



Sunday, November 2 Following Worship

Stop in Wesley Hall and sample chili made by congregation members (toppings and drinks are provided!) and vote for your favorite! Don't forget to stop at the bake sale table for something sweet to balance things out! Donations will be accepted for ASP/Camp/Youth Outings.



Tuesday, December 2 | Free! WUMC Sanctuary Doors Open @ 6:00, Performance @ 7:00p

The Wooster Music Club invites the public to a dramatic presentation of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, read by Dr. Richard Figge and hosted by WUMC. A reception will follow in Wesley Hall.



Sunday, November 23 Following Worship

Plan to stay after worship to decorate WUMC for the Advent/Christmas season! Pizza will be provided!



Saturday, November 22 | 8:30-11:30a A WUMC work day will take place on November 22; bring your rakes and leaf blowers to spruce up WUMC grounds!



Circuit Rider

November 2025

WOOSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

connect • grow • serve



God BLESS US, every one!

Tuesday Morning Bible Study New Study Begins November 25

The current Tuesday morning study on refugees is coming to a close, and after a short break, we'll begin a new four-week series on November 25, 10:00-11:30a, led by Pastor David and Ali Vizzo. This study will align with our Advent worship series, *The Redemption of Scrooge*. Sign up at the *What's Up Table* in Wesley Hall!



OVER 800 ITEMS DONATED!

DONATIONS NEEDED!!

Contribute to WUMC ongoing collections:

- Shelf-stable (no glass, small enough to fit in the pantries) food items for area give-and-take food pantries
- Hygiene items for OneEighty clients
- Collection bin at the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall
- Make electronic donations on the GIVE page at woosterumc.org or by using your usual method and noting "ongoing collection".

Sample items could include toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, conditioner, individually-sized ready-to-eat soups, mac & cheese, canned meat, canned vegetables & fruits, small bags of snacks



One Day Support Group Thursday, November 13 | 10:00a-Noon

Find comfort for the season with *Surviving the Holidays*, where you'll receive support & practical tips for facing holiday challenges after loss. At a GriefShare support group, you'll meet people who will listen, without judgment, and share helpful insights and advice. Register at the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall or visit griefshare.org/findagroup.



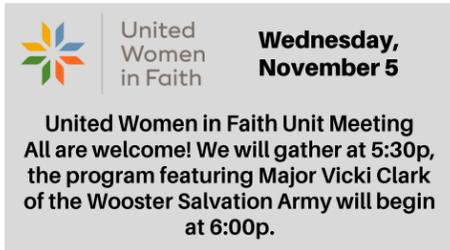
Thursday, November 6 | 6:00-7:30p
Create your own beautiful Moravian Star ornament at WUMC! The workshop, led by Hope Long, will be held in the Morton Room and includes all supplies. Open to ages 13 and up (limit 20 participants). Cost: \$5 per person. Sign up at the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall!

Wednesdays @ 9:30a
Get some fresh air and fellowship with the WUMC walking group! We meet at the pavilion next to the parking lot at the corner of Oldman and Burbank and walk the Kinney Path. Walk as far and as fast as you'd like. We can't wait to see you there!

Saturday, December 20 | 1:30p
SAVE THE DATE! WUMC will continue the beloved tradition of hosting a holiday concert with Burning River Brass in the WUMC Sanctuary!



The next Lunch Bunch is October 15 at noon in Wesley Hall! Bring \$5 for pizza; snacks to share are welcome! All are invited!



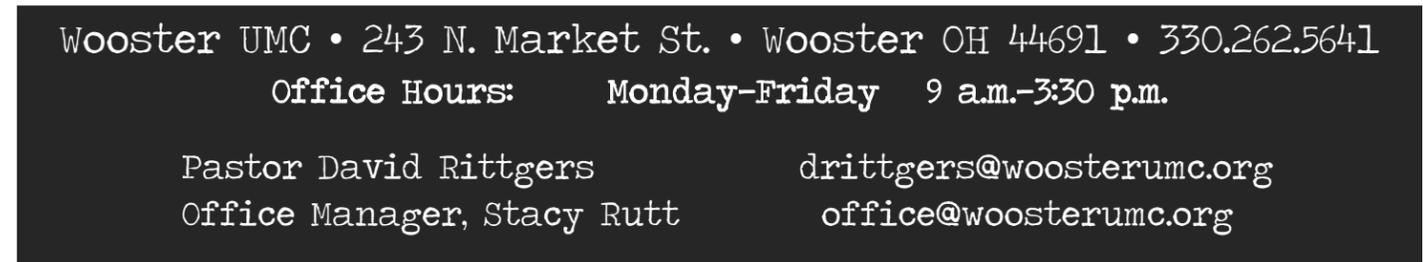
Wednesday, November 5
United Women in Faith Unit Meeting
All are welcome! We will gather at 5:30p, the program featuring Major Vicki Clark of the Wooster Salvation Army will begin at 6:00p.



FEAST OF THANKS

Sunday, November 16 | Following worship
WUMC provides turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, hot vegetables, rolls, beverage and table service for this congregational meal. Congregation members are asked to bring a cold side and/or dessert to share.

Volunteers are needed!
Feast of Thanks coordinators Bob and Nikki Reynolds are looking for volunteers to help with this event. Sign up at the "What's Up at WUMC?" table in Wesley Hall!



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
office@woosterumc.org

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS: NOVEMBER 2025

Keeping Christmas Well: The Redemption of Scrooge

*He has shown strength with his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
 and lifted up the lowly;
 he has filled the hungry with good things
 and sent the rich away empty. (Luke 1:51-53, NRSVUE)*

How can we “keep Christmas well” and not settle for being “a Humbug?” This year’s Advent/Christmas worship and discipleship series “The Redemption of Scrooge” invites us to take a look at how living in God’s economy of grace and justice is the antidote to our addiction to money, success, exclusion, and looking out for ourselves.

In Charles Dickens’ classic tale “A Christmas Carol,” the chimes of the clock-tower provide a wake-up call for Ebenezer Scrooge, turning him away from his resentment and fear, and isolation. The cultural context into which Dickens placed his powerful Christmas story was 1800’s England, a time of great divide between rich and poor, a time not unlike our own.

His main character, Ebenezer Scrooge, believed that the only redeeming value in life was found in hoarding more and more money. He lives in resentment and fear, watching out only for himself. Scrooge has a prescription for humanity at the beginning of the story, saying that the poor have only themselves to blame and would be better off dead. “Bah Humbug!”

God’s economy, on the other hand, says that there’s enough resources for all and that all are worthy of abundance of life, joy, and freedom. It’s only when Scrooge realizes that he has the power to change the destructive course he’s on that his fear is transformed into joy. As Christmas Day arrives, celebrating the birth of the Christ Child, Ebenezer Scrooge cannot contain his exuberance at being given the gift of living-truly living another day.

In this season of gift-giving, how will our lives continue to be a gift and a blessing for the sake of “every one?” Will we “make change” and move toward the richness of peace for all, or will we continue to be chained by the poverty of exclusion? The question lies at the heart of a story which explores Christmas Past, Christmas Present, and Christmas Future.

“Keeping Christmas Well” isn’t about signs of our own prosperity, but signs of our own redemption-getting our true selves back so that we might give of ourselves with joy. Just as God’s presence was born anew into this world, we too can be born anew, woken up, and redeemed into renewed life, joy, passion, generosity, humility, and love.

I hope you will take advantage of a multitude of opportunities to engage with Dickens’ classic story this Advent and Christmas season—including through our Advent and Christmas Eve worship services, small groups, and several performances of the show in our local area.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, 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 choosing us as Persons of the Week. We enjoyed the beautiful fall flowering plant that was delivered and the many cards received from church members. Thank you for thinking of us. Blessings, Terry & Sarah Beck

Thank you so much for picking me as the Person of the Week. The flowers are beautiful. I love my church family. Phyllis Woods

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



Above & Left: An adult team served with Appalachia Service Project.
 Below: Pastor David & Beth Rittgers on Pastor Appreciation Day.



Above & Left: A fall gathering for families at the Moore’s cabin.
 Below: WUMC was a Spooky Sprint Stop at the Heart & Ghoul Race.



Above: Pizza & Pumpkins for youth at the home of the Vizzos.



Above: Youth help younger kids with an activity during Children’s Church.
 Above Right: Items for Give & Take Pantries purchased with children’s offering funds.

