

STEEPLETALK

November 2016



When you look around the world at the cities and towns that have emerged through time, it is often noted that communities settled on the banks of a river. The Colorado, Ohio and Mississippi Rivers tell the story. So do the Nile, Danube and Euphrates Rivers. It is clear that flowing water draws people. Water is essential for life, so it is obvious it attracts civilization.

But not all water draws. The Dead Sea is a large body of water located in the arid region of the Middle East, bordering Israel and Jordan. Cities aren't built around this body of water. There is a reason. The Dead Sea is a body of water that receives, but there is no outlet. The result is water that passes in, settles in stagnation, and its only escape comes through evaporation that leaves behind salt and minerals. The high salinity prevents fish and aquatic plants from living. It is indeed a dead sea that receives but doesn't give, it is not life giving.

Humans can be like rivers or the Dead Sea. We can receive and then give life, or receive and die. To really live is to share, and that means share our gifts. These gifts might be to know God personally, the gift of time, assets, talents/abilities, and the stories of our lives. If we simply receive and hold onto these things, we risk becoming a stale and lifeless person. Here are some examples:

- God wants to develop intimacy with us, to grow in our relationship with God, and to shape the world we live in through the power of prayer.
- Sharing the gift of our discretionary time with God's people.
- Faithfully sharing a portion of our financial blessings to support and invest in what God is doing in our world.
- Using our talents, skills and spiritual gifts to make the world a better place.
- Sharing the gift of what God has done for us to other persons, and to sometimes share that work through our actions and behaviors.

Jesus declared, *"To whom much is given, but much is required."* (Luke 12:48) We are called to be good stewards of our relationship with God through prayer. We are challenged to be good guardians of our time as we gather together in Christian community. When we have been blessed with finances, we give back a portion. With talents, skills and gifts we possess, we offer our service. And when God has done a work in our lives, we don't keep that story but we share it with others through words and actions.

That's how the waters of life flow in and through us, and bless others. We have been blessed to be a blessing (Genesis 12:2). So don't hold on to what you receive, but share it with others. Be life giving and a blessing to others.

— Pastor Kurt

Lead Pastor

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Return form with check to:

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

Last date to order: DECEMBER 7th

We will also be at the Sign Up Center table (in the Atrium outside Fellowship Hall) on Sunday, November 13th, 20, and 27th. 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(s) _____

In memory of _____

In appreciation of _____

To the Glory of God _____

My flowers are for _____ Sanctuary _____ iConnect/Fellowship Hall

Total number of plants ordered _____ x \$7 = \$ _____

_____ Cash _____ Check

SERVANT OPPORTUNITIES



PLEASE BRING FOOD DONATIONS FOR OUR FOOD PANTRY

The holidays will be here before we know it. Your items can be left at the Sign Up Center (in the Atrium outside Fellowship Hall) on Sunday mornings or dropped off at the church during the week. Some of our needs are:

peanut butter & jelly	applesauce
macaroni & cheese	all types of crackers
complete boxed dinners	spaghetti sauce & pasta
Spaghetti O's	instant potatoes, rice, stuffing mix
stew, chili, ravioli	packaged cookies
canned/boxed soups	canned fruit
cereal—hot & cold	canned vegetables
pancake mix & syrup	dish soap
canned tuna, chicken	toilet paper

Food sorting for Thanksgiving boxes will be done on Sunday, November 13th 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, November 14th at 9 a.m.** to complete boxing the food. **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 sort, prepare, or distribute will be greatly appreciated.**



SIGN UP FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER HELP & DONATIONS WILL CONTINUE THROUGH NOVEMBER 20th. Our 2016 Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner isn't possible without your help.

Stop at the Sign Up Center outside Fellowship Hall to sign up to help set-up, serve, or clean up or make a food donation. Monetary donations are also needed. We look forward to serving along side you again this year! – Jim & Lori Post.



HURRICANE MATTHEW: The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is working with its partners along the southeast coast of the United States, Haiti, Cuba, Jamaica, and the Bahamas. You may support relief work through a donation to UMCOR. Make checks out to MUMC and include on memo line the number of the fund you wish to make your donation: **Fund 901670** - U.S. Disaster Response; or **Fund 982450** - International Disaster Response.

Thank you for your continued prayers and for the donation of your financial resources as we work together with The United Methodist Church to respond to those in need. To find more out about how you can help others following natural disasters, **visit www.eocumc.com - Disaster Response page.**

HELP! PROJECT HOPE is a very busy shelter for the homeless, the only one in Lake County. MUMC provides a dinner only once a month on the first Wednesday of every month for 40 individuals at the shelter. It is one small way that we can be Christ's hands, providing a meal to those less fortunate than we are. Please do not be overwhelmed by the number 40. Volunteer to provide part of the meal, a salad, a dessert, a casserole or a meatloaf! Gather with a group of friends for an afternoon to provide the whole meal or volunteer just to help put it together or deliver the meal. If you are not a cook, pay for a catered meal. Be creative and help us meet this monthly obligation.

We do not serve the meal, we only deliver it, ready to serve, to the shelter in Painesville. Meals are to be delivered by 6:45 p.m. **We need your help for meals on December 7th, January 4th and the rest of 2017.** Please contact Nancy Leyden who coordinates this service. She can be reached at 440-255-1567, leave a message if she isn't home, or email her at nancyleyden@att.net.



ANNUAL COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER
Thursday, November 24th
Fellowship Hall — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Gather with us and discover the powerful way God works when people are fed. Celebrate the holiday

THROUGH THE YEARS

There is no question that the greatest Christian missionary mentioned in the Bible is Paul. The story is well known of the conversion of Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus. Saul was a vigorous persecutor of early Christians who became Christianity's biggest champion. Why did Saul change his name to Paul? Paul was a gentile name with Roman origins. The new name helped with Paul's preaching to the people he met in his travels. It also signified a break with his Hebrew past as Paul was not only a Hebrew but had been a Pharisee. Paul's roots go back to the Tribe of Benjamin, one of the twelve tribes of Israel. Though the smallest of the twelve tribes, Benjamin, produced the first king of Israel, Saul, as well as Mordecai and Ester, deliverers of the Israelites.

Paul also had an occupation. He was a tentmaker. As a Pharisee, Paul would have believed in a very strict interpretation in the Law. Pharisees would not care to associate with others who did not share their views of the Law and of Jewish traditions. Paul is believed to have witnessed the stoning to death of Stephen, the first Christian martyr.

His conversion to becoming a follower of Christ resulted in the expansion of Christianity far beyond the shores of the Roman province of Palestine. He traveled into Asia Minor (Turkey), Greece, and to Rome. There are some accounts that claim he even went as far as Spain. It was during these journeys that his letters were written which became books in the New Testament. Though imprisoned, scorned, and persecuted, Paul continued to spread the word of Christ. He was martyred in Rome around 67 or 68 A.D. He was most likely beheaded.

Paul's life and his Christian journey is an inspiration to us all. It demonstrates that no matter where we are in our own journeys of life, Christ can lead us to glory. I would like to thank John Hardy for providing me with a great deal of the material for this month's article.

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

OPPORTUNITY EXPO

Sunday, November 6

We are putting on display the many ministry opportunities found in and through our congregation. Every day our church is in ministry and mission. Some are obvious, like the ministry of hospitality that greets us at the entrances on Sunday morning. Others are behind the scenes, quietly straightening up the pew racks or shelving returned books in the Church Library. Our ministries reach out into the community and world through tutoring, meal preparation for the homeless and providing transportation. There are many ministries, each are important. And each of you is important as we work together to accomplish God's work.

Our church is like a large jigsaw puzzle. There are many pieces, each with a different shape and look, each is important, and together we make the whole. We're looking to help everyone, 100% who call Mentor UMC home, to find their fit.

Following both of the worship services you are invited to visit our ministry tables and learn about ministry opportunities. Refreshments will be served following both services, with hotdogs and chips after the 11:00 service. You can even receive special gifts when you visit our tables.



Join us in the Gallery and expanded areas to visit our ministry

KNOW

- **Sunday School Schedule**
 - . Babies & Toddler/2 yr. olds AND 3 & 4 year olds (3 yrs. Old as of September 30th & toilet trained)
Meet in Early Childhood Check-In
 - . K-2nd Grade—Room 107
 - . 3rd Grade—Room 103
 - . 4th—6th Grade—Room 104
 - . Family Worship is FIRST Sunday of the month and K-6th graders remain in worship with their families
 - . <http://mentorumc.org/sunday-school>

GROW

- **StuCo 56**, 5th & 6th grade youth group
 - . **Sunday, November 13, 12-1:30 p.m.**
for Food Sorting for Thanksgiving AND
From 5:30-7:30 p.m. at MUMC
 - . www.mentorumc.org/stucco-56
- **MOPS & MOMSnext Monthly Meeting**
 - . **Fellowship Hall on Friday, November 11**
9:30 a.m. to Noon
 - . **Service Opportunity**—Monday, November 14
from 9:00-11:00 a.m.
 - . <http://mentorumc.org/mops>
- **Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes due Sunday, November 13th**
www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-Christmas-child

SHOW

- **Sunday School Leadership sign up**
, www.mentorumc.org/sunday-school

Thursday, November 17
6:30—8:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

“Step back in time to a medieval adventure . . . where kids discover how to become part of God's royal family.”

Activities include:
GAMES
CREATE A CROWN
CUPCAKE MARCH
SELFIE BOOTH
POPCORN

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



RUTH-ESTHER CIRCLE will not meet in November as we will be working on setting up for the Gingerbread House Craft Fair during the week of October 31st and at the fair on Friday, November 4th and Saturday,

Mark your calendars for our December 13 Christmas luncheon. Watch for more details!

The Mentor United Methodist Women invite you to join us for our



ANNUAL GINGERBREAD HOUSE CRAFT SHOW

Friday, November 4th, 4 to 9 p.m.
Pizza & Sloppy Joes available 5 to 8 p.m.

Saturday, November 5th, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Lunch available 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Soups - Chili - Hotdogs - Taco Salad

Come shop the wonderful array of handmade gift items by over 85 local crafters & vendors.
Attic Treasures, Bake Shoppe, Middlefield cheese, and more.

The Gingerbread House Craft Show is sponsored by the Mentor United Methodist Women.
All proceeds benefit the local, national, and international mission projects of the UMW.

REMINDER: Please bring your attic treasures, homemade baked good donations and Country Cupboard Donations of homemade candy, vinegars, snacks, jellies, pickles—any kitchen specialties, and handmade crafts and/or Christmas ornaments to the Church Office beginning Monday, October 31st through Friday, November 4th.

SERVANT OPPORTUNITIES

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR FLAT ROCK HOMES

Items from Flat Rock’s wish list are being collected through Friday, November 11th, to share some Christmas joy with those that Flat Rock serves. New, unused, unwrapped gifts may be placed in the designated box in the Sign-Up Center (Atrium outside Fellowship Hall doors), or monetary donations or gift cards specified on the list will be accepted in the Church Office.

Wish lists gifts include:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| puzzles (100-500 pieces) | mosaic puzzle boards |
| wooden puzzles | Bath & Body Works gift sets (any scent) |
| women’s nail polish sets | men’s cologne sets |
| word search puzzle books | sun catchers |
| sports apparel | specific toys, arts & crafts |

See the complete list with specific items and sizes in the Sign-Up Center or online at www.mentorumc.org. There are many to choose from! Thank you for supporting this ministry and helping to make this Christmas merry for the Flat Rock individuals!!

ROAD TRIP! ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US for a Road Trip to Flat Rock Homes, Saturday, November 12th
Flat Rock Homes is a United Methodist affiliated agency that serves individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

We will meet in the Gallery at 8 a.m. to carpool to Flat Rock where we will tour the Care Center, join in an activity with some of the individuals living there, and help wrap some Christmas gifts before returning to the church by 4 p.m. Lunch will be provided by Flat Rock.

Please contact Carole Ring (440-255-7213 or umw@mentorumc.org) if you would like to join in the visit to Flat Rock so we'll be sure to have enough transportation lined up.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

EVERYONE is welcome and encouraged to put together a shoebox. Again this year, Samaritans Purse will hand deliver more than 100 million shoebox gifts to children in more than 100 countries on six continents.

Pick up a shoebox and folder with directions in the Church Office. All filled shoeboxes need to be returned to the church by Sunday, November 14th. \$7 per shoebox donation is asked to help cover the cost of shipping — you can donate the \$7 even if you aren't filling a shoebox (cks. to MUMC - note Shoebox).

For more information about this program and the impact it has on the children who receive the shoeboxes please check out the Samaritan’s Purse website at:



www.operationchristmaschild.org.

HOPE CHEST ALERT!

The gloves (especially men’s), winter coats and jackets all sizes, blankets and comforters, as well as towels and washcloths. Please bring donations to our store at 1 Victoria Place, Rm. 321, Painesville or leave in the church’s drop off box designated for Hope Chest. Hope Chest is open Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.—1 p.m. Monetary donations may be sent to ~~the same location. For additional items accepted, please visit our website at www.hopechest.yolasite.com. Thanks for your continued support in keeping Lake County folks warm.~~



FINANCE UPDATE

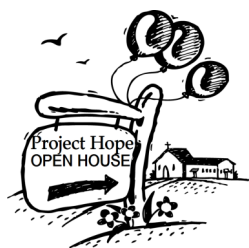
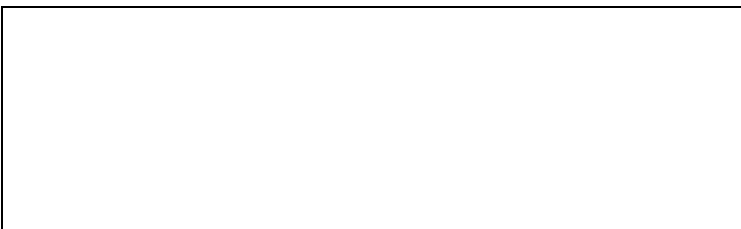
YTD through September 2016

Receipts	\$726,681.
Disbursements	720,622.

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



Saturday, November 12th
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We would love for you to join us. Come take a tour of our facility and see how we serve those who are experiencing homelessness in Lake County. **PROJECT HOPE** is located at 25 Freedom Road, Painesville. (Possible detour: If Freedom Rd. is still closed, take Lubrizol's access road. At the stop sign take a left on to Freedom Rd., turn into the exit drive at Project Hope just after the mail box.) Want more information, go to our website at www.projecthopeonline.org.



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



WORSHIP

9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
SANCTUARY Worship
iCONNECT Worship
(Fellowship Hall)

COMMUNION

10:20 a.m.

Join us in the Chapel
(Except for the 1st Sunday of the month)

CHILDCARE

9 & 11 a.m.

Babies & Toddler/2 Yr. Olds
(as of September 1st 2015 & toilet trained)
Early Childhood Check-In

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9 & 11 a.m.

K—2nd Grade — Room 107
3rd Grade — Room 103
4th—6th Grade — Room 104

FAMILY WORSHIP

(1st Sunday of the month)
Kindergarten through 6th Grade
Worship with their families

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

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

**DEADLINE:
STEEPLETALK
November 7
For DECEMBER Issue**