

MENTOR

UNITED

WEEKLY UPDATE

METHODIST

CHURCH

DECEMBER 31, 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 root ourselves in ritual.

*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth,
do you not perceive it? - Isaiah 43:19a*

Happy New Year! How have you traditionally celebrated New Year's. Do you gather with friends and/or family? Is it your tradition to order pizza and play games till midnight or to cook a big fancy meal? Do you watch your favorite TV channel that shows highlights from the past year all the way up till when the ball drops in New York City Times Square? Does someone offer a toast? Do you make any New Year's resolutions?

Traditions and rituals are important. They connect us to one another in community, they shape our understanding of ourselves and the world, they help to give life meaning. This is especially true in our lives of faith. Worship, singing hymns together, receiving communion, praying the Lord's prayer, renewing our vows every time there is a baptism, lighting Advent candles - all these practices and more work at a deep level giving us a foundation and providing stability in a world of change. When scripture is read in worship, it not only connects us to one another through a shared experience, it connects us to countless people from biblical times to worshippers over the past two thousand years!

I am grateful for all the traditions and rituals that are so much a part of Mentor UMC that Pastor Ivy and I have gotten to experience in our first six months with you. The pictures in this Weekly Update highlight some of those events. Thank you for being the Body of Christ!

One of the really cool things about traditions and rituals is that they prepare us for new things. In Isaiah 43:19a, God says, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" When we regularly engage in the communal practices of our faith, the stability and foundation that results gives us the ability to better perceive the new thing God is doing. When we are confident in God's faithfulness that is recalled and celebrated through ritualist practices, we are less anxious about the future because we know it is in God's hands.

In addition to Isaiah 43, we will hear Luke 2:21-38 in worship this last Sunday of 2023. We will watch and listen as Joseph and Mary take their 8-day old baby Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem to be circumcised, named, and presented to the Lord. It is a ritual that began back in the days of Moses, more than a thousand years prior to Jesus' birth. It is an essential part of the story that begins to shape Jesus' identity. How have religious rituals and traditions shaped your identity? How do they help a weary world rejoice?

Thank you again for a fantastic beginning to our ministry together at Mentor United Methodist Church. I can't wait to see what new things God will do in this new year.

Happy New Year!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Steve". The signature is stylized and cursive.

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, Dale Snyder



Need to Know

Youversion

<https://my.bible.com/events/49185759>

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



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 is a flower opening on January 21st for Traditional worship. 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.

Staff Epiphany Dinner

Office & Preschool staff will meet on January 9 at 6 PM for an Epiphany dinner.



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.

Blood Drive

The next Blood Drive is on Tuesday, January 16th. [Sign up online](#) or visit the Information Hub.



What's Your M.O.?

Mission Opportunities

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.

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, January 27th 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.

➡ Who can serve as a volunteer with Catalyst Ministry? Volunteers are needed as tutors for the English Language Arts program. Can you read? Do you like little kids who are in kindergarten, 1st, or 2nd grade? Do you like books? If you would like to help a few hours a week, contact Carol Ryan @ caszidkryan@gamil.com or Neal Nelson @ nealcatalystministry.org.

Carol is our point person for Catalyst Ministry/Woodlawn Homes and Neal is the Administrative Director of Catalyst Ministry. Volunteers have to consent to a free back-ground check. School building tours and observations of current volunteers are available.

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, January 12th 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.

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 SKI TRIP Details and forms online. Deadline to register is January 8. Find forms on our [site](#).



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 Mixer

Join us for a mixer to meet with our new Youth Director, Briyant Hines. Youth and their parents will meet in the Youth Room on January 21 from 6pm-8:30pm.

2024

