

# MENTOR

# UNITED

WEEKLY UPDATE

# METHODIST

# CHURCH

DECEMBER 14, 2025

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



# Pastor's Letter

Season's Greetings!

We are halfway through our season of Advent and our series, "He Shall Be Called." Are you ready for Christmas? No? Me, either! And that is okay. My prayer is that whatever you do this holiday season, it is something that brings you joy and is meaningful to you and your family.

This week's name for Jesus is "Everlasting Parent" and is one to really take time to think about and ponder. It is stretching our imaginations to think of God's Son as a father, mother, or parent. We know Him as a Son, so how can He also be the parent? As I sit here writing this letter, it just hit me that sons can become parents here on earth. If that is the case, why is it challenging to think of Jesus as a parent? I think it has to do with knowing Jesus through the lens of the Triune God, or the Trinity.

We know the Trinity as three equal parts of one whole. Father, Son, & Holy Spirit and Creator, Redeemer, & Sustainer are two that come to mind right away. Bible scholar, Wil Gafney, has an amazing list of names for the Trinity. You can see the entire list [HERE](#). I really liked these: "Earth-Maker, Pain-Bearer and Life-Giver; Holy Incarnate Majesty, Holy Incarnate Word, Holy Abiding Spirit; God who brings us to life, calls us to freedom, and moves between us with love." If you read the list, let me know which ones you prefer.

We also need to consider the word "Everlasting" in this name for the Messiah. As we think of a parent's role as everlasting, it is like a rubber band that stretches over the generations of God's people. As the church, we need to remember our role in sharing God's joy, assurance, and mission with the world so that we can offer care and protection over everyone.

Blessings,

*Pastor Tammy*

Pastor Tammy



# 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  
*Parker Place* - Bill Owen, Bob & Sandy Linsell,  
Deloris Parsons, Mary Ann Haycox  
*Prosper at Wickliffe* - Gloria McFeely  
*Symphony of Mentor* - Lorraine Ahlstrom  
*Fairmont* - Gretchen Tice  
*Governor's Point* - Bob Williams  
*Mentor Ridge* - June Van Ostrand  
*Danbury Senior Living* - Terry Reynolds

**In need of prayer:**

Hilary Pleska, Karen Mancini, Tom Martin, Noralee Starr, Sandy Williams, Dee Smith,  
Russ Lancaster, Kay McKinney, Ruthie Hobart, Terry & Mary Ellen Reynolds, Doug &  
Kathy Koman, Sandy Mazelis, Syndie Toth, Heather Lippert, Linda Beidle, Bill Mueller,  
Vanessa Rios

**Love & Sympathy to the family and friends of Delores Tackett,  
who passed on Monday, December 8th, 2025. Her service will be on Friday,  
December 19<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM here at Mentor United Methodist Church.**



## Christmas Carol History



"It Came upon the Midnight Clear" Hymn 218

The words to this hymn were originally written as a poem in 1849 by Edmund Sears. He was born in Massachusetts in 1810. Sears served as a pastor at the Unitarian Church in Wayland, Massachusetts. He had suffered a breakdown which limited him to working part time at the church. Sears was dismayed by the wars going on in Europe in 1848 as well as the Mexican-American War. These conflicts plus his own health issues inspired him to write this poem about a world not hearing the Christmas message. His parishioners began singing the poem to an unknown tune. The music we sing today was written by Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900) in 1850. Willis, who was born in Boston, wrote a tune titled "Carol". It was later used as the music for Sears' poem. Willis had a distinguished musical career and was also the music critic for the New York Tribune.

# Need to Know

## Youversion

<https://bible.com/events/49534801>

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

## Advent Brews & Bibles

Come join us for our Brews & Bibles Advent group where we meet at 6 PM in a different holiday bar each week in Downtown Willoughby! This practice is based on pub theology, which is the idea that pubs and bars are low-stakes, welcoming spaces for folks to ask big questions and have deep conversations about life and God. And in a charged and divided world, we need more of these welcoming spaces. Learn more about pub theology [here](#). We follow the Wesleyan practice of drinking responsibly and in moderation (or even not drinking at all) as we create a welcoming space out in the community for folks within our church and outside of it to join in discussing *Names for the Messiah: An Advent Study*. You can join this group at ANY time, so if you miss a week, don't worry!

Dec 16: Erie & Vine, 4027 Erie St

Dec 23: Nora's, 4054 Erie St

## Loving Note from the Office

To all who make payments through or to the church, please have ALL submissions of money and receipts in by DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup> for it to count toward 2025. You can reach out to Stephanie in the church office for questions.

## Prelude to Christmas

Join us at Mentor UMC on Friday, December 12th in the Sanctuary at 7:30 PM for the Charter Members Men's Choir's "Prelude to Christmas." Each year, this performance readies us for the coming of Christ and the Christmas season. This is free and open to all.

## Blue Christmas

Join us at Mentor UMC for a special Christmas service at 5 PM on December 17th. This is a service for those experiencing grief, loss, and hardship this holiday season. All welcome.

## Nativity Sets in Traditional

YOU are invited to bring in your favorite Nativity set for display in the Sanctuary on the following Sunday during Advent:

- Dec. 21 - setup on Sat. 12/20, 2:30 & 4:00 PM

Your name(s) and a brief description of your Nativity will be printed in the bulletin - and if there is a special story connected to your Nativity, we'll include that too! [You'll be able to take your Nativity home directly after the 11:00 AM traditional service.] Please sign up via the [Sign-Up Genius](#) on the church website - or advise Chris Fournier that you're interested. Due to space constraints, slots are limited!

## Ushers for Christmas Eve

[Sign up online](#) or in the Info Hub to be an usher for one of this year's Christmas Eve services. Contact Chris Meldrum at (440) 220-0824 for further information or interest in this important servant opportunity.

## Advent Devotionals

There are a few Advent Devotionals left in the Info Hub. Grab one before they're gone! This was created by folks here at Mentor UMC. It includes, prayers, poems, questions, and activities. There is a digital version available [online here](#).

## Leadership podcast

Join Pastor Steve in watching/listening to Jack Shitama's "The Non-anxious Leader" podcast. Share your thoughts on Slack with other viewers and Pastor Steve. Join Slack [online here](#).

## Book Club

The next Book Club will meet on Monday, December 29th at 6 PM in the Library at MUMC. Tell your friends! We'll discuss what we've each read this month and our favorite books from this past year. Book Club will regularly meet on the LAST Monday of the month. If you miss a month or two, no worries! Stay in touch with us on [Slack](#) where you can share what you are reading at any time.

## Daily Prayer Group

Join Pastor Steve on [Slack](#) for the Daily Prayer Group. Participants covenant to do their best to pray at least 12 minutes each day through January 3. The 12 minutes do not need to be consecutive.





## Giving Trees

The Giving Trees are an annual mission that allows us to bless a family for Christmas. By partnering with local schools, a list is put together of children that are in need of Christmas gifts this year. YOU can provide joy this Christmas season by visiting the trees around the church (single child, prayers, or local orgs) or viewing the [online sign-up](#) (families). Please note that some of the students are listed as special needs. **All gifts are due back by 12/14 at noon.** Please call or text Betsy at 440-283-6524 with any questions!

## Snacks for Theatre Students

[Sign up online](#) to donate snacks to the students at Memorial Middle School as they rehearse for their upcoming production of *Shrek*. If interested, take one week and provide 80 individually wrapped snacks. This is an area of Pastor Tammy's ministry that focuses on reaching out and forming relationships with the community.

## Hope Chest

Hope Chest is in need of men's winter gloves, hats, and jackets. Donations can be dropped off in the Community Center (by Fellowship Hall) at MUMC.



# What's Your M. Mission Opportunities?



## Food Pantry Needs

Mentor UMC's Food Pantry holds regular distributions for families and individuals in need. The Pantry is ALWAYS accepting and in need of non-perishable items. Please drop donations off to the Community Center bin (near the ramp). You may also [give online](#) through our website.

## POP UP Food Pantry

In a combined effort, Mentor UMC and our preschool continue to collect food for those suffering from food insecurity.

So far, the POP UPs that we have hosted have provided food for about 100 families.

There is a BLUE BIN for collecting non-perishable food items located in the Gallery. We are looking for the following items:

- Non-perishable food items
- Canned foods with a pop-open lid
- Can openers
- \$5-10 gift cards to buy fresh dairy & produce

[Sign up online to help out with distributions.](#)

## More Than a Meal

Volunteer to prepare, cook, serve, or cleanup for the next More Than a Meal (free community meal) on Saturday, December 27th. Doors open at 5 and the meal is served at 5:30 PM. [Signup online here](#) or get in touch with the church office for help with signing up.

## Royal Family Kids Fundraiser

Mark your calendar! There will be a Royal Family Kids Camp fundraiser dinner on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM in the Gallery, followed by presentations in Fellowship Hall.

## Connection Corner



Relate. Love. Disciple

A part of MUMC's mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ—echoing the Great Commission to “go and make disciples of all nations.” John Wesley reframes the focus of evangelism—not as a one-time conversion decision to follow Jesus—but as the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith and spiritual growth. The R.E.L.A.T.I.O.N.A.L. acronym helps explain the Wesleyan approach to Evangelism.

### L. LIVE-IT

We show others the love of Christ by how we live our lives and treat them every day. We do works of piety like prayer and worship to love God fully, and works of mercy. We don't get to choose who is worthy of love. God's love can truly change lives. Let's live it boldly—lives that shine with the transforming power of love.

# WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

## Children's Min Meetings

Children's Ministry Team Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month on zoom at 7 PM. Contact Pastor Tammy for the link or for questions.

## Sunday Morning Kids

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

- ALL ages 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!"

## 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). The WINTER session is January 14, 21, 28; February 4, 11, 18, 25; March 4. The SPRING: March 25; April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; May 6, 13. [Fill out the form online here](#).

## Youth Sunday School

Grades 6-12 are invited to Sunday School during the 9 AM worship service each Sunday. We'll meet in the Youth room for fellowship & fun.

## Youth Group

Youth are invited to meet in the Youth Room from 4-6 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month for Youth Group. If there is a special event on one of those Sundays, then the event replaces YG.

## Young Adult Group

Meet us in-person on Tuesdays from 6 - 7 PM. Currently, we're reading and discussing Walter Brueggemann's *Names for the Messiah*, a study that takes us to local Christmas bars throughout Advent. Contact Mackalyn for details.

## Parents of Youth

Fill out an online form [here](#) if you are a parent of a youth and interested in connecting with other parents.

## MOMCo Meetings

Meetings are the 2nd & 4th Friday of the month from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM in the Gallery at MUMC. [Register and learn more online here](#).



## Gaming Group

Wednesdays are game nights! Join this Intergenerational group on Wednesdays from 5:30-9:30 PM (or whatever time you can spare) in the Youth Room. Right now, D&D is the game offered. If there is a particular game you are interested in seeing at MUMC, get in touch with Mackalyn. There is space and opportunity for board games, video games, card games, etc.

## Young Adult Outing

Join us for a night of jazz on Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at Brother's Lounge in Cleveland. We'll meet around 7 for a cost (\$10-20, TBD) to listen to Evan Palermo & Relic. Bring money for food & drink if you would like.

## Youth Service Project

YSP holds regular meetings at MUMC to plan the 2026 trip and fundraisers. [Visit our website](#) for dates or get in touch with Mackalyn.

## Youth Christmas Party

Youth grades 6-12 are invited to the Youth Christmas Party on Sunday, December 28th, from 6 to 9 PM. We will play games, enjoy a potluck, and watch the Charlie Brown Christmas Special. [RSVP online here](#) or get in touch with Mackalyn. When you sign up, please share what dish or snack you plan to bring.