



Christ-Centered.
Engaged in Community.
Sharing God's Love.

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Worship Times

9 & 10 am

*10 am is livestreamed on
WUMC YouTube channel

Office Hours

Mon-Thurs 9 am – 4pm

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The Messenger is published monthly by Worthington UMC. Submit your article by the 15th of the previous month at office@worthingtonumc.com

A New Year's (and a New Pastor's) Greeting

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! I hope you all enjoyed a joyful and meaningful Advent and Christmas season. We will continue to celebrate the arrival of our Savior as we make our way through the season of Epiphany.

I want you to know how pleased I am to be able to serve you as your interim pastor for the next 6 months. This is an unexpected development for me and Janet. It is an opportunity, and a blessing, to serve at a time when a need existed and still be able to worship with my family every Sunday.

An interim pastorate is a bit of a different animal. Six months is not a long time, and yet it's more than just filling in for a few Sundays. Since Janet and I have been attending here for a little over 3 years (less the 6 months I served as an interim at another church), I'm already familiar with many of the things a completely new pastor would have to learn. That is very helpful to me and I hope it is to you, also. Simply knowing so many of you already is a big plus. I had to smile at my introduction to the Leadership Team on December 5 because I knew everyone there! That had never happened to me before. Pastor Dom is also here with us and he has already been very helpful to me and I know he will continue to be so. You have been blessed with two wonderful pastors in Lou and Dom. I also want to thank you for the many positive welcomes we have received from you since the announcement was made. We feel very blessed to be here at this time in this capacity.

In a recent great sermon (just one among so many), Pastor Lou talked about doing the good that is yours to do, and she talked about John the Baptist. I have reflected on that sermon, and I will tell you that I feel a bit like John, though I don't mean to equate my role with his. He came to point to another who was coming after him. In a sense, over the next 6 months, I will be preparing the way for another to arrive when the cabinet makes that decision. My hope is that all of us, working together, will help prepare the way for your next long-term pastor. You are a strong congregation and already well-prepared for a new pastor. But we also don't know everything that God may have for us to do during this time. We will listen to the Holy Spirit and respond as we feel called to do. I look forward to all that is ahead of us, even though I don't know all that might include. With God, we know that all that is to come will be good.

I'm thankful for all the members of the Leadership Team, all the people who fill the many good ministries that are a part of this church, and all who gather for worship on Sunday mornings. May the Lord guide us and show us how we can be ever more faithful disciples of Jesus. God bless you.

Pastor Tad



January 2025 Outreach Calendar

Join us as we “Make a Difference”!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bags of Blessings for NNEMAP Food Pantry*	Ready For Reading 30 Minutes any Monday - Thursday		New Year's Day Holiday 1	Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 5 pm 2	3	Worthington Pantry 10 am – noon 4
Operation Sandwich* 5	Worthington Pantry 10 am – 2 pm 6	7	Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 7 pm 8	Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 5 pm 9	10	Worthington Pantry 10 am – noon 11
Operation Sandwich* 12	Worthington Pantry 10 am – 2 pm 13	14	Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 7 pm 15 Mat Ministry Plann Party 1 pm – 4 pm*	Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 5 pm 16 Friendship Dinner 5 pm – 8 pm	17	Worthington Pantry 10 am – noon 18
Operation Sandwich* 19	Worthington Pantry 10 am – 2 pm 20	21	Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 7 pm 22	Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 5 pm 23 Red Cross Blood Drive Noon – 6 pm*	24	Worthington Pantry 10 am – noon 25 Gates Fourth UMC Breakfast 8:30 am - 10 am*
Operation Sandwich* 26 Bags of Blessings Sort 11:00 – 11:30 am*	Worthington Pantry 10 am – 2 pm 27	28	29	30	31	*Family Friendly Ministries

Bags of Blessings to benefit the NNEMAP Food Pantry

The NNEMAP Food Pantry is a cooperative ministry of over 30 churches (including WUMC) distributing food and material assistance to needy residents of Columbus. Established in 1969, NNEMAP has become one of the largest food pantries in Franklin County. Their clientele consists of families living in or near poverty. In 2023, they had 44,500 family visits and made 8,000 deliveries. The pantry is located in a former VFW hall at the corner of Essex and 11th Avenue, just a block west of I-71. Hours are Saturday, 10am-1pm; Thursday, 3-6pm; other weekdays, 9am-12noon. For more information, refer to www.nnemappantry.org.

In addition to the Bags of Blessings Ministry and our Second Mile Giving, WUMC also supports NNEMAP with volunteers to work in the pantry. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Lesly Wade at wadefamily@columbus.rr.com or at 614-561-7863.

We invite you to join us in helping NNEMAP’s clients by donating the food items listed. As always, feel free to donate or purchase any or all of the items on the list. Thank you for supporting this important outreach ministry.

Please donate all items to the church by Sunday, January 26.

Canned fruits

Canned beans

Boxed pasta/rice

Deodorant

Canned vegetables

Tuna or Peanut butter

Toothpaste

Bar soap

Canned tomatoes

Canned ravioli, chili, or stew

Shampoo

Introducing Rev. Tad Grover, Interim Senior Pastor

The Leadership Board is delighted to announce that Reverend Tad Grover will serve as our interim senior pastor from January 1 through June 30. Tad, a retired United Methodist minister with extensive experience, is also a beloved member of our congregation.

This unique perspective makes him especially well-suited to lead us during this time of transition as we prepare to welcome our next senior pastor in July. Tad will partner with our staff and lay leaders to provide spiritual care and guidance in the coming months. To learn more about the many gifts Tad brings to us, please read his ministry statement (<https://drive.google.com/.../1HyTByZwwCo1aSyw9JkKNUq.../view>).

Please take a moment to offer Tad, Janet, and the entire Grover family your prayers, support, and a warm welcome as Tad steps into this role. We are grateful for his leadership and God's continued presence on our journey.



Adult Mission Trip

Please consider joining us on our next Adult Mission Trip (usually late February or early March). We usually do two 5–6 day trips each year, one semi-local (Cleveland or Ashtabula County) and one down south (Hayesville NC the last three years). This is your chance to be the hands and feet of Jesus in carrying out his work. Join us for a time of fun and fellowship while we are carrying out God's work. I guarantee that you will have a good time, learn new skills, and make a difference in someone's life. Don't feel that you need a lot of skills in order to contribute. We do the best we can with the skills we have, and there is always something that everyone can do; we welcome all.

More information will be available when we set the date and place for the next trip. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Russ Line at (614) 595-1028 or rjlineohio@aol.com.

Foundry Groups

Early Methodists participated in weekly 'class meetings' where the members met and discussed their faith journeys and look over one another with love through their walks with Christ. We are hoping to embrace this practice in our congregation. To help start up this program we will be doing an 8-week study guided by the book *The Class Meeting: Reclaiming a Forgotten (and Essential) Small Group Experience* by Kevin Watson.

If you are interested in participating in one of these groups please fill out the following form [Here](#), scan the QR code, or contact Abby Beers at alb.2135@gmail.com. Groups will meet at a place/time decided by each group once they are formed based on availability.



Please sign up no later than January 6 so that groups can organize and begin meeting the week of January 13 running through the week of March 3.

Refresh. Explore. Commit.
New Year, New Beginnings – Join Us in 2025!

Are you curious about what Worthington UMC does in our community? Do you want to deepen your understanding of Communion? Or perhaps you're ready to take the next step toward membership at Worthington UMC? If so, we invite you to join our pastors for the "Refresh. Explore. Commit." classes. These classes are for anyone looking to learn more about the basics of our Christian faith, explore what it means to be a part of Worthington UMC, or consider membership. Each month, the same four classes will be offered on rotation at **9am on Sundays in the Church Library**. Members, guests, and potential new members are all welcome to attend.

Class Schedule:

Week 1: Christian Doctrine & What Makes Methodism Unique

Week 2: The Sacraments & Sharing Personal Stories of Faith

Week 3: The Church & Our Membership Vows

Week 4: Resources for Growing as Disciples & Getting Involved in Church Ministries

New members are encouraged to attend all four classes before joining the church. You can take the classes at your own pace—there's no need to attend all four in one month. For those unable to attend the 9am session, alternative arrangements can be made. Childcare and Sunday School are available during this time.

The next "Refresh. Explore. Commit." series will begin **Sunday, January 5** at **9am** in the Church Library. No registration is required. We look forward to exploring and growing in faith with you! Reach out to Pastor Dom at dominic@worthingtonumc.com with questions.

Join Us in Serving Our Neighbors in Need

Many of our neighbors face challenges with housing or food insecurity, and while resources are available, navigating them can be difficult. Understanding this, Worthington UMC is partnering with the Worthington Resource Pantry to strengthen the Resource Center to help people access not only food but other critical services.

As part of this effort, we are inviting you to become a "companion" to help connect people with important resources, such as housing assistance, Medicare and Medicaid enrollment, and SNAP benefits. These companions will guide individuals through the process and connect them to the organizations that can help.

Adam Householder, the Resource Manager at Hilliard Food Pantry Plus, will lead a training session for those interested in serving as companions.

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall on **January 12 at 11:30am** to learn how you can make a meaningful difference. [Register by using this link](#), emailing Pastor Dom at dominic@worthingtonumc.com, or by calling the church office at 614.885.5365. The deadline to register is Monday, January 6. Pizza will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

Welcome to Sustainability Corner, where you will find updates and goings-on from the new sustainability group at WUMC. Recently we were awarded \$450 through the Green Church Mini Grant, thanks to the generosity of the West Ohio Conference. With these funds we are hoping to implement a sustainable eating class as well as purchase second-hand reusable dishware. This is an exciting step in our journey to become a more environmentally-conscious church!

We have loved seeing people use mugs during Coffee Hour! Drinking from mugs is one way we are able to reduce waste. Another new addition to Coffee Hour is the bright orange bags attached to the dirty dish cart. These orange bags have super powers—they let us recycle hard-to-recycle plastics! Hefty's program is a game changer for reducing landfill waste. You can learn more about this program at <https://www.hefty.com/products/hefty-renew>. We are also composting, and will continue to have buckets available during Coffee Hours and Friendship Dinners. To stay up to date on the updated recycling program in Worthington, check out this link: <https://www.worthington.org/305/Recycling>.

If you are interested in joining the sustainability group or if you would like to learn more, please reach out to Elizabeth Osbourne at elosbourne@gmail.com.

Giving in 2025

Thank you to everyone who made a financial commitment to the church in 2025. These commitments are vital to our financial planning for the year ahead, and we cannot be more thankful for your generosity!

Many of you have made changes to your giving amount. If you donate via e-giving through the Christian Family Credit Union (CFCU), your new donation amount will automatically take effect January 1. If you have recurring giving set up through the church website (Vanco), please contact Mindy if you need help adjusting your donation amount to match your 2025 pledge. If you have bill pay set up with your bank, please be sure to adjust your donation amount to match your new 2025 commitment.

If you have any questions about your commitment for 2025 or how to adjust your payment amount, don't hesitate to ask Mindy: finance@worthingtonumc.com or 614-885-5366.

Invitation to Share Prayers of Joy

We invite you to come to the Dixon Lounge and add your prayers of joy to the Prayer Loom!

The loom currently holds many prayers offered in worship on December 29, and we are eager to fill it with even more moments of gratitude and celebration.

Notecards and pens are available nearby—please take a moment to write your prayer and place it on the loom, joining in this shared expression of joy.

Year-End Statements

2024 year-end giving statements will be e-mailed out in mid-January. Anyone who indicated on their 2025 commitment card that they would like a paper statement will have one mailed to them as well.

If you would like to request a paper statement, please feel free to let us know at finance@worthingtonumc.com

Dear Worthington Church Family,

I am writing today with gratitude and a touch of bittersweetness as we say goodbye to Jessica Sapp in her shared role as Communications Coordinator. For 9 years, Jessica has been dedicated to the vital work of keeping our congregation informed and worship moving forward.

As many of you know, the responsibilities of this role are now being centralized in the church office, a shift that reflects the evolving needs and structure of our church. While this change brings opportunities for efficiency and cohesion, it also means saying farewell to Jessica's unique contributions in this particular role.

We are deeply thankful for her hard work, creativity, and commitment. Jessica's efforts have touched so many aspects of our congregation's life, from website management, stewardship logos, monthly Messenger creation, event promotions, slide production for worship and social media updates to the behind-the-scenes work that ensured smooth communication and connection.

Though Jessica will no longer serve in this specific capacity, she remains a cherished member of our community. Please join me in expressing your gratitude to Jessica for her service and dedication. May this next chapter bring her fresh opportunities and fulfillment, and may we all carry forward the spirit of connection and collaboration that she has so beautifully nurtured.

With deep appreciation,

Pastor Lou

A Quick Note of Thanks from former Communications Director, Jessica Sapp

When I started in the office, I was a young newly-wed looking for a new adventure. My family and my love for this church has only grown since. Thank you to each of the volunteers who helped watch Riley and Cameron as I tried to parent and work at the same time. Thank you to my fellow staff who always made meetings a good time, holiday gift-exchanges a riot, and staff lunches worth the drive from Hilliard- you feel more like family than simply coworkers. And of course, thank you to the pastors - Cyndy, John, Lou, and Dom - who have so graciously allowed me to continue working for the church from home for all of these years. My family and I are so grateful for each of you. It has been an absolute joy to work alongside you for the last nine years. There will always be a special place in my heart for Worthington UMC.

I will be taking this opportunity to further grow my portrait photography business JS Photo (www.jsphotocolumbus.com), so if you are looking for any family, senior, business, etc. photos, please keep me in mind!

Thank you again and hope to see you around,
Jessica Sapp



January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Happy New Year!</i> <i>Church is Closed</i> <i>CPC is Closed</i>	2	3	4
5 9 am—Worship 9am—REC 10am—Worship 11:30am—Jubilee Ringers 6pm—Impact	6 10:15am—Prayer Group 7pm—Scouts	7 10am—Naomi Circle 5pm—Worthington Cotillion	8 1pm—Immunization Clinic 7pm—Euchre 7pm—CPC Budget 7pm—Novel Women 7pm—Chancel Choir 7:30pm—Taize 7:30pm—Scouts PLC	9 1pm—Deborah Circle 6:30pm—Children's Choir 7pm—Children's Bells	10 5pm—Pizza & Cards	11 9am—Leadership Board Retreat
12 9 am—Worship 9am—REC 10am—Worship 11:30am—Jubilee Ringers 6pm—Impact	13 10:15am—Prayer Group 7pm—Scouts	14 9am—Needlepoint 10am—Ruth Circle 5pm—Worthington Cotillion 6:30pm—CPC Tour	15 1pm—Mat Ministry 7pm—Chancel Choir 7pm—Scout Summer Camp Meeting 7pm—CPC Board 7:15pm—Sojourn	16 6:30pm—Friendship Community Dinner 6:30pm—Children's Choir 7pm—Children's Bells	17	18
19 9 am—Worship 9am—REC 10am—Worship 11:30am—Jubilee Ringers 11:30am—Sunday Serve 6pm—Columbus Rings 6pm—Impact	20 <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i> <i>CPC is Closed</i> 10am—MLK Celebration 10:15am—Prayer Group	21 11am—Prayer Shawl Ministry 3pm—Martha Circle 5pm—Worthington Cotillion	22 1:30pm—Grief Support 7pm—Chancel Choir 7pm—Euchre 7:15pm—Sustainability	23 12pm—Red Cross Blood Drive 6:30pm—Children's Choir 7pm—Children's Bells	24	25
26 9am—Worship 9am—REC 10am—Worship 11:30am—Jubilee Ringers 6pm—Columbus Rings 6pm—Impact	27 10:30am—Prayer Group 7pm—Scouts	28 5pm—Worthington Cotillion 6:30pm—Finance 6:30pm—Trustees 7:30pm—Leadership Board	29 7pm—Chancel Choir 7pm—Scout cmtc	30 6:30pm—Children's Choir 7pm—Children's Bells 7:30pm—WCO Rehearsal	31 4pm—WIN Dinner 7:30pm—WCO Rehearsal	

The Messenger

Worthington United Methodist Church

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dated material:

Please deliver by January 1, 2025



January 2025

January 1 - New Year's Day (Office is Closed)

January 5 - REC Classes begin

January 8 - Immunization Clinic

January 8 - Taize Worship

January 16 - Friendship Community Dinner

January 20 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

January 23 - Red Cross Blood Drive