

MENTOR

UNITED

WEEKLY UPDATE

METHODIST

CHURCH

DECEMBER 17, 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



P A S T O R ' S L E T T E R

How does a weary world rejoice? We allow ourselves to be amazed.

"His name is John." And all of them were amazed – Luke 1:63b

When was the last time you were amazed? In Luke 1:57-66, our focus text for this Third Sunday of Advent, Elizabeth's baby is born. Neighbors and relatives rejoiced with Elizabeth. Zechariah, however, was still mute. I imagine him smiling, maybe even crying tears of joy at this incredible miracle, this fulfillment of God's promise that the angel Gabriel had told Zechariah nine months earlier in the temple. Zechariah's voice is not restored until the child is eight days old when "they" (neighbors? relatives? a doctor?) came to circumcise the baby. They assumed the child would be named Zechariah after his father, but Elizabeth told them, "No, he is to be called John." It is a sad commentary on first century society that they did not trust Elizabeth and respect her word. Instead, they challenge her saying, "None of your relatives has this name." Elizabeth does not respond, holding the child, she maintains a quiet resolve. They are not convinced, so they turn to the child's father, Zechariah. Never mind that he hasn't spoken for nine months, they turn to him to give a more reasoned and logical response. Zechariah asks for a writing tablet. They wait as he writes, "His name is". I imagine a pause as they wait for Zechariah to complete the sentence with his own name. Instead, he writes "John". The verse ends with "And they were all amazed."

I am led to wonder what people will say about our society 2,000 years from now. Will it still be the case that women, mothers and especially women who are "getting on in years" (Luke 1:7) are not taken for their word? Is our society one, like the one John the Baptist was born into, that turns to men for answers whenever the answer provided by a woman, even a woman who is blameless before God, is not the answer we expect or understand?

I wonder what caused their amazement. Was it the fact that Zechariah agreed with Elizabeth? Was it because it was such a rare thing for husbands to agree with their wives? Was it because Zechariah, though God had silenced him for the past nine months, had faith in God and remembered what the angel told him in the temple the day he was made mute, "Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John."?

Being amazed is often caused by something that breaks the norm, something that surprises us, something that stretches our imaginations. "Amazed" in Luke 1:63 is the first of fourteen occurrences in Luke's gospel. Every occurrence is an example of God's kin-dom breaking into societal norms, challenging assumptions, disrupting stereotypes. Each time, it brings hope of a new day, a new order, the assurance that God is not giving up on God's plan for redeeming the world.

In this case, four simple words written on a tablet, "His name is John" was the source of their being amazed. The name itself means "God has been gracious." Be amazed.



Rev. Steve Stultz Costello, Sr. Pastor



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,

David Smith, Jon & Rev. Beth Wilterdink



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)

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

Need to Know

Youversion

<https://www.bible.com/event/s/49182232>

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



Cora Wilterdink

Cora Wilterdink, daughter of Jon & Rev. Beth Wilterdink passed on December 10, 2023. Her service will be at 6:30 PM on Monday, December 18, 2023 at Mayfield United Methodist Church. The service will be livestreamed **HERE** (visit our website). The family will receive friends and serve refreshments in the fellowship hall from 4:00-6:30 PM. Please wear something colorful that reflects the joy of Cora. If you attend in person, please carpool to conserve parking.

Usher Training

Join us 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.

Spam Alert

Reminder to pay close attention to the emails and texts you may receive this giving season. Be sure that if a Pastor or staff member contacts you that it is coming from the correct address. You can always check our staff pages on our website to be sure or call the church office.

Altar Flower Openings

There are flower openings on January 14th and 21st. For flowers please call Kathy Fellows: 440-477-4485.

Admin Council

Next meeting is Wednesday, January 17th at 6:30 PM.

Church Records Update

Help us update our records! There are yellow forms in the Info Hub & Church office for you or your family to fill out in order to provide the most up to date info about you. You can also [fill out online](#).

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!

Staff Celebration

Join us on January 14th after services for a gathering in the Gallery to meet & welcome our new staff members, Briyant Hines and Justin Mackey.



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. 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

M.



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

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.

Meals for Pastor Ivy

You can sign up to make or buy meals and deliver them to Pastor Ivy's house by visiting [this link](#) or 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. [Click here!](#) Volunteers need to arrive at 4 PM. Doors open at 5 and food is served at 5:30 .

Catalyst Ministry

Each week we'll share something you may not know about the MUMC x Catalyst Ministry connection. To read last week's, check out the Dec 10th Weekly Update or visit our missions page.

→ Catalyst Ministry and MUMC have been involved with Woodlawn Homes for a number of years. Woodlawn Homes is a Lake Metropolitan Housing Authority Community made up of 70 townhouse homes on the streets of Sanders, Shelby, and Homeworth in North Painesville. The units have 2-4 bedrooms and are intended for families who meet income qualifications and screening of LMHA. The US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development oversees LMHA and its treatment of all applicants. Most are single parent homes, and many children (who could use help) live in this community.

To learn more or get involved visit our website.



WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

Children & Family Ministries

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.

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.



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.



SKI TRIP

January 12-14, 2024 Details are coming soon! Find forms on our [site](#).