



January 9—April 2 (13 weeks)

Tuesdays | 10-11:30a

Morton Room

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. The class will include:

- weekly video featuring respected experts
- supportive group conversation
- A helpful book with tools to guide you (book cost: \$20)

Get more information and register at the What's Up table in Wesley Hall or by calling the church office.



WUMC will once again deliver spaghetti 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

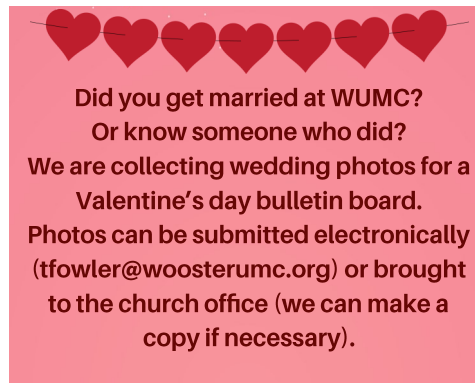
To support this effort, visit the spaghetti dinner table in Wesley Hall starting on January 7!



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!



Wednesday, January 17 · Noon
Pizza and beverages provided!
Bring \$5 towards pizza.
Bring a side or snack to share if you wish!
All are invited!



Did you get married at WUMC?
Or know someone who did?
We are collecting wedding photos for a Valentine's day bulletin board. Photos can be submitted electronically (tfowler@woosterumc.org) or brought to the church office (we can make a copy if necessary).



WUMC FAMILY OUTING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 14
3:00P | \$10/PERSON

We will play 3 games of laser tag. RSVP to Ali by January 7 please (330.465.8870).



Has your contact info changed? If so, please take a moment to let the church office know so we can keep you in the loop about what's happening at WUMC!



WE'RE READY TO HELP!

WUMC Helping Hands ministry began from a desire to lend a hand to those in our congregation and community who need a little help with small projects around their homes.

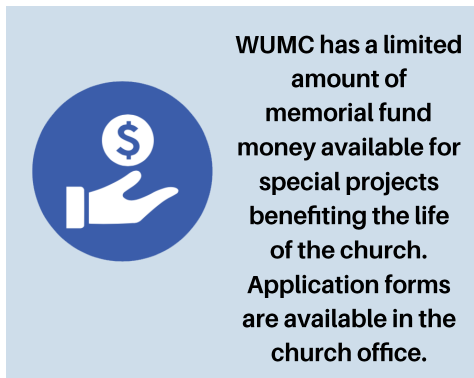
WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?

- moved a chair upstairs from a basement
- washed two windows above a sink
- fixed a keypad (replaced batteries)
- tilled, raked, and seeded a 4' x 6' area in a yard
- installed 6 window blinds
- stained and repaired some deck boards
- provided transportation to an appointment
- removed a basketball pole and recycled

COULD YOU USE A HAND?

We're waiting to hear from you!

- Contact Mike Mann
- mdm_mann@hotmail.com
- 330.749.1752



WUMC has a limited amount of memorial fund money available for special projects benefiting the life of the church. Application forms are available in the church office.



Circuit Rider

January 2024

WOOSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

connect • grow • serve

64TH ANNUAL YOUTH SPAGHETTI dinner

CARRY OUT & DELIVERY AVAILABLE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 · 4:30-7:00p

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, HOT AND READY TO BE PICKED UP BETWEEN 4:30-7:00P!
- **SPONSOR INGREDIENTS!** OFFSET THE HIGH COST OF INGREDIENTS.

TICKETS AVAILABLE STARTING JANUARY 7
IN WESLEY HALL • IN THE CHURCH OFFICE • VIA WWW.WOOSTERUMC.ORG

PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS A YOUTH MISSION TRIP WITH APPALACHIAN SERVICE PROJECT.

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: Moving Off the Map Into Uncharted Territory



The New Year often calls for new adventures. Or at the very least, we make new plans (aka resolutions) to do things a little differently than before, such as take a trip or lose weight. I'm sure that it's become clear to you, as it has for me, that we're living in a world that many of us wouldn't have recognized a few years ago. With so many changes happening so quickly (think about technology), we feel that we can hardly keep up. This is certainly true for us in our personal lives, but it's also true for us as a community of faith like ours at Wooster UMC.

Several years ago, I read a book called "Canoeing the Mountains" by Tod Bolsinger of Fuller Seminary. In doing so, I gleaned several indispensable leadership lessons that connect back to a well-known story we share here in America – the adventure of the Corps of Discovery, led by Merriweather Lewis and William Clark. We usually refer to them simply as "Lewis and Clark." Almost 220 years ago, their team of expert river navigators was commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson to journey west along the mighty Missouri River. Their mission was to discover a navigable water route that would take them all the way to the Pacific Ocean, thereby opening up new trade opportunities that would benefit this fledgling nation in innumerable ways.

One of the problems that this crew would face along the way is that they didn't have maps for where they were going. No Western settlers had made it that far west yet. And so, they found themselves heading "off the map" into "uncharted territory." But it wasn't uncharted territory for everyone. The Native Americans knew that land well and could offer valuable resources. As we all know, one of the major obstacles they would face would be figuring out how to cross the mighty Rocky Mountains. How in the world do a bunch of expert river navigators suddenly figure out how to cross the mountains? Their canoes certainly wouldn't be much help.

Maybe this is how we're feeling in the church today. In years past we had a pretty good idea of what "worked" in so far as engaging people with the Good News of Jesus in relevant ways. But times feel different. People don't engage with us the way we were used to it happening. Now, when we provide the same kind of ministry activities, fewer and fewer people seem to show up. Our "canoes" – in other words, those things that were useful back in the "river days" – don't seem to be so useful now that we're climbing up and down mountains. What can we do? As we turn the corner into the New Year, I want to spend some time thinking about this dynamic with you. What are the lessons that we can learn from an adventure like the one Lewis and Clark led? And would we be willing to make a trip "off the map" together? I hope we will!

Grace and Peace, 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

Thank you so much for the orchids. They are beautiful. What a nice surprise! Thanks again, Cathy Nicholson

Thank you for all the words of comfort, hugs, and sympathy cards. I am overwhelmed with the love and support I've received from everyone here at Wooster UMC. It means so very much at a time like this. Becky Pickett

It's wonderful people like you who have helped make our bake sale on December 10 a success! Thank you for helping us fulfill our mission to make a difference in our community by providing resources for student hygiene products. We could not have done it without you! Blessings, United Women in Faith

Thank you for the Person of the Week flowers. We also really enjoyed the carolers! Sandra & Dennis Higgins

Dear Deb Clow & Carolers: Just a note to say I so enjoyed the carolers that came to sing. What a wonderful Christmas experience! Loved every minute of it!! Doris Snoddy

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: Keith Shearer



Left: Many thanks to Ellen MacMaster for her donation of handmade baby items; some will stay at WUMC to be included in new baby bags and some will go to The Pregnancy Care Center of Wayne County to be included in their boutique for expectant parents!



Right: WUMC carolers at the home of Doris Snoddy.



Above: The Cleveland Carolers entertain the crowd at the Historic Church Tour.



Below: A Sacred Space was set up in the Chapel for the Advent season.



Above: WUMC welcomed 400 people to the Burning River Brass concert—and \$2300 was raised for the Salvation Army!



Below: Parents Night Out: WUMC cared for the kids while parents had some time away!



Above & Right: WUMC kids performing the 2023 Christmas Pageant!

