

Church Office Volunteer: Ellie J.

10:00 Ushers: Bob & Cheryl H., Sherry M., Lesly W.

10:00 Greeters: Harriet A., Larry & Linda C., Shirley D., Paul G., Carolyn H., Jeannette & Vern M., Sheri S., Cathy T., Dawn & John V.

Sound System: Steve G.

CD Delivery: Mysa M.

Van Driver: Bill G.

Tuesday Hospital Visitor: Mysa M.

As a part of the new district prayer initiative we are asking our churches to pray for others in our district each week:

Prayer Requests for the Week of December 31:
West Liberty UMC – Rev. Lee Ortman & Rev. Glenn Gault
Church of the Master – Rev. Anna Guillozet & Rev. Jennifer Casey
Warrensburg UMC – Rev. Kathy Hobson

Church Calendar

Please send calendar items to jessica@worthingtonumc.com, or call 614-885-5365. Church Office Hours are Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

Contact the church office at 614-885-5365
or office@worthingtonumc.com.

Sunday, December 31 New Years' Eve
9:45 a.m. Child Care for Banta Room and
Infants and Toddlers Room 102
10:00 a.m. Blended Worship Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. Fellowship Hour Dixon Lounge
with Cookie Exchange

Monday, January 1
The office will be closed.
Happy New Year!

Tuesday, January 2
7:00 p.m. Welcoming & Library
Inviting
7:15 p.m. Devotions Browning Lounge
7:30 p.m. Trustees Browning Lounge
8:00 p.m. Sr High Devos 3rd floor rooms

Wednesday, January 3
9:30 a.m. Riverside Offsite
Sewing Guild
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts Library

Patrol Leaders Meeting

Thursday, January 4

4:30 p.m.	UMW Exec Board	Browning Lounge
4:30 p.m.	Children's Bells	Bell Room
5:00 p.m.	Children's Choir	Sanctuary
7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
7:00 p.m.	College-Age Dinner	Browning Lounge

Friday, January 5

9:00 a.m.	Bulletin Assembly	Dixon Lounge
11:30 a.m.	Alzheimer's First Friday Meeting	Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m.	Staff Epiphany Party	Offsite

Saturday, January 6

There are no events scheduled.

Sunday, January 7

9:15 a.m.	Child Care for Infants and Toddlers	Banta Room and Room 102
9:30 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary
10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time	Dixon Lounge
10:40 a.m.	Confirmation Class	Jr High Room
10:40 a.m.	Advent Study	Browning Lounge
10:40 a.m.	Becoming Well-Versed	Commons Conf. Room
10:45 a.m.	Rainbow Singers	Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.	Jubilee Ringers	Bell Room
11:00 a.m.	Child Care for Infants & Toddlers	Banta Room, Nursery
11:15 a.m.	Emerge Service	Potter Chapel
4:00 p.m.	Open House at Cyndy's	Offsite
5:30 p.m.	Youth Choir	Potter Chapel
6:00 p.m.	Impact Epiphany Party	3 rd floor rooms

Snow Emergency Sunday Cancellation Policy: In case of an announced Snow Emergency in Franklin County on a Sunday, the Church Service Cancellation Policy is: **Level 1 Snow Emergency** – Sunday Services will continue as planned; please use caution. **Level 2 Snow Emergency** - Only the LAST Sunday Service of the day will be held. **Level 3 Snow Emergency** – All Sunday Services are cancelled. In the case of weekday snow emergency, please contact the church office at 614-885-5365 or check the church's website.

The next Red Cross Blood Drive is January 25, 2018 from 1-6 p.m. Sign-ups will be between services on Sundays, January 7 and 14.

Photo directory addendums are now available in the office. Pick yours up in the office, or email john@worthingtonumc.com for an electronic copy.

Information to take with you this week

December 31, 2017

Continuing the push to finish strong in 2017: It's been a joyous Christmas celebration together this last week. Attendance at Christmas services was strong and our generosity during this time has been plentiful. We are still pushing to finish in good standing with one week left in the year and ensure the church's responsibilities are cared for. I continue to ask for everyone's help in closing an ever-shrinking but still-present gap in the budget. For those who have made commitments in 2017, please, if at all possible, fulfill them. Closing the gap this month will come from those commitments and additional giving through midnight on December 31. And if you can afford to still give just a little beyond, the opportunities include: In person this morning during the blended 10 am service or up until 1:00 pm today; Online by midnight tonight (December 31) at WorthingtonUMC.com. Thank you all again very much for your responses! With your help the gap will go away and 2018 will begin with strength. -Rob K., Finance Committee Chairman

Cookie Sampling Sunday: Please join us in the Dixon Lounge after today's service for the 6th annual Cookie Sampling!

Congregational Art Show: A Different Month - the Same Hope: The Congregation Art Show will be held during the month of January this year. Please plan to share your artistic expressions with the community. Bring your 2-dimensional art to the office by January 3. Pieces should be ready to hang. Remember that saw tooth hangers do not work with our hanging system. We are sorry that we can't handle 3-dimensional work. Don't be timid! Share your gift with the congregation!

College-Age Dinner: Each year over the winter break we host a dinner at the church for the college-age students in our congregation. This is a great time for those students to reconnect with church friends while they are home over winter break. We will have a catered dinner at the church on January 4, at 7 p.m. Please let Ashley M. know if your college student will be attending by e-mailing her or contacting the church office or filling out a friendship card today!

Church-Wide Open House at Cyndy's, Sunday, January 7 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Come, spend time with friends, make new ones. Light refreshments will be available. Cyndy lives south of Bethel Road, just west of Centennial High School.

Church-Wide Bowling: Family Ministry Team is hosting a church-wide bowling event on Sunday, January 21 at 3 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person, children ages 3 and under are free, with a \$40 maximum per family. We will be meeting at Sequoia Pro Bowl (5501 Sandalwood Blvd, Columbus 43229). Sign up on the friendship card today! If you have any questions, please email Ashley M or the church office.

Souper Bowl: Family Ministry Team is hosting the Souper Bowl Cook-off on Sunday, February 4 at 12:15pm after church services. Prepare your favorite soup recipe and bring it in Sunday morning to be a part of our soup tasting. Cost is \$5 per person, \$20 max per family. Each person will get a taste of the soups and we will have a vote to determine the winner.

SAVE THE DATE! THERE IS PLENTY OF TIME TO PLAN. We are now accepting applications for the next Adult Mission Trip. The dates are February 24 – March 3, 2018. We will be staying in Grand Bay, AL. At this time we are not sure what projects we will be working on, but most likely it will be projects at individuals' homes where service work is needed. Please join us for a time of fun and fellowship while we are carrying out God's work. The final sign-up date for this trip is January 31, 2018. For more information, contact Russ L. or the church office.

2018 flower calendar: The flower calendar for 2018 has been posted outside of the Sanctuary, by the octagon table. Please sign up now if you'd like to provide altar flowers for any Sunday in 2018. Thanks!

Martin Luther King Jr Community Celebration: Join us as we host the MLK Jr. Day Celebration for the Community of Worthington on Monday, January 15 at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. This annual event is featuring community musical performances as well as Anthony Gibbs, founder and creative director of Black Historic Impressions, an organization dedicated to the remembrance, appreciation and exhibition of African-American contributions throughout history.

Winter New Member Class: The next New Member Class series begins January 14! Mark your calendars now and plan to join us Sunday mornings during the Sunday School time (10:45-11:15 a.m.) for the 5-session class Jan. 14 through Feb. 11. Can't attend all 5 classes? No problem. Indicate the Sundays you will be absent when you register, and we'll be sure to get the corresponding class information to you. Classes are designed to help you meet other new members, discover ways you can get involved in the life of the church, and become familiar with some of the history and core beliefs of the United Methodist Church. Classes run concurrent with Children's Sunday School and Nursery childcare. For questions or registration, call the church office (614) 885-5365, or email Pastor John, john@worthingtonumc.com or fill out a friendship card today!

Elizabeth Circle will be meeting on Monday, January 8, at 7:00 p.m. in the Dixon Lounge to work on Valentine Homebound gifts and assemble no-sew fleece blankets for My Very Own Blanket along with a donation of \$10 for the blankets. Contact Margaret T. or the church office with any questions.

WUMC Singles: Our first event in 2018 is dinner at J Liu, 6880 High Street, Worthington, on Friday, January 12, at 6:30 p.m. If you plan to attend, please let us know by emailing to wumcsingles@gmail.com or by calling the church office at 614-885-5365 no later than Wednesday, January 10.

The 2018 Women's Retreat will be Friday, February 2 through Sunday, February 4 at Salt Fork State Lodge in Cambridge, Ohio. This is always a great experience and a chance to relax and get to know ourselves and other women better. Please call or e-mail Ann W. or the church office if you have any questions.

You Can Make a Difference

Mat Ministry: The next Plarn Party is **Wednesday, January 17, 1-4 p.m.**, in the Dixon Lounge. Please join us as we work on materials for making sleeping mats for the homeless. Look for the Mat Ministry table in the hallway. Thanks for supporting this important ministry.

Donations for ongoing needs for Worthington Resource Pantry, New Life Community Outreach Ministries and NNEMAP may be placed in the donation boxes, at the north (CPC) doors on Sundays or near the church office on weekdays. *Urgent needs for Worthington Resource Pantry are personal items, cereal and canned ravioli. Urgent needs for NNEMAP Food Pantry are personal items, canned tuna & chicken, and whole-grain pastas.*

Operation Sandwich: Each week dozens of PB&J or bologna and cheese sandwiches are transported from WUMC to Friends of the Homeless in Columbus. Make simple, freezable, individually wrapped sandwiches at home and bring them to the refrigerator downstairs when you come to church on Sunday or before 10 a.m. on Monday to help feed the homeless in Central Ohio.

Bethlehem on Broad Street: We collected 213 boxes for Bethlehem on Broad Street this year! Thank you so much to all those who donated!

UMW and the Blue Star Mothers: The WUMW continues to endorse our local Blue Star Mothers in the provision of items for Ohio soldiers who are serving around the world. The following are suggested items to provide during the winter months: baby wipes, batteries, hand warmers, muscle-ache cream, foot powder, travel-size mouthwash, duct tape, travel-size packets of laundry detergent, canned foods w/ pull-top lids, snack cracker packets, hard candies, protein bars, Pringles, oatmeal packets/boxes, crackers, crossword puzzles, magazines, deck of cards, dental supplies, travel-sized games, phone card. The donation box and a more complete donation list are located in the church office. Thank you for your continued support and HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Keep Saving Your Pop Can Tabs! Pop-can tabs are converted to cash by Ronald McDonald House to pay its utility bills. Place your tabs in the container on the *Upper Room* table in the narthex. Thank you to all who have brought in pop tabs! We have collected and sent 130 pounds of them to Ronald McDonald House.

West Ohio Conference Disaster Response: UMCOR-authorized trainers will provide an Early Response Team (ERT) Training on January 27 at North Broadway UMC (48 E. North Broadway St., Columbus) from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$40 for basic/\$35 for recertification. To register, click on "Register for Events" at www.westohioumc.org. For more information, contact Kris S. or the church office.

Upcoming Events

- **College-Age Dinner** – January 4, 7 p.m.
- **Church-Wide Open House** – January 7, 4 p.m.
- **New Member Classes** – January 14 – February 11
- **MLK Jr. Celebration** – January 15

Riverside Sewing Guild will be meeting on January 3, at Riverside Methodist Hospital from 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

UMW Kick-Off Event: Want to learn more about some of the ministries supported by members of our church? Join us for our Annual New Year Kickoff on January 27 at 9:00 a.m. in the Potter Chapel and second-floor rooms. Sponsored by United Methodist Women, but everyone is welcome! Information sessions will include: UMCH Family Services, Sean R.; South Sudan Health Clinic, Steve W. from Scioto Ridge UMC; Community Development for All People; The Horizon Prison Ministry, Bishop Joe S.; Women's Health Panel; Climate Justice, Jeanne L., incoming president of West Ohio United Methodist Women; and more! After the program, be sure to join us for a delicious soup and sandwich lunch, and then stay to help (or learn how) to make plarn and crochet mats for our homeless friends, or help with writing greetings to deployed military personnel. New yearbooks and pledge brochures will be available for members. There is no charge for the event, but we do request that you let us know you are coming so that we can prepare the correct amount of materials and food.

Kroger Rewards: This is an easy way to help those in need. It costs you nothing, and money received helps fund UMW missions for women, youth and children. All you need to do is link your Kroger shopping card with our organization through their Community Rewards Program, and then Kroger will send us a donation based on the total amount you spend in their stores. To sign up, or to renew your registration each year, visit Kroger's website at www.kroger.com, log into your account, select the community rewards page and follow the instructions to select Worthington United Methodist Women as your organization. If you do not have a Kroger Plus Card, or even an email address, we can still help you. If you have any questions, please contact Margaret T. or the church office.

Please Keep Us in the Loop! For pastoral concerns, including hospitalizations, births and deaths, please contact Cyndy G. directly at cyndylg@aol.com or John G. at john@worthingtonumc.com.

Prayer Shawls Are Available through our Julia Prayer Shawl Ministry for you or someone you know who is in need of comfort. Send requests for shawls to Mary G. or contact the church office at 614-885-5365.

Prayer Chain: Contact Mysa M. or the church office if you have a prayer concern and would like it to be added to the prayer chain.

The Welcome Center provides information about the ministries of our church family and resources like a map of our church and Sunday School class schedule. If you are visiting with us today, please stop by the Welcome Center at the main entrance, outside the Dixon Lounge, for a welcome gift.