MENTOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WEEKLY UPDATE

OCTOBER 18, 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

Giving Thanks for Where We've Been and Where God Is Leading Us

Throughout our current worship series, Always Give Thanks, we've been exploring Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. Paul begins by giving thanks to God for this community of believers—not because everything is perfect, but because he sees God's Spirit at work among them. He celebrates their faith, their love, their perseverance, and the ways they are living out the gospel, even amid challenges.

I've been thinking about Paul's words as I reflect on the past year at Mentor United Methodist Church and as I prepared my annual Pastor's Report for our Charge Conference. Like Paul, I find myself filled with gratitude—not because we haven't faced challenges, but because of the many ways I see God working through this congregation.

This past year, we've taken important steps to strengthen our connections and deepen our discipleship. Our Church Database Task Group has been working diligently to help us become a more connected congregation. We've launched a new churchwide Lunch and Learn Bible study, expanded our efforts to welcome new people, and continued developing creative worship experiences that speak to the spiritual needs of our community.

Our growing Young Adult Ministry is finding new ways to build relationships and engage people who might not otherwise find their way into church life. We've also taken significant steps toward strengthening our future through the work of our Stewardship and Generosity Task Force, our new partnership with Horizons Stewardship, and renewed attention to Safe Sanctuaries and caring for our facilities.

Of course, we've also experienced staffing transitions, financial challenges, and difficult decisions. Yet what encourages me most is that, even amid these challenges, we continue to move forward in faith. We are not simply asking how to maintain the church we have been; we are asking how is God calling us to become the church our community needs us to be.

I invite you to read my full 2026 Pastor's Report online here, along with Lay Leader Barry Martin's Report, which offers a wonderful overview of our ministries, outreach, fellowship, and congregational life. Together, these reports tell a story of a church seeking to be faithful to its calling.

When Paul gave thanks for the Thessalonians, he wasn't simply celebrating their past. He was encouraging them to continue growing in faith, love, and service. I believe that same invitation is before us.

So, let us give thanks—not only for what God has done, but for what God is doing, and what God will yet do through us as we seek to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.

What a blessing it is to serve alongside you!

Grace and Peace,

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:

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.

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, CPA, 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.

Need to Know

Youversion
https://bible.com/events/49679362
Learn more about Sunday's scriptures & worship by visiting this link.

Pastor Appreciation Month
October is Pastor Appreciation month. Share your appreciation through kind words or cards to our Mentor UMC pastors!

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.

NOW HIRING: Lead Facility Specialist
Mentor UMC is looking for a Lead Facility Specialist. The individual in this position will be uniquely responsible for the upkeep, care, and maintenance of Mentor UMC and the equipment in the facility. This is a FULL-TIME position. Typical hours are 8-hour shifts, 5 days a week. Hours may vary based on Church events. Share or apply online here.

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.

All Saints Day 2026
Join us in worship on Sunday, November 1st at 9 AM, 9:15 AM, and 11 AM to honor our lost loved ones from the last year.

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

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.

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.

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.

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 skill level.

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

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.

Breakfast Club NEW LOCATION
The next Breakfast Club will meet at Concord Family Restaurant (across the street from Hope Ridge) this coming Thursday, October 22nd.

What's Your M.O.? *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.

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.

Woodlawn Homes Winter
Help the United Women in Faith donate coats & boots 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. 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:
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 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.

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 Corn Maze Outing: Fall Fun at Patterson's
Join us at Patterson's on October 18th at 2:30 PM. We will return around 6:30 PM. There will be activities, snacks, and a corn maze! Cost is $12 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 5:30 PM 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 12 PM 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.

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.

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." Reach out to Mackalyn Figgins for questions.

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.

Treat Street Thank You
Thanks to all who helped make this year's Treat Street a success! We connected with lots of community members through games, generosity, and spooky fun!