

HOLY WEEK NOON CONCERTS

Bring a lunch and enjoy a short concert each day of Holy Week! Concerts begin at noon and last approximately 1/2 hour.
 Monday: Organist Peter Woodruff
 Tuesday Organist Tom Shaw
 Wednesday: Soloist David Rittgers
 Thursday: Organist Steve Gerber



FOOD AND HYGIENE DRIVE!

EXPANDING OUR COLLECTION!
 We're off to a great start with our shelf-stable food collection and we've learned of a new need! **OneEighty is in need of hygiene items for their emergency shelter and treatment centers and we'd like to expand our ongoing collection to help them out!** Most needed items: 2 in 1 shampoo/conditioner, deodorant (men's and women's), razors (men's and women's) hand lotion, and body lotion. Items will be collected in the same container that's been used for our food collection! Electronic donations can be made via the tile on the GIVE page at woosterumc.org or by using your usual method and noting "ongoing donation".



WUMC WORK DAY

Saturday, April 12 | 8:30-11:30a
 Let's do some sprucing up at WUMC! Willing hands are needed for various indoor and outdoor jobs! Projects include painting and storeroom organizing indoors (supplies provided), and raking, mulch refreshing, weeding, and edging outside (bring gloves/garden tools that might be helpful for these jobs).

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SCAMS

Tuesday, April 8 | 11:00a | Wesley Hall
 Mary Martha & Esther Circles will host a presentation on scam safety. Officer Hall of the Wooster Police Department will lead the discussion. **All are welcome to attend!**

PIZZA WITH THE PASTOR

Sunday, May 4 following worship
 Pastor David is eager to meet with anyone wanting to learn more about connecting at Wooster UMC! We'll schedule a 1/2 hour for a building tour and another 1/2 hour for lunch and conversation. Register at the What's Up Table, Welcome Center, or by calling the church office.

RISE UP
 MARK 5:35-43
 Beloved

This year's East Ohio Annual Conference (June 12-14) will take place on the College of Wooster campus for the first time! The EOC is looking to local churches to help make this event a success—can you help? Scan the code and take a short survey to indicate interest/availability. Jobs include greeting, help desk, prayer team, offering collection, campus guide, cafeteria assistance, parking lot attendant, VBS helpers—even helping with the 5Krun/walk for Camp Ministry!

LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, April 16 • Noon
 Pizza and beverages provided!
 Bring \$5 towards pizza. Bring a side or snack to share if you wish!
 All are invited!



LENTEN REFLECTIONS ART GALLERY: WHAT'S OUR PURPOSE?

During Lent, WUMC invites the congregation to reflect on Bible passages about the Church's purpose and respond creatively through art, poetry, and stories. The Chapel will provide materials for creating pieces to display on the second floor. Kids can join Ali on Tuesdays at 4:00p for guided art sessions.
Week 4: Ephesians 4:1-6
 See the Lenten Brochure, available at the What's Up Table or Welcome Center, for a complete list of weekly verses. Bring completed projects to the Chapel or turn in to the church office; we'll take care of the rest!

AREA UMC LENTEN SERVICES

Sunday Service Time: 4:00p
 Fellowship Time Following

April 6 | Church of the Cross UMC
 Led by Pastor Jennifer Darling-Mellott
 5100 Cleveland Rd., Wooster

April 13 | Wooster UMC
 Led by DS Cara Stultz Costello

April 18 | Oak Chapel UMC | 7:00p
 Good Friday Cantata

WUMC is looking for willing hands to help with hosting the April 13 Lenten service to be held at WUMC. In particular, ushers, greeters and hospitality helpers are needed; see the sign up sheet at the What's Up table or Welcome Center.



It's time to sign up for Summer Camp 2025! Camp brochures are available in each Sunday school classroom; feel free to take one home to browse. Camp scholarships will be available again this year, please follow this QR code or ask Ali for a paper copy to request a

Circuit Rider

April 2025

WOOSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

connect • grow • serve

HOLY WEEK & EASTER AT WOOSTER UMC

Holy Week is a time to reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Remembering Jesus' actions, reflecting on his messages and recommitting to living as his disciples in the world today.

We hope this schedule helps you plan to observe these important days, both on your own and with others.

Sunday, April 13, 10am, Sanctuary
 Palm Sunday: "The Hour of Darkness"

Thursday, April 17, 7pm, Sanctuary
 Maundy Thursday Service, featuring a drama directed by Tony Lane

Friday, April 18, 7pm, Oak Chapel UMC Sanctuary
 Good Friday Cantata

Sunday, April 20, 10am, Sanctuary
 Easter Sunday: "The Resurrection"

FOR THE KIDS ON EASTER SUNDAY:
 9am Sunday School
 10am Children's Church during Worship
 Egg Hunt Following Worship



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

Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

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

Pastor's Ponderings: Newsletter Article April 2025

"The Power of God at Easter: A New Beginning"

In just a few weeks, we will arrive with Jesus at the cross of Calvary. As we approach the sacred season of Easter, we're reminded of the life-changing power of God that was revealed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday are the cornerstone of our faith, and they hold deep significance for all who call upon the name of the Lord.

On Easter morning, we encounter the greatest display of God's power: the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. It's a moment that changed everything, ushering in a new era of hope, forgiveness, and transformations. In the Greek language of the New Testament, the word used for this kind of power is *dunamis*. You may recognize that *dunamis* sounds much like our English word "dynamite." It's this kind of explosive power that God offers to us.

Easter isn't just a historical event we remember each year; it's a living reality that continues to shape our lives today. The *dunamis* power that raised Jesus from the dead is the same power that works within us. Paul reminds us in Romans 8:11, "The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you." This is the power that enables us to live as new creations in Christ. It's the same power that gave birth to the Church of Jesus Christ and which empowers us to become like Christ and collectively join Jesus in ministry.

Beginning on Easter Sunday, we're invited to participate in a **28-Day Prayer Experiment called "Dynamite Prayer"** which will empower us to hear from God in a powerful way. During the four weeks that follow Easter Sunday, we will intentionally ask God to reveal WHERE he wants us to go as we follow Jesus together. This will become the next, and perhaps most important, step in the Visioning Process for our congregation. A prayer journal will be available to anyone who chooses to take part. The focused prayers we will pray are considered to be "additive" - meaning they are above and beyond our usual prayers for ourselves and others. More details about the 28-day prayer experiment will be coming soon, so stay tuned. My hope is that everyone will take part as we seek God's direction for the next chapter of congregational life.

This Easter, let's rejoice in the victory over death that Jesus won for us. Let's live with the assurance that God's power isn't only for a distant past but is meant to be just as active in our lives today. Let's celebrate the gift of new life and let's be witnesses to the resurrection power of Christ in all that we do. May this Easter season be a time of deep renewal for each of you, as we embrace the power of God that raised Jesus from the dead and is making all things new!

In the Power of Resurrection,

Pastor David Rittgers

Kind words

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

Many of the first responders who received a spaghetti dinner expressed gratitude that WUMC thought of them and took the time to deliver hot meals to firefighters, police officers, dispatch workers, corrections officers, etc.!

Central Christian Church would like to thank everyone for the donation of Easter eggs!

"Thank you for the honor of recognizing me as the Person of the Week during the month of March. Blessing me with many lovely cards, notes and phone calls, as well as a beautiful blooming potted plant. I'm pleased to be a member of this United Methodist Church family. Sincerely, Linda Smith"



Left: WUMC kids used their offering to purchase items for Wooster give and take pantries located in neighborhood gardens.

Right: WUMC shared the love by donating 100 eggs to Central Christian Church in support of the Buckeye St. Neighborhood Egg Hunt.

Below: The 65th Annual Youth Spaghetti Dinner was a success, raising over \$2500 for youth missions and camp!

