News from Mentor United Methodist Church

Ministries - Find your fit! Look for the different ways to get involved.


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The app is packed with powerful content and resources to help you on the path
as you grow upward in worship, deeper in discipleship, together in Christian
community, and outward in service. Scan the QR code to download it now!
Read the newsletter every month online! Go to mentorumc.org/current/newsletter.


On Sunday, May 26, 2019, we will recognize our fallen heroes. If you have a family member or loved one who died in active service, please contact the Church Office at 440-255-3496 or info@ mentorumc.org. Please include your name, their name, relationship to you, and war or date when they perished. Thank you for helping us honor our heroes!

## MUM Preschool - Help Spread the Word!

 Mentor United Methodist Preschool has been serving our local community for 52 years. Children ages 3 to 5 enjoy quality programs in a loving, secure environment. If you know of family, friends, co-workers or neighbors who have young children, why not recommend our preschool?There are morning and afternoon classes available. Families of all faiths are welcome. Colleen Judson is our Administrator. Contac $\dagger$ her at judson.preschool@mentorumc.org. More information and enrollment forms are at www.mentorumc.org/preschool. Enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year is now open, so please spread the word!

## YSP Annual Plant Sale

Mother's Day Weekend, May 10, 11 \& 12 • Friday noon to 7 PM \& Saturday 9 AM to 7 PM, Sunday plants available after services
Presale orders are due April 28. See a youth for an order form or the Information Hub.
Hanging baskets, hanging bags and planters will be available on sale day.
Proceeds from this sale support the 2019 Youth Service Project.

## Steepletalk

## From the Pastor

The United Methodist Church's General Conference has the exclusive right to speak officially for the denomination. No person, no paper, no organization has that authority. Typically, the General Conference meets every four years. It is made up of equal representation from laity and clergy, voted to serve by each conference across the United Methodist Church. It represents our global denomination from the United States, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Philippines. The last regularly held General Conference was in 2016. At that conference, after years of debating matters of human sexuality, the General Conference spoke by vote and called a special session for 2019 with the issue of human sexuality the only matter on the agenda.

The Special General Conference was held on February 23-26. During the conference, the United Methodist Church spoke to adopt a Traditional Plan that affirms the historic belief in monogamous, heterosexual marriage as the Scriptural standard for those who follow Jesus. This plan keeps the language that has been in UMC Book of Discipline for forty years outlining "the practice of homosexuality as incompatible with Christian teaching" and prohibiting the church from performing same-sex marriages and ordaining those who practice homosexuality. The traditional plan which was adopted additionally attempts to hold denominational leadership accountable for enforcing church rules on this issue.

The actions of the Special General Conference are NOT intended to bar LGBTQ+ individuals from being welcomed and invited into congregations of the UMC and into a life of discipleship and faithfulness to Jesus. In the Book of Discipline, the church still affirms that "God's grace is available to all" and proclaims that "we will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons."

We know that the people of Mentor UMC do not see eye-to-eye on the issue of human sexuality. We know that most (if not all) of our beloved people here have friends and family who are LGBTQ+. Many in our congregation are heartbroken over the message that these friends and family are receiving that they are rejected and unwanted by God or the church. We also know that many of you share the conviction of the majority of delegates that loving the LGBTQ+ community does not preclude upholding the traditional standard for Biblical sexuality. We are committed to remaining in community, conversation and fellowship with each other on this issue, as well as so many others, that will continue to face our church in the years ahead. We remain focused on our mission to lead ALL on to a path of Christ-centered discipleship, extending that call to every person of every background. Our identity and worth as Christians is found in who Jesus says we are in His Word, and every person in this world is a priceless soul for whom Jesus died. Our greatest hope and prayer is that our church will be a place where EVERY person is met with the truth of the Gospel message and called to a life of transforming love and obedience to our Savior and Lord.

Pastors Kurt, Quincy and Beverly

## STAFF

## Lead Pastor

Rev. Kurt Landerholm
KLanderholm@mentorumc.org
Associate Pastor of Modern
Worship \& Discipleship
Rev. Quincy Wheeler
QWheeler@mentorumc.org
Minister of Congregational
Care \& Counseling
Rev. Beverly Wrobel
BLWrobel@mentorumc.org
Director of Children \& Family Ministries
Tammy Palermo
TPalermo@mentorumc.org
Director of Youth Ministry Toby Mattern
TMattern@mentorumc.org
Organist, Bell Choir Director,
Charter Members Director,
Chancel Choir Director Amy Bender
ABender@mentorumc.org
Director of Modern Worship Michelle Park
MPark@mentorumc.org
Address and Phone:
8600 Mentor Ave.
Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 255-3496
www.mentorumc.org
Facebook.com/mentorumc Twitter: @MentorUMChurch info@mentorumc.org

## Through The Years

With the Easter season upon us, we are reminded of many traditions and customs that are familiar to our families. Wearing your Easter finery, sunrise services, Easter baskets, and Easter flowers are some of the ways we celebrate the Resurrection. The universality of Easter celebrations is reflected in the many different traditions observed around the world.
In England, there is an activity known as Egg Jarping. It's also called egg tapping, egg fighting, egg knocking, and egg boxing. It is a game that pits two people, each with a hardboiled egg, who then smash the eggs against each other to see whose eggshell remains intact. The winner is the person whose eggshell doesn't crack. It sounds weird, but there are actual rules to this contest. The World Jarping Championship takes place each Easter in Durham, England. This game is also played in the U. S. in New York City by the Saint Nicholas Society. This organization is made up of men who are descendants of early Dutch and English settlers of New York City. One of its prominent members was Theodore Roosevelt. The children of France don't get their chocolates and presents from the Easter bunny but the Easter bells. No church bells may ring between Holy (Maundy) Thursday and the Easter Vigil due to the solemnity of the time of Jesus' crucifixion and death. A legend evolved that said the church bells weren't rung because they grew wings and flew to Rome to be blessed by the Pope. They returned on Easter with goodies for the children and to ring the good news of the Resurrection.

While India is not a predominately Christian nation, elaborate Easter festivities still occur. The State of Goa in Western India celebrates with plays, songs, and dances. People exchange chocolates, flowers, and lanterns as gifts. Similar celebrations also take place in Northeas $\dagger$ India.

Ethiopians refer to their Easter celebration as Fassika. They wear white clothes called Yabesha Libs. The Ethiopians observe the Eastern Orthodox calendar; thus their Easter this year is April 28. While a large festive meal is eaten on Easter, on Holy Thursday a special dish of beans mixed with wheat and then boiled is consumed. It is believed this food symbolized the Old Testament Passover.

These are just a few examples of the many Easter traditions observed all over the world. While they differ greatly their purpose is the same, to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Do you have any MUMC history you would like to share with the congregation? Please send it to: Don Humphrey, 7330 Holly Park Dr., Concord, Ohio 44060-6704 or e-mail to: dhumphrey@ameritech.net

## April Prayer Focus - Nancy Landerholm

## 1 John 1:8-9

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
Jesus, speak truth to my heart, show me where I am in rebellion against you. Help me come to you with a repentant heart confessing my sin. You will forgive, cleanse, and lead me into righteousness. I praise you that you are faithful in all you say and do.

## Woodlawn Homes Easter Outreach

If you would like to help with an Easter Egg Hunt at the Woodlawn Community Center on Saturday, April 6, at 1 PM, please sign up through the church app or online at www. mentorumc.org/local missions to indicate how you will help. Please contact Carole Ring at umw@mentorumc.orgor 440-255-7213 if you have questions.
Thank you for your generosity and support!

# 2019 Annual All-Church Rummage Sale <br> April 27, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM 

Attend a planning meeting April 9 at 7 PM in the Chapel.
Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Come one, Come all!
Gather up all those useful household items, clean clothing (NO FOOTWEAR) and bring them to the church Monday, April 22, through Thursday, April 25, 9 AM to 7 PM.
Sorting your own donations is a great way to help! Just put your items on the appropriate tables.

NO ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON FRIDAY, APRIL 26.
Please NO major appliances, dehumidifiers, refrigerators, air conditioners, tires, sofa beds, non-flat screen televisions, bowling balls, encyclopedias, cookbooks, landline telephones or footwear.

All are welcome to come bid on our silent auction/buy it now priced items. They will be displayed again this year on the counter in the Gallery, Tuesday through Friday, with bids accepted until 6:00 PM on Friday.

Workers are needed all week to help unload, sort, set up and price items. On Saturday, the day of the sale, we need workers to help customers check-out (cash only) and get their purchases to their cars.
Please be sure to sign up, as this helps us plan. On Saturday, lunch and snacks will be provided for workers. Sign up with friends and enjoy time together of fun and fellowship, while working for a good cause! Use the link to sign up through Sign Up Genius www.bit. ly/2ViAp6r or see the forms at the Information Hub.

> ALL ARE WELCOME!
> Bring your ideas to the April 9 meeting on how sale proceeds
> can be directed to church projects.
> Contact Rhonda Hoon at rhondahoon@yahoo.com or 440-255-6569 with any questions.

## Change the World Day

This Lent we can make a difference! Use the Change the World Day coffee cup to collect money for Rise Against Hunger. A Keurig cup is about 25 cents. A cup of coffee at McDonald's is about \$1. And of course, Starbucks can set you back at least \$4. Consider giving up a cup of coffee and donating that money. Yes, tea, energy drink, and pop drinkers, you can participate, too!

For the 40 days of Lent, these donations will add up. Checks can be made out to MUMC and noted "Change the World Day". Donations can be placed in the offering plate any Sunday or you can turn in your cup at the end of Lent. You can give online or through the app, just select "Change the World Day" as the fund from the pull-down menu. More information will follow about where to turn in your cups.

MUMC has committed to raising $\$ 10,000$ to provide 30,000 meals. If everyone attending service on a Sunday gave $\$ 20$ this Lent, our goal would be met!

The Mentor 5K Race for Rise Against Hunger/Change the World Day is Saturday, May 11 from 8 AM to 10:30 AM. Meal packing is Saturday, May 18. More information will be coming soon. Thank you!

## Children and Family Ministries

Register for events through the app or at www.mentorumc.org/children www.mentorumc.org/sunday-school

Happy Spring!!! Where is 2019 going? Wasn't it just January? I do feel that it is going quickly, but I am happy about warmer temperatures. © Below you will find all the details about what is happening for the month of April. ENJOY!

Positive Parenting "One and Done" version of Spiritual Parenting will be on Thursday, April 4 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. That means you read the book, and then we will meet to discuss the book. Childcare will be available if you let me know by April 1. The next Book Club selection is Becoming a Spiritually Healthy Family by Michelle Anthony on Monday, May 6 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Childcare is available if requested by May 1 .

Our 5th \& 6th grade youth group, StuCo 56, is scheduled to meet for lunch on April 14 with Occupy before heading to Canton for Laser Tag! The students will have an opportunity to serve on Monday, April 15 from 4:00-8:00 PM. They will have a meeting on April 28 from 6:008:00 PM. All students in those grades are welcome and encouraged to attend. I only ask that you RSVP for your student, so I can plan accordingly.

LAMB (Learning And Mommy Bonding) Spring Session continues April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9. Moms, this is a great group for you to be a part of with your little one. We now welcome drop-ins, so if you haven't checked it out, please consider attending a session to see if it is a good fit for you and your child.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 20, starting at 10:00 AM with fun activities at Garfield Park. The hunt begins at 10:30 AM with children hunting in age groups. It will be held rain or shine, so please dress for the weather. This has become a family tradition for many! You won't want to miss out on all the fun!

Is your summer planned yet? If not, the summer info is ready and registration is open! Vacation Bible School, "To Mars and Beyond", and Get Out Doors (G.O.D.) Camp, "Water of Life", are the week of June 17-21. Theatre Arts Camp will be the weeks of July 8-12 and 15-19 with the show, Disney's Frozen, Jr., dates July 19 at 7:30 PM and July 20 at 4:00 PM.

Never a dull moment! Be sure to check out all the resources I have for parents and grandparents. I want to be your cheerleader as well as a resource for you and your original small group (that's your family © ).

By HIS Grace and through HIS Love,
Tammy Palermo
Director of Children and Family Ministries

## Ruth Naomi Circle

April 11, 9:30 AM in Adams Parlor. We will enjoy a musical program by Carol Haines.
For more information, contact Georgeanna Allen at 440-255-5515.

More-Than-A-Meal is our free community meal served on the last Saturday of the month. We are presently looking for Journey Groups, Committees, or individuals to sign up to prepare and serve the meals for 2019. This requires preparing for 100 persons and covering the costs, if possible. If some funding is needed, there are limited funds available. Regular workers and experienced persons will be present to assist.
If you are interested, contact Jim Post at 440-477-6130.

## Timeline for Easter Food Pantry Collection and Distribution

Sunday, April 7 Collection bags handed out at services
Sunday, April 14 Filled bags returned at services
Monday, April 15 Volunteers needed 9 AM-1 PM for sorting/shelving food and 4-7 PM for distribution to families
Tuesday, April 16 Volunteers needed 4-7 PM for distribution to families.
To sign up to help or get more information, please contact Mike Cosmo at 440-488-4566 or m.cosmo@sbcglobal.net. Thank you for your commitment and assistance.

- Ruthie Hobart \& Mike Cosmo


## Food Pantry Leadership Needed

Missions Commission is seeking leadership for our Food Pantry ministry. Food distributions take place four times a year. If you are interested, please contact Bill Mueller at muellerhomeoffice@oh.rr.com.

## Joseph Ministry Coordinator Needed

Joseph Ministry helps local residents with small "fix-it" jobs. We assist and they provide the materials. A goodwill donation is suggested from them but is not required. We are looking for a Coordinator to manage this ministry. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Craig Eppler at 440-669-4591 or email missions@mentorumc.org.

## The Easter offering will be distributed to the following organizations:

Local: Royal Family Kids Camp
National: Flat Rock
International: World Gospel Mission for the Landerholm Hungary Mission and Rise Against Hunger.

## Royal Family Kids Fundraiser

Saturday, April 6, 2019 at Mentor United Methodist Church
Dinner and Silent Auction 5-6:30 PM, Concert 7 PM
Benefit Concert • Silent Auction - Plus! Pasta Dinner
Join us for this special fundraising event to help send local foster children to 5 full days of fun and adventure at the Royal Family Kids Camp. There is a pasta dinner and then a concert featuring the Mentor Top 25 - "Kids Singing For Kids".

Concert Tickets: Adults (13+) \$10 Children (6-12) \$5 5 \& under - Free
Tickets are available at the MUMC Office, 8 AM to 4 PM, Monday - Friday or at Willoughby Hills United Methodist Church.

Pasta Dinner: by donation. You may come just for the dinner and donate to RFK.

## Staff Position Posting - GEM Secretary/Treasurer

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is seeking qualified candidates for the position of GEM Secretary/Treasurer. The primary responsibility is to facilitate the disbursement and reporting of all funds under the GEM (Gifts, Endowment, and Memorials) Committee.
The GEM Secretary/Treasurer will work with coworkers, congregation members, other Mentor UMC leaders, and those in banking and investment firms. This position will work under the GEM Committee and the Senior Pastor. They must be able to organize and manage their own work schedule, and do so with little supervision. The position is part-time with flexible hours varying from $8-10$ hours a week, but can be as low as 3 and as high as 18. Expanded hours and responsibility are a possibility. The slowest months are September, November and December; the busiest months are January, March and April. There are some evening meeting requirements.

## Primary duties include:

1. Using GAAP, provide accurate monthly accounting of GEM funds
2. Provide an annual report to the congregation
3. Carry out all financial matters voted on by the GEM Committee
4. Handle disbursement requests
5. Provide GEM Committee meeting minutes

Requires 2-4 years in a financial management position, or 3-5 years in related work experience with proficiency in GAAP. Demonstrate a proficiency in financial and word processing and spreadsheet programs including MS Excel, MS Word, MS PowerPoint and Outlook. Candidate should have an understanding of Endowment accounting. Should be comfortable working with computer data software. Problem solving and analytic skills are a plus. This staff person must be able to exhibit courtesy, cooperation and confidentiality in all dealings with members of the congregation, staff and the general public.
Interested parties should send their resume to SPRC@mentorumc.org with the words "GEM Applicant" in the subject by April 8.

## Thank you

Thank you to everyone who prayed for me and sent get-well cards during my recent surgery and recovery. They were very much appreciated!

- Chris Fournier


## "It Is Finished" A Tenebrae Service with Lenten Cantata <br> Presented by the Chancel Choir and Chamber Orchestra <br> Good Friday, April 19, 2019, 7:30 PM

You are invited into this place to survey the wondrous cross and to contemplate the dramatic and historic events of Holy Week. We will hear again the Holy Scripture and story of God's loving plan and purpose in the suffering of Christ to redeem us from sin and death.

We will pray that we may be transformed anew as we remember Christ's humiliation and that we may be taught obedience as we remember Christ's obedience until death. May we love one another as Christ showed love for all people.
"Tenebrae" comes from the Latin meaning "shadows" or "darkness," so it is a service of shadows. The Tenebrae service makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of Holy Week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through Jesus' burial. The increasing darkness symbolizes the approaching darkness of Jesus' death and hopelessness in the world without God.

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## Holy Week

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and ends 40 days and 6 Sundays later on Easter Sunday. Easter Sunday is April 21. Here's our schedule for Holy Week.

Sunday, April 14 - Palm Sunday with our typical services at 9:00 and 11:00 AM Thursday, April 18-7:30 PM Holy Thursday service in the Fellowship Hall Friday, April 19-7:30 PM Good Friday Lenten Cantata Tenebrae Service Saturday, April 20-10:00 AM Community Easter Egg Hunt at Garfield Park Sunday, April 21 - Easter services at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

Nursery open for all services. Children's Ministry available on Easter Sunday during both service times.

Traditional worship service in the Sanctuary Sundays 9 AM and 11 AM Modern worship, iConnect, in Fellowship Hall Sundays 9 AM and 11 AM Deadline for the next Newsletter is April 8.


