MENTOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WEEKLY UPDATE

OCTOBER 25, 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

PASTOR'S LETTER

Giving Thanks, Bearing Witness, Moving Forward
Always Give Thanks: Witnesses

This Sunday, as we continue our worship series, *Always Give Thanks*, we hear Paul's gratitude for the Thessalonians, who received God's Word not simply as human teaching, but as God's living Word, at work within them (1 Thessalonians 2:9-13). In Matthew 23:1-12, Jesus reminds us that authentic faith is not about appearances, titles, or recognition, but about humility and service. Together, these passages invite us to consider how God's Word is at work in our lives and how our gratitude becomes a living witness through the ways we serve and give of ourselves.

I see wonderful signs of God's Spirit at work here at Mentor UMC as we prepare for the next chapter of our ministry together. Let me highlight three opportunities to celebrate, grow, and participate in that unfolding future.

Horizons Stewardship Partnership: Growing Generous Disciples
This week, you will receive a letter accompanying your third-quarter giving statement introducing our new partnership with Horizons Stewardship. This partnership is about much more than strengthening our financial support for 2027. It is about cultivating an ongoing culture of generosity, deepening discipleship, and equipping our congregation for fruitful ministry in a changing world.

One particularly inspiring part of this story is that members of our Stewardship and Generosity Task Force felt called to personally underwrite the entire cost of this partnership. Their generosity is a wonderful example of faith becoming action—a living witness to their trust in God and their confidence in God's vision for MUMC. I hope you will read the letter and prayerfully consider how God is inviting each of us to participate and grow as generous disciples. If you want to read it now, click here.

November 22: Whole-Church Lunch & Learn Bible Study
Mark your calendar for Sunday, November 22, from 12:30-2:00 p.m., for a special whole-church Bible study. This 90-minute gathering will bring us together across our worship services to explore Scripture, deepen our faith, prepare for Advent, and grow together as disciples of Jesus Christ. I hope you'll join us!

Save the Date! January 23: Shepherding Summit – Celebrate, Vision, Go!
On Saturday, January 23, from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., we will gather for a special day of worship, celebration, visioning, and preparation for the future. Together, we will give thanks for what God has done, listen for where the Holy Spirit is leading, and prepare to move forward in 2027 with renewed purpose and hope. NOTE: The original date of Nov. 14 has been changed to January 23.

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus declares, "The greatest among you will be your servant." What a beautiful vision for the church! Our future is not ultimately about programs, buildings, budgets, or even our own accomplishments. It is about allowing God's love to work through us, humbly serving others, and bearing witness to the transforming grace of Jesus Christ.

May our gratitude for God's faithfulness inspire our generosity, deepen our discipleship, and strengthen our witness as we follow where God leads us next.

With gratitude and hope,

Pastor Steve

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/49682840

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!

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 past year.

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.

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 to learn more.

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.

CELEBRATE VISION GO!
Shepherding Summit 2027

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

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! Anyone interested in serving as an Extending the Table Minister can participate in a brief, 30-minute orientation and training. No previous experience is necessary—just a willingness to share Christ's love and the gift of Holy Communion with others. Interested? Please contact Pastor Steve or Jim Post to learn more.

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.

Writing Group

All are welcome to join us in the Youth Room (or on Zoom) on the second Tuesday of the month for Writing Group. This group is for any skill level and background. Reach out to Kenna Tanner for questions.

Book Club

All readers are invited to meet us at the Merkel Library at MUMC for a monthly book "chat" and a puzzle on Monday, October 26th at 6 PM. We'll meet for about an hour to discuss what each of us has been reading in our own time.

What's Your M.I.S.S.I.O.N.? *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 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, 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. Signup online here or get in touch with the church office for help with signing up.

Heifer Project

Thank you to the participant of this year's Heifer Project who donated $69.41!

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 Sunday, October 25th at 4 PM in the Youth Room for a devotion and life skill. Our topic this month is healthy relationships.

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.

Youth Service Project 2027
Join us on Sunday, October 25th at 10:10 AM in Adams Parlor for the 2027 YSP journey kickoff meeting. Anyone is welcome to attend, especially interested students and parents.

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.