

HELPING HANDS NEEDED!

Sunday, May 17 | Following Worship
 May 17 will be the final worship service in the Sanctuary for a period of time as our renovation project begins on Monday, May 18. Following worship that day, helping hands are needed to prepare the space for construction. Hymnals and other needed items will be moved to the "Upper Room" space (aka gym), where services will be held during renovations, and other items will be carefully stored until the work is complete. We invite you to stay for a short time after worship to lend a hand. With many people helping, the work will go quickly and smoothly—setting the stage for a happy return to our renewed Sanctuary.



Sunday, May 31 | Following Worship
 You're invited to learn more about WUMC! Pastor David and other staff members are ready to meet with anyone wanting to learn more about connecting at WUMC. Sign up at the What's Up Table so we'll be sure to order enough pizza!



News from Pat Merrill, Executive Director of Meals Together, a free Thursday dinner hosted by WUMC:

- Roughly 40 meals are being served each week.
- Weekly volunteers include Nick Amster employees with their clients.
- Pat has been working with Ali Vizzo making 7 extra meals for WUMC limited mobility members.
- MT provides 40 monthly meals to Homeward Bound.

Want to support the great work that's happening at MT? Just click the MT tile at woosterumc.org > GIVE or donate via your usual method, noting "Meals Together."



Saturday, May 16 | 8:30-11:00a
 Join us for a morning of fellowship and service as we care for our church grounds! Helping hands of all kinds are welcome—whether you can stay for a short time or the whole morning. If you have tools that might be helpful, feel free to bring them along. We look forward to working together!



Sunday, May 24
 One of six Special Sundays in the UMC, UM Student Day invests in students, underwriting scholarships to allow them to achieve education goals with financial freedom. To donate, scan the code on the table tents at each Sanctuary exit, head to the GIVE page at woosterumc.org—or donate via your usual method, noting "UM Student Sunday"



Sunday, July 19
Participants Needed
 WUMC United Women of Faith are planning a service led entirely by WUMC women! And they need the women of the congregation to come together to make it happen! Positions to fill include greeters, ushers, acolytes, audio/visual aides, welcome center staff, as well as musicians to open and close the service.
 Can you help? Contact Sandy Riley (330.461.2526) or Susan Donley (330.275.6016).

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

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 at the What's Up Table or via woosterumc.org's Youth page.

Save the Date | 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!

Wednesday, May 20 | 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.

Collection Totals
 WUMC is pleased to report that \$1,040 was collected for UMCOR Sunday on March 15.
 At the six Sunday Lenten services, a total of \$1,856 was collected to benefit People to People and Urban Mission.



WUMC thanks organist Steve Gerber and bell choir director Inez Shirer for their many years of service!
 Please contact Pastor David for detailed job descriptions and/or to apply. Include a brief resume indicating your musical and spiritual leadership experiences (drittgers@woosterumc.org).

Part-Time Organist/Choir Accompanist

- Supports weekly congregational worship ministry as well as special services.
- Previous experience playing organ and accompanying choirs required.

Part-Time Handbell Choir Director

- Directs 5-octave handbell choir which plays once monthly during the 10:00a worship service.
- Previous experience playing/directing handbells preferred.



Join us on May 24 for special celebrations:

- **Pentecost** On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in Acts 2 describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over 3000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Christian church.
- **Senior Recognition Sunday** We'll celebrate and honor our graduating seniors during the service.
- **Pancakes for Pentecost** Hosted by the Trail Seekers adult Sunday school class—stay after worship and enjoy a delicious lunch in honor of our seniors!
- **UM Student Day** One of six Special Sundays in the UMC, UM Student Day facilitates scholarships for United Methodist undergraduate and graduate students, allowing them to achieve education goals with financial freedom.
- **Wear Red!** Red is a visual reminder of the "tongues of fire" that empowered the apostles and others to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection in many languages to the crowds of pilgrims from many lands (Acts 2:3). Help us create a vibrant, unified look as we

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 Office Hours: Monday—Friday 9 a.m.—3:30 p.m.
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 Office Manager, Stacy Rutt office@woosterumc.org

Pastor's Ponderings: May 2026

"Moving On Up"

I didn't watch the TV show, "The Jeffersons," but its theme song is easily recognizable. The idea of "moving on up to the East side" spoke of newfound success, upward mobility, and generally moving up in the world. For Jesus' disciples, their measure of success—transforming the world—was linked to one specific attribute. It was their dependence on the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit, their efforts were limited.

The Book of Acts is the continuing story of Jesus, inviting us to remember what God HAS done and to pay closer attention to what God is STILL doing today through the power of the Holy Spirit. The stories we read in Acts compel us to look for the ways that the Good News of the Gospel extends out to all all kinds of people, overcoming barriers and opposition.

Pentecost Sunday (May 24), our annual celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit, marks the beginning of a different kind of summer for our congregation. As you may know by now, we will hold summer worship services in our third-floor gymnasium, a space I will fondly refer to as "The Upper Room" - which is, after all, the space where the Holy Spirit came upon the early believers who were gathered in prayer. Meeting in the gym will allow significant work to take place in our sanctuary as improvements are made (carpet, flooring, pew covers, painting, etc.)

As we prepare to "move on up" to our temporary worship space, I pray that we do so with a sense of expectation that, yes, God is indeed doing a new thing among us! Like Jesus' earliest followers, we're able to continue the work that Jesus began when we lean into the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Who is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is God at work in the world and in our lives. Through the Spirit, we're transformed, led, empowered, and guided in our faith journey. Jesus promised his followers that the Spirit would come alongside them as comforter and counselor, empowering them to change the world.

This May also marks some big transitions for our church's music ministry. Sunday, May 17 is the last Sunday that Inez Shirer will lead our bell choir after 33 years of faithful service! Our organist and accompanist, Steve Gerber, will also be completing his time with us that day. Both of these servant leaders will be greatly missed and we want to be sure to thank and appreciate them. I hope you will be present for worship at 10:00, followed by a reception in Wesley Hall.

Let's be sure to Keep Up With the Spirit this Summer!

Wishing You Peace in Christ,

Pastor David Rittgers

Kind words

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

"Central Christian Church appreciates the donation of 100 filled Easter Eggs for the Buckeye Street Egg Hunt ~ Chris Hudson"



"Thank you for the lovely flowers. Your prayers are much appreciated. ~ Jean Leonard"

"Thank you for picking me to be the "Person of the Week"! The Begonia that was delivered is beautiful and still growing! Thank you for all the cards and birthday wishes. It was a great week! Sincerely, Audrey Moorhead"

"Thank you all for the cards and prayers that was sent. It really lift's the spirit. ~ James & Barb Barlak"

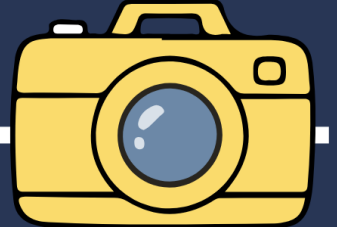
"Thank you all for the cards, notes and calls to celebrate my 94th birthday. It was a special honor to be "Person of the Week" and the flowers I received were lovely. Blessings and love, Doris Snoddy"

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, Right, and Left: Scenes from the "Peters' Denial" drama, directed by Tony Lane, that was part of the Maundy Thursday service during Holy Week.

JOIN US FOR A
Graduation Party
HONORING
Charles Louis Donley
MAY
SUNDAY | 31 | 1:00 PM
LOUDONVILLE LIONS BUILDING
643 WOOSTER RD
LOUDONVILLE, OH 44842
RSVP: TEXT 330-275-6016

Left: Charles Donley would like to invite the WUMC congregation to his graduation party!

Below: Play time for kids and pups following the Good Friday Nature Walk.

