



Wednesday, August 5 | 6:00p | \$25

Yellow Shovel Floral

(1033 W. Sterling Rd., Burbank)

Spend an evening in the flowers! We'll gather at Yellow Shovel Floral at 6:00p to pick a beautiful bouquet for you to take home. Sign up at the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall!



"HELP AFTER HELENE"
Building Beyond Our Walls

As WUMC renovates our sanctuary, Pastor David and Church Council invite us to bless others who are building something new and support the ASP *Help After Helene* campaign to fill the financial gap to build a new home for a family impacted by Hurricane Helene.

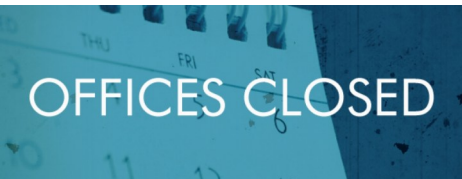
Help us invest in ASP's mission to make homes warmer, safer, and drier.

We have history with ASP—we've sent three youth teams to partner with ASP and are planning for our second adult trip!

Pick up a project overview and pledge card at the What's Up Table or scan the QR code to donate.



Keep up with our progress by checking out the Lego display at the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall!



Please note that WUMC offices will be closed on Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day.



Sunday, August 16 | Following Worship

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. All are welcome—whether you volunteer or simply want to honor those who do!



Wednesdays | 9:30a

The WUMC Walking Group meets on Wednesdays at 9:30a for a walk along the Kinney Path. Meet in the parking lot at the corner of Burbank and Oldman.

Kids and dogs are welcome—come enjoy fellowship, fresh air, and exercise together!



Sunday, August 2

Peace With Justice Sunday is one of six Special Sundays in the UMC, dedicated to finding peaceful resolutions together. Your gift supports the development of social justice mandates in every Annual Conference, with half of the collections remaining within each conference. To donate, head to the GIVE page at woosterumc.org—or donate via your usual method, noting "Peace With Justice Sunday."



Has your contact info changed? If so, please take a moment to let the church office know so we can keep you in the loop about what's happening at WUMC!



Sunday, August 2

Following Worship

Pastor David and other WUMC staff members are eager to meet with those who want to learn more about connecting at WUMC!

A building tour will be followed by lunch and conversation. RSVP at the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall or call the church office.



Wednesday, August 19 | 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.



Meals Together serves hot, hearty meals every Thursday evening at 4:30 p.m. at WUMC. No prior registration or pre-qualification necessary. They welcome all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, faith, education, or financial standing. If someone you know could use a meal, Meals Together exists to provide that! Their mission is to do their part to help eliminate hunger in Wooster.

The organization is volunteer-staffed and financially self-supported. If you would like to volunteer (jobs include cooking, cleaning, delivering meals, picking up donations) or donate food items, please contact program director Pat Merrill at 330-465-1836. Click the MEALS TOGETHER tile at woosterumc.org to support their work!



WOOSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

connect • grow • serve



Help Shape WUMC's Future!

- Our congregation is in a season of growth, optimistic about how God's Spirit is moving among us. Our leaders believe it's time to engage in a strategic planning process to ensure we're aligning our resources to live into Jesus' mission. This new focus will build on our Shared Congregational Values identified in January 2025.
- Later this summer and through the following 12 months, we'll receive teaching and coaching from Rev. Bruce Emmert (Forge CMC), with whom Pastor David has previously connected. Together, participants will discern how we can join God through prayerful focus on Christ's mission, a forward-looking mindset, bold preparation, and purposeful action.
- Who should attend? Anyone who feels called to help shape WUMC's future, including paid staff, committee/team members, and those with gifts for setting actionable goals and steps to guide our church in fulfilling its mission.
- Participants are expected to attend:
 - Four Wednesday video sessions with Bruce (6:30-8:30 p.m.) on August 26 and September 2, 9, and 16
 - One-day in person retreat at WUMC on Saturday, September 19 (9:00a-4:00p), lunch included
- Space is limited. If you're interested in participating, contact Pastor David Rittgers (drittgers@woosterumc.org) or speak directly with him.

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

Office Manager, Stacy Rutt

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Pastor’s Ponderings: August 2026

“Living in the Spirit”

Earlier this summer, we moved our worship services into the “Upper Room” space of our church building in order to make space for our sanctuary to be updated. Beginning on the day of Pentecost, May 24, we spent time looking at several themes from the Book of Acts.

In reading a variety of stories recorded in the book of Acts, we observed the importance of the coming of the Holy Spirit, who gave birth to the Church and has continued to guide and empower Jesus’ followers ever since. We were then invited to “keep up with the Spirit” by becoming more attentive to the Spirit’s work all around us and daring to follow the Spirit’s lead.

A passage from Acts 19:1-2 reminds us that Jesus’ disciples haven’t always immediately understood the existence and the purpose of God’s Spirit:

“While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul took a route through the interior and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. Paul asked them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you came to believe?’

They replied, ‘We’ve not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.’”

Are you surprised to hear people in the Bible say that they weren’t aware there is a Holy Spirit?

My guess is that, although most Christians would say they’re aware that the Holy Spirit exists, many would say that they know little about this “Third Person” of the Trinity. Part of the blame for that falls on us pastors. We haven’t taught about the Spirit as often and clearly as we might.

Perhaps along your faith journey, you’ve come to recognize your need for the Spirit’s power, presence, and guidance in your life. Perhaps you’ve also seen the need for the Church’s reliance on the Spirit to give us the ability to do more than we can ask or imagine. If we’re going to do that, we need to get to know the Spirit.

I hope you’ll join me in our upcoming worship series, “Living in the Spirit” as we do just that.

We’ll explore passages about the Holy Spirit throughout the entire scope of the Bible. We’ll see how the Spirit was already active in the Old Testament. We’ll listen for what Jesus said about the Spirit, whom he promised would follow him after his resurrection and ascension. We’ll explore the work of the Spirit in the growth of the early church and what the New Testament Epistles teach us about the continuing work of the Spirit in our lives as Jesus’ disciples.

Let’s open our hearts and lives to the power and presence of the Holy Spirit!

Pastor David Rittgers

Kind words

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

Wooster UMC: Thank you so much for providing meals for our East Ohio Annual Conference Vacation Bible School. You helped to ensure that parents and kids had time to spend with each other during annual conference. You have been such a blessing! Rev. Amy Vittorio, East Ohio Annual Conference Hospitality Committee

Our group is working on rebuilding a new porch this week here at ASP. We have made new relationships, gotten a better understanding of our families, and made memories that will last a lifetime. Thank you for the agape gifts that you sent for our group! Your gifts have made our trip more enjoyable and we are all very thankful! Anna, Charles, Makaya, Audrey, Gwen, Charlotte, Anthony & Gabby (ASP youth mission team)

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers I received as the Person of the Week. They are beautiful. I am also enjoying my Thursday evening meals! Thank you! Janet Hershberger

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Thank you for your generous gift! May God bless you as together we work to show his love as the hands, feet, heart of Christ. In His service, Midwest Mission Family.

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

Below: Twenty-three kids joined us for an unforgettable adventure at Knights of North Castle, led by 16 adult and 7 youth volunteers. Together, they explored Bible stories, created crafts, sang songs, played games, and discovered God's love along the way. Each evening, kids and families shared a meal together, and our VBS mission collected cereal boxes to help stock area food pantries—thank you to everyone who donated! To cap it off, we invited all VBS families to join us for worship on July 26 with the Kona Ice truck serving up FREE treats after the service. Thanks to everyone who had a part in making it happen!

