

# WELCOME to WUMC



Susan Franz

WUMC is pleased to announce that we have hired Susan Franz as bell choir director! Susan was born and raised in Lisbon, Ohio, and graduated from Kent State University with majors in Special and Elementary Education. She taught two years in Lisbon before marrying Jack in 1978 and moving to Wadsworth, where she taught for 33 years. Over her 35-year career, she taught 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades as well as Special Education. Susan earned a master's degree from Ashland University and later taught in its College of Teacher Education for 14 years after "flunking" retirement. Jack and Susan have two grown children and four grandchildren. Nathan and his wife Rachel live in Columbus with their son Jackson, and Whitney and her husband Kris live in North Carolina with Lydia, Gracie, and Ben. Susan and Jack live in Westfield Center and attend LeRoy UMC, where Susan has served as Bell Choir Director for 36 years. They enjoy gardening, cooking, the outdoors, and volunteering at Secrest Arboretum, but most of all spending time with family.



**WUMC LUNCH BUNCH**  
Wednesday, June 17 | 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.



**Mission Team Forming | July 20-24**  
Royal Family Kids Camps serves area foster children, giving them a summer camp experience. Find out more at the What's Up Table and see if it might be a good opportunity for you!



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**  
The East Ohio Annual Conference (June 11-13) returns to the College of Wooster campus, giving WUMC a great opportunity to help and show hospitality to those visiting Wooster! Volunteers are needed for roles like greeters, parking, prayer team, cafeteria help, and more. Scan the code to complete a short survey and share your availability!



**INTRODUCING GUEST MUSICIAN**  
We've seen Dr. Jeffrey Anderson at WUMC before as part of the Summer Sunday Series, but we'll be seeing a bit more of him as he will be a WUMC Guest musician this summer!  
Jeffrey is delighted to be returning to Ohio Light Opera for a tenth season as a clarinetist and saxophone doubler in the pit orchestra.  
Having attended school in Michigan and Ohio, he taught for seven years in Kansas at Allen Community College before moving to the Houston area this past fall to begin as Band Director/Music Instructor at Wharton County Junior College.  
Jeffrey has experience as music director and accompanist at several churches over his career and is excited for the opportunity to lend a helping hand this summer to Wooster UMC.  
Outside of music, Jeffrey enjoys traveling and cooking, and is looking forward to escaping the Texas heat in beautiful Wooster for a few months!



**SUMMER SUNDAY SERIES**  
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.



**WOOSTER UMC WALKING GROUP**  
Wednesdays | 9:30a  
The WUMC Walking Group is ready to kick it into high gear as the weather warms up! Join us 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!



Items will be collected for Midwest Mission during 2026 Annual Conference on the College of Wooster campus. Each of these life-changing items will go to people in need, both globally and locally. Visit the What's Up Table to get a list of kits that are being collected. Return completed kits to the church office and WUMC will deliver—or drop off yourself during collection times on campus. If needed, a few 5-gallon buckets are on hand to help with assembly of Personal Dignity Kits.



**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).



**Scholarships Available!**  
Attention College Students: Two WUMC groups are accepting applications to help college students further their educations:  
1. Endowment Scholarship: Deadline June 30  
2. United Women of Faith Scholarship: Deadline June 30  
Applications for both scholarships are available in the church office or via woosterumc.org's Youth page.



# Circuit Rider

June 2026

WOOSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH connect • grow • serve



# CHURCH PICNIC!

**FRIDAY, JUNE 19**  
6:15 FOOD | 7:15 GAME

- FIREWORKS FOLLOW THE GAME!
- YOU PAY \$20/TICKET; WUMC COVERS THE REST!

**SIGN UP AT THE WHAT'S UP TABLE BY JUNE 4!**

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: JUNE 2026

## "Serving in the Summer"

Summer has arrived! Every church I've served seems to have a summer routine that's a little different than the rest of the year. And I think that's a good thing. We can all use this season to slow down and pause for renewal, change things up a bit, and step out of our comfort zones.

One of the summer traditions I'm enjoying here at Wooster UMC is the way people step up and step out on a mission. We do it because we're called to serve others in the same way Jesus served. You see, Jesus didn't teach us to live a kind of faith where we say, "Serve US!" No, Jesus calls us to lives of "Serv-ice" where we truly see the needs of others and respond in life-giving ways.

On June 7, a team of mostly youth and several adults will head south to Buchanan County, Virginia to help fulfill the mission of ASP, which is "to make homes warmer, safer, and drier." This is the third year we've sent a team on the Appalachia Service Project mission. They plan to share impactful stories about their work with us in worship on a Sunday later in June.

We have more opportunities to serve locally when the East Ohio Annual Conference is held at the College of Wooster on June 11-13. Servant volunteers are needed to provide hospitality as greeters, parking lot attendants, golf cart drivers, cafeteria helpers, prayers, and more.

Another way to serve here in Wooster is by helping with our annual Vacation Bible School. Our church will be hosting children (PreK-Grade 5) during the evenings of July 13-15. Year after year, we've seen the impact this special set-apart time has had on children and their families. We're glad to be partnering with several of our sister UMCs once again this year.

Soon after, we will send people to serve with other churches at Royal Family Kids Camp during the week of July 20-24. Strongsville UMC is the church coordinating this effort which blesses foster children by giving them a summer camp experience they might not otherwise enjoy.

And I'm sure even more hands-on service is happening that I'm not even aware of yet. Who knows? We may find ourselves inspired by the Spirit of Christ to step out in service in brand new ways as we're being nudged. My advice is simple: Listen for the Spirit's leading, take a step of faith, and invite others to join you. I don't think you'll ever regret taking time to serve others.

One last thing to mention along the lines of serving people: As we refresh and update our own sanctuary this summer, I believe we will find great joy in giving generously to others who are also doing the work of building to meet real needs. Look for more details starting on Sunday, May 31, about a new congregation-wide missional challenge to raise funds to help ASP build.

As we serve, let's be sure to keep up with the Spirit this Summer!

Peace,

Pastor David Rittgers



## Kind words

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

Thank You ~ Most appreciated" Dianne Sleek

"Overwhelmed and very grateful with all of the sympathy cards for Barbara." Frank Sattler

"Dear Church Family, How I have enjoyed and appreciated the lovely plant you sent as I was Person of the Week! I was touched by the cards helping me celebrate my birthday!" Sincerely, Kathy Kapp

"Dear Church Family, I am incredibly touched by the flowering plant and all of the kind cards I received from you. Thank you for thinking of me and for making my Person of the Week extra special." Anita Greene

"To the Wooster United Methodist Church and Staff, The Wooster Music Club would like to express our sincere gratitude to the church for the use of Wesley Hall for our meetings. We really appreciate it!!" Many Thanks, Kathy Helmuth, President &

The rest of the club.

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

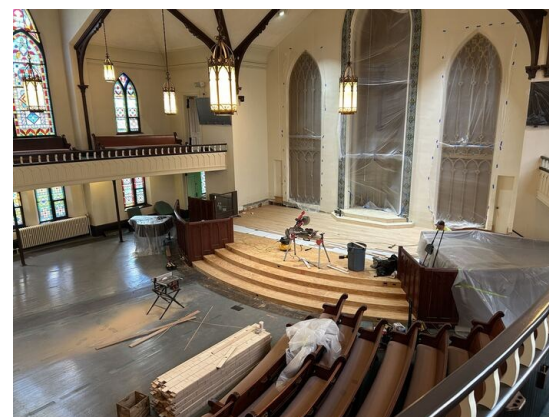


# PHOTO GALLERY

## THE MONTH IN PICTURES



Above: The WUMC Chapel recently became a temporary home for 500+ reusable Walmart bags filled with non-perishable food items—part of a community effort providing enough food for every OHuddle student in Wayne County to receive two bags! Thanks to local Walmart stores, dedicated employees, and Pastor David's quick thinking, our chapel became a creative space for caring for our neighbors!



Congratulations to WUMC high school graduates (from left) Carolyn Greene, Anthony Sidle, Carmela Duta and Charles Donley.



Above left: Pastor David and Director of Discipleship Ali Vizzo traveled to Tipp City, Ohio to attend the "Change the World" Conference at Ginghamburg UMC.

Above middle: Pastor David traveled to Lakeside Chautauqua to take part in the clergy gathering ahead of Annual Conference (June 10-13 on the COW campus).

Above right: WUMC has officially surpassed our \$28,000 goal for Africa University's "Lift Her Up" program, sponsoring AU student Consolate Dacosta Kinyanga's tuition and expenses!

Left: Work began on the sanctuary renovation project which will include sound upgrades and painting, as well as replacing pew covers, flooring, and carpet.



Above left: Best wishes were offered to organist Steve Gerber and Bell Choir Director Inez Shirer as they retired after many years of sharing their musical talents!

Above center: A WUMC mission team traveled to the Mission Barn in New Castle, PA.

Above right: The ASP youth mission team honed their skills ahead of their June 7-13 trip to Buchanan County VA.