
Mentor United Methodist Church

WEEKLY UPDATE

Sunday, November 1, 2020

www.mentorumc.org

You have probably heard that in addition to Halloween, this weekend also includes a full moon, and the clock adjustment of "fall back an hour." But as people of faith ... as the church at work ... we also have lots more going on! This weekend, we fed our neighbors with More Than a Meal on Saturday evening. We invite you to join us for Drive-Thru Communion at the Gallery entrance (one more time before the snow flies) on Sunday from 12 – 1. During our online worship, some special people will read our scripture lessons, we will celebrate communion, and we will remember those who have finished their course of faith and entered eternal rest during the past year.

We begin a new sermon series, and I invite you to consider how deep your relationship with Jesus is. Even as a church, striving to be a faithful witness in 2020 and beyond, we must assess how God's seed is growing in us. Christ plants truth and love and hope and peace and victory and joy within us. But many things can choke out growth. We will think about how to prepare our lives for good growth. As well as consider the essential part we play in sharing Christ's message in the world. I encourage you to read: Psalm 1 and Mark 4: 1–34.

I also remind you to pray for our country and our leaders. The national election is on Tuesday, and as 1 Timothy 2 urges us, we pray for all people, including those in high positions. Remember that our church is a polling place, so pray for all those who enter our building.

Yes, because of the increased number of COVID cases in Lake County, we will only worship online this week. Yet we continue to invite God to be planted in us ... and long for our relationship with Jesus to be deeper. Then we will bear fruit that lasts. And, the world will be changed.

This is my prayer.
Pastor Sondra



Sunday Morning Services

The YouVersion link for this week is
<https://bible.com/events/45441979>

Join us in worship!
9 AM and 11 AM

[Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) and our [website](#)

Thank you to our kids serving as readers today in service, Eva Kass and Riley Pershing.

Drive-Thru Communion Today, November 1

This afternoon, November 1, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM, we will offer drive-thru communion. Please go to the Gallery entrance under the portico. We will have a craft for the kids for Family Sunday!

Congregational Care

Members admitted to the Hospital: Hillcrest - John Proegler

Members admitted to Rehab, Assisted Living or Nursing Home Facility:

The Lantern - Jim Reed • Aberdeen Crossing - Barbara Bradarich
The Enclave - Kay Disbro • Brookdale Mentor - Norma Kuzik
Mentor Ridge - Gloria Meyer • Parker Place - Opal Pinasky
Danbury Senior Living - Ross & Kathryn Bevacqua
Maple Ridge Sr. Living - Bob Chamberlin • Brookdale Wickliffe - Fran Rose
Tapestry Senior Living - Gloria & Ron McFeely
Fairmount - Patricia Laubscher

Members who have returned home or are homebound:

Art Sydow, Dale Snyder, Karen Mancini, Linda Leach, Erica Wilmot,
Gina Cartagena, Kimi Schmidt, Carl Snyder, Sylvia Bisbee,
Marilyn Clark (at her son's home), John Hurley, Tom Knesbeck, Durley Imbler

Our sympathy to Linda Ference and Kammy, Rusty, Emily and Jonathan Shields in the passing of Don Ference on October 25.

Congratulations to Melody (Mueller) and Michael Yamsek who were married on October 24.

All Saints Day

We remember all our family, friends, and loved ones who have passed this year.

In Remembrance of Members Received into the Kingdom

Henry Deitrick	Mildred Donahue
Edith Freeman	Constance Harnden
Paul Jenkins	Patricia Kurdziel
Jean Lewis	Nadine Miller
Wayne Reese	Susan Rimes
Eileen Samson	Louis Simer
William Small	



Change in Online Service Format

Next Sunday, November 8, we will change our online service format. We will live stream a modern service at 9 AM and traditional at 11 AM. We are excited to bring you the worship experience in each space, Fellowship Hall for modern and Sanctuary for traditional. We work very hard each week to help you feel the Lord's presence in worship. We will have mistakes and technical issues, but with your patience and support we can praise God and learn from him together.

Kids Gratitude Video

We invite the children of the congregation to briefly record themselves sharing what they are thankful for. We would like to put these clips all together and include this video in the online service on November 22. Please record in landscape mode (horizontal) and just ask your kids to say, "I am thankful for..." Files can be sent with Google Drive links or linked through iPhone Mail Drop to Michelle Park at mpark@mentorunc.org.

The deadline for video submissions is November 15. Thank you and we look forward to hearing your children remind us of our blessings!

Children & Family Ministries
www.mentorumc.org/children

MOPS & MOMSnext meets the second Friday in the morning and/or the fourth Thursday in the evening. The group will be meeting virtually until further notice. The theme is [Decide to Rise](#) and is very appropriate and timely. Contact MOPS at mops@mentorumc.org for more information.

MUMC Family Style Sunday Morning Kids' Journey Groups is every Sunday morning at 10:10-10:50 AM. Check your email for login details or contact Tammy.

PS, K, 1st gr led by Kate & Abby Colbow
2nd, 3rd, 4th gr led by Cristen Neibecker & Laurie Babcock
5th & 6th gr led by Barb Brown & Leah Nash

Positive Parenting Book Club's next book is yet to be determined. We meet from our own homes virtually. If you are interested, you can [vote for the next book!](#)

MUM Preschool has employment opportunities beginning in January. Details are at <http://mentorumc.org/preschool-hiring>. Questions can be directed to mumcpreschool@mentorumc.org.

Youth Ministry

lnash@mentorumc.org

Follow the Youth on Instagram for all Youth Activity Updates at [MUMCYouth712](#)

Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner

This Thanksgiving, we will host our 30th annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner! It will look a little different as we provide drive-thru and delivery of meals only. We will miss sitting down and enjoying food and fellowship with our community, however, this meal will bless many especially with the challenges of this year.

Monetary donations are always appreciated. If giving online, please use the fund "Thanksgiving Dinner".

To sign up to donate food please use this link: <https://bit.ly/3lQ12Nh>

To sign up to work please use this link: <https://bit.ly/3j1L1SS>

This outreach makes such an impact and we look forward to sharing the spirit of giving as we give thanks. Please contact Jim Post at jpost@ohiotech.edu or 440-477-6130 with any questions.



Charge Conference November 8, 2 PM

This year Charge Conference will be virtual. We will share a link when we receive it if you would like to participate.



ORDER FORM 2020

It is a tradition at MUMC to place poinsettias on the altar at Christmas in the memory or appreciation of a loved one(s) or for the glory of God. Plants are \$7 each and can be picked up on Sunday, December 27, 2020, after services. Please indicate if you will be picking up flowers or donating them to the church.

Checks can be made out to MUMC or Mentor United Methodist Church with "Poinsettias" as the memo. Please return form and check to:

Mentor United Methodist Church
c/o The Altar Guild
8600 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, Ohio 44060

You may fill out an online form at this link <https://bit.ly/3jq10dG>

Online payment can be made at the following link <http://mentorumc.org/onlinegiving>. Choose the fund "Poinsettias".

I will be picking up my plants Please donate my plants to the church

(PLEASE CLEARLY PRINT YOUR INFORMATION)

NAME OF PERSON ORDERING _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN APPRECIATION OF _____

TO THE GLORY OF GOD _____

FLOWERS ARE DESIGNATED FOR ___ SANCTUARY ___ FELLOWSHIP HALL

TOTAL NUMBER OF PLANTS ORDERED _____ X \$7 EACH = \$_____

___ CASH ___ CHECK

Adopt-A-Week Leaf Cleanup

We have an opportunity to get outside this fall and help with leaf cleanup on our church property. Sign up as a family or a group for a week to rake and spend time together! See the sign up at this link <https://bit.ly/2FxQP8X> for further information.

Giving Tree

Hello Church Family! Hope this finds you all warm, cozy, and healthy!
2020 continues to throw us curveballs, making our upcoming holiday events more difficult. One thing is for sure: We Still Need Your Help and Support!

Each year we put the names of 250-300 children on the tree in the Gallery. This year, those trees will most likely not be put up. This congregation has been so amazingly generous with this project over the many years that I have had the privilege to oversee it. Now more than ever, these children need some joy at Christmas time, so we are working to make this more Covid friendly.

The plan is to use SignUp Genius to list the kids' names. You will be able to pick out a child via the list. Once you sign up, I will have your contact information.

Options:

- Shop, wrap, and deliver to church (best choice for us!)
- Shop via Amazon Smile and ship to your home, wrap and deliver to church (best choice for us!)
- Shop via Amazon Smile and ship directly to church (gifts will be wrapped at church)**
- Make a Monetary Donation.**

** with these 2 options volunteers will be needed to shop for multiple kids (\$ would be provided from donations) and to help wrap the gifts at church.

I cannot shop and wrap for all these kids, so please do what you can to shop as you normally would! Thank you once again for all your support. More details will be coming shortly with the plan to get this going earlier than we usually do!

Use the Google form at this link <https://bit.ly/3eeKegr> to indicate your interest so we can plan.

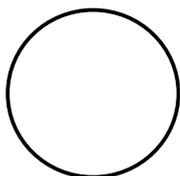
Please remember funds are needed for the November Food Pantry Distribution scheduled for November 16 and 17. Online donations can be made at this link <http://mentorunc.org/onlinegiving> or through the app. Just choose the fund "Food".

Please feel free to contact me at 440-283-6524 or lskra5@aol.com.
Betsy Iskra, Missions Commission

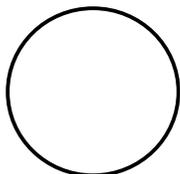
Driving Prayer Stations

Use the following "Journey of Thanksgiving and Prayer" sheet together as a family to go on a guided journey in our community. The "We Pray for Our Community" page may be used to help engage your child. A sticker can be placed in each circle (or colored in) for the corresponding stop on your journey through the community. Please note that your child may place two stickers – praying for those who help and those who are hurting – even though you will remain at the same location for those two readings and prayers. When you have completed your journey, hang the "We Pray for Our Community" page in a place in your home where you will continue to be reminded of your journey and to pray for our community.

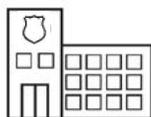
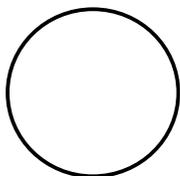
We Pray for Our Community



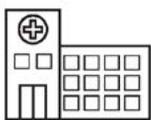
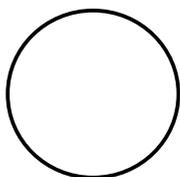
We pray for our neighbors.



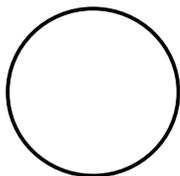
We pray for those who help to provide our food.



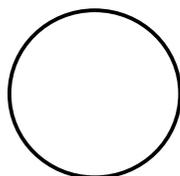
We pray for our community helpers.



We pray for those who are hurting.



We pray for those who are teaching and learning.



We pray for our church.

A Journey of Thanksgiving and Prayer

Adapted from "Driving Prayer Stations," created by Rev Joanna and Rev Chris Cummings, WHENYOUSITATHOME.COM

We believe our faith is lived both inwardly and outwardly in our community. So, as you personally take time to reflect on what Jesus might be doing within you, we want to also challenge you to pray about the ways Jesus might be at work through you and your impact on our community. This prayer experience is one you can do in your car. Each section has a location to go to and park before you read. We ask that you drive carefully and find a safe place to pull over to read at each stop, following the guide below as you pray. You may do the stops listed in any order that is convenient for your drive through the community.

If you choose to symbolically journey through our community as you stay at home, use the sections below to help guide your prayers for our community.

INTRO - Before You Leave

READ: We are about to go on a guided prayer tour of our community. This will be a little different than our normal car rides. We will be going to specific locations and praying for our community in our car. Each stop will have a short reading and then we will offer a prayer. During this ride, we should be thinking about all those in our world, those hurting and those helping. Are we ready?

PREPARE - Getting in Car

READ: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:16-17) Our world has been really weird these last several months, nothing feels "normal," and sometimes we might be worried, scared, confused, and anxious. BUT, we know that this isn't the end of the story, and that God is a God of love and hope. So as we journey today, let's look for, pray for, and offer hope and love to our community, especially in the hurting places.

PRAY: God, we ask that you journey with us. Open our eyes to see what you want us to see, and open our hearts to love as you love. Amen.

THOSE NEAR TO US - Neighborhood

READ: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:36-40) When Jesus was asked what is most important to how God calls us to live he responds: Love God with everything you are, and love your neighbor as if they were part of your family. Think about those who live near to us, maybe we know them well, maybe we don't. Do we know of someone who could use some help or encouragement, in this neighborhood or another? How might we be a neighbor to them?

PRAY: God, give us opportunities to love our neighbors this week. Help us be a light in our neighborhood or on our street. Amen.

THOSE WHO OFFER OUR DAILY BREAD - Grocery Store

READ: "The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. All the believers were united and shared everything. They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved." (Acts 2:42-47) This story tells us about the beginning of the Church. Because they lived so differently, sharing everything they had, people noticed and wanted to join. We find ourselves at a place where we can shop for what we need. But lately, it feels different. We still find empty spaces on the shelves and sometimes things we want are not in stock. Some items are very difficult to get. What might it look like to live generously in a time when we might not have everything we are used to?

PRAY: God, we thank you for grocery stores and all those who are working so hard to provide for our needs. We ask for their safety. Maybe we can be ok with less right now. Give us generous hearts towards them and everyone in need offering what we have, knowing God is with us. Amen.

THOSE WHO HELP - Park Near Healthcare/Hospital/Fire Station/Police Station/Etc.

READ: There is a story of a Rabbi who after a natural disaster like a tornado or disease was asked how he could explain such a tragic act of God. The Rabbi answered that the disaster was an act of nature. The act of God occurs when people help each other. We are now at a place FULL of helpers! They offer their lives every day to bring light and healing to people who need it. It reminds us of a Fred Rogers quote: "When I was a child, and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me: 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" How does it make you feel to know there are so many helpers?

PRAY: God, we pray for the helpers. We ask that you protect them and keep them safe. We are thankful for them and the love they are sharing with so many people. May we be helpers, too, in our own way. Amen.

THOSE WHO ARE HURTING - Same location

READ: "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' (Matthew 25:34-40)

Jesus reminds us in this story that we are asked to help; to help by being a real light in a dark world. One of the ways to help right now is to stay home when we can and wear our masks when we go out. It will help the sick get well, slow the spread of illness, and it's the best way for us to care for one another. Another way could be writing notes or looking for ways to help those who are more vulnerable. When we do things to help those who are hurting, we are not only being Jesus to them, we are serving Jesus.

PRAY: God, be with the sick. We ask for healing and for health. May we have opportunities to help those who are hurting. May we share your love with those who need your light. Amen.

THOSE WHO ARE TEACHING AND LEARNING - School

READ: School is most known for learning, but it is also a hub for communities. For many, school is what brings rhythm to their lives. There is a school day, school activities, school year, and off for summer. For some, school is also the one place they get consistent food. Students, teachers and staff – whether in-person or online – continue to adjust and do the best they can as the situation changes in our community.

PRAY: God, we pray for our schools, the teachers, staff, and students. Schools are a foundation of our community, and we realize the impact of disrupted learning. We ask to help those who are struggling because of a lack of food, security, or anything else. May we have opportunities to help with those needs. Amen.

THE BODY OF CHRIST - Church

READ: "The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see (on the outside) and the parts we don't (on the inside). If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance. You are Christ's body—that's who you are! You must never forget this." (1 Corinthians 12:25-27) The Church is not a building, but a gathering of people following Jesus. How might we continue to be the church right now?

PRAY: God, we thank you for Jesus who we follow. Help us see you in our world and say "yes" to opportunities to be the church. Amen.

REFLECT - Back home in your car

ASK: What did you think about this journey? Which stop impacted you the most? What is one thing you want to do to serve our community because of this? What is one way your heart and attitude will change because of your experience today? How is Jesus at work within you today?

PRAY: God, we thank you for everything you give us, especially life. We ask that we might continue to grow from this experience and see you in our everyday ordinary lives. Help us to follow you. Amen.