

The liturgical color is purple for the 5th Sunday in Lent



## PRELUDE

"Meditations at the Cross"  
Amy Bender, organist

Albin C. Whitworth

## WELCOME

Ben Chiappone, liturgist

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to the weary and the worn.

**Welcome to the wiggly and the eager.**

Welcome to the skeptical and the seeking.

**Welcome to the early risers and those still trying to wake up.**

Welcome to the rule followers and the rule breakers.

**Welcome to those hungry for justice and those desperate for mercy.**

Welcome to the sinners and the saints.

**This is God's house.**

You can make yourself at home here.

**Let us worship our just, merciful, and faithful God!**

## \*OPENING HYMN

"Christ for the World We Sing"

UMH 568

*Children invited to stay with families or to go to Sunday School at this time*

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we love to live our lives by the rules. We love clear answers. We love right and wrong. We love swift justice. We love to pick up stones, but you show us another way. You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation. You prioritize mercy over legality. You prioritize people over tradition. You prioritize love over everything. Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters. Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws than to each other or to you. Forgive us. Soften our hearts. Root us in mercy, justice, and love. With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen.**

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Church family, Jesus saw a crowd ready to throw stones and invited them to choose another way. Jesus offered them grace, mercy, and compassion, and the same can be said for us. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**Our God is a God of mercy. Our God is a God of compassion. Our God is a God of grace. We are forgiven, loved, and invited to choose another way. Thanks be to God for yet another second chance. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

## SCRIPTURE

Matthew 23:23, p. 700

## ANTHEM

"Vision"  
Canticle Bell Choir; Karen Nemelka, flute

Kevin McChesney

## WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

UMH 33

## SHARING STORIES OF GOD AT WORK THROUGH CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS

**"THE THINGS THAT MATTER MOST"** Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed, inspired by today's scriptures

## SILENT PRAYER

## PASTORAL PRAYER

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

## MENTOR IN MINISTRY

## SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*As the plates are being passed, please also take this opportunity to sign the Welcome Book and pass on.*

## OFFERTORY

"Lenten Fantasia"

Jason W. Krug

## \*DOXOLOGY #95

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## \*HYMN OF CENTERING

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

UMH 121

*Hymn History:* The music to this hymn was written by Lizzie Tourjee. She was born in Newport, Rhode Island in 1858. She was 17 and attending Wellesley College when she wrote it. Her father, Eben Tourjee, who was the founder of the New England Conservatory of Music, suggested that she name the tune for the college she attended. Lizzie put the words to a poem, There's a Wideness to God's Mercy, that was written by Frederick Faber to give us the hymn we sing today. Faber was an English clergyman and poet. Eben Tournee put this hymn in the Methodist hymnal he was editing in 1878. The words express the magnitude of God's Mercy toward us and that His Grace is with us during our Christian journey. Lizzie Tourjee died in 1913 in Newton, Massachusetts.

## SCRIPTURE

John 8:2-11, p. 757

## MESSAGE

"Tell Me Something Good:  
The Good News is...Rooted in Justice, Mercy, and Faithfulness."  
Rev. Dr. Ivy Smith

## \*HYMN OF MISSION

"Lord, You Give the Great Commission"

UMH 584

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION SUNG RESPONSE "Go Now In Peace"**

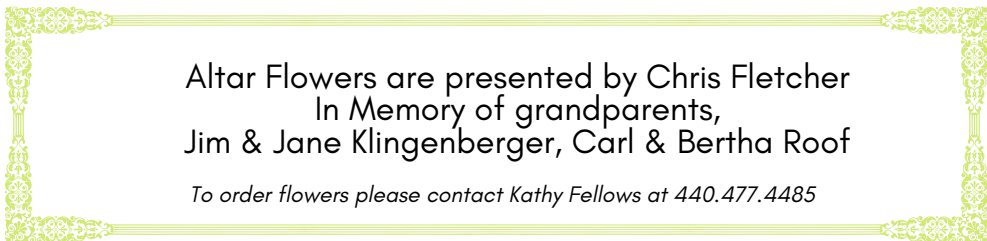
**Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true. Know He will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.  
Amen. Amen. Amen.**

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**POSTLUDE**

"Prelude in f minor"

Leon Boellmann



Altar Flowers are presented by Chris Fletcher  
In Memory of grandparents,  
Jim & Jane Klingenberg, Carl & Bertha Roof

To order flowers please contact Kathy Fellows at 440.477.4485



*Cover Art Artist Statement*

I often wonder about the backstory of the woman from John 8:2-11. What were her circumstances? How did they "catch" her in the act of adultery?

Whatever her story, the Pharisees bring her to Jesus expecting him to uphold the law's punitive prescription. Jesus knows it's a trap.

I wanted to show this woman standing in her wholeness, right after the crowds have dispersed and right before Jesus rises to meet her as an equal. She's backlit in a way that suggests the sun has set, indicating the end of a saga. What will she do at the end of a nightmare with a new life ahead of her? What decisions do we face at the dawn of a second chance?

—Rev. T. Denise Anderson

# Mentor United Methodist Church

Traditional Worship | March 22, 2026



T. D. Anderson

*Epilogue*


by T. Denise Anderson  
Inspired by John 8:2-11  
14"x18" Acrylic on canvas  
A Sanctified Art | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)



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Pastor Steve Stultz Costello, Lead Pastor  
Pastor Ivy Smith, Associate Pastor  
Pastor Tammy Palermo, Pastor of Children & Family Ministry

Scan to  
Give, Connect,  
Get Updates, and more



WIFI password: GodLovesYou



Scan to Read the Weekly Update

# MENTOR UNITED HIGHLIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

## Admitted to Rehab, Assisted Living or Nursing Home Facility:

Enclave: Johanna Kessler, Dee Smith, Mary Lou Haines, John Shetler, Joe & Judy Tirpak  
Parker Place: Bob & Sandy Linsell, Deloris Parsons, Mary Ann Haycox  
Symphony of Mentor: Lorraine Ahlstrom  
Governor's Pointe: Bob Williams  
Salida Woods: June Van Ostrand

## In need of prayer:

Hilary Pleska, Karen Mancini, Tom Martin, Noralee Starr, Sandy Williams, Russ Lancaster, Kay McKinney, Terry & Mary Ellen Reynolds, Norma Ickes, Jo Brown

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## UPCOMING

AT MENTOR UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

### Monday, March 23

- Parents Morning Out
- Carr Journey Group (2)

### Thursday, March 26

- Bell Choir
- Charter Members Men's Choir
- Chancel Choir

### Sunday, March 22

- 9, 9:15, & 11 AM Worship
- 10:30 AM Communion
- 10 & 12 Fellowship Hour
- Martin Journey Group
- Children's Sunday School
- Youth Sunday School
- Confirmation
- YSP Meeting
- Youth Group

### Tuesday, March 24

- Ring Journey Group
- Disciple III
- Young Adult Group

### Wednesday, March 25

- Knitting Group
- Lent Dinner, 5:45 PM
- Lent Groups, 6:45 PM

### Friday, March 27

- MOMCo

### Saturday, March 28

- Modern Worship Practice
- Young Adult Outing: Books in the Woods
- Cantata Rehearsal
- More Than a Meal

## April's Bread, Broth, Brownies, & Bingo Luncheon

Don't miss the next 4B luncheon! Mentor United Women in Faith invites you to join us for chicken tortilla soup, cornbread, salad, and dulce de leche brownies. Guest speaker Becky O'Donnell, President of Guatemala Family Development, will share with us some ways they are involved in the health, well-being, and education of Mayan children and families in rural Guatemalan communities, including the upcoming medical mission trip which the Langdons will be a part of. We hope you will join us Wednesday, April 8th at noon in the MUMC Gallery! All are welcome. Please RSVP to [uwfmentorumc.org](http://uwfmentorumc.org) or find the signup sheet in the Info Hub.

## CWC Luncheon

Join us at Pine Ridge CC for the next Christian Women's Connection Luncheon on Tuesday, April 21st. The afternoon will feature Billy Herron from BremecGarden Centers and Laura Loveberry with a talk. Cost is \$28 at the door. RSVP by April 16th to 440.488.4351 or send an email to: [cwcstonecroft@yahoo.com](mailto:cwcstonecroft@yahoo.com)

## Open Table

Join us on April 9th for the next Open Table at 5:30 PM in the Gallery. This month's theme will be a preview for this 2026 Vacation Bible School hosted by the Children & Family Ministry team! RSVP online, in the Info Hub, or just show up.

## Fair Play Project

Theatre Enthusiasts in high school or college are encouraged to participate in this year's Fair Play project. Rehearsals will be 3:00-4:30 PM at MUMC on May 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, and 21. The performance will be on Tuesday, May 26th at 7 PM. To get involved, reach out to Pastor Tammy or register online.

## Project Hope Golf Outing

Join Project Hope for a Golf Outing on Monday, May 18th at Little Mountain Country Club. Learn more and [register online here](#).

## Woodlawn Easter Party

On Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, the UWF will be sponsoring an "In the Spirit of Easter Party" at the Woodlawn Homes Community Center in Painesville. Children's party from 12:30 to 2:30 PM includes crafts, games, prizes, and food. Volunteers are needed! Call Carol Ryan at 440.488.0541 or email her at [workingwithwoodlawncarol70@gmail.com](mailto:workingwithwoodlawncarol70@gmail.com)

## Sew for Charity

Head to Mentor Plains United Methodist Church for Sew for Charity Days from 10:30 AM to 2 PM on March 27 & 28. All skill levels are welcome. RSVP: [SEW4SERVICE.ORG](http://SEW4SERVICE.ORG)

## EASTER OFFERING

This year's Easter Offering is designated for UMCOR, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, and Missions.

# FINAL Lent Dinner & Group Meetings

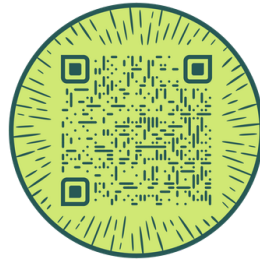
 **Check the boxes and turn in to the office/offering box to RSVP** 

Join us at 5:45 PM this Wednesday for dinner! We'll meet in the Gallery and enjoy a meal and dessert together. Dinners include conversation and camp-style worship.

## Menu:

*For dietary restrictions, get in touch with the church office.*

Wednesday, March 25th  
*Rhonda's Salsa chicken with black beans & rice, corn salsa with tortilla chips, refried beans, and salad.*



Join us on Wednesday evenings around 6:45 PM for group opportunities.

**"Tell Me Something Good" In Depth**  
Join pastor Steve Stultz Costello and pastor Ivy Smith for this group that will go further into the themes of the prior Sunday's sermon & scriptures. No materials needed but you are encouraged to take a look at the digital Lenten Devotional, which you can find a link to on our website.

**The Social Principles**  
Join Youth & Young Adult Director, Mackalyn Figgins, in learning more about the UMC Social Principles. This group is good for those who want to have a deeper understanding of how to engage with contemporary issues in a biblical and theological way.

**#BeUMC**  
Join Chris Fletcher for "#BeUMC," an introductory, relaxed look into what being a Methodist means. We'll meet in Gallery as the meal ends, so you don't even need to leave your seat! No materials needed.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT INFO:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Lenten Cantata

Join us on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM for the Lenten Cantata, "At the Ninth Hour" in Traditional Worship. This service will also be livestreamed on our YouTube channel.

## Eggstravaganza

Join us on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM here at Mentor UMC for the annual community egg hunt. Enjoy a morning of free fun, including candy, games, crafts, and the EASTER BUNNY! Contact Pastor Tammy to volunteer or visit our website. Candy donations can be dropped off in the church office.

## The BIG Event TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Tickets are on sale now for this year's Youth Service Project fundraiser dinner, The BIG Event on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. Visit the Info Hub after service to get your ticket. Each year, the YSP students host an exciting night with auctions and entertainment. Get a head start on supporting this ministry by purchasing a "stock" or grabbing a raffle basket donation form. Learn more about both in the Info Hub or online.

## Book Club

Join us for Book Club on Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM in the library at Mentor UMC. We will discuss books we've been reading in our own time. Keep in touch between meetings by joining our Slack channel.

## Chair Yoga

Join us from 1-2 PM on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> for a special session of Chair Yoga. Cost is \$10. No materials or training necessary. This is meant to be a meditative time that ALL can participate in. Register online or in the Info Hub.

## Hiking Group

The next session of the Hiking Journey Group will be starting on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 AM at North Chagrin Reservation with the study book, *I Have Loved You: on love for the poor* by Pope Leo. This book is available at Cokesbury.com and Amazon for \$14.29.

## StrengthsFinder

A NEW session of StrengthsFinder will begin on April 19<sup>th</sup> through May 17<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 to 2:00 PM. Chuck Tackett will be facilitating. Sign up online or get in touch with the church office.

## Change the World Day

Join us for Change the World Day on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 2 PM as we partner with Sleep in Heavenly Peace to build beds for children in our community. Sign up online or in the Info Hub to help.

## Rummage Sale

Save the date for this year's Rummage Sale on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. We will collect donations the week leading up to the sale ONLY. The volunteer sign-up and donation list are available online and in the Info Hub.