

## PIZZA POTLUCK



Sunday, March 16 | 5:30-7:00p

We're having another Pizza Potluck & Game Night! Please bring your family's favorite pizza to share and a game you like to play. All are invited!



## SEND A KID TO CAMP

Summer camp can cost \$300-\$700+ per camper; WUMC wants to make sure cost doesn't prohibit participation! Stop by the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall after March 9 or click the SEND A KID TO CAMP tile on the GIVE page at woosterumc.org.

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, March 12 | 6:30-8:00p

6-Week Lenten Men's Bible Study  
Pastor David and Mark Bucher will lead participants through "John: Life in His Name" by Pastor Kyle Idleman. Over the 40 days of Lent, they will read through the entire Gospel of John, which includes the Passion Story and the Resurrection, learning to trust in Christ—and to demonstrate our faith in him through the way we live and love others. Talk to Mark or Pastor David for more information, or sign up to participate at the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall or the Welcome Center in the Sanctuary.



Would you like to place a daffodil in the sanctuary for Easter in honor/memory of a loved one/special occasion?  
Cost is \$12 per plant.  
Order forms are available at the What's Up Table, Welcome Center, or in the church office.



Wednesday, March 5  
Ash Wednesday Service  
7:00p in the Sanctuary



United Women in Faith

Wednesday, March 5  
Gather at 5:30p | Program at 6:00p  
UWF Unit Meeting

Kimberly Symonds from NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) in Wayne and Holmes Counties will speak. The group will adjourn at 6:45 to attend the Ash Wednesday service in the Sanctuary.



## LIFT YOUR VOICE FOR EASTER!

Maybe you can't make the time commitment to sing in the choir year round, but would still like to participate on occasion—Easter Choir is for you! The Easter Choir will combine with the Bell Choir for a song on Easter Sunday and will also lead the Hallelujah Chorus. See Nancy Franck for details.

If you'd like to just join in for the Hallelujah Chorus, all are invited to do so! Those interested will be invited forward and given music for this congregational choir.



It's time to fill the eggs for our Easter Egg Hunt! We need individually wrapped **NON-PEANUT** candy or small toys that will fit inside eggs. Look for a donation basket inside near the kitchen pass-through window, bring items to the church office, or donate via the **FILL EASTER EGGS** tile on the **GIVE** page at woosterumc.org.

**THIS YEAR, WE ARE SHARING SOME OF OUR EGGS WITH THE BUCKEYE STREET COMMUNITY AT THEIR EGG HUNT ON APRIL 19, ORGANIZED BY CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH.**



We're looking for joyful hearts and willing hands to serve as communion stewards—just three times a year! You'll be responsible for purchasing bread & juice, arriving early to set up, serving communion, cleaning up, and letting the office manager know if supplies are needed. No experience? No problem! Training is provided! Contact Craig Reynolds (creynolds@millerreynolds.com or 330-465-5271) to get involved.



## FOOD DRIVE!

Many families in Wooster are struggling with food insecurity, and **WUMC in the Community** is committed to helping. We are organizing an ongoing collection of shelf-stable food items to support the three Give and Take Pantries located at our neighborhood community gardens.

One of these, Jo's Garden on Larwill Street, holds special significance for WUMC, as it was established in 2009 by late WUMC member Jo Pugh, with support from WUMC and Habitat for Humanity. Another pantry is located at the Buckeye Street Garden, right in our backyard, and the third can be found on Spink Street. Suggested donations include pasta, canned sauce, mac & cheese, canned vegetables and fruit, healthy cereals, and canned meats.

Our Sunday School children are also getting involved—their February collection will contribute to this cause! A donation station will be set up at the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall.

Want us to do the shopping for you? Simply donate through the **GIVE** page at woosterumc.org (or use your usual giving method, noting "food pantry").



## LUNCH BUNCH

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



## Circuit Rider

March 2025

WOOSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

connect • grow • serve



## LENTEN REFLECTIONS ART GALLERY: WHAT'S OUR PURPOSE?

During the season of Lent, the congregation at WUMC will be invited to reflect on passages from the Bible that describe the purpose of the Church and then come up with creative responses to these stories (poems, drawings, short stories, paintings, photos, etc.). The Chapel will be set up with materials that can be used to create the art that will be displayed in the hallways of the second floor. Ali will be available on Tuesday afternoons at 4:00p beginning March 11 for kids to stop in and create!

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

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

# Pastor's Ponderings:

## "A Lenten Invitation"

**Wednesday, March 5** marks the beginning of this year's Lenten season. I invite you to attend our Ash Wednesday worship service held in the sanctuary that evening at 7:00p. Ashes will be imposed in the sign of the cross upon people's foreheads as a symbol of repentance.

What is Lent and why do we observe it? The Lenten season is a 40-day period of preparation (not including Sundays) between Ash Wednesday and Easter. This year, Easter Sunday is April 20, which is one of the latest dates on which Easter can fall. Lent is observed as a solemn and reflective time of the Christian year in which people make an intentional effort to grow in their relationship with God.

Traditionally, people practice spiritual disciplines such as prayer, fasting, repentance, and self-denial. We do these things in order to position ourselves so that God can be at work in our lives, offering us the grace that produces good fruit in us (Galatians 5:22-23).

Earlier this year, we identified a set of key Shared Values which help our congregation answer the question, "WHO are we?" Those values are: Serving Others, Spiritual Growth, Inclusion and Diversity, Cherishing Children/Youth/Families, and Stewardship of God's Resources. See the graphic at right for more detail about what those values mean.

During this year's Lenten season, we will continue to make progress in our Visioning Process for our congregation by asking the "WHY" question. Specifically, the question is: "Why Do We Exist?" Another way to ask it is: "What is our PURPOSE?"

A Scripture passage about the purpose of Christ's Church will be featured each week during Lent, inspiring us to reflect on why we (the church) exist. In order to reflect on these passages well, we're inviting you to be creative with your responses. Over the course of the Lenten season, collectively, we will create an art gallery in our hallways with various expressions of artwork such as pictures, paintings, poetry, and other handmade items, which will be hung on wall space.

A hub of activity during Lent will be our Chapel, a space near Wesley Hall, where you can find materials and designated space to be creative anytime you are at the church. Please take time to visit the Chapel to find more instructions about how to participate in this all-church activity.

I look forward to sharing this Lenten season with you as we commit to this period of intentional spiritual growth for our entire congregation.

Lenten Blessings in Christ Jesus,

Pastor David Rittgers

## WOOSTER UMC OUR SHARED VALUES

### SERVING OTHERS

We join Jesus in recognizing and unconditionally serving those in need through fellowship and community outreach.

### SPIRITUAL GROWTH

We provide opportunities for people to become more like Jesus by experiencing God's Word and sharing through worship and study.

### INCLUSION/DIVERSITY

We celebrate and are strengthened by individual differences and the gifts that each person brings to the Body of Christ.

### CHERISH YOUTH/CHILDREN/FAMILY

We nurture our children and youth through supportive relationships that help them grow in their walk with Christ.

### STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S RESOURCES

We joyfully and responsibly manage all that God has entrusted to our care.



Above: 80+ items were donated to area Give and Take Pantries, including the one at Jo's Garden on Larwill Street, as part of an ongoing collection.

Below: Warming up on a cold day of tubing!



Above: Discussion following the Screenagers viewing at WUMC. Congregation and community members gathered to discuss the effects of social media on kids today.



Left: More beautiful cards made by Janis Kenney!

Below: Women's Retreat

## Kind words

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

Thank you for your support, whether you purchased tickets for yourself, a first responder, or a limited mobility member, sponsored ingredients, made deliveries, or provided a dessert, your support of WUMC youth is very much appreciated! Spaghetti Dinner Team

Dear friends, It was so kind of you choosing me for Person of the Week. I really enjoyed the cards and the beautiful plant. Thank you very much, Linda Crouch

Verna Oehlenschlager, having returned home on January 20, and her family would like to thank everyone who prayed, sent cards, visited, and generally sent well wishes for her recovery during the past few weeks since December 22.

Dear faithful servants of Jesus @ Wooster UMC— What a joy to worship with you via Facebook on this icy Sunday morning. The excellence you put into your worship of God is indicative of the Spirit moving in and through you and is congruent with your investment in growing deeper in love with God, each other and our neighbors near and far. I am grateful to be in partnership with you for God's purposes. Rev. Cara Stoltz Costello

**With the recent wintry weather, please note that if church services are canceled, we will share that information through:**

- Text (if we have a current cell number)
- Email (for those subscribed to the Short Circuit weekly newsletter)
- Facebook public page
- Facebook Members & Friends page
- Phone Tree (depending on lead time)

**To ensure you receive notifications, please keep your contact information up to date with WUMC!**

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

Dr. Richard "Rev" William Smith Sr, Memorial service is March 8 at 11:00am.

