

MENTOR

UNITED

WEEKLY UPDATE

METHODIST

CHURCH

APRIL 20, 2025

8600 MENTOR AVE

MENTOR OH 44060

MENTORUMC.ORG

440.255.3496

Worship with us in-person or online:
Mentorumc.org, [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/mentorunitedmethodist), and [Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv33333333333333333333)

Worship Schedule

9 AM Modern

11 AM Traditional



He is Risen

Pastor's Letter

...she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!"
- John 20:14-16 NRSV

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Hallalujah!
Happy Easter!

Today, Sunday, April 20, is Easter. All around the world, people are celebrating an event that took place about 2000 years ago. That event is told in slightly different ways in each of the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. John's Gospel is the only one that tells about Jesus calling Mary by name. When she gets to the tomb and finds it empty, she assumes someone stole Jesus' body. Her grief and weeping are multiplied. Jesus, the risen Christ is standing right in front of her, but she does not recognize him. Even when Jesus speaks, asking her "Why are you weeping?" and "Whom are you looking for?", she does not recognize him. She thinks he is the gardener and asks if he has taken the body. When Jesus calls her name, *Mary*, she recognizes him and responds, "Rabbouni", meaning teacher.

For Mary, it all comes down to that brief moment when Jesus called her by name. What is incredible beyond words is that since that moment, people across the world have had their own experiences when everything changed. Many people even say they heard Jesus call them by name. Whatever the experience, it is a before-and-after-moment: before that moment, the person is one way and after that moment they are forever different. Whatever the experience, it is a personal, clarifying moment.

Last Sunday, Bob Bals shared a testimony of an experience he had that sounded very similar to the one Mary Magdalene had on that first Easter morning. He talked about how his life changed forever. It was after a friend in his 50s died unexpectedly. Bob was in shock. He hadn't planned on going to the funeral, but ended up going and it was through that experience that he had what some would call a "Come to Jesus" moment. I encourage you to ask Bob about it. He'd be happy to tell you what and how it all happened. The gist is, he had an experience with the risen Jesus that changed his life forever. He calls it his *miracle experience*.

Church, it is real. Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! How have you experienced the risen Lord in your life? If you aren't sure, don't worry! It could be that you are not able to recognize Him, yet. Or, maybe you've stopped looking for a time. Take heart! The church is the place where we get to search together. Even after a life-changing encounter with Christ, it is only the beginning of a continued journey of discovery and service. We are all on a path seeking to be disciples centered on Christ. Hallelujah!

With Easter Hope,



Pastor Steve





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 - Delores Tackett, Johanna Kessler, Dee Smith,

Mary Lou Haines, John Shetler, Carol Anderson

Parker Place - Bill Owen, Bob & Sandy Linsell,

Deloris Parsons, Mary Ann Haycox

Tapestry - Gloria McFeely

Symphony of Mentor - Lorraine Ahlstrom

Breckenridge/Fairmount - Patricia Laubscher

Village of St. Edward: Dale Porter

Holly Hill - Floyd Richards

Brookdale - Bill Wolfgang

Members who are in need of prayer:

Kay Feiten, Hilary Pleska, Nora Kelley, Karen Mancini

Noralee Starr, Laurie Eppler, Doug Koman, Connie Sterner

**Love & Sympathy to the family and friends of Patricia Laubscher,
who passed on Friday, April 11, 2025.**

This Spring, Let's Make History!

Has there ever been a sunrise service the week after Easter to re-enact the story in John 21 when the resurrected Jesus appears on the shore of the Sea of Galilee? The disciples have been fishing all night and have caught nothing. When they get to the shore, Jesus feeds them fish from a charcoal fire and then asks Peter three times "Peter, do you love me?" No? Ok, then, let's make history together!

Here's how you can help make this service even more effective and memorable...Let Pastor Steve know if you are interested in helping in any of the ways below.

For April 27th, John 21 Reenactment Sunrise Service, 6:30 am at Fairport Harbor Beach Park:

- All the above plus...
- One or two men to be disciples in the boat
- A fishing boat (one without a motor/one that can be rowed) that could be used. *Do you have such a boat? Do you know someone who does?*
- A casting net or something like it.

See you there!

Pastor Steve

Background picture courtesy of Nancy Richards

Youversion

<https://bible.com/events/49421999>

Learn more about Sunday's scriptures & worship by visiting this link.

Poverty Simulation

Join us at MUMC in Fellowship Hall on April 26th from 11 AM to 1 PM for a Poverty Simulation. Please register by April 24th. **We need at least 30 participants and 15 facilitators for this simulation.** Ages 13 and up are welcome and a light lunch will be provided. Childcare for 12 and under available upon request. Contact mthomas@eocumc.com with any questions. [Learn more and register here.](#)

May Sermon Series & Donations

Donations of vinyl records being accepted for our next sermon series, "Jukebox Jesus". We'll explore scripture through popular music and enjoy an exciting music event on Friday, May 30th. Donations can be dropped off to the church office or to Kenna's office.

Lenten Dinner Feedback

If you attended and/or helped with the Lenten dinners and classes this past season, we'd love to hear from you. [Click here](#) to fill out a brief survey about this experience.

WEEKLY UPDATE

Need to Know

MUMC Softball

Mentor UMC has two teams that you can join or support this softball season (no gender or church membership requirements). Games are on Tuesdays beginning May 6th @ Richmond Heights Community Park. Anyone interested should contact Brian Bly: 440-463-7712 brianbly11@gmail.com

Bread, Broth, Brownies, & Bingo

Don't miss the international flavors & fun at Mentor UWF's May luncheon! Menu includes naan flatbread, chicken tortilla soup, Australian Tim Tam (cookie) brownies, and an opportunity to sample teas from around the world. Carol Haines will share a personal story of an amazing "international connection" made through a youth group project. We hope to see you on Wednesday, May 7th at noon in the Gallery! RSVP to uwf@mentorumc.org, [register online here](#), or in the Info Hub.

CWC Luncheon

The next Christian Women's Connection Luncheon is May 20th at 11:15 AM to 1:30 PM at Pine Ridge CC. Cost is \$30. RSVP by May 15th to cwcstonecroft@yahoo.com or call Lynn at 440.488.4351.



Communion

Communion is the first Sunday of the month in both services. On all other Sundays, Communion & Prayer is held in the Chapel at 10:30 AM.

Fellowship Hour

Join us after service every week in the Gallery for Fellowship Hour. First Sunday of the month is Pancakes!

New Member Lunch & Orientation

Individuals & families looking to become members or learn more about church membership are invited to the luncheon on Sunday April 27th at noon AND two orientation sessions this Spring (you only NEED to attend one). Join us on Thursday, May 1st from 6:30-8:30 PM and on Saturday, May 3rd from 1:30-3:30 PM here at Mentor UMC. [RSVP online here](#) or get in touch with a Pastor.

MENTOR UMC

Pastor Steve's Renewal Leave



We hope this message finds you well and thriving in your faith journey. We are pleased to announce that Pastor Steve will be taking renewal leave from July 1 to August 26, 2025.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) unanimously approved Pastor Steve's request at their March 25 meeting, and he has also received support from our District Superintendent, Rev. Angela Lewis. As outlined in the United Methodist Book of Discipline, renewal leave may include study, travel, spiritual retreat, or other restorative activities that enhance ministry effectiveness. This opportunity for rest, recharge, and spiritual refocus is encouraged for all clergy in the United Methodist Church every six years. Pastor Steve's last renewal leave was in 2017, making this a timely and much-deserved break.

Pastor Steve plans to travel to Virginia to visit family and explore the Appalachian Trail, and to Canada, where he and his wife Cara share a cabin with her siblings. He will also spend time reading, studying, working on home projects, and enjoying special outings with his sons, Eli and Atticus.

During Pastor Steve's leave, Pastor Ivy will serve as Senior Pastor, with Pastor Tammy assisting in pastoral responsibilities. Preaching and worship will be led by Pastor Ivy and Pastor Tammy, along with guest preachers for two or three Sundays. Rev. Barb Holzhauser will provide pastoral care assistance as needed.

Pastor Steve has expressed that he is not feeling burned out and feels blessed to serve as the Sr. Pastor at Mentor United Methodist Church. He remains energized and excited about our future together, attributing part of his vitality to proactive renewal leave.

We ask for your prayers that Pastor Steve's renewal leave will be a true time of Sabbath and renewal. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to anyone on SPRC or speak directly with Pastor Steve.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Blessings,

SPRC

Change the World Day

For Change the World Day 2025 we are hosting *Rise Against Hunger* to pack 15,000 meals to be distributed worldwide to people in need. This is a hands-on event to be held at MUMC in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, May 3rd, from 10 AM to noon. ALL ages and abilities welcome! There are tasks to do standing or sitting down--we encourage all to participate.

To volunteer for this event please register [here](#) or on the sign-up sheet in the Info Hub.

Donations to cover the cost of these meals can be made to MUMC with Rise Against Hunger in memo line or online at <https://www.mentorumc.org/onlinegiving> Select Fund: Missions or Other: Rise Against Hunger.

Pictures from previous CTWD.



Rise
AGAINST HUNGER

What's **M.** Your **M.** Mission Opportunities?

Easter Offering

This year's Easter Offering is designated to the following Missions Ministries:

1/3 Food Ministry, 1/3 Hope Chest, 1/3 UMCOR National Relief

Rummage Sale Feedback

Thank you to ALL our volunteers and those that donated for making this year's sale happen. Over \$13,000 was raised for Missions such as Food Ministry, Clothing Ministries, and more. To offer your feedback as a volunteer, [click here](#).



YSP Plant Sale

Preorder Forms are available in the Info Hub or [online here](#) for the Youth Service Project Plant Sale on Mother's Day weekend (the 9th - 11th). You do not have to fill out a preorder form in order to shop the sale. Forms can be dropped off to the main office.

Royal Family Kids

Royal Family Kids Camp is an overnight camp experience for kids ages 6-11 who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned. This year's camp runs from Friday, June 6th through Wednesday, June 11th. Apply to volunteer full time or help out part time, as your schedule permits.

If you are 16 or older, you can help! The number of campers who can participate in this life-changing experience is limited by the number of volunteers. Don't be the reason some child can't come to camp! **[APPLY HERE](#)** or on our website.

Training date is Saturday May 3 from 8-4 at Willoughby Hills UMC. For more information, see or call Johanna Martin, 352-1432.

Alzheimer's Walk 2025

The Walk will be held at Lake Farm Park on September 27th. This year our team goal is to raise \$2,000. All Journey groups & committees are encouraged to walk as part of Team MUMC. Get your team registered as soon as possible so we can meet our goal! [Click here](#).

WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

Sunday Morning Kids

9:00 & 11:00 AM at MUMC for all services.

- ALL ages are encouraged to check in at the Early Childhood Center (or Gallery, if available).
- Grades K-5 begin in worship with their families and then be dismissed to the Education Wing.

Sunday Morning Signup

MUMC'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 leader signup](#). There are spots for various ages/levels, so check out what section works for you:)

"Worship one, serve one!"

Register for 2025-2026

Register for the 2025-2026 school year at MUMC: [link here](#). Get in touch with Brittany Jones to learn more:

bjones.preschool@mentorumc.org

MOMCo

MOMCo meets Fridays in the Gallery from 9 AM - 12 PM. Upcoming dates:

April 25

May 9, 23



Child & Caregiver Class

Age 2 ½ to 3 ½

9:15-10:45 AM in the Early Childhood Area

- SPRING: April 23, 30, May 7, 14

Cost is \$60 per 8 week session (prepaid, non-refundable). [Apply here!](#)

VBS: Road Trip, On the Road with God

This is a week long adventure in the mornings at Mentor UMC. We'll sing, dance, craft, and get to know each other through Spirit-filled fun.

- June 23-27

- 9 AM to 12 PM

- 4 yrs old - grade 6

G.O.D. Camp: Water of Life

Join the week-long excitement of G.O.D. Camp at Mentor UMC and beyond. We'll explore the community around us through various activities.

- June 23-27

- 9:30 AM to 4 PM

- completed grades 5 - 6

Middle School Mission Week

We hope this will be a week for building relationships, service and spiritual growth. Register a Middle Schooler or volunteer at [THIS LINK](#).

- July 7-11

- 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

- Starting at MUMC and then traveling to other locations

Middle School

NO MS SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS WEEK! Happy Easter!

Young Adult Small Group

Young Adults are encouraged to join a small group that meets in-person and online on Tuesday at 5 PM. This group is ongoing and accepting new friends at anytime. [Sign up online](#) or get in touch with Mackalyn.

Youth Group

Youth are invited to meet on the second and fourth Sunday evenings of the month in the Youth Room from 4-6 PM. Upcoming dates:

April 13 & 27

May 11 & 25

Graduation Sunday

High School & College Grads are invited to celebrate their accomplishments here at Mentor UMC on Sunday, June 8th.

Grads from year's past are encouraged to reach out to Mackalyn or signup online here to help with the celebration.

ALL Grads are encouraged to send [Kenna](#) a photo with their name and post-grad plans to be shared in the Grad video.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT
SUMMER PROGRAMS HERE
OR ON OUR WEBSITE.**