

MENTOR

UNITED

WEEKLY UPDATE

METHODIST

CHURCH

FEBRUARY 25, 2024

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 & 11 AM Modern

9 & 11 AM Traditional



Pictures from our Family, Feast, and Fellowship this past Wednesday

P A S T O R ' S L E T T E R

*But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened,
and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" - Matthew 14:30*

For our second Sunday in Lent, (and our third Wednesday of Lent), we are invited to picture ourselves out on a boat with the disciples. We've been up all night trying to keep the boat from breaking apart due to the high winds and relentless waves. Meanwhile, Jesus has been by himself on a mountain praying. In the early dawn, Jesus comes toward us walking on water. None of us has ever seen someone walking on water before, so we think he is a ghost! We are terrified and cry out in fear! Jesus responds and we are comforted, "Take heart, it is I, do not be afraid."

Then Peter asks Jesus if he can join him on the water and Jesus says, "Come." Next thing you know, Peter steps out of the boat and low and behold, he is walking on water just like Jesus! I imagine you and I are beginning to step out of the boat too when suddenly we hear Peter scream "Lord! Save me!" We look up and see Peter flailing around in the water like he's drowning. It is a tense moment. We no longer have one foot over the side of the boat! In fact, the idea of us getting out of the boat seems ludicrous. From the safety of inside the boat, we watch as Jesus reaches out his hand and saves Peter.

When they are both back in the boat, and the wind and waves have calmed down, one of you asks Peter, "What happened?". Peter, wet and shivering, says, "It was amazing! I was walking toward Jesus. But, then, the wind picked up, I became frightened and began to sink."

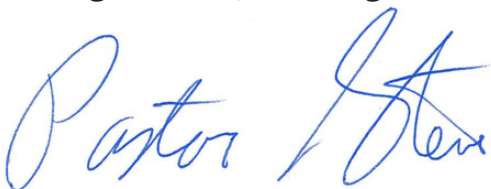
I'm reminded of a favorite hymn, "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" (UMH 349). It goes like this:

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
in the light of his glory and grace.*

Walking toward Jesus is both wonderful and frightening! We might not be called to literally get out of a boat and try walking on water, but I have experienced, and I have heard many others testify, that Jesus does call us to step outside of our comfort zones. Put more bluntly, Jesus often invites us to let go of the things that give us a sense of security, to step out into situations (very much like trying to walk on water) that are unfamiliar to us, that no one has ever done before, that seem risky, maybe even foolish. Walking toward Jesus seems to come with no guarantees of success. In fact, it seems that with every step we take, strong winds and other ominous distractions appear out of nowhere!

But, church, hear the good news! Jesus is there. He is the one who will save us when we fall, when we begin to sink, when we cry out "Lord! Save me!" He is the one who calms the storm and makes a way out of no way. So, this Lent, let's practice turning our eyes upon Jesus. Let's look full in his wonderful face. All the things of earth that are so frightening to us will indeed grow strangely dim in the light of Jesus' glory and grace.

Walking toward Jesus together,



Pastor Steve

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 - Kay Disbro, Delores Tackett,
Johanna Kessler, Dee Smith, Mary Lou Haines, John Shetler
Salida Woods - Doris Sturm
Aristocrat Berea - Virginia Gilman
Parker Place - Bill Owen, Bob & Sandy Linsell, Deloris Parsons
Danbury Senior Living - Kathryn Bevacqua
Tapestry - Gloria McFeely
Symphony of Mentor - Lorraine Ahlstrom
Breckenridge/Fairmount - Patricia Laubscher
Danbury Mentor - Dale Porter

Members who are in need of prayer:

Karen Mancini, Marilyn Oliver, Luke Sanvido,
David Fell, Norma Ickes, Ruthie Hobart,
Mike Cosmo, Mary Lou Haines, Jon & Rev. Beth Wilterdink
Nora Kieser, Georgeanna Allen, Doug Koman



Wednesday Nights in Lent

February 21 - March 20

Family, Feast, and Fellowship

A time to Connect & Grow

Dinner at 5:45-6:30 PM in the Gallery
will include a 20-minute "camp style" worship.
Let us know if you have dietary restrictions,
we will do our best to accommodate.
No charge, though donations are accepted

MENU:

February 28: Lasagna

March 6: Chicken Tenders & Mac 'n Cheese

March 13: Ham & Bean Soup and Grilled Cheese

March 20: Mama Robertos (Chick Parm)

RSVP HERE

Wandering Heart

Figuring out Faith with Peter Class, 6:30-7:45 PM
Go deeper in the texts about Jesus and Peter
each week as we engage questions for reflection,
conversation, and spiritual formation exercises.

Mentor UMC 101, 6:30-7:45 PM

A Class to learn more about the Christian faith,
the United Methodist Church, and
Mentor United Methodist Church

Heart Reflections to Resurrection, 6:30-7:45 PM
Youth Ministry NexGen - more on last page

Finding Our Faith, 6:30-7:45 PM
Children in Kindergarten through 5th grade
Childcare provided for babies through
preschool



Palm Sunday, March 24
Lenten Cantata, March 24
Maundy Thursday Worship, March 28
Good Friday Worship, March 29
Easter Sunrise, March 31
Easter, March 31

**Scan to RSVP for
Dinner and/or classes
or find the RSVP slip in
person to fill out**



Youversion

<https://bible.com/events/49216998>

Learn more about Sunday's scriptures and worship by visiting this link each week.

Bread, Broth, Brownies, & Bingo Luncheon

Mentor United Women in Faith (UWF) will again offer a 4B luncheon and program. The March menu includes minestrone soup, breadsticks, salad, and chocolate brownies. We'll combine faith and fun as we take a fascinating glimpse at butterflies, factually and metaphorically. We hope to see you on Wednesday, March 13th at noon in the MUMC Gallery. Please RSVP to uwf@mentorumc.org, [register online here](#), or find the signup sheet in the Info Hub.



Thank you to our Kitchen team for making our Wednesday evening meals happen! It was a great turnout with around 100 people and 70 adults who stayed for the Wandering Heart Class. See you next week!

WEEKLY UPDATE

Need to Know

David Smith Celebration of Life

All are welcome to join as we celebrate the life of Pastor Ivy's husband, David Smith at 1 PM in the Sanctuary on March 9th with a luncheon to follow. Many have asked how to show love and support for Pastor Ivy during this time and one way is to contribute to the luncheon. Monetary donations can be designated in your Giving, in-person or online by March 4. If online, select the option "Other" then specify in the comment section that it is for David Smith's COL/Luncheon.

Easter Flowers

Forms are available in the Narthex/Info Hub or [online here](#). Orders due MARCH 10!



Visit the table in the Gallery to put the Congregational Puzzles together! With your help, Mentor United Methodist Church is a more complete picture of the Body of Christ!



YSP's BIG Event

Mark your calendars for April 14th for the YSP Dinner and Auction. Come hungry as we will once again hold a Dessert Auction where you or your table can bid on amazing cakes and cupcakes. Along with that "sweet" auction, you can bid on a variety of donated items and baskets. Be sure to watch for updates on some of the items that will be up for bid!

"Heroes for Humanity"

Sunday, April 14th, 5PM-8PM

\$15 adults

17 and under are FREE

[Ticket information to come](#)

Easter Egg Hunt

Join us on Saturday, March 30 at Garfield Park for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. To get involved, [click here](#). To donate candy, check the MO page.

Bunny Brunch

The Easter Bunny will be making a special stop at MUMC on Saturday, March 23 from 9:30 to noon. To help out, [please click here](#).

Lenten Devotional

Copies of our Lenten Devotional *Wandering Heart* will be available in the Info Hub AND online through our email blasts. Contact the church office to get on our email list if you are not already. You can also sign up for our email list on the front page of [our site](#) (scroll until you see it).

Pastor Steve Attending Dedication Service in Zimbabwe

Pastor Steve is one of twelve representatives from the East Ohio Conference, plus Bishop Malone, to travel to Zimbabwe February 23 - March 3. The main purpose of the trip is to be present for the service of dedication for the newly completed Women's Dormitory at Africa University. The dormitory is the result of the Teach, Reach, Bless vision cast by Bishop Malone in 2019 at Annual Conference.

Together, East Ohio churches - including Mentor United Methodist Church - raised over 1.5 million dollars for the dormitory in just two years. The new dormitory will provide a safe, secure environment and a community of support on campus for 92 female students. Please keep Pastor Steve and the delegation in your prayers for safe travels and for seeing God at work through our inter-continental partnership. To learn more about the Teach Reach Bless vision and Africa University, visit <https://www.eocumc.com/teachreachbless/>

From this site, you may also be able to watch the dedication service live streamed on Monday, February 26 at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time.

Guest Preachers for February 25 and March 3

Let us welcome our guest preachers for the two Sundays Pastor Steve will be in Zimbabwe. On February 25, at the modern worship services, for the first time at Mentor United Methodist Church, Pastor Adefemi (Femi) Adepitan will be our guest preacher. Femi is a native of Nigeria, Africa. He graduated with a degree in accounting. After college, Femi went on to pursue his career in the field of banking and finance. Femi later passed the equivalent of the United State's CPA exam and became a member of the Nigerian Institute of Chartered Accountants.

God transitioned Femi out of his secular career as an Accountant into the five-fold ministry where he operates as a Pastor/Teacher. Femi has served as a Pastor of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), All Nations Deliverance Ministries, and Vital Faith Assemblies (VFA). He currently teaches the Word of God to various church congregations. Femi is happily married to Alexis and they are blessed with children.



On March 3, at the traditional services, we will be blessed to have our previous district superintendent, Rev. Edgar Brady be our guest preacher. On January 1, 2024, Rev. Brady began his new appointment to serve with Rev. Cara Stultz Costello as one of the district superintendents of the Central Valley District in the East Ohio Conference. Rev Brady has been in pastoral ministry in the United Methodist Church since 1985 serving in Tennessee, Kentucky and East Ohio. Rev. Brady is known for his dynamic and uplifting preaching as well as for his warm and engaging personality. He love God, loves God's people and has a special love for the people of Mentor United Methodist Church!

Mark your Calendars for a Special Lunch on March 17:

The United Methodist Church & the 2024 General Conference

Historic Times: Different Perspectives on Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity

On March 17, after the 11:00 service, we will have a lunch that will feature Rev. Cara Stultz Costello who will talk about the United Methodist Church and General Conference. Pastor Cara has been an adjunct professor of United Methodist Polity at Methodist Theological School of Ohio (MTSO) since 2019. She has been a North Central Jurisdictional delegate since 2019. Rev. Stultz Costello attended the 2019 Special General Conference with her Polity students. She will be attending the 2020 General Conference as a member of the East Ohio delegation scheduled for April 23 - May 3, 2024. Currently, Cara is serving with Rev. Edgar Brady as one of the District Superintendents of the Central Valley District in the East Ohio Conference. This will be an opportunity for us to learn about the United Methodist Church in these historic times.

If you have questions that you would like for Pastor Cara to consider, please use this link (<https://forms.gle/5CPJWX66ZPR8mmadA>) or submit them on paper to the church office by March 14th. Please include your name, phone number and email address. If you plan on attending the lunch, [please register here](#).

Please visit our website to learn more about the content of this lunch by reading a letter from Pastor Steve. [Click here to read](#) OR find a physical copy in the Info Hub.



Catalyst Tutors

Would you like to become a child's reading tutor in a Painesville city school? Catalyst Ministry is conducting another "Read to Succeed" tutor training session on Wed, Feb 28th at Elm Elementary School at 10 AM. The training session will be conducted by Neal Nelson, Administrative Director of Catalyst Ministry. To register for training or to get more info please contact: Neal Nelson at neal@catalystministry.net

Volunteer at Woodlawn

On Mon, March 4th from 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM, the MUWF will be sponsoring another craft luncheon at Woodlawn Homes in Painesville. With Catalyst Ministry, we will be teaching our guests basic stitches of crochet and doing a simple project. We will be serving soup, salad, bread and cookies.

On Sat, March 23rd from 1 PM - 3 PM will be an Easter Celebration for the children of Woodlawn Homes. There will be crafts, games, candy, lunch, and reading the story of Easter.

If you are interested in helping at either of these events please contact Carol Ryan at 440-488-0541 or Carol Hoskinson at 1-330-655-4180. Thank you for your help!

What's Your M.O.?

Mission Opportunities

Meals for Pastor Ivy

You can sign up to make or buy meals and deliver them to Pastor Ivy's house by visiting [this link](#) (call the church office if you need help signing up). We continue to pray for and support her.

Caring Servants

Caring Servants help provide connectivity to our church to those no longer physically able to be present in church. Visits, calls, cards, deliveries, and other support are provided. If you know of any member who can benefit from this interaction, please call the church office at 440-255-3496.

YSP BIG Event Auctions

YSP students are looking for items to fill the Silent and Live Auction tables for our fundraiser, Heroes for Humanity, on April 14th. Ideas of sought after items in the past: restaurant gift cards, rounds of golf, tickets to an event, themed baskets such as Movie Night, Coffee-Lovers, Game-Night, Gardening, etc. (no lottery tickets or alcohol please) Donation forms are located in the church office. For more information please contact Karen Martin at karen@martin4.net

Blood Drive

Sign up for the next one on March 19th on [our site](#).

Buy a YSP Stock!

Support the YSP Mission trip in a new way in 2024. We are offering "YSP Mission Trip Stock" for our trip to Reelfoot Rural Mission in Obion, TN. Purchase one of three classes of stock: Class C \$35, Class B \$75, and Class A \$125. [Click here](#) or visit our website to learn more about what you receive for your stock!

Food Ministry

The next Distribution is March 18-19 to Broadmoor & Mentor Schools. We will be putting together 22 more food baskets that value around \$75 *in addition* to our current contributions. Consider donating or designating your giving to Food Ministry to support the cost of the baskets!

Easter Candy Donations

Individually wrapped candy is needed for stuffing eggs for Children's Ministry. Please drop off donations to Pastor Tammy or the church office.

WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

Children & Family Ministries

www.mentorumc.org/children

Sunday Morning Kids

9:00 & 11:00 AM at MUMC for all services. Join us for our current curriculum, "Celebrate Wonder".

- [Check-In Instruction Video](#)
- Ages 0-2 and 3-4 sign in at the Early Childhood Area before service
- Grades K-5 will begin in worship with their families and then be dismissed to the Education Wing.

Sunday Morning Signup

Mentor United Methodist Church'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 SPRING leader signup](#). There are spots for various ages/levels, so check out what section works for you:)

"Worship one, serve one!"

Child & Caregiver Class

Age 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 on Weds from 9:15-10:45 AM. Cost is \$60 per 8 week session (prepaid, non-refundable). The winter session has started. Please check out our website for more details.

MOMCo.

MOMco (The Mom Community) will meet on Friday, March 8 at Mentor UMC. For more dates and locations, [check our website](#)

2024-2025 Preschool Reg

Pre-Registration for the 2024-25 school year is open to YOU, our church families. Click here for the: [Pre-Registration Link](#). If you have any questions, please contact our State Manager, Brittany Jones at bjones.preschool@mentorumc.org.

Seedlings Class

Registration is open for children who are 3 as of Jan 1, 2024 and potty trained. Children who are 2 1/2 AND potty trained are also welcomed. If you have any questions, please contact State Manager, Brittany Jones bjones.preschool@mentorumc.org.

Heart Reflections to Resurrection: Youth Lenten Series

Starting on Wed, Feb 21, after dinner in the Gallery, youth will gather in the MUMC Youth Room for reflections and activities as we prepare our hearts for the season of Lent. [RSVP here](#).

YSP Meetings

Youth Service Project meetings are on the following Sundays at 12 PM in the Wesley Room: March 10, April 14, May 5, June 9. Email ysp@mentorumc.org for more info or [click here](#).

Youth Service Day

Open to all youth grades 6-12 on March 15. We will be at Nehemiah Mission from 9 AM to 2 PM. Please bring a packed lunch with drink. Adult drivers and chaperones needed: Reach out to Kate Colbow kate_colbow@yahoo.com

Middle School

Grades 6-8 are welcome Sundays from 9-10 AM.

Youth Mornings

Every Sunday between services from 10am-11am, youth are invited to come hangout in the MUMC Youth Room for fun, fellowship, and refreshments.

Youth Evenings

Every 1st and 3rd Sunday from 6pm-7:30pm. Dates are as follows: March 3, March 17, April 7, April 21, May 5, May 19, June 2, and June 16. [RSVP here](#).

VBS helpers needed

[Click here](#) to see when and where you can help out with VBS this June.