

# MENTOR

# UNITED

WEEKLY UPDATE

# METHODIST

# CHURCH

DECEMBER 22, 2024

8600 MENTOR AVE  
MENTOR OH 44060  
[MENTORUMC.ORG](http://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

**SIGN UP  
NOW!**

**2025**

**STARTING JANUARY 1**



**THE  
BIBLE  
YEAR**

*A Journey Through Scripture  
in 365 Days*

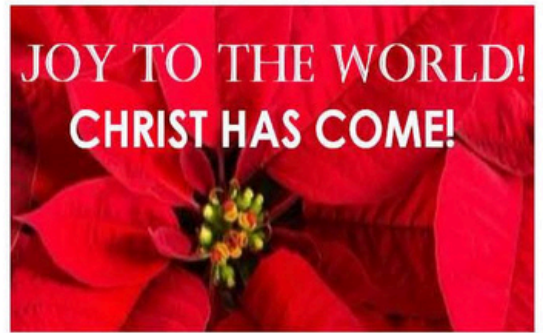
MAGREY R. DEVEGA

Please sign up to join  
"the Bible in a Year"  
group by emailing  
Pastor Ivy at

ismith@mentorunc.org  
or by calling the  
church office.

Not the type to sit down and read the entire Bible? Well, think about it in terms of smaller, daily goals, with a commitment to read a short selection from the Bible plus a concise devotional every day. Following the book by Magray De Vega, it is all mapped out for you day by day. Plus, there are summaries of key themes and ideas to help you better digest and understand your readings. **Purchase the book on your own or follow along through a guided list from Pastor Ivy.**

We know that some people do go through life complaining always. They're always unhappy, always sour. It's too hot or too cold. Someone's always done them wrong, always been shorted or overlooked. They always see the bad, the negative and worry. And if we leave our minds in neutral and allow it to think anything it wants, by default it will go to the negative. You may have heard the story of the elderly gentleman in his 90s. His wife of 70 years died. He was legally blind and used a walker for safety but was in relatively good health. He was now moving into a nursing home. On the way to his new room, the director began describing it. She told him it had a window and nice view and where the couch, and chairs, bathroom, bed, and desk were. As she was describing it on the way, he said, "I love it! I love it! I love it!" The director, knowing he was legally blind, thought the elderly gentleman was thinking he was there and being nice. She said, "Sir, we're not there yet. It's just down the hall." He said, "Oh dear, I'm happy right now. In fact, happiness is something you decide ahead of time. However the furniture is arranged, **my mind is already arranged to look for the joy.**" Colossians 3:2 tells us to "**set your mind on things above, not on earthly things.**" And John 14:1 tells us, likewise, "**Let not your heart be troubled.**" Friends, **God wants you to be happy and He has made it possible for you to be truly happy through Jesus Christ.** All that is left for us to do is make up our minds that we want happiness and joy. So, I encourage you to turn to Jesus today and be truly blessed—truly happy in heart in this Christmas season.



Geeze, it was a loooonnnggg time ago, yet I remember, I was in elementary school visiting my grandparents in Topeka, Kansas. At church, even the children's choir sang along on a song that repeats: "**I Woke Up This Morning with My Mind, Stayed on Jesus**" (3xs). It continues "**I'm walking and talking with my mind, stayed on Jesus**" (3xs). That song is certainly older than I am, and the concept is fresh as today's news! **YOU MUST SET YOUR MIND ON THINGS ABOVE**, things that are positive, joyous, uplifting. We have to train our minds to think higher thoughts. Now, let me preach a minute here and tell you: Don't let time trap you, don't let discouragement trap you, don't let disappointment trap you, don't let negative thoughts trap you, don't let setbacks trap you. At this particular juncture, we are bombarded with violence, death, loss, pain, disappointment, you know the list. Well. **CHOOSE**, yes choose, **CHOOSE TO BE HAPPY! CHOOSE TO HAVE JOY!** (Oh I wish you could feel this like my heart does) **Condition your mind**, through the power of the Holy Spirit, through the example of our Lord, Christ Jesus, and by God's grace to have JOY! Amidst the all the problems that exist, **CHOOSE JOY!**

*Merry Christmas to you and yours!*—Pastor Ivy

**JESUS** IS THE REASON FOR THE *Season*

# Christmas Eve Services

*Communion, 3 PM*

*Family, 5 PM*

*Modern, 7 PM*

*Traditional, 9 PM*

*all services are candlelight*

## Care 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, Doug Kepp

*Governors Point* - Doris Sturm

*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

*Mentor Ridge* - Russ Lancaster

*Concord Ridge* - Jack Brown

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

Karen Mancini, Marilyn Oliver, Luke Sanvido, David Fell, Carol Anderson, Pam Crawley, Bob Linsell, Dick & Nancy Smith, Andy Champa, Suzanne Dubeansky

**Love & Sympathy to the family and friends of Georgeanna Allen,  
who passed on December 19, 2024.**

**Love & Sympathy to the family and friends of Ida Reynolds,  
who passed this month.**

# Need to Know

## Youversion

<https://bible.com/events/49364808>

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

## Communion

Join us for Communion at 10:30 AM in the Chapel on Sundays in December.

## Carols in the Gallery

You can listen to Christmas songs being performed in the Gallery during Fellowship Hour, starting at 10:15 AM on Sunday mornings. This Sunday, Carol Haines will be playing carols on the piano!



## Advent Devotional

You can pick up a Devotional at the church or read the digital version [found here](#) or on our website. If the browser version doesn't work for you, try the PDF version. [More info here](#). To celebrate the art shared in this devotional and our Stewardship craft, we will have an art display in the Gallery through December.

## Shepherding Summit

Join us on January 15th here at MUMC for the next Shepherding Summit. This is a great opportunity for leaders & friends of the church who wish to know more about leading all onto a path of Christ-centered discipleship through faith, processes, ministries, and more. More info coming soon!

## Nominations Thank You

Nominations Committee would like to offer a big thanks to all committee members for your years of dedicated service at MUMC. Your commitment to our church community has been integral in furthering our mission. We continue to strive for experience and stability in our committees by rotating classes of 3-year terms. As this current term comes to a close, please know how grateful we are for the time, effort, and energy you have put into serving as part of this committee. May God continue to bless you as you have blessed us.

## Hobart Celebration

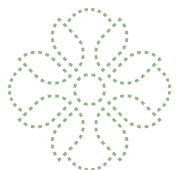
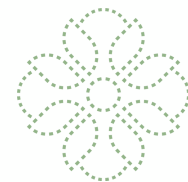
All are welcome to a celebration of Richard M. Hobart & Patricia Hobart at Steele Mansion from 1-4 PM on Friday, December 27th.

## Disciple Bible Study

Beginning in the new year, we will start Discipleship Bible studies. Pastor Steve will lead a Disciple 1 class on Thursdays, 4-6 PM starting January 16th. Syndie Toth will lead Disciple 1 on Mondays from 10-12 PM and Lucas & Wendy Rhoads will lead Disciple 2 on Thursdays from 7-9 PM. This will go all 2025, with a break in the summer. Pastor Tammy will facilitate the fast track version, which is 24 weeks. The prayer is to have 100 plus people involved to learn more about the Bible. [Register here](#).

## Healthy Congregations Workshop

The Healthy Congregations workshop is on Saturday, February 8th from 9-4 PM. This workshop is designed to equip leaders to respond to the presence or potential threat of anxiety in a congregational system in ways that prevent destructive conflict and help the church stay focused on its unique mission and purpose. The cost is \$15 and can be paid by cash or through our online giving. [Click here to access the registration form](#)



## Pastors Discretionary Need

As winter heightens and the holidays draw near, the Pastor's Discretionary fund is in need of financial support. The purpose of this fund is to help needy individuals in a confidential and timely manner at the discretion of either the Lead or Associate Pastor of the church. This fund has helped many families in need of emergency rent, utilities, medical needs prescriptions, etc. Often these families are living in a car, have fallen on hard times, are disabled, or working in low paying jobs and don't qualify for other assistance. Mentor UMC's Pastor's Discretionary fund has been a life saving vehicle. Because of the great need in our community, this fund is dangerously low, and contributions would be welcomed. Checks can be made out to Mentor UMC and designated to Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Thank you for your generosity!

## Blood Drive

The next Blood Drive at MUMC is Tuesday, January 14th. Signup [online here](#) or at our site.

## Hope Chest

While Hope Chest is in the process of moving locations. During this process, we ask that donations be paused. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

# What's Your M.O.?

## Mission Opportunities

### Christmas Eve Giving

Christmas Eve offering will be sent to UMVIM and Nehemiah Mission.

*UMVIM:* "United Methodist Volunteers in Mission is a grassroots movement of United Methodists who seek to put their "Christian Love in Action." Since the 1970s, UMVIM has offered a framework through which disciples can engage in short-term mission locally, nationally, and globally." [Learn more here.](#)

*Nehemiah Mission:* "The Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland serves low income persons & neighborhoods by providing community enhancement, home maintenance & targeted programming for; international newcomers, elderly, disabled & those without shelter, food and clothing." [Learn more here.](#)

Merry Christmas



**From left to right: Santa visited the Preschool, Carol Haines played Carols in the Gallery, Staff Christmas Party, the Christmas Cantata**

# 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!"

## 2024-2025 Preschool Reg

There are still a few openings for 2024-2025 Preschool. If you have questions or wish to register, please contact State Manager, Brittany Jones at [bjones.preschool@mentorunc.org](mailto:bjones.preschool@mentorunc.org).

## Pre-Reg for 2025-2026

Pre-register for the 2025-2026 school year at MUMC: [link here](#). Get in touch with Brittany Jones to learn more: [bjones.preschool@mentorunc.org](mailto:bjones.preschool@mentorunc.org)

## MOMCo

MOMCo meets Fridays, December 13th & 20th. Moms join us in the Gallery from 9 AM - 12 PM.

## Child & Caregiver Class

Age 2 ½ to 3 ½

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

- WINTER: January 15, 22, 29, February 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5
- SPRING: March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14

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

## Middle School

Grades 6-8 are welcome Sundays from 9:15-10 AM in the Youth Room.

## Tea Time

Youth are invited to meet at MUMC in the Library between Sunday services (around 10 AM). We'll enjoy drinks and snacks, talk, do devotions, and more. No need to RSVP, just pop in!

## Youth Lock-In

We will have a Holiday Lock-in on December 29th-30th. We will meet in the Youth Room from 7pm to 8am. This will be a time for us to gather together, celebrate the holidays, and have some Holy Shenanigans. [RSVP here](#). To volunteer to help with this event, [sign up online](#).

## Young Adult Small Group

Young Adults are encouraged to join a small group that will be meeting in-person and online at 6 PM on Mondays. We will be discussing the Honest Advent devotional and enjoying the Christmas season together. [Sign up online](#) or get in touch with Mackalyn.

