

MENTOR

UNITED

WEEKLY UPDATE

METHODIST

CHURCH

DECEMBER 28, 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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God
for all the things they had heard and seen... - Luke 2:20 NIV*

I love reading, hearing, and sharing the story of Christmas! I especially love it when it is woven into a Christmas Eve worship service with favorite Christmas Hymns, the lighting of candles, and singing Silent Night. Perhaps more than any story in history, this story transforms lives! In Luke's gospel, the story of Jesus birth culminates with the shepherds returning to what they were previously doing – watching over the sheep in the fields. But, now they are noticeably different. They are glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen. They are transformed!

I pray that you had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends. I hope the good news of God incarnate, God with us, Emmanuel was felt, seen, and heard. Soon, we will all be back to whatever we were previously doing – back to our normal daily routines. May we do so glorifying and praising God for all the things we have heard and seen.

Thank you for all the ways you helped me and my family feel the love of Christmas this year. Your smiles, greetings, music, decorations, cooking, handshakes, hugs, kind words, cards, and gifts have all been physical expressions of the love and Spirit of Christmas. Because of you, I will be glorifying and praising God even more in my day-to-day activities. Thank you for doing what you do and for being who you are, not only during the Christmas season, but throughout the year!

I am looking forward to this Sunday's worship. We will continue to celebrate the good news of Christmas as we sing and reflect on our favorite Christmas hymns. I invite you to come in person or if you are traveling or unable to come, to watch online. When we sing well-known Christmas hymns, listen carefully to the words. Throughout history, these songs have been used as protest songs! They protest by proclaiming the power of God's love over evil, the light of Christ not overcome by any darkness, the peace that comes from the Prince of Peace is greater than our fears and anxieties, and that new life in Jesus' name is stronger than death itself! Praise God!

Merry Christmas,



Pastor Steve

**Thank you for all the cards,
gifts, smiles, treats, hugs,
and love you have shown us
this Advent and Christmas.
Merry Christmas!**

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

SERMON SERIES

Rest

JANUARY 4 . . . MATTHEW 16:24-26

JANUARY 11 . . . EXODUS 20:11 & GENESIS 2:2-3

JANUARY 18 . . . MATTHEW 11:28-30

WORSHIP IN-PERSON OR ONLINE AT 9 AM MODERN OR 11 AM TRADITIONAL

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

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 31st for it to count toward 2025. You can reach out to Stephanie in the church office for questions.

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.

Need to Know

Office Closures

The church office will be CLOSED on the following:

Wednesday, Dec. 31
Thursday, Jan 1

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.](#)

Open Table

Join us on the second Thursday of the month for "Open Table," a themed evening of free food & fun at Mentor UMC. RSVP online, in the Info Hub, or just show up.

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.

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 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.](#)

**Congratulations to
Joyce Snyder for
becoming a Great-
Grandmother!**

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.

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! Get in touch with Pastor Tammy or [click here for the Sunday School leader signup](#). There are spots for various ages/levels, so check out what section works for you.

"Worship one, serve one!"



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.

Youth Volunteers

Interested in helping with Youth Ministry and don't know where to start? Provide your info here or get in touch with Mackalyn. There are many opportunities with varying time commitments to choose from.

YSP Early Bird Deadline

Register for the 2026 Youth Service Project trip by January 3rd for a lower cost! Cost will increase after January 3rd, so register today! Forms are available through Mackalyn. Get in touch with her or the main office.

2026 Resolutions

Looking for something to get involved in during this New Year? You can visit our [linktree](#) or website anytime for new opportunities. This includes missions, small groups, worship planning, and more!

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.

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 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month for Youth Group. If there is a special event on one of those Sundays, then the event replaces YG.

Ski Outing

Join us on February 15th at 2pm (weather permitting) for cross country skiing at Chapin Forest. We will meet at the church at 1:30pm to head over to the park. We will ski and return to the church around 5pm. Cost is \$15 per person. Please sign-up online if you are interested. And let Mackalyn know if you need help with transportation or cost!



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.](#)

Youth Christmas Party

Youth are invited to the Christmas Party on Sunday, December 28th, from 6 - 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.