



Starting on Rally Day, September 15, WUMC is offering a 31-week plan to help you and your family discover how your story aligns with God's story found in the Bible.

"The Story" invites us to see the Bible as one continuing story of God and God's people, so we can find a thread woven across the Bible from front to back that links the smaller biblical stories we may already be familiar with to a grand narrative of what God is accomplishing in the world.

WUMC kids will be gifted a copy of "The Story for Kids". "The Story" Bibles are available for adults too; pick one up at the Welcome Center at the rear of the sanctuary or the What's Up table in Wesley Hall (pay there or scan the code at left). Suggested donation: \$20, which will help defray the cost of the Bibles for kids and those who cannot afford the suggested donation.



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9-Square tournament for everyone!
Sunday, September 15 | 6:00-7:30p
WUMC Gym



We'll provide pizza; please bring a side or dessert to share. It's a great opportunity to connect with other families in our church community while enjoying some friendly competition. All ages are welcome!



Wednesday, September 18 · Noon
 Pizza and beverages provided!
 Bring \$5 towards pizza. Bring a side or snack to share if you wish!
 All are invited!

GRADES 6-12

15 SEPT Parent MEETING

5:30-6:00p in Wesley Hall
BE PART OF THE PLANNING PROCESS FOR WUMC YOUTH!

WUMC offering envelopes for 2024/2025 can now be picked up in Wesley Hall!

Circuit Rider

September 2024

WOOSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH connect • grow • serve



Wednesday, September 4
6:00p | Wesley Hall.

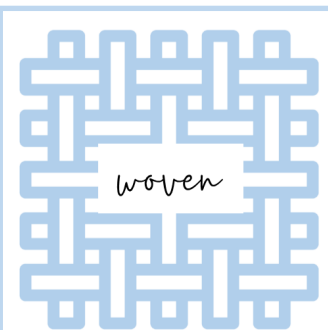
United Women in Faith would like to extend an invitation to attend their upcoming program, "Human Trafficking Information & Awareness in Wayne County". This presentation will be presented by Joey Compton, speaker for the WATCH Coalition (Wayne, Holmes, & Ashland Anti-Trafficking Coalition).

THE STORY

NEW BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY

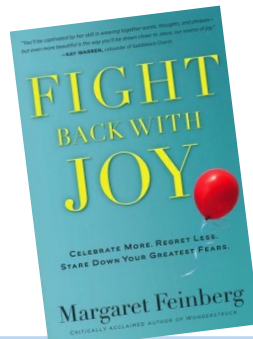
SEPTEMBER 17 | 10:00 AM

Begins Tuesday, September 17 | 10:00a on Tuesdays
 Facilitated by Pastor David and Director of Discipleship Ali Vizzo, this newly forming Bible study will focus on the weekly stories in the church-wide *The Story* curriculum. The study will continue throughout the 31 weeks of *The Story*; however, feel free to drop in when you can! Sign up at the What's Up Table or by calling the church office.



Woven women's Bible study group will begin a new study on Wednesday, September 18, 6:30p in the Morton Room. The group will dig into Margaret Feinberg's "Fight Back With Joy".

Participants may purchase the workbook on their own. If you have questions, please contact Jane Braddock at 330.607.3736 or braddockjeb@gmail.com.



The new Welcome Center (located at the rear of the sanctuary) aims to provide all the information a WUMC guest might need. Stop by to check it out so you'll know what's available and will be able to guide guests in the right direction!

FREE CONCERT
SEPTEMBER 29 | 3:00P

This free concert, hosted by Wooster UMC, will feature Annie Gerig on English horn and John Finney on organ/piano. A free will offering will benefit Hospice.

RALLY DAY!

SEPTEMBER 15

RALLY DAY CELEBRATES NEW BEGINNINGS!

- WUMC CHOIR RETURNS FROM SUMMER BREAK!
- CHURCH-WIDE **THE STORY** CURRICULUM BEGINS!
- ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES (ADULTS AND KIDS) MEET IN WESLEY HALL AT 9AM FOR A FUN KICK-OFF TO THE YEAR!
- "MEET THE AUTHORS" OF **THE STORY** CURRICULUM!
- KAY BERGEN WILL SHARE STORIES ABOUT HER MISSION TRIP TO CAMPHOR MISSION IN LIBERIA!

Wooster UMC • 243 N. Market St. • Wooster OH 44691 • 330.262.5641
 Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Pastor David Rittgers drittgers@woosterumc.org
 Office Manager, Becky Pickett office@woosterumc.org

Pastor's Page

This school year, I have two transformational goals that I'd like you to know about, because these will only be successful with your involvement. Both relate to the entire congregation. I've been praying about them for some time and sense that God is leading us in this direction.

THE FIRST GOAL is designed to deepen our discipleship. Beginning on Rally Day, Sunday, September 15, we will engage in **"The Story: The Bible as One Continuing Story of God and God's People"** which is designed to help us find our own stories in God's story. We'll do that by taking a look at the broad scope of many of the most important stories found in the Bible. We hope you'll choose to get involved in three ways.

FIRST: It all starts with an abridged version of the Bible which reads like a novel, linking story after story chronologically to help us experience God's story in a fresh way. People who have struggled to read the entire Bible in the past say that "The Story" has kept them engaged. We have age-appropriate versions of "The Story" for young children, elementary, youth, and adults that can be purchased at the new Welcome Center.

SECOND: We hope you'll attend worship services regularly, where I will preach on these stories and our music/liturgy will coordinate. We hope to immerse ourselves in these stories to see the relationship between God and humankind and discern how these may apply to us today.

THIRD: We hope that you'll choose to take part in a smaller group for further conversation, encouragement, and prayer on these themes. Some of our current groups will make "The Story" their theme this year. We also plan to begin a few new adult small groups on this theme.

THE SECOND GOAL is to develop and discover a **Clear and Compelling Vision** for our congregation's future. Coming out of COVID, a long period of UMC uncertainty, and an unusual pastoral transition (2023), we need to have a clear sense of WHO we are, WHY we exist, and WHERE we're going in order to give direction to the ministry work that we do as a congregation.

After being here for a year and getting to know you, it seems like a great time to engage in a process that will benefit us far beyond this year. In case you're wondering, yes, this visioning process is connected to the work I will be doing through Dakota Wesleyan University. Our largest assignment is an Applied Project, which I've been doing some preliminary work on over the last month. I am the "project manager" but will need your help to make it happen.

As I've taken time to think and pray about it, it seems clear to me that one of the best things we can do right now is develop a Clear and Compelling Vision, so that we can take action in the direction God would have us go at this point in our church's history.

To get there, we'll need to take several more steps:

First, to discover **WHO** we are (Shared Values)

Second, to remember our **WHY** (Purpose, reason for existence)

And then we can figure out **WHERE** we're headed (Our Vision)

Beyond that point, we'll figure out **HOW** to get there (Mission/Strategy)

By the end of Spring, we should have a Clear and Compelling Vision in place which will give direction to our congregation for the next 5-10 yrs.

I hope you can sense my enthusiasm about these two major goals for this coming year. I hope you will choose to participate at various points along the way. Thanks for the ways that you are choosing to make a difference in the lives of others for the sake of Christ!

Grace and Peace in the Lord, Pastor David Rittgers

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

WUMC would like to thank Meals Together Director, Pat Merrill for providing several side dishes and cookies as well as the Missions Committee who donated funds to cover the food we supplied for the Buckeye Street Picnic on July 27.

The Buckeye Street cookout went well, it was in the high '80s and so turnout was a little low but we still had about 50 people come and among them were a lot of children. I am in the process of building a small gazebo / amphitheater at the Buckeye Street Green and I am hoping that in the future a multitude of events can be held there. Thanks again and please extend my thanks to all who helped with the cookout, Even though it was not as well attended as last year's, it was still a success. Thank you thank you thank you. David Griffith, Buckeye St. Neighborhood

Thanks for all your help with Sunday's service. I was so blown away by the wonderful help the church provided from the moment I entered the doors. The donation...wow...what a lot of supplies, which will be delivered to Flat Rock! Rose Darling, Flat Rock Homes

Dear Church Family: Just a note to thank you for the beautiful kalanchoe plant. It certainly brightens things up. We both thank you for naming us Persons of the Week. Clyde & Joanne Ebert

I'd like to thank everyone who sent me a card. The wishes were uplifting, and I appreciate all the support. Thanks, Nancy Franck

Dear WUMC: All of us at Boys & Girls Club can't begin to thank you enough for your very generous donation. Because of you, our kids are closer than ever to reaching their full potential. We are thrilled to have your support—your gift makes a real difference, empowering our young members to dream bigger and build brighter futures. We are honored to have you as part of our community. Sincerely, Jon Hutchison

Dear WUMC Family: Thank you for the beautiful plant we received as Persons of the Week. Also, we would like to thank everyone who sent us cards and notes. They were very much appreciated. Clayton & Zella Arnholt

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

Recently ill/hospitalized: Alta Bucher, Betty Conner

Recent deaths:



Photo Gallery



Buckeye Street Picnic helpers



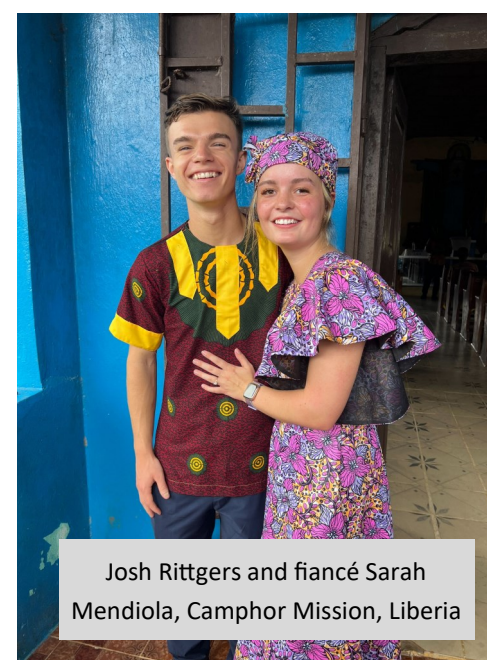
Buckeye Street Picnic



Working on a ramp for a congregation member, thanks to all who helped!



Flat Rock collection



Josh Rittgers and fiancé Sarah Mendiola, Camphor Mission, Liberia



Camphor Mission, Liberia



Kay Bergen, Camphor Mission, Liberia



Back to School Blessing



Camphor Mission, Liberia