

JOIN THE LAY VISITATION TEAM!

Sunday, September 7 | 11:30a-12:30p

Would you like to serve others but need something flexible that works with your schedule? Please consider joining the Lay Visitation Team where you can brighten up the day of one of our limited mobility or care facility members with a monthly visit! WUMC even provides gifts for you to take so your person is reminded of their church family. Interested in finding out more about this ministry? Stop in at their next meeting September 7 at 11:30a in Room C!

JOIN THE WUMC BELL CHOIR!



It's that time again! The WUMC Campanile Bell Choir will begin their Monday practices on September 9 at 5:00p. This is a great time to join in! Questions? Call Bell Choir Director Inez Shier (330-345-8802). The Bell Choir's first performance will be Sunday, Sept. 29 at our 10:00a worship service.

RALLY DAY & MINISTRY FAIR

September 14

On Rally Day, we celebrate new beginnings as a new year for Sunday school classes begins. This year, we're adding a Ministry Fair in Wesley Hall following worship—a chance to explore new ways to serve at WUMC, out in the Wooster community, or beyond. Discover opportunities that may lead to a new beginning for you!

Wednesday, Dec. 3 1:00p | ACT SOON!



Join a WUMC group to see *A Christmas Carol* at Ohio Star Theatre! Tickets are \$49; reserve by September 15 before they sell out! Contact Nancy Franck (nfranck@woosterumc.org) or sign up at the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall!

— ON — THE REFUGEE CRISIS

September 2 | 10:00a

Tuesday morning Bible study reconvenes for the seven-week study *Dialogues On: The Refugee Crisis*. Throughout the study, we will engage in meaningful conversations surrounding the refugee experience and the challenges they face. We will also explore various perspectives and tools to help us engage in constructive discussions and build understanding around this complex issue. Books are \$10. Sign up at the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall!

WUMC LUNCH BUNCH



Wednesday, September 17 · Noon

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

Wednesday, September 3 | 6:00p

Gather @ 5:30 in Wesley Hall

WUMC United Women in Faith will welcome Jackie Wynn, Family Support Supervisor with Wayne County Children's Services, who will present a program highlighting the services her organization provides. Open to everyone!

MEALS TOGETHER

FEEDING THE HUNGRY IN OUR COMMUNITY

WUMC is honored to host Meals Together, an ecumenical, volunteer-driven ministry offering free hot meals every Thursday evening at WUMC—open to everyone regardless of race, ethnicity, faith, education, or financial standing. MT relies on the help of volunteers to cook, serve, clean up, deliver meals, and collect donations. If you'd like to join in serving our neighbors by volunteering or donating food, contact program director Pat Merrill at 330-465-1836. Financial contributions can be made through the GIVE page at woosterumc.org.

WOVEN WOMEN'S GROUP



NEW STUDY BEGINS!

Wednesday, Sept. 17 | 6:30p

Morton Room

Looking for a place to grow in faith and friendship? Woven, a women's Bible study group, meets weekly for fellowship and meaningful study—and now is the perfect time to join! They are beginning a new study, *The God You Need to Know: 12 Practices to Awaken Your Relationship With the Holy Spirit*, by Margaret Feinberg. The group is led by Jane Braddock, (braddockjeb@gmail.com) who would be happy to answer questions and register you for the study—or sign up at the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall. Bring a friend!

A SPECIAL GUEST AT WUMC!



Want to learn more about what starting new expressions of faith could look like? Brad Aycock, Executive Director of Fresh Starts and New Beginnings in the West Ohio Conference of the UMC, will be with us on Sunday, September 21 to tell us more about the ministry of Fresh Starts and New Beginnings among United Methodists in Ohio. Please consider staying after worship to hear more from Brad.

WUMC IN THE COMMUNITY



OVER 800 ITEMS DONATED!

DONATIONS NEEDED!!

Contribute to WUMC ongoing collections:

- Shelf-stable 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".



Circuit Rider

September 2025

WOOSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH connect • grow • serve

RALLY DAY & MINISTRY FAIR

September 14  **Following Worship**

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This year, we're adding a Ministry Fair in Wesley Hall, which offers a chance to explore new ways to serve—at WUMC, out in the Wooster community, or beyond. Discover opportunities that may lead to a new beginning for you!

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 drittgers@woosterumc.org

Pastor's Ponderings: September 2025

Exciting Times Ahead!

As the summer of 2025 comes to a close, exciting things are on the horizon for our congregation! After a summer chock full of meaningful mission/service opportunities near and far, we're about to resume many of our usual activities for the school year including Bible studies, music rehearsals, children's and youth activities, support groups, and much more. You may notice that many of these activities are designed to help us live more fully into our congregational values, such as a Tuesday morning Bible study on the topic of refugees.

On September 14, we hold our annual **Rally Sunday**, the day when Sunday School classes for all age groups resume. Youth group activities will also resume that evening. New this year is a **Ministry Fair** that will be held in Wesley Hall that same day. This is a fantastic opportunity for people to browse and explore ways to get involved in groups for spiritual growth, serving others, and building significant relationships within our church community.

This Fall is also a time for us to begin to take action on some of the God-sized vision ideas that we brainstormed in the Spring. We have already had one group meeting around the topic of developing health and wellness ministries for our congregation and local community. Other groups will start meeting soon as well. On Sunday, September 21, another visioning conversation will begin when our guest, Brad Aycock, will come and share ideas with us about **Fresh Starts and New Beginnings**. Plan to hear from Brad at 11:30a following worship.

During the month of **October**, we will press into our shared congregational value of **Stewardship**. I want to invite us to become more intentional about how we connect the dots between our spiritual lives and how we give generously as stewards of what God has provided.

November is full of special themes including All Saints' Sunday, Feast of Thanks, and Hanging of the Greens. Speaking of Advent and Christmas, I can go ahead and let you know that our worship themes for the holiday season will be based on **Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol"** and the radical transformation that happened in the heart of Ebenezer Scrooge. We are currently planning some special outings to view "A Christmas Carol" in the movie theater and on stage, so stay tuned for that. Our children and youth will share a pageant with us, and we will once again offer music for the Church Walk and host Burning River Brass.

Finally, as we turn the corner into 2026, I'm looking forward to experiencing a period of **Renewal Leave** during most of January and part of February. A plan for that time period was announced in worship on Sunday, August 24 by Staff Parish Relations Chairperson, Craig Reynolds. A FAQ with more details about my leave can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

It's a joy to share ministry alongside you as we invite ordinary people to follow Jesus together! Let's continue to open ourselves to the work of the Spirit so that we become more like Jesus and join Jesus in ministry!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor David Rittgers

Kind words

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

I would like to thank the church and everyone for sending me so many beautiful cards last week as person of the week. Your deep love and care mean a lot to me and my family. I feel so blessed to be a part of this church. Jyotsna Harris

Thank you for the beautiful flowering plant and for naming us "persons of the week", and thank you for the birthday wishes. Clyde & Joanne Ebert

Thank you church for all of your cards and the plant. The most celebrated birthday for me in a long time. Arlene Sipple

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



Below: Books set up in the Rose Room, just off the Sanctuary. With one table for adults and another for kids. The collection explores themes of racism and ties in with our current sermon series, *Roots of Racism*.

Above and Above Left: Ladies Night Out at Yellow Shovel Floral.



Above: Another Helping Hands project completed! Mike Mann and Dave MacMaster installed a new cupboard and counter-top at the home of Jyotsna Harris.

