

MENTOR

UNITED

WEEKLY UPDATE

METHODIST

CHURCH

NOVEMBER 23, 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



Happy Thanksgiving

Pastor's Letter *"Into the Wilderness"*

The Spirit led Jesus up into the wilderness
– Matthew 4:1a

When I was in high school, I played trumpet in the band. Band was my favorite class. Our band director, Mr. Dill, was also my private trumpet instructor. He often told me I had talent and I thought I was pretty good, better than most of the other musicians, anyway. One day in band practice, Mr. Dill stopped us because someone was out of tune. I shook my head with a self-righteous smile, thinking, *someone doesn't even know how to tune their instrument!* Everyone took a moment to check their instruments and make adjustments. Mr. Dill gave us a downbeat and we started to play, only to be abruptly stopped again because someone was *still* out of tune. "Please, everyone, examine yourself, listen carefully, make sure you are in tune." I shook my head again, this time annoyed that we had to deal with such amateur talent! We started to play and again were stopped. After the fourth time, Mr. Dill looked at me and said, "Steve! You need to get in tune!" I was shocked and humbled. I was so sure that I was doing everything right that I didn't even bother to examine myself. You might say I was distracted by my own ego, convinced the problem was *out there*—not within me.

For our final Sunday in our series on distractions, we are invited to go with Jesus into the wilderness where the Spirit led him to be tempted. Jesus fasts for 40 days, symbolic of the 40 years the Israelites, Jesus' ancestors, spent in the wilderness to learn how to follow God and become God's people. Just before going into the wilderness, Jesus was baptized by his cousin John the Baptist. The voice of God was heard, "This is my son, the beloved with whom I am well pleased." What an affirmation! What an incredible claim! You'd think that "God's son" would not need to go into the wilderness to be tested. But that is where the Spirit led him to go. Why?

Before Jesus begins his public ministry, he spends 40 days in the wilderness. It is a time of self-reflection, a time of prayer and discernment, a time to wrestle with ultimate questions: *What does it mean to be claimed by God as a beloved child? Am I truly God's son? If I am truly the long-awaited Messiah, the King of Kings, what does that look like? How am I called to live out my life embracing this identity and call?*

If Jesus needed time in the wilderness for self-reflection—to gain clarity of vision and call and to be able to recognize when it was God speaking and when it was Satan or some other voice—then surely, we all must do the same. When was the last time you spent time outside in nature? When was the last time you prayed, "God, what does it mean for me to be called one of your beloved? God, what do you want me to do with the rest of my life?"

If we can get clarity on these questions, I'm sure we will be better equipped to overcome the many distractions that pull us away from the path we are called to follow. For me, it will be an opportunity to examine myself in hopes that I may be more in tune with God's plan for my life.

On the path of Christ-centered discipleship together,



Pastor Steve



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 - Delores Tackett, 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, Laurie Eppler, Noralee Starr, Connie Sterner, Sandy Williams, Dee Smith, Russ Lancaster, Kay McKinney, Ruthie Hobart, Terry & Mary Ellen Reynolds, Kimberlee Johnson, The Hall Family, Doug & Kathy Koman, Sandy Mazelis, The Denton Family, Syndie Toth, Heather Lippert, Jill Tackett, Linda Beidle, Bill Mueller

Love & Sympathy to the family and friends of Dale Porter,
who passed on November 19, 2025.
His service will be on December 1st at Mentor UMC.

Commitment Cards

The 2025 Pledge Cards are available in
Fellowship Hall, Info Hub, and the
Narthex ALSO [online here.](#)

Grab one any time and place in the
basket in worship OR turn in to the main
office when completed.

The Last Act of Gratitude

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____ Date _____

DELIVER this card on
Commitment Sunday,
November 16th, 2025
-OR-
MAIL in by November 30th, 2025
Mentor United Methodist Church
8600 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, OH 44060
-OR-
SET UP your giving
online by November 30th, 2025

I We pledge to support the church in 2026 (Check all that apply)
(Fulfilled by December 31, 2026)
\$ _____ Per week \$ _____ Per month
\$ _____ Other Please Explain _____

After retiring our Erie Bank loan in 2022, we are working with GCM to continue
ongoing facility improvements to enhance our worship experience and better
serve our local community.

In this House Fund (Fulfilled by December 31, 2026)
\$ _____ Per week \$ _____ Per month
\$ _____ Other Please Explain _____

Rev. Kathy Dickriede Youth Director Endowment
(Fulfilled by December 31, 2026)
\$ _____ Per week \$ _____ Per month
\$ _____ Other Please Explain _____

Check here if your pledge is set up online
Check here if you do not wish to have weekly offering envelopes

Connection Corner Relate. Love. Disciple

A part of MUMC's mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ—echoing the Great Commission to “go and make disciples of all nations.” John Wesley reframes the focus of evangelism—not as a one-time conversion decision to follow Jesus—but as the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith and spiritual growth. The R.E.L.A.T.I.O.N.A.L. acronym helps explain the Wesleyan approach to Evangelism.

N. NEW BEINGS

Moving away from living like the world around us and instead letting our hearts be filled with God's love we become new beings in Christ, with love shining from the inside out—not as something we wear to impress others, but as a real part of who we are.

Need to Know

Youversion

<https://bible.com/events/49524448>

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

Advent Sermon Series

We pray that you can join us this season as we prepare for the coming of Christ. Our sermon series, "He Shall Be Called..." explores the names we call the Messiah, as stated in Isaiah 9:2-7.

Thanksgiving Trees

Pickup a Caring Servants Thanksgiving Tree in the Gallery this Sunday after worship. This craft is a fun way to show what you are grateful for this autumn season.

Advent Studies

All are invited to join two Advent study groups this winter. We will be discussing Walter Brueggemann's book, *Names for the Messiah: An Advent Study*. Books can be purchased on your own or through the church.

Group 1: Join Pastor Tammy on Mondays, November 24, December 1, 8, and 15 from 6:00-7:30 PM at Mentor UMC.

Group 2: Join Mackalyn for a Tuesday night group called "Brews & Bibles." We'll meet at a different local holiday bar each week at 6 PM to study Brueggemann's book.

BOTH of these groups are open to ALL! Please register [HERE](#) for either group no later than November 16th.

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](#).

Christmas Cantata

Join us on Sunday, December 7th during the 11 AM Traditional Worship service for the annual Christmas Cantata. This is a free choir and orchestra presentation celebrating the season.

Prelude to Christmas

Join us at Mentor UMC on Friday, December 12th in the Sanctuary at 7:30 PM for the Charter Members Men's Choir's "Prelude to Christmas." Each year, this performance readies us for the coming of Christ and the Christmas season. This is free and open to all.

Blue Christmas

Join us at Mentor UMC for a special Christmas service at 5 PM on December 17th. This is a service for those experiencing grief, loss, and hardship this holiday season. All welcome.

Shepherding Summit

If you missed this year's Shepherding Summit, grab a binder in the church office any time during office hours. You may also get in touch with Pastor Steve to schedule a time to go over the content. To fill out the feedback form, [click here](#).

Prayer Group

Join Pastor Steve on Slack for a prayer group that challenges you to pray at least 12 minutes each day. Join Slack [online here](#).

Book Club

The next Book Club will meet on Monday, November 24th at 6 PM in the Library at MUMC. Tell your friends! We'll discuss what we've each read this month and the themes of gratitude/thanksgiving we've seen in our reads lately. Book Club will regularly meet on the LAST Monday of the month, including the holiday season (December 29th is the next book club). 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.

Poinsettia Forms

Pick up a form in the Info Hub or fill out your order [online here](#) for Poinsettias on Christmas Eve.

Emergency Planning & Preparedness

Find yellow slips in the seat pockets and pews that remind us how to remain calm in case of emergency situations. Feel free to take a slip home to reassure and use for discussion with your friends & family.



Finance Update

Please view the chart below for an update from the Finance Committee (as of October 2025). We have paid 56% of our annual apportionments.

Monthly Expenditures	\$80,802.36
Year to Date Expenditures	\$756,598.48
Year to Date Operating Cost	-\$48,493.56

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.

POP UP Food Pantry

In a combined effort, Mentor UMC and our preschool are collecting food for those suffering from food insecurity. We will do a few pop-up food pantries throughout Mentor for folks who do not have transportation or resources to get to a food program. There is a BLUE BIN for collecting non-perishable food items located in the Gallery. We are looking for the following items:

- Non-perishable food items
- Canned foods with a pop-open lid
- Can openers
- \$5-10 gift cards to buy fresh dairy & produce

[Sign up online to help out with distributions.](#)

More Than a Meal

Volunteer to prepare, cook, serve, or cleanup for this month's More Than a Meal (free community meal) on Saturday, November 29th. Doors open at 5 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.



What's Your **M.** Mission Opportunities?



Thanksgiving Day Meal

THIS WEEK! The Annual Thanksgiving Day Meal is on Thursday, November 27th. Each year this church comes together to supply, cook, and serve a FREE Thanksgiving Meal to our community. This blessing isn't possible without YOU! [Sign up online](#) or visit the table in the Gallery.

Giving Trees

The trees are up and the names are in! If you plan on taking a family, please use the [Sign up Genius](#) so you can see the entire family. Names are on the trees as well. These are mostly single kids or only smaller families. Please note that numbers in the 100s are from Broadmoor school. The Broadmoor student is listed as special needs. Some of the children from Broadmoor are missing first names or ages. We have had a difficult time getting information from Broadmoor this year as a new person is in charge. If we get updated info, we will reach out to you personally. Sorry for the inconvenience. **All gifts are due back by 12/14 at noon.** But we have a secured spot to store so please feel free to drop off prior to that date. It would really be appreciated! Please call or text Betsy at 440-283-6524 with any questions!

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 Full, Queen, and King blankets. Donations can be dropped off in the Community Center at MUMC. AND Thank you from Hope Chest to MUMC for their help and donations this season.

THANK YOU

"Thank you so much for all of the Holiday Help items for the Broadmoor families. We are truly grateful for your generosity and kindness. Please share our appreciation with the entire church community, and an extra big thank you to Kathy for jumping in and helping us load the truck—it made a huge difference! Wishing you and your families a wonderful Thanksgiving!"
-from Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities/Deepwood

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.

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!"

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](#).

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](#).

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.

Young Adult Group

Meet us in-person (Youth Room) on Tuesdays from 6 - 7 PM. Currently, we're reading and discussing Octavia Butler's novel *Parable of the Sower*. During Advent, we will do a study that takes us to local Christmas bars (details on the *Need to Know* page). Contact Mackalyn for details.

Parents of Youth

Fill out an online form [here](#) if you are a parent of a youth and interested in connecting with other parents.



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. There is space and opportunity for board games, video games, card games, etc. **NO GAME NIGHT ON NOV. 26TH!**

Young Adult Outing

Join us for the Christmas Tree lighting in Cleveland on Saturday, November 29th. We'll leave the church at 3:30 OR you may meet us downtown at 4 PM. The tree lighting event includes music, food trucks, campfires, ice skating, and more. No cost to get in but bring money for food and festivities!

Youth Service Project

YSP holds regular meetings at MUMC to plan the 2026 trip and fundraisers. [Visit our website](#) for dates or get in touch with Mackalyn.

Christmas Play Tickets

Tickets for MUMC's Truth & Light Players' production of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" are on sale NOW! They will perform on Friday, December 5th in Fellowship Hall at MUMC. [Buy online here](#).