

Building a more diverse and open community of committed Christian servants.

Contact

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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 at office@worthingtonumc.com

Dear family and friends in Christ,

On January 30, I interviewed with the Board of Ordained Ministry for the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church (the BOM for the WOCUMC, if you will). I interviewed because I articulated a call to pastoral ministry when I was six and have spent the last few decades trying to figure out how to do that. The BOM affirmed my request to be ordained as an elder in full membership in the WOCUMC. Barring unforeseen and strange circumstances, I will be ordained this June at Annual Conference. You likely won't notice much difference once I'm ordained. It does not mean that I'm leaving. The most visible change will be that I'll start wearing a stole on Sunday mornings.

I filed the first request associated with discerning a call to ordained ministry in the summer of 2014. In 2021, after seminary and many conversations at the local church and district level, I interviewed with the BOM for the first time, which led to me receiving a license for pastoral ministry and an appointment to Worthington UMC. During this time, Lou has mentored me, the Conference has supervised me, and you have encouraged me. You have been gracious to me as I've learned and discerned what it means to be a pastor.

I am grateful. For my family and church family who tended the seed of vocational ministry in me from a young age. For the churches and organizations I've served as a lay person (shout out to Bryan Wesley UMC, Stone Village Church, Harvard-Epworth UMC, and Appalachia Service Project, in particular). For the friends and colleagues who've journeyed with me. Amid my gratitude, I grieve with my LGBTQ+ friends who are exceptionally gifted and graced for ministry but have not yet had God's call on their lives affirmed by the UMC.

I am grateful for you, Worthington UMC. I felt your hands on my shoulders as I interviewed. Your support and grace at this critical moment in my journey are precious gifts. I am thankful to remain in ministry with you. I'll let you know the details when I know more about the time and location of the ordination service if you'd like to attend or view the live stream.

As we continue the Lenten journey to the cross, I pray that your disciplines of prayer, simplicity, and generosity crystallize God's call on your lives as we continue to be made perfect in the love of God and neighbor as a gift of grace.

In Christ, *Dom*



March 2023 Outreach Calendar

Join us as we “Make a Difference”!

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

Bags of Blessings for March to benefit the Family Mentor Foundation

Family Mentor Foundation began in 2013 with a mission to create services and partnerships that help fill in the areas lacking in a child’s life through a variety of programs and resources that will help them reach their full potential.

One of these programs is the Buddy Box, which is a box filled with kid-friendly, nutritious, nonperishable, individual-sized food items sent home with a child to help sustain them when away from school. Each week they provide Buddy Boxes for 1,600 hungry children in schools in Worthington, Columbus, and Southwestern City School Districts. The boxes are packed and filled by volunteers—refer to www.familymentorfoundation.org for more information or contact Lesly Wade at 614-561-7863 or wadefamily@columbus.rr.com

We invite you to join us in helping fill Buddy Boxes by donating the food items listed here: *Veggie or Fruit Juice Boxes, Raisin Boxes, Applesauce Cups, Individual Sunflower Kernel Bags, Individual Goldfish Cracker Bags, Macaroni & Cheese Cups, Shelf-Stable Meat Sticks, Instant Oatmeal Packs.*

As always, feel free to donate any or all items on the list, and return by Sunday, March 26. Thank you for supporting this important Outreach ministry!

Worthington Interfaith Neighbors 2023 Conversation Partners Program

Worthington Interfaith Neighbors (WIN) invites you to be a partner in its Conversation Partners Program (for adults 18 years and older). This program provides two kinds of opportunities for participation in a group setting that is casual, safe, and supportive:

1. **Persons wanting to practice Conversational English** and learn more about American culture and also be willing to share about their own native languages, cultures, faith traditions, and life experiences.
2. **Persons wanting to serve as English Language Conversation Mentors** and share information about American culture and also be interested in learning about other languages, cultures, and faith traditions.

In 2023, sixteen sessions will be held on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 10:30am to 12 noon at the Worthington United Methodist Church. The dates are April 4, April 18, May 2, May 16, June 6, June 20, July 11, July 18, August 1, August 15, September 5, September 19, October 3, October 17, November 7, and November 21. The sessions are free and are not designed as English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. Functional English conversation skills are recommended. Supervised childcare is not provided but children are welcome. Parents are responsible for their own children. For more information or to sign up, email Jim Heilman at conversationpartnerswin@gmail.com

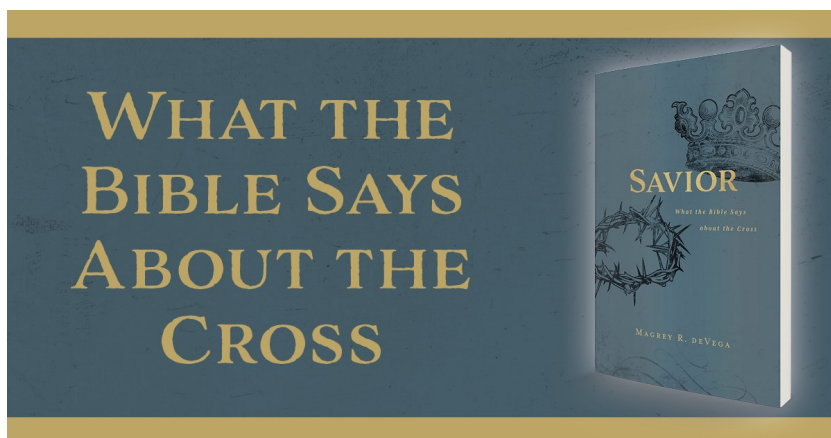
Lenten Discipleship Offerings

This Lent, Worthington UMC will offer two ways to deepen your relationship with Christ and connect with others.

Sunday Mornings at 9 am in the Browning Lounge (right next to Potter Chapel), we will be reading and discussing the book *Savior: What the Bible Says About the Cross* by Rev. Magrey DeVega. This study will explore what we mean when we say “Jesus saves,” and offer different models for understanding the meaning of the cross. Copies of the book are available in the office, with a recommended donation of \$16 to reimburse the cost of the book. The class will begin on February 26 and will end after April 2.

Wednesday afternoons at 1 pm in the Conference Room, Lou will be offering an additional book discussion. This series will start on Ash Wednesday (February 22) and will end on March 29.

To sign-up for either of these offerings, please sign up at this link ([Lent sign-up](#)), by visiting the church office, or by contacting the church and sharing which offerings you'd like to attend.



Serve at Sunday Worship

Whether you worship on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary, at home through the livestream, or during the week by watching online, each worship is enhanced by the sound system, the projection screen, and the multiple video cameras. This is available to you thanks to the dedicated people of the volunteer Projection Team. And they need your help. Please consider volunteering occasionally to be a critical part of the Sunday morning worship experience.

Interested in helping but not sure you would like it? Join them in the balcony any Sunday morning and watch them work. You would be welcomed and surprised at how your ability to use your computer or operate your TV translates to service to the church. Contact Craig Kramer at EMIM@WorthingtonUMC.com or craigwkramer@gmail.com to learn more.

Kroger Community Rewards Program

This is an easy way to help those in need. It costs you nothing, and the money received helps fund the UMW missions for women, youth and children. All you need to do is link your Kroger shopping card with our organization through their Community Rewards Program and then Kroger will send us a donation based on the total amount you spend in their stores.

To sign up visit Kroger's website: <https://www.kroger.com/signin?redirectUrl=/account/communityrewards>

Either create a new account or log into your account, select the community rewards page and follow the instructions to select WORTHINGTON UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (JQ294) as your organization.

You DO NOT need to renew your settings each year unless you switch where you want your donations to go.

Worship Schedule

9am—Early Worship in Potter Chapel

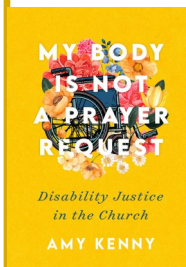
9am—Lectionary Discussion

10am—Worship in Sanctuary, livestreamed on YouTube channel

11-11:30am—Hospitality

Childcare will be provided for both services

Join the One-Hour Book Club



The Open Hearts Ministry Team recently read **My**

Body is Not a Prayer Request, Disability Justice in the Church by Amy Kenny. The book helped us look inward at WUMC as we considered ableism and disability justice. We want to share the experience and broaden awareness, so we are offering a book discussion available to everyone. It will be offered as a one-hour, one-session discussion in person on March 15 at 2pm or on March 21 at 7pm via Zoom. Gari Aber will moderate. The book will be available in the office for \$18. It's also available from the public library and on Kindle.

Let the church office know that you are interested (office@worthingtonumc.com or 614-885-5365).

Summer Camp Dates 2023

Save the dates now for our annual summer camps!

VBS – Monday, June 12 – Friday, June 16

Work Camp – Sunday, June 25 – Friday, June 30

ReachOut – Sunday, July 9 – Saturday, July 15

Explorations – Monday, July 31 – Thursday, Aug 3

Below is a brief summary of each of these:

Vacation Bible School – VBS is offered for children ages 3 years through 3rd grade. We offer dinner for your whole family each night, followed by programming broken into small groups and stations by age! Each night, children experience lessons surrounding our theme through stations including science, crafts, games, Bible story led by our Pastors Lou and Dom, and music led by our children’s choir directors Tim Byrer and Erin Angel. Dinner begins at 5:30pm, then programming follows from 6-8pm. We always need LOTS of helpers – so please consider volunteering now. In order for VBS to be successful, it takes approximately the same amount of volunteers as we have children participating! We cannot do it without a village of servant hearts coming together to offer a safe and fun experience for our youngest members.

Work Camp – Work Camp is our annual youth mission trip, offered to students entering their freshman year of high school in Fall of 2023, to those who have graduated Spring of 2023. We travel out-of-state with our high school students to serve a local community alongside adult leaders. Our location for this year is still to be determined, but if you are interested in attending, contact Ashley for more information.

ReachOut – ReachOut is a week-long camp offered through East Ohio Camps, taking place in Lakeside, Ohio. Our youth have been attending this camp for 20 years, and have often been involved in the youth leadership that plans the camp. The week of camp is planned by a small group of juniors and seniors in high school, and they help lead the week of events. A 2-day overnight mission experience offsite is also a major component of the week. It is a great way to meet youth from other churches and to spend a week at Lake Erie for fun, mission, and fellowship.

Explorations – Explorations is our camp for 4th-6th graders. This camp occurs during the day on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of the week. We meet at the church, pack a lunch, then travel offsite to a local organization to get volunteer experience, then travel back for pick-up at the church. We meet during the day as we serve directly at local organizations. It is a great way to gain volunteer experience and to grow with others at the church.

For any questions or for more information regarding these opportunities, please contact Ashley Gerard at ashley@worthingtonumc. Looking forward to Summer 2023!

Easter Egg Hunt & Potluck Meal

Sunday, March 26, 4pm

Come join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! All ages are welcome. We will meet on the front lawn at 4pm, with the hunt starting by 4:15! We will then enjoy some outdoor games, music, and finish with a potluck meal. Main course and drinks are provided, please bring a side dish or dessert to share.



This will be a rain-or-shine event, we will simply move our activities indoors if needed. You can RSVP via the QR code above or this link ([Easter Egg Hunt](#)), and if you have questions you can contact Ashley Gerard at ashley@worthingtonumc.com

Hope to see you there!

Sojourn: Virtual and In-Person Young Adult Community

Sojourn is a Bible study and small group for people in their 20s and 30s. Designed for both life-long Christians and those who are just learning about church, we strive to reflect on the Bible with creativity and support one another with care. We meet online the first Wednesday of each month and in-person the third Wednesday of each month, both at 7:00 pm. For more info and to receive the Zoom link, email Pastor Dom at dominic@worthingtonumc.com.

Lend Your Voice: Join Our Choirs!

Now is a great time to join the music ministries at WUMC. We're preparing for Easter and we especially need tenors and basses for our Chancel Choir, but we welcome all voices.

The Jubilee Ringers handbell choir is also seeking new ringers. Some music experience is helpful, but we can teach you everything you need to know.

The Chancel Choir meets on Wednesday evenings from 7-8pm in the Sanctuary.

The Jubilee Ringers meet on Sunday mornings from 11:30am-12:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Please reach out to Jarod (jarod.ogier@gmail.com) if you are interested in getting involved, or if you have questions. *Come sing and ring with us!*



March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10am—Riverside Sewing Guild 1pm—Immunization Clinic 1pm—Lenten Study 7pm—Sojourn 7pm—Scouts PLC meeting 7pm—Euchre 7pm—Chancel Choir	2 6pm—Children's Music Dinner 6pm—Liberty Bells 4H 6:30pm—Children's Choir 7pm—Children's Bells	3	4 9am—Boy Scouts Badge workshop
5 9am—Worship 9am—Lenten Study 10am—Worship 11:30am—Jubilee Ringers 12:30pm—CPR Course 6pm—Impact 6pm—Columbus Rings	6 10:30am—Prayer Group 7pm—Scouts	7 10am—Naomi Circle 10am—WIN 7pm—Scouts Adult Committee 8pm—Devos	8 10am—Riverside Sewing Guild Board 1pm—Lenten Study 7pm—Novel Women 7pm—Chancel Choir 7pm—Scouts Summer Camp Meeting 7:30pm—Taize Worship	9 1pm—Deborah Circle 6:30pm—Children's Choir 7pm—Children's Bells 7pm—Troop Adult 7pm—Northland Star Partners (Zoom)	10	11
12 9am—Worship 9am—Lenten Study 10am—Worship 11:15am—Open Hearts 11:30am—Jubilee Ringers 11:30am—Confirmation Class 1pm—Ohio Health Bereavement 6pm—Columbus Rings	13 10:30am—Prayer Group 7pm—Scouts 7pm—CPC Board	14 9:30am—Creative Hands Needlepoint 10am—Ruth Circle 10am—WIN 8pm—Devos	15 1pm—Mat Ministry 1pm—Lenten Study 7pm—Sojourn 7pm—Chancel Choir 7pm—Scouts Summer Camp Meeting	16 2pm—What's the Buzz? 6pm—Friendship Dinner 6pm—Liberty Bells 4H 6:30pm—Children's Choir 7pm—Children's Bells	17	18 ProMusica Mozart Concert
19 9 am—Worship 9am—Lenten Study 10 am—Worship 11:30am—Jubilee Ringers 6pm—Impact 6pm—Columbus Rings	20 <i>CPC Closed</i> 10am—Worthington Thrift Shop Board 10:30am—Prayer Group 7pm—Scouts	21 8pm—Devos	22 1pm—Lenten Study 7pm—Chancel Choir	23 6:30pm—Children's Choir 7pm—Northland Star Partners (Zoom) 7pm—Children's Bells	24 5pm—Singles Pizza & Cards	25
26 9am—Worship 9am—Lenten Study 10am—Worship 11:30am—Confirmation Class 11:30am—Jubilee Ringers 4pm—Easter Egg Hunt 6pm—Columbus Rings 6pm—Impact	27 10:30am—Prayer Group 7pm—Scouts	28 6pm—CPC Staff Meeting 7pm—Martha Circle 8pm—Devos	29 1pm—Lenten Study 7pm—Chancel Choir	30 6pm—Liberty Bells 4H 6:30pm—Children's Choir 7pm—Children's Bells	31	

The Messenger

Worthington United Methodist Church
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dated material:
Please deliver by March 1, 2023



March 2023

Immunization Clinic - March 1

Children's Music Dinner - March 2

Taize Worship Service - March 8

Friendship Community Dinner - March 16

Easter Egg Hunt & Potluck - March 26