

The liturgical color is purple, signifying the fourth Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE "The First Noel" arr. Hal Hopson
Amy Bender, organist

WELCOME Stephanie Lee, Liturgist

***CALL TO WORSHIP**
How does a weary world rejoice?
We sing songs of hope.
We allow hope to change us, to strengthen us.
We tell the stories of what could be.
We listen for God’s word.
We resist the temptation to give up or give in.
We remember Mary’s song.
We gather for worship.
We hope.
We hope.
Against all odds, we hope.
Friends, this is the day that the Lord is still making.
Let us worship holy God.

***OPENING HYMN** "O Come All Ye Faithful" vs. 1, 2, 5 #UMH 234

OPENING PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

ADVENT CANDLES LIGHTING
How does a weary world practice love?
By sending cards, and picking up the phone.
By practicing empathy, and assuming the best in others.
By learning people’s stories and finding common ground.
By advocating for justice, and saving a place at the table.
There are a million ways to practice love.
So today we light the candle of love as a reminder and a charge.
With God’s help, may we bring love into a weary world. Amen.

Children are invited to stay in worship or meet in the Narthex to go to Sunday School

WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC "O Holy Night" Adolphe Adam
Larry Fram, soloist

SCRIPTURE Luke 1:46-55, p. 724

**Congregation invited to stand if able*

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

OFFERTORY "Welcome to Our World" arr. Jack Schrader

***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
Holy God, More days than not, hope feels like the rain. We try to hold onto it with cupped hands, but eventually, it slips right on through. Forgive us for holding hope so loosely. Forgive us for allowing the realities of today to define tomorrow. We know that this world needs people of hope, so today we pray: turn us into those people. Teach us how to sing Mary’s song of hope for the world. With open hearts we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS
I am God’s beloved.
I am God’s beloved.
I am forgiven.
I am forgiven.
I am blessed and sent to serve.
I am blessed and sent to serve.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
We believe that hope can change the world. We believe that God uses ordinary people, like an unwed teenage mother, for extraordinary good. And we believe that each of these ordinary people can make a difference. We know that grief, fear, and suffering abound. We know that suffering quells joy and makes it harder to hope. But we choose hope anyway. In the face of hardship, we hope together. We hope with God. We hope for a better world. This is our song. We believe; help our unbelief. In Christ’s name we pray, 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

"In The Bleak Midwinter"

UMH #221

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:67-80, p. 724

MESSAGE

"How Does a Weary World Rejoice? We Sing Stories of Hope"

Rev. Steve Stultz Costello

*HYMN OF MISSION

"It Came Upon The Midnight Clear"

UMH #218

*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

"Two Noels"

Louis-Claude Daquin

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 Linda Brown
To the Glory of God

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

Yellow Rose on the Altar is presented by Tracy Webber
In Memory of Grandmother, Betty Hollingsworth

Nativity set presented by Rev. Dr. Ivy Smith

There are flower openings on January 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



11:00 AM Advent Traditional Worship
December 24, 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, Dale Snyder

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

Love & Sympathy to the family & friends of Betty McArthur who
passed on December 18, 2023.

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Upcoming
This Week

Monday, December 25

- OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, December 26

- Ring Journey Group, 9:30 AM

Wednesday, December 27

- Knitting Group, 1 PM

Thursday, December 28

Saturday, December 30

- More Than A Meal

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Staff Update
We welcome to our staff, Briyant Hines (started 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.



Briyant Hines



Justin Mackey

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
3 PM Communion
5 PM Family
7 PM Modern
9 PM Traditional
All services are candlelight services

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS:
Monday, Dec. 25: CLOSED
Tuesday, December 26 - Friday, December 29th: 8 AM - 4 PM
Monday, January 1: CLOSED

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