

# MENTOR

# UNITED

WEEKLY UPDATE

# METHODIST

# CHURCH

DECEMBER 10, 2023

8600 MENTOR AVE

MENTOR OH 44060

MENTORUMC.ORG

440.255.3496

Worship with us in-person or online:  
Mentorumc.org, Facebook, and Youtube

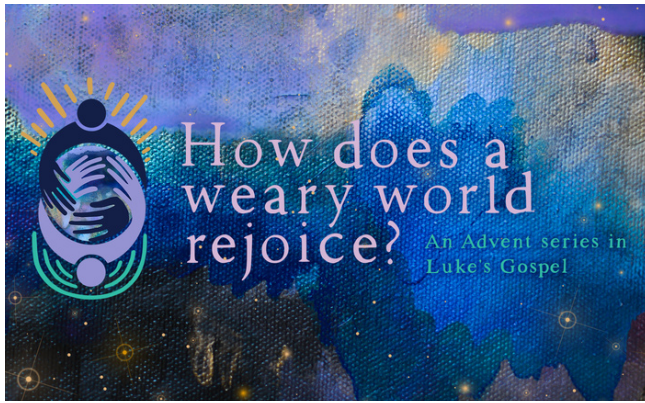
## **Worship Schedule**

9 & 11 AM Modern

9 & 11 AM Traditional



# PASTOR'S LETTER



## HOW DOES A WEARY WORLD REJOICE?

It's beginning to look and feel a lot like Christmas! Everywhere we go!

Since 99 per cent of the Weekly Update Readers are not in our preschool program, I am sure you can resonate with the pressure, heaviness and stress that the holiday brings.

Work schedules, vacation time, family and friends visits, luscious eats, increased traffic and shopping, gift giving and receiving, and the big one: decorating, inside and outside the house. Yeah, this time of year demands a lot of us.

This season of Advent at Mentor acknowledges the weight on our psyche during this time of year. Our theme for the next few weeks is: **'How Does a Weary World Rejoice?'** You might recall that actual phrase in the Christmas song **'O Holy Night'**. Each time I hear that song, my memory of a man from my hometown church, Mr. Conway Owens, forms. He had a marvelous singing voice. He did not sing with any of the choirs, instead he served in committee work. And he never failed to render **'O Holy Night'** each year. An eerie silence would come over the hearers as he stood with hands clasped behind him at a lone microphone belting out in the most bravado baritone:

*O holy night, the stars are brightly shining, It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.*

In short, we can certainly see how weariness, fatigue and exhaustion can be present in our lives with all the added accoutrements of November and December. Life in 2023 in general is wearisome, wouldn't you agree? And so, **it is a great relief to know** that God, through Christ Jesus, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, affords us, yes **AFFORDS US**, comfort and joy! (another song lyric) **God provides comfort, joy, peace, hope, rest and so much more for our resolve in difficult times.**

There is no doubt that Christmas will come and go, yet my prayer is that during this wearisome, exhausting, fatiguing time that you feel the presence of God. And not only feel it but that the Holy Spirit lifts your spirit to new heights of communal appreciation. I encourage you to **take visual and tangible opportunities** to see the beauty in our city, our nation, our world.

How can the weary world rejoice with such atrocities of violence and abuse we witness? How can the weary world rejoice through our own aches, pains, deaths and loss? How can I, as weary as I am, rejoice? Well, **WE CAN REJOICE!** The answer is in the second refrain of the song...

*He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger,  
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!  
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!*

Mentor, take courage for **God knows our need, and to our weakness is no stranger!** Take courage and be of good cheer that God, **Emmanuel**, is with us, always and especially in stressful, difficult, weary-filled times! Happy Advent!  
—Pastor Ivy







# Care CONGREGATIONAL

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

## 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

## Members who are in need of prayer:

Karen Mancini, Marilyn Oliver, Luke Sanvido,

David Fell, Norma Ickes, Ruthie Hobart,

Mike Cosmo, Bob Williams, Mary Lou Haines



## Upcoming seasonal offerings

### **Blue Christmas**

Join us in the Chapel for our Blue Christmas service at 7 PM on December 20th. This service is for those who are grieving or struggling this Advent and Christmas season.

### **Sunday Morning Services**

Our Sunday morning worship services continue to be 9 & 11 AM Modern and 9 & 11 AM Traditional. 9 AM Modern is streamed online as well as 11 AM Traditional. **For the fourth Sunday of Advent (Christmas Eve morning)** we will have 9 AM Modern & 11 AM Traditional, both livestreamed.

### **Christmas Eve Services**

*All our Christmas Eve services are candlelight.*

3 PM - Communion

5 PM - Family Service

7 PM - Modern (streamed as well)

9 PM - Traditional (streamed as well)





### Youversion

<https://bible.com/events/49178082>

Learn more about Sunday's scriptures and worship by visiting this link each week.

### Church Directory Sign Ups

*NEW DATE ADDED!*

**Dec. 12-13 (NEW DATES)**

Dec 14-16 (FULL)

Sign up online TODAY for your picture to be taken for the church directory (or just for you!). **Our church code is oh2729 and the password you will use is: photos (case sensitive).** To sign up in person, please visit the Info Hub. You can visit our website to learn more. There will also be a YELLOW info sheet for people to fill out in order for us to update our records (find in the office or Info Hub). Even if you do not get in the directory, this form is important for our records. CLICK HERE for the online form.

### 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 for more info.

### CWC Luncheon

Join us on Tues, Dec 12th from 11:15 AM to 1:30 PM for the Christian Women's Connection of Lake Co. Luncheon. It is \$20 and will be at Pine Ridge Country Club. They will be doing their "Holiday Gift Mart" that includes candy, cookies, center pieces, pins and more for sale! To RSVP please email: [cwcstonecroft@yahoo.com](mailto:cwcstonecroft@yahoo.com) or call Dee at 440.487.0661

### 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.

### Young At Heart Luncheon

RSVP here for this years YAH luncheon which will be on December 13th from 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. Those 62 years and older are invited to join us for a meal and some Christmas fun! There is no charge for this event!



### 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](mailto:info@mentorumc.org). Deadline to get your message in is December 19th!



## Giving Trees

Our Giving Trees ministry is an annual mission where we provide gifts and support for those in need. To get involved, visit the trees displayed throughout the church or [this page](#). Deadline to drop off gifts is December 10th.

## Plarn Mats

MUMC will start hand weaving sleeping mats out of plarn (plastic yarn) to distribute to the homeless community in Lake County. Donations of plastic grocery bags will be an ongoing need. Please only donate **clean** and **dry** grocery bags for use. Volunteers to weave can step up any time at the loom & start weaving. This is a great activity for all ages. Come check it out in the gallery! If you have any questions please reach out to Katelynn Gurbach 440-223-9250

## Food Ministry

We are in need of items for our next distribution on January 15-16th. We feed numerous families with our ongoing distributions.

### *Urgently needed items:*

- Spaghetti noodles
- Baked beans
- Kidney beans
- Instant oatmeal
- Canned diced tomatoes

Items can be dropped off in the Community Center.

# What's Your

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## 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.

### Hope Chest

Hope Chest is in need of gloves and coats ALL sizes. You may drop off items in the Community Center during office hours or on Sunday mornings.

### Advent Wreath Lighting Sign Up: Now Open!

Sign yourself, family, or friends up for our wreath lighting this year! [Click here](#) to see what days and services are available. Pastor Tammy will contact you after you sign up with the information and liturgy.

### 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.

### More Than A Meal

Volunteer for Saturday, December 30th for MTAM. [Click here!](#) Volunteers need to arrive at 4 PM. Doors open at 5 and food is served at 5:30 .

### Catalyst Ministry

Did you know that MUMC has a relationship with Catalyst Ministry, the children of Painesville City Schools, and Woodlawn Home Community in Painesville? Catalyst Ministry is a federally recognized, not for profit organization that is focused on investing resources in the local community through Christian centered initiatives. It was founded in 2009 and MUMC has worked with CM on various endeavors for many years. This has included student tutoring, Vacation Bible School, and other events for the residents of Woodlawn Homes. They also provide meal baskets at Easter and Christmas. They also provide new shoes for the school-aged children of Woodlawn Homes (if needed) in the fall. To learn more or get involved visit our website.



# WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

## Children & Family Ministries

[www.mentorumc.org/children](http://www.mentorumc.org/children)

### Sunday Morning Kids

9:00 & 11:00 AM at MUMC for all services. Join us for our current curriculum, "Celebrate Wonder".

- [Check-In Instruction Video](#)
- Ages 0-2 and 3-4 sign in at the Early Childhood Area before service
- Grades K-5 will begin in worship with their families and then be dismissed to the Education Wing.

### Sunday Morning Signup

Mentor United Methodist Church'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 WINTER leader signup](#). There are spots for various ages/levels, so check out what section works for you:)

"Worship one, serve one!"

### Child & Caregiver Class

Age 2 ½ to 3 ½ on Weds from 9:15-10:45 AM. Cost is \$60 per 8 week session (prepaid, non-refundable). Please check out [our website](#) for more details and important dates.



## MOMCo.

MOMco (The Mom Community) will meet on Friday, December 22nd at Mentor UMC. For more dates and locations, [check our website](#)

### 2024-2025 Preschool Reg

Pre-Registration for the 2024-25 school year is open to YOU, our church families. Click here for the: [Pre-Registration Link](#). If you have any questions, please contact our State Manager, Brittany Jones at [bjones.preschool@mentorumc.org](mailto:bjones.preschool@mentorumc.org).

### Seedlings Class

Registration is open for children who are 3 as of January 1, 2024 and potty trained. If you have any questions, please contact our State Manager, Brittany Jones at [bjones.preschool@mentorumc.org](mailto:bjones.preschool@mentorumc.org).



### Epiphany Party

Friday, January 5 from 6:00-11:00 PM. Dress up, enjoy a nice dinner, glow in the dark activities, and Epiphany Worship Service.

## Youth MORNINGS

Grades 6-12 are welcome to join us every Sunday morning from 10:10-10:50 to be in community and have discussion. We are following the sermon series for our discussions.

### 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. Sign Up [Link: tinyurl.com/MentorUMCNextGen](#)

### YSP Meeting

There will be a YSP meeting on Sunday, December 10th right after the 11 AM service. This is for those who are current 9-12th graders. More meeting dates can be found [online](#). Please email [ysp@mentorumc.org](mailto:ysp@mentorumc.org) for more information

### SKI TRIP

January 12-14, 2024 Details are coming soon! Sign Up [Link: tinyurl.com/MentorUMCNextGen](#)