

# LENT & EASTER

AT WOOSTER UMC

Don't miss any activities or services; pick up a Lenten brochure at the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall or the Welcome Center at the rear of the Sanctuary!

This year's Lenten theme is "Teach Us How to Pray" based on *The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught* by Rev. Adam Hamilton, exploring the depth and significance of the Lord's Prayer. How often do we say the Lord's Prayer without thinking about the words? This Lent, let's rediscover them together! We'll explore a different line of this familiar prayer each week during Lent at our 10:00a worship.

Short on time, but still want to sing occasionally? Join the Easter Choir! This short-term choir will lead the singing on Easter Sunday. See Director of Music Nancy Franck or talk to any choir member for details!

If you'd like to just join in for the Hallelujah Chorus on Easter morning, all are invited to do so! Music will be provided for this congregational choir.

Place a daffodil in the sanctuary for Easter in honor/memory of a loved one/special occasion! Cost is \$12 per plant (order deadline is March 13). Order forms are available at the What's Up Table or in the church office.

Let's fill the egg for the Easter morning Egg Hunt! We need individually wrapped NON-PEANUT candy or small toys that will fit inside eggs. Look for a donation basket near the kitchen pass-through window or donate via the FILL EASTER EGGS tile on the GIVE page at [woosterumc.org](http://woosterumc.org).

Join us in the WUMC Sanctuary on April 2 at 7:00o for a Maundy Thursday service. A drama directed by congregation member Tony Lane will take the place of a sermon for this service and communion will be served.

WUMC will once again host 1/2 hour lunchtime concerts during Holy Week; watch the bulletin for a schedule of performers!

## SPECIAL SUNDAY

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."  
- MATTHEW 25:35



March 15 is UMCOR Sunday, one of six Special Sundays in the UMC, supporting humanitarian relief and recovery efforts. Your gift supports trained staff, reliable systems, and the ability to act quickly and compassionately in the face of natural disasters, conflict, and hunger. To donate, head to the GIVE page at [woosterumc.org](http://woosterumc.org)—or donate via your usual method, noting "UMCOR Sunday."



**Wednesday, March 18 | 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. Everyone is invited!

## PLEASE TAKE NOTE

**UWF Reading Circle to Meet**  
The United Women in Faith Reading Circle will meet on Monday, March 16, 9:30a in Room A. All are welcome!

**VBS is Coming... and We Need YOU!**  
Vacation Bible School is happening July 13-15, 5:30-8:00p— and it's going to be a fun few days of faith and friendship! To make the magic happen, we're looking for volunteers to be group leaders, help with story time, lead games, or assist with the evening meal. There's a place for everyone to jump in and make a difference! Sign up at the What's Up Table to stay in the loop and be part of the VBS team.

**Camp Season is Underway!**  
Registration for East Ohio Camps is open—a life changing experience at camp can be right around the corner for a young person in your life! Visit the camp display at the What's Up Table to learn more!

## 66TH ANNUAL YOUTH SPAGHETTI DINNER

Support WUMC youth!

**Saturday, March 7 | 4:30-6:30 p.m.**  
**Dine In or Carry Out!**

Support WUMC youth missions and activities at the 66th Annual Youth Spaghetti Dinner—a great meal and a great cause! Stop by the Spaghetti Dinner table in Wesley Hall to purchase tickets (\$10 adults), sponsor ingredients, buy a first responder or limited mobility meal to be delivered on March 7!

**Dessert providers and delivery drivers are needed! Sign up at the Spaghetti Dinner Table in Wesley Hall!**



### Looking for college grads!

WUMC will honor graduates (high school and college) during worship on May 24. If you have a student graduating college this year, please let us know so we can add their name to the bulletin that day!

## WOOSTER AREA UMC LENTEN SERVICES

Sunday Service Time: 4:00 p.m.  
Fellowship Time Following

March 1 | Moreland UMC  
Pastor John Finn

March 8 | Smithville UMC  
Pastor David Rittgers

March 15 | New Pittsburg UMC  
Pastor Aimee Hare

March 22 | Oak Chapel UMC  
Pastor James Lance

March 29 | Wooster UMC  
Rev. Kimberly Arbaugh

Each service will collect a free will offering, the proceeds of which will be split between People to People Ministries in Wooster ([ptpm.net](http://ptpm.net)) and Urban Mission Ministries in Steubenville ([urbanmission.org](http://urbanmission.org)).

# Circuit Rider

March 2026

WOOSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

connect • grow • serve

# Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

## Ohio Episcopal Area



### Bishop Jung visits WUMC for lunch on Thursday, March 12

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung (resident bishop of The Ohio Episcopal Area, encompassing both the East and West Ohio Conferences) will visit Wooster UMC for lunch on **Thursday, March 12**, as part of his tour of Central Valley District churches. **All WUMC congregation members are invited and encouraged to come to Wesley Hall that day to welcome the Bishop to WUMC and join in the lunch. Sign up at the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall to let us know you're coming!**

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

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# PASTOR'S PONDERINGS: MARCH 2026

## "A Season of Preparation"

The season of Lent us upon us. It's a season of preparation for what lies ahead – namely, the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. In this time of waiting, we look inward, opening ourselves in a most intentional way to the work that God would like to do in and through us.

Alongside our local church's usual Lenten activities, we have some special opportunities to connect to the larger church this year. These events give us chances to look beyond ourselves to the way God is at work in our community, state, region, and beyond. They allow us to learn from others to see the new thing God is doing in our midst. I'd like to highlight a few of these for you.

First, during the Lenten season, we continue our annual tradition of combining worship with other area United Methodist Churches with Sunday afternoon Lenten services (4:00 p.m.). Look for a schedule of these in this newsletter. We will host the service on Palm Sunday, March 29.

Next, we have the joy of welcoming our episcopal leader, Bishop Hee-Soo Jung to our church. He will be here for about an hour on Thursday, March 12 at the Noon lunch hour. Please plan to stop by to share a meal, hear from him, ask questions, and pray. His questions for us include:

1. Do they have faith?
2. Do they have fire?
3. Do they have fruit?

Looking beyond Easter, there are two wonderful United Methodist events being planned right here in the state of Ohio, meaning we can drive there! My hope is to not only attend these myself, but to gather a larger group of staff and laity to experience these future-focused events together. Please let me or one of our office staff (Ali, Tina, Stacy) know of your interest.

### "Change the World" Conference - April 23-24 at Ginghamburg UMC (Tipp City, OH)

This conference is for leaders and everyday disciples who want to envision ministry beyond yesterday's models. The future is not something we fear. It's where God is already leading.

<https://ginghamsburg.org/change-the-world/>

### "Rise Up" School of Congregational Development - August 2-5 (Columbus, OH)

Across the church, something is stirring. New communities are emerging. Fresh leaders are stepping forward. God is on the move—often beyond familiar walls, often through courageous experimentation. **SCD 2026** is where those movements, questions, and hopes come together.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/rise-up-together-shaping-the-church-were-becoming>

Grateful to be on the Journey with Jesus and You! *Pastor David Rittgers*



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

Dear Wooster UMC: Thank you for your donation to cover the cost of pies from Troyer's for our Wooster OHuddle Hour. This was such a simple way to bring smiles and ease stress for teachers, mentors, and school staff heading into the holidays. I know so many stories of people who cashed in their pie coupon—to make their holiday travel easier, to make their kids smile with a surprise pie, and one who said "this came in clutch" after they broke their wrist before Christmas. Thank you for being part of our pie! Sincerely, Natalie Ramseyer & the OHuddle Team.

Dear Wooster UMC: Last year, we celebrated an incredible milestone—50 years of dedication, growth, and impact. Your generous donation ensures that the legacy we built over the past 50 years will continue **Helping People Change Direction**. Warm Regards, Bobbi Douglas, Executive Director

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: Ladies were nourished, both physically and spiritually, at the Women's Retreat at Camp Wanake!  
Below and Right: To kick off the season of Lent with WUMC kids, they made soft pretzels (with the help of youth) during Sunday School this week. Soft pretzels have been used as a symbol during Lent for many years—kids learned why as the pretzels were made.



Left, Above & Right: A group of WUMC families and friends hit the slopes for Glow Tubing at Snow Trails.