

STEEPLETALK

MARCH 2014



Lent is a very important part of the church calendar, as significant as Christmas and Easter. Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5) and ends on Holy Saturday (April 19). Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." The forty days of Lent represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. That's why we begin Lent on Ash Wednesday with a service of ashes, repentance and communion. The service will be held at 7:30 p.m., but this year we will also open the church at 6 a.m. for the imposition of ashes.

We use Lent to help us focus on our relationship with God. To help make this meaningful, some choose to give up something or to volunteer and give themselves for others. We need to be aware that this is not about improving who we are, but rather it is to focus on Jesus Christ. The point is to feel a little discomfort, a little pain, and by that to be constantly reminded of the love of our Savior Jesus Christ, who denied himself for our salvation. Lent is all about getting to know Jesus Christ better.

Thomas Aquinas, the 13th century Christian preacher and theologian, liked to say, *omnis Christi action nostra est instructio* — "every action of Christ is for our instruction." To grow on the path of Christ-centered discipleship, we look to the whole life of Jesus, not just his birth, death and resurrection. And one of the things that Jesus teaches us is that our lives matter wherever we are and whoever we are.

We spend a great deal of our time at our work, whether that work is in the market place or the home, for pay check or in retirement. We also have the tendency to compartmentalize our lives into our work life, our social life, our home life, our church life, etc. But Jesus shows us that these walls should come down and our faith should be lived 24-7. During the weeks of Lent we will be looking at work. There are three significant ways this will integrate into the life of the congregation:

- 1. Sermon focus** — Challenged by the scriptures, we will look at why your work matters, the importance of your performance and attitude, being good employees and managers/owners, living out your faith at work and finding healthy balance. We will discover what the scriptures have to teach us about how we spend our time at work in the marketplace or at home.
- 2. Wednesday evening studies** — We will gather at the church for dinner at 6 p.m. followed by a teaching video ("Work as Worship") and small group breakouts. We will end at 7:30. The topics will follow along the themes of the sermons. Meeting dates are March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9. There will be age appropriate activities for children and youth as well.
- 3. The pastors will be visiting your workplaces** — Beginning on Ash Wednesday with imposition of ashes at various workplaces, and throughout the weeks during Lent, the pastoral team will look for ways to meet you in your workplaces.

In Lent, we are attentive to the parts of Jesus' life — his self-control, his patience, his faithfulness — that we hope to gain as his disciples and live out in the market place.

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YOUTH MINISTRY



YSP FUND RAISER . . .

THE BIG EVENT!!! WIZARD OF OZ Sunday, March 16th

We will again have live and silent auctions, entertainment by the Charter Members Men's Chorus, and many other great acts. Door prizes. Pasta dinner. And loads of fun for everyone!

DONATIONS ARE NEEDED: If you have an item or service that you can donate to help this mission event, please contact Phyllis Hanson by March 2nd at bpmeahanson@gmail.com or 440-840-4927. You may also visit the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings.

YSP SUMMER MISSION TRIP:
June 20-28, Plymouth, North Carolina

HIGH DEFINITION YOUTH GROUP (Grades 7-12)

Sunday Nights: Pictures in Hi Def are amazing. Life in Hi Def is even better. Living into your God given purpose, allegiant to Christ, and following His way = a highly defined life. You will find an adventure unlike any other, purpose no matter what path you take, and amazing people to journey with.

Join us in pursuing life in HIGH DEFINITION: We meet on Sunday nights to eat together, laugh together and figure out how to achieve this Hi Def life through putting into practice the teachings of Jesus Christ. You can expect some wacky games, funny and inspiring videos, encouragement and hope, discussion and teaching, prayer, and people who care. We love to welcome new students, and you are free to drop in anytime and just hang out! No pressure. 7th-12th grades meet at the same time, with separate Middle School and High School small groups at times.

MUMC SCHOLARSHIP: Are you a high school senior that is graduating in the spring of 2014 that will be attending college in the fall? If so, Mentor United Methodist Church is pleased to announce that **applications for the MUMC Scholarship are available on the church's website at <http://mentorumc.org/scholarship/>**. All graduating seniors or seminary students who have been a member of MUMC for at least one year are eligible to apply for a scholarship award. Applicants must complete and return the application and **all required documents to the Church Office no later than Friday, April 4th.**

OUT REACH

HEARTLAND VISITATION . . .

On Sunday, March we will worship with the residents of Heartland at 10:45 a.m.

MUMC MORE THAN A MEAL



Free Community Dinner

Thank you to all who have donated time, food, and resources to our free community dinner over the past few months. We have been blessed to have families and church groups sign up to host for January through May! If you are interested in hosting this summer or would like to volunteer time on the last Saturday of any month, please contact Karen Martin at dansgirl9065@sbcglobal.net.

SERVANT OPPORTUNITIES

CAN YOU HELP??

Please prayerfully consider giving some time to our children. They really need you.

Spring Sunday School sign-up:

<http://tinyurl.com//SSSpring>

THROUGH THE YEARS

Lent is the season for sacrifice and reflection. One of the sacrifices traditionally observed is that of abstaining from various foods or food groups. However there are foods that are associated with the Lenten Season. One of them, well known to many of us, are hot cross buns. These tasty rolls are available at many stores during Lent.

Another food that has a Lenten tradition is something that we all know (and probably love) but may not realize its religious significance, it is the pretzel. The origin of the pretzel is in question. Roman Catholic tradition states that the pretzel was used as a Lenten food as far back as the fourth century. The simple ingredients; water, flour, and salt avoided many of the foods that were prohibited during Lent, such as meat and dairy products. The crossed shape of the pretzel resembled the crossing of arms, the traditional posture for prayer in those days. It is also said that pretzels were given out by monks to children who learned their Bible verses. The shape represented the Sign of the Cross.

The term pretzel comes from Germany. German bakers made the food and gave them to children. German children searched for pretzels hidden around farms and then ate them on Good Friday. Some believed that this is the origin for the Easter Egg Hunt. Pretzels also served as a convenient food to give to the poor to give them sustenance. Some viewed the pretzel as a sacred symbol and had them placed in their coffins.

Whatever you do this Lenten Season, whether you give up foods or not, take time to remember the real sacrifice that was made, that of Jesus Christ dying for us and giving us the gift of Eternal Life.

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.

BUILDING COMMITTEE NEWS

At the January 7th meeting, the Building Committee reviewed feedback from our conversations with various church ministry groups as part of the building design development process. These ministry groups are driving our design process by expressing their specific needs within the planned facility enhancements and include:

- Children's Education: both Preschool and Sunday School classroom improvements with new, centrally located, nursery and toddler rooms
- Youth: new enlarged spaces for both Junior and Senior High school youth groups
- Missions: including food and coat ministries
- Music: including a new choir room and equipment and robe storage
- Education: classroom needs and a new expanded library facility

In addition the modifications to Fellowship Hall supporting i-Connect and to the Sanctuary to improve comfort (pew cushions) and acoustic enhancements to resolve audio problems are ongoing.

- Gathering area: Creation of a central gathering place for fellowship and hospitality
- Entry: Creating or remodeling entrances for easy access and visibility
- Mechanical: Adding new heating and air conditioning to the education wing.
- Updating the rest of the facility needs

To date the "IN THISHOUSE" Funding Campaign has total receipts of \$596,967.62 and other contributions to the building fund of \$28,274.54 for a total of \$625,242.16.

We are on track to present to the congregation a final cost and financing plan by late spring with anticipated construction to begin shortly thereafter.



**Asbury Fellowship sponsored
Valentine Dinner & Program
Saturday, February 15th
Fellowship Hall**

**5:30 p.m. Appetizers . 6 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Program**

Asbury Fellowship invites you to join us for our annual Valentine Dinner. Our program will be The Mentor Top 25 Show Choir directed by Laurie Eppler. Tickets are available at the Welcome Center through Sunday, February 9th. Cost: \$20 per person. Dinner choices: Prime Rib, Glazed Baked Chicken, or Salmon En Croute. For more information or questions, contact Jim and Mary Lou Haines at 255-2287.



**The Red Cross will be at MUMC on
Sunday, February 9th from 9 a.m. to
1 p.m. in the Asbury/Wesley Room.**

Every unit of blood can be made into three different life-saving components, your donation can help many people. Please give prayerful thought to becoming a donor. YOU can give the gift of life!



I want to thank our church family for their cards, calls, prayers and expressions of sympathy after the recent death of my son Jerry in Michigan.

Janette Kester

The McGiffin family wishes to thank our church family for their expression of love, sympathy, and prayers during the time of our great grief. Also, thanks to the Loving Threads group for the beautiful knitted shawl. It will be put to good use.

God bless you all,
Katie

We want to thank everyone for their love and support during the difficult days surrounding our Mom/Grandma's untimely death. All of the food, flowers, prayers, and everyone's presence is appreciated more than words can say. Getting through this grief-stricken time would be unbearable without our loving church family.

With thanks,
Dan, Karen, Jordan, and Daniel Martin

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

- **Family Sunday:** 1st Sunday of the month; 3rd through 6th grade remain in worship; no Children's Message; 3 year olds through 2nd grade meet in Chapel then go to Education Wing.
- **The BREAKFAST CLUB, a Young Family Study**
Sundays from 10:10-10:50 in Room 109;
Childcare is available in Room 102.
- **Parents Morning Out** (toddlers—4 yr. olds)
Mondays, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.
- **Discoverers (5 YO-6 Gr.)** Tuesdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m.; "What's in the Bible?" curriculum; Winter session ends February 25. Still can join <http://tinyurl.com/DiscWinter>
- **Children's Choir** (K-6th grade) rehearses
Sundays, 10:15-10:45 in the Chapel
- **Cherub Choir** (3,4,5 YO) rehearses
Sundays, 10:15-10:35 in Room 103
- **StuCo 56 (5th/6th grade)** meets Friday, February 7th at MUMC;
<http://tinyurl.com/StuCo56RSVP>
and February 21 snow tubing at Alpine Valley
<http://tinyurl.com/StuCo56Snow>
- **GENERATIONS**, family fellowship group, will be going bowling at Scores Fun Center in Painesville on Saturday, February 15th from 3-5 p.m. Cost is \$6 per person and this includes shoe rental!! **RSVP NO LATER THAN February 10th** — <http://tinyurl.com/GenBowling>

REGISTRATION FORM: A current form needs to be completed for each child for 2013-2014:

Printable: <http://tinyurl.com/MUMCKidMinReg>

Electronic: <http://tinyurl.com/CFMReg13-14>

NEWSLETTERS:

Sunday's Cool News <http://tinyurl.com/SCNFeb14>
and **ROOTED** <http://tinyurl.com/ROOTEDFeb14>.

MOPS & MOMSnext

"A Beautiful Mess: Embrace Your Story"

- "Disorderly Conduct": Friday, February 14th from 9:30 a.m.—12 p.m.
- MOPS: Moms with children birth through kindergarten
- MOMSnext: Moms with school aged children
- To learn more, and/or reserve childcare:
email mops@mentorumc.org or call 255-3496, ext. 18 by February 11th.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



UMW VALENTINE BOXES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

We are collecting monetary donations to purchase items for the Valentine boxes (we purchase the items so all the boxes are identical) and to cover the postage costs. You can place your donation in the offering plate on Sunday mornings (be sure to note it is for "Valentines") or leave it in the Church Office. The last Sunday to make your donation will be February 9th.

The NEW DAY CIRCLE will meet on Monday, February 10th at 10:00 a.m. in the Asbury Room to pack the Valentine boxes for the students. Contact Carole Ring (255-7213) or umw@mentorumc.org if you have questions. All women are welcome to join us as we package our Valentines!



PARENTS!!!

Please leave your student's name and address in the Church Office or email to gavery@mentorumc.org — we wouldn't want to miss anyone!

RUTH-ESTHER CIRCLE — We invite you to join us **Tuesday, February 11th at 9:30 a.m.** in the Asbury/Wesley Room. We'll be cleaning up the candle holders from Christmas Eve. Bring an old, small paring knife if you have one. All women of the church are invited!

HURRY & REGISTER FOR

Registration Deadline: February 2nd

Friday, February 21 — Saturday, February 22
Twinsburg Hilton Garden Inn

Women . . . Come for yummy cooked meals, time away to connect with friends and join in a time planned just for you. You may arrive stressed after a busy week, but will certainly head back home spiritually filled and blessed by your time with other women.

The theme for 2014 is **Walking God's Path: Named, Claimed . . . Never the Same.** Our speaker, Rev. Karen Cook will engage us by sharing God's truths for our lives. Come join us! Count on never being the same! Register Sunday mornings at the Welcome Center or on-line.



MERKEL LIBRARY

The Library offers a ministry that provides materials which assist patrons with Bible study aids, supplementary resources for interest-based ministries, and a variety of formats for personal growth and recreational interests.

Resources

Adult & Youth:

Books available include Bible translations; Biblical history; Biblical commentaries; special sections include United Methodist history, parenting, aging, relationships, devotions, prayer, men, women, health, holy days and humor; and fiction materials.

Children:

Children's materials are chosen to aid young readers as they progress from board books, to picture books, to beginning readers, to chapter books. These multi-level materials help children develop their Bible knowledge as well as areas of non-fiction and recreational reading interests.

Audio-Visual:

DVDs, CDs, books on CD, and the Bible on CD (including family and child oriented material). Weekly sermons from both Sanctuary and iConnect worship services.

Online Catalog:

In addition to accessing the Library card catalog through the computer in the Library, patrons may access the online catalog at home by following these easy steps:

- > Visit www.mentorumc.org
- > Click on Merkel Library under ministry tab
- > Enter your search request — search by author, title or subject
- > Review your search results
- > Reserve item by clicking on the reserve key

Lending and return policy: Books may be borrowed for four weeks. Audio-visual and reference may be borrowed for one week. All items have a card. You must sign both first and last names (legibly please), as well as the date borrowed and put the card into the box on the desk. All returned items are to be placed in the blue container by the desk in the Library.

ATTENTION WOMEN & TEEN GIRLS



Be part of a special women's choir for Women's Sunday, February 16th in the Sanctuary Services. Rehearsal will be Saturday, February 15th at 10 a.m. in the Choir Room. Only one song to learn! We will sing at the 9 and 11 a.m. services — choose to sing for one or both!

Please contact Carole Ring at umw@mentorumc.org or 255-7213 with questions or to make arrangements for getting the music before the rehearsal. Come sing with us! No experience is necessary!

SINGLES



SINGLES GROUP

S.A.L.T.

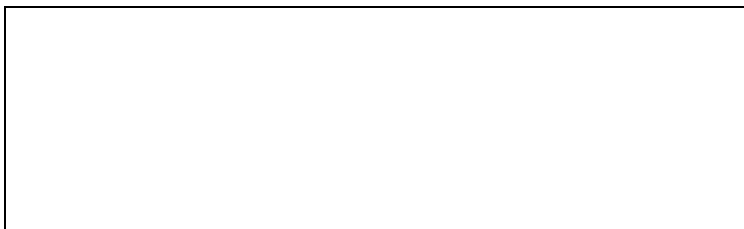
Standing for "Single Adults Living Truth," this group meets every Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. in Room 112. All singles are invited to this group that focuses on building friendships, studying a particular scripture or topic, and supportively praying for one another.

For more information or questions, please contact the Church Office, 255-3496

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



FINANCE UPDATE



Year-to-Date Operating
December 2013

Receipts	\$979,439.09
Disbursements	962,558.79
	+ \$16,880.30

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:
**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**
REMINDER:
**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS**

DEADLINE:
STEEPLETALK
February 6
For MARCH Issue

WORSHIP

SANCTUARY Worship — 9 & 11 a.m.

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

COMMUNION — 10:30 a.m.
(Adams Parlor)

CHILDREN

CHILDCARE — 9 & 11 a.m.

For infants—2 year old

SUNDAY SCHOOL — 9 & 11 a.m.

For 3 year olds—6th grade

CHECK-IN — 3 year old—6th grade

Check in before worship in the Chapel

PICK-UP — The children are in their
Classrooms in the Education Wing

YOUTH

PULSE — 10:10 a.m. (Pettit Youth Room)

For 9th—12th grade

PULSE 78 — 10:10 a.m. (Asbury Room)

For 7th & 8th grade

ADULTS

BREAKFAST CLUB — 10:10 a.m. (Room 109)

For young families

ADULT BIBLE STUDY — 10:10 a.m.

(Wesley Room)

