

The liturgical color is purple, signifying the third Sunday of Advent			
PRELUDE	"Of the Father's Love Begotten"		Wilbur Held
		Amy Bender, organist	
WELCOME	Stephanie Lee, Liturgist		
*CALL TO WORSHIP			
Our God can part the sea.			
God can bring water from a rock,			
and provide bread in the desert.			
Our God can walk on water.			
He can heal the sick,			
and turn water into wine.			
Our God sets the stars in the sky.			
God hears our voice when we cry,			
and is closer than our own breath.			
There is nothing our God cannot do.			
Let us stand in awe. Let us worship God with wonder.			
*OPENING HYMN			
		"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"	#UMH 203
OPENING PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION			
ADVENT CANDLES LIGHTING		9:00 The Parkinson Family   11:00 The Niemi Family	
How does a weary world practice peace?			
By listening before we speak and saying			
sorry when we need to.			
By advocating for justice and caring for			
our neighbor. By practicing Sabbath and			
forgiving seventy times seven.			
By choosing grace over hate and opening			
the door for each other.			
There are a million ways to practice peace.			
So today we light the candle of peace as a			
reminder and a charge.			
With God's help, may we bring peace			
into a weary world. Amen.			
Children are invited to stay in worship or meet in the Narthex to go to Sunday School			
ANTHEM	9:00	"Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"	Ron Mallory
		Canticle Bells	
	11:00	"Blessed Is the Lord (Benedictus)"	Dan Forrest
SCRIPTURE	Psalm 126, p. 441		
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			

*\*Congregation invited to stand if able*

OFFERTORY	9:00	“Of the Father's Love Begotten”	arr. Sandra Eithun
	11:00	“Who But the Lord?”	Craig Courtney
*DOXOLOGY #94 <b>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!</b>			
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION			
COMMISSIONING BRIYANT HINES			
SHARING STORIES OF GOD AT WORK THROUGH CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS			
CALL TO CONFESSION			
PRAYER OF CONFESSION <b>Holy God, Somewhere in our childhood we face pressure to outgrow awe. We turn into adults who obsess over data and facts. We praise those who have answers, and assume that wonder is an answerless game. Forgive us for closing that door to you. Remind us that the kingdom of God belongs to children. Teach us the ways of awe and wonder, so that like Zechariah, when we find ourselves speechless,our first words will be words of praise. With hearts open wide, we pray, amen.</b>			
WORDS OF FORGIVENESS So hear and believe the good news of the gospel: <b>We are forgiven.</b> <b>We are loved.</b> <b>We belong to God. Amen.</b>			
AFFIRMATION OF FAITH We believe in a God who knows our names, <b>who counts the hairs on our heads, and carries the dreams in our hearts.</b> We believe that God’s fingerprints are all over creation, <b>and that God is forever speaking to us in a million different ways.</b> We believe that awe and wonder, <b>goosebumps and laughter, telling stories and paying attention,</b> are all ways that we can say thank you to our creating, sustaining, and loving God. <b>Therefore we commit ourselves to moving through this world with eyes wide open, with porous hearts, and grateful spirits.</b> We commit ourselves to living lives of awe, wonder, and gratitude, <b>trusting that these things will forever draw us deeper into God’s loving arms.</b> We believe. <b>We stand in awe. Thanks be to God!</b>			
PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE			
THE LORD'S PRAYER <b>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.</b>			

HYMN OF CENTERING

"My Life Flows On"

FWS 2212

Refrain:  
No weariness can shake my calm,  
while by your light, I'm living  
I will rejoice for love has come, how can I keep from singing?

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:57-66, p. 724

MESSAGE "How does a Weary World Rejoice? We allow ourselves to be Amazed"  
Rev. Steve Stultz Costello

\*HYMN OF MISSION

"Blessed Be the God of Israel"

UMH #209

\*FAITH IN ACTION

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION SONG 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

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

Wilbur Held

*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 the Tom Patterson family  
In Memory of Paula Patterson, Wife, Mom, and Grammie.


Yellow Rose on the Altar is presented by the Post Family  
In Loving Memory of Daughter, Charlene Clayton

There are flower openings on January 14th and 21st.  
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 17, 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, David Smith,  
Jon & Rev. Beth Wilterdink

**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*

Wednesday, December 20

- Knitting Group, 1 PM
- Blue Christmas, 7 PM

Monday, December 18

- Parents Morning Out
- Christmas Gift Distribution

Tuesday, December 19

- Christmas Gift Distribution
- Ring Journey Group, 9:30 AM
- Usher Training, 7 PM

Thursday, December 21

- OA, 10 AM
- Canticle Bells, 6 PM
- Charter Members, 6:45 PM
- Chancel, 7:45 PM

Friday, December 22

- OFFICE CLOSED

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**Usher Training**

Join us at 7 PM on 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) to sign up.

**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.

**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. You can learn more about them on our website.

**Meals for Pastor Ivy**

You can sign up to make or buy meals and deliver them to Pastor Ivy’s house by visiting our website. We continue to pray for and support her during her husband’s recovery of his recent stroke.

**More Than A Meal**

Volunteer for Saturday, December 30th for MTAM. Visit our website or the Info Hub to signup. Volunteers need to arrive at 4 PM. Doors open at 5 and food is served at 5:30.

**Christmas Eve Services (Morning & Evening)**

Morning:  
9 AM Modern & 11 AM Traditional (both will also be streamed)  
Evening:  
3 PM Communion  
5 PM Family  
7 PM Modern  
9 PM Traditional

**HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS:**  
**Monday, Dec 18 - Thursday, Dec. 21st: 8 AM - 4 PM**  
**Friday, Dec. 22: CLOSED**  
**Monday, Dec. 25: CLOSED**  
**Tuesday, December 26 - Friday, December 29th: 8 AM - 4 PM**  
**Monday, January 1: CLOSED**  
**Tuesday, January 2: CLOSED**

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