

The liturgical color is green, signifying life and growth  
in the Christian Church, it is the twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

**PRELUDE** "Prelude and Fugue in C Major" J. S. Bach  
Amy Bender, organist

**WELCOME** Mike Fournier, Liturgist

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**  
L: Holy God, we come together as your people  
**C: searching for sacred space, longing to be cherished, craving a real connection.**  
L: In this hour of worship, God we rise up to lift our voices in the midst of struggle,  
phobia, fears and doubt in our city.  
**C: We lift our hearts, souls and minds to the God of our creation, for we are wholly yours now and forever.**  
L: Sacred Lord, guide us in our lives to love and honestly seek the salvation of our kindred.  
**C: This is the day that the Lord has made, we will be glad and rejoice in it!**

**\*OPENING HYMN** "Great is Thy Faithfulness" UMH #140

**OPENING PRAYER**  
Your faithfulness is so great, O Lord. So great that we stand in awe of your miraculous works of grace and mercy to us. Lord, often, we don't feel prepared or ready for the demands of those around us. And often, not even the demands that we place upon ourselves. But we know, O God, that you walk with us and prepare us each day. Reaffirm your examples and practices so that we have the life you offer so freely. Uniting God, open our hearts, open our minds, open our eyes. We pray that your way will overtake our actions. Amen and amen.

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

**ANTHEM 9:00** Church Sonata I Mozart  
Tracy Paroubek, clarinet  
**11:00** He Never Failed Me Yet Robert Ray  
Chancel Choir; Bonnie Budziak, accompanist; Larry Fram, soloist

\*Congregation invited to stand if able

**SCRIPTURE** I Timothy 6:17-18 NIV, pg. 841

**SHARING STORIES OF GOD AT WORK THROUGH CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS**

**SILENT PRAYER**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**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.

**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 9:00** "Church Sonata II" Mozart  
**11:00** "Prayer of Grateful Praise" Mary McDonald

**\*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**  
O God, we take this moment not to ask for anything from You. But we simply thank you for all we have. We thank you for giving to us. Now Lord, accept our giving to you. Keep us loyal and dedicated in light of all your generosity. Amen.

**HYMN OF CENTERING** "Take My Life, and Let It Be" UMH #399

**SCRIPTURE** Luke 15:11-24 NIV, pg. 740

**MESSAGE** "Defying Gravity: Breaking Free" Rev. Dr. Ivy Smith

**\*HYMN OF MISSION** "God Will Take Care of You" UMH #130

**\*FAITH IN ACTION**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION SONG 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**

"Psalam XIX"

Marcello



Altar Flowers are presented by Wendy Phyllis  
In Loving Memory of Larry E. Phillis,  
Husband, Father, and Grandfather

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

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WIFI password: GodLovesYou



# Defying Gravity

*October 15, 2023*

**Traditional Worship**



# MENTOR UNITED HIGHLIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH



## **Members who are in need of prayer:**

Karen Mancini, Marilyn Oliver, Dick Anderson, Patricia Bonner  
Luke Sanvido, Star Bruno, David Fell, Norma Ickes, Bob Williams,  
Ruthie Hobart, Mike Cosmo

## **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 of Barbara Bradarich who passed on  
October 5, 2023. A Celebration of life will be held here at Mentor  
United Methodist Church on Wednesday, October 18, 2023.**

Scan here to engage with  
a brief activity regarding  
Children Ministries at MUMC!



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**Pastor Meet & Greets**

Pastors Steve and Ivy would like to meet with groups of 8-15 people once a week through the end of November. If you would like to plan a meet & greet, call Stephanie at the church to schedule a time. Steve and Ivy have set aside several 1.5 hour slots each week at various times. Learn about dates, times, and locations on our website or by calling the church.

**Fellowship Hour**

Fellowship hour is looking for individuals, families, Journey Groups or Teams to host on Sunday mornings. There are also still opportunities to donate prepackaged food such as chips, crackers, and cookies. To get involved or know more, please contact Kathy Fellows: 440-477-4485.

**Sign up for Pictures**

Visit the Information Hub to sign up for a time slot for your photograph to be taken for the church directory (or for you and your family!).

*Some pictures from our Youth this past week at Hornyak Farms!*



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