

MENTOR

UNITED

WEEKLY UPDATE

METHODIST

CHURCH

NOVEMBER 12, 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

The parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins is our lectionary scripture passage for this week. The passage is full of history and Eastern wedding traditions. The story has symbolism for how we should **be prepared** for the coming of Christ. It focuses on the consequences of not being prepared and the privileges afforded when you are prepared.

I watch "Say Yes to the Dress" often—the TV show about women selecting a wedding gown. I also watch a show called "Four Weddings" where the wedding plans, from start to finish, are critiqued and judged. Well, this passage is right up my alley because the description of how **we should prepare for Christ's return** are compared as wedding preparations of Palestinian/ eastern ceremonies. Jesus compares our preparedness for heaven with the detailed rituals of a wedding, with the church/us being the bride and Christ being the groom. Yet the main thrust is **BE PREPARED!**

"Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'What if there isn't enough for us and you? You go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'" (Matthew 25:8)

After reading the story, you will see the unfortunate decision five of the women made, and the better decision that five made. The women without a reserve of oil, their lack of **preparation results** in being left behind and too late for salvation. It's a hard truth to grapple with, not receiving salvation, yet we must realize that God provides opportunity after opportunity, chance after chance, opening after opening for us!



Why wouldn't the wise women share their oil? Well, this parable has so many nuances that are unfamiliar to our understanding of weddings, that we may get caught up in the differences. Yet the crux of the story is **PREPAREDNESS** and **EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED**. The oil is a symbol of a life of faith. The oil is a sign of a healthy relationship with God. The oil represents the discipline, consistency and reliance that we

must-have in the Christian life. And if you don't have a faithful prayer life, when tragedy strikes, you will not **be ready**. This is hard to hear, and certainly, even harder if experienced.

When I visit our members who are not able to attend in person, I always remind them of how special their relationship with God is. I tell them that your faith really matters when you're not able to come to church, sing in the choir, cook, usher, teach Sunday School, open your Bible. All the ways we daily live out our faith PREPARE US for a strong, enduring Christian life. PREPAREDNESS!!! Preparedness, not for the worst but preparedness for the best, preparedness for what is yet to come, preparedness for the future.

I cannot stop counting how many spirituals I know that speak directly of this passage's theme of being ready. Three off the top of my head are: 1) "Good news, Chariot's comin', And I don't want it to leave me behind", 2) "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning, the time is drawing nigh", 3) "I want to be ready, I want to be ready, I want to be ready to walk in Jerusalem just like John." Yet, the best for me is one that is hard to find the author and consistent lyrics. It is a song from my college choir days entitled: "I Wanna Be Ready." I recall the choir receiving a standing ovation each time it was sung. The lyrics are: *I wanna be ready, I wanna be ready, Lord, I wanna be ready, ready to put on my long, white robe. [Refrain].* The verses say: *I would not be a sinner, I'll tell you the reason why; cause if my Lord should call on me, I wouldn't be ready to die.*

And it repeats the refrain and then says: *I would not be a liar, I'll tell you the reason why; cause if my Lord should call on me, I wouldn't be ready to die. [Refrain]*
I would not be a gambler, I'll tell you the reason why;
cause if my Lord should call on me I wouldn't be ready to die. [Refrain]

Jesus' words are beckoning us to be ready always, to live so that we give our best every day, always ready for the unexpected. — Pastor Ivy

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

Mentor Ridge - Patricia Bonner

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



Hawaii District

California-Pacific Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

On behalf of Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank and the Cal-Pac Annual Conference, Pastor John Crewe and the Lahaina UMC, I want to thank you for your very generous donations in support of Lahaina relief as this community emerges from this unbelievable tragedy. The people of Lahaina are a faithful and determined congregation, and they are looking forward with hope. A large part of this hope is due to the incredible support that you have provided for them.

The collection of notes to the Lahaina congregation is a particularly touching and uplifting gesture.

Once again, thank you for your generosity for Lahaina UMC, and may God bless you!

Grace and aloha,

Rev. Tom Choi

DS Tom Choi

Need to Know

Meet and Greet

Pastor Ivy and Pastor Steve will continue to attend meet and greets with groups of 8 to 15 people hosted at someone's home or at the church through November 16. Call Stephanie in the church office if you would like to host a gathering.

Church Directory Sign Ups

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). **Photography dates are Nov. 24-25 (FULL) and Dec. 13-16 (NEW DATE).** To sign up in person, please visit the Information Hub. You can visit our website to learn more about times and details. There will also be an information sheet for people to fill out in order for us to update our records. Even if you do not get in the directory, this form is important for our records. Visit the site or Info Hub for more.

Puffs & Cheese Sale

Puffs and Cheese that were from this past weekend's Gingerbread Craft Show will be on sale after services in the Gallery. Come grab some good stuff!

Bread, Broth, Brownies, & Bingo

Please join us for another 4B luncheon & program. November's menu includes loaded baked potato soup with hearty bread, salad, and pumpkin brownies. Our own Kate Colbow, East Ohio Conference secretary to UMC Global Ministries, will share about UM missionaries and how we can support and partner in the ministry of our missionaries. We hope to see you on Monday, Nov 13 at noon in the MUMC Gallery. Please RSVP to uwf@mentorumc.org, register online [here](#), or find the sign up sheet in the Info Hub.

Black Theologian Day

All clergy and laity of the East Ohio Conference are invited to participate in Black Theologian Day, a Perspectives event that highlights another perspective by centering voices we do not often hear. Black Theologian Day is **Saturday, November 18** from 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM at Cory UMC in Cleveland. Check-in begins at 9 AM. The event is free but pre-registration is required because lunch will be provided by Church of the Saviour UMC.

Youversion

<https://bible.com/events/49165074>

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

Poinsettia Orders

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.

Shepherding Summit

Join us on the evening of Sunday, November 19th for our "Shepherding Summit - Leadership Strengthening" from 4-7 PM. We hope to see you for this engaging gathering & dinner. [RSVP here](#) by November 14th.

Nov 19 Special Service

Join us for a special service "Inspired"; a morning of scripture, music, witness, and praise. All are invited to join us as we celebrate those that have left footprints for us to follow on our own faith journey and renew our commitment to inspire others! Children are encouraged to worship with their families during this special celebration on November 19th in 9 & 11 Modern Worship in Fellowship Hall.

Emmaus Meet

There will be an Emmaus follow up at: Tallmadge UMC at 5:00pm, Saturday November 18th.

Fellowship Hour

Fellowship hour is looking for individuals, families, Journey Groups or Teams to host on Sunday mornings. To get involved or know more, please contact Kathy Fellows: 440-477-4485.

Meet our new Mission Project!

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

Fieldtrip to Washington D.C.

You are invited to join Pastor Steve, his wife Rev. Cara, Pastor Ivy and Pastor Tammy along with others from Member UMC on a field trip to Washington DC from Dec 3-5th. We will leave MUMC together in vans (Thanks to GEM for covering the cost of transportation)! You will be responsible for the cost of lodging and food. You can register by [clicking here](#).

What's Your M. ?

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 Nov 24-25 and Dec 14-16 in 2-3 hour shifts. Volunteers will help people check in and direct them to the correct area.

Hope Chest

Hope Chest is in need of gloves and coats ALL sizes. The cold season is here! You may drop off items in the Community Center during office hours or on Sunday mornings.

Food Ministry

We are getting ready for our next Holiday Food Distribution on November 13-14th (this week!). We will be helping **75 families**.

Urgently needed items:

- Cake mix
- Stuffing
- Scalloped Potatoes
- Au Gratin Potatoes
- Ketchup
- Vegetable Oil
- Ranch
- Marinara Sauce

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

Thanksgiving Day Dinner 2023

Delivery & Pickup from 11 AM to 1 PM
Call 440.255.3496 or email info@mentorumc.org
to request FREE meals

Thanksgiving Volunteers

You can sign up to help for this year's Thanksgiving meal in the Gallery after services. Online sign ups can be found on our site or by [clicking here](#).

Volunteers are needed for Wednesday, Nov 22nd and Thursday, Nov 23rd. Find a time and area that works for you!

Thanksgiving Donations

You can sign up to donate specific food items for this year's Thanksgiving meal in the Gallery after services. Online sign ups can be found on our site or by [clicking here](#).

Note: We are not in need of turkeys this year. We will be getting prepared turkey breast from GFS.

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 the link for Sunday morning [FALL sign up](#) (or visit our site). [Click here for WINTER leader sign up](#). 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, November 17, 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.

Youth Feedback

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

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.

Gift of Time

We will have 'Gift of Time', an afternoon of Childcare, on Saturday, December 2nd 1:00-4:00 here at MUMC. Childcare is offered by Children's Ministry Team.

Youth MORNINGS

Grades 6-12 join us on Sunday mornings! We meet from 10:10-10:50 to be in community and have discussion. We are following the sermon series for our discussions.

[Upcoming Dates:](#)

November 19

December 3 & 17

Youth EVENINGS

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

[Upcoming Dates:](#)

November 12 & 26

December 10 (offsite)

[Signup for any dates here.](#)

Youth Service Project Kickoff Meeting

Join us on Sunday, November 12th at 12:00 PM in Wesley Room for a kickoff meeting for high school students, parents, and other interested adults to provide information about possible plans for a Summer 2024 mission trip. If you have any thoughts toward going on a mission trip next year with other youth and adults and / or would like to learn more, please plan on attending this meeting.