

The liturgical color is purple, signifying the second Sunday of Advent		
PRELUDE	“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” Amy Bender, organist	J. S. Bach
WELCOME	Paula Langdon, Liturgist	
*CALL TO WORSHIP Welcome to worship. Welcome to worship. I am glad you’re here. I am glad you’re here. Surely God is in this space. Surely God is in this space. I see God in your face. I see God in your face. Let us worship together. Let us worship together.		
*OPENING HYMN	“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”	#UMH 196
OPENING PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION		
ADVENT CANDLES LIGHTING: PEACE Larry & Rhonda Hoon, 9:00 Cristen, JJ, Nick, & Hailey Neibecker, 11:00 How does a weary world practice joy? By dancing, and throwing birthday parties. By hanging Christmas lights, and holding sleepy babies. By singing loudly, and looking for good news. By telling the story of Jesus, and showing up for our community. There are a million ways to practice joy. So today we light the candle of joy as a reminder and a charge. With God’s help, may we bring joy into a weary world. Amen.		
<i>Children are invited to stay in worship or meet in the Narthex to go to Sunday School</i>		
WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC	“Amid the Cold of Winter” Melanie Lyttle, soloist	arr. Bret Rhoades
SCRIPTURE	Isaiah 40:1-11, p. 511	
KIN-DOM SIGNS		
SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS You may place your offering in the Offering Box at the entrance of the Sanctuary or give online using the link on the back of the bulletin		
<i>*Congregation invited to stand if able</i>		

OFFERTORY	“O Come, Emmanuel”	arr. Mary McDonald
*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		
SHARING STORIES OF GOD AT WORK THROUGH CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS		
CALL TO CONFESSION		
PRAYER OF CONFESSION God of laughter, God of open front doors and family reunions, we confess that we often doubt good news. We move through this world waiting for the other shoe to drop, waiting for life to fall apart, waiting for our humanity to get the best of us. Instead of leaning into joy, we lean into scarcity. We lean into fear. We lean into isolation. Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared. Heal the wounds we have from past hurts, and teach us how to throw open our doors like Elizabeth. Show us how to find joy in connection. Amen.		
WORDS OF FORGIVENESS		
AFFIRMATION OF FAITH We believe that joy is a sacred gift, existing on a plane deeper than happiness, stemming from the truth that we belong to God. We believe that joy is not meant for isolation. Joy is meant to be shared, weaving us together in laughter and in hope. And when joy feels impossibly out of reach, we believe that part of being sacred community is leaning on one another. So together we say: I will share my joy when yours runs out. You will share your joy when mine runs out. And in doing so, we will both see God. Amen.		
PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE		
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.		
HYMN OF CENTERING	“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”	UMH #206
SCRIPTURE	Luke 1:24-45, p. 723	

MESSAGE "How Does a Weary World Rejoice? We Find Joy in Connection"
James Cherian, Lay Preacher

***HYMN OF MISSION** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" UMH #89

***FAITH IN ACTION**

***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 "'Allegro" from Concerto in a minor Vivaldi

*Other than the Prayer of Dedication, the prayers used in this service were written by Rev. Sarah
(Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.*



Altar Flowers are presented by Marye Etta Fairchild Brobst
In Memory of granddaughter Holly Flynn's birthday

For flowers please call Kathy Fellows: 440-477-4485



MENTOR
United Methodist Church

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

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Traditional Worship
December 10, 2023

MENTOR
UNITED
HIGHLIGHTS
METHODIST
CHURCH

Members who are in need of prayer:

Karen Mancini, Marilyn Oliver, Dick Anderson,
Luke Sanvido, David Fell, Norma Ickes, Bob Williams,
Ruthie Hobart, Mike Cosmo

Members admitted to Rehab, Assisted Living or Nursing Home Facility:

The Enclave - Kay Disbro, Delores Tackett,
Johanna Kessler, Dee Smith, Mary Lou Haines, John Shetler
Salida Woods - Doris Sturm
University Manor - Virginia Gilman
Parker Place - Bill Owen, Bob & Sandy Linsell, Deloris Parsons
Danbury Senior Living - Kathryn Bevacqua
Tapestry - Gloria McFeely
Symphony of Mentor - Lorraine Ahlstrom
Breckenridge/Fairmount - Patricia Laubscher



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Upcoming
This Week

Monday, December 11

- Parents Morning Out, 9:15
- Christmas Gift Distribution, 4-7
- Caring Servants Meeting, 7

Tuesday, December 12

- Ring Journey Group
- Patricia Bonner Funeral - 1 PM
- Directory Pictures, 3-8
- Christmas Gift Distribution, 4-7
- Trustees Meeting, 7

Wednesday, December 13

- Directory Pictures, 12-8
- Young at Heart Luncheon, 12
- Knitting Group, 1
- Finance, 7
- Children's Min, 7
- Missions, 7
- Usher Training, 7

Thursday, December 14

- PEO Luncheon
- Directory Pictures, 2-8
- Choir Rehearsals (Various, check online)

Friday, December 15

- Directory Pictures, 10-5
- Prelude to Christmas, 7:30

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Advent Devotionals

NOW available: Info Hub, Gallery, and the Narthex.

Usher Training

Join us at 7 PM on Wednesday, December 13th and Tuesday, December 19th at 7 PM in the Narthex for Usher training. This is a great opportunity for those who wish to get involved for the Christmas Eve services or Sunday mornings. You can contact the church office or Chris Meldrum (440.220.0824) for more info.

Prelude to Christmas

We'll meet in the Sanctuary on December 15th at 7:30 PM for the "Prelude to Christmas", a wonderful service led by our Charter Members Men's Choir and some members of the men's choirs from Painesville & Chardon UMC. No cost or registration is required.

HELP NEEDED!

Directory Volunteers

If you are interested in helping this coming fall/winter with the Church directory, visit our site or [click here](#). Volunteers are needed for photography days Dec 12-16 in 2-3 hour shifts.

Christmas Eve Usher & Greeter Sign Up

Sign up to be a greeter or usher for the Christmas Eve services this year. [Sign up online](#) or in the Info Hub.

Youth Dec 10th

We are meeting at 6:00 PM at Historic Kirtland Village 7800 Kirtland Chardon Rd, Kirtland, Ohio 44094. Families are also welcome. We will visit the nativity displays and then walk around the village. We will be bringing hot chocolate, so please let us know how many will be joining us.

Blue Christmas

Join us in the Chapel on Wednesday, December 20th for our Blue Christmas service at 7:00 PM.

Staff Update

We welcome to our staff, Briyant Hines (starting Dec. 12) as our new Youth Director and Justin Mackey (starting Jan. 3) as our new Modern Worship Director. We look forward to furthering our mission of leading all onto a path of Christ centered discipleship with them.

There will be cards available this Sunday during services for you to write a brief welcome message for each! You can drop the cards off in the office, mail them in, or email a message to info@mentorumc.org. Deadline to get your message in is December 19th!

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