

# MENTOR

# UNITED

WEEKLY UPDATE

# METHODIST

# CHURCH

JANUARY 21, 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



# PASTOR'S LETTER

## JUSTICE OR JUST US?: RECOGNIZING DISSONANCE

Gospel singer Tasha Cobbs sings a song entitled 'Break Every Chain.' And the refrain says:

*There is power in the name of Jesus, There is power in the name of Jesus,  
To break every chain, break every chain, break every chain  
To break every chain, break every chain, break every chain*

She belts out this tune and reminds us so melodiously that the chain that hold us stagnant in life, in our faith and in our progress, WE CAN BE FREED FROM!

Our scripture passage from last week, Luke 10:25-37, was the great story Jesus told about The Good Samaritan. That story really allows us to identify the ways in which we approach JUSTICE. For it varies, when we have a priest or Levite-type response, or a Good Samaritan response to an issue of justice.

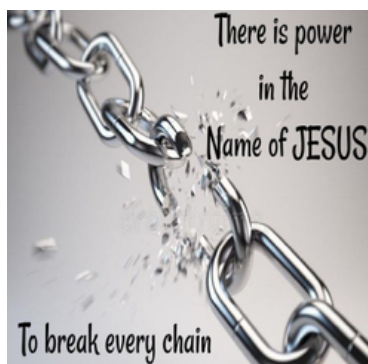
This week's theme, **Recognizing Dissonance**, zeroes in on the inconsistency between what we believe and how we behave—what motivates us to engage in actions that will help minimize feelings of discomfort. Each day is a test case, if you will, a test case to determine whether Christianity, our faith in Christ, really makes any difference in our personal relationships. Ex.

This week our scriptures are:

- Ephesians 6:5 NIV 5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.
- Matthew 4:17 NIV 17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."
- Galatians 3:28 NIV 28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.



Regrettably and certainly misleading, we, today, do not have any reference of slavery other than the ugly stain of American slavery. So, our understanding and view of submission and servitude is totally skewed! We have no reference, no concept outside of how we view skin color, wealth disparity, and male-female. We simply shutter at the words said at weddings: wives obey your husbands and being submissive.



Yet the kind of servitude that God wants from us is altogether different from what we know. (we are always missing the mark huh?) Paul is writing to us erasing the hierarchy of "master" and the lowliness of "slave". Paul considers us like God does, as we are all to be in an attitude of serving and being obedient only to God, through the example of Christ Jesus. For the mental, physical, emotional, financial restraints and chains that bind us throughout life, can be broken to free us from 'a slavery'. The freedom that Christ offers is the kind of freedom that even those who are incarcerated in maximum prisons throughout the country,

those folk can even be freed from mental bondage. Yes, it is Jesus Christ who can break every chain of oppression that comes our way. Jesus can break every chain and free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord, by way of the Holy Spirit. -Pastor Ivy

# 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

*University Manor* - 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

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

Karen Mancini, Marilyn Oliver, Luke Sanvido,

David Fell, Norma Ickes, Ruthie Hobart,

Mike Cosmo, Bob Williams, Mary Lou Haines,

David Smith, Jon & Rev. Beth Wilterdink, Nora Kieser



## Youversion

<https://bible.com/events/49195708>

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

## Offering Envelopes

2024 Offering envelopes are available in the Information Hub. Look for yours this Sunday after service! Envelopes will be out until February. And if you haven't made your pledge for 2024, contact the church office or check out our online giving on our website or app.

## Valentine's for College Kids

Please send Pastor Tammy or the church office the name(s) of a college student by January 28th so that they can receive Valentine gifts!



# Need to Know

## Church Records Update

Help us update our records! There are yellow forms in the Info Hub & Church office for you or your family to fill out in order to provide the most up to date info about you. You can also [fill out online](#).

## Trustees Need

Our Trustees are looking for a new secretary. To get involved or learn more, contact John Busch, [busch\\_jj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:busch_jj@sbcglobal.net) or the church office.

## Hymn Challenge

Pastor Steve invites you to join him in reading one hymn from the United Methodist Hymnal every day this year. To participate, there are two requirements: 1. Read one hymn a day from the UMH, in order beginning to end. 2. Be part of a group text with other participants. Pastor Steve will text the group approximately once a week as a way to check in and share insights. Any participate is welcome to text the group a short thought from the hymn for that day. Participants may leave the group at any time by letting Pastor Steve know. Email Pastor Steve for details if you are interested: [stultzcostello@mentorumc.org](mailto:stultzcostello@mentorumc.org)

## Church Directory

If you did not get your picture taken for this year's Church Directory, you can still send in a picture of you (and family, if applicable) to the church office or email to [ktanner@mentorumc.org](mailto:ktanner@mentorumc.org) (if digital). Let us know what information you would like listed in the directory as well (address, email, phone, etc.). If you do NOT want your picture in the directory but still wish to be listed in the roster, please contact the church office or email above.

## Thank you!

Pastor Steve, Pastor Ivy, Pastor Tammy and all the staff thank you for all the wonderful expressions of gratitude, appreciation and Christmas Joy in December. All the cards, hugs and tasty treats were much appreciated!

## In-Service Celebration

Join us on Sunday, January 28th during services to celebrate the hard work of Laurie Eppler & Marian Ruckert. Laurie has been our interim Director of Modern Worship and Marian has been working as our treasurer long after her announced retirement.



## Plarn Mats

MUMC will start hand weaving sleeping mats out of plarn (plastic yarn) to distribute to the homeless community in Lake County. Donations of plastic grocery bags will be an ongoing need. This is a great activity for all ages. Come check it out in the gallery! If you have any questions please reach out to Katelynn Gurbach 440-223-9250

## Food Ministry

We are in need of items for our next distribution. We feed numerous families with our ongoing distributions.

*Urgently needed items:*

- Spaghetti noodles
- Baked beans
- Kidney beans
- Instant oatmeal
- Canned diced tomatoes

Items can be dropped off in the Community Center.

## Hope Chest

Thank you for the care & support you have extended to us in 2023! Many individuals and families have benefited from your generosity. We will begin taking donations again in **February**.

## More Than A Meal

Volunteer for Saturday, January 27th for MTAM. [Click here!](#) Volunteers need to arrive at 4 PM. Doors open at 5 and food is served at 5:30.

# 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](#) or our website. We continue to pray for and support her during her husband's recovery of his recent stroke.

### Caring Servants

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

**Next meeting:** 4 PM Tuesday, January 30th, 2024, in the Asbury Room. Please R.S.V.P. to Bev Lee by January 26, 2024

### Snack Donations for Kids

You can sign up [online](#) to donate snacks for the theatre kids at Memorial Middle School. Their show is coming up in February (details to follow).



### Catalyst Ministry

*Each week we'll share something you may not know about the MUMC x Catalyst Ministry connection. To read last week's, check out the Dec 10th Weekly Update or visit our [missions page](#).*

→ Our MUWF does a great deal to help the people of Woodlawn Homes. They purchase coats and boots for children in need each winter. They also help provide baskets of laundry detergent, cleaning detergent and other household needs in the Spring to the residents. And they sponsor social events for the children and families at the Woodlawn Homes' Community Center throughout the year. Opportunities for these events will be posted in the Weekly Update and church website.

# WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

## Children & Family Ministries

[www.mentorumc.org/children](http://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 WINTER 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, January 26th 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](mailto:bjones.preschool@mentorumc.org).

### Seedlings Class

Registration is open for children who are 3 as of January 1, 2024 and potty trained. Children who are 2 1/2 AND potty trained are also welcomed. If you have any questions, please contact our State Manager, Brittany Jones at [bjones.preschool@mentorumc.org](mailto:bjones.preschool@mentorumc.org).



## Middle School

Grades 6-8 are welcome every Sunday starting February 4th from 9 to 10 AM. Meet new people and gain a deeper and more relevant understanding of God's word to help apply scriptural truth to everyday living.

### Youth MORNINGS

Grades 6-12 are welcome to join us on Sunday mornings from 10:10-10:50 in the Youth Room to hangout and be in community!

### Youth Mixer

Join us for a mixer to meet with our new Youth Director, Briyant Hines. Youth and their parents will meet in the Youth Room on January 21st from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

### YSP Meetings

Youth Service Project is for those who are in grades 9-12: Meetings are on the following Sundays at 12 PM in the Wesley Room. Please email [ysp@mentorumc.org](mailto:ysp@mentorumc.org) for more information.

Meeting Dates: January 21, February 11, March 10, April 14, May 5, June 9.

Trip Dates: June 21-29 to Reelfoot Rural Missions in Obion, Tennessee.