



A message Pastor David received from Paul Maurer, who was baptized here at WUMC last summer and is serving in the Middle East. Keep Paul in your prayers as he finishes his service and returns to Wooster in May.

*Good morning Pastor, all is well here in the Middle East. We've been performing flight operations against the militia known as the Houthis. I hope all is well back home and that Wooster's flowers are starting to bloom. Faith has been a foundation in this deployment and has been something I lean into every night before bed, praying for the well being of our navy, our mission and those back home we protect and serve. We will be home near middle/end of May. With me in the first picture is AO3 Nunez from Brooklyn, New York and AO3 Little from Springfield, Ohio. My rank is also AO3. I am looking forward to returning home and being reacquainted with everyone. Please stay safe and healthy.*

**WUMC**  
IN THE COMMUNITY

**FOOD AND HYGIENE DRIVE!**

Donations

- Shelf-stable food items for area give-and-take food pantries (not too large, no glass)
- Hygiene items for OneEighty
- Collection bin at the What's Up Table
- Electronic donations can be made via the tile on the GIVE page at [woosterumc.org](http://woosterumc.org) or by using your usual method and noting "ongoing collection".



**Pancakes for PENTECOST**

**Sunday, June 8 following worship**

The Trailseekers adult Sunday school class will host a pancake breakfast on Pentecost. Plan to stay after worship and enjoy a meal with your WUMC church family!

**DYNAMITE PRAYER**

WUMC is participating in a 28-day prayer experiment using the book "Dynamite Prayer" as we begin a new step in our visioning process and ask God to reveal WHERE he wants us to go. Free books are available at the Welcome Center at the rear of the sanctuary or What's Up table in Wesley Hall—pick one up today!

**United Women in Faith**

**Wednesday, May 7**  
5:30 Gathering | 6:00 Program  
U.W.F. Unit Meeting  
Program: Elizabeth Feldman  
Central Valley U.W.F.

Planning is underway for this year's Vacation Bible School!

Have a kid who wants to participate? Scan the link at right to register!

Want to support VBS at WUMC? Adult and youth volunteers are needed, as well as folks to provide/serve snacks and dinner each evening. See the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall for details and to sign up.

Monetary donations for supplies and mission items can be made via [woosterumc.org](http://woosterumc.org)'s GIVE page, or via your usual donation method, noting "VBS".

**ADVENTURE awaits**

**ROAD TRIP**  
ON THE GO WITH GOD

LET'S GO!

**MAP IT OUT:**

- JUNE 23-25
- 5:30-8:00P
- PRE-K THRU GRADE 5 (FALL 2025)

**DESTINATION:**

**WOOSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
243 N. MARKET ST.  
WOOSTER, OH  
[WWW.WOOSTERUMC.ORG](http://WWW.WOOSTERUMC.ORG)

**START THE CAR!**

SCAN THE CODE TO REGISTER!

**Dinner is included each day!**

**WUMC LUNCH BUNCH**

**Wednesday, May 21 • Noon**  
Pizza and beverages provided!  
Bring \$5 towards pizza.  
Bring a side or snack to share if you wish!  
All are invited!

**ASP**  
Appalachia  
SERVICE PROJECT

Please keep WUMC's ASP mission team in prayer as they work in Harlan County, KY July 8-15.

**Circuit Rider**

May 2025

**WOOSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

connect • grow • serve

**CELEBRATION LUNCH!**

**SUNDAY, MAY 18 | FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

- To celebrate the conclusion of both "The Story" and the "Dynamite Prayer" 28-day prayer experiment
- Picnic style lunch
- SPRC provides hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks.
- Bring either a side dish or dessert to share!

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  
Office Manager, Stacy Rutt

[drittgers@woosterumc.org](mailto:drittgers@woosterumc.org)  
[office@woosterumc.org](mailto:office@woosterumc.org)

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



Pastor’s Newsletter

“Program-Sized: A Church with Options”

When I first started at Wooster UMC two years ago, I emphasized my hope that we would live into a vision of being of what’s called a **Program-Sized Church**. What do I mean by Program-Sized? Think of it as a congregation that can offer a variety of choices for how people can be involved in activities like worship, discipleship, and serving others. Program-Sized churches employ multiple staff leaders who don’t try and do it all themselves; rather, they give direction to those efforts and help laypeople lead and get involved. A strength of a congregation like ours is that we still have enough human, financial, and facility resources to provide a variety of options people can choose to participate in.

One example of that is in the area of Missions. We’ve invited the congregation to consider participating in a variety of mission-related efforts. Some are happening here in our local area, while others take place farther away, around the globe. Some efforts invite us to contribute money, some invite us to make and/or donate tangible items, others invite us to roll up our sleeves to do hard work, and still others invite us to simply show up and be present with others who need to know that someone cares. I hope you’re hearing the variety and ability to choose amongst these options.

Once in a while, we may ask the entire congregation to participate in an “All-Church” type of campaign, such as our year-long “The Story” discipleship focus which has provided the themes for our worship services and several small groups. Another all-church example is when funds were raised to build new dorms and raise scholarships for women attending Africa University. Yet, by and large, it’s unrealistic to think that EVERY-one will get involved with EVERY-thing.

I think there’s a different question we should consider—actually two questions. First, can you imagine what it would look like if EVERY person in the congregation was involved in a group that helped grow their faith? And second, what would it look like if EVERY person in the congregation found at least one way to serve others using their gifts? That would be amazing, right?! It might remind us of the beautiful passages we read in the book of Acts that describe the early church, empowered by the Holy Spirit (See Acts 2:42-27 and 4:32-35).

While we certainly have more people involved in congregational life than many churches around us, by no means would I consider Wooster UMC to be a “large” congregation. I realize that our congregation was of an even greater size at one time, with multiple appointed pastors. However, I don’t think many of us believe that we would function well as a “small” family-sized church either, where the expectation is that everyone knows everyone else and that everyone is expected to participate in everything that goes that goes on. And so, what’s important is that you discover smaller groups within the church where you can connect, grow, and serve.

I celebrate being part of a church with options! As we move from the season of Easter toward Pentecost, I wish you joy and hope as we live empowered by the Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Pastor David Rittgers



Kind words

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

“Dear Methodist Church family, We really appreciate your gift of stuffed Easter Eggs for our annual neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt. It’s so wonderful how our downtown churches work together! In Christian Love, Chris Hudson ~ Central Christian Church

“Dear faithful people of Christ @ Wooster UMC—What a gift to worship with you and the body of Christ in the Wooster area UMC’s afternoon Lenten worship this past Sunday. The Spirit of Christ is evidenced among you in your warm welcome and generous hospitality. Thank you for extending the love of Jesus so beautifully - it is this which transforms hearts, communities, the world in light of God’s kingdom. I pray for you all a powerful experience with the risen Christ in this Easter season and always. In His name ~ Rev. Cara”

“Thank you for making me the Person of the Week. The plant is beautiful and I have enjoyed the cards. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated. Audrey Moorhead”

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

Recent deaths: 4/12 Alta Bucher. 4/17 Joann Strauch





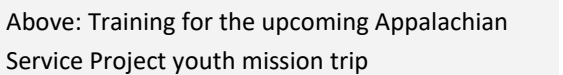
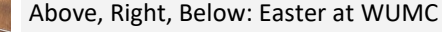















Photo Gallery



Left and above: Work Day at WUMC

Right: Rehearsals for Maundy Thursday drama

Above, Right, Below: Easter at WUMC

Above: Training for the upcoming Appalachian Service Project youth mission trip