



### DISTRICT NEWS

WOOSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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**Wednesday, March 20 @ WUMC**  
**6:30-8:00p · Wesley Hall**

The Central Valley (formerly Canal) district office is scheduling listening posts throughout the district and one of them will be held at WUMC!

Meet with co-superintendents, Rev. Edgar Brady & Rev. Cara Stultz Costello, as well as Rev. Beth Ortiz, Director of Strategic Ministries, and Megan Myers, District Administrator.

Some questions to ponder: What are the gifts & needs of God's people in the Central Valley District? Of the local church? Of the clergy serving in the Central Valley District?



Josh Rittgers and girlfriend Sarah Mendiola are planning a 14-day mission trip to Camphor Mission in Liberia with UVMIM this summer. You can support them by attending a time of prayer and worship hosted by Josh and Sarah:

Trinity United Methodist Church  
1556 Rex Dr., Orrville  
March 9, 7:00p.  
Free Will Offering  
Light Refreshments

You can also donate online:  
<https://liberia-camphor-mission-fundraiser.cheddarup.com>.



**Wednesday, March 20 · Noon**  
Pizza and beverages provided!  
Bring \$5 towards pizza.  
Bring a side or snack to share if you wish! All are invited!



### QUARTERLY PROGRAM

United Women in Faith invite all to their March 6 program with Judge Latecia E. Wiles speaking on programs available for adolescents and families involved in juvenile court. Refreshments at 5:30p, followed by the program at 6:00p.

### UWF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Applications are now being accepted for 2024 UWF scholarship awards. The deadline to apply is April 30.

For an application, visit [woosterumc.org](http://woosterumc.org)> Get Connected> Youth. Copies of the application are also available in the church office.



### Good Friday Cantata

Singers, we are commencing preparations for this year's Good Friday cantata, "A Journey to Hope", by Joseph M. Martin. As is our tradition, the cantata will take place at Oak Chapel on Friday, March 27 @ 7:00p, with Oak Chapel, Moreland, and Wooster UMC combined choirs. We would love for you to join us—there's always a seat for you!

Rehearsals will be at 8:00p Thursdays after our regular choir rehearsal, with two Wednesday rehearsals on March 20 and 27 at Oak Chapel. Please contact Nancy Franck for details.

### Easter Choir

Maybe you can't make the time commitment to sing in the choir year round, but would still like to sing in the choir—Easter choir is for you! Practices begin Thursday, March 7, 7:00p in the Music Room. The Easter choir will sing one anthem and the Hallelujah Chorus.

### AREA UMC LENTEN SERVICES

Sunday Service Time: 4:00p  
Fellowship Time Following

**March 3**  
Led by Pastor John Finn  
Moreland U.M.C.  
138 Moreland Rd., Wooster

**March 10**  
Led by Pastor David Rittgers  
Church of the Cross U.M.C.  
5100 Cleveland Rd., Wooster

**March 17**  
Celebration UMC Gospel Choir  
Oak Chapel U.M.C.  
4203 W. Old Lincoln Way, Wooster

**March 24**  
Led by D.S. Edgar Brady  
Wooster U.M.C.  
243 N. Market St., Wooster

**March 29 Good Friday Cantata**  
7:00p @ Oak Chapel U.M.C.  
4203 W. Old Lincoln Way, Wooster

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### UMCOR SUNDAY

UMCOR works with UM churches and partners to address immediate needs and achieve sustainable recovery?

UMCOR Sunday, one of six Special Sundays in the UMC, is March 10. Your gifts ensure that UMCOR can respond quickly and in compassion to disaster and devastation. Flyers with more information will be distributed with the March 10 bulletin.



## Circuit Rider

March 2024

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## Lent & Easter AT WUMC

### Holy Week Services

**March 24:** Palm Sunday "An Unusual Entrance", 10am, WUMC Sanctuary

**March 28:** Maundy Thursday @ 7pm, WUMC Sanctuary

**March 29:** Good Friday Cantata, Oak Chapel UMC, 7pm

**March 31:** Easter Sunday "Peace Be With You", 10am, WUMC Sanctuary



**WUMC youth will hide 700+ Easter eggs on the front lawn for an Egg Hunt following worship on Easter Sunday!**  
**Bring a basket to collect your eggs!**

WOOSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRESENTS

## Holy Week Noon Concerts

Please join us for a free concert Monday-Wednesday of Holy Week (March 25-27) in the WUMC Sanctuary. Concerts will feature area musicians as well as WUMC organist Steve Gerber. Bring your lunch if you wish! All concerts begin at noon and last approximately 1/2 hour.

*Monday, March 25*

Steve Gerber with Mary-Marie Deauclaire, organ and piano

*Tuesday, March 26*

Tom & Susan Shaw, organ/piano and flute

*Wednesday, March 27*

Mary-Marie Deauclaire featuring her students and a guest vocalist

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

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Office Manager, Becky Pickett

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The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

## Pastor's Ponderings: Hallelujah! The Tomb is Empty! Jesus is Alive!



I don't know about you, but I'm always amazed at the difference in the behavior of Jesus' disciples before and after the Resurrection. You've seen those "Before and After" pictures, haven't you? In the "Before" shot, the guy looks like he just got out of bed, his clothing is disheveled, and his gut is hanging out. In the "After" shot, he appears almost unrecognizably healthy. Everything looks great and he looks like he's ready to go out and conquer the world.

That's kind of how I imagine the disciples. Before Easter, they've all but lost hope. They hid themselves in a room out of fear. But three days later, all of a sudden, their lives have a clear purpose. They have the Hope of the Resurrection deeply embedded in their hearts and souls. They will not waste a single moment of the rest of their lives on things that don't really matter.

Did you realize that we, too, are part of the Resurrection story? Because Jesus has conquered death, we have a new life and a holy purpose. So, what's our purpose? The mission of Jesus' followers is the same no matter where you go: it's to make disciples. Period.

In the United Methodist Church, we use the language, "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" to describe it. And fueling that mission is our sure and certain hope in the Resurrection of Christ. Even in the midst of changing and uncertain times, we can count on the fact that our mission will never change. Even if we find ourselves disagreeing about the finer points of how to live out our faith, the mission of Jesus never changes.

I'm glad to share several opportunities that we have during Holy Week to remember what Jesus has done for us as he finished out his own mission on the cross.

On Palm Sunday (March 24), we will gather for morning worship at 10:00 a.m., journeying with Jesus into Jerusalem in his Triumphant Entry. That afternoon, our church will host the community Lenten service at 4:00 p.m. with special guest preacher, Rev. Edgar Brady, who is one of our new co-district superintendents.

On Maundy Thursday (March 28), we will hold a special time of worship at 7:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. Our service will include prayer, music, holy communion, and a meaningful drama which will help us find our way into the story.

On Good Friday (March 29), Oak Chapel UMC will host the annual choir cantata at 7:00 p.m. Several of our singers will take part in this worshipful presentation of the Passion of Christ.

On Easter Sunday (March 31), we will gather for worship at 10:00 a.m. to joyously celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. Events before and after the worship service will add to the joy of the day.

Please look around this newsletter for additional details about Lenten and Holy Week activities.

Hallelujah! He is Risen! Wishing you the Joy of the Resurrection this Easter! 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 for the vase of beautiful flowers delivered to me by the Visitation Team. Yvonne Brown

Thank you to Mike Mann and the Helping Hands Ministry for replacing lightbulbs in my apartment! Nancy Ayres

"Thank you so much!" "It was so nice of you to think of us!" "This is great!" "It is so appreciated by our staff" Just a few of the many positive comments we received from Wooster and Wayne County first responders who were happy to have spaghetti dinners delivered.

Your giving enables us to continue the 11 mentorship and asset-based programming that benefits hundreds of students in your area. In the past year, mentor relationships impacted students to improve their academic achievement by 23%, improve their school attendance by 75% and reduce their discipline by 77%. Without your continued support, none of this would be possible. On behalf of OHuddle and all who benefit from your generosity, thank you. Yours in Service, Sara Reith - Ed.S, NCSP Executive Director

We are so thankful for gifts like yours that help us to continue to provide all the services we have for over our 45 years of helping people in Wayne County. What we are starting to see with the extra cost of fuel, food and other nonfood items is an increase in need for financial help with utilities, rent and other home and health related needs. Thank you for being a partner with us and blessing us with your gift. We do so greatly appreciate your support. We believe the best thing we provide for people is the HOPE of a better tomorrow and encouraging words of support to help be the LIGHT of JESUS in our community. Joe Szeker, Director of Operations

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

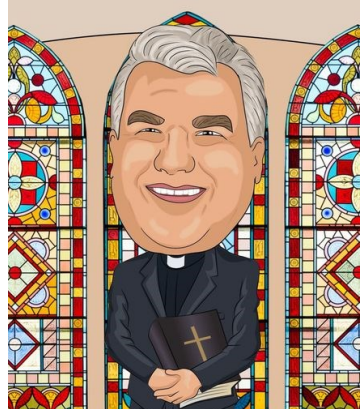
Recently ill/hospitalized:

Recent deaths: Jack Leonard



Above: The Mitten Tree garnered 42 hats, 51 pairs of gloves, and 2 pairs of socks—all delivered to the Christian Children's Home of Ohio to keep resident students warm this winter!

Below: Pastor David was celebrated on Pastor Appreciation Day (top)! And given a special keepsake from staff (bottom)!



Above: Big thanks to Janis Kennedy for sharing her considerable card-making talents with WUMC and creating beautiful valentines! Below: WUMC kids also used their creative muscles to make valentines!



Right: WUMC enjoyed tubing at Snow Trails!



The Prayer Chapel (on the first floor, adjacent to Wesley Hall, near the Larwill door) will be set up as a place of meditation and reflection during this Lenten season. You are encouraged to sit quietly, walk the labyrinth, read a devotion, play music that is provided—any or all of these—as we journey through Lent.



Above and Left: WUMC Youth did a great job at the 64th Annual Youth Spaghetti Dinner!



Above: The Woven Women's Group kicked off a new Bible study with a record crowd!