

STEEPLETALK

MARCH 2015



Recently I had my six month dental checkup. Cleaning and examination were performed, and then the report: No cavities, gums look good and nice job flossing. I'm pretty disciplined regarding flossing and brushing, so this report was encouraging and affirming.

The mission of the Mentor United Methodist Church is to lead all onto a path of Christ-centered discipleship. This is what we seek to do, what we live into through our ministry and investment of resources. As people walk the path of discipleship, their lives will be marked by knowing the love of God in Jesus Christ, growing deeper in their love of Christ, and showing Christ to others. Walking along the path, lives are transformed.

The vision of the church is that as people move along the path of Christ-centered discipleship four things will emerge:

We will go . . .
UPWARD in Worship
DEEPER in Discipleship
Grow TOGETHER in Christian Community
Go OUTWARD in Loving Service

Let me offer a short example and report.

UPWARD

For the full calendar year of 2014 worship attendance remained the same as 2013, and this was both the sanctuary and iConnect (each recording 50% of the total worship). While this is not necessarily a victory, consider the following:

- As a whole, worship attendance is slipping across the country, we're bucking the trend
- The first quarter of 2014 was a harsh winter compared to 2013
- Construction issues with parking, air conditioning, heat, etc. have made attendance a challenge

DEEPER

2014 was a banner year with small group ministry. We had 26 groups meeting during the fall for Christian to the Core. In these groups persons were energized in their Christian growth. Existing and new groups are carrying the momentum into 2015.

TOGETHER

Christian community is being discovered in the jump start of the fellowship team, covenant discipleship groups, small groups, and Sunday morning fellowship. Intentional efforts are being put forth to help people come, be received and be integrated into the life of the congregation.

OUTWARD

We have reached out in loving service with "Stop Hunger Now", new and existing outreach ministries, and all sorts of support locally, nationally and internationally. Through our ministries of small groups and worship, more and more people have been challenged to step out and serve others.

The long and rich heritage of the congregation continues as we find the living and transforming path of discipleship lived out. Thanks for what you're doing and discovering on the path of Christ-centered discipleship.

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Building Update With the break in weather recently the roofers were able to get enough roof on the new construction that it is dried in and heated. Framers are putting up walls, electrician running electrical service, and HVAC ductwork is being installed. Framing and finishing of windows in the Education Wing has begun. The completion date continues to be pushed back. Wednesday, February 18th the construction trailer was removed and that center of activity moved into the construction area as a cost savings.

Cost overruns are being monitored carefully. The overall costs have increased significantly, but scaling back some areas have created a new increase that appears to be manageable with our debt limits.

On-site parking includes:

- The NE parking lot (please allow this lot to be used by seniors, handicapped and visitors)
- NW parking lot (access to sanctuary)
- South & East parking lots (access to the south end of the Education Wing and into iConnect)

Sunday only parking

- The SW parking area can be used—subject to snow levels

Off-site Sunday parking

- The law offices on the corner of Mentor Avenue & Murray Avenue (sanctuary access)
- The Village Plaza (east one block on Mentor Ave.)
- Jimmy's Backyard Barbeque (only in the rear please)

Please be respectful of those who face hardship with longer walks. As you are able, please park farther away.

Announcing... **2015 MUMC SCHOLARSHIPS**

Are you a high school senior that is graduating in the spring of 2015 or current college student that will be working towards an undergraduate degree in the fall of 2015? If so, Mentor United Methodist Church is pleased to announce that applications for the MUMC Scholarship are available on the church's website <http://mentorumc.org/scholarship>. All graduating senior high students, current undergraduate college students 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 10th.**



**FINANCE UPDATE
YTD through JANUARY 2015**

Receipts	\$69,247
Disbursements	72,671
Deficit	3,424

**Electronic giving is available online at
www.mentorumc.org**

SERVANT OPPORTUNITIES

HEARTLAND VISITATION . . .

Our monthly worship service with the residents of Heartland will be at 10:45 a.m. March 15th You are most welcome to join us there.



MUMC MORE THAN A MEAL

Free Community Dinner Please consider joining us. Extra hands are always appreciated for set-up, starting at 4:30 through clean-up, which is usually around 7 p.m. Stop in, lend a hand, eat and visit with some of our guests so that you can share in this wonderful ministry. Our next meal will be March 28th. We are still looking for hosts for our summer meals. If you'd like more information, please contact Karen Martin at dansgirl9065@sbcglobal.net.



Celebration Bell Choir is looking for new people to play bells. No experience is necessary, but ability to read music is helpful. We rehearse on Wednesday evenings in the Sanctuary from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

If you are interested in joining us or have any questions, please contact Tracy Paroubek at 440-289-8356 or email her at t.l.paroubek@gmail.com.



**MUMC PRESCHOOL
PLAYGROUND NEWS**

We are committed to providing outdoor play as a part of our preschool day. Our playground was removed as part of the building project. While it will be slightly reconfigured, we will still have an area to play. Some of the equipment will not be returned due to current safety codes. Other items can be returned. We have two swings, a Little Tykes climbing system and three bouncers that are for sale. Please contact Suzanne Teringo, 440-974-9281 or email suzanneteringo@sbcglobal.net if you are interested in providing a good home for any of these pieces. Any offer will be considered.

We have purchased some new items for our playground. Many generous people have helped our preschool raise \$10,330 towards our goal of \$13,000. **We can still use your help!** Donations can be made to MUMC, Playground on the memo line. Thank you for your support!



Dear Friends,

My family and I wish to thank you so much for the outpouring of love you have shown us since the passing of my Mother. Your warm smiles, loving hugs, and gentle words of comfort have all been so much appreciated. I know they will help ease the pain of loss over time. I am ever so thankful for my church community.

— Janet Siekmann & Family

That 70's BIG EVENT!

Sunday, March 15th

Our annual fundraiser for Youth Service Project has a 70's theme this year! So come dressed in some 70's garb for fun! We will have a pasta dinner, live auction, door prizes, silent auction, talent show and Minute-to-Win-It games!

Our talent show will feature variety acts from youth and families and feature the Charter Members! This is a great evening of fun and fellowship and supports our awesome youth in their efforts to serve.

Tickets will be available from YSP youth, at the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings, and the Church Office. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids 12 and under, FREE for children 3 and under.

Youth receive some credit toward their trip for selling their tickets, and the general fundraising we do will help us pay for building cabins for a new ministry for Native American youth in Northport, Michigan called Spirit Journey, June 19-27!

Doors will open at 5 p.m. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. Silent Auction will be distributed beginning at 7:30 p.m. The evening ends at 8 p.m.

Do you have an item or service to donate to the Big Event auction by March 9th? Your support benefits Native American Youth in Northport, Michigan! Please email Phyllis Hanson at bpmehanson@gmail.com or call 440-840-4927.

THROUGH THE YEARS

March is Women's History Month (designated by the U.S. Congress) and many, many women have helped shape the Methodist faith. Sarah Crosby, as early as 1761 preached to crowds in England about Christ and the Wesley movement. While not recognized as a preacher because of her gender, Rev. Wesley encouraged her to preach to thousands of the faithful for many years displaying her "extraordinary call".

Barbara Heck is considered the mother of American Methodism. She urged Philip Embury to begin preaching in New York City. She was also behind the construction of the John Street Methodist Church, one of the two earliest Methodist churches in the United States. John Street Methodist still exists in lower Manhattan.

Sojourner Truth, a slave emancipated in New York State when slavery was abolished there in 1827, founded the Kingston Methodist Church.

Perhaps one of the most significant women in Methodist history is Dr. Clara Swain. She was born in Elmira, New York in 1834 and joined the Methodist Church at age eight. This influenced her to pursue a "Christian profession". She graduated from the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1869 and answered a call for a female doctor to go to India (at that time male doctors were not allowed to treat females). Dr. Swain arrived in India in 1870 and began caring for patients and also witnessing for Christ. She gave clinical experience to females who were working with orphaned sick and eventually thirteen of these women passed their exams to become doctors. In 1874, the Clara Swain Hospital opened as the first hospital for women in India. Dr. Swain worked in India for twenty-seven years, she passed away on Christmas Day, 1910. Her contribution to medicine in India, particularly for women, is immense.

These are but a few examples of the countless women who have served the Lord and helped build our denomination. On May 4, 1956, women achieved full clergy rights in the Methodist Church, a milestone achievement for women.

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 you can email him at dhumphrey@ameritch.net.

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) AND 3rd Grade will meet the Education Wing — parents need to sign these children in at their classrooms
- Kindergarten through 6th Grade (MINUS 3rd Grade) will meet in the Chapel after check-in
- Family Worship is FIRST Sunday of the month and K-6th graders (MINUS 3rd Grade) remain in worship with their families; a special KidMin bulletin is available at check-in
- <http://mentorumc.org/sunday-school>

GROW

- **StuCo 56**, 5th & 6th grade youth group
 - **Rock Wall Climbing** on Friday, March 6th leaving MUMC at 5:15 p.m., returning at 8:30
 - **Meeting on Friday, March 20** from 7 to 9:00 p.m.
 - www.mentorumc.org/stuco-56
- **GENERATIONS**, family fellowship group
 - **March 14 BOWLING at SCORES** 3:00-5:00 p.m.
 - www.mentorumc.org/generations
- **SUMMER PROGRAM DATES**
 - Vacation Bible School — June 22-26
 - Get Out Doors (G.O.D.) Camp — June 22-26
 - Theatre Arts Camp — July 20-24 AND 27-31
 - www.mentorumc.org/summer-programs

SHOW

- **Sunday School Leadership sign up**
 - www.mentorumc.org/sunday-school
- **Summer Program Leadership sign up**
 - www.mentorumc.org/children

NEWSLETTERS & CHILD REGISTRATION FORMS:

- www.mentorumc.org/children

• **MOPS & MOMSnext Monthly Meeting**

- Friday, March 13th from 9:30 a.m. to noon
MOPS: "Courage to Face Your Fears"
- www.mentorumc.org/mops



MALLEY'S EASTER CANDY SALE

Stop at the Welcome Center on Sunday morning and pick up an order form for the MOPS & MOMSnext annual Malley's Easter candy sale now through March 8th!

Order forms are also available in the Church Office during the week. Save time from waiting in line and support MOPS & MOMSnext program!

NEW DAY CIRCLE: March 22nd is World Water Day! The New Day Circle will meet **Monday, March 9th** from 10:00—11:30 a.m. in the Chapel to get an early start celebrating and focusing on the importance of freshwater. Please contact Carole Ring at umw@mentorumc.org or 255-7213 if you have questions. All women are welcome to join us!

RUTH-ESTHER CIRCLE: Our next meeting is March 10th at **9:30 a.m.** Come for a time of fellowship and refreshments. All women are welcome to join us.



NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Explore the basics of the Christian faith with leaders Pastor Bev and Steve Wrobel. There will be five classes meeting on Tuesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

There is no cost for attending, but class size is limited so registration is required. Child care is available. Meeting dates: Tuesdays—March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31.

To register call Pastor Bev at 440-255-3496, ext. 14 or email her at blwrobel@mentorumc.org. Please let her know if child care will be required — ages of the children.

SMALL GROUP

**TUESDAY MORNING STUDY GROUP:
The Christ Centered Woman**

Author Kimberly Reisman, provides a guide to finding balance at every age and stage of life, answers to stress and imbalance, and living a Spirit-filled and Christ-centered life. **March 10—April 7, Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m.—11 a.m. in the Chapel.** To register email gavery@mentorumc.org



Easter Ham Orders

EASTER HONEY BAKED HAM
orders can be placed at the
Welcome Center on Sunday
mornings March 8th-22nd

Orders will be delivered to the church and should be ready for pickup Saturday, April 4th from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Don't wait in line at the store!

Proceeds benefit MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION WEEK. For questions, call Nancy Nagle at 440-255-1452.



FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY: Our church food pantry is very low on food. The Easter food basket distribution is Monday, March 30th. Please help us help those in need. Sunday, March 22nd, we will be distributing grocery bags with attached lists of needed food after services. Please fill them and return on Sunday, March 29th. The food will be sorted that Sunday starting at 12:15 in Fellowship Hall. Monday, March 30th at 9 a.m. we will fill the boxes and distribute them starting at 11 a.m. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

I have read that it is important for us to always “count our blessings”, but it is equally important for us to SHARE our blessings. Thank you for being such a “sharing” congregation! — *Bobbi Spahr & MUM Food Ministry*



“SOCK IT” TO HUNGER — Lenten Mission Project

Socks are available to set aside money from now until March 29th to help provide meals and other life-saving aid to children and families all over the world. SHN collaborates with existing development efforts in vulnerable communities to provide meals to places such as schools, orphanages, nurseries and medical clinics. Each six-serving bag packaged by volunteers includes rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and a flavoring mix with 21 essential vitamins and minerals and has a shelf-life of two years. Find out more about SHN at www.stophungernow.org.

Once again, Mentor United Methodist Church is asking our children and adults to participate in this important program. Socks were passed out on Sunday, February 22nd during worship. Your filled socks are to be returned on Sunday, March 29th **If you missed getting a sock to fill, they are available at the Welcome Center on Sunday morning. Just 29 cents provides one meal! Here are a few suggestions on ways to save money for this project . . .**

- + **Set aside \$1 a day for each day of Lent**
- + **Eat one, give one — put aside 29 cents for each meal you eat**
- + **Give up a meal out, a coffee, etc., and contribute the money you would have spent**
- + **Check out the coin calendar included in your sock for other ideas**



SAVE THE DATE!! May 16th — STOP HUNGER NOW meal packaging event coming to MUMC. Join us and be one of the meal packaging volunteers! Watch for more information in the bulletin and upcoming newsletters.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THIS MISSION EVENT! The evening of Sunday, APRIL 26th, the McCurdy Mission Team, Missions Commission, and UMW will host a free will offering dinner and informational time highlighting the McCurdy School in New Mexico. Our church has had a covenant relationship with McCurdy School for many years and we will be sending our first mission team to McCurdy School later this year. More information will follow in Sunday bulletins and the April Steepletalk. So, put **April 26th** on your calendar now as you won't want to miss this opportunity!



Come have a blast at the First Annual ALL-CHURCH Minute-To-Win-It Competition sponsored by the MUMC Fellowship Team

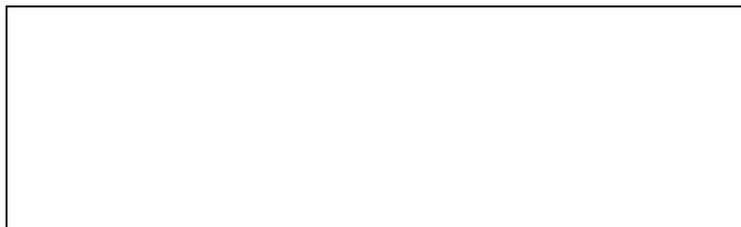
This evening of pure fun games will be the talk for years to come! Anyone, any age can play or you can come and just watch others trying to outdo each other and outdo the clock! It will take place, Sunday, March 22nd at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. There will be fellowship, fun, food, and awards.

If you would like to be on one of the eight teams, notify Craig Eppler, 440-205-9940, or any Fellowship Team member.

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.
3 & 4 Yr. Olds check-in and remain in Room 105/107
in Education Wing; **3rd Graders** will check-in and
remain in Room 108/110 in Education Wing;
K-6th Grade (MINUS 3rd Grade) will check-in
and remain in Chapel.

Family Worship (1st Sunday of month)
3 & 4 Year Olds—Adams Parlor
K-6th Grade remain in worship

Painesville United Methodist Church
Invites you to join them for
CADENCE (Vocal Jazz Ensemble) Concert
Sunday, March 1st at 4 p.m.

Cadence is an a cappella jazz ensemble from Toronto. The members of Cadence bring an infectious energy and uncanny verve to every song they sing. They feature a hypnotic blend of complex harmonies, intricate arrangements, vocal dexterity, and just plain fun. No charge for admission — free-will offering will be taken.

SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER — The Annual YSP Plant sale is coming May 8, 9 & 10. **Pre-sale for annuals in flats and pots coming in APRIL.**



STEEPLETALK
Deadline
For APRIL Issue
March 5th



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

