The liturgical color is white for the 1st Sunday after Christmas Day

INVITATION TO WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC AND SONG

PRELUDE "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" arr. Dan Forrest
Bonnie Budziak & Amy Bender, pianists

WELCOME Jan Robinson, liturgist

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

As the year draws to a close, we gather again around the songs that carry the good news.
In carols sung across generations, we hear angels announce hope to a weary world.
In familiar melodies, we travel with shepherds to a manger and kneel with wonder and joy.
Through hymns of praise and quiet lullabies, we remember that God chose nearness—light in the darkness, love made flesh.
Today we sing not only of what once was, but of what still is and what is yet to come.
So we lift our voices, tell the story once more, and give thanks for Emmanuel—God with us.
Yesterday, today, and in the year ahead.
Let us worship God together.

***OPENING HYMN** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" vs. 1-3, 6 UMH 234

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, as this year comes to a close, we give thanks for the songs that have told your story—of angels and shepherds, of light in the darkness, of love made flesh. Through familiar hymns, you remind us that you are near, that hope is born among us, and that your love endures. As we worship, open our hearts to hear the song again and to carry its joy into the year ahead. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 52:7-10 NIV, p. 523

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

WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC "Angels We Have Heard on High" arr. Dan Forrest

SHARING STORIES OF GOD AT WORK THROUGH CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS

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 it on.
REMINDER: All gifts for 2025 must be turned in by December 31, 2025.

OFFERTORY "Silent Night" arr. Chip Davis

***DOXOLOGY #94**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SCRIPTURE Hebrews 1:1-4 NIV, p. 846

GOOD NEWS IN SONG

"Angels from the Realms of Glory" vs. 1 & 2 UMH 220

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" vs. 1 & 4 UMH 218

"The First Noel" vs. 1 & 2 UMH 245

"The Friendly Beasts" UMH 227

Hymn History: The music to this hymn is a medieval French melody. This melody is based on a Latin song entitled "Orientis Partibus," which means *From the East*. It is attributed to Pierre de Corbeil (1150-1222) and is one of the oldest songs used for a Christmas Carol. The English words were written by Robert Davis (1881-1950) around 1920. The words describe the gifts presented to baby Jesus by the donkey, cow, sheep, and dove in the stable and the comfort they gave the Child. The hymn reminds us that it wasn't just the shepherds and Wise Men who witnessed His Birth, but also some of God's other creatures. The words written by Davis utilize an old folk song structure with the last line of each stanza repeating the first line of the stanza. This technique allowed people to join in singing even with no printed music. This hymn has been recorded by many famous artists, including Burl Ives, Harry Belafonte, Johnny Cash, and Garth Brooks among others.

"Go, Tell It On the Mountain" UMH 251

**Congregation invited to stand if able*

***HYMN OF MISSION** "Joy to the World" UMH 246

***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 "Break Forth into Joy" *from* The Christmas Oratorio J. S. Bach

Liturgy and prayers written by Pastor Steve with assistance from ChatGPT

Altar Flowers are presented by Sara Weaver
In Loving Memory of husband, Harry

Flower openings on January 18th & 25th.
To order flowers please contact Kathy Fellows at 440.477.4485

MENTOR
United Methodist Church

8600 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060
440.255.3496 - info@mentorumc.org

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

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WIFI password: GodLovesYou

Mentor United Methodist Church

Traditional Worship | December 28, 2025

MENTOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HIGHLIGHTS

Scan to Read the Weekly Update

Members who are in need of prayer:
Hilary Pleska, Karen Mancini, Tom Martin, Noralee Starr, Sandy Williams, Dee Smith, Russ Lancaster, Kay McKinney, Terry & Mary Ellen Reynolds, Doug & Kathy Koman, Sandy Mazelis, Heather Lippert, Linda Beidle, Bill Mueller, Jack Donahue, Doug Fletcher

Members admitted to Rehab, Assisted Living, or Nursing Home Facility:
The Enclave – 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
Fairmont – Gretchen Tice
Governor's Point – Bob Williams
Mentor Ridge – June Van Ostrand
Danbury Senior Living – Terry Reynolds

Congratulations to Joyce Snyder for becoming a Great-Grandmother!

UPCOMING

AT MENTOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Monday, December 29
- Chancel Choir
- Book Club

Thursday, January 1
- OFFICE CLOSED

Sunday, December 28
- 9 & 11 AM Worship
- 10 & 12 Fellowship Hour
- Communion, 10:30 in the Chapel
- Martin Journey Group
- Children's Sunday School
- Youth Sunday School
- Modern Worship Rehearsal

Tuesday, December 30
- Laurie Eppler Funeral

Friday, January 2

Wednesday, December 31
- OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, January 3
- Modern Worship Practice

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Loving Note from the Office
To all who make payments through or to the church, please have ALL submissions of money and receipts in by DECEMBER 31st for it to count toward 2025. You can reach out to Stephanie in the church office for questions.

Book Club
The next Book Club will meet on Monday, December 29th at 6 PM in the Library at MUMC. We'll discuss what we've each read this month and our favorite books from this past year. Book Club will regularly meet on the LAST Monday of the month. If you miss a month or two, stay in touch with us on Slack, where you can share what you are reading at any time.

Youth Christmas Party
Youth grades 6-12 are invited to the Youth Christmas Party on Sunday, December 28th, from 6 to 9 PM. We will play games, enjoy a potluck, and watch the Charlie Brown Christmas Special. RSVP online or get in touch with Mackalyn. When you sign up, please share what dish or snack you plan to bring.

You, Me, and Mentor UMC
New friends and visitors are invited to the next You, Me and Mentor UMC Luncheon on Sunday, January 18th in Wesley Room from 12:45 - 2:00 PM. This luncheon is a great way for people to get to know each other, the pastors, and learn about Mentor UMC. This is a free lunch and dietary restrictions will be accommodated. Reach out to the church office or a pastor with questions. RSVP online.

New Beginnings Class
There will be a New Beginnings class on Saturday, January 24th in the Asbury Room from 1:00 - 3:30 PM. This is a great class for those interested in learning more about church membership. Reach out to a pastor with questions.

YSP Early Bird Deadline
Register for the 2026 YSP trip by January 3rd for a lower cost! Cost will increase after January 3rd, so register today! Forms are available through Mackalyn. Get in touch with her or the main office.

Young Adult Outing
Young adults are welcome to join us for a Cleveland Monsters hockey game on January 30th! We will meet at the church to leave at 5 PM for the 7 PM game. Cost is $20-30 per person. And don't forget to bring money for food! We look forward to seeing you there! RSVP online or get in touch with Mackalyn.

Office Closures
The church office is closed THIS WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY (12/31, 1/1) for New Year's.

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