



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

Contact

614.885.5365

PO Box 307

Worthington, OH 43085

office@worthingtonumc.com

worthingtonumc.com

Worship Times

9:00am & 10:00am

The 10:00am service is
livestreamed on our
YouTube Channel

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

9:00am - 4:30pm

A LETTER FROM PASTOR TAD

Travelling with Paul

In 2004, Janet and I had the privilege of going to Greece and Turkey to visit some of the places Paul had visited. This was an Educational Opportunities tour for the West Ohio Conference and Bishop Ough was with us, as well as a few other leaders and scholars. It was a great trip. We went with members of our church in Chillicothe so we were among friends the whole time. We saw a lot and learned a lot and it was very thought-provoking.

The most obvious contrast between our travels and Paul's travels was the difference in transportation modes. We just got on a plane, flew to the other side of the world, sailed through the Adriatic and Aegean Seas (with a little, but quite rough time in the Mediterranean Sea), and then rode in comfortable coaches when we travelled inland. Paul probably walked a lot or rode an animal. Not as fast, not as comfortable. It's hard to imagine what it was really like for those courageous people.

Another easy contrast centers on people. As I said, we were travelling with some friends from Chillicothe, a couple hundred other West Ohio folks, plus even the Bishop. We were among people we could trust, who spoke our language, believed the same things we did, and carried some authority even though we were outside of our own country. So we were always with "our own." This was not the case for Paul. While he always had a few companions with him, that was it: a few. He was going into areas where different languages were spoken, different traditions were observed, and different beliefs were held. I'm sure he could find people to communicate with, and he usually located synagogues to be with other Jews, but there was a lot of time in foreign territory.

To talk a little more about the people, most people we encountered were glad we were there (and had US dollars to spend)! One exception was a woman in Athens who really didn't like President Bush and told us all about it! For the most part, we were welcomed everywhere we went. People were happy to tell us about their country and their history and we learned a great deal. Perhaps the happiest to see us, though, were the merchants in Kusadasi, Turkey. We heard that we were the last cruise ship of the season (we were there in November) and there was lots of stuff to sell us. Some of the merchants practically dragged us into their stores and offered some amazing deals.

Paul experienced some of this, but he wasn't being dragged into a store by people wanting him to buy something. Often, he was dragged before a local assembly to make an account of himself or dragged to the local prison. He was beaten and imprisoned many times. But he kept going! Paul was not going to be deterred from his mission. His faith, his courage, his physical fortitude, and his commitment were second to none. We are thankful that Paul was so dedicated to sharing the Good News of Jesus. His work brought many to Jesus then, and his writings continue to bring people to Jesus now. So many people throughout history have contributed to our faith and helped keep the church alive.

If you have any travel plans this summer, as many of us usually do, take a few minutes when you're staring at a beautiful sunset, or enjoying a wonderful meal in an exotic location, or just sitting in a state park, to think of Paul. His travels introduced people to Jesus, and his writings still do. Enjoy your summer. But watch out for those merchants in Kusadasi!

God bless you,
Pastor Tad

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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

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A LITTLE ABOUT OUR NEW SENIOR PASTOR



Hi, I'm Jennifer Casto, and am excited about becoming the lead pastor of Worthington UMC in July. I am a child of God- created in God's image, saved by grace, and sustained by the Holy Spirit. I am a daughter, a sister, a sister-in-law, a widow, a step-mother, a grandmother, an aunt, and a friend. I am also a "cradle Methodist."

I have a B.A. in accounting from Westminster College, before receiving a call to ministry. I have a Master of Divinity from Methodist Theological School in Ohio, and was ordained an elder in the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference in 1994. Before coming to Worthington, I have served churches in Pittsburgh, PA, the Short North of Columbus, and most recently, Epworth UMC in the Northland area.

I love to travel. My favorite trip was to Tanzania. I also enjoy listening to audiobooks and music, doing my at home workouts, attending the theater, especially musicals, and learning from people. My life's mantra is "Choose Joy!" It will be wonderful to be part of a church community that welcomes all people.



United Women in Faith

MAY PROGRAM DATES

No Leadership Team Meeting
Annual WOC @ TBA | Mission u @ TBA

3 Naomi Circle
4 Riverside Sewing Guild @ 10am
14 Flag Day
15 Father's Day
19 Juneteenth

Summer Outdoor Worship Services Began June 1

We're excited to announce that our beloved outdoor worship services resumed on Sunday, June 1st and will continue through August 31st. Join us on the church's front lawn every Sunday at 9:00am.

Important Details:

- The church will provide metal folding chairs, but you are also welcome to bring your own
- This year, only a handful of chairs will be arranged before the service, and we ask those who are able to help with setup. Consider arriving a few minutes early if you'd like to help in this way
- Services will feature hymn singing, prayer, and a sermon. Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday of each month
- Bubbles and chalk will be provided for children
- If the weather does not permit outdoor worship, we will gather in Potter Chapel

These simple yet meaningful services offer a wonderful opportunity to worship together in the beauty of creation. We look forward to seeing you there!

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



VBS is offered for kids 3 years (must be potty-trained) through incoming 3rd graders. We start our evening together with dinner each night for your whole family, then the kids are broken into small groups based on age to travel through stations to learn through music, arts & crafts, games, bible lessons, and science! Monday-Thursday schedule will be dinner at 5:30pm, then programming from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Friday is a cook-out celebration for everyone on our front lawn from 5:30pm-6:30pm.

Our theme this year will be "We Are Built to Love!" using the movie *The Wild Robot* and the gospel of Matthew to guide us in learning how to live out God's love in our world! VBS will be Monday through Friday, **June 9-13**.

To register, please see <https://worthingtonumc.com/vacation-bible-school-2025/> for more information!

**We will need MANY volunteers! Please keep an eye out from church communications how to help us make VBS happen. If you are interested in serving, please go ahead and contact Ashley Gerard.*

EXPLORATIONS



Explorations is a day-camp focused on serving our local community! This is offered to incoming 4th graders-incoming 7th graders. We meet at the church each day at 10:00am, pack a lunch, then travel to different organizations around Columbus to learn about how they support our community. At each location we will help with various outreach projects depending on their need. Pick up is back at the church at 2:00pm each day. We serve at farms, local food pantries, and learn about the on-going outreach ministries our church participates in. This is a great way to get kids involved with missions and to grow in fellowship together! Exploration dates are Monday through Thursday, **July 28-July 31**.

To register, please see <https://worthingtonumc.com/explorations-day-camp-2025/> for more information!



REACHOUT

This is for those currently in 7th grade and older. ReachOut is a United Methodist Camp that happens each July in Lakeside, Ohio. If you are unfamiliar with Lakeside, it is a beautiful, gated community right on Lake Erie. One of the perks of this camp is the location itself! Campers and counselors stay in cabins and lodge housing for the week, located close to the downtown area with shops, putt-putt, and the best ice cream and donuts! There are worship services each night, a two-day mission component where we serve local non-profits around northern Ohio, sports and art activities, and a chance to get to know youth from other churches. A unique and valuable aspect of ReachOut is that it is planned and run by a group of high school youth who are elected by the previous year's campers. That group of students meet year-round to pick the theme verse we build our week around, plan fun activities, and even speak and lead messages at our worship services. It is a great way to experience student leadership! Ashley Gerard, along with other youth leaders from the church, serve as camp counselors for the week. ReachOut 2025 dates are **July 13 - July 19**.

To register and to learn more about ReachOut, visit <https://reachoutcamp.com/>



For more information on any of the above camp opportunities, please contact Ashley Gerard at ashley@worthingtonumc.com

Explorations Day Camp

Join us for a day camp focused on serving our local community!

July 28th – July 31st

Who?: If you are entering 4th grade through entering 7th grade in fall of '25

When?: We gather during the day during operation hours of the organizations we work with! **10am-2pm** fits that schedule. We meet at the church for drop-off and pick-up, pack a lunch each day, and have fun while helping others!

Cost is \$30 per child

REGISTER NOW!



AUGUST MISSION TRIP

Sign up now for the next adult mission trip. The dates are August 17 – 22, 2025. We will be working for the Covered Bridge Ministries in Jefferson, Ohio. They are sponsored by the Jefferson United Methodist Church.

Their mission serves people throughout Ashtabula County in need of home repairs and / or ramps for home access. We will probably be building temporary ramps. If some of you would like to go for just a couple of days, we can probably make that happen. The last date to sign up for this mission trip is August 3, 2025. If you have any questions, please contact Russ Line at (614) 595-1028 or rjlineohio@aol.com.

VBS KITCHEN CLEANUP NEEDED



One of the greatest gifts our VBS program gives is nightly meals for the families of those participating and volunteering at VBS. As we continue to build sustainable practices in our building, using reusable dishes for our meals has been a growing practice. We are still in need of volunteers who will help with washing dishes after dinner. We have a user-friendly dishwasher that cuts down on time needed to clean, and we will gladly accept help on any night that you may be able to volunteer. Please e-mail Ashley Gerard if you are available at ashley@worthingtonumc.com.

WE ARE BUILT TO LOVE!

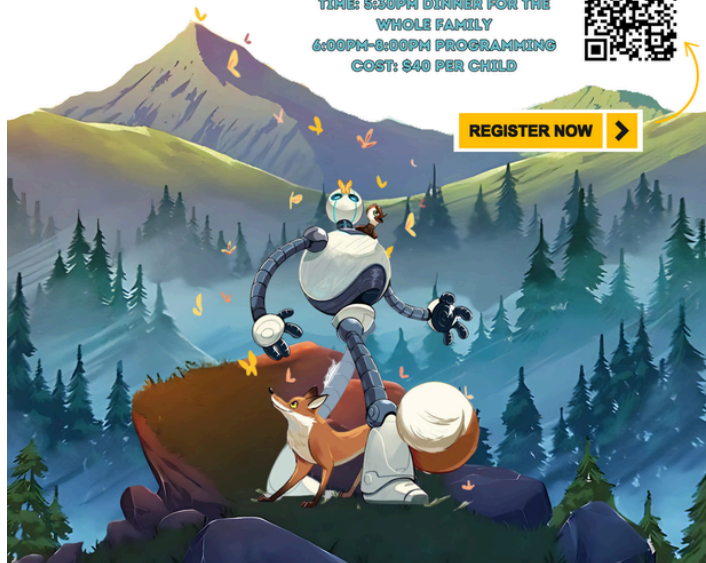
JOIN US AS WE LEARN FROM
THE WILD ROBOT AND
THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW THAT
WE ARE BUILT TO LOVE!

WORTHINGTON UMC
VBS
2025
JUNE 9-13

AGES: 3 YEARS (MUST BE POTTY TRAINED) - 3RD GRADE
TIME: 5:30PM DINNER FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
6:00PM-8:00PM PROGRAMMING
COST: \$40 PER CHILD



REGISTER NOW >



Join Us for "The Acts of the Apostles" Study Series!

Delve deeper into Acts this spring and summer! The Book of Acts chronicles the exciting development of the early church through the adventures of Peter, Paul, Barnabas, Lydia, and others who faced angry mobs, imprisonment, and even martyrdom in their commitment to spreading the Gospel.

During our current Easter season, when readings from Acts replace Old Testament readings in the Revised Common Lectionary, we invite you to dig deeper into this fascinating book. As Pastor Tad reminds us in his Messenger letter this month, the Book of Acts is considered "unfinished" because the apostolic work of spreading the Good News continues today—and we at Worthington UMC are writing our own chapter in this ongoing story!

Two Convenient Study Options:

Afternoon Sessions with Pastor Tad

- Tuesdays at 1:00 PM
- Dixon Lounge
- May 13 - June 17

Register here



Evening Sessions with Pastor Dom

- Mondays at 7:00 PM
- Location TBD (in Old Worthington)
- June 23 - July 28

This study complements our "Who Are We" Sunday worship series, exploring additional passages from Acts not covered in our regular services. Both studies will cover the same material. Don't miss this opportunity to experience the energy and inspiration of the early church as we continue the work that began 2,000 years ago!

Communion Walks Highbanks Metro Park Saturday, June 21st at 9:00am

This summer, celebrate communion outside at different locations around northern Columbus. On Saturday, June 21, we'll gather at Highbanks Metro Park and celebrate communion at the overlook platform. We'll begin with a brief prayer at the Overlook Trailhead at 9:00 am, walk together to the platform, and then take communion together. Below is a map of where we'll gather at 9:00 am. Registration is not required, but if you'd like to receive an email if we cancel this and future walks for weather, please put your information in this [form](#) or use the QR code below. This will be a moderately challenging hike. Please contact Pastor Dom (dominic@worthingtonumc.com) for more information or if you'd like to help set the communion table for the June hike.

Mark your calendar for all our walks this summer! More information will be available in The Messenger the month of each walk.

- Saturday, June 21 at 9:00 am – Highbanks Metro Park. Moderate difficulty walk.
- Monday, July 14 at 7:00 pm – Antrim Lake Park. Low difficulty walk.
- Saturday, August 16 at 9:00 am – Sharon Woods Park. Moderate difficulty walk. Wheelchair and stroller accessible with assistance.

Save the date for our Autumn Walk, too!

- Saturday, October 18 at 9:00 am – Highbanks Metro Park. Moderate difficulty walk.



JUBILEE RINGERS ATTEND LOCAL HANDBELL FESTIVAL

On April 25-26, the Jubilee Ringers participated in the Handbell Musicians of America – Area 5 “Spring Ring” at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. That's a fancy way of saying we went to the convention center and played bells with more than 670 other ringers. Our director, Jarod Ogier, has been on the board of Area 5 for several years and this Spring Ring was the culmination of his time as Board Chair.

We were led by composer, and internationally known conductor, Fred Gramann. Fred recently retired from his long-term post as Director of Music at the American Church in Paris, France! We rehearsed with Fred as a large group and then as two smaller groups. We also had a chance to take classes from other clinicians, composers, conductors and even a dance instructor. (Jarod's wife, Sarah Dove, Ph.D.) The whole event ended with a final concert of all the ringers together plus some guest musicians playing drums and oboe.

I have to admit that as we rang together, I would get lost listening to that many bells ringing at once, and then I'd get lost in the music I was supposed to be playing! It was an experience like none other and we enjoyed our time together.

--Amy Wingerter



NEW MEMBERS OF WUMC

Victoria Bonner: I have returned to the Worthington area after a living up north for a bit to help my son, Iain (who was raised in this church and is now a firefighter/paramedic). I live with my three little dogs who are affectionately known as 'the gremlins.' I am a very active volunteer with the Worthington Resource Center and do spend some time helping at the Dublin Food Pantry.



Nathan & Gwendolyn Rehm: We are excited to be joining Worthington UMC with our sons, Emerson (8) and Coledyn (5). We began looking for a church home after Gwendolyn ended her position as director of music to focus fully on running Rehm Music Studios and homeschooling the boys. Nathan works for Chase Bank and enjoys woodworking (in what little spare time he has with small kids at home). The welcoming environment, sound theology, and great music program are all things we look forward to being a part of here at Worthington UMC.

Ian & Erica Howat: Ian and Erica Howat have lived in Worthington since 2016 with their children, Anna and Galen. They were long term regular attendees, Erica sings in the chancel choir. Anna plays volleyball, joined UMC with the fall confirmation class and is active in Impact. Galen love baseball and will attend Explorations this summer. Ian is a professor in the Earth Science Department at Ohio State and Erica is a program manager at Battelle.



A MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE OFFICE

EASTER OFFERING:

Thank you for your generous Easter Offerings. With your Easter donations, we were able to provide almost \$5000 to the Community Relief Fund which will make a tremendous difference in the lives of many of our neighbors!

SUMMER SLUMP

In the summer, we typically experience a “summer slump” where giving drops off as many church members are traveling and attendance decreases. In 2024, our giving in June, July, and August averaged 20% less than that of any other 3-month stretch. Unfortunately, our expenses continue throughout the summer and several even increase, e.g. water, electricity, and lawn care. Thankfully we have several ways for you to continue to give to the church while you are away! Review the options below and contact Mindy at 614-885-5366 or finance@worthingtonumc.com with any questions. Have a wonderful summer!

WUMC WEBSITE GIVING VIA VANCO

Easily set up a recurring giving schedule or make individual contributions remotely. To become an electronic donor, go to <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z2ZG/home> or scan the QR code. There is a small fee charged by Vanco for this service that you can choose to cover with your donation if you wish.



“E-GIVING”/ ACH DIRECT WITHDRAWAL

When you sign up for “E-giving”, you complete a form, provide a voided check, and authorize our bank with automatically draft your bank account weekly or monthly. Contact the Mindy request the form. There is no fee with this method of giving.

BANK BILL PAY

Through your bank’s website, set up automatic “Bill Pay” to WUMC. The bank will send us a check in the mail automatically at the frequency you choose - one time, weekly, monthly, etc. There is no fee with Bill Pay. Please have checks sent to Worthington UMC, P.O Box 307, Worthington, OH 43085.

Outreach Ministry

June 2025 Outreach Calendar

Join us as we “Make a Difference”!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Operation Sandwich* 1	2 Worthington Pantry 10 am – 2 pm	3	4 Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 7 pm	5 Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 5 pm	6	7 Worthington Pantry 10 am – noon
Operation Sandwich* 8	9 Worthington Pantry 10 am – 2 pm	10	11 Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 7 pm	12 Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 5 pm	13	14 Worthington Pantry 10 am – noon YWCA Family Dinner 5 – 9 pm*
Operation Sandwich* 15	16 Worthington Pantry 10 am – 2 pm	17	18 Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 7 pm Mat Ministry Plann Party 1 pm – 4 pm*	19 Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 5 pm Friendship Dinner 5 pm – 8 pm	20	21 Worthington Pantry 10 am – noon
Operation Sandwich* 22	23 Worthington Pantry 10 am – 2 pm	24	25 Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 7 pm	26 Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 5 pm	27	28 Worthington Pantry 10 am – noon
Operation Sandwich* 29 Bags of Blessings Sort 11:00 – 11:30 am*	30 Worthington Pantry 10 am – 2 pm				Bags of Blessings for NNEMAP Food Pantry	*Family Friendly Ministries

BAGS OF BLESSINGS INFORMATION

Thank you church family for continuing to support our Bags of Blessings outreach program! We continue each month to provide vital supplies to NNEMAP Food Pantry, YWCA Family Life Center, Family Mentor Foundation, Worthington Resource Pantry, and United Methodist Children’s Services School Supplies.

On the first Sunday of the month, collection bags are hung on the bag tree racks with a list of needed items for that month’s receiving organization. You are welcome to pick up a bag anytime during the month. Any items on the provided list are welcome, feel free to purchase what you can from the list. Purchasing all items on the list is not required. We ask that bags with your donations be returned to the church on the last Sunday of the month.

Sorting of items happens on that last Sunday of the month in the Sanctuary following the 10AM service. This involves emptying the bags and packing like items into boxes for transport to the receiving organization. Help is always needed. Feel free to come to the front of the church on bag Sundays and jump in on the fun!

The donations are then transported to the organization by Dan McIntyre or Lesly Wade. And volunteers help the office staff print and stuff new lists into the bags and hang them back on the bag tree rack for the new month.

Please contact Lesly Wade at wadefamily@columbus.rr.com with questions or ideas on how to improve this outreach program.

Outreach Ministry

BAGS OF BLESSINGS - JUNE

The NNEMAP Food Pantry is a cooperative ministry of over 30 churches (including WUMC) distributing food and material assistance to needy residents of Columbus. Their service area includes any zip code in 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. For 2024 they had 56,000 family visits and served 188,000 individuals. The pantry is located a former VFW hall at the corner of Essex and 11th Avenue, just a block west of I-71. Hours are Saturday 10 am – 1 pm, Thursday 3 pm – 6 pm, and other weekdays 9 am – noon. Refer to www.nnemappantry.org for more information. 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.

In June we are collecting items for the Bags of Blessings for NNEMAP. Please return the bags by Sunday, June 29th. Please drop off items for Bags of Blessings in the bins in the office. This month we are collecting: Canned Fruits, Canned Vegetables, Canned Tomatoes, Canned Beans, Canned Ravioli, Chili or Stew Tuna, or Peanut Butter, Boxed Pastas or Rice, Toothpaste, Shampoo, Deodorant, and Bar Soap.

CHURCH UPDATES

Evan Matthew was born April 18th to Matthew and Whitney Schuster.

Elizabeth Leigh was born May 14th to Scott and Angie Huston.

Please check the weekly E-blasts and Joys & Concerns for prayer requests.

Please inform the church when there are major life events such as births or deaths so that we can inform the church body.

FRIENDSHIP DINNER



In April of this year, the Friendship dinner celebrated its 12th anniversary. Once a month, we provide a free dinner to anyone who needs one. I can only guess how many dinners we've provided and how many hours our volunteers have given. Lately, we have provided about a dozen meals in the Fellowship Hall and 24 takeout meals which go to a nearby retirement community. Our guests come from all walks of life and we look forward to seeing them each month. Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry.

JUNE 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:00am Worship 10:00am Worship 6:00pm Columbus Rings	2 10:15am Prayer Group 7:00pm Scouts Court of Honor	3 10:00am Naomi Circle 1:00pm Acts Study	4 10:00am Riverside Sewing Guild 1:00pm Immunization Clinic 7:00pm Euchre 7:00pm CPC Budget 7:15pm Sojourn	5 6:30pm Foundry Group	6	7 8:00am Farmers Market Hospitality Tables 1:00pm Ken Evans 95 th Birthday Party
8 9:00am Worship 10:00am Worship	9 10:00am ORD UWF Board 10:15am Prayer Group 5:30pm VBS	10 9:00am Needlepoint 10:00am Ruth Circle 1:00pm Acts Study 5:30pm VBS 6:30pm CPC Evening Tour	11 5:30pm VBS	12 5:30pm VBS	13 5:30pm VBS	14 8:00am Farmers Market Hospitality Tables
15 9:00am Worship 10:00am Worship	16 10:15am Prayer Group 7:00pm Scouts	17 11:00am Prayer Shawl 1:00pm Acts Study 3:00pm Martha Circle	18 1:00pm Mat Ministry 7:00pm Euchre 6:30pm Agape Meal	19 6:30pm Foundry Group 6:30pm Friendship Community Dinner	20 5:00pm Pizza & Cards	21 8:00am Farmers Market Hospitality Tables 9:00am Communion Walk 11:00am Seminary Hill Farms
22 9:00am Worship 10:00am Worship 1:00pm Don Justice Funeral	23 10:15am Prayer Group	24 6:00pm CPC Staff Meeting 6:30pm Trustees 7:30pm Leadership	25 1:00pm Grief Support 7:00pm Sustainability 7:30pm Taize	26 6:30pm Foundry Group	27	28 8:00am Farmers Market Hospitality Tables
29 9:00am Worship 10:00am Worship	30 10:15am Prayer Group 7:00pm Scouts					

The Messenger
Worthington United Methodist Church
600 High Street, PO Box 307
Worthington, OH 43085-0307
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dated Material:
Please deliver by: June 1, 2025