

# STEEPLETALK

## AUGUST 2017



FROM THE



**PASTOR**

Core values help shape an organization and a movement. Mentor United Methodist Church has established 8 core values. Over the past few months we have focused on our core values: Christ-Centered, Biblically-Rooted, and Prayer-Driven. This month we'll focus on the 4th core value.

**Doctrine-Based:** We are rooted in United Methodist doctrine and Biblical themes of repentance, forgiveness, baptism, and redemption as taught in the Wesleyan doctrines of prevenient, justifying and sanctifying grace.

Doctrine is defined as a particular principle, position, or policy taught or advocated, as of a religion or government. In the case of the Church, doctrine outlines the basic beliefs of the Christian faith. Broadly speaking, United Methodists profess the historic Christian faith in God, incarnate in Jesus Christ for our salvation and ever at work in human history in the Holy Spirit. This comes through the common heritage we all share and are expressed through the ancient creeds.

More specifically, the United Methodist Church expresses a distinctive Wesleyan theology. While some denominations grew out of a doctrinal dispute, the Methodist doctrine was shaped by the preaching of justifying and sanctifying grace. Doctrine was further shaped by the practical practice of Christian discipleship through faith and love put into practice. It is the distinct call to living the full Christian life.

Grace pervades the Wesleyan understanding of Christian faith and life. Grace is the undeserved, unmerited, and loving action of God in human existence. This grace is undivided, yet understood in three unique ways:

Prevenient Grace is the grace of God that precedes salvation. It prompts our first wish to please God, our first insight into who God is. The response to God's prevenient grace is repentance. Infant baptism is also a part of our doctrine, again deeply embedded in the understanding of prevenient grace.

Justifying Grace is the work that God has done through Jesus Christ. It is the gift of God's love in the sacrifice of Jesus for the forgiveness of sin. Our faith in Jesus results in forgiveness, but also restoration to God's favor. This is often called the "new birth", "redemption" or "conversion."

Sanctifying Grace takes us beyond the wonder of God's acceptance and forgiveness to the deeper work of transformation. By God's power we can be set free from the bonds of sin and continue on a journey to Christian perfection. This is called holiness, or perfect in love. It's not just our human effort, but the work of the Holy Spirit.

Our doctrine is practical, calling us to faith and good works, to mission and service, and all in the context of the ministry of the Church.

Finally, it is important to note that the United Methodist Church calls us to the theological task of testing, renewal, elaboration, and application of Christian truth in an ever-changing world. While our doctrinal affirmations are central, we are encouraged to have serious reflection and dialogue. We don't always agree on all matters, but we are open for sharing and conversation.

— Pastor Kurt

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## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



### GINGERBREAD HOUSE CRAFT FAIR

We are moving into the season when people start making applesauce, jams and jellies, and canning some of their harvest items. Please consider setting aside some of the "fruits" of your labor for our Country Cupboard at the Craft Fair in November. Thank you!

**The NEW DAY CIRCLE will explore *Christianity's Family Tree: What Other Christians Believe and Why*** using the book by Adam Hamilton as a guide. Comparing the Christian family to our own extended families, Hamilton contends that each denomination has a unique, valuable perspective to offer on the Christian faith. In the coming months we will look at Orthodoxy, Catholicism, Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism, Baptists, Pentecostalism, and Methodism. For each group, Hamilton gives a brief history, outlines major beliefs, and describes some things we can learn from that tradition to strengthen our own Christian faith.

Join us Monday, September 11, from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. in the Asbury Room to look at Orthodoxy. If you choose to read Adam Hamilton's book, you are encouraged to read the Introduction and Chapter 1 before this meeting. If you would like a copy of the book (cost \$9) or have questions, please contact Carole Ring (440-255-7213 or [umw@mentorumc.org](mailto:umw@mentorumc.org)). All women are welcome to join us!

### LIVING FAITH-FULLY: Transforming Everyday Moments into God Moments

Sunday, September 24, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

**For parents, kids, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and anyone interested!**

All are invited to come investigate some practical ideas about connecting our faith to everyday life with our families. If you would like to add "faith moments" into your daily routine with little or no prep, discover and develop new spiritual practices as a family, and/or respond to life's everyday challenges and opportunities with meaningful practices, this opportunity will provide some easy, do-it-yourself ideas for transforming your family's everyday moments into God moments!

Free and open to all! Sponsored by Mentor United Methodist Women. Please contact Carole Ring at [umw@mentorumc.org](mailto:umw@mentorumc.org) or 255-7213 if you have any questions.

## SERVANT OPPORTUNITY

**HEARTLAND:** Consider joining us for a brief service at Heartland on the 3rd Sunday of each month. We begin at 10:45 a.m. and are finished approximately 20 minutes later. It's a great opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ with the Heartland residents. If you have any questions please contact Rich & Katie Elwell at (440) 255-6794 or Don & Pat Humphrey at (440) 354-3833.

## GRIEFSHARE

A Grief Recovery Support Group

Griefshare Recovery Support Group will meet on Wednesdays for the fall session beginning September 13 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Fall Session is 13 weeks and the cost of \$20 includes the book. Please register by calling or e-mailing Pastor Bev Wrobel at 440-255-3496 ext. 106 or [blwrobel@mentorumc.org](mailto:blwrobel@mentorumc.org). For more information visit the GRIEFSHARE website at [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org).

## ASBURY FELLOWSHIP

All church members are cordially invited to attend an open forum sponsored by Asbury Fellowship. We will meet in the Conference Room off the Gallery on Monday, Aug. 14, at 7:00 pm. The purpose of the meeting is to brainstorm ways of encouraging all church members to gather together and celebrate life in Christ-centered activities. We welcome all to share their ideas no matter how different, odd, silly, challenging or serious. Here's your opportunity to share "I've always wanted to do this at the church...Or, it would be to have..."  
For more information contact Carol Haines at 440-975-8844.

## THROUGH THE YEARS

Have you heard of Barrat's Chapel? If not, it is one of the most historic buildings in the Methodist Church in the United States. It is located near the town of Frederica, Delaware. It is the oldest surviving church building in the U.S. built by and for Methodists. It was built in 1780 by Philip Barrat, a local political figure and landowner. Mr. Barrat was a recent convert to Methodism. Grounds on which the chapel sits also house the Museum of Methodism.

It was at Barrat's Chapel that Thomas Coke, recently sent to America by John Wesley, met Francis Asbury. Rev. Asbury arrived at the chapel while Rev. Coke was preaching. The two embraced and the spot at which it occurred is marked with a star in the chapel floor. Sadly, Philip Barrat had passed away two weeks prior to the Asbury-Coke meeting. At this historic service on November 14, 1784, the sacraments of baptism and communion were administered for the first time by Methodist clergy without an Anglican priest being present. Following this service, the pastors retired to the home of Barrat's widow, Miriam. There the two Methodist pastors formulated plans for a conference in Baltimore to be held on Christmas Day, 1784. There the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized.

William H. Williams, Professor of History Emeritus at the University of Delaware stated that "No standing structure is as significant to the identity of American Methodists as Barrat's Chapel...Today Barrat's Chapel stands as both the most important Methodist historical structure in the nation, and in terms of national history, the most significant historical building, secular or religious, on the entire Delmarva Peninsula."

The chapel appears on the outside much as it did when it was built. The interior design has been renovated several times, most recently in 1842. The chapel and museum are open on Wednesdays from 10:00 - 2:00 and Saturdays from 1:30 - 4:30. If you are not going to be traveling to the state of Delaware, you can take a virtual tour of the chapel at <https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=JuiT28VrBQ2>

Or a virtual tour of the museum at <https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=FV37ZecNWQ1>  
The chapel's phone number is 302-335-5544 for any group wanting a tour.

The chapel is owned by the Commission on Archives and History of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference. The Commission sponsors two major services per year. One on the second Sunday in November commemorating the Asbury-Coke meeting and a Christmas Carol service on a Sunday in December. It is an officially designated Heritage Landmark of the United Methodist Church and is on, since 1972, the National Register of Historic Places.

Do you have any MUM history you would like to share with the congregation? Please send it to:

Mr. Don Humphrey     Or you can email him at [dhumphrey@ameritech.net](mailto:dhumphrey@ameritech.net)  
7330 Holly Park Drive  
Concord OH 44060-6704

## LAY DELEGATE'S REPORT ON ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sally Carr attended the Annual Conference, East Ohio 2017. New Bishop Tracy S. Malone chaired the meetings with positive words and support to the presenters. Doug Rohde was welcomed as the newest delegate. The theme for the next four years will be "Bearing Fruit that Lasts". Business Meetings were held and every committee was heard from. Topics included Improving Global Health, Imagine No Malaria, Engaging in Ministry with the Poor and The Way Forward.

All the appointments at Mentor church have remained the same. There was a total of 1,398 delegates with 656 clergy and 742 lay members. Several resolutions were passed. Full information can be seen at the conference website [www.eocumc.com/annualconference](http://www.eocumc.com/annualconference).

The worship services included the Opening Ceremony with Bishop Malone, a Retirement service, and Commissioning service. All of the worship opportunities provided uplifting and encouraging messages such as "Rooted and Grounded", "Have this Message", "Chosen on Purpose" and "We are One".

Full accounts of the proceedings can be found on the website [www.eocumc.com/annualconference](http://www.eocumc.com/annualconference) with photos and video to help you get the full spirit and enthusiasm of the gathering. Welcome to Bishop Malone, leading us through this next quadrennium!

## CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

### KNOW

- **Sunday School SUMMER Schedule**
  - \* Children 0-4 years old~Early Childhood Area
  - \* K-5th graders~Room 112 for ALL of August
  - \* [www.mentorumc.org/sunday-school](http://www.mentorumc.org/sunday-school)

### GROW

- **Bibles, Book Bags, and Bag Tags- Sunday August 20**
  - \* Third Graders receive their Bibles in the Sanctuary service at 9:00 a.m.
  - \* Third Graders receive their Bibles in iConnect at 11:00 am
  - \* All Students are invited to bring their book bags for a special blessing and will receive a bag tag
- **MOPS & MOMSnext 2017-18 KICK-OFF**
  - \* Edward R. Walsh (Bellflower) Park on Friday, August 25 from 10 a.m. to noon

### SHOW

- **AUGUST Sunday School Leadership NEEDS**
  - \* **K-5th Grade HELPER at 11 a.m.**
- **FALL Sunday Morning Small Group Leader**
  - \* sign up: [www.mentorumc.org/Sunday-school](http://www.mentorumc.org/Sunday-school)

Find current information and registration forms at  
[www.mentorumc.org/children](http://www.mentorumc.org/children)

If you have a third grader and have not received any information regarding the Breakfast on August 19 and Bible Presentation on August 20, please contact Tammy ASAP at [tpalermo@mentorumc.org](mailto:tpalermo@mentorumc.org)

## CHOIR NEWS



### THE CHOIR SEASON BEGINS SOON!

Thursday, September 7 marks the opening rehearsals for the Charter Members Men's Choir and the Chancel Choir.

If you've been contemplating singing with either (or both!) groups, the beginning of the choir season is the perfect time to give it a try. The men's choir meets 6:45 - 7:45; Chancel Choir at 7:45.

Questions? Contact Amy Bender, 255-3496, ext. 21 or [abender@mentorumc.org](mailto:abender@mentorumc.org).

### THANK YOU!

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO VOLUNTEERED for Theatre Arts Camp!** Our Theatre Arts Camp was a success thanks to our directors and helpers. Many thanks to all who attended our shows!

**THANK YOU** Special thanks to the church staff, members and friends of Ruth Boyd Perz and Mary Ellen Reynolds (Terry) for the many kind expressions of sympathy following the death of their brother, Edward T. Boyd.



### FINANCE NEWS

#### YTD through JUNE 2017

Receipts	\$495,855.
Disbursements	490,066.
Surplus	\$5,789.

*Electronic giving is available online at*

## Staff-Pastor Parish Relations Committee

The Staff-Pastor Parish Relations Committee extends a welcome to the following new staff members. They will begin working on various dates during the month of July.

### Michelle Park, Director of Modern Worship

Michelle has been part of the Contemporary Worship Team at Willoughby UMC for many years and is looking forward working with the modern worship team at Mentor UMC.

### Carolyn Nagy, Communications Specialist

Carolyn is excited to bring her marketing, project management, and design experience to Mentor UMC. Some may know her from Mayfield UMC.

### Pam DiFranco, Office Assistant

Pam is a familiar face to many through her involvement in MOPS, MOMSNext, and Bible study. Her background in banking and social work will be important to her position in the office.

### Tom Green, GEM Treasurer/Secretary

Tom's background in finance and accounting will be an asset to GEM as he serves as the new Treasurer/Secretary.

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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**



**SUMMER WORSHIP OPTIONS . . .**

During the summer months, we offer an additional worship opportunity with an 7:30 p.m. Thursday evening service. Perhaps travel or some summer activity will keep you from church on Sunday morning, you can join us for our Thursday evening service in the Chapel. It's informal. Come straight from work, the ball field, or mowing the lawn. Come as you are and join us for fellowship and worship.

**Shop Amazon & Donate to MUMC**

We are now registered with AmazonSmile Foundation as a charitable organization. When you shop at smile.amazon.com 0.05% of the price of the eligible purchases are donated to MUMC. There is no cost to the church and no cost to you.

**It is easy to get started visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and select Mentor United Methodist Church.**

**CHURCH FAMILY**



**CHURCH & COMMUNITY PICNIC**  
**Sunday, August 13, 2 - 6 p.m.**  
**Garfield Park, Mentor Avenue, Mentor**

**PICNIC**

The fun begins at 2 p.m. with the softball game. Food will be served at 4 p.m. with the Church providing the hotdogs, beverages, and paper products. Service to follow at 5 p.m.

Dinner Music: Please consider sharing your musical gifts during dinner. If you have a song to sing or an instrument to play, we would enjoy hearing you! Please contact Michelle Park at [mpark@mentorumc.org](mailto:mpark@mentorumc.org) or 440-840-3676 for more information.

**All are welcome!**

Invite your friends and neighbors, and enjoy connecting with others in our church family.



**STEEPLETALK**  
**Deadline**  
**For SEPTEMBER Issue**  
**August 8th**