

# WOOSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

connect • grow • serve

## Order of Worship ~ February 23, 2025

Gathering Music

Greeting ~ Rev. David Rittgers

Special Music ~ "Enough" by Chris Tomlin & Louie Giglio ~ Praise Band

Call to Worship ~ Liturgist

**L:** The Spirit of God has brought us here.

**C:** The Lord has set us down here, though our bones are tired.

**L:** Can these dry bones live?

**C:** Yes! The Breath of God will revive us! The Word of God will awaken us!

**L:** Today, we come together to experience new life.

**C:** Let us give thanks to the Wild, Life-Giving Spirit of God!

Praise Song ~ "What Can I Do" by Paul Baloche

Affirmation of Faith ~ UMH #881

Psalm Reading ~ Psalm 37:1-11 ~ Liturgist

Special Music ~ "God of All My Days" by Jason Ingram & Mark Hall ~ Praise Band

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn ~ "My Hope is Built" (UMH #368) *(Dismissal for Children's Church after the hymn)*

Sermon ~ (Story #19) "The Return Home"

Main Scripture ~ Ezra 1:1-11

Impact Moment

Doxology ~ UMH #95

Offering Prayer ~ **Gracious God, we offer these gifts in response to your call to love and give abundantly, just as you have blessed us. May these offerings reflect your generosity and compassion, serving those in need and furthering your kingdom of justice and peace. We give knowing that our ministries return even to us - pressed down, shaken together, and overflowing with your grace. Amen.**

Closing Hymn ~ "The Church's One Foundation" (UMH #545)

Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude



### Serving in worship today

**Greeters:** Terry & Sarah Beck | **Organist:** Steve Gerber | **Liturgist:** Barb Lane

**A/V:** Dave Braddock, Nathan Greene, Steve Grenert, Dave Riley | **Music Director:** Nancy Franck

**Ushers:** Jack Bardall, John Crouch | **Welcome Center:** Beth & Lake Poremba

**Altar flowers** are provided by David Smailes In Memory of Tom & Libby Smailes

**Holy Grounds** invites you to Wesley Hall after the service. Thank you for your support.

**WAYS  
TO GIVE  
@ WUMC**



#### IN PERSON:

- VIA OFFERING PLATES IN THE SANCTUARY
- PERSONALIZED OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE: CONTACT MARJ BUTLER (MBUTLER@WOOSTERUMC.ORG)



**MAIL:**  
243 N MARKET ST  
WOOSTER



**ONLINE:**  
WOOSTERUMC.ORG  
GIVE TAB



**AUTO WITHDRAWAL:**  
CONTACT MARJ  
BUTLER TO SET UP



## United Women in Faith

Wednesday, March 5  
Gather at 5:30p | Program at 6:00p  
UWF Unit Meeting

Kimberly Symonds from NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) in Wayne and Holmes Counties will speak. The group will adjourn at 6:45 to attend the Ash Wednesday service in the Sanctuary.



Wednesday, March 5  
Ash Wednesday Service  
7:00p in the Sanctuary



## JOIN OUR TEAM OF COMMUNION STEWARDS!

We're looking for joyful hearts and willing hands to serve as communion stewards—just three times a year! You'll be responsible for purchasing bread & juice, arriving early to set up, serving communion, cleaning up, and letting the office manager know if supplies are needed. No experience? No problem! Training is provided! Contact Craig Reynolds (creynolds@millerreynolds.com or 330-465-5271) to get involved.

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, March 12 | 6:30-8:00p  
6-Week Lenten Men's Bible Study  
Pastor David and Mark Bucher will lead participants through "John: Life in His Name" by Pastor Kyle Idleman. Over the 40 days of Lent, they will read through the entire Gospel of John, which includes the Passion Story and the Resurrection, learning to trust in Christ—and to demonstrate our faith in him through the way we live and love others. Talk to Mark or Pastor David for more information, or sign up to participate at the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall or the Welcome Center in the Sanctuary.

## LAST WEEK TO PURCHASE TICKETS!

**65TH ANNUAL YOUTH SPAGHETTI dinner**

**DINE IN OR CARRY OUT**

This year's dinner will take place on Saturday, **March 1 | 4:30-6:30p.**  
**Adult tickets: \$10**

Visit the spaghetti dinner table in Wesley Hall to:

- Buy tickets for yourself
- Buy tickets for a WUMC limited mobility member
- Buy tickets for a first responder
- Sponsor ingredients

**Proceeds support youth missions and activities!**



Many families in Wooster are struggling with food insecurity, and **WUMC in the Community** is committed to helping. We are organizing an ongoing collection of shelf-stable food items to support the three Give and Take Pantries located at our neighborhood community gardens. One of these, Jo's Garden on Larwill Street, holds special significance for WUMC, as it was established in 2009 by late WUMC member Jo Pugh, with support from WUMC and Habitat for Humanity. Another pantry is located at the Buckeye Street Garden, right in our backyard, and the third can be found on Spink Street. Suggested donations include pasta, canned sauce, mac & cheese, canned vegetables and fruit, healthy cereals, and canned meats. Our Sunday School children are also getting involved—their February collection will contribute to this cause! A donation station will be set up at the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall. Want us to do the shopping for you? Simply donate through the GIVE page at [woosterumc.org](http://woosterumc.org) (or use your usual giving method, noting "food pantry").

With the recent wintry weather, please note that if church services are canceled, we will share that information through:

- Text (if we have a current cell number)
- Email (for those subscribed to the Short Circuit weekly newsletter)
- Facebook public page
- Facebook Members & Friends page
- Phone Tree (depending on lead time)

To ensure you receive notifications, please keep your contact information up to date with WUMC!

## WOOSTER UMC OUR SHARED VALUES

SERVING OTHERS

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

INCLUSION/DIVERSITY

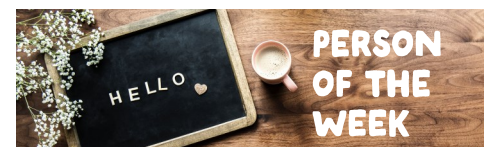
CHERISH YOUTH/CHILDREN/FAMILIES

STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S RESOURCES

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Conflict around the world, including the cease fire in the Middle East
- Becca McCready, ongoing blood cancer recovery

Prayer requests remain on the list for two weeks unless otherwise requested.



## PERSON OF THE WEEK

You are encouraged to send a note or card.  
Janis Kennedy  
1550 Ashton Way  
Wooster, OH 44691