

WOMEN'S Retreat



Women's Retreat at Camp Wanake February 6-8

All women are invited!
The group will stay in Savage Retreat Center; the cost of \$139/person includes lodging and meals. Financial assistance is available. Sign up at the What's Up Table. The trip is being organized by Jane Braddock; contact her with questions (braddockjeb@gmail.com).

WUMC, DON'T FALL FOR PHISHING!



Occasionally, WUMC will receive reports of emails received that, at first glance, appear to be from Pastor David asking for assistance. If you look closely, you will see that the return email address is not actually Pastor David's (which is drittgers@woosterumc.org).

Please do not respond to these emails and remember that Pastor David will never reach out to you in this way. If you are in doubt, please call the church office!

NEW STUDY OPPORTUNITY

Tuesdays | 10:00 a.m.

Rev. David Wilcox is leading a five-week study exploring utopian communities that sought to create the "perfect" church (community). The class meets in Turney Lounge. The last session is February 10.

WUMC SPORTS AND WELLNESS MINISTRY USED SPORTS GEAR SALE

Donate Sports Gear for a Great Cause!

Getting new sports gear? Don't toss the old stuff! The WUMC Sports and Wellness Ministry visioning group is planning a Gently Used Sports Equipment Sale for March 2026—and we're collecting donations now! If it's still in good shape but you just don't need it anymore, bring it to the church office and we'll find it a new home. No used items to donate but still want to participate? New equipment will be gratefully accepted as well! Bring all donations to the church office.



TUBING AT SNOW TRAILS

Friday, February 20

We're trying something new for this favorite family event—Glow Tubing! We'll meet at WUMC at 5:00p and head to Snow Trails for Glow Tubing from 6:00-8:00p. Carpooling is available if you need a ride. Cost is \$20 per person. Sign up at the What's Up Table or watch for a sign-up link in the Children's & Youth newsletters. Tickets sell out quickly, so sign up soon!



Wednesday, February 11 | 6:30p

Woven is a women's Bible study group, weaving together women of different ages, life experiences, and current situations, finding a common bond in the desire to grow in relationship with God. Along the way, we build relationships and find support in our faith journey. Woven will begin a new study on February 11, *An Unlikely Lent* by Rachel Billups. Come try it out and bring a friend- you do not have to be a member of WUMC to attend! Contact Jane Braddock with questions (braddockjeb@gmail.com).

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

Offices Closed
WUMC offices will be closed on Monday, February 16, in observance of President's Day.

Pastor David Renewal Leave
Pastor David will be on renewal leave until Tuesday, February 17. Rev. David Wilcox is providing coverage for worship and pastoral care while he is away.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

As an outgrowth of the "Serving Others" visioning group, WUMC is partnering with Meals Together to deliver weekly meals to Limited Mobility folks who have indicated need. We have some delivery volunteers but would like to add to the list to create a rotation whereby each volunteer would only have to deliver 1-2 times per month. If you'd like to learn more, sign up at the What's Up Table!



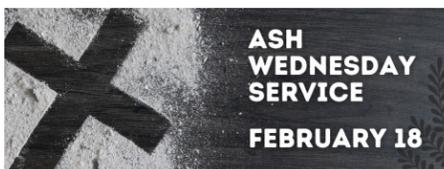
PIZZA WITH THE PASTOR

Sunday, March 1 | Following Worship
Pastor David is eager to meet with anyone wanting to learn more about connecting at Wooster UMC! We'll schedule a 1/2 hour tour of the WUMC building and 1/2 hour for lunch and conversation. Register at the What's Up Table or by calling the church office.

WUMC LUNCH BUNCH



Wednesday, February 18 | 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. Everyone is invited!



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

FEBRUARY 18

Wednesday, February 18 | 7:00p
Lent begins with an Ash Wednesday service in our Sanctuary.

WOOSTER AREA UMC LENTEN SERVICES

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

February 22 | Church of the Cross UMC
Rev. Brian Sheetz

March 1 | Moreland UMC
Pastor John Finn

March 8 | Smithville UMC
Pastor David Rittgers

March 15 | New Pittsburg UMC
Pastor Aimee Hare

March 22 | Oak Chapel UMC
Pastor James Lance

March 29 | Wooster UMC
Rev. Kimberly Arbaugh

Each service will collect a free will offering, the proceeds of which will be split between People to People Ministries in Wooster (ptpm.net) and Urban Mission Ministries in Steubenville (urbanmission.org).



Circuit Rider

February 2026

WOOSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

connect • grow • serve

66TH ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER

WUMC YOUTH

Join us for a delicious evening to support WUMC youth missions and activities!

**SATURDAY,
MARCH 7
WESLEY HALL
4:30-6:30P**

**TICKETS FOR
SALE IN WESLEY
HALL OR THE
CHURCH
OFFICE**

DINE IN OR
CARRY OUT



Other Ways to Help:

- Donate toward ingredients
- Purchase a dinner for a first responder or limited mobility member!

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

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

Pastor David Rittgers
Office Manager, Stacy Rutt

drittgers@woosterumc.org
office@woosterumc.org

Pastor's Ponderings: February 2026

"Teach Us How to Pray"

Happy February, friends! Don't worry...I wrote this article before I left for Renewal Leave!

As we move into a new month, we are quickly approaching the season of Lent, which prepares us for and leads us into Holy Week culminating in the Easter celebration of Jesus' resurrection.

This year, we will begin the Lenten season on Wednesday, February 18 with an Ash Wednesday worship service, including the imposition of ashes, at 7:00p in our sanctuary.

During the Lenten season, we will once again engage with other area UMCs for combined Sunday afternoon services at 4:00p. Please look for the schedule of locations in this newsletter.

For our Sunday morning services (10:00a), we will focus on the Lord's Prayer as our Scripture theme. Each week, beginning February 22, we will take a close look at the meaning-filled phrases of that prayer. Here's the complete schedule of weekly themes:

Fec. 22: "Our Father, Hallowed Be Thy Name"

Mar. 1: "Whose Will Be Done?"

Mar. 8: "Our Daily Bread"

Mar. 15: "Forgive as We Forgive"

Mar. 22: "Lead Us Not into Temptation"

Mar. 29: "For Thine is the Kingdom, Power, and Glory" (Palm Sunday)

My hope is that this traditional prayer, which we pray each week in our worship gatherings, may take on deeper meaning in our lives during this Lenten season as we seek to grow in spirit.

Looking forward to being back with you in a few weeks!

Grateful to be on the Journey with Jesus.

Pastor David Rittgers (drittgers@woosterumc.org)



Kind words

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

Wooster UMC, you made an incredible impact! On 12/18/25, your kettle shift at Buehler's raised \$4,104.74 for Salvation Army programs and initiatives. Every dollar you helped collect will fuel critical services for local families and individuals throughout the year. Thank you for doing the most good! Director of Volunteer Services, The Salvation Army

Church Family, Thank you for making us persons of the week. Also, we thank you for the beautiful poinsettia. It is beautiful. Clyde & Joanne Ebert

Thank you for the beautiful flowers ~ David & Beth Kail.

Thank you for your support! Boys & Girls Club of Wooster

Thank you for being part of the path where healing begins and a new future unfolds! One Eighty

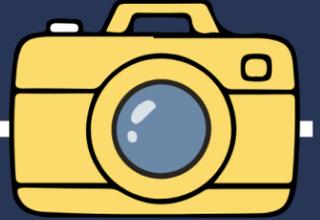
We appreciate your donation and your prayers and ongoing support for our ministry! Open Arms Hispanic Ministries

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



PHOTO GALLERY

THE MONTH IN PICTURES



Above: **Bishop Hee-Soo Jung** (resident bishop of The Ohio Episcopal Area, encompassing both the East and West Ohio Conferences) will visit Wooster UMC on **Thursday, March 12**, as part of his tour of Central Valley District churches. What you need to know:

- He is scheduled to join us for lunch that day from 12:00-1:00p.
- **All WUMC congregation members are invited and encouraged to come to Wesley Hall that day to welcome the Bishop to WUMC and join in the lunch.**
- Watch for details in upcoming bulletins.



Above: Seventeen people covered 12 shifts (8:00a-8:00p) on December 18 at Buehler's Towne Market. As a result of their efforts, WUMC's kettle shift resulted in **\$1044.74 raised for Salvation Army** programs and initiatives! Thanks to Bob Reynolds for coordinating!

4 WAYS TO GIVE AT WUMC

- mail in
243 N. Market St.
Wooster
- online @
woosterumc.org
GIVE page
- auto withdrawal
from your financial
institution
- printed envelopes
or offering plates
in the sanctuary



Above Left: You may not be able to SEE it, but hopefully you will HEAR it soon! Sanctuary audio upgrades are underway!

Above Right: Just a small sampling of the **OVER 1,300 ITEMS** that have been collected as a **WUMC in the COMMUNITY** project. The collection continues for neighborhood give-and-take pantries as well as One Eighty's emergency hygiene pantry. Lists of needed items can be found next to the collection bin next to the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall. Thank you for your support!