

WOOSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

connect • grow • serve

Order of Worship ~ July 12, 2026

Gathering Music

Greeting ~ Barb Lane

Special Music ~ "Serenade" by Ruggiero Leoncavallo ~ Emily Grissing OLO

Call to Worship ~ (in unison)

It is not so much the case that God has a mission for his church in the world, as that God has a church for His mission in the world. Mission was not made for the church; The church was made for mission— God's mission.

Praise Song ~ "Into the Night" by Dave & Jess Ray

Affirmation of Faith ~ UMH #881

Old Testament Reading ~ Genesis 2:8-15

New Testament Reading ~ 1 Peter 4:9-11

Children's Moment (*Dismissal for Children's Church*)

Hymn ~ "Freely, Freely" UMH #389

Morning Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Announcements

Offering Collections/Special Music ~

"Adante Appassionato" by Theodore Dubois ~ Emily Grissing

Impact Moment

Doxology ~ UMH #95

Offering Prayer ~ Faithful Shepherd, who calls us by name, you invite us into a life that is rich in meaning, deep in joy, and bold in compassion. You speak, and we long to follow—although the world is noisy and the path unclear. In this moment of offering, we quiet our hearts to listen again. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in you. Use them, and use us, to offer hope where there is despair, light where there is shadow, and love where there is brokenness. We give because you gave first— and because your Spirit empowers us to live not by our strength, but by your grace. In Christ's name, we pray, Amen.

Sermon ~ "Finding Paradise" ~ Barb & Tony Lane

Closing Hymn ~ "Here I Am Lord" UMH # 593

Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude



Serving in worship

Greeters: Kathy Kapp & Cathy Nicholson | Welcome Center: Beth Poremba

Music Director: Nancy Franck | Guest Musician: Jeffrey Anderson

A/V: Dave Braddock, Nathan Greene, Steve Grenert, Dave Riley, Aaron Vizzo

Ushers: Jack Bardall, John Crouch, Jim Gallander, Jenni Patterson

Altar flowers provided by daughters, Janet & Diane ~ In memory of Russ & Verna Oehlenschlaeger

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

**WAYS
TO GIVE
@ WUMC**



IN PERSON:

- VIA OFFERING PLATES IN THE SANCTUARY
- PERSONALIZED OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE:
CONTACT STACY RUTT (FINANCE@WOOSTERUMC.ORG)



MAIL:
243 N MARKET ST
WOOSTER



ONLINE:
WOOSTERUMC.ORG
GIVE TAB



AUTO WITHDRAWAL:
CONTACT STACY
RUTT TO SET UP



MISSION-FOCUSED STRATEGIC PLANNING

Time Invested in WUMC's Future

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.



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

ADULT MISSION TEAM

ASP Adult Trip | October 18-24

For a little more "hands on" support, consider joining WUMC for another adult mission trip serving alongside ASP in Jonesville, VA. The cost is \$375 per person, plus transportation. Interested? Sign up at the What's Up Table! Questions? Contact Deb Clow at 217.799.0594. Registration deadline: July 19



Congregation members are asked to contribute baked goods; bring items to the church kitchen the day of the sale! All proceeds will benefit the WUMC "Help After Helene" fundraiser.



PLEASE TAKE NOTE

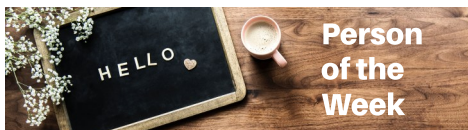
VBS | July 13-15 | 5:30-8:00p

Last call for knights! Join us at WUMC for *Knights of North Castle*, where we'll storm the castle with fun, faith, games, music, and adventure. Scan the code to register!



Wednesday, July 15 | 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.



Person of the Week

You are encouraged to send a note or card.

Jim & Janet Gallander
1103 Country Club Dr., Apt. 1
Wooster, OH 44691

PRAYER REQUESTS

In the spirit of John Wesley who taught people to "Do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God" we lift these prayers:

- ♦ For leaders and nations that they may choose the path of peace over the path of destruction
- ♦ Kathy Allen (sister of Marge Wilcox), undergoing cancer treatment
- ♦ Family of Carol McCullough on her July 5 passing (www.mcintirebradthamsleek.com)

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



PIZZA WITH THE PASTOR

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.



Kona Ice is Coming!

We'll invite all VBS families to worship on July 26 for a VBS celebration, including a visit from the Kona Ice food truck!



SUMMER SUNDAY SERIES

WUMC welcomes Emily Grissing to the Summer Sunday Series!



EMILY GRISSING, cello, is thrilled to be returning for her ninth season with OLO. Originally from Rochester, New York, she has dedicated her life to the study and performance of music.

Now based in North Carolina, Emily performs with the Winston-Salem, Greensboro, and Western Piedmont Symphonies and freelances throughout the Southeast. She has appeared at major festivals including Aspen, Chautauqua, and the National Repertory Orchestra and is passionate about performance, teaching, and mentorship.