

The liturgical color is white for Christ the King Sunday

PRELUDE "The Gift to Be Simple" Dale Wood
Amy Bender, organist

WELCOME Willie Dycks, liturgist

***CALL TO WORSHIP**
Beloved of God, Jesus was led into the wilderness—a place of hunger, noise, and tempting distractions—yet He kept His heart fixed on God.
We come today from our own wilderness places, pulled in many directions, longing to be centered again.
In every distraction, God offers clarity. In every temptation, God offers strength. In every moment of wandering, God calls us back to the Word of life.
We turn our hearts toward God, seeking focus, faithfulness, and renewed purpose.
Come, let us worship the One who empowers us to overcome every distraction and follow the path of love.
With open hearts and trusting spirits, we worship God.

***OPENING HYMN** "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" UMH 158

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

OPENING PRAYER
Faithful God, amid the distractions that pull us in many directions, center us in Your presence today. As Jesus met temptation with Your Word, help us hear Your voice above all others. Quiet our minds, steady our hearts, and strengthen us to choose Your way. Be with us in this time of worship and guide us toward faithfulness. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 6:19–21 (CEB), p. 685

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

ANTHEM "Jesus Paid It All" arr. Howard Helvey
Charter Members Men's Choir; Bonnie Budziak, accompanist

SHARING STORIES OF GOD AT WORK THROUGH CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

** Congregation invited to stand if able*

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 "Pacem" Lee Dengler

***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**

HYMN OF CENTERING "It Is Well with My Soul" UMH 377

SCRIPTURE Matthew 4:1–11 CEB, p. 682

MESSAGE "Distractions: Overcoming Our Distractions"
Rev. Steve Stultz Costello

***HYMN OF MISSION** "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" UMH 402

***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 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow " Piet Post

Liturgy and prayers written by Pastor Steve with assistance from ChatGPT



Altar Flowers are presented by Bev Reese & Children
In Loving Memory of Wayne, husband, father, and grandfather

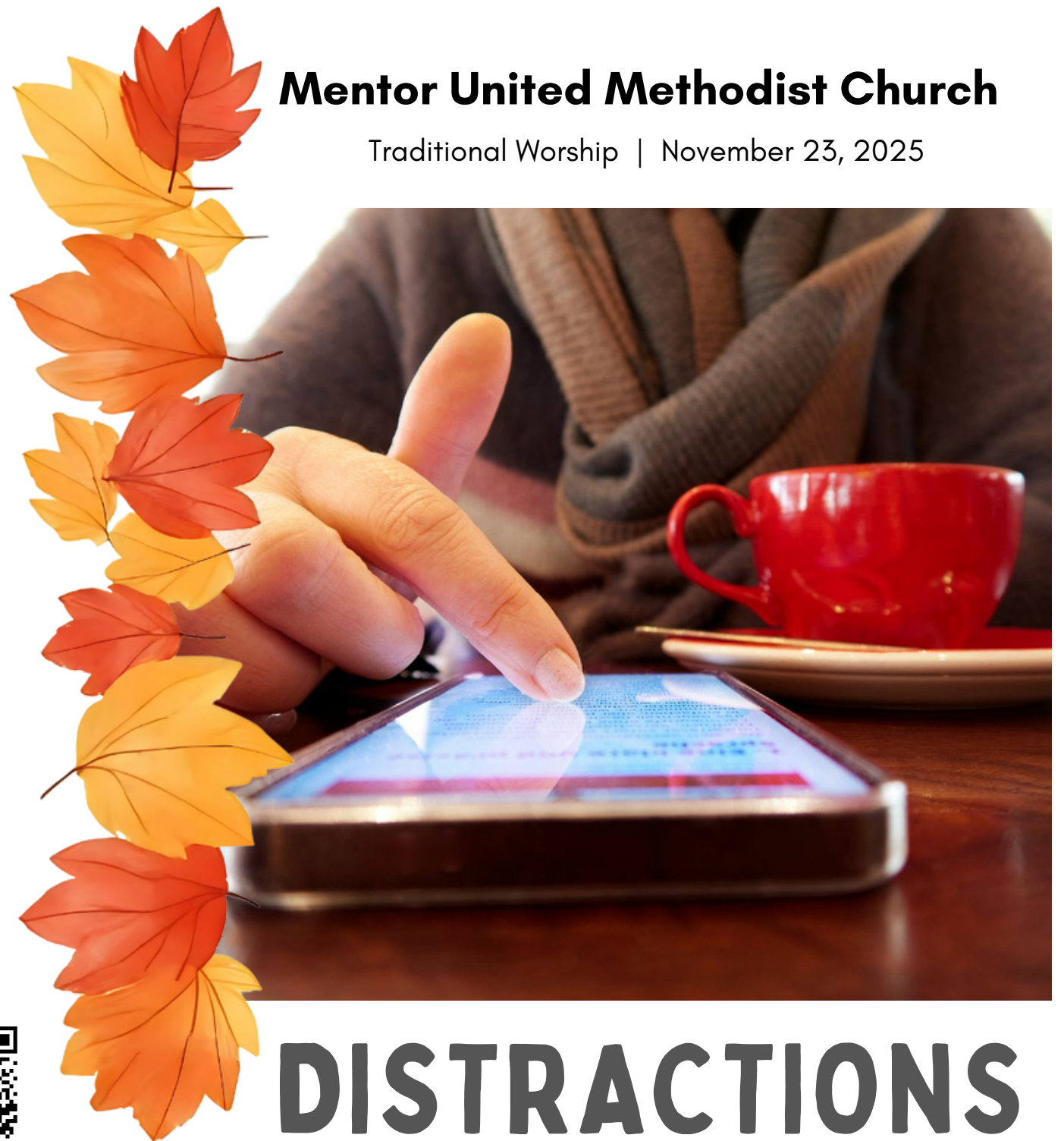
Pulpit Flowers are presented by Jerry Larsen
In Loving Memory of Lois, wife, mother, and grandmother

To order flowers please contact Kathy Fellows at 440.477.4485



Mentor United Methodist Church

Traditional Worship | November 23, 2025

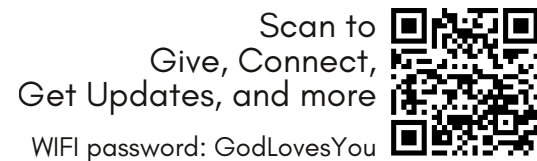


DISTRACTIONS



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



Giving Trees

Every Christmas season, this church helps provide gifts to children and families in need. You can bless someone this Christmas by donating gifts from their list. Take a tag off the Giving Trees OR signup online here to give gifts. There are also prayers and organization tags on the trees.

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.

POP UP Food Pantry

In a combined effort, Mentor UMC and our preschool are collecting food for those suffering from food insecurity. 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
- \$5-10 gift cards to buy fresh dairy & produce

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!

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.

Gift of Time

Enjoy a day off on Saturday, December 6th from 1-4 PM! MUMC is offering FREE childcare for the afternoon so parents & guardians can nap, Christmas shop, or enjoy a few hours of uninterrupted peace. SIGN UP ONLINE and please let us know your child's name and age in the comment section. Signup online to volunteer or get in touch with Pastor Tammy.

MENTOR
UNITED
HIGHLIGHTS
METHODIST
CHURCH



Scan to Read the Weekly Update

Members who are 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, Bill Mueller

Members 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
Fairmont - Gretchen Tice
Governor's Point - Bob Williams
Mentor Ridge - June Van Ostrand
Danbury Senior Living - Terry Reynolds

Love & Sympathy to the family and friends of Dale Porter,
who passed on November 19, 2025.

UPCOMING

AT MENTOR UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, November 23

- 9 & 11 AM Worship
- 10 AM & 12 PM Fellowship Hour
- Communion, 10:30 in the Chapel
- Martin Journey Group
- Children's Sunday School
- Youth Sunday School
- Christmas Play Rehearsal
- Thanksgiving Meal Prep

Monday, November 24

- Parents' Morning Out
- Carr Journey Groups
- Food Distribution

Tuesday, November 25

- Ring Journey Group
- Young Adult Group
- Young Families Journey Group
- Disciple III
- Thanksgiving Meal Prep

Wednesday, November 26

- Knitting Group
- Thanksgiving Meal Prep

Thursday, November 27

- Thanksgiving Meal, 11-1:30 PM
- OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, November 28

- OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, November 29

- Modern Worship Practice
- More Than a Meal

Thanksgiving Day Meal
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 in the Gallery for the meal THIS WEEK.

Poinsettia Forms
Pick up a form in the Info Hub or fill out your order online for Poinsettias on Christmas Eve. The cost is \$7 a plant.

Christmas Play Tickets
Tickets for MUMC's Truth & Light Players' production of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" are one sale NOW! They will perform on Friday, December 5th in Fellowship Hall at MUMC. Please buy online or get in touch with Pastor Tammy.

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.

Advent Studies
All are invited to join two Advent study groups this year. 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, Nov 24, Dec 1, 8, & 15 from 6-7:30 PM at Mentor UMC.
- Group 2: Join Mackalyn for a Tuesday night group called "Brews & Bibles." We'll meet at holiday bars in Downtown Willoughby each week at 6 PM.

BOTH of these groups are open to ALL! Please register online for either group ASAP.



Commitment Cards
The 2025 Pledge Cards are available in Fellowship Hall, Info Hub, and the Narthex ALSO online.
Grab one any time and turn in to the main office when completed.



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.

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!



Nancy English



Jodi & Matthew McCue



Suzanne, Mark, and Kayla Braun



Rachel Poling



Kathryn Yerkic



MaryAnn and Larry VandDerHorst



Laurel and Richard Smith



Silas Kijauskas