

MENTOR

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MENTORUMC.ORG

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Worship with us in-person or online:
Mentorumc.org, [Facebook](#), and [Youtube](#)

UNITED

WEEKLY UPDATE

METHODIST

CHURCH

Worship Schedule

9 & 11 AM Modern

9 & 11 AM Traditional

DECEMBER 24, 2023



PASTOR'S LETTER

How does a weary world rejoice? We make room.

We know the story and it's a good one. Good enough in fact to redeem the world! The story of a young teenage woman, nine months pregnant, who travels with her fiancé to their hometown as required for the national census. When they finally arrive, she can tell that the time has come, her baby is ready to be born.

The baby to be born is no ordinary baby. The pregnancy was announced to the mother by an angel, Gabriel, who said she would conceive by the Holy Spirit as she was still a virgin. Her fiancé didn't buy the story at first and had planned on quietly breaking the engagement until he too was visited by an angel in a dream. We can be sure the two of them faced many challenges coming to terms with this news, telling others about their unbelievable experiences, adjusting their wedding plans, preparing to become parents with limited means in Roman-occupied territory, and always pondering - pondering what all this means, pondering the words of the angel "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." In the final weeks of the pregnancy, they receive the news that they must travel roughly ninety miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem for a mandatory census, no exceptions.

We know the story and it's a good one. When they arrive, all the motels are booked, there is no room for this couple with a baby that is about to be born. It is yet another unexpected obstacle. It is just another thing that has not gone the way they pictured it. But, God made a way. God made room.

A bright star, a humble stable, a manger padded with straw, attentive animals, shepherds, and most importantly, the child is born, the mother survived (it was not uncommon for women to die during childbirth) and her fiancé is with her. In the midst of all the challenges and hardships, on this night, God's promise has been fulfilled and they feel blessed. When there was no room, God made room.

On behalf of Pastor Ivy, Pastor Tammy and myself, Merry Christmas. Thank you for all the ways you made room for us as your new pastoral team. Thank you for all your support, making room for new ideas and new approaches. Thank you for being a church that is always ready to make room for people looking for a place for new life to be born. I can't wait to see the incredible ways God will continue to make room for expanding our ministries, mission, and outreach in this new year. We know the story. We are part of the story. All that we do tells the story for a weary world to rejoice!

Merry Christmas!



Rev. Steve Stultz Costello, Sr. Pastor



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, Dale Snyder

**Love & Sympathy to the family and friends of
Betty McArthur,
who passed on December 18, 2023.**



Need to Know

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

All our Christmas Eve services are candlelight.

3 PM - Communion
5 PM - Family Service
7 PM - Modern
(streamed as well)
9 PM - Traditional
(streamed as well)

Youversion

<https://bible.com/events/49185544>

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

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Dec. 25: CLOSED

**Tuesday, December 26 -
Friday, December 29th:
8 AM - 4 PM**

**Monday, January 1-2:
CLOSED**



Spam Alert

Reminder to pay close attention to the emails and texts you may receive this giving season. Be sure that if a Pastor or staff member contacts you that it is coming from the correct address. You can always check our staff pages on our website to be sure or call the church office.

Altar Flower Openings

There is a flower opening on January 21st for Traditional worship. For flowers please call Kathy Fellows: 440-477-4485.

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](#).



Staff Update

We welcome to our staff, Briyant Hines (starting Dec. 12) as our new Youth Director and Justin Mackey (starting Jan. 3) as our new Modern Worship Director. 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. Deadline to get your message in is December 19th!

Staff Celebration

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

Staff Epiphany Dinner

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

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.

What's Your M.O.?

Mission Opportunities

Hope Chest

Hope Chest is in need of gloves and coats ALL sizes. You may drop off items in the Community Center during office hours or on Sunday mornings.

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.

More Than A Meal

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

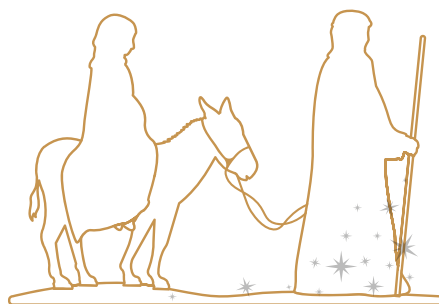
Catalyst Ministry

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.

➔ Catalyst Ministry and MUMC have been involved with Painseville City Schools for a number of years. *What do volunteers do there?*

Currently, the main focus of CM is developing a relationship between its volunteers and students, staff, and admin "while helping the children academically". Right now, volunteers tutor students at the elementary schools, with a focus on reading enhancement skills. They work with students in kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade. They also have started working with the 7th graders due to last year's 6th grade testing scores.

To learn more or get involved visit our website.



WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

Children & Family Ministries

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.

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.

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](#).

Evening Gatherings

6:00-7:30 pm

Sign Up Link: tinyurl.com/MentorUMCNextGen

January 14 & 28

February 11 & 25

March 10 & 24

Epiphany Party

Friday, January 5 from 6:00-11:00 PM. Dress up, enjoy a nice dinner, glow in the dark activities, and Epiphany Worship Service.

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 6pm-8:30pm.

