



BUCKEYE STREET COMMUNITY COOK OUT
SATURDAY, AUGUST 23
3:00-5:00P

WUMC will once again sponsor the Buckeye Street Community Cook Out on Saturday, August 23. These events are held on the Buckeye St. Green and are sponsored by churches/businesses to foster a strong and safe downtown neighborhood. Volunteers are needed to provide cookies and help with set up, serving, and clean up. Sign up at the What's Up Table.



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCH

What would we be without all of the volunteers who make up Wooster UMC? From Sunday morning worship, to Vacation Bible School, to WUMC in the Community events, and everything in between, we run on volunteers. WUMC staff would like to thank all who give of their time and talents. Everyone is invited to join us in Wesley Hall following worship on August 24 for an appreciation lunch!



LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, August 20 • Noon
 Pizza and beverages provided!
 Bring \$5 towards pizza.
 Bring a side or snack to share if you wish!
 All are invited!



ACOLYTES NEEDED!

Acolytes are needed! Students entering 3rd grade and up can serve during worship, symbolizing the bringing of light into the sanctuary and participating in the sacred rituals of the UM faith. Training is offered on August 10 following worship. If you can't make it, let Ali know and she can make alternate arrangements. Questions? Contact Ali at 330.465.8870.



Warmer. Safer. Drier.

Many of you are familiar with WUMC's involvement with the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) - a team of 14 youth and adults from WUMC recently completed a mission trip to Harlan County, KY. WUMC is putting together an adult team who will serve with ASP in October. The timing/duration of the trip will be decided by those who wish to participate. If you'd like to be kept in the loop regarding this trip, sign up at the What's Up Table!



Wednesday, August 20 | 9:30-11a
 A 13-week GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Starts at WUMC on August 20, meeting weekly on Wednesdays 9:30-11:00a. Sign up at the Welcome Center, What's Up Table or by calling the church office.



OVER 800 ITEMS DONATED!
DONATIONS NEEDED!!

Contribute to WUMC ongoing collections:

- Shelf-stable food items for area give-and-take food pantries
- Hygiene items for OneEighty clients
- Collection bin at the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall
- Make electronic donations on the GIVE page at woosterumc.org or by using your usual method and noting "ongoing collection".



Wednesday, August 27
Leave 8am - return 4-5pm
 Looking for a meaningful way to serve others this summer? Consider this one-day trip to the Mission Barn in New Castle, PA—part of the UMCOR Relief Supply Network—where volunteers assemble cleaning, hygiene, and menstrual kits, and build ramp sections for those in need. Sign up at the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall.



TRANSFORMING Church Culture:
 Becoming Trans Inclusive
Sunday, August 17
6:00-8:00p

Join us as we dive into how we can create a more hospitable, affirming, and inclusive church community together with "Transforming Church Culture: Becoming Trans Inclusive." This study, with resources from the Reconciling Ministries Network, will cover basic truths about transgender people, invite us to engage in reflection and discussion guided by Biblical scripture, and better equip us to support transgender folks in our community. Join us as we learn how each of us plays a part in creating safe spaces to grow with God and one another.



September 21
 On Rally Day, we celebrate new beginnings as a new year for Sunday school classes begins.
 This year, we're adding a Mission Fair in Wesley Hall—a chance to explore new ways to serve at WUMC, out in the Wooster community, or beyond. Discover opportunities that may lead to a new beginning for you!



Circuit Rider
August 2025
WOOSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 connect • grow • serve



LADIES NIGHT OUT
Wednesday, August 13

Join us for another Ladies Night Out! We'll gather at Yellow Shovel Floral (1033 W. Sterling Rd., Burbank) at 6:30p on August 13 to pick our own bouquets! Snacks and beverages will be provided. Cost: \$20; pay at the event. Register at the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall or visit woosterumc.org.



Wooster UMC • 243 N. Market St. • Wooster OH 44691 • 330.262.5641
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
 Pastor David Rittgers drittgers@woosterumc.org
 Office Manager, Stacy Rutt office@woosterumc.org

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

Pastor's Ponderings: August 2025

Dealing With Weeds and Roots

Have you had the “pleasure” of pulling weeds out of your flower garden this summer? I say that in jest, because I don’t know of anyone who really enjoys weeding. And yet, it must be done from time to time in order to allow other preferable plants to have space to thrive.

Along the way, I’ve learned something about how best to pull those weeds so that they don’t make a return appearance. I suspect you may have learned this lesson, too. The lesson is that you must be sure to pull the entire root system out of the ground. Why? Because if you don’t, you can count on those weeds growing back. And then you’ll have to start all over again. How frustrating!

What I’ve also discovered is that for some of the nastiest of the weeds, their root systems can be quite strong. It might take a tool and some digging to get far enough below the surface to remove it all. Some root systems are surprisingly strong! I guess that’s understandable because for plants, the roots are what feed and nourish what we see above ground.

This is also true for us when we think about human behavior and social systems. What we see in people’s behavior—whether for good or for harm—is the “above the ground” part, while often we neglect to see what might be “below the ground” causing the behavior.

As we move into mid-August, we will engage in a worship series called “Roots of Racism” which will explore the way that we in the Church, especially here in America, have struggled to eradicate a long-lasting sin that has harmed people for many generations. As I preach a series of five sermons, we will see that there have been some important choices that the Church has had to make all along the way. Some of these choices have been in alignment with God’s vision for eternal kingdom that celebrates people of all nations, races, and cultures (see Revelation 7:9). But if we’re honest, many of the choices the Church has made have caused harm.

We might ask ourselves: What choices will the Church of this generation make when it comes to dealing with the sin of racism? I think this is a very important topic for us as we seek to live more fully into our shared congregational values—one of those being our desire to be a diverse and inclusive faith community. My hope is that, at the very least, we will each increase our awareness about racism. Perhaps we will also be led to take some sort of action as we find hope and motivation to reflect the Light of Christ into the world.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor David Rittgers



Kind words

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

Thank you for choosing me for Person of the Week. Thank you for all of the cards and plant for my 40th birthday. Laurie Reynolds

To all: Being recognized by my Church family is a special honor. The beautiful Begonia and hand made card from the Trail Seekers is like icing on the cake! What a blessing to be part of a caring church. Thank you, Bev DeHaan.

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



Photo Gallery



Above and Left: WUMC youth having fun at the 2025 Alive Music Festival.

Below: One of WUMC’s authors, Tom Poremba, shared his books with those who attended the monthly Lunch Bunch gathering.



Left: VBS kids, with the help of Ellen MacMaster and some other adult helpers, stuffed 29 brightly colored teddy bears that were delivered to the Wooster Fire Dept. and will be distributed on calls that intersect with kids to provide some comfort in what might be a scary situation.

