

# MENTOR UNITED WEEKLY UPDATE METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 21, 2025

8600 MENTOR AVE  
MENTOR OH 44060  
MENTORUMC.ORG

440.255.3496

Worship with us in-person or online:  
[Mentorumc.org](http://Mentorumc.org), [Facebook](#), and [Youtube](#)

## **Worship Schedule**

9 AM Modern

11 AM Traditional



# Pastor's Letter

## He Shall be Called Prince of Peace

"Peace, peace," they say, when there is no peace. – Jeremiah 8:11b

Every year in Advent, I am reminded of Buz, a long-time member of York UMC, my first appointment in East Ohio. In my first year, during Advent, Buz made an appointment to meet with me. When he came into my office, I could see he was dealing with some kind of pain, some kind of heaviness on his heart. He shut the door and sat down, slumped in the chair right in front of me. He began, "Pastor Steve, I just want you to know that I get really depressed and even angry in December each year. My wife died on December 15th five years ago, and so that's part of it, but also I'm tired of all this talk about peace in the season of Advent and Christmas!" Buz shook his head with visible turmoil and went on, "All you ever hear about in the news is violence and hatred and war and corruption! There is no peace! Why do we have to sing all these songs about peace on earth and peace in my heart and Jesus is the Prince of Peace? There's too much suffering and brokenness and pain!"

Buz is not alone. I have heard others express similar laments in this season of Advent. At some level, I expect that in our own ways we can all relate. Don't we all struggle in the gap between the peace we pray for and the lack of peace we see and experience every day? About 2600 years ago, the Prophet Jeremiah felt God calling him to cry out about the lack of peace in the face of false rhetoric from leaders saying there is peace. In today's language, Jeremiah is saying, "Put your money where your mouth is!" Or, to use an expression that is often attributed to Mahatma Gandhi, "Be the peace you want to see in the world".

I believe Buz had a deep yearning for true peace in the world and in his own experience of grief. I believe his pain was exacerbated by a sense of powerlessness. Afterall, what can one person do about all the violence, division, war, and suffering in the world?

That's where Isaiah and Luke come in. During their lifetimes, respectively, peace seemed to be as unattainable as it was in Jeremiah's time. However, Isaiah heard God speak a promise:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end. – Isaiah 9:6-7a

And, Luke testified in his gospel that indeed God's promise had been fulfilled in Jesus—his birth, life, teaching, death, and resurrection. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He overcomes sin and brokenness with forgiveness and healing. He defeats hatred and divisions with transforming love. Fear and anxiety lose their grip when he breathes hope, vision, and mission into his followers.

Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. In and through him is the hope of the world. That's good news!

In the name of Jesus,



Pastor Steve

# CONGREGATIONAL *Care*

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, Terry & Mary Ellen Reynolds, Doug & Kathy Koman, Sandy Mazelis, Heather Lippert, Linda Beidle, Bill Mueller, Jack Donahue, Doug Fletcher

## Christmas Eve Services

3 PM Communion Service  
5 PM Family Service  
7 PM Modern Service  
9 PM Traditional Service

*All services are candlelight*



## Christmas Carol History

Hymn 237 - Sing We Now of Christmas

This hymn is based on a traditional French carol. The melody goes back as far as the fifteenth century. It was titled *Noel Nouvelet* which translates into *Christmas Comes Anew*. The English translation comes from the seventeenth century. The carol references the birth of Jesus and the angels announcement to the shepherds. The three Kings from the east are also mentioned. This carol was harmonized by the Englishman Martin Shaw (1875-1958) in 1928. The French in the fifteenth century often sang their carols in front of creches that adorned many French homes as well as town squares. The region of Provence was noted for their creches made out of clay. The scenes included the Holy Family, the shepherds, the Wise Men, the animals and often the local townspeople thus showing the entire village converging on the Nativity.

# Need to Know

## Youversion

<https://bible.com/events/495>

**38078**

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

## Advent Brews & Bibles

Come join us for our last Brews & Bibles Advent group this Tuesday at 6 PM at Nora's in Downtown Willoughby! We're exploring "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!

## 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.

## Office Closures

The church office will be CLOSED on the following:  
Wednesday, Dec. 24  
Thursday, Dec. 25  
Wednesday, Dec. 31  
Thursday, Jan 1

## 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.

## 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.

## 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](#).

## You, Me, and Mentor UMC

New friends and visitors are invited to the next You, Me and Mentor UMC Luncheon on Sunday, January 18th in the Wesley Room from 12:45 - 2:00 PM. This luncheon is a great way for people to get to know each other, the pastors, and learn about Mentor UMC. This is a free lunch and dietary restrictions will be accommodated. Reach out to the church office or a pastor with any questions. [RSVP online here](#).

## New Beginnings Class

There will be a New Beginnings class on Saturday, January 24th in the Asbury Room from 1:00 - 3:30 PM. This is a great class for those interested in learning more about church membership. Reach out to a pastor with questions.

## 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.

## 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.

## Christmas Eve Offering

During the Christmas Eve services, look for the special Christmas Giving envelopes to give towards this year's chosen missions: MUMC Food Pantry and our Missionaries. Thank you for your continued support of this church's missions.

## 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.

## Caroling Opportunity

Members of MUMC are invited to carol at Hope Lodge on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Hope Lodge is a facility ran by the American Cancer Society where cancer patients and their caregiver can stay for free during their treatments at either the Cleveland Clinic or UH. Interested participants must reach out to Sarah Wade ([sarjane2014@gmail.com](mailto:sarjane2014@gmail.com)) to sign up to join. Please note that carolers must be healthy the day of the event. We will leave MUMC at 5:45 PM and carol & visit from 6:30 to 8:00 PM.

# 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.

## 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 PM 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.

## Giving Trees Thank You

Thank you to all who contributed to, spread the word, and helped wrap & package this year's Giving Tree gifts. This ministry is such a valuable way to give to those in need and make connections with the community.



## 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](#).

## **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](#).

## **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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **Crafting Afternoon**

We will be gathering on January 4th from 2pm-4pm in the youth room for a crafting afternoon! Feel free to bring a current craft or project you're working on or supplies will be provided if you'd like to try a new craft. Drinks and snacks will be provided. Parents/Guardians are welcome to also attend. We look forward to seeing you! [RSVP online here](#).

## **Bowling & Pizza**

Join us once again for some bowling and pizza on January 21st from 6:30pm-8pm at Rollhouse in Mentor! Cost will be \$12 per person for shoe rental. Please sign-up below if you are able to attend. Additionally, please let me know if you need help with transportation or cost! [RSVP online here](#).

## **Young Adult Outing**

Young adults are welcome to join us for a Cleveland Monsters hockey game on January 30th! We will meet at the church to leave at 5pm, game starts at 7pm. Cost is \$20-30 per person. And don't forget to bring money for food! We look forward to seeing you there! [RSVP online here](#).