

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



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!



WOOSTER UMC WALKING GROUP
Wednesdays | 9:30a
 The WUMC Walking Group meets on Wednesdays at 9:30a for a walk along the Kinney Path. Meet in the parking lot at the corner of Burbank and Oldman. Kids and dogs are welcome—come enjoy fellowship, fresh air, and exercise together!



Mission Team Forming | July 20-24
 Royal Family Kids Camp is a one-week resident camp for children in the foster care system, many of whom experience trauma brought about by abuse and neglect. Join this team to give those kids a great week full of fishing, swimming, arts and crafts, Bible stories, drama and singing! Live out your faith by simply loving these kids! Opportunities are available to help for a day or all week! Adding your name to the list at the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall will keep you in the loop going forward.

OFFICES CLOSED
 Please note that WUMC offices will be closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of the July 4 holiday.



Make sure you're up to date with WUMC reminders and urgent messages! If you have never received text messages from WUMC, and would like to, contact the church office.



Do you have a musical talent you'd like to share with the WUMC congregation? Or know someone who might? The WUMC Summer Sunday Series begins June 21 and will showcase the talents of Ohio Light Opera performers, local ensembles, members of the WUMC congregation, and others! Director of Music Nancy Franck is currently scheduling musicians and groups for the summer season. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please contact Nancy at nfranck@woosterumc.org.



Sunday, August 2
 Peace With Justice Sunday is one of six Special Sundays in the UMC, dedicated to finding peaceful resolutions together. Your gift supports the development of social justice mandates in every Annual Conference, with half of the collections remaining within each conference. To donate, head to the GIVE page at woosterumc.org—or donate via your usual method, noting "Peace With Justice Sunday."

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.

Like us on **facebook**
Public Page:
[@woosterumc](https://www.facebook.com/woosterumc)
Private Page:
 search for **WUMC Members & Friends** and click "join group"



Sunday, July 19
 WUMC United Women in Faith are planning a women-led service and need volunteers! Roles include greeters, ushers, acolytes, A/V, welcome center staff, and musicians. Interested? Contact Sandy Riley (330.461.2526) or Susan Donley (330.275.6016).
The all-women Treble Clef Choir will be part of this service with rehearsals on Thursday, July 9 and 16, at 7:00p; contact Nancy Franck (nfranck@woosterumc.org) if you'd like to be part of it!



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.



"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.
- We have history with ASP—we've sent three youth teams to partner with ASP and one adult team as well!
- Pick up a project overview and pledge card at the What's Up Table or scan the QR code to donate.



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 drittgers@woosterumc.org
 Office Manager, Stacy Rutt office@woosterumc.org

Pastor’s Ponderings: JULY 2026

Pass It On”

*That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it,
You spread His love to everyone, you want to pass it on. “Pass It On” by Kurt Kaiser, 1969*

Over the last three years, we’ve sent three youth mission teams and one adult mission team to support the world of Appalachia Service Project (ASP). Under the leadership of Deb Clow, they’ve worked on homes, doing projects to make them warmer, safer, and drier. What began in the summer of 2024 with four youth and two adults in one van has grown to 10 youth and 5 adults in three vans this summer! Praise God for those who’ve said “Yes” to God!

Perhaps no other activity in our church exemplifies our Congregational Shared Values, for in preparing for and going on these ASP trips, we live into our values of:

- Serving Others:** participants see beyond themselves to the real needs of others and actively do something to make a difference in their lives
- Spiritual Growth:** participants and supporters grow to trust of God’s ways as they learn to love their neighbors (fellow participants and families they serve in Appalachia)
- Inclusion/Diversity:** this cross-cultural experience opens our eyes to the way people live and often struggle with poverty conditions in places not that far from home
- Cherish Youth/Children/Families:** our youth are empowered to not just be observers in the life of the church, but to be fully engaged participants and leaders in God’s work
- Stewardship of God’s Resources:** participants are taught the value of conserving resources (“measure twice/cut once”, taking quicker showers to save water, only take what you’re actually going to eat, etc.)

Of course, not all of us can make the trip in-person to serve others in Appalachia. But we can all play a part in helping people and families who have real needs.

Recently, ASP has launched an initiative called “Help After Helene” - a reference to Hurricane Helene which tore through parts of that area in September 2024, causing catastrophic losses where flooding was the worst. **ASP’s goal is to rebuild 200 homes in that area.** Each home costs about \$135,000 to build and ASP is able to secure about \$85,000 from their funding partners, leaving a gap of \$50,000. They’re asking people and churches like ours to fill that gap.

The time seems just right for us to step up to a challenge like this one. At the same time as we’re spending a significant amount of time and money upgrading our own building with an important sanctuary renovation, we can allow those blessings to overflow into the lives of others by supporting the rebuilding of their homes and lives.

Look for more specific details about how to contribute to the “Help After Helene” campaign in a mailing and in worship. Truly, we’ve been blessed to be a blessing to others (Genesis 12:2)!

Let’s Pass It On! Pastor David Rittgers



Kind words

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

Dear Wooster UMC, Thank you so much for your kind card and amazon gift card. I really appreciate it. I love all of the support and all of the opportunities that the church has given me. Sincerely, Anthony Sidle

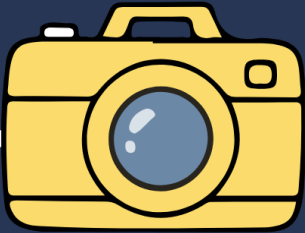
Dear Church Family, I want to thank you for making me the “person of the week”. It was such a nice surprise to receive the pretty planted flowers. I really appreciate having you think of me. I will enjoy the thoughtful gift from our church members. Thank you again for honoring me as the “person of the week” at church. Sincerely, Cindy Farnsworth.

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 and Left: Members of the WUMC congregation served in a variety of roles during Annual Conference—volunteering, providing meals for VBS participants, speaking, and extending warm hospitality to those visiting Wooster!



Above and Right: The youth mission team traveled to Buchanan County, VA, to work alongside Appalachia Service Project, making homes warmer, safer, and drier. Left: Renovation continues in the Sanctuary. Congregation member Jyotsna Harris lent her talent to continue the painted design on newly uncovered trim.

