



WUMC participated in The East Ohio Conference's Teach • Reach • Bless campaign, which raised more than \$1.5 million to build and furnish a residence hall for female students on the campus of Africa University in Zimbabwe.

After hearing Rev. Bill McFadden speak of the need for scholarships, WUMC has committed to supporting AU female students through "Lift Her Up", which raises money for scholarships (\$28,000 for each undergraduate degree) so that female students in refugee camps who have been accepted at AU will have the funds to enroll.

The initial payment has already been made and WUMC will be matched with a student before classes start in August. Support this student in her educational journey by clicking the Lift Her Up tile on the GIVE page at woosterumc.org or via your usual giving method, noting "Lift Her Up". Pledge cards are also available at the What's Up table or in the church office.



Congratulations to the following WUMC graduates:

Chelsea Patterson
Master of Arts: Speech Pathology
Cleveland State University

Charlie Reynolds
Master of Business Administration
The University of Chicago

Daniel Rittgers
Master of Business Administration
Baldwin Wallace University



SMITHVILLE UMC
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
JUNE 7 & 8
FRIDAY: 6-8:30 (INCLUDES DINNER)
SATURDAY: 10A-3P (INCLUDES LUNCH)
SCAN FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER!



Send happy wishes to WUMC kids who are attending camp this summer! Look for the card on the What's Up table and add your greeting. All greetings will be combined into one card that will be mailed to campers!



WUMC in the Community is supporting the Pregnancy Care Center of Wayne County with a Baby Bottle Fundraiser! Visit the What's Up table to pick up a bottle, take it home, fill with spare change, currency, or a check (made payable to The Pregnancy Care Center) and return to WUMC. We'll collect through Father's Day!



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



The Summer Sunday Series kicks off June 16 at WUMC and will feature the talents of Ohio Light Opera performers, local groups, and members of the WUMC congregation. Music Director Nancy Franck is looking to fill slots in August and early September; contact her for more information (nfranck@woosterumc.org).



The WUMC Funeral Dinner Team prepares a meal made with love for those facing the loss of a loved one. Several volunteer teams rotate to help with preparation and serving. If you'd like to hear more about serving on a team, contact the church office (office@woosterumc.org or 330.262.5641).



WUMC is forming a mission team to volunteer with Royal Family Kids Camp on July 14-19.

RFKC is a one-week resident camp near Brewster, Ohio, for children in the foster care system, many of whom experience trauma brought about by abuse and neglect. You may recall when Glenn Michalski of Strongsville UMC was at WUMC back in March to introduce us to RFKC. Subsequent interest has led to forming a WUMC team.

To learn more about RFKC, check out the bulletin board in Wesley Hall. Interested in joining the WUMC team? Attend an informational meeting on Sunday, June 9, following worship in Turney Lounge.

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
Office Manager, Becky Pickett

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office@woosterumc.org

Pastor's Ponderings: Putting Down Roots



As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. (Colossians 2:6-7, NRSV)

My family and I are grateful to be completing our first year with you here in Wooster. A year ago (2023), we were busily sorting through our stuff and packing our belongings in preparation for the move. We wondered if we had enough time between the end of school and the official move date to get "everything" done in time.

It ended up being a big year of moves for our family as, not only did we move our family's home-base from Orrville to Wooster, but our son Joshua moved off to Kentucky for his first year of college and Beth's mom relocated to a smaller home in the Columbus area.

I guess you could say that we're thankful that this summer of 2024 doesn't involve so much in the way of transitions, whew! Instead, we're glad to say that we're feeling settled in our home and are beginning to put down some roots in the church and Wooster community.

As your pastor, I realize that the same kind of process can happen in the lives of laypersons as you think about your own relationship to God through a church. At times in your life, you may feel strongly rooted in a congregation. Yet, things happen which cause you to feel uprooted:

A move. A pandemic. A change in work. Kids moving out. Kids being born. Denominational uncertainty. Unending conflict. All these things can contribute to a season of disconnection.

I want to express my desire to you that our congregation, Wooster UMC, can and will be a place where people can safely lay down roots. We call that process **CONNECT – GROW – SERVE**.

Please realize that not every person who will connect with our congregation has come here because they are new to town, although we certainly celebrate those who have found us that way! In these times of change, there are others who, at one point, had deeper roots in a congregation (whether it be ours or another church). They became disconnected for a season.

Perhaps you feel that you're in that place. Or you may know friends who are in that place. If so, I pray that you will receive these words of encouragement that are found above from Colossians 2:6-7, where we are encouraged to stay grounded and rooted in faith in Christ Jesus.

I believe that this congregation is a place where you can safely be planted and rooted in the Lord. In that spirit, some efforts are underway to connect with folks who felt uprooted in recent years. I believe we are in a new season of ministry now that allows for new roots to be established. Please help me extend that invitation and welcome back to anyone who needs it!

Grace and Peace in the Lord,
Pastor David Rittgers



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

What a blessing – to be surrounded by such love and support of our church family! Thank you for the cards, good wishes, and lovely plant I received as I celebrated my birthday! Kathy Kapp

Thank you! WSCC values your support with our OHuddle! Thank you so much for all you do for our youth and mentors.
WSCC OHuddle Site Coordinator, Lydia

Thank you for all the contributions received for the Steer Fund. The donations are much appreciated and touch many lives through the Meals Together program!

Thank you so much for your support of our May 19 bake sale! Mary Martha Circle

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the church for making me the person of the week during my birthday week. The beautiful Cyclamen I received will bring me great joy. I am deeply touched by the love and support shown by those who came to my 80th birthday party, sent cards, and gave me money for my trip to Liberia. Thank you to the Woven class for supporting me and to the kids in the Sunday School class, whose offering has been going to support my trip. And a special thanks to the Trail Seekers Sunday Class, which held a pancake brunch to help me raise funds to help the children. I have over \$1000 that will be used to benefit the Children of Camphor Mission in Liberia. Blessings and Hugs, Kay Bergen

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 Buehler



Photo Gallery



Left: These students were confirmed on May 12. Thanks to Deb Clow and Pastor David for providing spiritual guidance; also to those who served as mentors (listed alongside each Confirmand):

Maddie Clow (Jane Braddock)

Charles Donley (Mike Mann)

James Fishburn (Micah Poremba)

Noah Greene (Dave Braddock)

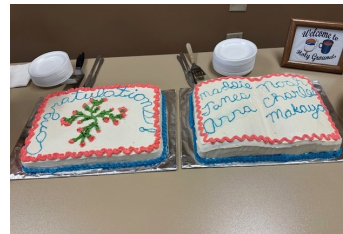
Makaya Krownapple (Leeann Caldwell)

Anna Rittgers (Barb Grenert)



Above: WUMC hosted a district-wide post-General Conference gathering.

Right and Below: WUMC members met for a fun hike.



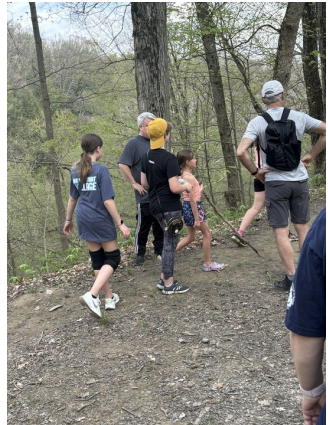
Above: UMCOR Cleaning kits were collected to aid flood victims in Ohio.



Above: Thanks to Janis Kennedy for these lovely handmade greeting cards!



Above: Kay Bergen celebrated her 80th birthday with a party at WUMC!



Above left: WUMC sponsored two "OHuddle Hours", providing sweet treats to teachers and staff at WSCC and Wooster High School.

Above right: Pancakes For Pentecost, sponsored by the Trail Seekers adult Sunday school class, raised \$245 for Kay Bergen's upcoming trip to Liberia.