really appreciate may end up being ways that God is at work doing good. How would things look different if you and I could give thanks in EVERY circumstance? Let's find out by regularly asking Jesus to help us see everything through his perspective.

As a footnote, one change that's coming soon for all the congregations in the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church is a realignment of our districts. In a nutshell:

- In June, our conference voted to reduce the number of districts from ten to four.
- The current Canal District will no longer exist as of January 1, 2024.
- We will then be part of the Central Valley District (including all of Wayne/Holmes Cos.).
- We will no longer have Rev. Angela Lewis as our District Superintendent.
- Our new District Superintendents will be Rev. Cara Stultz Costello and Rev. Edgar Brady.
- Together, they will be responsible for 96 local churches in six counties.
- More information about this change will be displayed around the church building.

Wishing you all of God's best in this season of gratitude and grace! Happy Thanksgiving!

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor David Rittgers (drittgers@woosterumc.org)



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
A WUMC holiday tradition,  
Burning River Brass return to  
WUMC on Saturday, December 16,  
at 1:30p.

## Kind words

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

To the Methodist Church Family: The kalanchoe flower that I received as person of the week in September and a ginger cookie this month, Oh My! Thank you again for your caring thoughtfulness to me from my church family. Nancy Franck and granddaughter, Gwen brought the cookie and visited awhile, such a special treat. Sincerely, Shirley Buehler

Dear Friends : Betty and I have been members of the former Methodist Church and then the UMC for over 65 years. Recently we were graced by the church as "People of the Week", a first for us in any church. Of course, we are delighted and honored by this action. Thank you, one and all, who chose us. Then a few days later someone from the church delivered some cookies to our home. Again, a first for us. Thank you one and all who are responsible for these blessings. Betty and Dick Smith

Thanks for the flowers. They are lovely and I appreciate them. Phyllis Franks

Fellow Church Members: We appreciate the work of the group from the church who put up the wheelchair ramp: Mike Mann, Dave Braddock, Ed Rindfleisch, and John Slater as well as the group from Habitat. We would especially like to thank Mike Mann and Habitat who coordinated and made it happen. It makes our lives easier and safer! God Bless, Kay & Bob Hastings

Thank you for all of your cards, thoughts, and prayers. I really appreciated them and am so grateful to be back home. Barb Sattler

Please keep the church informed of illness and hospitalization of any person who may need a caring visit or phone call.

Recently ill/hospitalized: Recent deaths: Marjorie Baker, Michael Dunaway



# Photo Gallery



Left: family fun at Ramseyer Farm.

Below: WUMC in the Community partnered with our Buckeye St. neighbors to sponsor a picnic.



Below: Sweet cookie treats were delivered to our limited mobility members and care facility residents.



Right: WUMC welcomed the following new members during our worship service on October 29:

- Deb Clow
- Kevin & Susan Donley
- Phyllis Frank
- David & Ellen MacMaster
- Cathy Nicholson
- Dave & Sandy Riley
- Cindy Rohrbaugh

