
Mentor United Methodist Church

WEEKLY UPDATE

8600 Mentor Ave. Mentor, OH 44060

mentorumc.org 440.255.3496

December 12, 2021

Traditional Worship at 9 AM and 11 AM

Modern Worship at 9 AM

The Gathering 11 AM, Fellowship Hall, mask required

Worship with us online every Sunday at 9 and 11 AM at mentorumc.org, [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/mentorumc), and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv3v3v3v3v3v3v3v3v3v3v3).

By definition, joy is not only a glad feeling of happiness or delight, it is "anything causing this." In other words, even if you don't feel happiness or delight in any given moment the source of joy is still joy. When we choose Jesus, we choose joy.

I have learned to choose joy. When opinions vary regarding pandemic guidelines and protocols ... when the culture fosters division and suspicion ... when what once was looks so very different, even in the churchwhen time with my children is limited due to distance, as well as health concerns joy still exists.

I choose joy! I often repeat this to myself numerous times a day. Joy really is a choice. When circumstances or situations do not leave me feeling happy or delighted, I can still be joyous. I don't want to live a day ... experience a relationship ... deal with a problem that leaves me downcast or disgruntled. And, Jesus doesn't want to leave me there either. So when I choose Jesus, I know that I have what is needed to face the challenges of life. I have what is needed to work for a better path forward. I have the power to choose to see beyond a momentary situation to the "cause" of true rejoicing! I choose Jesus.

A victorious Savior entered the world ... came to earth to lift up, guide through, save me ... you... all of humanity. This is not to say that all our problems fade away ... that the challenges before us cease to exist. The world is broken. Perhaps you are broken. But when you choose Jesus ... hope and peace and joy burst through.

Jesus changes everything ... if you choose to believe. What choice are you making, today?

Pastor Sondra

YouVersion

The YouVersion link for this week is <https://bible.com/events/48809226>.

More Than A Meal Please note that More Than a Meal for this month is moved to the third Saturday of the month, which is December 18.

Advent Candle Lighters Sign Up

Advent is here and we need people to light the Advent candles each week and on Christmas Eve. This is a much loved tradition and is so special this year. Use the [Sign Up Genius link](#), sign up at the Info Hub, call the Church Office, or email Tammy at TPalermo@mentorumc.org.

Congregational Care

In our prayers today and in your personal prayer time, please remember the following:

Members admitted to the Hospital: Geauga - Kathy Rippin

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

Aberdeen Crossing - Barbara Bradarich • The Enclave - Kay Disbro, Jeanne Babcock
Vista Springs - Audrey Arslanian • Concord Village - Mary Jane Scott
Continuing Healthcare of Mentor - Virginia Gilman, Doris Sturm
Parker Place - Opal Pinasky, Bill Owen, Bob and Sandy Linsell
Danbury Senior Living - Kathryn Bevacqua, Hugh Samson
Maple Ridge Sr. Living - Bob Chamberlin • Brookdale Wickliffe - Fran Rose
Tapestry Senior Living - Gloria McFeely • Symphony of Mentor - Lorraine Ahlstrom
Breckenridge/Fairmount - Patricia Laubscher, Ann Shetler

Members who are home or homebound:

Karen Mancini, Karen Scott, Ruth Johnson, Noel Barber, Dale Snyder, Jeff Klein,
Joyce Trimble, Dick Smith, Sarah Wade

Fellowship Time December 12, Thank You to Marye Etta

There will be Fellowship Time today between services and at noon. Please join us for simple refreshments. You will have an opportunity to thank Marye Etta Fairchild Reed for her service at Mentor UMC as our Office Assistant. Marye Etta will continue to oversee and be a part of lots of our ministries but is ending her time on staff. Thank you, Marye Etta!

The Charter Members Men's Choir 24th Annual Christmas program will be held this coming Friday, December 17, at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary. Join us for an evening of inspirational music and scripture.

Children & Family Ministries

www.mentorumc.org/children

Tammy Palermo TPalermo@mentorumc.org

MUMC Sunday Morning Kids' Journey Groups, mask required in Education Wing and Early Childhood Area

- 9:00 AM at MUMC
 - 0-2 year old & 3-4 Year old sign in at the Early Childhood Area prior to service
 - Kindergarten through 6th grade begin worship with their families. You will be dismissed from there to go to the Education Wing.
 - Leaders are still needed [Winter Sign Up](#). Please note that all leaders are asked to wear a mask as we LOVE GOD & LOVE PEOPLE.
- 11:00 AM The Gathering (mask required)
 - Interactive, Intergenerational, and Intentional worship service

MUM Preschool will start the Young 3's class in January. Registrations are underway. If you have a three-year-old who is toilet-trained, they are eligible for this beginning preschool experience on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the morning.

Pre-Registration is open for the 2022-2023 school year for **MUM Preschool**. If you know of anyone looking for a preschool next fall, please share the mentorumc.org/preschool website.

Giving Trees - Gifts Due Today

Please remember to bring your wrapped, tagged, gifts to church today!

Custodial Volunteer Assistance

The month of December is a busy month at Mentor UMC – and occasionally custodial assistance is needed. Are you willing to help with some cleaning, set-up or tear-down? Are you willing to be on-call when a need arises? We are especially in need of some assistance on Christmas Eve. We are so glad to welcome the community back into our building! We appreciate your willingness to help engage in our ministry needs. Please contact the church office for more info at 440-255-3496.



Monday, December 20th, @ 7:00 pm

Please gather in the chapel for worship as we remember loved ones who are no longer physically present with us. On the eve of the shortest day of the year when darkness lingers, and with a mix of sadness and gratitude for them, the light Christ will illumine our path as we make our way through the holidays. Come, behold the Light of the world!



In the rising of the sun and its going down, we remember them.
In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember them.
In the opening of the buds and the rebirth of spring, we remember them.
In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer, we remember them.
In the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn, we remember them.
In the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them.
When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.
When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.
When we have joys we yearn to share, we remember them.
So long as we live, they too will live, for they are now a part of us,
as we remember them.



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Advent Study

The classic Christmas tale of The Grinch is the inspiration for our Advent study. Our study will be [The Heart That Grew Three Sizes](#) by Matt Rawle.

This is open to ALL ages and will be Sunday evenings from 5:00-7:00 PM and will include dinner.



The study is every Sunday evening in Advent, November 28 through December 19. Sign-up is required at [this link](#) on our website and app, or contact the Church Office at 440.255.3496.

YSP Meeting December 12, 2:30 - 4:30 PM

If you are interested in participating in YSP, please come to our informational meeting! YSP takes place June 24 - July, 2022.

Your statement of intent is due by February 13. Please complete the Form at [this link](#).

Youth 712 Ski Trip - MLK Weekend

January 14 - January 16, the Youth Group will be heading to the slopes of Peek 'N Peak. There are several ski packages available, including learning to ski options for students who have never been! Students are VERY welcome to BRING A FRIEND.

We are looking for adult drivers/chaperones, who are welcome to participate in the skiing but are not required. Students who are coming MUST plan on skiing/snowboarding.

If you think you might be interested, please [RSVP HERE](#).

For information about agenda and trip costs, please contact Leah Nash at lnash@mentorumc.org.

Christmas Eve Schedule and Ushers

We are so pleased to return to our Christmas Eve service schedule of
3 PM Traditional Worship - Communion • 5 PM Children-led service (mask required)
7 PM Modern Worship • 7 PM Traditional Worship - Charter Members
9 PM Traditional Worship - Hallelujah Chorus • 11 PM Traditional Worship
The 7 PM Modern and 9 PM Traditional services will also be livestreamed

Volunteers are needed for ushering during the five Sanctuary Christmas Eve services. Please consider serving your congregation, and meeting new people, by ushering! A sign-up sheet will be at the Information Hub beginning November 21.

You can also sign up through the website and app at [this link](#). If interested in ushering but hesitant, training will be provided on Wednesday, December 15 in the Narthex from 7 – 8 PM. If you have further questions, please contact Chris Meldrum at (440) 220-0824.