

STEEPLETALK

December 2016



Looking into the night sky, have you ever spotted a star, only to see it move? You look and wonder, only to realize that it's an aircraft high in the sky. Most people are fascinated by airplanes. While sitting at an airport terminal, or nearby, it is interesting to watch an approaching night flight plane. At first the light is a faint glimmer, but you know where it is headed and that means it's coming your way. The distinctive spot light of the plane pierces the night. Slowly it becomes brighter and bigger, it seems to take forever, inching closer, not like its actual approach at 100+ MPH. Larger and larger is the light, then the faint outline of the jet, and finally the aircraft makes the landing. This watching event can take many minutes to unfold.

The prophet Isaiah declared words of hope in the midst of gloom and distress saying, *"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."* (Isaiah 9:2)

I enjoy an early morning walk, and certain times of the year while I walk I can see the unfolding of the dawn of a new day. At first there's darkness in the eastern sky, then just a hint of light, then redness emerges, followed by yellow sky, and finally the morning sun emerges from its sleep and brightens the world.

The image of light presented by Isaiah is something we understand. It is a powerful way to grasp the unfolding of something special. And for Isaiah that something special was revealed in verse 6, *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."* (Isaiah 9:6)

On November 27th, we start the season of Advent—coming. During the four Sundays of Advent, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day we'll be focusing on the theme of light. Just like the landing of an aircraft or the rising of the sun, from November 27—December 25 we'll share in the approaching light of the world and the fulfillment of promises and the hope of the world, culminating with the celebration of the birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

We look forward to sharing the season with you.

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|------------------------------------|---|
| Sunday, November 27 | "Christmas Light Show—Night Light" |
| Sunday, December 4 | "Christmas Light Show—Head Lights" |
| Sunday, December 11 | "Christmas Light Show—Strings of Light"
Choir Cantata in the Sanctuary
"A Noel Celebration" |
| Sunday, December 18 | "Christmas Light Show—Spot Light" |
| Saturday, December 24 | "Christmas Light Show—Candle Light" |
| 3:00 p.m. | Worship & Communion—Sanctuary |
| 5:00 p.m. | Family Service—Sanctuary |
| 7:00 p.m. | iConnect & Sanctuary Services |
| 9:00 p.m. | Sanctuary Service with singing of the "Hallelujah Chorus" |
| 11:00 p.m. | Sanctuary Service with singing of the "Hallelujah Chorus" |
| Sunday, December 25—Sanctuary only | |
| 9:00 a.m. | Christmas Light Show—Star Light, Service of Carols |

Lead Pastor

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SERVANT OPPORTUNITIES



*Christmas Eve
Ushers Needed*

The sign up sheet for Christmas Eve ushers will be available on Sunday mornings at the Sign-Up Center table (Atrium area next to Fellowship Hall) for the next few weeks. Opportunities to serve as an usher on Saturday, December 24th are 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Instruction sessions will be offered on Wednesday, December 14 and Wednesday, December 21 in the Narthex from 7-8:00 p.m. You can also call the Church Office to sign up - 255-3496. If you have questions, call Chris Mel-drum, 1-440-220-0824.



HEARTLAND VISITATION . . .

On Sunday, December 18th at 10:45 a.m. we will celebrate the birth of Christ with the residents of Heartland. Please join us as we listen to the familiar Bible story and sing carols together.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES FOR WINTER**

Sign-Ups are Open for Sunday School Leadership:

- **9 a.m. Dec., Jan., Feb.:** Babies, Toddlers & 2 Yr. Olds - 3 people; 3 & 4 Yr. Olds - 1 person
- **11 a.m. Dec., Jan., Feb.:** Babies, Toddlers & 2 Yr. Olds - 1 person; 3 & 4 Yr. Olds - 2 people; K-2nd grade - 2 people; 5th/6th grade - 1 person
- www.mentorumc.org/sunday-school



**THE MUMC COAT MINISTRY NEEDS
YOUR HELP!**

We are looking for donations of new, or gently used, warm, clean coats, hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves. ALL donations are appreciated, but **we are in very short supply of children's coats . . . infants to teens.** All donations can be brought to the church and placed in the bin designated for them.

Please search your heart and your closets, knowing always that "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me."



Christmas Giving Trees . . .

Show Christ's love by gifting children. Our Giving Trees are located in the Gallery and outside the Chapel. Stop by and pick one of the ornaments off the tree. **Gifts should be wrapped and**

have the TAG you take from the tree attached. Bring your gift back to the church no later than noon Sunday, December 11th. Food and gifts will be distributed to the families on Monday, December 12th. We will be providing gifts for over 100 families so we need everyone to help make this possible.

Other ways to help this holiday season . . .

- #1 SHOP! On Sunday, December 4th** take one of the grocery bags being passed out after worship and purchase some of the items on the attached list. Bring the bag of food back the next **Sunday, December 11th by noon.**
- #2 HELP SORT FOOD & GIFTS!** Sorting for the Christmas food boxes and gifts will be done on **Sunday, December 11th in Fellowship Hall at 12:30 p.m.** All are welcome to join us in preparation for the distribution. **We also need help on Monday, December 12th at 9 a.m. to complete boxing the food and sorting gifts.** Distribution to families will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Any time you can contribute to help with sorting, preparation, or distribution will be greatly appreciated.

LOOKING AHEAD . . .

Saddle Up & Mosey on in for a FREE Chili Lunch in Fellowship Hall following the 11:00 a.m. services Sunday, January 8th, with Cori Babcock sharing her experiences from her trip to Hungary where she was hosted by Mark and Eszti Landerholm and helped with the horse camp where they work with orphans.

HOLIDAY EVENTS



Young at Heart Luncheon

Hosted by the United Methodist Women
Wednesday, December 7th at Noon in Fellowship Hall

Sixty-two years old or older? Then you are invited to enjoy a Christmas lunch 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!

Fellow UMC Holiday Offerings . . .



Not Just Another Story

**43rd Annual Live Nativity Scene
North Mentor Centenary UMC
December 17th & 18th
7:00—9:00 p.m.**

The outdoor replica of the birthplace of Jesus has been filled with members & friends of the congregation dressing as one of the participants from so long ago. Many babies have played the part of Jesus and have gone on to adult parts with their children continuing the tradition. **There is ample parking to view the scene up close or if time does not permit you to do so, you may drive through.**

We hope that you will take the time to come and visit the "True Meaning of Christmas" this year.

9290 Lakeshore Blvd. at Corduroy Road
Questions? Call the Church Office 440-257-6419

WILLOUGHBY HILLS UMC Choir presents ...

CHRISTMAS TAPESTRY

**Saturday, December 17th
7:00 p.m.**

Admission is free — childcare will be provided.
Refreshments will be served after the concert.



Christmas Cantata

**Sunday, December 11th
9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Sanctuary**

A Noel Celebration
Sounds & Stories of Christmas

Presented by MUMC Chancel Choir
And Painesville UMC Choir

**The Children & Youth
of Mentor United Methodist Church will be
presenting
annual
mas Musi-
cal**



**Saturday, December 10th
4 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
All are invited!!**

A Potluck Dinner will follow the program in the Gallery. Please bring a family-size dish to share.



*Charter Members
Christmas Concert*

**Annual
Christmas Concert
Friday, December 16th
7:30 p.m. — Sanctuary**

Be sure to bring your family and friends for this wonderful holiday event!



Christmas Caroling

A free-will offering will be taken. Refreshments will follow in the Gallery.

**ALL-CHURCH
CHRISTMAS CAROLING
Sunday, December 18th
3:00—5:00 p.m.**

Please help us share the joy of Christmas. We will meet in the Gallery and carpool to the homes of church members who may not be able to get out this

THROUGH THE YEARS

One of the many joys people experience during the Christmas season is the sight of a live Nativity Scene. Many places, including our friends at North Mentor Centenary United Methodist Church, display them for all to enjoy. The recreation of Christ's birth brings us all closer to the Lord on his birthday.

The first person to be credited with creating a live Nativity is one of the most famous and kindest people in Christian history, St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis is well known for his love of animals and emphasis that they to are God's creation. He was also a very humble man who lived a life of poverty.

Once, when visiting the Holy Land, St. Francis visited the site that tradition said was the birthplace of Christ. In 1223, he traveled to the town of Greccio in Italy to celebrate Midnight Mass at Christmas. The local chapel was too small to handle the number of people who would be attending the mass so St. Francis decided to hold the service outside. He found a niche in a rock near the town square. Remembering his visit to the Holy Land, he decided to impress upon the people the conditions of Christ's birth. St. Francis had gotten permission from the Pope, Honorius III, to celebrate the mass outside the church. He got a manger, brought some straw, and set them up in the niches. He also got a donkey and an ox and placed them near the manger. He wanted the congregation "to see with the eyes of the body the hardships in which He was placed because of the necessities for a newborn were lacking."

Since that Christmas nearly 800 years ago, untold numbers of churches and other places have recreated the scene of Christ's birth. If you'd like to see a live Nativity scene this year, keep watch in the News-Herald, they usually list them sometime in December. Wherever and whatever you do this Christmas season, remember that little baby in that humble place who went on to transform the world. Merry Christmas everyone!

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



dhumph-

Our 2016 Christmas Offering . . .

Internationally: 1/3 Camphor Mission (\$2500); balance to Africa University

Nationally: 1/3 McCurdy Ministries, Espanola, New Mexico (\$2000); balance to UMCOR, Advance for National Disaster Relief #901670

Locally: 1/3 divided equally between Project Hope, Painesville and The McKinley

rey@ameritech.net.



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

Rev. John Richard Hendricks

Rev. Ron Eppler



KNOW

- **Sunday School**
 - . Babies & Toddler/2 year olds AND 3 & 4 year olds (3 yrs. Old as of September 30, 2016 & toilet trained) - Early Childhood Check-In
 - . K-2nd grade meet in Room 107
 - . 3rd grade meet in Room 107
 - . 4th-6th grade meet in Room 103
 - . Family Worship is FIRST Sunday of the month & K-6th graders attend worship with families
 - . **No Sunday School on Christmas Day**

GROW

- **StuCo 56**, 5th & 6th grade youth group
 - . **Sunday, December 11** from 12:00-1:30 p.m. for Food Sorting **AND** from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at MUMC
 - . **Wednesday, December 28** from 5:30-7:30 p.m. AT Scores Fun Center in Painesville <http://mentorumc.org/stuco-56>
- **MOPS & MOMSnext Monthly Meeting**
 - . **Meeting—Friday, December 9th** from 9:30-noon
 - . **Service Opportunity** on Monday, December 12th, 9 a.m.—11:00 a.m. at MUMC <http://mentorumc.org/mops>

SHOW

- **Sunday School Leadership** sign up www.mentorumc.org/sunday-school
- Children's Choir (1-6 Gr.) rehearses Sundays at 10:15-10:45, Room 112
- Cherub Choir (3 Yr. Old-K) rehearses Sundays, 10:15-10:45, Room 104

NEWSLETTERS & CHILD REGISTRATION FORMS:



9:00 a.m. **Sanctuary Service** of Covenant Renewal & Holy Communion

11:00 a.m. **iConnect Service** of Covenant Renewal & Holy Communion

Sanctuary only at 9 a.m.



Finance Update

FINANCE

YTD through OCTOBER 31, 2016

Receipts	\$820,457.
Disbursements	798,067.
Surplus	22,390.

ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

Did you know that in addition to offering envelopes UMC offers safe and convenient electronic giving options? Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit or debit card. Visit the website to sign up today www.mentorumc.org/onlinegiving or contact Teresa Simons in the office for more information.

Now you can text your offerings too. In less time than it takes to write a check, you can now make your contribution to Mentor United Methodist Church with a quick text message.

To get started, simply text **440-210-9089** with the dollar amount you would like to contribute, complete the registration, and receive verification by text and email. For future giving simply text the amount you want to give, verify and receive a receipt. We hope you find this option convenient for those days that you forgot the checkbook.

YEAR END GIVING

As the 2016 calendar year closes, please seek to honor your 2016 commitments.

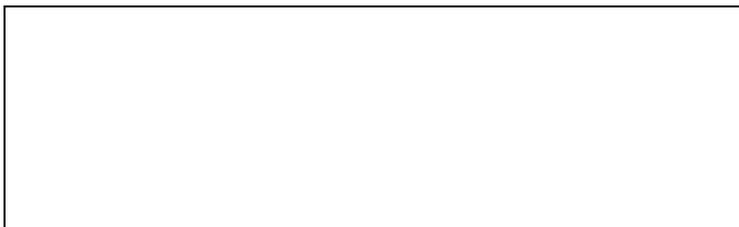
There are other helpful matters to consider as you remember the church's mission and ministry:

1. A charitable donation is an excellent way to leverage tax advantages.
2. By transferring investments to the church you can

Mentor United Methodist Church
8600 Mentor Avenue
Mentor OH 44060

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

COMMUNION

10:15 a.m.
Join us in the Chapel
(Except for the 1st Sunday of the month)

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Saturday

December 24, 2016

- 3:00 p.m. Worship & Communion—Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Family Worship Service—Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Worship Service
- 7:00 p.m. iConnect Service—Fellowship Hall
- 9:00 p.m. Sanctuary Worship Service
with the “Hallelujah Chorus”
- 11:00 p.m. Sanctuary Worship Service
with the “Hallelujah Chorus”

Candle lighting at all services

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25—Sanctuary Only
Worship at 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Service of Carols

(No worship services in iConnect)



Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus!



STEEPLETALK
DECEMBER 5th
For JANUARY Issue



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

