

# MENTOR

# UNITED

WEEKLY UPDATE

# METHODIST

# CHURCH

JANUARY 7, 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



# P A S T O R ' S   L E T T E R

AND A VOICE CAME FROM HEAVEN:  
"YOU ARE MY SON, WHOM I LOVE;  
WITH YOU I AM WELL PLEASED."

- MARK 1:11 -

## "How Does a Weary World Rejoice? We Trust in our Belovedness"



Jesus comes up from the water of baptism and the audible voice of God announces: "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased." This statement marks the beginning point of Jesus' public ministry to the world. Yes, Jesus' birth certainly points to his deity, his purpose and his role in the trinity. Yet, at this juncture of water baptism and public exposure we witness the mission of Jesus being fulfilled. God says to us that the act of baptism is pleasing in God's sight and through it we become the beloved children of God.

Baptism is the initiatory act of the church that is the public starting point of our membership into the Body of Christ, the fellowship of the believers. And as Jesus pleased God with baptism, we too please God with this act of obedience.

It is true that we seek to please others with our skills, clout or smarts. Yet all that we do and try to do often misses the mark. For God wants to take up residence within us and then live with us throughout eternity.

Pleasing God is why we do what we do!

I recall a great scene in the original "Color Purple" movie that points to the 'belovedness' that we can trust. As two women, Celie and Shug Avery, converse as they walk through a meadow of purple wildflowers, the paraphrased is: "God does not just want us to walk past the color Purple without seeing it, acknowledging and voicing our pleasure with it." They talk about how pleased God is with God's handiwork and creation of life. And I hear between the lines that God sees us, yes us, yes me, yes you, and is pleased with the creation that God made. Friends, others may not be happy or content, or even able to recognize the beauty within us. Yet, we can rest assured that God is pleased and happy even with us and our lives.

It is in the first verse of the song "Blessed assurance" that we can find comfort in times of doubt. We can be comforted by the lyrics saying that we have a '*blessed assurance that Jesus is mine. O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchased of God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.*' We can trust in our belovedness by the promise of God to never leave us nor forsake us in the time of trouble. Trusting and relying on the belovedness of God is a helpful reminder of God's provision to see our future and see our present-day misery. Remember that you are beloved and you matter to God! - Pastor Ivy

Luke 3:15-18, 21-22 NIV 15 The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. 16 John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." 18 And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them. 21 When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened 22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

# THANK YOU

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU** to each and every member of the Mentor UMC Family! Your prayers, card, gifts, meals, hugs, encouraging words have helped me with super support. I have been flooded with

the response of care and love while my husband David is recuperating from a stroke. He continues to progress and I and my daughter, Lydia are so grateful for the outpouring of Love shown to us. Mentor, you are truly a family of angels sending blessings of love to us daily and it is very much appreciated from the bottom of our hearts! - Pastor Ivy and Lydia Smith

## 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

**Love & Sympathy to the family and friends of Dale Snyder,  
who passed on January 1, 2024.**

# Need to Know

## Youversion

<https://my.bible.com/events/49185759>

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!

## New Staff Celebration

Join us on January 14th after services for a gathering in the Gallery to meet & welcome our new staff members, Briyant Hines, Youth Director, and Justin Mackey, Director of Modern Worship.

We look forward to furthering our mission of leading all onto a path of Christ centered discipleship with them. There will be cards available this Sunday during services for you to write a brief welcome message for each! You can drop the cards off in the office, mail them in, or email a message to [info@mentorumc.org](mailto:info@mentorumc.org).



## Admin Council

Next meeting is Wednesday, January 17th at 6:30 PM.

## 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](#).

## 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 participant 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: [sstultzcostello@mentorumc.org](mailto:sstultzcostello@mentorumc.org)

## Staff Epiphany Dinner

Office & Preschool staff will meet on January 9 at 6 PM for an Epiphany dinner.

## Stewardship Update 2024

Thank you to all who responded to Mentor United Methodist Church's Stewardship campaign for 2024. As of this date, we have received 236 commitments totaling a little over \$608,188 to the operating budget and \$57,144 toward In tHis House. **Still, we are short of our goal of \$700,000.**

There has been no response from over 600 mailings to those that have attended, given, or participated here at MUMC during the last two years. **Due to this, the church will need to see an increase in general giving in 2024 to meet our financial obligations.**

If you have not yet made a financial commitment for 2024, you may still do so. Contact Stephanie Lee, our financial secretary, in the church office. 440.255.3496 or [slee@mentorumc.org](mailto:slee@mentorumc.org).

Mentor United Methodist Church is a Christ-centered church blessed with a servant-heart oriented congregation.

Yours in Christ,

Rich Elwell  
Jack Oliver



## 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 on January 15-16th. 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.

## Blood Drive

The next Blood Drive is on Tuesday, January 16th. Sign up online or visit the Information Hub.

## 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

### 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**.



### 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.



### 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.*

➡ Monetary donations, financial sponsors, and school supplies are always welcome. You can donate by check to Mentor United Methodist Church and write CATALYST MINISTRY in the memo line or you can sponsor directly by visiting their website: <http://www.catalystministry.org>.

If you would like to donate school supplies take them to the church office and ask them to call Carol Ryan. Catalyst Ministry also helps coordinate programs for children and adults at Woodlawn Homes. If you would like to be part of some of these fun events contact Carol 440.974.8014 or [caszidkryan@gmail.com](mailto:caszidkryan@gmail.com)

# 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:)

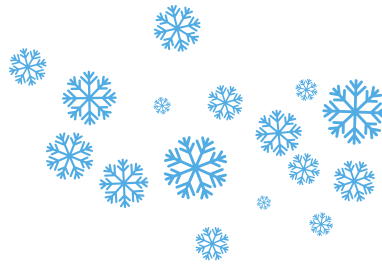
"Worship one, serve one!"

### **Child & Caregiver Class**

Age 2 ½ to 3 ½ on Weds from 9:15-10:45 AM. Cost is \$60 per 8 week session (prepaid, non-refundable). Please check out [our website](#) for more details and important dates.

## **MOMCo.**

MOMCo (The Mom Community) will meet on Friday, January 12th 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. If you have any questions, please contact our State Manager, Brittany Jones at [bjones.preschool@mentorumc.org](mailto:bjones.preschool@mentorumc.org).

## **Youth MORNINGS**

Grades 6-12 are welcome to join us every Sunday morning from 10:10-10:50 to be in community and have discussion. We are following the sermon series for our discussions.

### **SKI TRIP**

January 12-14, 2024 SKI TRIP  
Details and forms online.  
Deadline to register is January 8. Find forms on our [site](#).



### **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 21 from 6 PM -8:30 PM.

