

MENTOR

UNITED

WEEKLY UPDATE

METHODIST

CHURCH

NOVEMBER 16, 2025

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



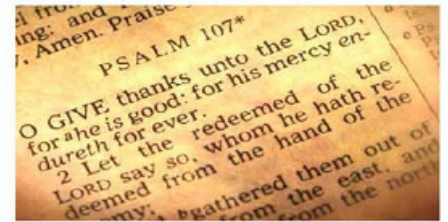
Pastor's Letter



I AM SOOOO READY!

I am thrilled to announce, and you will see shortly, that OUR CHRISTMAS TREES ARE UP! Hooray, Hooray! Oh my goodness!

I love Christmas! Friends, I was so overjoyed, on Tuesday, when folks were buzzing around the Gallery with strands and strands of colored Christmas lights everywhere. Simply beautiful!



I believe that this time is so special when we transition our homes, yards, work places and churches out of our normal décor. And, if our holiday transition is an over-the-top, gaudy extravaganza, or a snowy sublime stately scene, or a 'just right' show of the seasons, this is a joyous time!

As United Methodists, we are a mission denomination, and we shine at being the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in the world. And Mentor, we are a missional church. So as we prepare for our giving trees for children, families, seniors and college students, we give thanks to God for opportunity to share.

So, I applaud you. Each and every member of Mentor United Methodist Church for displaying your compassion, desire, and heart as we buy, cook and serve Thanksgiving Day Dinners and make gifts happen from our trees. We are a church of givers, we simply are and it is a great satisfaction!

So please tell Dave and Betsy Iskra "thank you" for our stunningly decorated church! Wow, great job!!

Again, I love Thanksgiving and Christmas and the earlier we can start the signs of compassion, care, and love, the better. Welcome to the holidays!

—Pastor Ivy

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

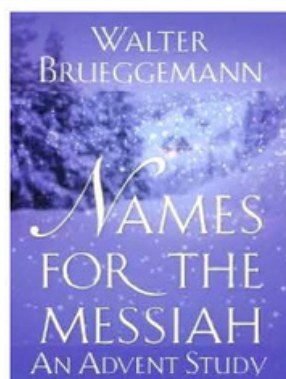
Praise God the Father who's the source;

Praise God the Son who is the course; Praise God the Spirit who's the flow;

Praise God, our portion here below!



Caring Servants Christmas
Gift Packing Day
December 3 - 11:30AM



OUR ADVENT STUDY
begins November 24
Register now online

NOV 18 Book order deadline
Group 1: 6pm Nov. 24, Dec. 1, 8, 15
Group 2: 6pm at a different local holiday bar weekly

BOTH of these groups are open to ALL!

Care CONGREGATIONAL

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

Admitted to Rehab.

Assisted Living or Nursing Home Facility:

The Enclave - Delores Tackett, Johanna Kessler, Dee Smith,
Mary Lou Haines, John Shetler, Joe & Judy Tirpak

Parker Place - Bill Owen, Bob & Sandy Linsell,
Deloris Parsons, Mary Ann Haycox

Prosper at Wickliffe - Gloria McFeely

Symphony of Mentor - Lorraine Ahlstrom

Village of St. Edward: Dale Porter

Fairmont - Gretchen Tice

Governor's Point - Bob Williams

Mentor Ridge - June Van Ostrand

In need of prayer:

Hilary Pleska, Karen Mancini, Tom Martin, Laurie Eppler, Noralee Starr,
Connie Sterner, Sandy Williams, Dee Smith, Russ Lancaster, Kay McKinney,
Ruthie Hobart, Terry & Mary Ellen Reynolds, Kimberlee Johnson, The Hall
Family, Doug & Kathy Koman, Sandy Mazelis, The Denton Family,
Syndie Toth, Heather Lippert, Jill Tackett, Linda Beidle

DISTRACTIONS

NOVEMBER 9 - 23

11/9: Naming Our Distractions

11/16: Focus on Jesus, Don't Be Distracted
Commitment Sunday

11/23: Overcoming Our Distractions

Join us in-person or online
Sundays 9 AM and 11 AM



Communion

Communion is the first Sunday of the month in both services. On all other Sundays, Communion & Prayer is held in the Chapel at 10:30 AM.

Fellowship Hour

Join us after service every week in the Gallery for Fellowship Hour. First Sunday of the month is Pancakes Sunday!

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

Advent Sermon Series

We pray that you can join us this season as we prepare for the coming of Christ. Our sermon series, "He Shall Be Called..." explores the names we call the Messiah, as stated in Isaiah 9:2-7.

Thanksgiving Trees

Pickup a Caring Servants Thanksgiving Tree in the Gallery this Sunday after worship. This craft is a fun way to show what you are grateful for this autumn season.

Advent Studies

All are invited to join two Advent study groups this winter. We will be discussing Walter Brueggemann's book, *Names for the Messiah: An Advent Study*. Books can be purchased on your own or through the church.

Group 1: Join Pastor Tammy on Mondays, November 24, December 1, 8, and 15 from 6:00-7:30 PM at Mentor UMC.

Group 2: Join Mackalyn for a Tuesday night group called "Brews & Bibles." We'll meet at a different local holiday bar each week at 6 PM to study Brueggemann's book.

BOTH of these groups are open to ALL! Please register [HERE](#) for either group no later than November 16th.

Poinsettia Forms

Pick up a form in the Info Hub or fill out your order [online here](#) for Poinsettias on Christmas Eve.

Need to Know

Christmas Cantata:

Sing We Noel

Join us on Sunday, December 7th during the 11 AM Traditional Worship service for the annual Christmas Cantata. This is a free choir and orchestra presentation celebrating the season.

Prelude to Christmas

Join us at Mentor UMC on Friday, December 12th in the Sanctuary at 7:30 PM for the Charter Members Men's Choir's "Prelude to Christmas." Each year, this performance readies us for the coming of Christ and the Christmas season. This is free and open to all.

Blue Christmas

Join us at Mentor UMC for a special Christmas service at 5 PM on December 17th. This is a service for those experiencing grief, loss, and hardship this holiday season. All welcome.

Emergency Planning & Preparedness

Available starting the 16th, find yellow slips in the seat pockets and pews that remind us how to remain calm in case of emergency situations. Mentor UMC is committed to creating a safe environment and worship space for ALL to enjoy. Feel free to take a slip home to reassure and use for discussion with your friends & family.

Book Club

The next Book Club will meet on Monday, November 24th at 6 PM in the Library at MUMC. Tell your friends! We'll discuss what we've each read this month and the themes of gratitude/thanksgiving we've seen in our reads lately. Book Club will regularly meet on the LAST Monday of the month, including the holiday season (December 29th is the next book club). If you miss a month or two, no worries! Stay in touch with us on [Slack](#) where you can share what you are reading at any time.

Connection Corner

Relate. Love. Disciple

A part of MUMC's mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ—echoing the Great Commission to "go and make disciples of all nations." John Wesley reframes the focus of evangelism—not as a one-time conversion decision to follow Jesus—but as the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith and spiritual growth. The R.E.L.A.T.I.O.N.A.L. acronym helps explain the Wesleyan approach to Evangelism.

O. ON-GOING

Evangelism isn't a race to finish a program—it's a lifelong journey. It's about an on-going commitment to grow in faith, seek renewal, and love both God and neighbor. Everyone in the church plays a part. This way of life is not quick or easy, but it's worth it.

FOOD FOCUS

Food Pantry Needs

Mentor UMC's Food Pantry holds regular distributions for families and individuals in need. The next distribution is THIS month on the 17th & 18th. The Pantry is ALWAYS accepting and in need of non-perishable items. Please drop donations off to the Community Center bin (near the ramp). You may also [give online](#) through our website.

POP UP Food Pantry

In a combined effort, Mentor UMC and our preschool are collecting food for those suffering from cuts to SNAP. We will do a few pop-up food pantries throughout Mentor for folks who do not have transportation or resources to get to a food program. There is a BLUE BIN for collecting non-perishable food items located in the Gallery. We are looking for the following items:

- Non-perishable food items
- Non-perishable foods (microwavable)
- Canned foods with a pop-open lid
- Can openers
- \$5-10 gift cards to buy fresh dairy & produce

[Sign up online to help out with distributions.](#)

More Than a Meal

Volunteer to prepare, cook, serve, or cleanup for this month's More Than a Meal (free community meal) on Saturday, November 29th. Doors open at 5 and the meal is served at 5:30 PM. Signup online here or get in touch with the church office for help with signing up.

What's Your M.O.? Mission Opportunities

Thanksgiving Day Meal

Save the date for the annual MUMC Thanksgiving Day Meal on Thursday, November 27th. Each year this church comes together to supply, cook, and serve a FREE Thanksgiving Meal to our community. This blessing isn't possible without YOU! [Sign up online](#) or visit the table in the Gallery for Food Donations and the Volunteer signup.

Modern Service Communion Coordinators Needed

We're looking for volunteers to help set up communion on the first Sunday of each month. This is a simple but sacred act of service. Whether you're called to serve once or regularly. This is a beautiful way to support worship behind the scenes and participate in the spiritual rhythm of our church.

Please contact Chris Fletcher at Membership@mentorumc.org.

GIVING TREE UPDATE

Many of you have noticed that there are trees up all over the church! Thank you to all who helped get them decorated! Many have already asked about when the kids names will be available. The process of getting the information gathered, sorted and presented is still in the works! Names will hopefully be up by 11/23. Please stay tuned!

Holiday Hygiene Gifts

Painesville UMC is putting together Holiday Hygiene Gifts for their Food Pantry visitors. Check out their needs list [online](#) to help support this mission.

THANK YOU: Royal Family Kids

The Leadership Team of Royal Family Kids #271 want to thank everyone who so generously donated funds so that we can provide the families of the kids who attended camp this summer and who attend monthly club meetings with grocery store gift cards so that those families may have a bountiful Thanksgiving dinner. Your generosity will also allow us to provide grocery store gift cards to those same families for their Christmas dinner. Thank you all very much!

THANK YOU: Gingerbread

Another successful Gingerbread House thanks to bakers (includes candy makers, jelly makers, snack makers), crafters, sellers, caramel puff makers, packers, organizers, cheese cutters, soup makers, servers, set up and take down crews, promoters and lots of shoppers. The money will be used to support our church's missions. Thanks for volunteering!

Hope Chest

Hope Chest is in need of Full, Queen, and King blankets. Donations can be dropped off in the Community Center at MUMC.

WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

Children's Min Meetings

Children's Ministry Team Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month on zoom at 7 PM. Contact Pastor Tammy for the link or for questions.

Sunday Morning Kids

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

- ALL ages 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!"

MOMCo Meetings

Meetings are the 2nd & 4th Friday of the month from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM in the Gallery at MUMC. [Register and learn more online here](#).

Child & Caregiver Class

This class is open to ages 2 ½ to 3 ½ on Wednesdays from 9:15 AM to 10:45 AM. The cost is \$65 per 8-week session (prepaid, non-refundable). The WINTER session is January 14, 21, 28; February 4, 11, 18, 25; March 4. The SPRING: March 25; April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; May 6, 13. [Fill out the form online here](#).

Youth Sunday School

Grades 6-12 are invited to Sunday School during the 9 AM worship service each Sunday. We'll meet in the Youth room for fellowship & fun.

Youth Group

Youth are invited to meet in the Youth Room from 4-6 PM on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month for Youth Group. If there is a special event on one of those Sundays, then the event replaces YG.

Young Adult Group

Meet us in-person (Youth Room) on Tuesdays from 6 - 7 PM. Currently, we're reading and discussing Octavia Butler's novel *Parable of the Sower*. During Advent, we will do a study that takes us to local Christmas bars (details on the *Need to Know* page). Contact Mackalyn for details.

Parents of Youth

Fill out an online form [here](#) if you are a parent of a youth and interested in connecting with other parents.

Gaming Group

Wednesdays are game nights! Join this Intergenerational group on Wednesdays from 5:30-9:30 PM (or whatever time you can spare) in the Youth Room. Right now, D&D is the game offered. If there is a particular game you are interested in seeing at MUMC, get in touch with Mackalyn. There is space and opportunity for board games, video games, card games, etc.

Young Adult Outing

Join us for the Christmas Tree lighting in Cleveland on Saturday, November 29th. We'll leave the church at 3:30 OR you may meet us downtown at 4 PM. The tree lighting event includes music, food trucks, campfires, ice skating, and more. No cost to get in but bring money for food and festivities!

Youth Service Project

YSP holds regular meetings at MUMC to plan the 2026 trip and fundraisers. [Visit our website](#) for dates or get in touch with Mackalyn.

Christmas Play Tickets

Tickets for MUMC's Truth & Light Players' production of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" are on sale NOW! They will perform on Friday, December 5th in Fellowship Hall at MUMC. [Buy online here](#).

