

The liturgical color is purple for the 4th Sunday in Lent



PRELUDE

"I Lift My Eyes to the Hills"
Amy Bender, organist

Gerald Peterson

WELCOME

Laurie Babcock, liturgist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God loves the field mouse.

God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.

God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.

God loves the child who rocks and claps.

God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.

God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.

God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.

God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens, standing strong over all of us.

God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.

There is no bit of creation that God does not love.

So let us worship this good-news God!

Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

"Where 'Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

UMH 427

Hymn History: The words to this hymn were written by Frank Mason North (1850-1935). He was born in New York City and graduated from Wesleyan University in 1872. That same year, he became a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church as our denomination was known then. Rev. North was active in social issues, particularly the difficulties working people had laboring in factories at the turn of the twentieth century. He advocated for women's rights, child labor laws and workers rights to organize. The hymn we sing today is considered one of the early social gospel hymns. Rev. North was also very involved with missions of the church. The Frank Mason North Award is given by the Global Board Ministries of the United Methodist Church to honor distinguished service in that area. The music the hymn is set to is called Germany, written by the Englishman, William Gardiner, for his 1815 Sacred Melodies composition. Gardiner based it on the music of Ludwig Van Beethoven whose works he helped introduce to England.

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 & WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them."

Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

We confess, we have clung to guns and war more than we have pursued peace.

God said, "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow."

We confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.

**Congregation invited to stand if able*

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them."

We confess, we have gatekept the good news in unfair ways.

Fortunately for all of us, God also said, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine."

By God's grace, despite our sin and shortcomings, we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.

May this good news change our lives!

Amen.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 19:13-15, p. 696

ANTHEM

"Prayer of the Children"
Charter Members Men's Choir

Kurt Bestor

SHARING STORIES OF GOD AT WORK THROUGH CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS

"UNWRITTEN AGREEMENT"

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 it on.

OFFERTORY

"Lenten Meditation"
Charter Members Men's Choir; Bonnie Budziak, accompanist

Jay Althouse

*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

"Tell Me the Stories of Jesus" vs. 1-2

UMH 277

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 24:17-22, p. 142

MESSAGE

"Tell Me Something Good:
The Good News is...Protection and Care for the Vulnerable"
Rev. Steve Stultz Costello

*HYMN OF MISSION

"For the Fruits of this Creation"

UMH 97

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION SUNG RESPONSE

"Go Now In Peace"

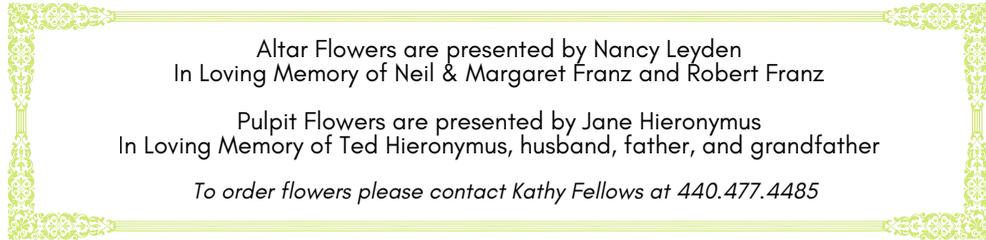
Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true. Know He will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see. God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace,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

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POSTLUDE

"Postlude"

Anton Bruckner



Altar Flowers are presented by Nancy Leyden
In Loving Memory of Neil & Margaret Franz and Robert Franz

Pulpit Flowers are presented by Jane Hieronymus
In Loving Memory of Ted Hieronymus, husband, father, and grandfather

To order flowers please contact Kathy Fellows at 440.477.4485



Find the FULL artist's statement and other Lent inspired artworks on the "Gallery walls" in the Info Hub.

Cover Art Artist Statement

At the center of this work is a drawing made by my five-year-old niece, Angelina. I watched her joyfully scribble it in under three minutes, churning out drawing after drawing and handing each one to me with an eager smile. In this piece, she first drew a self-portrait (her wearing a crown), then graciously decided to include me (taking some creative liberties in giving me a third arm!).

While I've been busy making art, Angelina has been busy being an artist. I surely could learn a thing or two from her about inheriting the kingdom.

—Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

Mentor United Methodist Church

Traditional Worship | March 15, 2026

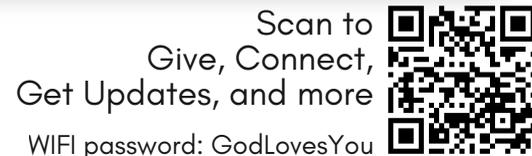


Let the Little Children Come
by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell
Inspired by Matthew 19:13-15
11"x14" Acrylic, gold leaf, pen on paper
A Sanctified Art | sanctifiedart.org



8600 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060
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Pastor Steve Stultz Costello, Lead Pastor
Pastor Ivy Smith, Associate Pastor
Pastor Tammy Palermo, Pastor of Children & Family Ministry



Lenten Cantata

Join us on Sunday, March 29th for the annual Lenten Cantata in Traditional Worship.

Order Easter Flowers

Grab a form in the Info Hub or order online for Easter flowers! Daffodils, Tulips, and Hyacinths are \$8 and the Hydrangeas are \$15. **The deadline to order is March 16th.**

March Madness Watch Party

Join us for a March Madness watch party that **ALL** are invited to on Saturday, March 21st at 4 PM. We will meet in the gallery to enjoy games and snacks.

Eggstravaganza

Join us on Saturday, April 4th at 10 AM here at Mentor UMC for the community egg hunt. Enjoy a morning of free fun, including candy, games, and fellowship. This event is free and open to all. Contact Pastor Tammy to volunteer or visit our website. Candy donations can be dropped off in the church office.

The BIG Event

Save the date for this year’s Youth Service Project fundraiser dinner, The BIG Event on Sunday, April 12th. 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 30th 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 10th 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 2nd 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 19th through May 17th 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 25th from 9 AM to 2 PM as we partner with Sleep in Heavenly Peace to build beds for children in the local 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 18th. We will collect donations the week leading up to the sale **ONLY**. The volunteer sign-up is available online here.

MENTOR UNITED HIGHLIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH



Scan to Read the Weekly Update

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, Dee Smith, Russ Lancaster, Kay McKinney, Terry & Mary Ellen Reynolds, Doug & Kathy Koman, Jack Donahue, The Lippert Family, Norma Ickes

UPCOMING

AT MENTOR UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

Monday, March 16

- Carr Journey Group (2)
- Modern Worship Meeting
- Missions Meeting

Thursday, March 19

- Bell Choir
- Charter Members Men’s Choir
- Chancel Choir
- Youth Min Meeting

Sunday, March 15

- 9, 9:15, & 11 AM Worship
- 10:30 AM Communion
- 10 & 12 Fellowship Hour
- Martin Journey Group
- Children’s Sunday School
- Youth Sunday School
- Youth Ice Skating

Tuesday, March 17

- Ring Journey Group
- Disciple III
- Young Adult Group
- Blood Drive

Wednesday, March 18

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

Friday, March 20

Saturday, March 21

- Modern Worship Practice
- March Madness Watch Party

Lent Dinners

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

Join us on Wednesday evenings around 6:45 PM at Mentor UMC for three exciting group opportunities. Each of these is open to anyone who would like to participate. There is NO cost and NO additional materials to purchase.

Join us at 5:45 PM on Wednesday evenings in Lent for **weekly dinners** with new and old friends. We'll meet in the Gallery and enjoy a meal and dessert together. Dinners include conversation and camp-style worship.

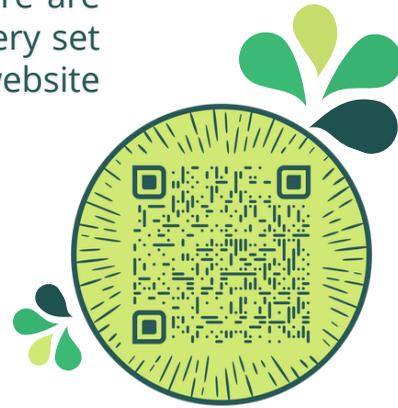
If you are interested in **volunteering** to help with the meal, there are many different areas that you can assist such as meal prep, Gallery set up, greeting visitors, serving food, and cleaning up. Check our website by scanning the QR code or visit the Info Hub to find out more.

Dinner Schedule & Menu:

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

Wednesday, March 18th
Grilled chicken Alfredo, steamed broccoli & cauliflower, fruit cup, rolls

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



"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.

Check the box of the group you'd like to join and turn in to the office or the offering box.

RSVP:

NAME: _____

CONTACT INFO: _____

 Go deeper in your discipleship.
Lent Groups