

MENTOR

UNITED

WEEKLY UPDATE

METHODIST

CHURCH

DECEMBER 1, 2024

8600 MENTOR AVE

MENTOR OH 44060

MENTORUMC.ORG

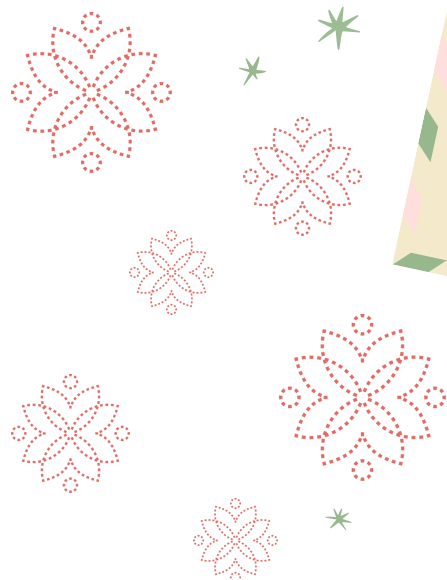
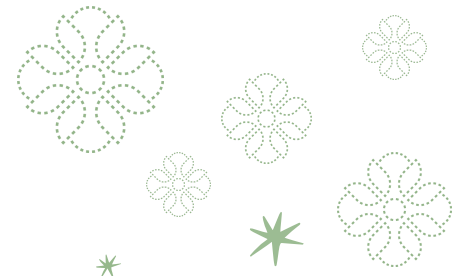
440.255.3496

Worship with us in-person or online:
Mentorumc.org, Facebook, and Youtube

Worship Schedule

9 AM Modern

11 AM Traditional



Pastor's Letter

God with Us: Hope Through Vulnerability

Christ "emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness." - Philippians 2:7

The season of Advent is here! It is a time of waiting and preparation. It is four weeks of anticipation and growing excitement. It is the beginning of a new year in the Christian calendar marked by lighting candles each week that celebrate hope, peace, joy and love. Above all, Advent invites us to live with expectancy—expecting to see God.

The word *Advent* comes from the Latin *advenire* meaning "to come" (ad = to and venire = come). For more than a thousand years before Christ, the Israelites were sustained by the promise of a coming Messiah who would usher in a new reign of justice and righteousness, love and peace. Roughly two thousand years ago, the promised Messiah came, just not as was expected. The Savior of the World came as a baby born among animals in a humble stable to an exhausted teenage second-class citizen living under the oppressive regime of the Roman empire who was not yet married to her fiancé who was not the father of the child. There were many (mostly religious authorities and those in power) who did not believe this vulnerable newborn was the long-awaited Messiah.

It's no wonder is it? We are no different today, are we? When we think of a leader who is promising to change the world, let's admit it, vulnerability is not high on the list of character traits. And yet, vulnerability is what sets Jesus apart from all other historical leaders who are credited for changing the world. In the words of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 2:7 – Christ "emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness."

Our Advent series focuses on the good news that God *is* with us. Each week we will explore together what this means and what it looks like. This week, we are invited to consider God's vulnerability as the source of hope. In his book, *Honest Advent*, Scott Erickson says, "Any real connection involves vulnerability because it takes the act of making oneself open to truly be known."

Church, hear the Good News! We serve a God who is always inviting us into real connection. We serve a God who came in vulnerability, served among the most vulnerable and is with us today showing us the way to real and right relationships. That's hope through vulnerability.

Be sure to get the most out of Advent by reading the Advent Devotional with daily reflections written by MUMC members. And, if you are able, every Sunday, come to Modern Worship at 9 AM and/or Traditional Worship at 11 AM. Get here at 10:15 for Christmas carols, refreshments, and fellowship in the Gallery. Join us in the chapel at 10:30 for Communion on December 8, 15, 22 and 29. When we are together, we feel God with us!



Happy Advent,

Handwritten signature of Pastor Steve in blue ink.

Pastor Steve



December 7th
Gift of Time from 1-4 PM

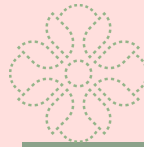
December 14th
Christmas Play:
'A Charlie Brown Christmas', 4 PM

December 15th
Christmas Cantata
in Traditional Worship, 11 AM

December 18th
Blue Christmas Service,
7 PM in the Chapel

December 20th
Prelude to Christmas,
7:30 PM in the Sanctuary

December 29th, 30th
Youth Holiday Lock-In, 7 PM-8 AM



Advent Season

December 24th
Christmas Eve Services

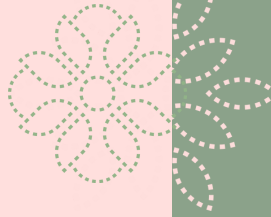
Communion, 3 PM

Family, 5 PM

Modern, 7 PM

Traditional, 9 PM

all services are candlelight



Care CONGREGATIONAL

In our prayers today & in your personal prayer time, please remember the following:

Members admitted to Rehab.

Assisted Living or Nursing Home Facility:

The Enclave - Delores Tackett, Johanna Kessler, Dee Smith,
Mary Lou Haines, John Shetler, Carol Anderson, Doug Kepp

Governors Point - Doris Sturm

Parker Place - Bill Owen, Bob & Sandy Linsell,

Deloris Parsons, Mary Ann Haycox

Tapestry - Gloria McFeely

Symphony of Mentor - Lorraine Ahlstrom

Breckenridge/Fairmount - Patricia Laubscher

Village of St. Edward: Dale Porter

Holly Hill - Floyd Richards

Brookdale - Bill Wolfgang

Mentor Ridge - Russ Lancaster

Members who are in need of prayer:

Karen Mancini, Marilyn Oliver, Luke Sanvido, David Fell, Carol Anderson, Pam Crawley, Bob Linsell, Dick & Nancy Smith, Andy Champa, Georgeanna Allen, Suzanne Dubeansky

**Love & Sympathy to the family & friends of Virginia Gilman,
who passed on Wednesday, November 20, 2024.**

**Love & Sympathy to the family & friends of Carol Lewis,
who passed on Saturday, November 23, 2024.**

Need to Know

Youversion

<https://bible.com/events/49354147>

Learn more about Sunday's scriptures & worship by visiting this link.

Communion & Fellowship

Join us for Communion at 10:30 AM in the Chapel on Sundays in December (not including Communion Sunday, Dec 1st). You can also listen to Christmas songs being performed in the Gallery during Fellowship Hour.

Poinsettias

Order your poinsettias TODAY! [View the online order form](#) or grab a paper one in the Info Hub. Plants are \$7 each.

Advent Devotional

You can pick up a Devotional at the church or read the digital version [found here](#) or on our website. If the browser version doesn't work for you, try the PDF version. [More info here](#). To celebrate the art shared in this devotional and our Stewardship craft, we will have an art display in the Gallery through December.

Christmas Play: A Charlie Brown Christmas

Join us in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 14th at 4 PM for A Charlie Brown Christmas presented by the MUMC Truth & Light Players. Tickets are on sale now! [Click here](#) or visit our website.

Christmas Cantata

Each year we prepare for Christmas with an incredible performance by members & friends of Mentor UMC. Join us in Traditional Worship at 11 AM on Sunday, December 15th in-person or online.

Blue Christmas

Blue Christmas is a service for those dealing with grief and loss this Advent season. Join us for a meaningful service in the Chapel at 7 PM on Wednesday, December 18th.

Prelude to Christmas

Join us on Friday, December 20th at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary for this special service presented by the Charter Members Men's Choir & guests from Painesville & Chardon UMC Choirs.

CWC Luncheon

Christian Women's Connection of Lake County presents "It's a Merry Christmas Party!" on Tuesday, December 10th from 11 AM to 1:30 PM at Pine Ridge CC. Join us for an afternoon of music, a mini Christmas bazaar, an inspirational message, and an ensemble of the Snowbelt Symphony Orchestra. Cost is \$25, please RSVP by December 4th. Call Dee at 440.488.435 or cwcstonecroft@yahoo.com.

Young at Heart Luncheon 2024

This year's Young at Heart Luncheon will be on Wednesday, December 11th at 12 PM at Mentor United Methodist Church. The MUMC Women of Faith are excited to host this wonderful Christmas Luncheon of chicken marsala, mashed potatoes, caprese salad, zucchini medley, and Andes mint chocolate brownies for dessert. A fun game of Christmas Jeopardy will follow lunch! Those 65 years and older are invited to join us for a meal and some Christmas fun! All you need to do is call the Church Office at (440) 255-3496, or [sign up online](#) by **MONDAY, DECEMBER 9th**.

Disciple Bible Study

Beginning in the new year, we will start Discipleship Bible studies. Pastor Steve will lead a Disciple 1 class on Thursdays, 4-6 PM starting January 16th. Syndie Toth will lead Disciple 1 on Mondays from 10-12 PM and Lucas & Wendy Rhoads will lead Disciple 2 on Thursdays from 7-9 PM. This will go all 2025, with a break in the summer. Pastor Tammy will facilitate the fast track version, which is 24 weeks. The prayer is to have 100 plus people involved to learn more about the Bible. [Register here](#).

Giving Trees

The trees are up and the names are ready. As in the past we have the signup genius available as well as GREEN TREE tags on the tree, We encourage you to look at the [signup genius](#) if you plan on taking more than one name. This way you can bless a family for Christmas. Families range from 2-8 children this year. The tags on the trees are mostly single child families and work well for people that are not able to access the signup genius.

YELLOW ANGELS tags are for members of the church that could use some extra prayers.

RED HEARTS represent charities that we are supporting this year. They include: Ohio Guidestone, Project Hope, Royal Family Kids Camp and Ronald McDonald House.

BLUE BELLS represent acts of kindness.

Please return your wrapped and well labeled gifts for the children to church ON or BEFORE Sunday December 15th at noon. We have a secure place to store all gifts. Please contact Betsy Iskra at 440-283-6524 or Iskra5@aol.com with any questions.

[View online signup here.](#)

What's Your M.O.? Mission Opportunities

Royal Family Kids

The Leadership Team of Royal Family Kids want to let you know that your generous contributions for our Thanksgiving gift card request was so successful that we were able to give each family \$50 in Giant Eagle gift cards and a pumpkin pie for Thanksgiving this year! These gifts were taken to the family's homes after our monthly club meeting on Saturday, Nov.16th. We could not do what we do without you and your generosity. Thank you so much for blessing these families!

Blood Drive

The next Blood Drive is Tuesday, January 14th at MUMC. Sign up [online](#)!

Project Hope

Project Hope is in need of 33+ gallon trash bags, 16oz disposable bowls, napkins, toilet bowl cleaner, and dish soap. You may drop off at the shelter between 9 - 2 PM, Mon-Fri.

Hope Chest

Hope Chest is in the process of moving locations. During this process, we ask that donations be paused. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Thanksgiving Offering

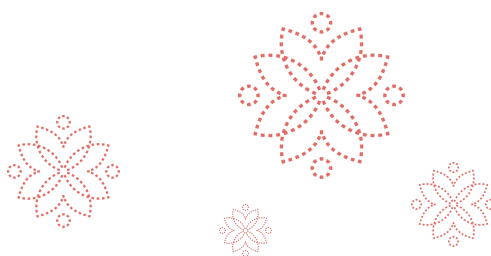
Reminder that your in-person or online giving from Thanksgiving Sunday goes towards supporting the Thanksgiving Day Meal at MUMC. This annual meal feeds hundreds and is a blessing to offer to members, friends, and the community. There are special Food Ministry envelopes that are available in the Info Hub, chair & pew pockets for all services.

Advent Candle Lighting

All are invited to sign up to light candles this Advent season during service. [Visit this signup](#) to learn more.

Christmas Eve Ushers

[Sign up online](#) or in the Info Hub to be an Usher for one of the Christmas Eve services. For questions, contact Chris Meldrum.



WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

Sunday Morning Kids

9:00 & 11:00 AM at MUMC for all services.

- ALL ages are encouraged to check in at the Early Childhood Center (or Gallery, if available).
- Grades K-5 begin in worship with their families and then be dismissed to the Education Wing.

Sunday Morning Signup

MUMC's mission is to lead all onto a path of Christ-centered discipleship. Here is a great place to do just that! [Click here for leader signup](#). There are spots for various ages/levels, so check out what section works for you:

"Worship one, serve one!"

2024-2025 Preschool Reg

There are still a few openings for 2024-2025 Preschool. If you have questions or wish to register, please contact State Manager, Brittany Jones at bjones.preschool@mentorumc.org.

Pre-Reg for 2025-2026

Pre-register for the 2025-2026 school year at MUMC: [link here](#). Get in touch with Brittany Jones to learn more: bjones.preschool@mentorumc.org

MOMCo

MOMCo meets Fridays, December 13th & 20th. Moms join us in the Gallery from 9 AM - 12 PM.

Child & Caregiver Class

Age 2 ½ to 3 ½

9:15-10:45 AM in the Early Childhood Area

- WINTER: January 15, 22, 29, February 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5
- SPRING: March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14

Cost is \$60 per 8 week session (prepaid, non-refundable). [Apply here!](#)

Middle School

Grades 6-8 are welcome Sundays from 9:15-10 AM in the Youth Room.

Gift of Time

Children & Family Ministry is offering an afternoon of free childcare on Saturday, December 7 from 1:00-4:00 PM here at MUMC. Get your holiday shopping done! You can [sign up online here](#) or visit our website.

Tea Time

Youth are invited to meet at MUMC in the Library between Sunday services (around 10 AM). We'll enjoy drinks and snacks, talk, do devotions, and more. No need to RSVP, just pop in!

Youth Lock-In

We will have a Holiday Lock-in on December 29th-30th. We will meet in the Youth Room from 7pm to 8am. This will be a time for us to gather together, celebrate the holidays, and have some Holy Shenanigans. [RSVP here](#). To volunteer to help with this event, [sign up online](#).

High School Coffee Meet-up

High Schoolers are welcome to meet with us at 9 AM at Calico Jack, the coffee shop across the street from MUMC. We'll chat, have coffee or tea, and return back to church by ten.



Young Adult Small Group

Young Adults are encouraged to join a small group that will be meeting in-person and online December 3, 10, 17, and 30th at 6 PM. We will be discussing the Honest Advent devotional and enjoying the Advent season together. [Sign up online](#) or get in touch with Mackalyn.

