

What's happening Sunday, December 31, 2017
10:00 AM - Journey Group - Petrowski Adams Parlor

What's happening this week . . .

Monday, January 1, 2018
10:00 AM - Worship at Brookdale Heisley - Off-Site
11:00 AM - Worship at Atria Newell Creek - Off-Site
06:30 PM - Journey Group - Off-Site
07:00 PM - Men's Group Meeting Library

Tuesday, January 2, 2018
09:30 AM - Journey Group - Palermo Asbury Room
09:30 AM - Journey Group - Ring Conference Room
07:00 PM - Canticle Bell Rehearsal
07:00 PM - Boy Scout Troop #280 Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, January 3, 2018
10:00 AM - Journey Group - Wednesday Morning Way Library
01:00 PM - Knitting Group Adams Parlor
07:00 PM - Journey Group - Off-Site
07:00 PM - Trustee Meeting Adams Parlor, Conference Room
07:00 PM - Communications Team Room 103
07:00 PM - Missions Commission Wesley Room

Thursday, January 4, 2018
10:00 AM - Overeaters Anonymous Asbury Room
05:00 PM - Fitness Journey Group - Mike Hope - Fellowship Hall
06:45 PM - Charter Member Rehearsal Choir Room
07:00 PM - Journey Group - S.A.L.T. Room 103
07:45 PM - Chancel Choir - Choir Room

Children & Family Ministries

www.mentorumc.org/children
www.mentorumc.org/sunday-school

StuCo 56, 5th & 6th grade youth group
January 14, 6:00-8:00 PM - Meeting

January 28, 12:00-6:00 PM - Snow Tubing with Occupy
www.mentorumc.org/stuco-56

Parents Morning Out

Mondays 10 AM to noon, parents may have a morning to themselves! See the website at www.mentorumc.org/parents-morning-out for cost and registration details. Two spots remain.

Children's Choir & Cherub Choir
Children's Choir (1-6 Gr) rehearses 10:15-10:45 in Room 112

Cherub Choir (3 YO-K) rehearses 10:15-10:35 in Room 104

Friday, January 5, 2018
01:00 PM - Journey Group - Fournier / Korenko Adams Parlor

Saturday, January 6, 2018
08:00 AM - iConnect Rehearsal Fellowship Hall
08:00 AM - iConnect - Vocal Rehearsal Chapel

What's happening Sunday, January 07, 2018
09:00 AM - Confirmation Class Youth Room
10:00 AM - Journey Group Conference Room
10:00 AM - Journey Group - Petrowski Adams Parlor
10:15 AM - Children's Choir Rehearsal Room 112
10:15 AM - Cherub Choir Rehearsal Room 104
12:30 PM - Liberia Mission Lunch Fellowship Hall
06:00 PM - Occupy Youth Ministry
07:00 PM - Journey Group - Nagle Wesley Room



Join Us on The Path
Radical Compassion: Jesus, Self, Others
Saturday, March 3 – Sunday, March 4
Hilton Garden Inn, Twinsburg

Relax, reflect and connect.
Registration forms will be available beginning January 7 at the Sign Up Center or online at www.mentorumc.org/umw-the-path.
Overnight cost with meals ranges from \$115-\$180 (financial assistance may be available). This retreat is open to all women of the church, friends, and family.

Life Changers are needed IMMEDIATELY

Why not sign up to help with our Sunday children's programs? Be a "Life Changer" as an adult or youth who helps children change their lives through the transformative grace of Jesus!

StuCo 56 (5th & 6th grade youth group) 1-2 Life Changers for the 2nd & 4th Sundays, 6-8 PM

SUMMER PROGRAM DETAILS are at www.mentorumc.org/summer-programs



Welcome to Mentor United Methodist Church!

440.255.3496
www.mentorumc.org
Lead Pastor
Rev. Kurt Landerholm

Traditional
Worship
Sanctuary
9 and 11 AM

Modern Worship
iConnect
Fellowship Hall
9 and 11 AM

Communion
Chapel
10:30 AM

The mission of Mentor United Methodist Church is to lead all onto a path of Christ-centered discipleship.

December 31, 2017

Visitors

If this is your first visit, please stop by the Welcome Center in the Gallery.

We have a gift for you and want to learn how we can help you on your journey.

Fellowship Hour

Fellowship hour will resume January 7.

Childcare is available at all services in our Education Wing. First Sundays of the month, K-6th grade children join their parents/guardians in worship.

Need To Know This Week

Preschool Registration

MUM Preschool registration is currently open to all Mentor UMC families. Please contact Colleen Judson at judson.preschool@mentorumc.org to set up a time to register or if you have any questions.

Inclement Weather

Tune in to WEWS Channel 5 for notice of the church canceling services in the event of inclement weather.

Security Notice

To help secure safety on Sunday mornings, a number of measures have been implemented. Please know that any inconvenience is to help assure the safety of all. Thank you!

Missions Lunch

You are invited to attend a soup and dessert lunch sponsored by Missions Commission. Come and hear inspiring stories from Jordan Martin, Dan Martin and Liese Vito who traveled to Liberia in August.

We are also expecting Kathy Dickriede to join us for updates from Camphor Mission Station. You don't want to miss this!
Right after the 11 AM service on January 7 in Fellowship Hall.

SPR Announcement

Rob Lewis has submitted his letter of resignation from the position of part-time custodian effective December 31. Rob has been a familiar face around the church during evenings and Sunday morning. Please express your gratitude to Rob when you see him.

Congregational Care



Members admitted to Rehab, Assisted Living or Nursing Home Facility:

Starkey Place - Ruby Irish; Heartland - Debra Jones
Brookdale Mentor - Norma Kuzik, Janette Kester
Concord Rehab - Patricia Laubscher
Mentor Ridge Health & Rehab - Gloria Meyer

Members who have returned home or are homebound:

Aquilla Yagoda Dawn Myers
Art Sydow Alice Zimmerman
Joan Evans Dave Smith James Cherny

If you know of someone for whom our Prayer Chain members should pray or would like to share good news, please fill out a "Prayer Request" card in the pew racks, call the church office or visit www.mentorumc.org/prayer-requests.

Coat Ministry

As 2017 comes to an end, the Coat Ministry would like to express our thanks to all who made the year such a success. Your donation of coats, hats, gloves, scarves, and money, allowed us the privilege of serving 260 people in need.
May God bless you as you continue to share his love this Christmas season. Maggie Goats

Newsletter

The newsletter for January and February will be combined. Deadline for submissions is January 8th.

Sanctuary Order of Worship

First Sunday after Christmas Day

Wesley Covenant Renewal Service

In 1755, John Wesley introduced a covenant service as an important part of spiritual life in the Methodist Societies. This renewal service was a time for the Methodists to gather annually in a time of self-examination, reflection, and dedication, wholly giving up themselves and renewing covenant with God. Repentance through confession and commitment was a key focus of the service, demanding humility from those willing to submit themselves to the dynamic words stated within the liturgy.

The covenant renewal service is a practice that continues, often on New Year's Eve or Day. The vocabulary and syntax have been updated to what would be more familiar in the world today.

GATHERING

Prelude "Fugue and Harmonization on 'St. Anne'" J.S. Bach/Hopson
Amy Bender, organist

Lighting of the Candles Presentation of God's Holy Word
Please sign and pass the attendance pad that you find at the end of each pew.
If you are joining us for the first time today, please complete the blue sheet.

Welcome & Announcements Rev. Bruce Becker

Bicentennial Sharing Donald Humphrey, Church Historian

The Greeting
Leader: Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations
People: **You are the one true God who reigns forever.**

Opening prayer
Leader: Almighty God, You search our hearts and you see every part of us. All our desires are known to You, and from you no secrets are hidden. By the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, cleanse our hearts so we may perfectly love you and glorify Your holy name. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: Now as God's dearly loved children, let us pray together:
People: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

*Hymn 117 "O God Our Help in Ages Past" (vs. 1 – 4) ST. ANNE

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Sharing Joys & Concerns

Anthem "The Work of Christmas" Dan Forrest
Chancel Choir

Presentation of Our Tithes and Gifts

Offertory "A Covenant Prayer" Allen Pote
Chancel Choir

*Doxology
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Lesson New Testament page 852 Hebrews 11:39 – 12:3
Message "Celebrating the Past, Living in the Present, Building for the Future" Rev. Kurt Landerholm

*Hymn 413 "A Charge to Keep I have" BOYLSTON

Dismissal with Blessing

Leader: May our God, who establishes covenant relationship with those who seek to enter the Kingdom, be with you always. May Jesus Christ, who seals the new covenant with his blood on the cross, bring you peace. May the Holy Spirit guide your life both now and forever. Go in peace to serve the Lord!

People: Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*Postlude "Grand Jeu" Jean Adam Guilain

*Members of the congregation stand if able

Altar flowers are presented by Mrs. Robert Ahlstrom
in memory of loved ones.

If you would like to order flowers in memory of loved ones, to celebrate an anniversary,
or offer them to the Glory of God, please contact Kathy Fellows at 440-255-5899.

iConnect Modern Worship

Good morning!

Preaching today is Rev. Quincy Wheeler.

The YouVersion Link is
<http://bible.com/events/331520>
Please feel free to use this during service and take notes.

Wesleyan Covenant Renewal

In 1775, John Wesley introduced a covenant service as an important part of spiritual life in the Methodist Societies. This renewal service is a time for the Methodists to gather annually in a time of self-examination, reflection, and dedication, wholly giving up themselves and renewing covenant with God.

Worship Through Music

O Come All ye Faithful/Sing to the King - 33Miles

He Has Come (God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen) - Meredith Andrews

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day – Casting Crowns

Hark the Herald Angels Sing/GreenGrass Reel - Kelth & Kristyn Getty

*Hymn 382 "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" ADELAIDE

The Proclamation

Leader: Dearly loved brothers and sisters, the Christian life is a life found in Christ, redeemed from sin, and consecrated to God. We are those who have entered into this life and have been admitted into the new covenant of Jesus Christ. He is the Mediator of this covenant. He sealed it with His own blood so it would last forever.

On one side of this covenant stands God, who promises to give us new life in Jesus Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith. Every day God proves His goodness and grace to us, showing us that His promise still stands firm.

On the other side, we stand as those who promise to no longer live life for ourselves but instead to only live for Jesus Christ because He has loved us and given His life for us.

There are times in our lives when it is important for us to remember and reaffirm our promises and vows. In this same way, we come today to renew our covenant with God. Many generations have done this before us. Today we make the covenant our own, renewing with both joy and sincerity the covenant that binds us all to God.

The Confession

Leader: We are those who seek to live as true disciples of Jesus Christ, but sometimes we fall short. Let us now examine ourselves before God, humbly confessing our sins and submitting our hearts so that we do not deceive ourselves and cut ourselves away from God. Let us pray:

People: **Father God, You have set forth the way of life through Your Son Jesus Christ, whom You love dearly. We shamefully confess that we have been slow to learn of Him and have been reluctant to follow Him. You have spoken and called to us but we have not listened. You have revealed Your beauty to us, but we have been blind. You have stretched out Your hands to us through our friends, but we have passed by them. We have accepted Your gifts and offered little thanks. We are unworthy of Your unchanging love.**

Leader: We now confess to you our sins.
Please forgive us for the poverty of our worship...
for the selfishness of our prayers...
for our inconsistency and unbelief...
for the ways we neglect fellowship and Your grace...
for our hesitation to tell others about Christ...
for the ways we deceive others...

People: **Forgive us for when we waste time and when we misuse the gifts you have given us. Forgive us when we have made excuses for the wrong things we have done and when we have purposefully avoided responsibility.**

Leader: Forgive us that we have been unwilling to overcome evil with good and that we have not been ready to carry our cross. Forgive us that we have not allowed Your love to work through us to help others and that we have not made their suffering our own. Forgive us for those times when instead of working for unity we made it hard for others to live with us because of our lack of forgiveness, inconsiderate judgment, and quick criticism.

People: **Forgive us for when we have not tried to reconcile with others and when we have been slow to seek redemption.**

Leader: Forgive us also for these sins that we silently confess to you now.

Words of Assurance and Pardon

Leader: God, the Father of all mercies, is faithful to cleanse us from our sins and restore us to Christ's image. Praise and glory be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! Amen.

*Hymn 369 "Blessed Assurance" ASSURANCE

The Invitation

Leader: Let us gathered here before the Lord now in covenant commit ourselves to Christ as his servants. Let us give ourselves to Him so that we may fully belong to Him. Jesus Christ has left us with many services to be done. Some of these services are easy and honorable, but some are difficult and disgraceful. Some line up with our desires and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we please both Christ and ourselves, but then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves.

Jesus Christ, we offer You this prayer:

People: **Let me be Your servant. Let me follow your commands. I will no longer follow my own desires. I give myself completely to your will.**

Leader: The power and strength to live as true servants is given to us in Christ. We accept the place and work that He gives us, acknowledging that He alone will be our reward.

People: **I am not my own. I am Yours alone. Make me into what You will. Rank me with those You will. Put me to use for You. Put me to suffering for You. Let me be employed for You. Let me be laid aside for You. Let me be lifted high for You. Let me be brought low for You. Let me be full or let me be empty. Let me have all things or let me have nothing. With a willing heart, I freely give everything to Your pleasure and disposal.**

Leader: Christ is Savior to those who are His true servants. He is the source of all salvation to those who obey. To be His servant is to consent fully to His will. Christ accepts nothing less. Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing.

Now confirm this truth in holy covenant. Make it a reality in your life in these three ways:

First, set apart time in your day, more than once, to be spent alone with the Lord. Seek to perceive God's special care for you and gracious acceptance of you.

Carefully think through the words of this covenant and its conditions. Examine your heart, even if you have freely given your life to Christ. Name the sins in your life.

Reflect on whether you are willing to choose Christ's holy laws and strict commands. Be sure you are clear in all of these so you do not lie to God!

Second, uphold a serious spirit of holy awe and reverence.

Third, claim God's covenant. Do not trust in your own strength and power but rely upon God's promise of giving grace and strength. In this way, He will empower you to keep your promise.

Fourth, be determined to be faithful. You have given your heart and life to God. You have opened your mouth to dedicate yourself to the Lord. With God's power, never go back to your former way of living.

And last, be prepared to renew your covenant with God. Fall before God. Lift your hands. Open your hearts.

The Covenant Prayer

Leader: Let us pray together:

People: My righteous God, for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, see me now as I fall down before You. Forgive my unfaithfulness when I have not done your will. You promise mercy if I turn to You with my whole heart.

Leader: God requires that you rid yourself of every idol in your life.

People: From the bottom of my heart, I here and now renounce every idol in my life, covenanting with You that I will not commit any known sin. By turning against Your will I have turned my love toward the world. In Your power I will watch for any temptation that will lead me away from You.

Leader: Through Jesus Christ, God offers to be your God again, if you allow Him to be.

People: Before all heaven and earth, I here and now acknowledge You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as my Lord and God. I vow to give all of myself, body and soul, to be Your servant and to serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.

Leader: Jesus Christ is the only way and means to God. God has given us Jesus as the way and means to salvation.

People: Jesus, I here and now accept You as the only new and living Way. I join myself in covenant with You. I come to You hungry, sinful, miserable, blind, and naked, unworthy even to wash the feet of Your servants. With all my power, I accept You as my Lord and Head. I renounce my own unworthiness, and vow that You are my Lord, my righteousness. I renounce my own wisdom and take You for my only guide. I renounce my own will and take Your will as my law.

Leader: Christ has told you that you must suffer with him.

People: Jesus, I here and now make this covenant with You and accept whatever comes in life. Through Your grace I promise that neither life nor death will separate me from You.

Leader: God has given holy laws as the rule of your life.

People: I here and now willingly take on Your yoke and burden. All Your laws are holy, just, and good. I accept them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions, promising I will strive to order my whole life around your direction. I will not allow myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty.

Leader: The Almighty God searches and knows you, even the thoughts of your heart.

People: O God, You know that we have made this covenant today in sincerity, without deceit or reluctance. If You find anything false in us, guide us and help us to set it right. And now, glory be to You, God the Father. From this day forward, I shall look upon You as my God and Father. Glory be to You, God the Son. You have loved me and washed me from my sins in Your own blood. From this day forward, I shall look upon You as my Savior and Redeemer. Glory be to You, O God the Holy Spirit. By Your almighty power, You have turned my heart from sin to God. From this day forward I shall look upon You as my Comforter and Guide. O mighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have now become my Covenant Friend. And I, through Your infinite grace, have become Your covenant servant. You are mine and I am Yours. So be it. May this covenant that I have made here on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.