



"HELP AFTER HELENE"

Building Beyond Our Walls
As WUMC renovates our sanctuary, Pastor David and Church Council invite us to bless others who are building something new and support the ASP *Help After Helene* campaign to fill the \$50,000 financial gap to build a new home for a family impacted by Hurricane Helene. **A generous donor will double donations received between now and September 30, up to \$10,000!** Visit the What's Up Table to learn more; scan the QR code to donate!



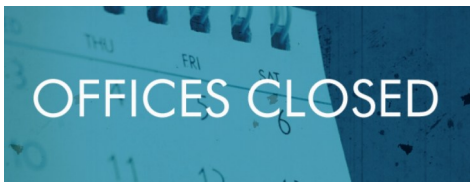
Donate to "Help After Helene."



WOVEN WOMEN'S GROUP

NEW STUDY BEGINS!

Wednesday, September 23 | 6:30p
The Woven Women's Group will begin *Revelation: Extravagant Hope* by Margaret Feinberg, a six-week Bible study that invites participants to see the book of Revelation in a new light. Join us as we discover the encouragement and assurance found in this often-misunderstood book of the Bible. The group meets in Large Turney Lounge. Books are \$10. Visit the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall to sign up!



OFFICES CLOSED

Please note that WUMC offices will be closed on Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day.



Has your contact info changed? If so, please take a moment to let the church office know so we can keep you in the loop about what's happening at WUMC!



Inviting All Women!

United Women in Faith meets the first Thursday of each month (except July, November, and December) at 10:30a in Wesley Hall for devotion, fellowship, learning, and planning. We'd love to have you join us! Can't make Thursday mornings? Scan the QR code or sign up at the What's Up Table to let us know what days and times work best for you.



PLEASE NOTE: The next UWF meeting will take place on September 10 (the second Thursday of the month this time) at 10:30a in Wesley Hall.

Current UWF members: See Susan Donley if you'd like to add a UWF designation to your church name tag!



**Monday, 9/21
9:30a | Room C
Reading Program**

UWF's Reading Program is a bit different from a typical book club—participants choose a book from a list or from the UWF library in Room A and share a brief summary of the book. Learning together and listening to each other can be a sacred encounter. You don't need to be a United Women in Faith member to participate in the Reading Program. All are welcome to attend!



We are the people of God!

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
umcivng.org/wcs

Sunday, October 4
World Communion Sunday is one of six Special Sundays supporting ministries and causes important to the UMC. On this Sunday, United Methodists join Christians worldwide in celebrating Holy Communion, remembering we are one in Christ, no matter our background, language, or culture. But it's more than worship. It's also a time to support scholarships and leadership training for students from underrepresented communities—helping the Church become more inclusive and better equipped to serve. You can support this cause through the GIVE page at woosterumc.org—look for the WCS tile!



PIZZA WITH THE PASTOR

**Sunday, October 4
Following Worship**

Pastor David and other WUMC staff members are eager to meet with those who want to learn more about connecting at WUMC!

A building tour will be followed by lunch and conversation. RSVP at the What's Up Table in Wesley Hall or call the church office.



LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, September 16 | 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.



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Begins September 23 | 6:30p
This 6-week study, Matt Chandler's *Becoming Like Jesus* will explore the transformative power of the Beatitudes. The class will meet in Room C. Sign up at the What's Up Table; contact Mark Bucher with questions (msabucher@aol.com).



PLEASE TAKE NOTE

Bell Choir Begins!
The WUMC Campanile Bell Choir will reconvene September 20 under the direction of Susan Franz! Practices are on Mondays at 5:30p beginning August 31. New members are welcome! Contact Susan (sfranz@woosterumc.org) with questions.

Join the WUMC Colla Voce Choir!
Choir reconvenes on September 13! Now is the perfect time to join! Rehearsals start August 27 at 7:00p in the WUMC Music Room; please contact Director of Music Nancy Franck for more info (nfranck@woosterumc.org). Can't stand for long periods? We can accommodate you!



Circuit Rider

September 2026

WOOSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
connect • grow • serve



RALLY DAY! MINISTRY FAIR! RETURN TO THE SANCTUARY!

Sunday, September 13 | Celebrate with us!

- After a lengthy renovation, we will return to the Sanctuary!
- Rally Day: Welcoming a new year of Sunday School classes!
- Ministry Fair: Discover new ways to connect, serve, and get involved!
- Get a sweet treat in Wesley Hall!

You won't want to miss it!

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
Office Manager, Stacy Rutt office@woosterumc.org

Pastor’s Ponderings: September 2026

“Let’s RE-Enter With Thanksgiving and Praise”

Psalm 100 (NRSVUE)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

*Serve the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.*

Know that the Lord is God.

*It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.*

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.**

Give thanks to him; bless his name.

For the Lord is good;

*his steadfast love endures forever
and his faithfulness to all generations.*

After a fruitful summer of connection, growth, and service, marked by worship in the Upper Room, it’s time for a new season of ministry to begin! On behalf of our church leadership, I’m delighted to let you know that **Sunday, September 13** will be a milestone day for our congregation. Not only will we engage in our usual Rally Sunday activities, which marks the start of Sunday School classes (9:00a), the return of our Colla Voce choir, and a robust Ministry Fair in Wesley Hall – we will also be Returning to our Sanctuary for worship at 10:00a!

I’m sure that you’re eager to see how the summer’s renovations have gone and how it will feel for us to regather in a familiar space to offer ourselves to God in worship. With that in mind, let’s use Psalm 100 as a guide for the worshipping life of the church.

The psalmist invites us to make a “joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.” When we worship, we join with all of creation in offering praise to the Creator. This the God who has made us! Therefore, we are God’s. When we know whose we are, we can finally know who we are.

We’re invited to serve, and to do so joyfully, with gladness. Do you serve gladly or reluctantly? We’re called to come into his presence with singing! Does that mean you must be a great singer? No. It’s just that singing has a special ability to connect our spirits and emotions to what we believe about the God we serve. So, sing! And sing with a joyful song!

Finally, imagine yourself walking through one of the many entry doors to the sanctuary. Rehearse what we read in verse 4: Enter with thanksgiving! Enter with praise! Give thanks! Bless the name of the one for whom this beautiful structure was built and recently renovated!

Why? For the Lord is GOOD! Oh, so very, very good! And God’s love and faithfulness endures forever! In fact, it will keep on going long beyond our own lifetimes. Amazing, right? Doesn’t a God like that deserve the very best of our praise and all we have to offer?

Looking Forward to a Grand Celebration! ~ Peace, Pastor David Rittgers

Kind words

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



Dear Church family, thank you for making us “Person of the Week”. We enjoyed the plant and the cards. We would also like to thank the staff for the Volunteer luncheon that you provided. It was very good & enjoyable. I appreciate all of you & for all of the work you do to help the church. John & Connie Guthrie.

Dear Church, Just a note to thank you for the lovely plant when we were “Person of the Week” It was very thoughtful of you. Clyde & Joanne Ebert

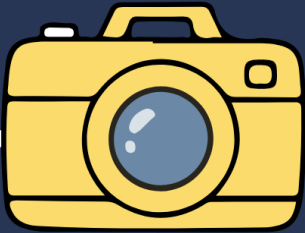
Hi all, I wanted to thank you all for the beautiful flowers that I received as part of being “Person of the Week” They are very much appreciated and I will have them gracing the table where I do my morning Bible study. You all have made my day a special one. Dave Smailes

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



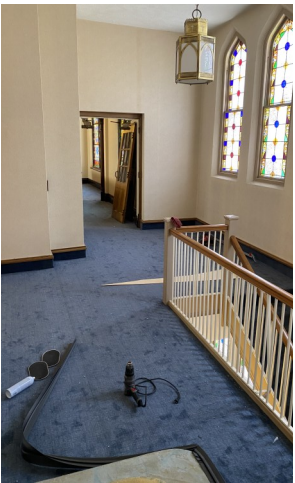
PHOTO GALLERY

THE MONTH IN PICTURES



Right: A beautiful evening of creativity and fellowship! A group of WUMC ladies enjoyed a “Make Your Own Bouquet” event at Yellow Shovel Floral and went home with some gorgeous floral creations.

Below: We invited VBS families back to WUMC for a VBS Celebration, complete with a visit from the Kona Ice truck!



Left: Finishing touches are being applied in anticipation of returning to the Sanctuary on September 13!

Right: VBS kids collected cereal for neighborhood pop-up food pantries.



WUMC VBS KIDS COLLECT 60+ BOXES FOR POP-UP PANTRY!

