



**Worthington**  
United Methodist Church

# The Messenger

September 2023

Vol. 67

No. 9

Christ-Centered.  
Engaged in Community.  
Sharing God's Love.

## 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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Submit your article at  
office@worthingtonumc.com

Dear Worthington Church Family,

What do you think of when you hear the word "investment?" Do you think stocks and bonds, retirement accounts, and savings? It's not unlikely that you have consulted with a financial planner or an financial broker. After all, it is the money you've worked hard to earn so that when the opportunity to travel or retire comes, then you have the resources available.



That's one kind of investment. We also invest in our children's education and in community resources. But I do have a confession. When the property taxes come due, I don't often count the growing number of children needing access to quality schools or realize that when the snow falls, someone had to think about getting the snow plows ready and order the salt. It is not hard to groan over the bill without thinking about how much we depend on those community resources working like clockwork. When it's not clockwork, we have plenty to say.

Today, I would invite you to think about another kind of investing. When we give to the church, we are engaged in missions, education and youth ministries, learning opportunities for adults, the worship experience that supports the congregations spiritual growth and devotional needs. Behind the scenes, there is the staff that makes it happen, the "chillers" and mechanicals that keep the church running, insurance coverage that protects the property, and the electric bills.

Last week, during the extremely hot weather, one of the chillers that cools the Creative Play Center broke down. We've had to have the motor rebuilt, at no small cost. But I would invite you to see those beautiful children, from babies to 4-year-olds, and their working parents who had to make last-minute plans for childcare because the building was too hot to safely care for the children.

Our investments in this church not only serve our worship community, they serve the families involved in this community. We feed the hungry. We provide a place for blood drives and immunization clinics, community meals for the low income families, and for the enrichment of the arts through the musical groups that use our sanctuary. We are caring for the person next to us in the pew, the neighbor across the street, services for families who have lost a loved one...It's the whole deal. Much of it is behind the scenes, but your investment makes the whole ministry possible.

Never underestimate the person-investment-value your giving to the church provides. Thank you for supporting your church. Thank you for investing in this church family and in the community in which we thrive. You are the gift, and your personal investment in this church makes Worthington UMC a beacon in this community.

Blessings and thanksgiving,  
Lou

## September 2023 Outreach Calendar

Join us as we "Make a Difference"!

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

### Join us for The CROP Walk

The CROP Walk will be Sunday, October 1. The Westerville/Worthington walk has been absorbed by the Columbus walk.

The Columbus walk will be at the Scioto Audubon Metro Park, Maier Place Pavilion. Registration will begin at 1pm and the walk will begin at 2pm. There will be three separate distances to choose from : 3/4 mile, 2 miles, and 3.5 miles. You can register online to join the Worthington UMC team: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/teams> Paper forms will also be available for registration. Contact info - Amy Wingerter, winger896@gmail.com



### 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)

### September Bags of Blessings to benefit the Worthington Resource Pantry

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

WRP sponsors educational & health programs and provides trained counselors to help families meet other basic needs. The resource center offers job & health care information and Ohio Benefit Bank referrals. See [www.worthingtonresourcepantry.org](http://www.worthingtonresourcepantry.org)

We invite you to join in this important effort by donating the items listed below. As always, feel free to donate 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](mailto:awhittaker03@columbus.rr.com). Please return all items to the church by Sunday, Sept 24.

Canned fruit	Canned Vegetables	Canned ravioli or soups	
Bagged rice (1 lb)	Spaghetti or boxed pasta (1 lb)	Peanut Butter	
Oatmeal	Body Wash	Deodorant	Toothpaste

### Save the Date Rally Day: Sunday, September 10

Join us as we celebrate what God is doing in our Church and prepare to reinvigorate our work together!

Please join us for a combined 10am worship service, a meal, and family fun for all ages!

Wrap sandwiches and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish or your favorite dessert to share. Be sure to label your dish or dessert, especially if it contains common food allergens (milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, soybeans). The Golden Spoon will be awarded to the favorite dish! Please also let the church office know if you have any dietary restrictions (vegetarian wrap sandwiches will be available).



Mark your calendars and come prepared to worship, to share a meal, to learn about and connect with our many ministry offerings, and to work with your church family on a mission project.

### **Sojourn: A Young Adult Ministry**

Sojourn is back beginning September 20! This ministry for people in their 20s and 30s combines thoughtful scripture study with heartfelt care for one another.

Sojourn will gather on Zoom the first Wednesday of each month and in-person on the third Wednesday of each month. Our conversations will last from 7-8:30 pm. To learn more & receive the Zoom link, email Pastor Dom at [dominic@worthingtonumc.com](mailto:dominic@worthingtonumc.com)

### **High School Scholarships awarded to three seniors at WUMC**

Each year, high school seniors who are church members that will be attending college in the fall are able to apply for a scholarship on behalf of our church. These students must be active participants in our church programming and community service outside of the church. This year's recipients were Bug Petros, Emmett Foley, and Kim Bonk. These three were wonderful leaders in our church; actively participating in youth group and church camps, and always helpful in supporting our younger church members to be active in those activities as well – thank you for your continued dedication to Worthington UMC! An additional special thank you to the endowment funds that allow for us to give graduated senior members a scholarship: The Roger Ball, Carroll Beck, Carl F. Brey, William Schafer, Ken McBrayer, William T and Kristine J. McComis, Crandall Shaffer and J. Robert Tarbutton funds, and the newly established Violette and Thomas Croley Scholarship for the third year. This year's recipient of the Violette and Thomas Croley Scholarship is Kimberly Bonk.



Photos show the three scholarship recipients speaking at a church service. From left to right: Kim Bonk, Bug Petros, Emmett Foley.

### **Volunteers Needed for Worthington School's Ready For Reading Program**

Ready For Reading is an intervention program in Worthington Schools that focuses on building reading skills for their most at-risk kindergarteners with the assistance of community volunteers. Volunteers will work on reading skills with 1 or 2 kindergarten students per week. Training and all materials will be provided for volunteers. Volunteers can select any Worthington Elementary School. There are flexible volunteer times and days to choose from. A large pool of volunteers at each school allows volunteers to find substitutes as needed. All volunteers are required to have a background check completed by Worthington Schools. Contact Aura Whittaker at 614-433-0862 or [awhittaker03@columbus.rr.com](mailto:awhittaker03@columbus.rr.com) if you can give 30 minutes per week to help enhance the reading performance of a young Worthington student.



## Explorations 2023 reaches out to the community

Our last camp of the summer wrapped up in August, and we had quite the crew who helped close out camp season strong! Our Explorations camp was offered for our 4th-6th graders for a week of community outreach. The group visited different organizations around Columbus to learn how they serve their community, and volunteered on a variety of projects! Our first day, we visited Seminary Hill Farm on MTSO's campus and learned about the organic produce they grow – we harvested potatoes, planted herbs and pulled weeds. On our second day, we visited Sunrise Sanctuary, a rescue animal farm where we were able to clean supplies and help with grooming (horses, cows, pigs, and goats - oh my!). Our next day, we stayed at the church and worked on 3 outreach programs that are very dear to our church's heart – the Riverside Sewing Guild (making stuffed animals for patients at Riverside Hospital), learned to “plarn” for our Mat Ministry, and made sandwiches to be given to Operation Sandwich. Lastly, we spent a day at Westerville Area Resource Ministry to learn about their food pantry and sort through donations! Between all of the locations served, our group learned much about how to care for others! It was a great week of service, learning and fun!



### **United Women in Faith's Fundraiser – Annual Sale & Silent Auction**

Dates: Sundays Oct 1, 8, 15

Time: 9:30am -12:00pm

Location: Dixon Lounge- WUMC

Our annual sale & silent auction benefits women and children locally and globally. These benefits help provide lunches for children, medical care for the refugee camps, and food and resources for our local communities.

Start your Christmas shopping early! This year's sale is dedicated to the loving memory of our faithful volunteers, Gene Riblet and Sharon Chadwell.

### **CRIS needs your help**

Columbus Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS) is in need of Welcome Kit items (<https://www.crisohio.org/donation-items>) and select furniture items to prepare homes for new arrivals. Please email Anita at [akavuna@cris-ohio.org](mailto:akavuna@cris-ohio.org) if you have items to donate.

### **With back to school comes the return of children's music at WUMC!**

There are two groups that your children can participate in to make music this year. Please feel free to participate in both if you are able. We are open to EVERYONE, so bring a friend too!

**Children's Choir (PreK-6th Grade)-** This choir is perfect for anyone in elementary school who loves to sing! We rehearse weekly on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7pm. We sing a variety of music and perform monthly at church services!

**Children's Bells (3rd-6th Grade)-** This group works hard to build foundations in music literacy and proper handbell technique. We rehearse weekly on Thursday evenings from 7-7:30pm. We perform a few times throughout the year, particularly at Christmas!

*\*\*Please note- ages are suggested for both groups but not definite! If you think your child could be a good fit for either group but they don't fall within the age range, just reach out!*

We will begin rehearsals this year on Thursday, September 14. We will continue our monthly dinners for families on the first Thursday of every month. All dinners will start at 6pm with rehearsals to follow!

### **Saving Grace Financial Wellness Courses**

*Saving Grace: A Guide to Financial Well-Being* helps people of faith create healthy relationships with money and bring their financial lives in line with their faith journeys. Weaving Wesleyan theology together with sound financial advice, *Saving Grace* offers concrete guidance on saving, earning, giving, spending, debt, and how to build a sustainable financial plan.

Worthington UMC will be offering classes using the *Saving Grace* curriculum beginning September 18, held at the church on Mondays at 7pm! Participant workbooks are available in the office with a recommended donation of \$16 to offset the cost. You are welcome to join the classes or work through the workbook independently. More information on when classes will be held will be published in the E-Blast and in the Bulletin. Email Dom at [dominic@worthingtonumc.com](mailto:dominic@worthingtonumc.com) or call 614-885-5365 with questions.

# September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3</b> 9am—Worship 10am—Worship	<b>4</b> <i>Labor Day Office is Closed</i>	<b>5</b> 10am—Naomi Circle 10:30am—WIN Conversation 2pm—Thurman book study	<b>6</b> 10am—Riverside Sewing Guild 1pm—Immunization Clinic 7pm—Euchre 7pm—Chancel Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <i>RALLY DAY</i> 10am—Worship 11am—Rally Day 6pm—Impact	<b>11</b> 10:30am—Prayer Group 6:30pm—Elizabeth Circle 7pm—Scouts	<b>12</b> 9:30am—Creative Hands Needlepoint 10:30am—Ruth Circle	<b>13</b> 10am—Riverside Sewing Guild 7pm—CPC Board 7pm—Chancel Choir 7:30pm—Taize Worship	<b>14</b> 1pm—Deborah Circle 6pm—Children's Music Dinner 6pm—WUWIF Leadership Board 6:30pm—Children's Choir 7pm—Children's Bells	<b>15</b> 10am—Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9 am—Worship 10 am—Worship 6pm—Impact 6pm—Columbus Rings	<b>18</b> 10am—Worthington Thrift Shop Board 10:30am—Prayer Group 7pm—Saving Grace	<b>19</b> 10:30am—WIN Conversation	<b>20</b> 1pm—Mat Ministry 7pm—Euchre 7pm—Chancel Choir	<b>21</b> 2pm—What's the Buzz 6pm—Friendship Dinner 6:30pm—Children's Choir 7pm—Children's Bells 7pm—Kimayo concert	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <i>Return items for Bags of Blessings</i> 9am—Worship 10am—Worship 11am—Elizabeth Circle 4pm—T&T Planning 6pm—Impact 6pm—Columbus Rings	<b>25</b> 10:30am—Prayer Group 7pm—Saving Grace	<b>26</b> 6:30pm—Trustees 6:30pm—Finance 7pm—Martha Circle 7:30pm— Leadership Board	<b>27</b> 7pm—Chancel Choir	<b>28</b> 6:30—Children's Choir 7pm—Children's Bells 7pm—Hannah Circle	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <i>Worthington Market Day</i>

*The Messenger*

Worthington United Methodist Church

600 High Street, PO Box 307

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Volume 67, No. 9

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Dated material:

Please deliver by September 1, 2023



## **September 2023**

**Labor Day (Office is closed) - September 4**

**Rally Day - September 10**

**Children's Music Programs return - September 14**

***Saving Grace* class begins - September 18**

**Friendship Community Dinner - September 21**

**Return items for Bags of Blessings - September 24**

**Worthington Market Day - September 30**