

VOL.19

The Messenger

NOVEMBER 2026



Pastor Jennifer Casto

A Letter from Pastor Jennifer

What does it mean to be a grateful people? We often think of gratitude as an emotion, a feeling that arises when something good happens or when we receive an unexpected blessing. Yet gratitude, especially in the life of faith, is much more than a fleeting feeling. It is a way of seeing the world and a way of living in response to God's grace.

One writer puts it this way:

"Gratitude is more than emotion. It is also a disposition that can be chosen and cultivated, an outlook toward life that manifests itself in actions. Gratitude involves not just what we feel but what we do. 'Thanks' is both a noun and a verb."

Those words invite us to consider gratitude not as something that happens to us, but as something we practice. Like prayer, generosity, worship, and service, gratitude can be cultivated. It grows stronger when we intentionally pay attention to God's presence and blessing in our lives.

The psalmist writes, "*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and bless his name*" (Psalm 100:4). Throughout Scripture, gratitude is not presented as a response reserved for perfect circumstances. Rather, it is a posture of trust that recognizes God's faithfulness in every season. Gratitude helps us remember that our lives are held in hands greater than our own.

When we begin looking for signs of God's grace, we often discover them everywhere. We see them in the friend who checks in at just the right moment, in the volunteer who quietly serves behind the scenes, in the child who reminds us to laugh, in the meal shared around a table, and in the church family that walks alongside us through both joys and sorrows. We encounter God's gifts not only in extraordinary moments but in the ordinary rhythms of everyday life.

Gratitude also changes how we relate to others. A grateful heart is often a generous heart. When we recognize how much we have received, we become more willing to offer encouragement, kindness, forgiveness, and compassion. Gratitude moves us beyond simply counting blessings and inspires us to become a blessing for others.

As we conclude our stewardship season, we are reminded of this important truth: gratitude is ultimately expressed through action. Our commitments of time, talent, resources, prayer, and service are not simply obligations. They are responses to the abundant grace of God. They are ways of saying "thank you" with our lives.

But stewardship season is only one moment in the ongoing journey of discipleship. The invitation to live gratefully continues long after commitment cards have been turned in and campaigns have ended. Each new day presents another opportunity to notice God's goodness, to share God's love, and to participate in God's work in the world.

As we move deeper into this season of the year, may we cultivate grateful hearts. May we practice noticing God's blessings in the ordinary and extraordinary moments alike. And may our gratitude be visible not only in the words we speak, but in the lives we lead.

As Paul writes in Colossians 3:15, "*And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.*" May thankfulness shape our hearts, guide our actions, and draw us ever closer to the God from whom all blessings flow.

In gratitude,

Pastor Jennifer



Christian Taylor, Associate Pastor

Come as You are.
Grow in Grace.
Serve in Love.

Worship Times
9:00am & 10:00am
The 10:00am service is livestreamed on our YouTube Channel

Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
9:00am - 4:30pm

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Advent Study: Until the Dawn

Advent is a season of waiting, watching, and preparing our hearts for Christ's coming. It reminds us that even in life's darkest moments, God's light breaks through, bringing hope, peace, joy, and love.

This Advent, we invite you to join us for a special study based on *Until the Dawn*, an Advent devotional from *A Sanctified Art*. Together, we will explore what it means to hold on to hope in seasons of uncertainty, trust God's promises, and recognize how Christ's light continues to shine in our lives and our world. Through scripture, reflection, prayer, and meaningful conversation, we will make space to slow down, connect with one another, and prepare our hearts for Christmas.



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Whether Advent is a familiar tradition or something you're exploring for the first time, all are welcome! Come as you are, grow in grace, and serve in love, as we journey together toward the light of Christ.

Christian

3rd Quarter Financial Update

Operating Fund | September 30, 2026

Thank you for your faithful generosity and continued support of Worthington United Methodist Church. Your gifts sustain our worship, care for our congregation, and support ministries that serve our neighbors.

Operating Fund	Q1	Q2	Q3	YTD
Income	$217,776	$270,277	$207,560	**$695,613**
Expenses	$236,194	$214,159	$233,751	**$684,104**
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	**($18,418)**	**$56,118**	**($26,191)**	**$11,509**

As of September 30, our Operating Fund has a year-to-date surplus of $11,509. Your continued support will help us build on this positive position and keep our church and its ministries strong.

As we enter the final quarter of 2026, please review your giving and fulfill your pledge as you are able. Every gift helps sustain our shared ministry and allows us to plan for the year ahead. Thank you for helping us finish 2026 strong and prepare for ministry in 2027.

Year-End Stock and IRA Donations
If you plan to give through a stock transfer or directly from your IRA, please begin the process early, as these gifts can take several weeks to reach the church.
Before initiating a stock donation, contact Jennie Hayes for current instructions and any required forms. Please consult your tax or financial adviser with questions about how these giving options apply to your circumstances.

Looking Ahead: 2027 Commitments
As you prayerfully consider your commitment for 2027, reflect on the financial and spiritual gifts you can share with WUMC. Each person's resources and circumstances are different, and every commitment is a meaningful expression of faith and support for our shared ministry.

If you have not yet completed your commitment form, you may:
1. Complete the online form available in the Messenger.
2. Mail your completed form to Worthington United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 307, Worthington, OH 43085.
3. Visit the Welcome Center in the lobby to pick up and complete a form.

For questions about giving, your pledge, or year-end contributions, contact Jennie Hayes at finance@worthingtonumc.com or 614-885-5366.

Fall Family Fun!

2026 WUMC TRUNK OR TREAT

Thank you to all who came out for our annual Trunk-or-Treat event on Sunday, October 25th! We had a great evening enjoying the fall weather, spending time together in fellowship and seeing all of the creative trunks!

Trunk or Treat a HUGE success!



Ashley Gerard,
Director of Discipleship

The incredible amount of decorated trunks brought so much joy to our children, and we appreciate each of you who took the time to contribute a trunk as they each were so fun! A special thank you to Tim and Evan Beers for grilling and Jake Shafer for providing music!

This year's best trunk winners were Emily, Lauren, Julia and Mila Campbell.

See You Next Year!















United Women In Faith Updates

That's a Wrap!

A Successful Buckeye Sale in the Books!

The Worthington UWF buckeye candy sale was a great success, and it is due to many volunteer hours, and generous monetary donations. We want to thank all those who took orders, made the buckeyes, distributed the buckeyes, and those who donated cash toward the sale. The funds earned will go toward the local ministries supported by the Worthington United Women in Faith, such as Choices, the CPC Scholarship Fund, and the Worthington Food Pantry.







Congratulations

and sincerest thanks to everyone who participated, including those of you who purchased and ate these delicious buckeyes!! Your sacrifice did not go unnoticed. 🤭

Until Next Year!

Naomi Circle Makes Sandwiches for the Sandwich Ministry



On Tuesday, October 6, 2026 the Naomi Circle gathered for their monthly meeting, and then adjourned to the basement, where we put together a grand total of 142 sandwiches, which were delivered that day. Thanks to Steve and Deb Rohde for making this delivery, and for their faithful leadership of the Sandwich Ministry.



United Women In Faith Updates

United Women in Faith: World Thank Offering Sunday

United Women in Faith

In all things, give thanks

On Sunday, November 22, members of Worthington United Women in Faith (UWF) will participate in worship in recognition of World Thank Offering Sunday.

The World Thank Offering is a tradition of expressing gratitude for God's blessings through gifts that support women, children, and youth in the United States and around the world.

For more than 150 years, United Women in Faith has put faith into action through mission, service, and advocacy. Through the World Thank Offering, we continue that legacy, remembering that gifts of every size can make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.



Say Cheeseballs! (They're baaaaaaack!)

The Elizabeth Circle will begin taking cheeseball orders and payment on November 8, before and after worship services, as well as on November 15.

You may also order by phone starting November 8 by contacting Meg Tyler or Beth Strasser or using the QR code. The cheeseballs will be distributed on November 22, just in time for Thanksgiving!

They are a delicious appetizer and make perfect hostess gifts!

2026 Worthington United Women In Faith (UWF) November Schedule

November 3:	Naomi
November 4:	Riverside Sewing Group
November 5:	Leadership
November 9:	Elizabeth
November 10:	Ruth
November 12:	Deborah
November 17:	Martha
November 19:	What's the Buzz? Book Club
November 21:	Elizabeth Circle Cheeseball making
November 22:	World Thanks Sunday

UWF Annual Christmas Luncheon & Meeting



The United Women in Faith annual Christmas luncheon/meeting will be on December 6 at 11:00am. Tickets will go on sale on November 22nd through November 29th. Tickets are $15. There will be a baked potato bar (with gratitude for the help of Pastor Christian Taylor), spinach salad, and a variety of desserts. Terry White will entertain us with his saxophone and Reverend Dee Stickley Miner will be our guest speaker. All are welcome to attend.

Mission & Ministry - Our Time and Our Talents

Going Green with the WUMC Green Team



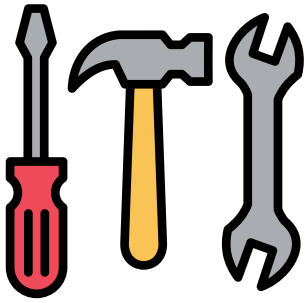


SWACO (Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio) LANDFILL TOUR

The tour of the SWACO landfill was informative and eye-opening. The tour began at the Education Center – with handouts and loads of statistics. This solid waste district is one of 52 in the state of Ohio, and encompasses all of Franklin County. Franklin County beats the national average of recycling with a 54% rate (national average is closer to 34%.) In spite of this, 80% of what reaches this landfill is recyclable material. SWACO works hard on many outreach programs to get more of this recyclable material into recycling programs and away from the landfill. Another interesting fact – all recycled materials go to facilities within Ohio – zero amounts are shipped out of the United States. Gas produced at the landfill is collected and sent to Columbia Gas. Methane is only burned off when the collection sites are temporarily at capacity. At the end of the program, we loaded a bus to tour the actual landfill site – and the view from the 160 foot top was spectacular – if just a little depressing to realize what was underneath us. The end-life of this landfill is projected to come within the next 40 years.



The Carpenter's Helping Hands Service Day - Saturday, November 14, 2026



Do you need a few extra hands around the house? The Carpenter's Helping Hands will be conducting its Fall Service Day on Saturday, November 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to help those needing assistance with yard work and simple household chores. Volunteers are also needed. Both volunteers and those in need of help should contact Eric Oldenburg at 614-433-0862 or ericoldenburg6@gmail.com. You can also pick up a form at the church office or stop by The Carpenter's Helping Hands table in the Ministry Hallway after the service on Sunday, November 8 to sign up. Please do not be shy if you need help. We look forward to serving you!



Mission & Ministry - Our Time and Our Talents

Homebound Ministry Fall Gift Bags

On October 8th, the Homebound Ministry was busy preparing lovely fall gift bags to deliver to those on our homebound list.



November Bags of Blessings: Everyday Grace



As an outcome of the *Evicted* book study in the Summer of 2024, we at WUMC are exploring ways to support our neighbors who are facing housing insecurity and need everyday items. Over 500 bags have been distributed into the community since the Ministry Fair in mid-September 2024. Bags are available for weekly pick up next to Dixon Lounge to be able to share and connect with our neighbors who need support. Bags will also be available for our neighbors at the Worthington Public Library.

We invite you to join in this important effort by donating the items listed. As always, feel free to purchase any or all of the items on the list. We also know that putting our money together to buy more in bulk if helpful as well, if you would like to contribute in this way you can donate through the offering by marking your gift for the Everyday Grace Bags. We will also be packing the Everyday Grace Bags on Saturday, December 5. We will share more information about this event in the E-Blast. To get involved in this ministry, please email Sally Falk at baxfal@aol.com.

Bags of Blessings Ministry
Needs List for Nov. 2026
Return bags by Sunday Nov. 29

Chapstick
Deodorant
Individual Hand Sanitizers and Lotions
Combs and Brushes
Toothbrushes and Toothpaste
Bar Soap
Shampoo
Individual Snacks and Nut Packs
Hats and Gloves
Socks and Hand Warmers

As always, feel free to purchase any or all of the items on the list.

Events & Outreach

Help Out in the Office

Our new office manager, Rebecca, will be out of the office for a brief medical procedure from November 9th - November 19th.

Once again, we could use some help with volunteers in the office, answering phones and greeting people. Volunteer for a few hours, Monday - Thursday 9:00-3:00pm. If you are interested, please contact Rebecca at office@worthingtonumc.com or sign up using the QR code.

Monthly Friendship Community Dinner!

This is more than a community dinner, it's an opportunity to gather around the table, share stories, and build relationships. Our next dinner is on

November 19th
6:30PM - 7:30PM

Together, we follow the model of the early church, who "broke bread together and ate their food with glad and generous hearts" (Acts 2:46).

Grief Support Group

Fourth Wednesday of Every Month
There will not be a meeting in November due to Thanksgiving week.



Because of You...

October Bags of Blessings

Your generosity is so appreciated! We made the call and you answered. In October, WUMC collected 37 bags of food for the Worthington Resource Pantry! We could not have made this wonderful donation without your help!!!





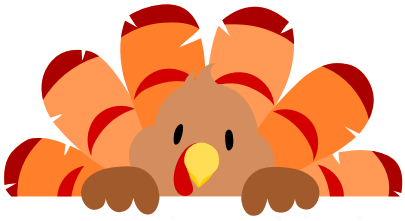








Events & Outreach



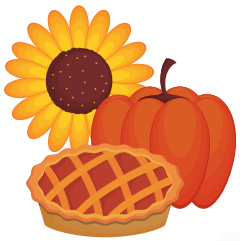
November 2026 Outreach Calendar

Join us as we "Make a Difference"!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Operation Sandwich*	2 Worthington Pantry 10 am – 2 pm	3	4 WorthingtonPantry 3 pm–7pm	5 Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 5 pm	6	7 WorthingtonPantry 10 am–noon **Helping Hands Service Day** **8 am – 1 pm**
8 Operation Sandwich*	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
15 Operation Sandwich*	16 Worthington Pantry 10 am – 2 pm	17	18 Worthington Pantry 3 pm–7 pm **Mat Ministry Plarn Party 1 pm – 4 pm***	19 Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 5 pm **FriendshipDinner 5 pm–8pm**	20	21 Worthington Pantry 10 am – noon
22 Operation Sandwich*	23 Worthington Pantry 10 am – 2 pm	24	25 Worthington Pantry 3 pm–7 pm	26 **Thanksgiving Holiday**	27	28 Worthington Pantry 10 am – noon
29 Operation Sandwich **Bags of Blessings Sort 11:00 am***	30 Worthington Pantry 10 am – 2 pm			**Ready For Reading** 30 Minutes any Monday - Thursday	**Every Day Grace Bags Collection***	***Family Friendly Ministries**



Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart



Church Calendar



NOVEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:00am Worship 10:00am Worship 11:30am Jubilee 11:30am Confirmation Rehearsal 6:00pm Impact 6:00pm Columbus Rings	2 10:15am Prayer Group 4:00pm CPC Teacher Conferences 6:00pm Voting Set Up 6:30pm Endowment Meeting	3 Voting Day CPC Closed 10:00am Naomi Circle	4 10:00am Riverside Sewing Guild 12:00pm Vaccination Clinic 4:00pm CPC Teacher Conferences 4:00pm Children's Bells 4:30pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Euchre 6:30pm CPC Budget Meeting 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsa 7:00pm Green Teaml 7:15pm Sojourn	5 10:00am UWF Leadership 4:00pm CPC Teacher Conferences 6:30pm Foundry Group 7:30pm WCO Rehearsal	6	7 12:30pm WCO Rehearsal 3:00pm King Avenue Musicians Rehearsal 5:00pm WCO Rehearsal
8 9:00am Worship 10:00am Worship 11:30am Jubilee 11:30am Foundry Group 3:00pm WCO Concert 6:00pm Impact 6:00pm Columbus Rings 6:30pm Charge Conference	9 10:15am Prayer Group 6:00pm Scouts 6:30pm Elizabeth Circle	10 10:00am Ruth Circle 10:00am Needlepoint 7:00pm Housing Discernment Meeting	11 4:00pm Children's Bells 4:30pm Children's Choir 5:30pm Children's Music Dinner 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Taize	12 1:00pm Deborah Circle	13	14 9:00am Carpenters Helping Hands Service Day
15 Confirmation Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:00am Worship 11:30am Sunday Serve 11:30am Jubilee Ringers 11:30am Foundry Group 6:00pm Columbus Rings	16 10:15am Prayer Group 6:00pm Scouts	17 11:00am Prayer Shawl 10:00am Martha Circle 5:30pm SPRC 6:30pm Finance Board Meeting 6:30pm Trustees Meeting 7:30pm Leadership Board	18 1:00pm Mat Ministry 4:00pm Children's Bells 4:30pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Euchre 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm Sojourn	19 2:00pm What's The Buzz? 6:30pm Friendship Community Dinner 7:00pm Troop Committee Mtg	20 Needlepoint Retreat	21 Needlepoint Retreat 8:30am Elizabeth Circle Cheeseball Making
22 Cheeseball Pick Up 9:00am Worship 10:00am Worship 11:30am Jubilee Ringers 6:00pm Impact 6:00pm Columbus Rings	23 10:15am Prayer Group 6:00pm Scouts	24	25 Grief Support Cancelled Children's Music Cancelled CPC Board Meeting Cancelled Chancel Choir Cancelled	26 Thanksgiving - Office Closed	27	28 10:00am Columbus Rings
29 9:00am Worship 10:00am Worship 11:30am Jubilee Ringers 6:00pm Columbus Rings	30 10:15am Prayer Group 6:00pm Scouts					



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