MENTOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WEEKLY UPDATE

NOVEMBER 1, 2026

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
9:15 AM Chapel
10:30 AM Communion
(except first of month)
11 AM Traditional



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

When I think about death, I think of my mint plant as it wastes away on my front stoop, guarded by equally rotting gourds and midge carcasses. I planted that meek thing with good intentions. *We'll never have to buy mint again*, I promised. But the women in my family are cursed with a "black thumb." So be it.

I have always been curious about death and the part we all play in it. Perhaps that is the poet in me. I'm moved by an ending, one way or another. And even as Christians, we each have our own view on life ending. You may believe in a perfect heaven, polished and bright, like how you keep your kitchen and bathroom. Or maybe your heaven is late-night card games and bad TV, just like your typical Saturday night. Every person I talk to has a different wish. Some wish for nothing at all, fearing eternity more than the possible pain of death itself.

I have the honor each Autumn of putting together the pictures of our Saints for *All Saints Day*. I spend time with the individuals' names, photographs, and their obituaries. I may not have known many of them, year to year, but I can *almost* feel like I do when I play my part in the celebration of them. It makes me think of this line from poet Michael Ryan's *Consider a Move*, "Now time curves back. We almost touch." November finds me grateful for this responsibility; it shows me a new way to practice love.

Death, and how we deal with it, is a lot bigger and more complex than a willfully neglected mint plant. It reverberates through families and communities. It haunts us late at night. It opens a door for our faith. Maybe, above all, it teaches us to live. Another poet, Paige Lewis, in *God Stops By*, says this:

> Before God leaves, He clears the table,
> pats my head, and presses two messages into
>
> my palms. In my left, *You are the bridge*.
> In my right, *You are the dust*.

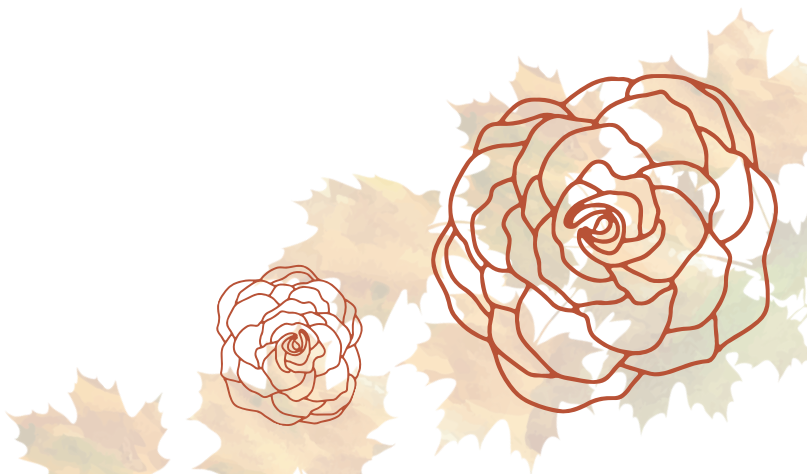
I love how Lewis uses God to remind us of living and dying in a few poignant words. God puts the weight of both of these notions in *our* hands, leaving us with the responsibility to act on them.

When *All Saints Day* comes around, we get to remember our loved ones, together. Though we come from all different backgrounds, we honor them with our time, talents, and by simply living, day to day. Grief takes us into one another, like driftwood being pushed to shore by unending waves.

My hope is that your grief leads you into love and every ounce of it that you have yet to give,



Kenna Tanner,
Editor



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 - Johanna Kessler, Dee Smith,
Mary Lou Haines, John Shetler, Joe & Judy Tirpak
Ohman Family Living in Holly - Bob & Sandy Linsell
Parker Place - Deloris Parsons, Mary Ann Haycox
Salida Woods - June Van Ostrand

In need of prayer:

Russ Lancaster, Kay McKinney, Mary Ellen Reynolds, Nancy Smith, Joyce Snyder, Ruthie Hobart, Richard & Nancy Smith, Fletcher Family, Laura Van Riper, Rev. Connie Sterner, Champa Family, Ireland Family, Star Bruno

Stewardship Update

The table to the right shares the most recent financial stewardship update. You're pledged and general giving supports the whole Body of Christ at Mentor UMC. It is one indication of being on a path of Christ-centered discipleship. Together, we are sharing the Gospel and making a difference. Thank you.

We also give thanks for unexpected extra giving. Last month, we received an undesignated check for $25,000 that lowered our deficit by $24,724.67. Let us give thanks and praise to God.

For any questions, reach out to Stephanie Lee in the church office or a member of the Finance Committee. As always, a church budget is available on request.

September Giving	**$86,720.33**
YTD Giving	$654,668.87
YTD Expenses	$683,914.61
YTD Overage (Deficit)	-$29,245.74

Conference Apportionments paid for 2026=> 100%

Horizons Stewardship Partnership: An Exciting New Chapter for MUMC

MUMC has contracted with *Horizons Stewardship*, a leading church stewardship consulting firm that has helped more than 10,000 churches and faith-based organizations raise over $9 billion since 1992.

Horizons was recommended by MUMC's Stewardship and Generosity Task Force (SGTF) after interviewing representatives from three leading firms. The recommendation was approved by the Administrative Council at its September meeting. The task force was particularly impressed by Horizons' United Methodist roots and theological understanding, along with its emphasis on growing and deepening Christian discipleship.

We will be working with Rev. Dr. Norma Quinn, Certified Fund-Raising Executive (CFRE), who will serve as our consultant and coach through March, followed by an ongoing supportive relationship.

The entire cost of our contract ($31,500 plus travel expenses) is being covered by members of the SGTF who felt led to contribute personally, believing deeply that this partnership will further our mission *to lead all on a path of Christ-centered discipleship* while nurturing a culture of stewardship and generosity. Everyone is invited to be part of this exciting new chapter for MUMC!

More information will be included in your third-quarter giving statement letter, which will be mailed next week. To watch a brief two-minute video and learn more about Horizons Stewardship and our consultant, Norma Quinn, visit www.horizons.net/about.

Youversion
https://bible.com/events/49686012
Learn more about Sunday worship.

Liturgist Opportunity
Are you interested in participating in worship on a Sunday morning? Reach out to Amy Bender or the church office to be a liturgist during the 9:15 AM Chapel or 11 AM Traditional worship.

Tree Removal
On Saturday, November 28th, the Trustees and the Young Adults will work toward the removal of non-native/invasive trees on church grounds. The Young Adults are spending this year focusing on *Creation Care*. One way to explore that is through intentional care of church grounds. The plants removed will be replaced.

Mentor Historical Society
All are welcome to join the new Mentor Historical Society that meets at Mentor Public Library on November 7th at 1 PM. Contact Jan Habinski at 440.951.0145 for questions.

Undoing Conquest Study
Join us for a special Biblical study that explores Dr. Kate Common's theological work, *Undoing Conquest* on Mondays, in person at 7 PM in the Wesley Room at MUMC. Reach out to Pastor Tammy for questions or to register. Find more information about the book (and order it) online here.

Whole Church Bible Study
All are welcome to join us for the next "Lunch & Learn" at 12:30 PM on Sunday, November 22nd. We'll prepare for Advent together with Biblical discussion and fellowship. Please RSVP online here.

Poinsettia Orders
Order your poinsettias for Christmas Eve now! Forms are available online and in the Info Hub. Plants are $7.50 per. They will be displayed during the Christmas Eve services (your choice of Fellowship Hall or Sanctuary) then you may pick yours up after service or the following Sunday. You can also choose to donate your plant.

Advent Candle Lighters
Sign up online or in the Info Hub for Advent Candle lighting during a Sunday this Advent season. Light with family or friends during the service of your choice. For questions, reach out to Pastor Tammy.

Shepherding Summit: Celebrate - Vision - *GO!*
Join us on Saturday, January 23rd from 9 AM to 3 PM for a day full of celebration, fellowship, good food, worship, and church learning. ALL are welcome and encouraged to attend. Participants will take part in activities, awards, and breakout rooms as well as opening & closing worship. Lunch is provided. RSVP online here for this big day. Questions? Reach out to Pastor Steve.

CWC Luncheon: Nov 17th
Join the Christian Women's Connection of Lake Co. at Pine Ridge CC on Tuesday, November 17th for the next luncheon at 11:15 AM. Candi Johnson will be the featured speaker, along with Betsy Grden. The topic will be *America's Story: A Story for All Seasons*. Cost is $28 per person. RSVP to 440.488.4351 or email cwcstoncroft@yahoo.com.

Need to Know

CPR Training
Help save a life! MUMC has a limited number of openings available for AHA-certified CPR/AED training on Tuesday, November 10th. Classes will be given at Mentor Fire Dept. HQ (Civic Center Blvd) at 1-4 PM or 7-10 PM. Preregistration required; cost is $35. Please contact Chris Meldrum for questions or to register: 440.220.0824.

Extending the Table: A New Ministry of Holy Communion
The Lord's Table is open to all, including those who are unable to join us for worship in person. Through our new *Extending the Table* ministry, trained laypersons will bring Holy Communion, consecrated during Sunday worship, to people in their homes, hospitals, or other settings. In this way, we extend the fellowship, grace, and love of Christ beyond the walls of our church. You can be part of this meaningful ministry by participating in a brief, 30-minute orientation and training. Interested? Please contact Pastor Steve or Jim Post to learn more.

Emmaus Fundraiser
Northeast Ohio Chrysalis and Western Reserve Emmaus invite you to an evening of dinner, silent & live auction, and information about Emmaus on Saturday, November 7th from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. This fundraiser helps cover the costs of scholarships, Upper Room supplies, and offsets rising weekend costs. Join us at Tallmadge UMC (207 N Munroe Rd, Tallmadge, OH 44278) next week.

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



Gingerbread Show 2026

Join us on Friday, November 6th and Saturday, November 7th for the Annual Gingerbread Arts & Crafts Show at MUMC. Prospective Participants must send requests to gingerbread@mentorumc.org. If you would like to donate gently used treasures, please drop them off during the week LEADING UP to the sale, on Thursday, November 5th.

Royal Family Kids Camp

It is that time of year when RFK is collecting donations to buy gift cards for our Club and Camp families to have a bountiful Thanksgiving. Pick up an envelope in the Info Hub or Welcome Center to fill with cash, check, or a gift card to Aldi up to $25. Please return envelopes to the church office by November 9th. For questions, please reach out to Johanna Martin.

Thanksgiving Day Dinner

MUMC will once again host a Thanksgiving Day Dinner on Thursday, November 26th from 11:30 AM to 1 PM. We feed hundreds in the community every year. To receive a meal, contact the church office to RSVP for dine-in or request carry-out or delivery (Lake Co).

Volunteers: This meal isn't possible without YOU! The sign ups for food donations and volunteering will be available in person and online on Sunday, November 1st. Visit the Gallery to sign up after service.

Woodlawn Homes Winter

Help the United Women in Faith donate **winter hats & gloves** to the families of Woodlawn this winter. All sizes (especially children & youth) are needed. Donations may be dropped off in the collection boxes located in the Gallery and near the Chapel. Please have donations in by November 10th!

Food Ministry

The MUMC Food Pantry holds regular food distributions, serving families in our community. Drop off items in the Community Center bin. If you wish to volunteer for the distribution, please reach out to Alan Vick: realcat26@proton.me

NEEDED ITEMS:

- Sugar
- Brown sugar
- Potato soup
- Steak & potato soup
- Veggie beef
- Toothbrushes
- Ketchup

More Than a Meal

Volunteer to prepare, cook, serve, or clean up for the next More Than a Meal on Saturday, November 28th. Doors open at 5 PM and the meal is served at 5:30 PM. This meal happens EVERY last Saturday of the month. Signup online here or get in touch with the church office for help with signing up.

YOUTH Group Volunteers

Our Youth (grades 6-12) meet on the fourth Sunday of the month from 4 PM to 6 PM. During this time, we will have a snack, do a short Bible study, and learn a life skill. This can be any life skill, such as gardening, cooking, rough carpentry, how to change a tire, navigation skills, etc. and can relate to the Bible study, but doesn't need to. Please signup online here or reach out to Mackalyn Figgins if interested in leading a skill.

Project Hope Needs

Project Hope for the Homeless in Painesville is in need of the following items:
Plastic spoons, hot cocoa packets, drink mix-no red, fruit cups, 33-gallon trash bags, large latex/non-latex gloves. Please drop off at the shelter from 9 AM to 2 PM.

Hope Chest

Hope Chest is located in Painesville and provides clothes and more to those in need. You can donate new or gently used items to the Community Center bin.

- Full, Queen, King Sheets



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES.
YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTIRES.

Sunday Morning Leaders
Children K-5th grade are invited to Sunday School every Sunday of the month (except the FIRST) at 9 AM & 11 AM. 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 the Sunday School leader signup.

Child & Caregiver Class
This class is open to ages 2 ½ to 3 ½ on Wednesdays from 9:15 AM to 10:45 AM. at Mentor United Methodist Preschool. The cost is $65 per 8-week session (prepaid, non-refundable). To register, fill out the form here or reach out to Brittany Jones.

MOMCo
The MomCo at Mentor UMC meets November 13th & 20th and is open to all moms regardless of their children's age. We gather in the Gallery at MUMC from 9 AM to 12 PM. Coffee & snacks provided. As a Mom Community, We raise our kids & one another. We boldly elevate motherhood. We embrace the unexpected & imperfect. We understand our direction is more important than our speed. We celebrate often & loudly. We know every mom has a place with us. We follow Jesus and invite others to journey with us. Questions, reach out to Pastor Tammy.

Youth Group
All Youth are invited to join us on the fourth Sunday of the month at 4 PM in the Youth Room for a devotion and life skill.

Young Adult Group
Join Young Adults (post-high school to age 35) on Tuesdays at 6 PM for conversation, discipleship, and deepening our relationships with one another while exploring this year's theme of "Creation Care." Reach out to Mackalyn Figgins for questions.

Gaming Group
Join us on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 PM for Dungeons & Dragons in the Youth Room (pizza & snacks included). No experience needed! If there are other games you wish to play during game night, please get in touch with Mackalyn Figgins. ALL are invited to this intergenerational gathering.

YSP Gingerbread Cleanup
Members & friends of the Youth Service Project are encouraged to help with cleanup on Saturday, November 7th after the Gingerbread show at MUMC. Reach out to Mackalyn for details.



YSP Reunion
ALL Youth Service Project participants, past and present, are invited to a Reunion on Saturday, November 14th from 4 to 6 PM at the Parsonage (next to the church).

Winterland Outing
Youth & Young Adults are invited to carpool with us or meet in downtown Cleveland for the annual Christmas tree lighting at the Winterland Festival. Enjoy music, food trucks, and Christmas cheer! We'll meet at the church at 3:30 to leave at 4 PM OR you can meet us downtown by 4:30 PM.

Brews & Bibles
All are welcome to join for another "Brews & Bibles" study this Advent. Starting on November 24th, we'll meet on Tuesday evenings at 6 PM for 4 weeks to discuss Amy-Jill Levine's Light of the World. Learn more about the book & purchase online here. We'll meet at a different Holiday bar in the area each week. Questions, reach out to Mackalyn Figgins.

Volunteering this Season
Youth & Young Adults are encouraged to assist with upcoming events here at MUMC. On Tuesday, November 24th, we'll help with the prep for the Thanksgiving Day Meal. On Saturday, December 5th, we'll help with the Gift of Time, an afternoon of childcare.