

HOLY WEEK & EASTER AT WOOSTER UMC



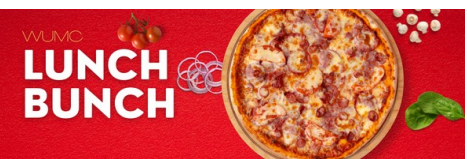
April 2 | 7:00p | WUMC Sanctuary
Our Maundy Thursday service will feature a drama, *Peter's Denial*, written and directed by WUMC congregation member Tony Lane. How could Peter deny Jesus? Maybe the answer is staring us in the face...each time we look into a mirror.

Friday, April 3 | 1:30p

Join Ali Vizzo at Wooster Memorial Park for a **Good Friday Nature Walk**. Weather permitting, we'll take a hike and look for

Easter | Following Worship

WUMC will hide 500 eggs on the front lawn for kids to find following worship on Easter Sunday. We'll move inside if the weather doesn't cooperate! We'll provide a bag for your goodies and collect the plastic eggs to recycle for next year!



Wednesday, April 15 | Noon

Join your church family for Lunch Bunch! We'll be enjoying everyone's favorite—pizza! Please bring \$5 to help cover the cost, and snacks to share are always welcome. Not a pizza fan? Feel free to bring a brown-bag lunch. Everyone is invited!

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

Walker Bags Available!

Need an organizational bag for a walker? Or know someone who does? WUMC Stitch Mission would love to provide one! Contact the church office or Sarah Beck (beckst@ssnet.com).

Job Opening

WUMC thanks long time Handbell Choir Director Inez Shirer for her many years of service! With her upcoming retirement, WUMC has an opening for a part-time director. Please contact Pastor David (drittgers@woosterumc.org) for a detailed job description and/or to apply. Please include a brief resume indicating musical and spiritual leadership experiences. Previous experience playing/directing handbells preferred.

Camp Season is Underway!

Registration for East Ohio Camps is open—visit the camp display at the What's Up Table to learn more!

LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES TRAINING AT WUMC

Saturday, April 18 | 8:00a-5:00p

The Central Valley West District Lay Servant Ministries Committee will offer the following courses:

1. Introduction to Lay Ministry
2. Discover Your Spiritual Gifts
3. Ministry with the Forgotten: Dementia Through a Spiritual Lens

For more information on the courses and how to register, visit the What's Up Table.



One Day Mission Trip Saturday, April 25 | 8:00a-4:30p

Can't always commit to a longer mission trip? This might be a great chance for you to serve! Watch the bulletin for details! www.missionbarn.org

LASER TAG

Sunday, April 19 | Acres of Fun
Let's get moving! We'll meet up at 3:00p and play 3 games of laser tag! Cost: \$10/each. RSVP to Ali (avizzo@woosterumc.org).

NEW STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

April 12 | 9:00a | Room C

Director of Discipleship Ali Vizzo will lead a new adult Bible study, *The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life* by Adam Hamilton. This six-week study explores five key spiritual practices rooted in Jesus' life and teachings, designed to deepen your daily walk with Christ and strengthen our life together as a church. Books are \$13. Sign up at the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall.

April 8 | 6:30p | Morton Room

Join us for a 5-week study of *One Thousand Gifts* by Ann Voskamp. This inspiring study invites us to discover joy and fulfillment through gratitude and to embrace the truth that we are deeply loved by God. Books are available for \$10. Come explore a fresh perspective on gratitude—we hope you'll join us!

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES Sunday

Sunday, April 19

One of six special Sundays in the UMC, Native American Ministries Sunday advocates for ministry with and by Native Americans to share the diverse culture, history and traditions of Native peoples. Through this ministry, we affirm Native Americans and their contributions to society and The United Methodist Church. To donate, scan the code on the table tents at each sanctuary exit, head to the GIVE page at woosterumc.org—or donate via your usual method, noting "Native American Ministries Sunday."

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS!

Looking for college grads!

WUMC will honor graduates (high school and college) during worship on May 24. If you have a student graduating college this year, please let us know so we can add their name to the bulletin that day!

Endowment Scholarship

Attention College Students: The WUMC Endowment Scholarship Committee is accepting applications for scholarships to help students further their education. Applications are available at woosterumc.org (on the Youth page) or in the church office. Deadline: June 30

HOLY WEEK NOON EVENTS

March 30—April 3

Wooster UMC will host a series of Holy Week concerts/services at noon in the WUMC Sanctuary. Take a break and join us for a time of music, reflection, and worship during Holy Week. All are invited!

Monday, March 30

Pianist Chloe Raber of Central Christian

Tuesday, March 31

Organist Tom Shaw & Flutist Susan Shaw Of Westminster Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, April 1

Organist Peter Woodruff of Zion Lutheran

Thursday, April 2

Organist Steve Gerber of WUMC

Friday, April 3

Good Friday Tenebrae Service
"Life Lessons of Jesus' Last Seven Words"
Led by Pastor David Rittgers and Organist Steve Gerber

Circuit Rider

April 2026

WOOSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

connect • grow • serve

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



This year's East Ohio Annual Conference (June 11-13) will again take place on the College of Wooster campus, which puts WUMC in a unique position to lend a hand! The EOC seeks help from 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 Help Desk, Greeters, Prayer Team, Offering Collection, Parking Lot Attendant, Cafeteria Assistant, and more—a job for every person and every schedule!

A special need this year is VBS volunteers! The EOC provides VBS to ensure that clergy and laity with children are able to participate fully in Annual Conference without the worry and expense of child care—and to share the love of Christ with our youngest disciples! If you are interested and able to serve any time during the evening of June 10th-afternoon of June 13th, please contact Rev. Amy Vittorio at pastoramyv@gmail.com.



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

Pastor David Rittgers

Office Manager, Stacy Rutt

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PASTOR'S PONDERINGS: MARCH 2026

"A Season of Preparation"

Pastor's Newsletter Article – April 2026

"Resurrection Joy"

This year, the beginning of April invites us to experience some of the holiest days of the Christian year as we consider the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. On Maundy Thursday (April 2), we remember Jesus' final meal with his disciples. On Good Friday (April 3), we witness Jesus' suffering on the cross, offering himself for all of humanity. The story gives way to joy on the Third Day, Easter Sunday (April 5), when we celebrate the way life triumphs over death as Jesus is raised from the grave. An empty tomb proclaims that Christ is alive!

In the weeks that follow, we're invited to continue our Easter celebration. Engaging a worship series called "Redemption Songs," the Psalms become songs of freedom—giving melody to a new kind of life made possible by the resurrection. They're poetic witnesses to God's enduring faithfulness, compassion, and renewal, carrying the tension of lament and praise, yearning and fulfillment, weariness and wonder. These ancient songs don't just remember past deliverance; they proclaim that a better future is breaking in. We're to be more than readers, but singers joining the chorus of the redeemed. We seek to uncover how each Psalm sings of hope rising among the ruins, of a world being remade, and of people learning to trust joy again. Rather than naïve praises, they're hard-won hallelujahs, grounded in suffering and resurrected in love.

With Resurrection Joy!

Pastor David Rittgers



Kind words

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

The Harris family is deeply grateful for the support our church has always given. We feel very much loved and blessed.

Sincerely, Jyotsna Harris

Thank you for beautiful flowering plant when we were persons of the week—it is still flowering! Dick & Roberta Kinder

Thank you for making us persons of the week. The year 2026 has not had a good beginning for us, so it was especially nice for Dr. Wilcox to call and to receive notes from several members. The African violet is a bright spot in our home. Betty & Roger Conner

I sincerely thank the church for remembering me as person of the week. The little rosebush is really pretty. Betty Smith

Thank you to everyone who supported the 66th Annual Youth Spaghetti Dinner! Whether you purchased tickets, sponsored meals for first responders or members with limited mobility, donated ingredients, provided desserts, served as a delivery driver, or lifted up the dinner and our youth in prayer, your generosity made a difference. Because of you, the proceeds from this special evening will support WUMC youth throughout the coming year — including summer camp, the ASP mission trip, youth group, and other meaningful activities that help our young people grow in faith and community.

Thank you for your kindness and support! Wooster City Firefighters

Thank you for doing this for our officers! Wooster City Police

This is a much appreciated gesture! Wooster City Dispatch

Thank you so much! We greatly appreciate you for thinking of us! Wayne County Corrections Officers

Thank you so much for offering this! Wayne County Patrol Officers

Thank you so much for thinking of us! Wayne County Dispatch

Thank you! This is greatly appreciated! State Highway Patrol

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

PHOTO GALLERY

THE MONTH IN PICTURES



Above Right & Below Right: Bishop Hee-Soo Jung visited WIUMC and shared lunch and conversation with congregation members.



Above and Below: Whether making meatballs, selling tickets, coordinating deliveries, or serving up dinners, WUMC youth worked hard at the 66th Annual Youth Spaghetti Dinner! And their work paid off—\$2225 was raised for youth missions, camps, and other activities. Approximately 130 dined in, 35 carried out, 76 meals were delivered to first responders (every meal was sponsored!), and 10 meals were delivered to WUMC limited mobility members.

Below Right: Many thanks to Beth and Anna Rittgers, who filled hygiene baskets for the women's restrooms at WUMC!

