

The Messenger

 **Worthington**
United Methodist Church



March 2024 Vol. 68 No. 3

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

Dear Worthington Church Family,

Our Lenten season began on the day of roses, chocolates, and Valentine cards! It, in fact, made some Valentine's Day traditions a bit awkward. Did we start our Lenten practices on the night we save for celebrating our beloved or could we start them the next day? It might not have been an easy choice for everyone.



The larger question is what do we hope to gain from our journey through Lent? The three main practices people focus on during Lent are prayer, fasting (abstaining from something to reduce distractions and focus more on God), and giving, or charity. Prayer during Lent focuses on our need for God's forgiveness. It is also about repenting or turning away from our sins and receiving God's mercy and love. It is about getting closer in our relationship with God. Fasting, or giving something up, is a very common practice during Lent. The idea is that giving up something that is a regular part of life, like eating dessert or using social media, can be a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice. The time of fasting/giving something up helps us focus on spending more time connecting with God. Giving money or doing something good for others is a way to respond to God's grace, generosity, and love for us. For example, some people spend time volunteering or donate money they would normally use to buy something, like their morning coffee.

Once you've chosen the practices you will observe, what is your Lenten goal? More than getting to Easter without your Pepsi and dreaming of the first cold one you can pop open, what is the lasting goal you hope to achieve? What result do you want? While the Lenten season is indeed preparation for Easter and the resurrection, it is important to ask if the practices we have chosen will help us arrive at our greater goal of transformation or renewal.

Perhaps it would be helpful to remember how Jesus spent his 40 days in the desert. There, Evil challenged Jesus to turn stones into bread, to bow to Satan for control, and to put God to the test. All these things were about control and power. Would Jesus make his own decisions and decide life his way? Or, would he surrender only to God's love and follow God every day, even to the cross? We all know that his experience in those 40 days would be the wrestling that kept him grounded throughout his ministry, giving him strength even on the cross.

Perhaps Jesus' goal was never to waver from his love of God and his comment to follow God always.

I would love to think that I could get to a goal of never wavering; but I'd be really happy just to get to more consistent. What is your goal?

Your servant in Christ, Lou

March 2024 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		Ready For Reading 30 Minutes any Monday - Thursday		¹ NC Mission Trip	² Worthington Pantry 10 am – noon
³ Operation Sandwich*	⁴ Worthington Pantry 10 am – 2 pm	⁵	⁶ Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 7 pm	⁷ Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 5 pm	⁸	⁹ Worthington Pantry 10 am – noon
¹⁰ Operation Sandwich*	¹¹ Worthington Pantry 10 am – 2 pm	¹²	¹³ Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 7 pm	¹⁴ Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 5 pm	¹⁵	¹⁶ Worthington Pantry 10 am – noon
¹⁷ Operation Sandwich*	¹⁸ Worthington Pantry 10 am – 2 pm	¹⁹	²⁰ Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 7 pm Mat Ministry Plarn Party 1 pm – 4 pm*	²¹ Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 5 pm Friendship Dinner 5 pm – 8 pm	²²	²³ Worthington Pantry 10 am – noon Gates Fourth UMC Breakfast 8:30 am - 10 am*
^{24/31} Operation Sandwich* Easter Sunday March 31 Bags of Blessings Sort 11:00 – 11:30 am*	²⁵ Worthington Pantry 10 am – 2 pm	²⁶	²⁷ Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 7 pm	²⁸ Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 5 pm	²⁹	³⁰ Worthington Pantry 10 am – noon

Bags of Blessings Outreach Program could use your help!

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, Gates Fourth UMC Community Breakfast, 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 worship 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.

March Bags of Blessings 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. They seek to help meet the unmet needs of children in our community through a variety of programs and resources that will help them reach their full potential.

Many children who qualify for free lunch or reduced-free lunch at their schools have little to eat at home and return to school after weekends, distracted by their hunger and unable to focus on learning.

Family Mentor Foundation's goal is to bridge the gap, to send these children home with a Buddy Box every Friday during the school year to alleviate their hunger. A Buddy Box is a box filled with kid-friendly, nutritious, nonperishable, individual-sized food items that are easy for children to eat or prepare on their own.

Each week they provide Buddy Boxes for 1,600 hungry children at schools in Worthington, Columbus, and South-Western City School Districts. Buddy Boxes are packed and filled by volunteers at Community and Corporate Gather & Give Events. 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 below. 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!

Buddy Box Items (Single/Individual servings only)

Veggie or Fruit Juice Boxes	Raisin Boxes	Applesauce Cups
Individ. Sunflower Kernel Bags	Individ. Goldfish Cracker Bags	Macaroni & Cheese Cups
Shelf-Stable Meat Sticks	Instant Oatmeal Packs	

Please return all items to the church by Sunday, March 31.

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

Loved Ones Serving in the Military

The church would like recognize and honor those who are serving in the military by updating the Military Service bulletin board in the church lobby. The last new name was added over 10 years ago! Some of the names on the board may no longer be serving in the military. Please help us keep current by sending us the name of your relative who is currently serving in the military. Please include their branch of service and their relationship to you. If you have a digital picture of your military relative in uniform, we can also add that to the bulletin board.

God & Country Concert

Join us March 23 at 7pm in the Sanctuary for the God and Country concert featuring the Asbury University SASF Band & Choir and the Brass Band of Columbus.

Admission is free.

For additional details as well as opportunities to assist in funding this annual event, contact The Salvation Army Columbus Area Services at 614-221-6561.

www.godandcountryconcert.org



CPC Art Gala

The CPC Art Gala will be hosted on Thursday, March 21 from 6-8 pm. This event is for immediate family of CPC students only, but the artwork will remain displayed through the month of April for additional family members and church members to enjoy.



JOIN THE WORTHINGTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHOIRS

Children

Bells
3rd – 6th
grade

Thursdays
7-7:30 pm

Choir
Ages 3-Grade 6

Thursdays
6:30-7 pm

Adult

Jubilee
Ringers

Sundays
11:30 am-
12:30 pm

Chancel Choir

Wednesdays
7-8 pm

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Looking for a welcoming musical community to sing, ring, meet new people, and grow your faith with others? Look no further!

Join the WUMC music programs.

We can't wait to meet you!

Click the link to inquire. <https://forms.glesu9JdUzEkx6Er7RG6>

Lent Faith Cultivation Opportunities

This Lent, we are happy to collaborate with “A Sanctified Art” in our preaching, liturgy, and small group discussions. Our theme will be *Wandering Heart*, and will explore Jesus’s ministry, death, and resurrection through the eyes of Peter and in connection with the beloved hymn “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing.” Using scripture, visual art, poetry, music, journaling, and scholarly commentary, we will find company in Peter as we reflect on our faith journeys and look toward the hope of Easter. Here is what the creators of *Wandering Heart* have to say:

“This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus’ most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter’s journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us.”

We hope that you will join us in worship and in a small group this Lent and Eastertide. You can sign up and see an updated list of available small group locations, times, and hosts at [this link](#) or using the QR code above. A digital version of the devotional is included alongside this *Messenger* and physical copies, including large print versions, are available in the office for a recommended \$5 donation.



RAIN OR SHINE

EASTER EGG HUNT + POTLUCK

4 - Gather!

4:10 - Egg Hunt

4:30 - Outdoor Games

5 - Dinner in South Fellowship Hall

RSVP



WUMC provides pulled pork and
mac & cheese, you bring a side/dessert!

March 17, 4pm

Lenten & Easter Worship Services

Palm/Passion Sunday

Sunday, March 24

9am, Potter Chapel

10am, Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 28, 7pm

Potter Chapel

Good Friday

Friday, March 29

12pm, Community Service meets on
the Village Green

7pm, Sanctuary

Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 31

9am, Potter Chapel

10am, Sanctuary

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



March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9 am—Worship 9am—Lenten Study 10am—Worship 11:30am—Jubilee Ringers 6pm—Columbus Rings 6pm—Impact	4 10:30am—Prayer Group 7pm—Scouts	5 10am—Lenten Study 10am—Naomi Circle 7pm—Lenten Study	6 10am—Riverside Sewing Guild 1pm—Immunization Clinic 7pm—Euchre 7pm—Chancel Choir 7pm—Sojourn (Zoom) 7pm—Lenten Study 7:30—Scouts PLC	7 6pm—Liberty Bells 4H 6pm—Children's Music Dinner 6:30pm—Children's Choir 7pm—Children's Bells	1	2 4:30pm—BSA Spaghetti Dinner
10 9 am—Worship 9am—Lenten Study 10am—Worship 11:30am—Jubilee Ringers 1pm—Ohio Health Bereavement Service 6pm—Impact 6pm—Columbus Rings	11 10:30am—Prayer Group 6:30pm—Elizabeth Circle 7pm—Scouts	12 9am—Needlepoint 10am—Lenten Study 10am—Ruth Circle 7pm—Lenten Study	13 10am—Riverside Sewing Board 7pm—Lenten Study 7pm—BSA Summer Camp Meeting 7pm—Novel Women 7pm—Chancel Choir 7:30pm—Taize Worship	14 1pm—Deborah Circle 6:30pm—Children's Choir 7pm—Children's Bells 7pm—Interfaith Iftar Dinner	15	16
17 9 am—Worship 9am—Lenten Study 10am—Worship 11:30am—Jubilee Ringers 4pm—Easter Egg Hunt 6pm—Columbus Rings 6pm—Impact	18 10am—ORD-UWIF Board 10:30am—Prayer Group 7pm—Scouts	19 <i>Ohio Primary Election Day</i> 10am—Lenten Study 3pm—Martha Circle 7pm—Lenten Study	20 1pm—Mat Ministry 7pm—Lenten Study 7pm—Sojourn 7pm—Chancel Choir	21 6pm—CPC Art Gala 6pm—Liberty Bells 4H 6pm—Friendship Dinner 6:30pm—Children's Choir 7pm—Children's Bells	22 5pm—Singles Pizza & Cards	23 7pm—God & Country Concert
24 <i>Palm/Passion Sunday</i> 9 am—Worship 9am—Lenten Study 10am—Worship 11am—Elizabeth Circle 11:30am—Jubilee Ringers 6pm—Impact 6pm—Cols Rings	25 7:30am—Holy Week Prayers 10:30am—Prayer Group 7pm—Scouts	26 7:30am—Holy Week Prayers 10am—Lenten Study 6:30pm—Finance 6:30pm—Trustees 7pm—Lenten Study 7:30pm—Leadership Board	27 7:30am—Holy Week Prayers 7pm—Lenten Study 7pm—Chancel Choir	28 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 7:30am—Holy Week Prayers 7pm—Maundy Thursday Worship	29 <i>Good Friday</i> 7:30am—Holy Week Prayers 12pm—Community Good Friday Service on the Village Green 7pm—Good Friday Worship	30 7:30am—Holy Week Prayers
31 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 9 am—Worship 10am—Worship						

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600 High Street, PO Box 307

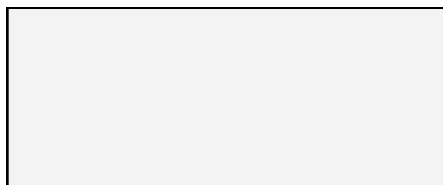
Worthington, OH 43085-0307

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dated material:

Please deliver by March 1, 2024



March 2024

March 2 - BSA Spaghetti Dinner

March 6 - Immunization Clinic

March 10 - Ohio Health Bereavement Service

March 13 - Taize Worship Service

March 14 - Interfaith Iftar Dinner

March 17 - Easter Egg Hunt

March 19 - Ohio Primary Election Day

March 21 - CPC Art Gala

March 24 - Palm/Passion Sunday

March 28 - Maundy Thursday

March 29 - Good Friday

March 31 - Easter Sunday