



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 & 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

Family and Friends in Christ,

Pastor and theologian Howard Thurman once wrote,

“It is ever a new thing, a glad surprise, the stirring of new life at the end of winter. One day there seems to be no sign of life and then almost overnight, swelling buds, delicate blooms, blades of grass, bugs, insects - an entire world of newness everywhere. It is the glad surprise at the end of winter... This is what Easter means. This is the resurrection! It is the announcement that life cannot ultimately be conquered by death, that there is no road that is at last swallowed up in an ultimate darkness, that there is strength added when the labors increase, that multiplied peace matches multiplied trials, that life is bottomed by the glad surprise.”



Our church calendar is wise to have us endure forty days of Lent - a season where we face the reality of our mortality, repent of the violence we inflict, and attempt disciplines that help us to live simply, generously, and prayerfully - before we experience the joy of Easter. If we didn’t face the hard and complicated things of life with Christ and our church community we would end up facing them alone. If we jumped from Christmas to Easter, from joy to joy, we wouldn't have the spiritual tools to face hardships with faith and hope.

But our church calendar is also wise to recognize that this is not the ultimate reality of life. There are forty days of Lent, yes, but there are fifty days of Easter. This year Easter lasts until May 19, when we celebrate the birth of the Church on Pentecost. Winter in Ohio is long, sometimes interminable, yet spring still comes. As the Psalmist wrote, “Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning (30:5).” Despite how final death may seem, it is but the beginning of new life. The trees are budding and birds are singing.

Easter is a season of attentiveness to what Howard Thurman calls the “glad surprise.” The glad surprise is finding forgiveness when you expect a confrontation. The glad surprise is a call from a friend you haven’t spoken with in a while. The glad surprise is stumbling upon a poem that is in tune with your spirit. The glad surprise is waking up and discovering you can now let an old grudge go. The glad surprise is found anywhere we realize that life is more beautiful and hopeful than we have any reason to expect. To put it biblically, Jesus said, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly (John 10:10b).” The glad surprise is found wherever there is life in abundance. We have done the hard work of facing the harsh realities of this life with honesty and courage. We do not leave these lessons behind. But, in these Great Fifty Days, we tune our heart to the Easter hope of the glad surprise; life has overcome death, grace has overcome sin, and all the unjust powers of this world couldn’t keep the tomb sealed. Thanks be to God!

In Christ, *Dom*

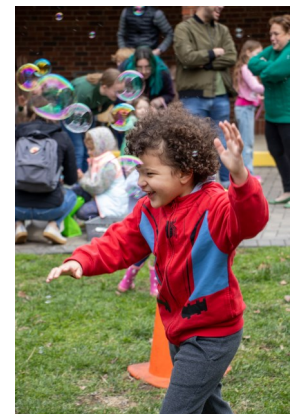
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bags of Blessings for Worthington Resource Pantry*	1 Worthington Pantry 10 am – 2 pm	2	3 Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 7 pm	4 Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 5 pm	5	6 Worthington Pantry 10 am – noon
7 Operation Sandwich*	8 Worthington Pantry 10 am – 2 pm	9	10 Worthington Pantry 3 pm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

Easter Egg Hunt recap

On Sunday, March 17, we had another great year of our annual Easter Egg Hunt! With many enthusiastic kids and their families, we had a great day of fun on the front lawn that was covered in Easter eggs to collect, fun outdoor games to enjoy after, and live music from one of our congregation members, Jake Shafer.

Afterwards, we had a packed house in the Fellowship Hall to end the evening with a meal together. Thank you to those who helped volunteer to cook and serve in the kitchen, those who helped hide eggs, and to everyone who joined in on the fun so we could create memories together!

More images can be found on our Facebook page!



April Bags of Blessings to benefit the Worthington Resource Pantry

The Worthington Resource Pantry, a non-profit community-based organization, opened in 2009. WRP offers a CHOICE food pantry, serving 8 zipcodes in northern Franklin and southern Delaware counties. Each eligible household can receive three days of food & personal items, twice each month. Their hours are Mondays, 10am-2pm; Wednesdays, 3-7pm; Thursdays, 3-5pm; and Saturdays 10am-12noon. In 2022, WRP provided over 846,000 meals and served 72,000 neighbors!

WRP also sponsors educational & health programs, and provides trained counselors to help families meet other basic needs. The resource center offers job and health care information and Ohio Benefit Bank referrals. See www.worthingtonresourcepantry.org

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. To get involved in this ministry, please email Aura Lee Whittaker at awhittaker03@columbus.rr.com.

Please return all items to the church by Sunday, April 28.

Canned fruit	Canned vegetables	Canned beans	Canned tuna
Peanut Butter	Cereal or Oatmeal	Spaghetti/boxed pasta (1 lb)	
Shampoo	Deodorant	Toothpaste	

The Carpenter's Helping Hands Service Day

Saturday, April 27, 9am-1pm

Do you need a few extra hands around the house?

The Carpenter's Helping Hands will be conducting its Spring Service Day on Saturday, April 27 from 9am to 1pm 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 stop by The Carpenter's Helping Hands table in the Ministry Hallway after the worship service on Sunday, April 21 to sign up.

Please do not be shy if you need help. We look forward to serving you!

Newborn Family Care Packages

We are looking for donations of items to support our church families as they welcome new babies into their families! We would love to have care packages that show our support as each family transitions into a new chapter of their lives with newborns in their household. Would you consider bringing in any of the following items to the church office?

Items we are looking for:

Diaper packages (size 1)

Wipes (single or multi-packs)

Sleepsack Swaddle Blankets (3-6 months)

\$25 Gift Cards to help cover a meal (Panera, Pizza Restaurants, etc)

Thank you for helping us offer this gift to our church families!

If you have any questions, please contact Ashley at ashley@worthingtonumc.com

Refresh. Explore. Commit. classes return April 14

Want to learn more about what Worthington UMC does in our community? Looking to brush up on your understanding of Communion? Ready to take the next step toward membership at Worthington UMC? We now offer a new way to grow in your faith through our “Refresh. Explore. Commit.” classes. This offering is for those looking to brush up on the fundamentals of our faith, who are curious about Christianity in general or Worthington UMC in particular, or who are exploring membership at WUMC.

Each month, we will offer the same four classes on rotation at **9am on Sundays in the Library**. Church members, guests, and potential new members are invited to attend.

Potential new members are asked to attend each of the four classes. You are welcome to go through the process at your own pace (meaning you don't have to attend all four classes in one month), and alternative arrangements can be made for those who are unable to make 9am on Sundays work.

The “Refresh. Explore. Connect.” series will return on Sunday, April 14 at 9am in the Library. Preparation and registration are not needed.

Here is our upcoming schedule:

- 4/14 **Week 2: Sacrament and Story**
- 4/21 **Week 3: The Church and our Membership Vows**
- 4/28 **Week 4: Growing as Disciples and Getting Involved**
- 5/5 **Week 1: Basics of Christian Doctrine**
- 5/12 **Week 2: Sacrament and Story**

The cycle will continue each Sunday in this same pattern.

Sunday Connexion Classes

Beginning May 5, anyone who is active in our congregation is welcome to reserve the Browning Lounge (by the chapel) or the Conference Room (between the sanctuary and chapel) for 1 to 8 weeks at a time to lead classes, conversations, or studies on a topic of their choosing. This pilot program will last until June and will be renewed if it is successful.

Perhaps there's a book that you've read that you'd love to talk about? A theme from scripture you'd like to get others' perspective on? A social problem to study and explore how to respond? Maybe you'd like to write a hymn or a poem and would like to workshop with other writers? Or you're a subject matter expert and you'd like to share how your faith shapes what you do?

If this excites you, here are your next steps:

1. Reserve the Sundays and the space you'd like to use on [this SignUp Genius](#) or by connecting with Pastor Dom.
2. Connect with Pastor Dom (dominic@worthingtonumc.com) to discuss your idea and what support you'd like.
3. Write up promotional materials to share in the E-Blast, Messenger, bulletin, and from the lectern. This is due by the 15th of the month before your class. Send this material to Dennis at dennis@worthingtonumc.com and Jessica at jessica@worthingtonumc.com.

Mission Trip recap

On February 25, Brad Arensberg, Frank Birinyi, Paul George, Russ Line, Eric Oldenburg, and Duane Snyder left for a six-day mission trip to Hinton Center in Hayesville, North Carolina. It was a ten-hour drive with stops for meals and gas. After unpacking our gear and tools, we had dinner in the dining hall.

On this trip we worked on a number of projects that helped out Hinton Center. On Monday, we worked on the lower floor of the chapel which is just outside of the dining room. The lower floor was a large room that was used by groups of kids for a variety of activities. Hinton Center will convert it into two apartments. We pulled up the carpet in the main room and removed the deck that ran half way around the building. All the materials were put in a dump truck to be hauled away. After that



work was completed, we took a trip up Bell Mountain for a panoramic view of Lake Chatuge and the surrounding area. The mountain was in Georgia, only a stones throw from the shore of the lake, which Hinton Center sits on. After the view, it was time for ice cream.



On Tuesday, we assembled 19 rocking chairs. These were heavy-duty chairs made out of thick plastic. We also did some cleaning of windows and siding on their new educational tool barn. A couple of men worked on building a fence out of pallets around a septic tank area to keep heavy-duty trucks from driving over it.

On Wednesday, two men went to the house of a woman that had a hard time seeing. They installed grab bars, replaced some electric plugs, worked on getting the toilet working properly, and refastened some molding around the walls. The woman had

pulled the molding loose as she used it to steady herself as she walked through the house. The rest of the group finished up the pallet fence. They also built 4 heavy-duty tables approximately 80"x20". These tables were built with an inset to hold heavy tops from labs at schools. The inset would allow the tops to be even with the frame of the table. It took four of us to lift one top.

The Hinton Center has a firewood ministry. Last year they gave out more than 700 truckloads of firewood. Many people use firewood for heating and cooking. On Thursday morning, we split firewood with power splitters. We worked in three-man teams. The first person lined up the piece of wood; the second person operated the splitter; and the third person threw the split pieces onto the pile of split wood. Most of the firewood was 20" high and some was up to 30" in diameter.



After lunch we took a tour of the John C. Campbell folk school. We saw people in classes making books, painting with a variety of tools similar to a putty knife, turning wood bowls, making baskets, weaving on a small loom, and working in the blacksmith shop. There were many other skills that were available. After that, it was time for ice cream.

Please consider joining us on our next Adult Mission Trip to The Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland (most likely August 25-30) or elsewhere. We usually do two 5-7 day trips each year. 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 and that the food will be great. Don't feel that you have to have a lot of skills in order to participate - we do the best we can with the skills that the members of the team have, and there is always something that everyone can do. More information will be available when we set the date and place for the next trip. For those who have trouble getting away, we usually plan a one-day mission trip in the Spring and Fall. Information will be provided as it becomes available. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Russ Line at 614-595-1028 or rjlineohio@aol.com

Creative Play Center Director Needed! Apply Today!

The Creative Play Center is located within the Worthington United Methodist Church, and is a highly respected center within the Columbus area. We are seeking a full-time, state qualified Executive Director.

The CPC Program is based on the Reggio Emilia Educational Model. The Director will implement and promote the Reggio Emilia approach throughout the program, ensuring that principles such as child-centered learning, project-based curriculum, and a strong emphasis on creativity and collaboration are embedded in all aspects of the preschool.

The Executive Director reports directly to the CPC Board and works closely with the Board in all aspects of the organizations management, fundraising, marketing, finances, programming, strategic planning, and organizational development.

We maintain a safe, healthy, nurturing, and engaging environment for children, where all social, emotional, and cognitive developmental needs are addressed. Opportunities are provided for children to take responsibility, make decisions, and learn through play with their peers and teachers.

The child center manager is responsible to plan, organize, implement, coordinate, and control the services of the childcare program, exercising independent judgment and decision-making authority as delegated, including budget, policies, procedure, and staff supervision. Under general supervision, the manager operates the childcare program to conform with institutional regulations and state day care licensing provisions.

Responsibilities include the overall management of the centers early childhood program and its operation, facilitating, planning, and coordinating of the children's education programs and activities.

For full list of responsibilities and more information, please see <https://worthingtonumc.com/were-hiring-cpc-director-needed/>

Please send resume and cover letter via email to Lou (lou@worthingtonumc.com); cc: Ann Wheat (awheat58@gmail.com). Thank you!



Quarterly Giving Statements

1st Quarter Giving Statements will be emailed out the first week of April. If we do not have an email address for you or you've requested paper statements, expect your mailed statement to arrive by April 8. Please note that donations received on Easter Sunday will actually be deposited and recorded in April. So they will NOT show on your 1st Quarter statement.

Please contact Mindy with any questions regarding your giving record.

Coffee & Conversation
sponsored by United Methodist Community Ministries
You're Invited!

Join us for regional gatherings as we discuss mission and outreach in the local church, new places where God is calling us, and ways in which we can strengthen and grow our ministries throughout the district. Come for great coffee, great conversation, and great connections!

*** All gatherings are Wednesday 10-11:30 AM ***

April 3 – Newark

Sage Yoga & Play Cafe, 25 W. Church St, Newark, OH 43055

April 10 – Pickerington

Sorso Coffee, 7849 Refugee Rd, Pickerington, OH 43147

April 17 – Marion

The Remnant Tea & Coffee, 187 W. Center St, Marion, OH 43302

April 24 – Dublin

Panera Bread, 6665 Perimeter Loop Rd, Dublin, OH 43017

May 1 – Columbus

Stone Village Church, 139 E. 2nd Ave, Columbus, OH 43201

Please contact Matt Yoder at myoder@wocumc.org if you would like to attend one of our regional gatherings so we can let our gracious hosts know approximately how many folks to expect!

Red Cross Blood Drive
April 25 from Noon to 6pm
Fellowship Hall

Give Blood. Give Hope. Give Life.

We are part of a community of giving, and we all know that a little can go a long way. Giving a unit of blood can help up to 3 people who are in need of this lifesaving gift.

There is no substitute for blood.

Think of those who are battling cancer, needing treatment for chronic blood diseases, needing surgery, having pregnancy complications, are newborns, are victims of accidents or trauma; all are depending on us to help save their lives.

We can make a difference in their lives. We can show kindness by giving kindness. Patients are not required to find donors to replace blood they have been given. Our blood supply is only sustained by volunteer donors. So, let's celebrate this life-giving act. Even if you are not eligible to donate, please Share our blood drive details with friends, family, neighbors, co-workers and other members of the community. Spread the word on how to Give Hope and Give Life.

To schedule an appointment, go to <http://www.redcrossblood.org> or call 800-733-2767



THE TIME TO
GIVE BLOOD
IS NOW

Save the Date for Children's Summer Camps!



Vacation Bible School: Monday-Friday, June 10-14

VBS is offered for kids 3 years 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 6pm-8pm.

Friday is a cook-out celebration for everyone on our front lawn from 5:30pm-6:30pm.

*Theme to be announced! The last few years we have coordinated our own VBS curriculum based off of well-loved Disney movies. We will be sharing that announcement over the next few weeks.

Explorations: Monday-Thursday, July 29-Aug 1

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 10am, pack a lunch, then travel to different organizations around Columbus to learn about how they support our community, then we help with various outreach projects depending on their need. Pick up is back at the church at 2pm each day. This is a great way to get kids involved with missions and to grow in fellowship together!



Registration for BOTH of these camps will be open soon!

We will also need volunteers for both camps!

If you have any questions, e-mail Ashley Gerard at ashley@worthingtonumc.com

Outreach Education Opportunity

Elizabeth Circle is sponsoring an Outreach Program led by Aura Whittaker on Monday, April 15 at 6:30pm in the Dixon Lounge.

This is open to anyone from WUMIF or WUMC who would like to learn more about our Outreach Ministries and Second Mile Giving Options!

The Messenger, April 2024 - Worthington UMC

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Church Office is Closed</i> 7pm—Scouts Court of Honor	2 10am—Naomi Circle 10am—Easter Study 10:30am—Prayer Group 7pm—Easter Study	3 10am—Riverside Sewing Guild 1pm—Immunization Clinic 7pm—Easter Study 7pm—Euchre 7pm—Chancel Choir 7pm—Sojourn (Zoom) 7:30—Scouts PLC	4 6pm—Children's Music Dinner 6:30pm—Children's Choir 7pm—Children's Bells	5	6 9am—UWIF
7 9 am—Worship 9am—Easter Study 10am—Worship 11:30am—Jubilee Ringers 6pm—Impact 6pm—Columbus Rings	8 10:30am—Prayer Group 7pm—Scouts	9 9am—Needlepoint 10am—Ruth Circle 10am—Easter Study 7pm—Easter Study	10 10am—Riverside Sewing Board 7pm—Novel Women 7pm—Chancel Choir 7pm—Easter Study 7:30pm—Taize Worship	11 1pm—Deborah Circle 6pm—Liberty Bells 4H 6:30pm—Children's Choir 7pm—Children's Bells	12	13 9am—BSA Merit Badge Workshop
14 9 am—Worship 9am—REC Classes 10am—Worship 11:30am—Jubilee Ringers 6pm—Columbus Rings 6pm—Impact	15 10:30am—Prayer Group 6:30pm—Elizabeth Circle 7pm—Scouts	16 11am—Prayer Shawl Ministry 3pm—Martha Circle	17 1pm—Mat Ministry 7pm—Sojourn 7pm—Euchre 7pm—Chancel Choir 7pm—CPC Board 7pm—Sojourn	18 6pm—Friendship Dinner 6:30pm—Children's Choir 7pm—Children's Bells	19	20
21 9 am—Worship 9am—REC Classes 10am—Worship 11:30am—Jubilee Ringers 6pm—Impact 6pm—Cols Rings	22 10:30am—Prayer Group 6pm—Endowment 7pm—Scouts	23 6pm—CPC Staff	24 6:30pm—CPC Evening Tour 7pm—Chancel Choir 7pm—BSA Adult Committee	25 12pm—Red Cross Blood Drive 6:30pm—Children's Choir 7pm—Children's Bells	26 9am—Needlepoint	27 9am—Needlepoint 9am—The Carpenter's Helping Hands Service Day
28 9 am—Worship 9am—REC Classes 10am—Worship 11:30am—Jubilee Ringers 6pm—Impact 6pm—Cols Rings	29 10:30am—Prayer Group 7pm—Scouts	30				

The Messenger

Worthington United Methodist Church

600 High Street, PO Box 307

Worthington, OH 43085-0307

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dated material:

Please deliver by April 1, 2024



April 2024

April 1 - Church Office is closed

April 3 - Immunization Clinic

April 4 - Children's Music Dinner

April 10 - Taize Worship

April 14 - R.E.C. classes return

April 18 - Friendship Community Dinner

April 25 - Red Cross Blood Drive

April 27 - The Carpenter's Helping Hands Service Day