

STEEPLETALK

March 2017



*From the
Pastor*



Throughout the work week my father used to crisscross several of the northern plain states visiting his various customers. During the winter months he carried a “survivor bag” loaded with blankets, candles, food, and Sterno can heaters. This was a precaution in the event he was caught in a winter storm or experienced vehicle problems. In the rural northern plains one could be stranded without civilization nearby. On Sunday evening, in preparation for his Monday morning departure, I helped dad load his car with samples, supplies, and the “survivor bag.” This bag was an old military duffle bag with the drawstring that sealed the contents within.

On March first we begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday, and for the next 40 days and six Sundays we journey to Easter. I would suggest that this journey is our “survivor bag” complete with the drawstring.

The drawstring of a duffle bag takes a large opening and draws the cloth together into a smaller opening. That’s a picture of the Biblical story; things come together with concise clarity. Often times we have that “Ah ha” moment when the Bible is better understood.

For me that drawstring was drawn through a series of events:

- ◆ The first came with the reading of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and discovering the seamless flow of the biblical narrative.
- ◆ The second came during a seminary class entitled, “The History of Israel.” I enjoy history, but I was not prepared for what I would learn through the systematic flow of the history of the Old Testament.
- ◆ The third occurred during my early years in ministry when our then resident bishop, James S. Thomas, called together the clergy of the annual conference for a study on covenant. I can still picture the setting where we gathered and received that fascinating teaching.
- ◆ The fourth came through Disciple Bible Study where I traveled with several groups, each time for 34 weeks through the Bible. The view was breath taking.

If each of these is a pleat, then through their encounters, the drawstring was pulling it all together on the “survivor bag.” The picture focused in on the biblical story as a story of redemption. Like a fascinating novel that begins in paradise (Genesis 1 & 2), only to be snatched away (Genesis 3); the rest of the novel is about restoration.

During the weeks of Lent, from March 1 and ending on Easter Sunday, we’ll be looking at this wonderful epic. The goal is to see how God has and is pulling it all together.

I hope you will join us as we look at the time-line of redemption, the history of God at work, the power of covenant, and the mystery of God pulling the divine drawstring. Our prayer is that we will each get a fresh vision of God’s “survivor bag.”

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SANCTUARY
Rooted in Tradition, Growing in Christ



FINANCE UPDATE

Through **JANUARY 31, 2017**

Receipts	\$109,352.20
Disbursements	<u>78,240.66</u>
Surplus	31,111.54

Electronic giving is available online at
www.mentorumc.org/onlinegiving

Checking/Savings/Credit Card/Debit Card Auto Deduction

Visit the website to sign up today

Text Your Giving

Text 1-440-210-9089 with the amount you would like to contribute, complete the registration, and receive verification by text & email

Contact Teresa Simons at 255-3496, ext. 11, if you have any questions or need assistance.

Stewardship Committee Operating Pledge Update

We have surpassed our pledge goal for the 2017 Operating Budget. Together we make Mentor United Methodist Church's mission a reality through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. This is the Path of Discipleship.

2017 Spirit of Generosity Pledge Summary

Total \$ for 2017 Campaign	\$812,187.00
Total Pledges Received	378
Highest Pledge	\$14,430.00
Lowest Pledge	25.00
Pledge Goal	\$785,000.00

% of our dollar goal on Operating 2017 103.46%



MUMC 2017

Are you a confirmed member of Mentor UMC or know someone who is that will be attending college in the Fall of 2017? If so, Mentor UMC is again offering scholarships to students in the high school graduating class of 2017, as well as seminary students and students that are currently enrolled in college and will continue on in the Fall of 2017. Scholarship applications can be completed online at www.mentorumc.org/scholarship. Instructions on submitting the application are also included. All completed applications must be turned in to the Church Office by Friday, April 7th by 4:00 p.m.

DeJohn Funeral Home — The Ross & Carmella DeJohn Scholarship Award is being offered to high school seniors in our community who have exemplified the FIVE STAR STANDARDS of *independence, integrity, excellence, fairness and professionalism*. This scholarship is not based only on grades or athletic achievement. The scholarship recipients will receive \$500 that can be used toward **college or technical school** and a special recognition certificate during the awards ceremonies at their school; plus, their names will be placed on DeJohn's Five Star Scholarship Winners Plaque.

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES Tammy Palermo—tpalermo@mentorumc.org

KNOW

- **Sunday School**
 - Children 0-4 years old—Early Childhood Area
 - K-2nd Grade—Room 105
 - 3rd-4th Grade—Room 103
 - 5th-6th Grade—Room 104
 - Family Worship is FIRST Sunday of the month and K-6th graders attend worship with their families
 - www.mentorumc.org/sunday-school

GROW

- **StuCo 56**, 5th & 6th grade youth group
 - Sunday, March 12, 5:30-7:30 p.m.— Meeting at MUMC
 - Sunday, March 26, 5:30-7:30 p.m. — TBD
 - www.mentorumc.org/stuco-56
- **MOPS & MOMSnext**
 - Fellowship Hall on Friday, March 10 from 9:30 to noon — Meeting
 - Friday, March 24 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Discussion Groups
 - www.mentorumc.org/mops
- **SUMMER PROGRAMS**
 - Theatre Arts Camp — “Beauty & the Beast, Jr.”
 - Auditions: Saturday, April 22, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
 - Camp: June 5-9 & 12-16
 - Shows: June 16 at 7:30 p.m. & June 17, 1 p.m.
 - Vacation Bible School
 - June 19-23, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
 - “Hero Central”
 - Get Out Doors (G.O.D.) Camp
 - June 19-23, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 - “Water of Life”
 - www.mentorumc.org/summer-programs

SHOW

- **Sunday School Servant sign up**
 - <http://www.mentorumc.org/sunday-school>
- **Children's Choir (1-6 Grade)**
 - Rehearses Sundays, 10:15-10:45 in Room 112
- **Cherub Choir (3 Yr. Olds/Kindergarten)**
 - Rehearses Sundays, 10:15-10:45 in Room 104

NEWSLETTERS & CHILD REGISTRATION FORMS:

• www.mentorumc.org/children



MOPS & MOMSnext Annual Malley's Easter Candy Fundraiser

March 12th is the last day orders will be taken.

THROUGH THE YEARS

Last month, we discussed two significant German-speaking preachers who were instrumental in the formation of the present day United Methodist Church. This month, we will identify a third German speaking pastor, Jacob Albright. Jacob Albright was born Jakob Albrecht on May 1, 1759 near Pottstown, Pennsylvania and was baptized into the Lutheran Church. His parents were German immigrants. During the American Revolution, he served as both a drummer boy and a guard for Hessian prisoners in Reading, Pennsylvania. Jacob married Catherine Cope and they had (the number is debated) six or nine children. Albright took up farming and also was in the business of manufacturing tiles used as roofing material.

In 1790, several of Albright's children died of dysentery. This caused him to go through a religious crisis. He did not feel that Lutheranism gave him comfort. He met with members of the United Brethren in Christ (the denomination discussed last month founded by Philip Otterbein and Martin Bohm). He took their Wesleyan message and started religious classes. Though he considered himself unfit to preach, his messages were powerful and moving. Albright was eventually ordained a minister by these classes, who had no formal name or official documents, and later elected bishop at their first annual conference. He never accepted the title of bishop.

Albright died on May 17, 1808. The conference, in 1816, took the name The Evangelical Association. Through the years, there were splits and reunifications and the church was renamed the Evangelical Church. It merged with the United Brethren in Christ in 1946 to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church. That church, sometimes referred to as the EUB, merged with the Methodist Church in 1968 to form the United Methodist Church we know today.

Albright's name lives on in Albright College, a United Methodist college located in Reading, Pennsylvania. Ironically, it is located only two or three miles from the location where Jacob Albright guarded Hessian prisoners of war in the American Revolution.

The path to our current Methodist church structure is long and winding, with many changes. However, as you can see the seeds of our faith were sown by people with a deep faith in God and an unrelenting drive to bring the love of Christ to people everywhere.

Do you have any MUMC history you would like to share with the congregation? Please send it to:

Don Humphrey
7330 Holly Park Drive
Concord OH 44060-6704



**Please join us for an OPEN HOUSE
to celebrate Jessica Vargo's 15 years
of loyal service as the Treasurer &
Director of Administrative Services to
The East Ohio Conference**

Sunday, March 12th
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
A short program will begin at 2:30 p.m.
Light refreshments will be provided

Join us at Faith Friends Learning Center, Faith United Methodist Church, 300 9th Street NW, North Canton.

If you would like to send a card, please mail it to the EOC Treasurer's Office, 8800 Cleveland Avenue NW, North Canton OH 44720.



Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your prayers, cards, notes, calls and visits (and singing!) while I was ill, and now that I am in assisted living. Your loving kindnesses brighten my days, and I continue to covet your prayers.

**UMCOR SUNDAY
(formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) . . .**

We cannot all be present when disaster strikes but on **March 26th**, we can do our part by participating in a Special Sunday celebrated by the United Methodist Church. Together, we can help fund the critical disaster relief efforts of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

For more than 75 years, UMCOR has provided disaster relief, often long after others have left the scene. UMCOR has aided refugees and confronted the crippling challenges of world hunger and poverty. However, UMCOR simply cannot do it without us. Unlike other benevolent causes, UMCOR does not receive any funds from the regular United Methodist Church budget. Our generous gifts help cover the agency's administrative costs so UMCOR can continue to guarantee that 100 percent of all other donations go toward specific relief projects.

Our support is critical to this mission. Let's be there for those in need. Envelopes will be in our bulletins on Sunday, March 26th. Please prayerfully consider how God would have you join us in cheerfully and generously showing God's love around the world with your gifts.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

RUTH-ESTHER CIRCLE MEETING

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 14th at 9:30 a.m. We will be finishing up our work of cleaning the candles and candle holders from Christmas Eve services. If you have a small paring knife, please bring it. This is a time of fellowship, work, and refreshments. Please join us!

SERVANT OPPORTUNITIES

On behalf of the MUMC Coat Ministry...THANK YOU! To all who donated coats, money, time, etc., in an effort to help those in need, your generosity was and continues to be appreciated. The season is coming to an end and we ask that any donations be stored at home until our next coat drive in the Fall. God bless you!

DONATIONS FOR OUR FOOD PANTRY ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED ANY TIME:

Items can be left in the Pantry Food box located at the Sign Up Center (in the Atrium outside Fellowship Hall) on Sunday mornings or dropped off at the church during the week. Here are some of our needs:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| peanut butter & jelly | applesauce | canned/boxed soups |
| macaroni & cheese | all types of crackers | canned fruit |
| complete box dinners | spaghetti sauce/pasta | cereal - hot & cold |
| Spaghetti O's | instant potatoes | canned vegetables |
| Stew, chili, ravioli | packaged cookies | canned tuna, chicken |

This year our Easter Food Distribution will be held on Monday, April 10th. Grocery bags will be handed out on Sunday, April 2nd with in-gathering and sorting of food on Sunday, April 9th. Thank you for your continued generosity.

HEARTLAND VISITATION . . .

Consider joining us for a brief service at Heartland on the 3rd Sunday of each month. We begin at 10:45 a.m. and are finished approximately 20 minutes later. It's a great opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ with the Heartland residents. If you have any questions, please contact Rich & Katie Elwell at 440 255-6794 or Don & Pat Humphrey at 440 354-3833.



Order Your
Easter Flowers

TIME TO PLACE YOUR EASTER FLOWER ORDER

We are offering lilies, tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and hydrangeas. The prices are as follows:

Tulip, Daffodil or Lily \$8 Hyacinth \$8 Hydrangea \$10

Please send your order along with your check to The Altar Guild,
c/o Mentor United Methodist Church, 8600 Mentor Avenue, Mentor OH 44060.

The Altar Guild will also have a table set up at the Sign-Up Center (Atrium outside Fellowship Hall) on Sunday, March 12, 19 & 26 with forms to order plants. **The last day to order will be March 26th** so we can place our order and they can be delivered for Easter.

Your plants may be picked up after the 11 a.m. service on Easter morning.

Please indicate how many you want:

___ Tulip ___ Lily ___ Daffodil ___ Hyacinth ___ Hydrangea Total \$ _____

(PLEASE PRINT NAMES)

From _____

In memory of _____



**Kids Singing for KIDS Concert
And Silent Auction**

Mentor United Methodist Church

Friday, March 31st — 7:00 p.m.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

The Singing Angels

**Silent Auction Tables open at 6 p.m.
& during intermission**

**Purchase tickets in the MUM Church Office or
at the Sign-In Center on Sunday mornings:
\$10/Adults/13+; \$5/Children 6-12; Children 5
& under free. Tickets will also be available at**



You're Invited!

**"EAT & MEET"
Saturday, March 11th**

On Saturday, March 11th, there will be an "Eat & Meet" event. I know what you are saying to yourself, what is an "Eat & Meet"? Well, here is the condensed version. **Starting at 11:30 a.m., all are invited to come to the Gallery of MUMC, enjoy a light lunch and meet Chelsea Wheeler and Rachel Mattern, newlywed spouses of staff members Quincy Wheeler and Toby Mattern.** This will be done in a fun and informative way and will not take much of your day, in fact, you should be on your way in an hour unless you want to linger and fellowship. Who knows, besides these two young women, you may meet someone else you don't know.

If possible, please RSVP the number attending to Nancy Landerholm at noochlee@gmail.com or stop by the Sign-Up Center (outside Fellowship Hall) and sign up. Children welcome and soft activities will be provided.



CLASS

New Member's Class Explore the basics of the Christian faith with leaders Pastor Bev and Steve Wrobel. There will be five classes meeting on Monday 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: Mondays - March 6, 13, 20, 27 & April 3. To register, please fill out the information below and return to Pastor Bev or the Church Office.

Name: _____ Email address _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____



Saturday, April 15th—10:00 a.m.
Garfield Park

Join us again this year at Garfield Park, 7967 Mentor Avenue for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! Food, games and activities begin at 10 a.m. and the egg hunt will begin at 10:30 a.m.—rain or shine!

We will have snacks, activities (including the popular egg drop competition!), and over 3,000 eggs for kids to hunt for! Food and eggs will be provided, but we need you to bring friends and family!

Based on the size of last year's event, we are asking for your help! Donations of small wrapped candy (must be able to fit inside plastic egg) to fill the eggs with would be most appreciated. Candy can be dropped off at the Sign-In Center (outside Fellowship Hall) on Sunday mornings or left in the Church Office during the week. **Please turn in any donations by Friday, March 24th so that we have time to stuff all the eggs.**

YSP PRESENTS . . .



**THE BIG EVENT!!
MARCH 19TH - 5 P.M. - 8 P.M.
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

DINNER, PERFORMANCES & ACTS all based around Broadway
SILENT AUCTION & LIVE AUCTIONS throughout the evening

Tickets are \$10/adults/youth (12 & above)
\$5/4 yrs. - 11 yrs.
3 yrs. & under free

Tickets now on sale!
Stop at the Sign-Up Table (outside Fellowship Hall) between services

If you would like to donate a basket for The Big Event Silent Auction, please leave in the Church Office. YSP is grateful for your help. If you have questions, please contact Toby Mattern at 440 255-3496, ext. 16.

The Big Event is one of our main fundraisers for our YSP trip. This year we will be going to Plymouth, North Carolina to work with an organization called C.R.O.S.S. We will be working on home repair and flood relief from the terrible storms that hit North Carolina this past year



**NEW WOMEN'S
JOURNEY GROUP FORMING ...**

A new small group specifically for women for Scripture reading, prayer, accountability and support in faith led by Rev. Connie Sterner is tentatively looking to meet on Friday afternoons at 1:00 p.m.

If you have any interest in joining this group, please email Gayle Avery at gavery@mentorunc.org, Quincy Wheeler at qwheeler@mentorunc.org or call the Church Office, 255-3496.

**AN AFTERNOON OF THEATER
Sponsored by Asbury Fellowship**

Join us at the Association by on Saturday, 2:00 p.m. for



Fine Arts in Willough- April 1st at

We have a block of seats reserved just for us and can get more if needed. Tickets are \$11. Please pay and

SERVANT OPPORTUNITIES

MORE THAN A MEAL



Free Community Dinner

Our next meal is March 25th at 5:30 p.m.

Extra hands are always appreciated for set-up, starting at 4:30 p.m. 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! Call Jim Post at 1-440-477-6130 if you are interested helping or have questions.



PRISON MINISTRY

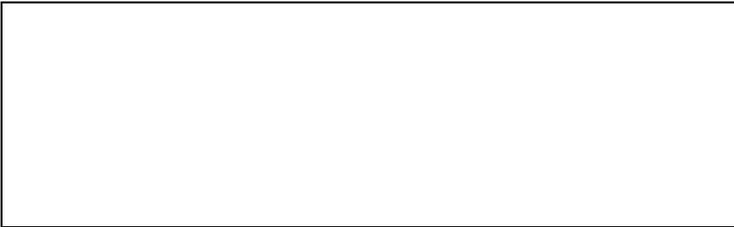
HOME BAKED COOKIES NEEDED

Matthew 25 tells us to minister to those in prison — how can we do that? Dale Maynard is involved in a prison ministry called **Kairos** and home baked cookies are a very important part of that ministry. He needs 100 dozen cookies (1200 cookies!) and welcomes your desire to be a part of this very effective mission field. Please see Dale at the Sign-Up Center (outside Fellowship Hall) on Sunday morning to learn more about this ministry and how you

Mentor United Methodist Church
8600 Mentor Avenue
Mentor OH 44060

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



WORSHIP

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

COMMUNION

10:30 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 2016 & toilet trained)
Early Childhood Check-In

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9 & 11 a.m.
K—2nd Grade — Room 105
3rd-4th Grade — Room 103;
5th—6th Grade — Room 104

FAMILY WORSHIP

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



March 1st

Ashes & Communion
Chapel

7:00 a.m.— 8:00 a.m.
11:30 a.m.— 1:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m.
Service of Ashes & Meditation
Sanctuary

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**
RE M I N D E R :
**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS**

STEEPLETALK
Deadline
For APRIL Issue
March 9th



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