

# MENTOR

# UNITED

WEEKLY UPDATE

# METHODIST

# CHURCH

DECEMBER 3, 2023

8600 MENTOR AVE

MENTOR OH 44060

[MENTORUMC.ORG](http://MENTORUMC.ORG)

440.255.3496

Worship with us in-person or online:  
[Mentorumc.org](http://Mentorumc.org), [Facebook](#), and [Youtube](#)

## **Worship Schedule**

9 & 11 AM Modern

9 & 11 AM Traditional



# PASTOR'S LETTER

*...your prayer has been heard... You will have joy and gladness!... How will I know?*

- Selections from Luke 13,14, & 18

Bad news/Good News. Sickness/Health. Sadness/Joy. End/Beginning. Darkness/Light. Despair/Hope. Hate/Love. War/Peace. Ying/Yang. Death/Life. Weariness/Rejoicing.

In this season of Advent, I invite you to ponder the many experiences, emotions and realities that are in tension with one another. It is no exaggeration to say that our lives exist in a state of tension between many opposing forces. On any given day, really any given moment, we find ourselves pulled more in one direction and then more in the other. Our state-of-being is affected by tensions that are both external and internal. Striving to find and maintain balance can be difficult if not exhausting.

Advent reminds us that we are not alone. Our biblical ancestors found strength in the midst of life's tensions. Rituals, worship, and prayers grounded them in God's promises, trusting God's faithfulness. Much deeper than simply the power of positive thinking, placing their hope and trust in God enabled them to name and face the forces of loss, darkness, sickness, despair, death, and weariness. It didn't make these forces go away or even render them powerless. Rather, ritual, worship, and prayer gave God's people assurance that God's power is greater and ultimately will be victorious.

This first Sunday of Advent, and in our Advent devotional, we begin with the story of the priest Zechariah who was offering incense in the sanctuary when an angel appeared bringing him the good news that his prayer had been heard! He is told that he will have joy and gladness, for his wife Elizabeth in her old age now will bear a son who will be great in the sight of the Lord, who will make ready a people prepared for the Lord. Elizabeth and Zechariah had been married for probably sixty or more years. They were both "blameless in the sight of the Lord" and yet, they lived their entire lives in the tension of praying for a child and experiencing barrenness. Finally comes the answer to their prayer. Good news!

The news, in fact, is so good that Zechariah the priest is suspicious. He questions the angel, "How will I know?" As a result, the angel makes him mute until his child, John the Baptist, is born. What an example of real life! Good news is announced, God is faithful and like Zechariah, we dismiss it. We disbelieve. But, God will still carry out God's promise. In this case, God silences Zechariah perhaps to allow Zechariah to simply watch and see.

Wherever we may find ourselves in the tensions of life, my prayer for all of us this Advent is that our worship, devotions, prayers, and rituals will ground us in God's promise to be with us. Let us prepare for Christ's coming. Let us be ready to receive the good news – our prayers have been heard.

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

## 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)

# Need to Know

## 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.

## Tree of Remembrance

On Sunday, Dec 3rd at 1:00 PM on the lawn of Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home (8466 Mentor Ave) there will be a Remembrance ceremony. Bring a weatherproof ornament to place on the outdoor Tree of Remembrance when your loved one's name is read. Your ornament will remain on the tree until Jan 8. Please call our office if you wish to hang an ornament but cannot be present on this date. 440.255.3401

## Christmas Cantata:

***O Holy Light***

Come see our annual Christmas Cantata during the 9 & 11 AM Traditional services in the Sanctuary on December 3rd. Our 11 AM service is streamed on Facebook and YouTube. We look forward to the excellent efforts of our choir and orchestral members. No cost or registration is required.

## 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.

## Charge Conference

Join us for Charge Conference on Wednesday, December 6th at 7:00 PM.

## 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!

## Advent Devotionals

NOW available: Info Hub, Gallery, and the Narthex.

## Youversion

<https://bible.com/events/49174465>

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

## Poinsettia Orders

**DEADLINE DEC 3!** Place your orders for poinsettias online or in the Information Hub. Orders must be in by the first weekend in December. Plants cost \$7 each.

## 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 Tuesday, December 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, Annette Campbell will be the speaker. 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



## 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

## 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 PM.



# What's Your

# M.O.?

## 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.

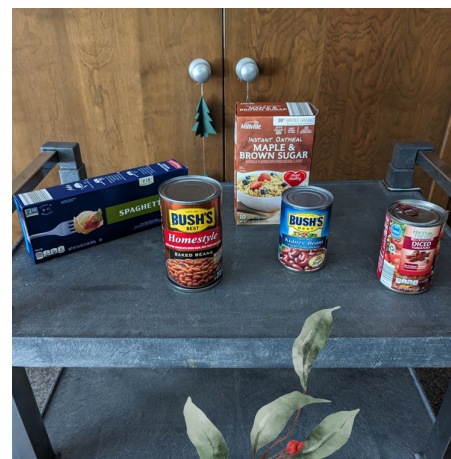
## Food Ministry

We are in need of items for our next distribution on January 15-16th. We feed numerous families with our ongoing distributions and your donations make that happen!

*Urgently needed items:*

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

Items can be dropped off in the Community Center. Monetary donations are also accepted through your designated giving.



# 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 8th, at Mentor UMC. For more dates and locations, [check our website](#). updated dates.

### 2024-2025 Preschool Reg

While it seems to be an odd thing to share at this time of year, 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).

### Advent Calendars

Chocolate Advent calendars are available to purchase for \$5.00 each. Proceeds go to Vacation Bible School. Call the church office or stop by during office hours.

## 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 EVENINGS

Youth are invited to join us from 6:00 to 7:30 Pm here at MUMC.

[Upcoming Dates:](#)

December 10 (offsite)

[Signup for any dates here.](#)

### YSP Meeting

There will be a YSP meeting on Sunday, December 10th right after the 11am service.

### Christmas Play - Believe!

Join us on Saturday, December 9th at 4:00 PM for our annual Christmas Play in Fellowship Hall. Get your tickets [here](#) or on our site.

### Youth Feedback

Want to give feedback on MUMC Youth? [Click here](#).

### Epiphany Party

Friday, January 5, 2024 from 6:00-11:00 PM Dress up, enjoy a nice dinner, glow in the dark activities, and Epiphany Worship Service.