MENTOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WEEKLY UPDATE

OCTOBER 11, 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
11 AM Traditional

PASTOR'S LETTER

Always Give Thanks

We always give thanks to God for all of you - 1 Thessalonians 1:2a

It may seem a little early to be talking about Thanksgiving. The turkey is still weeks away. Halloween hasn't even arrived yet! But beginning this Sunday our worship will invite us to get an early start on giving thanks with a three-week series called "Always Give Thanks."

The title comes from the opening words of Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians:

> "We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." - 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

I love that Paul begins there, he begins with gratitude! He looks at this community of believers and sees reasons to give thanks. What might happen if we learned to look at our lives — and at one another — the same way? Over these three Sundays, we will follow Paul's words to the Thessalonians and explore three dimensions of a grateful life.

On October 11, in 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, we will remember that we are chosen. Our life with God begins not with what we have accomplished, but with what God has done. God loves us, calls us, claims us, and invites us into a community where faith, love, and hope can grow.

On October 18, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 reminds us that our faith is also tested—not in the sense that God is waiting to see whether we pass or fail, but because faith is shaped and strengthened as we learn to live it. Paul describes a faith marked by courage, integrity, gentleness, and genuine care for others. Gratitude is more than saying "thank you." It changes how we live.

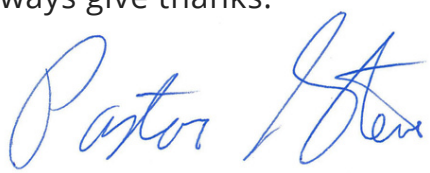
Then, on October 25, 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 turns our attention toward being witnesses. Paul gives thanks because God's word is "at work" among the Thessalonians. Our witness, too, is more than what we say about Jesus. It is the story our lives tell.

Chosen. Tested. Witnesses. Through it all runs a simple practice: give thanks.

That can be harder than it sounds. We live in a culture that constantly draws our attention toward what is wrong, what is missing, what we fear, and what we wish were different. Gratitude does not ask us to pretend those things aren't real. Instead, gratitude teaches us to notice something else that is also real: God is here. Grace is at work. There is goodness around us. We have been given one another. And even in uncertain times, God is not finished with us yet.

So, as we move toward Thanksgiving, perhaps we can begin early. Let's practice noticing. Let's practice remembering. Let's practice saying thank you—to God and to one another. And together, let us discover what happens when thanksgiving becomes not simply a holiday we celebrate, but a way we live.

Always give thanks.



Pastor Steve

Congregational Care

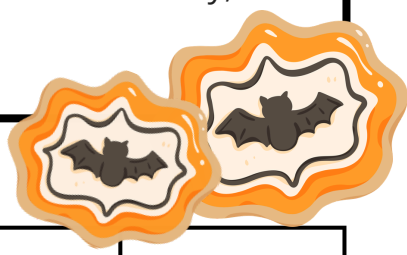
In our prayers today & in your personal prayer time, please remember the following:

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:

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



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.

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.

August Giving	**$53,989.12**
YTD Giving	$567,948.54
YTD Expenses	$621,918.95
YTD Overage (Deficit)	-$53,970.41

Conference Apportionments paid for 2026=> 100%

Need to Know

Youversion
https://bible.com/events/49675591
Learn more about Sunday's scriptures & worship by visiting this link.

Bread, Broth, Brownies, & Bingo
Please join United Women in Faith for another 4B luncheon! The October menu will feature tomato bisque soup, 5 cheese garlic bread, salad, and chocolate brownies with candy corn on top. After lunch, Janice Silvaroli from Birthright will share about their mission in our community. You are invited to help support Birthright by bringing one or more health essentials (new items only please): diapers, pull-ups, baby wipes, baby soap, baby shampoo. There will be an opportunity to offer a monetary gift as well. We hope you will join us on Wednesday, October 14 at noon in the MUMC Gallery! This event is hosted by UWFaith, and all are welcome. Please RSVP to uwf@mentorumc.org, register online here, or find the signup sheet in the Info Hub.

Mentor Public Schools Levy Information Meeting
All community members & registered voters are encouraged to attend an informative session on Tuesday, October 20th at 6 PM in the Gallery. The Mentor Public Schools Superintendent, Craig Heath, will share facts about the current levy proposed for the upcoming election. Cookies and coffee provided! Please bring a neighbor or friend for this important evening of learning.

CWC Luncheon
Join us for the next Christian Women's Connection Luncheon on Tuesday, October 20th at Pine Ridge CC at 11:15 AM. The cost is $35 per person. RSVP to 440.488.4351 or email cwcstoncroft@yahoo.com.

Baptisms

Nova Louise Andrews
Daughter of
Sarah & Michael Andrews

Aleighanne Louise Hardway
Daughter of
Amy & Gary Mlynarczyk

Baptized on Sunday, October 11, 2026 in Traditional Worship

Admin Council
The next Administrative Council meeting will be on Wednesday, October 21st at 7 PM in Asbury Room.

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.

New Member Reunion
New Members of 2026 are invited to a Reunion Luncheon on Sunday, October 25th at 12:30 PM at MUMC. If you have dietary restrictions, please let Chris Fletcher or the church office know. Please RSVP online here or get in touch with Chris Fletcher.

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.

Writing Group
All are welcome to join us in the Youth Room (or on Zoom) at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, October 20th for the next Writing Group. This is for any interest and skill level.

Book Club
All readers are invited to meet us at the Library at MUMC for a monthly book "chat" and a new puzzle on Monday, October 26th at 6 PM.

Breakfast Clubs
Men's Breakfast Club meets every Thursday at 8 AM at Market Street Family Restaurant. On the first of the month, women ALSO meet for breakfast.

Pickleball
Pickleball at MUMC is on Tuesdays at 5 PM in the south parking lot. All skill levels welcome to meet us for light exercise and fun. You may bring your own paddle but we have some for you to use if not.

Greeters at MUMC
Interested in being a greeter on a Sunday morning? Sign up online here, in the Info Hub on a Sunday, or get in touch with the church office.

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.

Heifer Project: Clean Water

HEIFER PROJECT is starting this Sunday! We are encouraging our children to collect money to give the Gift of Clean Water. Children will be given an empty water bottle to collect money. They will be collected on Sunday, October 18th

YOUTH Group Volunteers

This fall, our Youth (grades 6-12) will 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. We hope that our young people grow in their faith. And we hope for our Youth to learn new skills to help reduce our waste and harm to the Earth as an act of faith, as well as help equip them for life! Please signup online here or reach out to Mackalyn Figgins if interested.

Food Ministry

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

More Than a Meal

Volunteer to prepare, cook, serve, or clean up for the next More Than a Meal on Saturday, October 31st. Doors open at 5 PM and the meal is served at 5:30 PM. This meal happens EVERY last Saturday of the month, so if you can't help this month, check out later dates. Signup online here or get in touch with the church office for help with signing up.

Loan Locker

Painesville UMC has started a free medical device exchange: *Loan Locker*. Call their church office to see what items are available upon request. To donate items, please contact Maria in the PUMC church office to make arrangements for a time to drop off your donations. Thank you for helping us help others!

Project Hope Needs

Project Hope for the Homeless in Painesville is in need of the following items:
Fruit cups, pudding cups, lunch chips, paper towels, toilet paper, 33-Gallon trash bags, creamer, coffee, drink mix-no red, hot cocoa, Large latex gloves and aloe hand sanitizer-33oz, bags of sugar, plastic spoons and knives only. 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 Size Blankets & Quilts

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. The cost is $65 per 8-week session (prepaid, non-refundable). Fill out the form here.

Confirmation 2026-2027
Confirmation is when students who are old enough to understand the teachings of the Church (grades 8-12) and UMC tradition decide for themselves whether to claim these beliefs as their own. The Confirmation process takes place as orientation, a series of classes, worship experiences with other welcoming faith communities, a retreat, service hours, Confirmation lock-in, and closes with a Confirmation service. Register online here or get in touch with Mackalyn Figgins for questions.

Treat Street
Join us on Saturday, October 17th for our annual trunk-or-treat, TREAT STREET! Enjoy candy, games, and a family-friendly haunted house here at Mentor UMC. Sign up to be a trunker ONLINE here or get in touch with Pastor Tammy. If you are a Youth or Young Adult that would like to help with the Haunted House, reach out to Mackalyn Figgins. To assist with setup, games, and donating candy, sign up online here.

Youth Group
All Youth are invited to join us on Sunday, October 25th at 4 PM in the Youth Room for a devotion and life skill.

YOUTH Cornmaze Outing
Join us at Derthick's Cornmaze in Mantua, OH on October 18th at 2:30 PM. We will return around 6:30pm. This is Ohio's BIGGEST cornmaze! Cost is $7 per person. RSVP online here.

YOUTH Spooktacular
It's time for Halloween! We will be having a Late Night Spooktacular on October 31st. We will meet at the church at 5:30pm to gather and get ready to go trick or treating. Then we will return to the church afterwards for food, games, worship, and fun! We will end at 12am on the 1st so folks can get enough sleep to help with and attend worship the next day. RSVP online here or get in touch with Mackalyn.

Young Adult Group
Join Young Adults on Tuesdays at 6 PM for conversation, discipleship, and deepening our relationships with one another while exploring this year's theme of "Creation Care,"

Lake Metroparks Halloween
Our church has the opportunity to volunteer at the Lake Metroparks Farmpark for their Halloween Drive Thru on October 23rd! We will arrive at the Farmpark at 4:50 PM to get in costume, which will be provided, as a part of the playful scary experience. We'll be done at 9:15 PM. Sign up online here or reach out to Mackalyn Figgins to learn more.