

GREETERS NEEDED!



We are looking for friendly and welcoming individuals to join our team of church greeters! As a greeter, you will provide a warm smile and a kind word to congregation members and visitors as they arrive. You'll help create a welcoming atmosphere, offer directions, and assist in making everyone feel at home. If you enjoy connecting with people and making a positive first impression, we would love to have you on our team!

Contact Barb Grenert
(bgrenert58@gmail.com).



Above: On Saturday, Jan. 25, a group of about 30 active participants of Wooster UMC gathered for a day of reflection and conversation and during the process discovered the shared values which help to define "WHO we are" as a congregation: 1) serving others, 2) spiritual growth, 3) inclusion/diversity, 4) cherishing youth/children/families, and 5) stewardship of God's resources. Watch for more in the coming weeks!





Circuit Rider

February 2025

WOOSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

connect • grow • serve


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.




Way to go WUMC! You made an incredible impact ringing the bells on December 19: \$873 was raised for Salvation Army programs and initiatives!

WUMC COLLECTS




Aluminum Pull Tabs

Like the kind you find on soft drinks or soup cans. These benefit Ronald McDonald House.




Used Eyeglasses

Collected for Wooster Noon Lions, who recycle them as part of their "Lions Recycle for Sight" program.



Cancelled Stamps


Kay Bergen oversees this collection which benefits Wickliffe Bible Translators (no flag stamps, please!).



Used Injet Cartridges

Revenue from recycling these benefits WUMC.

Collection containers can be found in the office hallway.




This is Kinyanya, the Africa University student that WUMC has agreed to sponsor as she works to earn her bachelor's degree, through the Lift Her Up initiative. We have raised almost \$18,000 toward this goal, including over \$1,000 from the Burning River Brass free-will offering! We look forward to following Kinyanya on her educational journey!

THE LAPPERS


The Lappers sewing group would like to request donations of heavy fabric (duck, corduroy, decorator fabrics) and Velcro (sew in type with no adhesive) for their upcoming projects. Place donations in the basket at the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall or bring to the church office.

WUMC LUNCH BUNCH




Wednesday, February 19 • Noon
Pizza and beverages provided!
Bring \$5 towards pizza.
Bring a side or snack to share if you wish!
All are invited!

ALTAR FLOWERS NEEDED



The Altar Flower Calendar is posted outside the church office. If you'd like to provide altar flowers in honor of a special person or date, there are some dates available in February and March!



65TH ANNUAL
YOUTH SPAGHETTI
dinner

CARRY OUT & DELIVERY AVAILABLE

SATURDAY, MARCH 1 4:30-6:30p

ADULTS \$10 • KIDS UNDER 12: \$6 • AGE 3 & UNDER: FREE!

- **BUY DINNER FOR A FIRST RESPONDER!** WUMC WILL AGAIN DELIVER DINNERS TO WOOSTER/WAYNE CTY. FIRST RESPONDERS. SEE TALLY BOARD IN WESLEY HALL.
- **BUY DINNER FOR A WUMC LIMITED MOBILITY MEMBER!** DINNERS WILL ALSO BE DELIVERED TO WUMC MEMBERS WHO MIGHT APPRECIATE A HOT MEAL DELIVERED TO THEIR DOORSTEP!
- **DON'T FORGET TO BUY DINNER FOR YOURSELF!** TAKE THE NIGHT OFF FROM COOKING AND ENJOY A HOMEMADE MEAL!
- **SPONSOR INGREDIENTS!** OFFSET THE HIGH COST OF INGREDIENTS.

TICKETS AVAILABLE
IN WESLEY HALL • IN THE CHURCH OFFICE

PROCEEDS SUPPORT YOUTH MISSIONS AND ACTIVITIES!

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

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

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

Pastor's Ponderings: "The Creator's Valentine for You"

We've likely heard that God is Love. We often sing about the way that "Jesus Loves Me." But did you know that there's absolutely nothing that can keep us apart from the love of God?

In Romans 8, Paul poses the following questions: "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"

Paul goes on to answer his questions, stating:

"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Through his own experience of suffering as he aimed to faithfully follow Jesus, Paul came to see God's love in a brand-new way. For Paul, love wasn't just some lofty ideal, some abstract concept that Jesus taught about. No, God's love was real! We see it most clearly displayed for us on the cross. God's love is a powerful force that will always be there, even if we can't feel it.

As I read Paul's statement of faith about the love of God, I hear it as a promise meant for every person. Yes, that means this truth applies to those who love God, as well as all kinds of people who've not yet chosen to love God. And it's especially meant for those who've specifically chosen not to love God. It doesn't matter where we stand. The good news is that we can never be separated from the love of God that comes to us in Jesus Christ.

One of the distinctive beliefs of the Christian faith is grace, including the kind of grace that comes to us before we have any concept of what it is. We don't need to go about earning God's love because it just is. In the same way that a baby has no ability to earn the love of his or her parents, so it is for us. God's love is already there for us is the message we get when we read. "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" and "We love because God first loved us."

What Paul says about God's love tells me that my identity is rooted firmly in WHO I am, not so much in WHAT I do. First and foremost, I am a beloved child of God. Everything else that follows is simply my response to God's love. And so friends, that's where loving God and serving others must always begin. I invite you to receive God's love. Soak it in. This is God's deep desire for you.

Grace, Peace, and Love,
Pastor David Rittgers



Kind words

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

We appreciate the lovely plant and we feel lucky to have a church family that cares.— Don and Fran Maibach

Thank you for the lovely recognition at worship on December 22. I appreciate the gifts and many well wishes on the card. It has been a wonderful 9 years working at WUMC and I thank you all for your support along the way. I take with me many fond memories! Sincerely, Becky Pickett

Mike Serra would like to thank WUMC for being Person of the Week. He is enjoying his new Christmas Cactus!

Thank you for your commitment to our mission and for your gift of \$141 to our Holiday Event-One Eighty

Thank You to everyone who donated cookies for Screenagers documentary screening. It was a wonderful way to welcome our community into our building. ~ Ali Vizzo

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

Recent deaths: Don Redman, Amanda Roller



Above: Sunday morning worshippers in the balcony



Right: Youth at Laser Tag

Below: Pizza Potluck and Game Night

