

STEEPLETALK

December 2014



One of the rich traditions of Christmas is the singing of Christmas carols. Perhaps the allurements are associated with the season of the year, and the fact that most Christmas carols are only sung during the season between Thanksgiving and Christmas. They are associated with joy and happy times, special songs for a special season. I would hope that they also hold value for the message they convey.

During the weeks of Advent we're looking at some of our favorite Christmas carols, digging beyond the familiar tunes, focusing on their messages. There are profound and eternal truths lying in the words we sing year after year, words deeply rooted in the Biblical text and Church tradition.

I did some online research into the history of Christmas carols. Here's what I found:

Christians of the 1st century continued the tradition of the angels who announced the birth of Jesus singing in praise to God (Luke 2:13-14). Historical records from as early as 129 AD indicate that there were songs written specifically for Christmas celebrations.

The word "carol" or carole" is a medieval word of French and Anglo-Norman origin, believed to mean a dance song or a circle dance accompanied by singing. The singing of carols did not originate with Christianity, instead associated with the pagan practice of celebrating the seasons, like the Winter Solstice. With time Christianity took over these holidays and carols were associated with religious joy, often associated with the Christmas season.

The majority of the first Christmas Carols were written in Latin, which was understood only by members of the elite church few. Because of this, by the Middle Ages (the 1200s) the majority of Christians lost interest in the singing of Christmas Carols. In 1223, the beloved St. Francis of Assisi revived an interest in Christmas and in the singing of carols by putting on nativities in which the majority of the songs were written in the language of the common people. With this came the singing of Christmas Carols across Europe. These carols were mostly sung from the streets and in the homes.

It is believed that during the golden age of English carols (1350 to 1550) the more traditional Christmas carols may have emerged with themes that revolved around a saint, the Christ child or the Virgin Mary.

By the 16th century though, the popularity of carols faltered, almost disappearing entirely if not for the revival that happened by the middle of the 18th century. Many of the carols we know today were written during this period, e.g. "O Come, All Ye Faithful", "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks", "Joy to the World", and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing".

During the Victorian era (1837-1901), a collection of Christmas songs, old and new, was published. People began singing in the streets, in homes, in churches, for money and for free. The tradition of 'Caroling' from home to home was born. The joy of music filled England once again, and spread throughout Europe (and eventually to the New World).

During this season of the year carols can be heard on television, in the shopping malls, on the radio and in churches. Christians and unbelievers find themselves singing the carols. Carols have a way of tugging on our hearts. During the weeks of Advent we will both sing and dig deeper into the message of the carols.

— *Pastor Kurt*

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The week of November 17th work on exterior walls continued. Concrete workers have continued to form and pour concrete. Rafters and steel are to be delivered in early December. Subject to the continued production of asphalt and favorable weather for paving, the parking areas may be graded, stoned and asphalt installed by Thanksgiving. If this does not come together, a contingency plan has been discussed for utilization of the parking through the winter. As reported previously, heat has been restored to all parts of the church.

A plan has been worked out to keep access to the south end of the Education Wing open for Sunday use. This area can be used to provide passage to Fellowship Hall from the south parking area. Watch for signage indicating where you can enter. Meanwhile, your cooperation in parking off-site is greatly appreciated. Be sensitive to the needs and challenges of those with mobility issues or small children. As you are able, off-site parking is available in the rear of the Village Plaza strip mall (east one block on Mentor Ave.), the Napa Auto Parts Store across from the strip mall (north side), and Jimmy's Backyard Barbeque (rear only). Please do not park at Arrowhead Music due to holiday hours.

Updates will be provided as we move forward, and the most up-to-date information is found on the church website at www.mentorumc.org. Thanks for your patience during these times of construction.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Lauren Ring—Iring@mentorumc.org



FOR THE HOLIDAYS!! ORDER YOUR HONEY BAKED HAM

Order forms for Christmas are available at the Welcome Center on Sundays December 1-15. No waiting in line at the store! Place an order and then just pick it up here at the church on Monday, December 23 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Proceeds benefit Middle School Mission Week. Any questions, contact Lauren Ring at 255-3496, ext. 16 or Nancy Nagle at 255-1452.

HIGH DEFINITION YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS

Sundays: 5:30 p.m.—Dinner (give a donation of a couple bucks if you can)
6-7:15 p.m.—Youth Group
7:15-8 p.m.—Church open for games, hangout time

December 14: Food sorting helpers needed after the services.

December 21: High Definition Christmas Party!

December 28: Student Sunday (Youth wanted for participation in all Worship Services!)

NO Credo or High Definition for the Holiday Weekend.

For up-to-date details, email Iring@mentorumc.org to be added to parent or youth email lists. Check Youth Ministries at www.mentorumc.org or find us on Facebook!

SERVANT OPPORTUNITIES

HEARTLAND VISITATION . . .

On Sunday, December 21st at 10:45 a.m. we will celebrate the birth of Christ with the residents of Heartland. Join us as we listen to the familiar Bible story and sing carols together.

MUMC MORE THAN A MEAL



Free Community Dinner

Our November meal was hosted by the Post family. We have hosts lined up for the coming months with the exception of March. Please email Karen Martin at dansgirl9065@sbcglobal.net if you would like more information on hosting a meal March 28th. Last month's meal cost less than \$150. Consider joining together with a family or two to plan, shop, and lead the meal preparations. Thank you everyone for your continued support of this ministry.

GIVING TUESDAY

On TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2nd, you can extend the spirit of giving thanks into the Advent season by participating in UMC #GivingTuesday.

Every gift made online through The Advance at <http://www.umcmmission.org/give> on December 2nd will be matched! You can designate one of the following missions or choose from hundreds of other causes.

- #982450** UMCOR Disaster Relief, Ebola and other places in need of relief
- #12548A** Camphor Mission Station, Liberia
- #581479** McCurdy Ministry, New Mexico

SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR WINTER

November 30-February 22

- 9 a.m.: 1 person - Toddler & 2 Yr. Olds;
1 person - 5th/6th Grade; 1 Floater
- 11 a.m.: 2 people - Crib Room; 2 people - Toddler & 2 Yr. Olds; 1 person - K, 1st & 2nd Grade;
1 person - 3rd Grade (Jan.-Feb.);
1 person - 4th Grade (Jan.-Feb.); 1 Floater



We wish to thank our church family for their cards, prayers and support at the time of Rich's passing.

— Bonnie Rini & Sons

HOLIDAY EVENTS



Young at Heart Luncheon

Hosted by the United Methodist Women
Wednesday, December 10th at Noon in Fellowship Hall

Were you born before 1949? Then you are invited to enjoy a Christmas lunch, music and program with your church staff and friends at the *Young at Heart luncheon*. \$5 (paid in advance or at the door) covers your meal, beverage, dessert AND fun!

Call the Church Office, 255-3496, and ask to be added to the Young at Heart luncheon list soon! Please let us know when you call if you need a ride. We'll be happy to arrange one for you!



S.A.L.T. Singles Ministry

This ministry is for those in their twenties and thirties. We will be meeting in December for three movie nights: **Thursday, December 4th, 11th and 18th.**

We will start with **Miracle on 34th Street**, followed by **A Muppets Christmas Carol**, and **It's a Wonderful Life**. The fun starts at 7 p.m. in the Adams Parlor. If you are interested, please call Robyn Sadler at 440-478-2803 or email at robsad79@gmail.com.



The FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE is hosting a cookie frosting party in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 6th at 11:30 a.m.

Frosting Christmas cookies together is a great way to have fun and get into the Christmas Spirit! **If you are young or young-at-heart, between the ages of 1 and 101, we really want you there!** The cookies we frost will be given away during Christmas Caroling the next day and possibly for cookie hour on Sunday morning. Come and participate in the fun! **Sign up at the Welcome Center!**



ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS CAROLING

**We will gather Sunday, December 7th
in Fellowship Hall at 1 p.m.**

We will be going out to our local nursing homes to carol and bring cookies from Saturday's cookie frosting event!

Join us from 1 to 3 p.m. **All are invited to go out and help spread the holiday spirit!** Please email Pastor Jon to register at jwilterdink@mentorumc.org.



The Children & Youth of Mentor United Methodist Church will be presenting their

**Annual Christmas Musical
Saturday, December 6th
4 p.m. in the Sanctuary
All are invited!!**

A Potluck Dinner will follow the program in Fellowship Hall. A—L are asked to bring a main dish feeding 6-8 people and M - Z are asked to bring a side dish or salad.



**Annual Christmas Concert
Friday, December 19th
7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**

**Special guests
Tim Shelton, trumpet & Obie Shelton, violin**

Bring your family and friends for this wonderful holiday event! Refreshments will follow in Fellowship Hall. A free-will offer will be taken.



A SPECIAL SERVICE OF HOPE & HEALING

Mentor UMC and Hope Ridge UMC will hold a **"Blue Christmas"** service on **Sunday, December 14th at 2:00 p.m. at Hope Ridge**

For many, Christmas can be a lonely and often "blue" time because of heartache, pain or frustration. Some have experienced losses — loss of health, of a loved one, of a job, of a dream. Some may be "blue" because it stirs up other feelings — memories of what once was or dreams of what should have been. During the "Blue Christmas Service," these feelings are acknowledged. Comfort and hope are offered through Scripture, song, prayer and the lighting of candles. Join us as we come together in community, remember loved ones and finding hope in our faith.

Contact Pastor Bev Wrobel for more information, 255-3496, ext. 14 or email blwrobel@mentorumc.org.



**41st Annual Live Nativity Scene
December 19th, 20th & 21st**

North Mentor Centenary UMC
9290 Lakeshore Blvd. at Corduroy Road
Park or drive through.
The true meaning of Christmas!

THROUGH THE YEARS

The Christmas season is upon us. Communities throughout the world celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In the United States, virtually every community has its own Christmas decorations and events that observe the season. There are many cities noted for Christmas celebrations. New York City, Wheeling, West Virginia with its Oglebay Park, and Frankenmuth, Michigan are but a few. The city of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania has created a special place in Christmas celebrations. The town was founded on Christmas Eve, 1741 by a group of Moravians led by David Nitschmann and Count Nicolaus von Zinzendorf. The Moravian Church is considered the oldest Protestant Church in the world. It was inspired by the teachings of Jan Huss, a Bohemian priest, who was martyred by the Catholic Church for seeking to reform it. The group got its name from the many people of Moravian nationality (currently part of the Czech Republic) who founded it. The Moravians were important in John Wesley's life. Their devotion to their faith helped inspire Rev. Wesley and the Methodist movement.

Bethlehem calls itself "Christmas City", a term they first used in 1937. The Christmas season is full of activities including the Christkindmarkt where artisans display their wares and food is sold. The Central Moravian Church is the centerpiece for holiday worship, as well as Christmas concerts. There are many music ensembles in the church, one particularly noteworthy is The Bethlehem Area Moravian Trombone Choir. This year they celebrated their 250th (yes, that is right) anniversary. The city also has the oldest Bach Choir in the United States. Another unique activity is the Living Advent Calendar. Starting on December 1, people gather outside a historic house at 5:30 p.m. each day. One person is selected to knock on the door and when it opens, a merchant offers the crowd a treat.

Wherever it is celebrated and by groups large or small, the important thing is to remember the birth of Jesus Christ. May all of your celebrations this year be festive and meaningful. May we all show His love and caring.

Do you have any MUM history you would like to share with the congregation? Please send it to:

Mr. Don Humphrey
7330 Holly Park Drive
Concord OH 44060-6704

Or email to dhumphrey@ameritech.net.

Our 2014 Christmas Offering . . .

National: McCurdy Ministries in New Mexico, \$2000 to cover covenant

Local: Lake County Community (Church) Network, 1/2 of balance

International: Camphor Mission in Liberia, 1/2 of balance



Here is a list of present and former pastors if you would like to include them on your Christmas card mailing list this year:

Rev. & Mrs. Kurt Landerholm
7929 Newell Creek Drive
Mentor OH 44060

Rev. John Richard Hendricks
P. O. Box 533
Scio OH 43988-0533

Rev. & Mrs. Ron Eppler
807 West Avenue, Apt. 2002
Elyria OH 44035-5898

Mr. Steve & Rev. Beverly Wrobel
2959 Gale Road
Willoughby OH 44094

Revs. Gary & Peggy Streiff
753 Kenwood Drive
Gates Mills OH 44040

Rev. & Mrs. Allan Bevere
263 E. Mill Street
Akron OH 44308

Revs. Jon & Beth Wilterdink
9890 Juniper Court
Mentor OH 44060

Dr. & Mrs. Richard Lehto
5280 Clover Drive
Sheffield Village OH 44035

Mrs. Ruth Adams
803 West Avenue, Apt. 6205
Elyria OH 44035

Dr. Dan & Rev. Kathy Dickriede
129 East Oakmont Way
Northfield OH 44067-2796

Rev. & Mrs. Michael Gibson
6709 Silvermound
Mentor OH 44060

Rev. Quincy Wheeler
7441 Murray Avenue
Mentor OH 44060



KNOW

• **Sunday School**

- Babies and Toddler/2 year olds meet in the Adams Parlor
- 3 year olds (as of Sept. 1, 2014 and toilet trained) through 6th grade meet in the Chapel after ck.-in
- <http://mentorumc.org/Sunday-school>

GROW

- **StuCo 56**, 5th & 6th grade youth group
 - Meeting on Friday, December 5 from 7-9 p.m.
 - Food Sorting Sunday, December 14 from 1-3 p.m.
 - <http://mentorumc.org/stuco-56>
- **GENERATIONS**, family fellowship group, invited to TWO events on Saturday, December 6 in Fellowship Hall
 - Cookie Decorating from 11:30-1:30 p.m., with pizza lunch
 - "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" at 4 p.m., with potluck dinner to follow
 - <http://mentorumc.org/generations>
- **ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS CAROLING**
 - Sunday, December 7 from 1-3:00 p.m. Gather in Fellowship Hall
 - Sign up sheet at the Welcome Center or Email Pastor Jon, jwilterdink@mentorumc.org

SHOW

- **Sunday School Leadership sign up**
 - <http://mentorumc.org/Sunday-school>
- **MOPS & MOMSnext Monthly Meeting**
 - Friday, December 12 from 9:30 to noon
 - MOPS "Courage to Love People Extravagantly"
 - <http://mentorumc.org/mops>

THANK YOU to everyone who supported the MOPS & MOMSnext fundraiser at Max & Erma's in November.



ADVENT CALENDARS are available for \$5 each at the Welcome Center Sunday mornings. Proceeds go to VBS 2015 — "Journey Off the Map".

NEWSLETTERS & CHILD REGISTRATION FORMS:
<http://mentorumc.org/children>



FINANCE UPDATE
YTD through SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

Receipts	\$754,696
Disbursements	774,366
Deficit	(\$19,670)

Electronic giving is available online at
www.mentorumc.org



If you are interested in class on the basics of the Christian faith consider attending . . .

"The Basics" offered on five Tuesday evenings in January from 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. on January 6, 13, 20, 27 and February 3 in the Adams Parlor. Whether you're a member or want to become a member, these five classes focus on the Bible, Jesus, Prayer and the Church. Led by Pastor Bev Wrobel. Registration is required.

These classes are required for membership but everyone is welcome to attend. To register, please email or call Pastor Bev Wrobel at blwrobel@mentorumc.org or 440-255-3496, ext. 14.

NAOMI CIRCLE: We will be meeting for our holiday lunch at The Beach Club Grill, Concord Plaza (across from Hope Ridge UMC) on Route 84 at noon on **Wednesday, December 3rd**.

THE NEW DAY CIRCLE will meet on **Monday, December 8th** from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Adams Parlor. Contact Carole Ring (255-7213) or umw@mentorumc.org if you have questions. All women are welcome to join us!

RUTH-ESTHER CIRCLE: We will hold our holiday lunch at Scrambler Marie's on Mentor Avenue on **Tuesday, December 9th** at 11:30. Bring a wrapped \$1 white elephant gift for our annual game. Also, bring a donation of children's gloves, mittens or knit hats to be given out with our Christmas food baskets.

GRIEFSHARE

A Grief Recovery Support Group

This is real help for deep hurt. Winter sessions on Wednesdays, January 7th to April 1 (13 weeks), 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$20 (includes book).

The facilitator is Rev. Beverly Wrobel, LPC. Please register by calling or emailing Rev. Wrobel at blwrobel@mentorumc.org. For more information visit the GRIEFSHARE website at www.griefshare.org.

Weekly video seminars are designed to help you successfully travel the journey from mourning to joy.

HOLIDAY FOOD & GIFT MINISTRIES



Show Christ's love by gifting children. Beginning November 23rd, *Praying, Caring, Sharing, and Giving Trees* will be located in Fellowship Hall and by the Chapel. Any GIVING gifts need to be returned to Mentor UMC by December 14th at 12 p.m. Consider taking an ornament from these trees that include:



A GREEN TREE ornament symbolizing GIVING. The ornament will have the name, age, gender, and interests of a child for whom you may purchase a gift.



A RED HEART symbolizing SHARING. There will be hearts with different dollar amounts which include a gift card to give a loved one telling them the charity you have donated to in their name.



A YELLOW ANGEL symbolizing PRAYING. Each ornament will have the name of someone who needs your prayers throughout the holiday season.



A BLUE BELL symbolizing CARING. Each ornament has a suggestion for something you can do to help your friends, neighbors, church members or other people in need.

December 1st—14th, PURCHASE food for the Christmas distribution using a grocery list from Mentor UMC, pray over the food and bring the bag back by 12 p.m. on Sunday, December 14th.

SORT FOOD & GIFTS at Mentor UMC on December 14th from 12:15 p.m.—3 p.m. to bless Lake County Families this Christmas.

PACK FOOD & GIFT boxes at Mentor UMC on Monday, December 15th from 9 a.m.—11 a.m. Help distribute them to families from 11 a.m.—1 p.m. or 6 p.m.—8 p.m. All ages welcome!



Please send your check in the amount of \$7 to

Mentor United Methodist Church, c/o The Altar Guild
8600 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, OH 44060

Last date to order: Tuesday, December 9th

We will also be at the Welcome Center table on Sunday, December 7th with forms to order plants.

Sanctuary plants may be picked up after the 11:00 p.m. service Christmas Eve.
iConnect plants may be picked up after the 9:00 p.m. service Christmas Eve.

(PLEASE CLEARLY PRINT YOUR INFORMATION)

Name _____

In memory of _____

In appreciation of _____

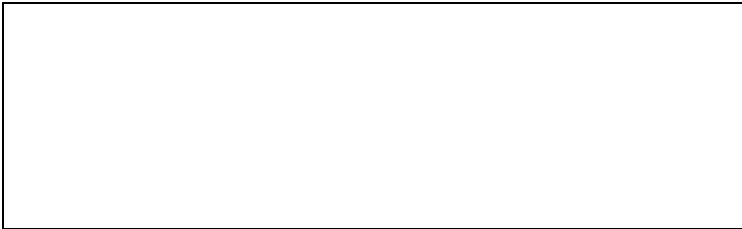
To the Glory of God _____

My flowers are for _____ Sanctuary
_____ iConnect/Fellowship Hall

Mentor United Methodist Church
8600 Mentor Avenue
Mentor OH 44060

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Mentor OH 44060
Permit No. 37

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



WORSHIP

SANCTUARY Worship — 9 & 11 a.m.

iCONNECT Worship — 9 & 11 a.m.
(Fellowship Hall)

COMMUNION — 10:40 a.m.
(Sanctuary)

CHILDREN

CHILDCARE — 9 & 11 a.m.
For infants—2 year old
Adams Parlor

SUNDAY SCHOOL — 9 & 11 a.m.
For 3 year olds—6th grade
Chapel

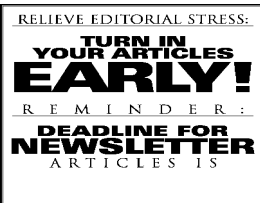


Christmas Eve
Services

Wednesday
December 24, 2014

- 3:00 p.m. Communion Service
- 5:00 p.m. Family Service
- 7:00 p.m. Traditional Service
- 7:00 p.m. iConnect Service
- 9:00 p.m. Traditional Service
with the “Hallelujah Chorus”
- 9:00 p.m. iConnect Service
- 11:00 p.m. Traditional Service
with the “Hallelujah Chorus”

Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus
at any or all of the services.
Invite your family and friends.



STEEPLETALK
December 8
For JANUARY Issue



In the event of possible
church closings due to weather
or power outages, please go to
News Channel 5 for updates.