

# WOOSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## Order of Worship ~ December 22, 2024 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

Gathering Music

Greeting ~ Pastor David Rittgers

Special Music: "Candles of Advent" by Nancy Price and Don Besig  
Colla Voce Choir with Kathy Helmuth, flute

Light for the Journey ~ Love

Call to Worship ~ Liturgist

L: Holy and Living God, we pray for hearts and minds to open wide to merciful acts in your name. Too often, we clench our fists in fear that what we have will not be enough for us.

C: Give us the humility to make more room. Call us to a "generosity of grace." Call us to be generous - not to a fault - but to a future where all have a place and a home where they are deeply loved. We pray this in the name of your Son, Jesus, the Christ, your Love Incarnate. Amen.

Praise Song: "Holy Forever" by Brian Johnson, Chris Tomlin and Jenn Johnson. Led by Josh Rittgers

Affirmation of Faith ~ UMH #881

Psalm Reading: Psalm 80: 1-7 ~ Liturgist

Special Music: "To Bethlehem" by Bob Burroughs ~ Colla Voce

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: "Love Came Down at Christmas" ~ UMH #242

Children's Christmas Pageant ~ "Follow that Star!" (see names of participants on reverse side)

Impact Moment

Doxology ~ UMH #95

Offering Prayer: **God of Glory, we eagerly anticipate the joy-filled celebration of Jesus' birthday party. We recall now in the quiet recesses of our minds the thrill of receiving your message of salvation. As we open ourselves again to this holy wonder, accept these generous gifts. May the ministries that these gifts support invite others to receive the saving message of the Christ Child. In His name, we pray. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: "Angels We Have Heard on High" ~ UMH #238

Light for the Journey ~ Love ~ Reprise

Postlude



### Serving in worship today

Greeters: Jim & Lori Fishburn | Organist: Steve Gerber | Liturgist: Kathy Kapp  
Music Director: Nancy Franck | A/V: Dave Braddock, Nathan Greene, Steve Grenert, Dave Riley  
Ushers: Jack Bardall, John Crouch | Welcome Center: Beth & Lake Poremba  
Advent Readers: Dave Smailes, Cathy Dunaway and Marisa Dunaway

## Children's PAGEANT



Today WUMC will present its 2024 Pageant, "Follow That Star!"

Thanks to all who helped make it happen!

Director of Discipleship: Ali Vizzo

Directors: Tony Lane & Michael Reitz

Written by: Michael Reitz

Costumes & Props: Pam Corbett, Ellen

MacMaster, Karen Reitz, Sandy Riley

Music: Charlotte Clow, John Fishburn,

Nancy Franck, Steve Gerber, Dave Riley,

Dave MacMaster & Dave Riley

Additional Support: Jane Braddock, Beth

Poremba & Courtney Ridolfi

Performers: Charlotte Clow, Maddie Clow,

Jami Crichlow, Charles Donley, Ava

Fishburn, Charlotte Fishburn, Finnley

Fishburn, Rich Fishburn, Lake Poremba,

Craig Reynolds, Anna Ridolfi, Anna

Rittgers, Gwen Vizzo, Libby Vizzo, Boston

Wilson, Tayah Wilson, Elle Zuercher, Ford

Zuercher, River Zuercher



## WUMC IN THE COMMUNITY

Meals Together will provide a meal to the Wooster Homeward Bound shelter on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month.

Volunteers are needed to pick up the prepared meal at WUMC, transport it to Homeward Bound on Grosjean Road, and help serve the meal. Sign up at the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall or call the church office.



## CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24 • 5:00P

We'll set apart a time to honor the birth of Jesus as we share the timeless Christmas story and familiar carols, finishing with a candle lighting as we sing "Silent Night".



## PERSON OF THE WEEK

You are encouraged to send a note or card.

Mike Serra  
4606 Country Lane  
Wooster, OH 44691

## OFFICES CLOSED

WUMC offices will be closed December 25—January 1. Staff will be in and out on an irregular schedule in order to have time with family, but to ensure that our work is done. Voicemail messages and emails will be checked, as well as mail received.

Please contact the office by email ([office@woosterumc.org](mailto:office@woosterumc.org)) if you need to make arrangements for access to the building during this week.

**Also please note that WUMC office hours are now 9:00a-3:30p, Monday-Friday.**

## GIVING TREE



WUMC is collecting winter accessories that will be offered to Meals Together patrons. Bring your new hats, gloves, mittens and scarves to Wesley Hall to decorate the tree set up by the Holy Grounds tables. You can also make a monetary gift and we'll do the shopping! Donate via your usual method, noting "Giving Tree", or use the "Giving Tree" tile on the GIVE page at [woosterumc.org](http://woosterumc.org).

## WOOSTER UMC VALUES DISCOVERY WORKSHOP

WHO WE ARE • WHY WE EXIST • WHERE WE WANT TO GO

Saturday, January 25 | 9:00a-3:00p Save the date and make plans to attend the WUMC Values Discovery Workshop and have a chance to shape WUMC's future as we discover who we are, why we exist, and where we want to go.

## ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS

Looking for meaningful Christmas gifts? Visit Wesley Hall to purchase alternative gifts that support local organizations. Your gift will make a lasting impact while honoring loved ones with the true spirit of giving.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE  
CHURCH OF THE CROSS UMC  
(5200 CLEVELAND RD, WOOSTER)

TODAY • 2:00p

For those who have experienced loss, the holidays can be a particularly painful time. The Blue Christmas service provides space for reflection and remembrance amidst the holiday busyness.

## WUMC WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women's Retreat | February 7-9  
Camp Wanake Savage Retreat Ctr.  
Cost: \$136 (includes 2 night's lodging and 5 meals)  
You'll enjoy Saturday activities, Sunday church service, and quiet time for personal reflection.  
Sign up at the What's Up table by January 19. See Jane Braddock for more information ([braddockjeb@gmail.com](mailto:braddockjeb@gmail.com)).

## GRIEF SHARE

Grieving a loss? A new 13-week GriefShare weekly grief support group will start on January 7 (Tuesdays @ 4:00p) and continue through April 1.  
Pick up a brochure and sign up at the What's Up Table or call the church office for details.

## HAPPY RETIREMENT BECKY!

Today, we celebrate Becky Pickett's ministry in the administration of church life. Becky has served as our Office Manager for the last nine years. The Wooster UMC congregation wishes her all the best of God's blessings as she retires at the end of this calendar year.  
Thank you, Becky!

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Conflict around the world
- Becca McCreedy, ongoing blood cancer recovery
- Don Redman under hospice care
- Family of Fred Cannon on his December 5 passing
- Families affected by the school shooting in Madison, WI
- Family of Amanda Roller on her December 17 passing