

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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 Submit your article by the  
 15th of the previous  
 month at  
 office@worthingtonumc.com

Dear Worthington Church Family,  
 When the Messenger reaches your inbox, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church will be in full swing in Charlotte, North Carolina. Every 4 years, when the General Conference meets, the Book of Discipline that guides our governance, policy, and doctrine is examined and legislation is submitted to revise its content. The General Conference this year carries greater anxiety due to this season of church disaffiliations and exclusionary language.



Conferences may be realigned, the Discipline may become regionalized with sensitivity to cultural differences and locations, and the discriminatory language in the Discipline will certainly be addressed.

Now I want you to take a couple of very deep breaths. These are the facts: Worthington UMC will be sitting on this corner of Worthington long after General Conference is over. Our commitment to deep missional engagement and vibrant worship will be as strong as ever. And we will continue to come through its doors to worship, pray, praise, repent, and renew.

Within the pages of this Messenger you will find a note about two opportunities to meet and discuss the outcomes of General Conference. Dom and I will give you the best review we possibly can, along with our best efforts to address any concerns you might have.

Please remember what a vital and vibrant community of faith you are—and will continue to be. We will always trust the living God to make a way. Perhaps we can borrow the lines from the *Hymn of Promise*:

In the bulb, there is a flower	From the past will come the future
In the seed, an apple tree	What it holds, a mystery
In cocoons, a hidden promise	Unrevealed until its season
Butterflies will soon be free	Something God alone can see
In the cold and snow of winter	
There's a spring that waits to be	In our end is our beginning
Unrevealed until its season	In our time, infinity
Something God alone can see	In our doubt, there is believing
	In our life, eternity
There's a song in every silence	In our death, a resurrection
Seeking word and melody	At the last, a victory
There's a dawn in every darkness	Unrevealed until its season
Bringing hope to you and me	Something God alone can see

Source: Musixmatch  
 Songwriters: Natalie Sleeth

Promise is the "given" in our Church's name.  
 Blessings, dear ones,  
*Pastor Lou*

# May 2024 Outreach Calendar

Join us as we “Make a Difference”!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Bags of Blessings</b> for Gates Fourth UMC			1 Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 7 pm	2 Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 5 pm	3	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  <b>Mat Ministry Plarn Party 1 pm – 4 pm*</b>	16 Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 5 pm  <b>Friendship Dinner 5 pm – 8 pm</b>	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  <b>Gates Fourth UMC Breakfast 8:30-10*</b>
26 Operation Sandwich*  <b>Bags of Blessings Sort 11:00 – 11:30 am*</b>	27 <b>Memorial Day Holiday</b>	28	29 Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 7 pm	30 Worthington Pantry 3 pm – 5 pm	31 <b>Ready For Reading Last Day May 10</b>  30 Minutes any Monday - Friday	<b>*Family Friendly Ministries</b>

## Summer Communion Walks Highbanks Metro Park Saturday, May 18 at 9am

This summer, celebrate communion outside at different locations around northern Columbus. On Saturday, May 18, 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 9am, walk together or individually to the platform, and then take communion together. Here's a Google Map link for where we'll gather at 9am ([link](#)). 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 ([link](#)). This will be a moderately challenging hike. Please contact Pastor Dom ([dominic@worthingtonumc.com](mailto:dominic@worthingtonumc.com)) for more information or if you'd like to help set the communion table for the May hike.

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

**Sunday, June 23 at 3pm - Columbus Park of Roses:** Low difficulty walk. Wheelchair and stroller accessible.

**Tuesday, July 16 at 7pm - Antrim Lake Park:** Low difficulty walk.

**Saturday, August 17 at 9am - Sharon Woods Park:** Moderate difficulty walk.

Wheelchair and stroller accessible with assistance.

Our fall Communion Walk will take place on **Saturday, October 19 at 9am** at Highbanks Metro Park.

## May Bags of Blessings to benefit the Gates Fourth UMC Breakfast Ministry

Gates Fourth United Methodist Church is a medium-sized church in Columbus which welcomes, honors, and affirms persons of every race, gender, age, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnicity, family status, economic status, physical, mental or emotional ability into full and equal participation, membership, and lay leadership in the community of faith. Their building is used to host a variety of community events and gatherings, including AA, Al-Anon and NA, as well as a free breakfast to the entire community on the 4th and 5th Saturdays of every month.

Some breakfast guests are unhoused, some are veterans, and some are well off. Each guest is welcomed and provided a name tag so that others might begin to learn their names and more about them. Volunteers visit at the table, giving guests a chance to share their story or how the week is going. The meal is typically toast, eggs, sausage, sausage gravy, hash browns, pancakes, fruit, protein bars, juice, milk, and coffee. All guests are welcome to eat their fill, using glass plates and real silverware, and to go back to the serving table as much as they require.

We invite you to join us in supporting this ministry by donating the items listed here:

Cereal (small boxes)	Peanuts/trail mix	Tuna (with pop tabs)
Ensure (or similar drinks)	Laundry detergent	Dishwashing detergent
Kleenex (small packs)	Lip balm	Toothpaste & toothbrushes
Bath soap	Shampoo	Socks

For more information, please contact the church office at 614-885-5365 or [office@worthingtonumc.com](mailto:office@worthingtonumc.com).

**Please donate all items by Sunday, May 26.**



Selby Park  
May 19, 4pm

This all-church event will take place on **Sunday, May 19** at 4pm in neighboring Selby Park. We will have food, games, and outdoor space to gather in fellowship. There is a wonderful playground in addition to open green space. We will gather at the small shelter house with a few indoor tables. If you'd like to bring lawn chairs, blankets, and extra outdoor games to share that would be great!

The church will provide hot dogs and drinks. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Use the QR code to RSVP.



## 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](mailto:ashley@worthingtonumc.com)

**General Conference:  
What Happened and What it Means**

At 11:15am on Sundays, May 19 and May 26 in the Potter Chapel your pastors will offer a recap of what happened at General Conference and what it means for our denomination and congregation. General Conference, which happens every four years and is taking place April 23-May 4 in Charlotte, North Carolina, is the only body that can speak on behalf of and make rules for the United Methodist Church.

We anticipate that this General Conference will make consequential decisions around how the United Methodist Church is structured and how we exist as an international, multi-cultural denomination in relationship with one another. More information and updates on General Conference [can be found here](https://resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020) (resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020).

**Worthington Chamber Orchestra presents  
*Stories from Worlds Old and New***

*Stories from Worlds Old and New* is the final program in the Woven Stories series. It illustrates the influence of American and Central/Eastern European folk music traditions and culture on classical music and features the music of groundbreaking Serbian-born women composers from the early 20th and early 21st centuries. This program's juxtaposition of the old and new illustrates how folk music of different cultures can inspire and offer a fresh perspective on traditional classical music forms and color modern works. The music of Czech composers Bedrich Smetana and Antonín Dvorják, as well as Serbian-born composers Ljubica Marić and Vera Stanojević, highlight how historical eras, geographical locations, and a composer's life experiences intertwine to craft sonic narratives that deeply resonate with listeners. Tickets available at the door or online at [worthingtonchamberorchestra.com](https://worthingtonchamberorchestra.com). Discounts available for church members.

**Refresh. Explore. Commit. classes continue**

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. Preparation and registration are not needed.

Here is our upcoming schedule:

- 5/5 **Week 1: Basics of Christian Doctrine**
- 5/12 **Week 2: Sacrament and Story**
- 5/19 **Week 3: The Church and our Membership Vows**
- 5/26 **Week 4: Growing as Disciples and Getting Involved**

*The cycle will continue each Sunday in this same pattern.*

## Mat Ministry celebrates 13 years of making plarn sleeping mats

Beginning in April 2011, the Mat Ministry has been making sleeping mats, measuring 3'x6', from light-weight plastic shopping bags like we get at Kroger, Target, etc. The bags are made into "plarn" which means plastic yarn, and then used to single crochet a sleeping mat, which offers a cushioned, moisture-resistant, and warm alternative to sleeping on the ground or a bench. Pillows are also being made out of plarn and stuffed with the bag scraps. Our sleeping mats are donated to The Open Shelter in downtown Columbus. As of April 1, 2024, The Open Shelter assisted 1,162 homeless and marginally-housed persons; 394 of these persons were "living on the streets".



The Open Shelter offers various services, which include sack lunches and "to go" meals, outdoor items assistance, clothing assistance, and hygiene kits. It offers a "home base" when a person has no home.

Our Mat Ministry group meets the third Wednesday of every month in the Dixon Lounge from 1-4pm for our "plarn parties". You may come and go as you wish. We work on processing the donated plastic bags. No skills are required, just a desire to help those less fortunate and help provide them a more comfortable place to rest. This ministry is very family-friendly. All that we do at our plarn parties can also be done in the comfort of your own home. We welcome friends and neighbors to join us in this outreach ministry.

The Sunday before our 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday plarn party, there is a Mat Ministry table set up in the Ministry hallway. Someone is there to show you examples of what we do and answer your questions. A donation box for your plastic bags is always available by the door in the ministry hallway. A few helpful things to remember when donating your bags: only new or gently used plastic bags, please, with no trash inside; please flatten each bag as much as possible (loosely crumpled will still be ok); heavier plastic bags cannot be used in making a mat (however, they would be a welcomed donation to the Worthington Resource Center- their donation box is located in the Ministry hallway).

For more information, please contact Sue Heilman (614-519-1134) or Mary King (614-915-5016).

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:dennis@worthingtonumc.com) and Jessica at [jessica@worthingtonumc.com](mailto:jessica@worthingtonumc.com).



Vacation Bible School: June 10-14  
Registration is open!

VBS  
2024  
June 10-14

"Created + Called!"

Join us as we learn the importance of  
loving God's Creation - our Earth, our  
animals, and each other!



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.

Register online now: <https://worthingtonumc.com/summer-camps-2024/>

Explorations Day Camp  
July 29-August 1

Explorations is a day-camp focused on serving our local community! This is offered to incoming 4<sup>th</sup> graders-incoming 7<sup>th</sup> 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!

**SEMINARY HILL FARM**  
ON THE CAMPUS OF MTSO

**WARM** WESTERVILLE AREA RESOURCE MINISTRY  
FEEDING | WORKING | TRANSFORMING

**SUNRISE SANCTUARY**  
MARIETTA, OH

Who?: If you are entering 4th grade through entering 7th grade in fall of '24

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!

Join Us!  
*Explorations Day Camp*  
July 29th - Aug 1st

Register online now: <https://worthingtonumc.com/summer-camps-2024/>

# May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 10am—Riverside Sewing Guild 1pm—Immunization Clinic 7pm—Euchre 7pm—Chancel Choir 7pm—Sojourn (Zoom) 7:30—Scouts PLC	<b>2</b> 6:30pm—Children's Choir 7pm—Children's Bells	<b>3</b> 3pm—BSA flower pickup	<b>4</b> 2pm—Mixed Minglers
<b>5</b> 9 am—Worship 9am—REC Class 10am—Worship 5pm—WCO concert 6pm—Impact	<b>6</b> 10:30am—Prayer Group 6pm—Endowment Committee 7pm—Scouts	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7pm—Novel Women 7pm—Chancel Choir 7:30pm—Taize Worship	<b>9</b> 1pm—Deborah Circle 6pm—Children's Music celebration	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <i>Mother's Day</i> 9 am—Worship 9am—REC Class 10am—Worship	<b>13</b> 10am—UM Clergy Session 10:30am—Prayer Group 6:30pm—Elizabeth Circle 7pm—Scouts	<b>14</b> 9am—Needlepoint 10am—Ruth Circle	<b>15</b> 1pm—Mat Ministry 7pm—Sojourn 7pm—Euchre 7pm—Chancel Choir	<b>16</b> 9am—Blood Drive 6:30pm—Friendship Dinner	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9am—Communion Walk at Highbanks Metro Park
<b>19</b> 9 am—Worship 9am—REC 10am—Worship 11:15am—Gen Conf Recap 2pm—Illuminati Concert 4pm—Spring Fling	<b>20</b> 10:30am—Prayer Group 7pm—Scouts	<b>21</b> 11am—Prayer Shawl Ministry 3pm—Martha Circle 6pm—CPC Staff	<b>22</b> 7pm—Chancel Choir	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> CPC Last Day of School 6pm—TWHS Baccalaureate	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9 am—Worship 9am—REC Class 10am—Worship 11:15am—Gen Conf Recap	<b>27</b> <i>Memorial Day</i> <i>Office is Closed</i>	<b>28</b> CPC Summer Session Begins 6:30pm—Finance Committee 6:30pm—Trustees 7:30pm—Leadership Board	<b>29</b> 3pm—UMC Laity Meetings 7pm—BSA Adult Committee	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

*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 May 1, 2024



## May 2024

May 2 - Mixed Minglers

May 5 - Worthington Chamber Orchestra Concert

May 8 - Taize Worship Service

May 9 - Children's Music Celebration

May 12 - Mother's Day

May 16 - Blood Drive

May 16 - Friendship Community Dinner

May 18 - Communion Walk at Highbanks Metro Park

May 19 - Illuminati Concert

May 19 - Spring Fling

May 27 - Memorial Day