



WUMC's past participation in The East Ohio Conference's Teach • Reach • Bless dormitory campaign for female students at Africa University has led to the next step: supporting those students through "Lift Her Up", which raises money for scholarships so that female students in refugee camps who have been accepted at AU will have the funds to enroll.

WUMC GOAL: Supporting one student in her educational journey by raising \$28,000, through pledges and/or donations, to cover her tuition, fees, housing and food as she earns her bachelor's degree at Africa University. Of this amount, an initial \$7,000 payment to cover the first year has already been made, allowing WUMC to be matched with a student and able to develop a relationship and follow her educational journey.

To support this effort:

- Fill out the pledge/donation card distributed with today's bulletin. Place in the offering plate, turn in to the office, or insert in the lock box at the What's Up table.
- Click the **Lift Her Up** tile on the GIVE page at woosterumc.org
- Give via your usual method, noting "Lift Her Up".

Track progress at the What's Up table in Wesley Hall!



WUMC will welcome Rose Darling, Church & Community Engagement Coordinator for Flat Rock Homes, to worship on August 11. Flat Rock provides services which transform lives of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This year's school supply collection will benefit Flat Rock; they have provided a list of needed items:

**Glue Sticks • Markers • Hand Sanitizer
Color Pencils (no crayons) • Kleenex
Pens (black or blue) • Sanitizing Wipes
Copy Paper • Toilet Paper • Paper Towels**
If you'd like WUMC to do the shopping, make a donation via your usual method (note "Flat Rock") or use the tile on the GIVE page at woosterumc.org.

WiFi™ WUMC Wi-Fi has been upgraded!

To use it, you'll need to **JOIN OR REJOIN** the Guest Network using the password JohnWesley (even if you've signed in before).



Laity and clergy of the East Ohio Conference are invited and encouraged to attend The Celebration of Ministry and Farewell Service for Bishop Tracy S. Malone Saturday, August 3 at 11:00 a.m. at Faith UMC in North Canton (300 9th Street NW). The service will be followed by a reception at the church. This is your opportunity to offer Bishop Malone blessings and words of appreciation for her eight years of ministry among us.

PIZZA WITH THE PASTOR

Sunday, September 1 @ 11:30a

Pastor David is eager to meet with anyone wanting to learn more about connecting at Wooster UMC! We'll tour the WUMC building and enjoy lunch together. RSVPing at the What's Up table in Wesley Hall or by calling the church office will ensure that we order enough pizza for everyone!

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

The WUMC Endowment Scholarship application deadline is coming up on August 31.
Forms are available on our website.

WUMC LUNCH BUNCH

**Wednesday, August 21
Noon in Wesley Hall**
Pizza and beverages provided!
Bring \$5 towards pizza.
Bring a side or snack to share if you wish!
All are invited!

Circuit Rider

August 2024

WOOSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH connect • grow • serve

THE STORY
READ THE STORY. EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE.

Coming in September 2024

WUMC is offering a plan to help you and your family discover how your story aligns with God's story found in the Bible.

"The Story" invites us to see the Bible as one continuing story of God and God's people, so we can find a thread woven across the Bible from front to back that links the smaller biblical stories we may already be familiar with to a grand narrative of what God is accomplishing in the world.

See more on page 2!

LAY VISITATION TEAM

Would you like to serve others but need something flexible that works with your schedule?

Please consider joining the Lay Visitation Team where you can brighten up the day of one of our limited mobility or care facility members with a monthly visit! WUMC even provides gifts for you to take so your person is reminded of their church family.

Interested in finding out more about this ministry? Contact the office or attend the Lay Visitation Team's next quarterly training session on August 18 at 11:15—right after worship in Room C.

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

Pastor's Ponderings:

Finding Our Story Caught Up in God's Story

As a follower of Jesus, have you ever said to yourself, "I wish I knew the Bible better"? Or maybe you've asked yourself questions like "How can I study the Bible without feeling so easily distracted?" or "Am I becoming the person God wants me to be – becoming more like Jesus?"

This coming school year, we're offering a plan to help you and your family discover how your story aligns with God's story found in the Bible. "The Story" invites us to see the Bible as one continuing story of God and God's people. What does that mean? It means that we can find a thread woven across the Bible from front to back that links the smaller biblical stories we may already be familiar with to a grand narrative of what God is accomplishing in the world.

"The Story" is an abridged, chronological Bible that reads like a novel. In this version of the Scriptures, there are no chapter/verse references. Instead, Scripture segments are seamlessly woven together with transition text into a single grand narrative. For those who have felt intimidated or overwhelmed by the unabridged Bible, "The Story" helps people understand God's Word more fully and engage with it more easily. "The Story" Bibles will be available for all age ranges including young children, elementary ages, youth, and adult.

So, how will this all-church Bible focus work in our congregation during the coming school year? Beginning in mid-September, we will begin walking through 31 of the most important stories found in the Bible and discover how they're connected to one another. Each week, these themes will be presented in our worship services through sermons, music, and liturgy. Running in parallel, many of our small groups and Sunday School classes will take a deeper look at those same passages when they meet. We hope to see several new small groups start.

We believe that as "The Story" brings the Bible to life, the broad scope of God's message of redemption demonstrated through the grace, truth, love of Jesus will penetrate hearts. People of all ages will be swept up in the story of God's love and God's plan for their lives.

Look for more information about "The Story" (including how to purchase Bibles and facilitate/host/participate in small groups) to be rolled out during the month of August. If you have questions about "The Story" please contact our Director of Discipleship, Ali Vizzo.

Grace and Peace in the Lord,
Pastor David Rittgers



Photo
Gallery



Baptism of Paul Maurer



Above, left, right: The WUMC Appalachian Service Project Mission Team at work and play, and with their finished project!



Kind words

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

We received a beautiful white tulip plant from WUMC. Thank you for remembering us. Chuck & Lorraine Butterbaugh

I was surprised to be chosen as person of the week! I also received a beautiful potted plant which I put on my patio! Thank you for thinking of me. God Bless. Jean Leonard

Dear Wooster UMC: As I take this summer to reflect on the 2023-2024 school year at Liberty Prep, I can't help but to feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the thoughtfulness and generosity bestowed upon us by Pastor David and Wooster UMC. It is because of you that the students of Liberty Prep were able to enjoy their first ever Baccalaureate! This was an experience that our students and staff will not soon forget, and one that we will forever be grateful for! Thank you, Joe Weisend, Principal, Liberty Prep

WUMC Family: I want to thank you for all your attention and love you have given my great grandchildren, Boston and Tayah Wilson. Thank you for your kindness of gifting them their camp experience (they are so excited). They are two very special children who love their church, and I am blessed for that! Thank you so much, Doris Snoddy

Dear Wooster UMC: Thank you for your support and especially our agape gifts. We are in Leslie County, Kentucky finishing a ramp and steps for a very nice couple. ASP 2024 Team: Charles, Maddie, Anna, Deb, Pastor David

Wooster United Methodist: Thank you so much for the card. Your support means so much to me! xoxo Alayna H.

Dear Wooster UMC. Thanks you so much for your hard work this summer! We loved your kindness and all of the growth and leadership that was shown. Thank you for giving up a week of your summer to help people in Leslie County!

From The Leslie Staff: Kyra, Tyler, Caroline, and Talmadge

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:



Above: WUMC supported The Pregnancy Care Center of Wayne County by filling baby bottles— \$993.80 was raised!



Above: WUMC mission team members at Royal Family Kids Camp.



Above, left, right: WUMC kids at Camp!

