

**64TH ANNUAL**  
**YOUTH SPAGHETTI**  
*dinner*

This year's dinner will take place on Saturday,  
**February 17 | 4:30-7p**  
**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

**HELP SUPPORT WUMC YOUTH ON THEIR APPALACHIAN SERVICE PROJECT MISSION TRIP THIS SUMMER!**

**DINE IN OR CARRY OUT**

**WUMC LUNCH BUNCH**

**Wednesday, February 21 - Noon**  
 Pizza and beverages provided!  
 Bring \$5 towards pizza.  
 Bring a side or snack to share if you wish! All are invited!

Check out the bulletin board in Wesley Hall to see some of the many couple to be married at WUMC over the years!

Salem Lutheran Church (4873 Cleveland Rd.) is offering a free meal and Bible study, as follows:

NFL Monday Night (Nourishment, Fellowship, Learning)  
 Every Monday | 6:00 p.m.

Woven women's group starts a new study on Wednesday, February 7: "A New Playlist: Hearing Jesus in a Noisy World" by Jacob Armstrong

- 6:30p in the Morton Room
- All ladies are welcome to join in!
- No book necessary
- Contact Jane Braddock with questions (330.607.3736)

**Circuit Rider**

February 2024

**WOOSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** connect • grow • serve

**ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION**

Alternative Christmas donations raised \$700.00 for Meals Together, Boys & Girls Club, OneEighty, and People to People! Thank you for your generosity!

**Desserts Needed!**

Now that we are again offering a dining in option for the Spaghetti Dinner, we'll bring back the awesome dessert table! If you can contribute, sign up at the Spaghetti Dinner table!

**WUMC IN THE COMMUNITY**

In conjunction with the Youth Spaghetti Dinner, WUMC will once again deliver dinners to those working hard to keep us safe:

- Wooster Fire Department
- Wooster Police Department
- Wayne Township Fire & Rescue
- Wayne County Corrections
- Wayne County Patrol Officers
- State Highway Patrol
- Wooster City Dispatchers
- Wayne County Dispatchers

To support this effort, visit the spaghetti dinner table in Wesley Hall!

**WUMC DELIVERS!**

Delivery drivers are needed! If you can deliver dinners to a couple addresses in Wooster, contact the church office!

**ASH**

**Wednesday**

**Service at WUMC**

**7:00 p**

**Sanctuary**

**ALTAR FLOWERS NEEDED**

The 2024 WUMC Altar Flower Calendar is now posted outside the church office. If you'd like to provide altar flowers in honor of a special person or date, claim your spot now!

**COLLEGE STUDENT ADDRESSES**

WUMC is preparing to send a mailing to WUMC college students. If you have an address to share, please call the church office.

Wooster UMC • 243 N. Market St. • Wooster OH 44691 • 330.262.5641

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Pastor David Rittgers drittgers@woosterumc.org  
 Office Manager, Becky Pickett office@woosterumc.org

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

## Pastor's Ponderings: Listen to Jesus



About eight days after Jesus said these things, he took Peter, John, and James, and went up on a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed and his clothes flashed white like lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, were talking with him. They were clothed with heavenly splendor and spoke about Jesus' departure, which he would achieve in Jerusalem. Peter and those with him were almost overcome by sleep, but they managed to stay awake and saw his glory as well as the two men with him.

As the two men were about to leave Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it's good that we're here. We should construct three shrines: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—but he didn't know what he was saying. Peter was still speaking when a cloud overshadowed them. As they entered the cloud, they were overcome with awe.

Then a voice from the cloud said, "**This is my Son, my chosen one. Listen to him!**" Even as the voice spoke, Jesus was found alone. They were speechless and at the time told no one what they had seen. (Luke 9:28-36, Common English Bible)

While up on the Mountain of Transfiguration, three of Jesus' closest disciples heard a voice from heaven declare, "Listen to him!" (v. 35). It's one thing to hear someone speak words and phrases, but it's so easy for us to allow those words to go in one ear and out the other.

It's an entirely different thing for us to truly listen to what someone is saying to us and to absorb the deeper meaning of what is being said. Our invitation this Lent is to truly listen to Jesus.

The forty days of the Lenten season leading up to Easter invite us to make the journey to the Cross with Jesus. As we travel there, we're invited to lean in and listen deeply to him. It's only by truly listening to him that our lives are radically transformed.

This year, the season of Lent begins on Valentine's Day. Perhaps that will inspire us to meditate on the overwhelming love God has for each of us. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season that's meant to prepare us for the events of Holy Week and, ultimately, the great Easter celebration where we stand in awe of God's power in the Resurrection of Jesus. I'm excited that several young people from our Confirmation Class will be leading various parts of the Ash Wednesday Service, which will begin at 7:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary.

Please look around this newsletter for details about Lenten activities, including Sunday Evening Community Lenten Services at various UM churches in the Wooster area, Experiential Prayer in the Chapel, and more. Let's make space to Listen to Jesus this Lent.

Grace and Peace, Pastor David Rittgers (drittgers@woosterumc.org)



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

On behalf of CCHO, thank you for the kind gift of winter hats, gloves, and socks for the kids we serve here! Thanks for backing our kids as we help them know and experience their worth in Christ. May God bless your church with a wonderful 2024!

Kevin Engle, Director of Development, CCHO

Thank you so much for choosing Ralph and me as the Persons of the Week. The pink tulips are beautiful. Thanks again.  
Love, Ralph & Phyllis Woods

Thank you for your homemade assortment of donations to the Pregnancy Care Center. We appreciate your support!  
Sincerely, PCC Staff (And thank you to Ellen MacMaster for donating these items!)

Your contribution has made a profound impact on our organization, allowing the Boys & Girls Club of Wooster to continue its mission and make a meaningful difference in the local community. As we celebrate our tenth anniversary this year, your dedication to Wooster youth has truly marked a "decade of difference". Your ongoing commitment has been instrumental in our growth and success over the years. Thank you for your unwavering support and for being a crucial part of our journey! Andy Badertscher, Board Member

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

Recently ill/hospitalized:

Recent deaths: Shirley Carmean

## AREA UMC LENTEN SERVICES

Service Time: 4:00 p.m. | Fellowship Time Following

February 18 | Led by Pastor John Finn  
Smithville U.M.C. | 243 N. Milton St.

February 25 | Led by Pastor James Lance  
New Pittsburg U.M.C. | 9670 Ashland Rd., Wooster

March 3 | Led by Pastor John Finn  
Moreland U.M.C. | 138 Moreland Rd., Wooster

March 10 | Led by Pastor David Rittgers  
Church of the Cross U.M.C. | 5100 Cleveland Rd., Wooster

March 17 | Led by Pastor Jennifer Darling-Mellott  
Oak Chapel U.M.C. | 4203 W. Old Lincoln Way, Wooster

March 24 | Led by District Superintendent Edgar Brady  
Wooster U.M.C. | 243 N. Market St., Wooster

March 29 | Good Friday Cantata (joint choirs) **7pm**  
Oak Chapel U.M.C. | 4203 W. Old Lincoln Way, Wooster

## SACRED SPACE FOR THE LENTEN SEASON

The Prayer Chapel (on the first floor, adjacent to Wesley Hall, near the Larwill door) will be set up as a place of meditation and reflection during this Lenten season. You are encouraged to sit quietly, walk the labyrinth, read a devotion, play music that is provided—any or all of these—as we journey through Lent.



DISTRICT NEWS

WOOSTER UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
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For Immediate Release: January 24, 2024

From: The Offices of Communications from the East Ohio Conference and the West Ohio Conference

A special-called session of the North Central Jurisdiction (NCJ) Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church was held on Tuesday, January 23 "for the sole purpose of approving new episcopal areas for episcopal assignments to be effective September 1, 2024."

Delegates to this special-called NCJ Jurisdictional Conference voted to form two new episcopal areas, one to include the East Ohio Conference and the West Ohio Conference, and one to include the Northern Illinois Conference and the Wisconsin Conference. The two conferences in each new episcopal area will share one bishop.

By the action of the special session, the North Central Jurisdiction will transition from nine to seven episcopal areas. The North Central Jurisdiction Committee on the Episcopacy assigns the bishops to the episcopal areas and all assignments will be announced at the NCJ Jurisdictional Conference July 10-13 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The new episcopal areas and the bishop assignments to each of the seven episcopal areas will be effective September 1.

Executive staff leaders and members of the Committee on the Episcopacy in both the East Ohio Conference and the West Ohio Conference have been engaged in strategic conversations to explore the sharing of an episcopal leader since the NCJ Committee on the Episcopacy proposed the possibility during the 2022 Jurisdictional Conference.