

MENTOR

UNITED

WEEKLY UPDATE

METHODIST

CHURCH

AUGUST 23, 2026

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 AM Modern

11 AM Traditional



Back
to
SCHOOL

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

*Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these
brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.*

Matthew 25: 40

How many first days of school can you remember? Could you sleep the night before? Did you catch a cold that week? Were your notebooks in order, *just* so, but by the end of the day it was a warzone in your backpack?

Or maybe your first days blend together as mine do. Those firsts came and went, full of gazing out of classroom windows and terrorizing sunny playgrounds.

But I can remember a lot of school days in between, especially the quiet mornings in elementary school when my mother and I would sit on our front stoop waiting for the bus to stop at our corner. I dreaded the morning ritual of trying to find an empty seat. I always hoped I would miss the bus, or it would break down before it got to me. I was terribly shy. Group projects and presentations were my biggest enemies. I'd do anything to go unnoticed.

Yet, I had this weird sense of justice percolating in me during my elementary school years. I would gravitate toward my unpopular peers, like I was on a righteous mission, and try to befriend them. It was common rhetoric in many churches then, still now, to "love like children." I really took that one to heart. I thought that meant loving with abandon, and then some.

There was one field trip, where *both* my parents chaperoned. I was so excited. We took a bus to Cleveland and got on the Goodtime. My field trip partner, Danielle, was a rough-around-the-edges girl who was the least-liked person in our grade. She frightened me a little because she was much bigger than me and had constant, anguished outbursts.

"Chaperoned kids" had the luxury of choosing a partner, instead of the teacher choosing one for you. I knew no one would pick her for a partner. It felt like I was saving her from the embarrassment of not being chosen when I singled her out. But the embarrassment was only mine. I still remember her glare as I said her name to the teacher. And on the trip, she was unpleasant, snapping at me and my family. It deeply hurt me anytime someone mistreated or mocked my parents. I felt protective of them, and the righteousness I felt in our classroom faded and died on that boat.

It's a complex feeling, isn't it? I wasn't really wrong, but I wasn't really *right*. I had misplaced my love—not because I picked the "wrong" person to "selflessly" bestow attention upon, but because I did it for myself. I tried to love her in order to save her from a lonely fate, to feel like a hero in a book. I think she knew that.

Elementary-aged me was not equipped to understand the complexity of her personality, mental health, or her home life. I could not love her the way she needed to be loved because I was only a child. And as I ruminate on it as an adult, maybe she would have done anything to go unnoticed too, and I took that away from her.

This sermon series, "If God is Love..." has investigated the way we love as Christ-followers. Much of that means looking at hard truths, and even our own selves in an honest light. Are we loving because we have to? Why is it so hard to love in the first place? Can't we get over ourselves and our need to best someone, impress them, or *save* them?

I wish I could perfect that elusive, purely selfless, intentional love. I wish I could build a world where that love was given to Danielle, to eight-year old me, to my parents. To anyone.



Kenna Tanner
Editor, Communications Specialist



Care CONGREGATIONAL

In our prayers today & in your personal prayer time, please remember the following:

Admitted to Rehab, Assisted Living or Nursing Home Facility:

The Enclave - Johanna Kessler, Dee Smith,
Mary Lou Haines, John Shetler, Joe & Judy Tirpak
Ohman Family Living in Holly - Bob & Sandy Linsell
Parker Place - Deloris Parsons, Mary Ann Haycox
Symphony of Mentor - Lorraine Ahlstrom
Salida Woods - June Van Ostrand

In need of prayer:

Hilary Pleska, Russ Lancaster, Kay McKinney, Mary Ellen Reynolds, Norma Ickes, Lois Dyckman, Nancy Smith, Joyce Snyder, Jan Sudekum, Ruthie Hobart, Richard & Nancy Smith, Fletcher Family, Laura Van Riper

**Love & Sympathy to the Family & Friends of Lorraine Ahlstrom,
who passed on Thursday, August 13, 2026.
Her Celebration of Life was held at Mentor UMC on Friday, August 21, 2026.**

Pastoral Coverage

I am grateful to serve at Mentor UMC, where we are blessed with a strong and talented staff team, gifted lay leadership, and a congregation that faithfully cares for one another. Because of all of you, I am able to take vacation with peace of mind, knowing the church is in good hands.

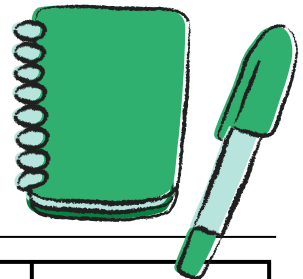
I will be on vacation from August 6–22. During my absence, Pastor Tammy will serve as Acting Senior Pastor, and Sally Rachek, our Minister of Congregational Care, will continue providing pastoral care with the support of our Caring Servants. If a pastoral emergency occurs outside of Sally's regular hours, Pastor Tammy will be on call to respond.

I have also arranged for two clergy colleagues to be available should Pastor Tammy be unable to respond: Rev. Edgar Brady, Senior Pastor of Painesville UMC, and Rev. Jim Winkler, Senior Pastor of Hope Ridge UMC. If you have a pastoral need, please contact the church office and speak with Stephanie Lee. She will connect you with the appropriate person.

Then, on August 23rd, I look forward to worshipping with you again and preaching the final sermon in our series, "If God is Love... Must I Show Love to Others?"

Blessings,

Pastor Steve



Stewardship Update

The table to the right shares the most recent financial stewardship update. You're pledged and general giving supports the whole Body of Christ at Mentor UMC. It is one indication of being on a path of Christ-centered discipleship. Together, we are sharing the Gospel and making a difference. Thank you.

For any questions, reach out to Stephanie Lee in the church office or a member of the Finance Committee. As always, a church budget is available on request.

July Giving	\$67,823.04
YTD Giving	\$513,959.42
YTD Expenses	\$561,537.39
YTD Overage (Deficit)	-\$47,577.97

Conference Apportionments paid for 2026=> 100%

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

Seeds of Understanding

Join Pastor Tammy for an in-depth discussion about our current sermon series on August 24th at 6:30 PM in the Chapel.

New Beginnings

Are you a visitor, regular attender, or just someone who wants to know more about Methodism? Join us for lunch on Sunday, August 30th from 12:30 to 1:45 PM. You can RSVP [online here](#) or get in touch with Chris Fletcher and/or the church office.

Women's Soul Care Retreat

On Saturday, September 19th, United Women in Faith is hosting a beautiful day of rest, renewal, and spiritual grounding for the women of our church. Join with speaker Rev. Bev Wrobel for activities, worship, and devotion time. Childcare will be available. The cost is \$25 (earlybird by August 16th or \$30 AFTER the 16th). Register [online here](#) or pick up a form in the Info Hub.

Bread, Broth, Brownies, & Bingo Kicks Off Another Season September 9

Please join us for another season of learning, connecting, food, and fun! United Women in Faith invites you to our next 4B luncheon which will feature alphabet soup, homemade white bread, salad, and Lunch Lady Brownies (they taste like childhood!). We will celebrate learning and get back to basics with "4B and the 5 W's of UW Faith," highlights of the purpose and ministries of United Women in Faith nationally and internationally as well as locally. We hope you will join us on Wednesday, September 9 at noon in the MUMC Gallery! This event is hosted by Mentor UW Faith, and all are welcome. Please RSVP to uwf@mentorumc.org, [register online here](#), or find the sign up sheet in the Info Hub.

Need to Know

Last Thursday Chapel Service

All are welcome to join us at Garfield Park for the last Thursday evening Chapel Service of the summer on September 3rd at 7 PM at the pavilion.

CWC Luncheon

All women are invited to the Christian Women's Connection of Lake Country for their upcoming September Luncheon on Tuesday, September 15th from 11:15 AM to 1:30 PM. We'll meet at Pine Ridge CC for a day of Faith, Friendship, and Inspiration. Speaker Marilou Johnson from Stonecroft Ministries will be featured along with a fashion show presented by *It's SO You Boutique*. Cost is \$28 per person, cash or check accepted. To RSVP, please email cwcstonecroft@yahoo.com or reach out to Lynn at 440.488.4351.

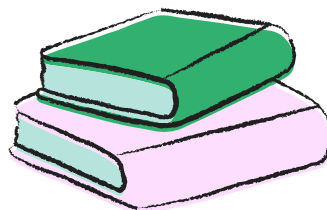
MUMC Choirs Welcome Back Potluck Dinner

All Choir members, new & returning, are invited to the upcoming Welcome Back Potluck Dinner on Thursday, August 27th! Meet us in the Gallery for a fun evening to kick off the 2026-2027 season at 5:30 PM.

And don't forget to mark your calendars for the first rehearsal dates of the Season:

- Chancel Choir: Thursday, September 3rd, 7:45 PM
- Canticle Bells: Thursday, September 10th, 6:00 PM
- Charter Members Men's: Thursday, September 10th, 6:45 PM.

Want to learn more about joining? Contact Amy Bender: abender@mentorumc.org



Small Group Sunday

Join us on Sunday, September 20th for Small Group Sunday! We'll meet in the Gallery after worship to celebrate and share information about all the small group opportunities offered this coming fall!

The following are just SOME of those opportunities:

★ **StrengthsFinder**

Sign up for a fall session of StrengthsFinder. This five-week course allows you learn what your strengths are and how to best use them in every area of life. All dates/info available [online here](#).

★ **Book Club**

All readers are invited to meet us at the Library at MUMC for a monthly book "chat" and a new puzzle on Monday, August 31st at 6 PM.

★ **Pre-Undoing Conquest**

This introductory course explores Dr. Kate Common's theological work. We'll meet in person at 7 PM in Room 112 on Mondays beginning September 21st.

★ **Breakfast Clubs**

Men's Breakfast Club meets every Thursday at 8 AM at Market Street Family Restaurant. On the first of the month, women ALSO meet for breakfast.

★ **Whole Church Bible Study: LUNCH & LEARN**

ALL are invited to join us in the Gallery at 12:30 PM on Sunday, September 13th for a Lunch & Learn. This upcoming meeting will focus on the Council of Bishop's New vision statement for the UMC: *United Methodist form disciples of Jesus Christ, who empowered by the Holy Spirit: Love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.*

Adult Mission Journey

Would you like to be part of God's mission in the world, but want to sleep in your own bed at night? Join others from MUMC for a mini mission journey at Nehemiah Mission in Cleveland on August 28-29. Nehemiah Mission provides housing, meals, Bible study and more to their diverse community. We will be updating one of the rooms at the mission, and there will be something for everyone to do, whether you are a seasoned remodeler or a newbie. Join us for one or both days. To sign up, contact Kate Colbow at kate_colbow@yahoo.com.

YOUTH Group Volunteers

This fall, our Youth (grades 6-12) will meet on the fourth Sunday of the month from 4 PM to 6 PM. During this time, we will have a snack, do a short Bible study, and learn a life skill. This can be any life skill, such as gardening, cooking, rough carpentry, how to change a tire, navigation skills, etc. and can relate to the Bible study, but doesn't need to. We hope that our young people grow in their faith. And we hope for our Youth to learn new skills to help reduce our waste and harm to the Earth as an act of faith, as well as help equip them for life! Please [signup online here](#) or reach out to Mackalyn Figgins if interested.

Hope Chest

Hope Chest is in need of the below items. New or gently used items are encouraged. Donations can be dropped off in the Community Center.

- Children's clothes (elementary age to high school)

WEEKLY UPDATE

What's Your M. Mission Opportunities?

Food Ministry

The MUMC Food Pantry holds regular food distributions, serving families in our community.

Donate nonperishable items to the Pantry by dropping them off in the Community Center bin. If you wish to volunteer for the distribution, please reach out to Alan Vick: realcat26@proton.me

CURRENT NEEDS:

- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Kids Toothpaste
- Cleaning supplies
- Dish soap
- Manwich
- Pineapple (canned)
- Cereal: Cinnamon Toast Crunch & Lucky Charms

More Than a Meal

Volunteer to prepare, cook, serve, or clean up for the next More Than a Meal on Saturday, August 29th. Doors open at 5 PM and the meal is served at 5:30 PM. This meal happens EVERY last Saturday of the month, so if you can't help this month, check out later dates. [Signup online here](#) or get in touch with the church office for help with signing up.

Young Adult Church Mission

All Young Adults are welcome to join us on Thursday, September 24th in the afternoon to clean up non-native plants around church.

Loan Locker

Painesville UMC is starting a free medical device exchange: *Loan Locker*. They are asking for community donations of the items below in good condition and clean. If you would like to donate (or your church would like to take up a collection of needed items to help get the program started, please contact Maria in the PUMC church office to make arrangements for a time to drop off your donations. Thank you for helping us help others!

- Wheelchairs
- Walkers
- Crutches
- Transfer Chairs/Benches
- Canes
- Rollators
- Knee Scooters
- Shower Chairs
- Raised Toilet Seats
- Toilet Rails
- Grabbers
- Bed Rails
- Sock Aids
- Long Shoehorns
- Ice Machines
- Adapted Kitchen Aids
- NEW: Disposable Incontinence Supplies
- NEW: Bath Wipes
- NEW: Shower Caps

MENTOR UMC

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES. YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES.

Early Childhood Area Leaders

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 the Sunday School leader signup](#) for Summer EARLY CHILDHOOD AREA ONLY. Children in K-5th are invited to stay in worship throughout the summer and enjoy activity tables.

Parents Morning Out

On Monday mornings from 9:15 to 11:15 AM, parents are invited to bring their children, who are walking through kindergarten, for a morning of play, music, snacks, a Bible story and a craft. Space is limited to 10 children. Parents are welcome to stay and play or enjoy a morning to themselves. Cost is \$25 per child (\$40 max per family) to cover the cost of our paid sitter, as well as supplies. [Learn more and register online here.](#)

Child & Caregiver Class

This class is open to ages 2 ½ to 3 ½ on Wednesdays from 9:15 AM to 10:45 AM. The cost is \$65 per 8-week session (prepaid, non-refundable). [Fill out the form here.](#)



First Youth Group of 26-27

All Youth are invited to join us on Sunday, August 23rd at 4 PM in the Youth Room for our first Youth Group of the 2026-2027 season. This year, Youth Group will meet once a month on the 4th Sunday and focus on a devotion and life skill. This month's theme is cooking!

Youth Volunteer Orientation

Current and Prospective volunteers for Youth Ministry are invited to an orientation on Sunday, September 27th at 3 PM in the Youth Room.

Youth Bowling Outing

Join us on Wednesday, September 9th at 6:30 PM at Rollhouse for a night of pizza and bowling. Cost is \$12 per person.

High School Football Outing

Youth are invited to join us on Friday, September 18th at 7 PM to support our athletic and band-participating peers at the Riverside v. Mentor game. Cost is around \$10 per person.

Brookdale Orchard Harvest Festival in Cle

Join us in LATE September (date coming soon) to Brookdale Orchard for their Harvest Fest. The Middle School Mission Week team visits them in the summer. We look forward to joining them again for fall fun!

Young Adult Group

Join Young Adults on Tuesdays at 6 PM for *Soil and Spirit: Cultivation and Kinship in the Web of Life* by Scott Chaskey for 5 weeks. We will also enjoy snacks while we start off another season of conversation, discipleship, and deepening our relationships with one another. Feel free to bring anything you like to munch on!

Young Adult Church Mission

Young Adults are invited to join us on Thursday, September 24th to cleanup & remove invasive/non-native plants around the church.

Picklefest Outing

Join us on Saturday, October 3rd around 11 AM for Picklefest in Cleveland. Cost is \$10 per person. Sign up & more details soon.



Gaming Group

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 PM for Dungeons & Dragons in the Youth Room (pizza & snacks included). No experience needed! If there are other games you wish to play during game night, please get in touch with Mackalyn Figgins. ALL are invited to this intergenerational gathering.