

STEEPLETALK

News from Mentor United Methodist Church

December

2018

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The app is packed with powerful content and resources to help you on the path as you grow upward in worship, deeper in discipleship, together in Christian community, and outward in service. Scan the QR code to download it now!



Read the newsletter every month online! Go to mentorumc.org/current/newsletter.

Christmas Eve Ushers



Volunteers are needed for ushering during the five Christmas Eve Sanctuary/Chapel services.

Please consider serving your congregation, and meeting new people, by ushering!

A sign-up sheet will be at the Information Hub beginning December 2. You can also sign up through the website and app.

If interested in ushering but hesitant, training will be provided on Tuesday, December 11 or Wednesday, December 19 in the Narthex from 7 – 8PM.

If you have further questions, please contact Chris Meldrum at (440) 220-0824.

Open House December 22

Christmas can be a lonely time. Maybe you won't have family with you this year or your Christmas traditions may be altered by difficult changes. We, Kurt and Nancy Landerholm, would love to share our home and some time with you. We invite you to our home on Saturday, December 22 for an open house from noon to 5 PM. We will enjoy food and fellowship together. Our address is 7929 Newell Creek Drive, Mentor. Please RSVP to Nancy (440-290-7320) by December 16.

Giving Trees



The Christmas trees in the Gallery and outside the Chapel are decorated with different giving ornament tags. Select an ornament and show Christ's love.

Green Trees: GIVING Gifts for children in need. Gifts are due back by noon on Sunday, December 16 and should be wrapped with the tag securely attached. There is a 2-part tag. Please fill out one and place it in the box below the tree. This gives us your contact information. The second tag is to be placed on the gift.

If you would like to shop for a whole family, please contact Betsy Iskra as soon as possible at lskra5@aol.com or call/text 440-283-6524.

Red Hearts: SHARING Monetary donation to a charity may be placed in the envelope provided and placed in the box at the Information Hub. For security, the box will be in the Office during the week.

Charities are : Ohio Guidestone , Royal Family Kids Camp, Project Hope and Flat Rock.

Yellow Angels: PRAYING Pray for the name or group listed throughout the holiday season.

Blue Bells: CARING Suggestion for something you can do to help others.

From the Pastor

"Under Wraps"

One of my favorite Advent writers, Ann Voskamp, in her book, "The Greatest Gift – Unwrapping the Full Love Story of Christmas", shares these words:

Big and glossy and loud and fast—that's how this bent-up world turns. But God, when He comes—He shows up in this fetal ball. He who carved the edges of the cosmos curled Himself into a fetal ball in the dark, tethered Himself to the uterine wall of a virgin, and lets His cells divide, light splitting all white. He gave up the heavens that were not even large enough to contain Him and lets Himself be held in a hand. The mystery so large becomes the Baby so small, and infinite God becomes infant. The giver become the Gift, this quiet offering. This heart beating in the chest cavity of a held child, a thrumming heart beating hope, beating change, beating love, beating the singular song you've been waiting for—that the whole dizzy planet's been spinning around waiting for.

She has such a rich and vivid way of sharing the emerging news that becomes Christmas' declaration. Over the four Sundays of Advent, we will be lighting the Advent candles, and then the Christ candle on Christmas Eve. In doing so we marvel at this mystery of Immanuel, God with us.

During the weeks of Advent, and Christmas Eve, we will be peeling back the layers of the Christmas wrap and discover in the Christmas story that God is...

Expectant
Disruptive
Jealous
Faithful
Joy

The whole month of December will help shape our Advent/Christmas experience with music, the Ornament ADVENTure (12/1), Children's play (12/8), special gatherings, Charter Members Christmas Concert (12/14), Chancel Choir cantata (12/16), Giving Trees, food and gift distribution, and more.

Christmas Eve is always a special day in the church year. This year our schedule will be the same, but we are doing something different for the 11:00 PM service. As this late service has become less attended, by moving the service from the sanctuary to the chapel, we hope to create a more intimate service with a vesper feel. Please plan on joining us Christmas Eve for all or any of our services:

3:00 PM	Sanctuary service with Holy Communion & special music
5:00 PM	Sanctuary service with a family emphasis including the children providing music
7:00 PM	Like Sunday morning, simultaneous traditional (Sanctuary) and Modern (fellowship Hall). Charter Members will sing in the sanctuary and the iConnect worship team in the fellowship hall.
9:00 PM	Sanctuary service with the Canticle Bells & Chancel Choir
11:00 PM	Chapel vesper service

We look forward to sharing together in this important season.

- Pastor Kurt

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www.mentorumc.org
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GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays

Monday, December 10 at 6:30 PM

A video seminar and support group for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one during the holiday season. There is no cost to attend. To register, please contact Beverly Wrobel at blwrobel@mentorumc.org.



Women: Save The Date For The Path 2019!

Saturday-Sunday, March 23-24, 2019

Hilton Garden Inn Twinsburg

Mark your calendars now! Registration begins in January.





Through The Years

The year, 2018, marks the bi-centennial, not only of our church, but of perhaps the most beloved Christmas Carol of all time, Silent Night. The story of how the carol was written and its two writers, Father Joseph Mohr and Franz Gruber, is quite fascinating. The lyrics were written in 1816 as a poem by Father Mohr, a Catholic priest in the town of Oberndorf, Austria. Father Mohr's life story is compelling. He was born in 1792 the illegitimate son of a knitter and a soldier. His father abandoned Joseph and his mother. He grew up with his mother, grandmother and step-sister in very poor conditions. Aid came when he became the godson of the executioner of Salzburg. The choir vicar at the local church noticed Joseph's talent and he received musical training and later attended seminary. This required a papal dispensation because of his out of wedlock birth.

Franz Gruber was born in 1787, the fifth child of Josef and Anna Gruber. Young Franz had a passion for music at an early age, much to the displeasure of his father who wanted him to be a weaver like he was. Franz impressed his school music teacher who gave him free lessons. Later, he took his exams to become a teacher. He also took a job as choirmaster and organist at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria. There he met Father Mohr, the assistant pastor.

Father Mohr wanted a new carol for Christmas Eve mass in 1818. He took the poem he had written in 1816 and walked three kilometers to Franz Gruber's house to see if he could write some music for the words. Gruber composed the music in a few hours and later that night, December 24, 1818, the carol Silent Night was first performed. Since the church's organ was out of commission due to the flooding of the Salzach River, the work was written with guitar accompaniment, which Father Mohr played. The first performance of the carol in the United States was at Trinity Church in New York City in 1839.

Father Joseph Mohr died in 1848 and Franz Gruber passed away in 1863.

The carol has gone on to be translated into more than 140 languages. UNESCO has designated it a World Heritage Song. The original church where Silent Night was first performed was torn down in the early twentieth century due to frequent flooding and moved a half mile upstream. A memorial chapel, the Silent Night Chapel, was constructed at the original site.

This year, the nation of Austria is celebrating the 200th anniversary of the carol with exhibits at nine museums. It is celebrating "Austria's Peace Message to the World."

As we sing Silent Night this Christmas Eve, let us remember the story of a priest and a musician who wanted to have a carol for a Christmas Eve Mass 200 years ago and the lasting effect it has on people all over the world. Peace on Earth, Merry Christmas!

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

Don Humphrey
7330 Holly Park Dr.
Concord, Ohio 44060-6704 or e-mail to: dhumphrey@ameritech.net

December Prayer Focus - Nancy Landerholm

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." This phrase, of the Prayer Jesus taught us to pray, will be our focus for December and then again in January. We need to understand that to be tempted is common to all. James 1:14-15 gives us the steps that temptation takes. First, there is a desire. Often the desire is a normal desire that goes out of control (ex: the desire for sex out of control leads to adultery, fornication, pornography, etc.). Next, we start to doubt God's goodness and think that God is holding out on us if we cannot have our desires met, how and when we want them to be met. Now, God's truth is replaced by a lie of Satan.

Satan knows our areas of weakness and knows just the right bait to use to lead us into giving into the temptation. Once we have given into temptation, we have sinned. We suffer the consequences of our sin. This is a battle we all fight and we CANNOT win on our own. We need the help of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. That is why we NEED to pray this daily. More on this next month.



CALENDARRegularly Scheduled Weekly Meetings:

These meetings are listed here instead of the calendar. Contact your group leader for any time changes. Please see other events on the calendar page.

Sunday:

10:00 AM Adult Sunday School
 10:00 AM Journey Group
 10:00 AM Journey Group - Woledge
 10:15 AM Children's Choir and Cherub Choir
 06:15 PM Sunday Night Basketball - Hope Ridge UMC
 07:00 PM Journey Group - Nagle

Monday:

10:00 AM Parent's Morning Out
 10:00 AM Journey Group - Carr
 07:00 PM Men's Group Meeting

Tuesday:

09:30 AM Journey Group - Ring
 09:30 AM Journey Group - Palermo
 07:00 PM Emmaus/Journey Group

Wednesday:

10:00 AM Journey Group - Wednesday Morning Way
 01:00 PM Knitting Group
 07:00 PM Imbler Journey Group

Thursday:

06:30 AM Men's Journey Group
 10:00 AM OA
 04:30 PM Journey Group - Lauren Ring
 06:00 PM Canticle Bell Rehearsal
 06:45 PM Charter Members Rehearsal
 07:00 PM S.A.L.T.
 07:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday:

01:00 PM Journey Group - Fournier/Korenko

Saturday:

08:00 AM iConnect Rehearsal

McKinney Applebutter Fest

After 24 years of putting on the McKinney Applebutter Fest, we have decided that 2018 would be our last.

We thank all who have attended over the years and made it such a success.

We have been blessed and are thankful for our hard working family and friends that have made it possible for us to 'pull this off' year after year.

Thanks to all who have attended over the years, for all the great memories and May God continue to bring many blessings to each one of you.

**Rape Aggression Defense Systems - R.A.D.**

Women's Self Defense Classes, January 7, 11, 14 & 18. 6-9 PM, held at Mentor United Methodist Church.

Could you effectively defend yourself if attacked? Reserve your spot for this free course taught by certified instructors. Attendance is needed for all four sessions for course completion. Open to all women aged 13 and older. Call or text Brooke Taylor at 216-681-6303.

Check out the website at rad-systems.com. We are very fortunate to be able to offer this class! Sponsored by United Methodist Women.

MUMC SpiritWear and Witness Wear!

Beginning today, Roxy Beers, Eliana Palermo, and friends will be selling Mentor UMC t-shirts and sweatshirts. Items are specially designed to celebrate our faith and life here at MUMC and share the good news with others.

T-shirts will be available in both men's and women's styles and will be \$15 per shirt. Hoodies will be \$30 and crew neck sweatshirts will be \$25.

Checks can be made out to MUMC and noted "Liberia Shirts". All proceeds will go to support their planned mission trip to Liberia this coming summer.

If you would like to give shirts as Christmas gifts, your order must be received by Sunday, December 3. Orders will continue after December 3, but only those received before then will be guaranteed to be here before Christmas.

More-Than-A-Meal is our free community meal served on the last Saturday of the month. We are presently looking for Journey Groups, Committees, or individuals to sign up to prepare and serve the meals on January 26 and February 22. This requires preparing for 100 persons and covering the costs if possible. If some funding is needed, there are limited funds. Regular workers and experienced persons will be present to assist. If you are interested, contact Jim Post at 440-477-6130.

**Answers to Crossword:**

Across: 1. ornaments 2. tree 3. snowman 4. presents 5. ribbon 6. green 7. star

Down: 8. reindeer 9. Santa 10. red 11. stocking 12. elf 13. sleigh 14. Noel



Children and Family Ministries
www.mentorumc.org/children
www.mentorumc.org/sunday-school

DECEMBER, one of my favorite times of the year! We have a lot of great things happening for our families this month. Please take a few minutes to read through and decide how you want to spend your advent.

Have you marked your calendar for **Saturday, December 1** at 1:00 pm? Have you made a list of friends and family to invite? I sure hope so! I am excited for our first **Christmas Crafternoon: An Ornament ADVENTure**. This is FREE, FREE, FREE and for all to join!

Another way to share our awesome church, is to invite people to our **Christmas Play, "The Other Wise Man"**. It will be performed on **Saturday, December 8** at 4:00 pm with a potluck meal to follow. This is also a FREE event, but tickets are necessary. You can reserve them at mentorumc.org/truth-light-players.

Prayer Buddies registration is going slowly. I have adults who are excited to begin praying for our kids but need some kids to sign up! All adults are screened, go through a background check, and complete a training prior to being paired with a child. Wouldn't it be cool to talk to your child about how God works through prayer while someone is praying for them? You can find more info at mentorumc.org/prayer-buddy.

Advent Calendars are on sale at the Information Hub and are still only \$5! The proceeds from the sale help to keep the cost of Vacation Bible School to a reasonable amount. The VBS Team appreciates all the support.

In our **Kids' Journey Groups** this Advent, we will be doing the same theme as the sermon series, UNDER WRAPS! This is exciting for our families as you can have conversations with your K-6th grader about the same thing you heard in the sermon. I am super excited for families to have this opportunity to grow together in their faith especially during advent and CHRISTmas.

The January **Positive Parenting Book Club** selection is Relentless Parenting by Brian & Angela Haynes and will be on **January 8**. I will also be leading an online version of Spiritual Parenting. I would love to have you join in either (or both) of these discussions. God is calling us to an amazing task by being parents, and we need to be in community to support each other in this awesome endeavor! Please let me know how I can come alongside you during this awesome time of parenthood! I want to resource you and more importantly cheer you on!
 By HIS Grace and through HIS love,

- Tammy Palermo, Director of Children & Family Ministries



Christmas Cantata

"The Glory of Christmas" Sunday, December 16 at 9 AM and 11 AM
 Presented by the combined choirs of MUMC and Painesville UMC and accompanied by a full orchestra. In a panoramic view of Christmas, we see the majesty, the color, the sounds, and even the solemnity of this glorious season! We witness the anguish of God's chosen people as it gives way to joy in the fulfillment of an eternal promise - that God would send a Messiah to save them. The entire spectrum of God's love and grace is on full display in the story of Christmas.



Charter Members Men's Choir Annual Christmas Sing

Friday, December 14, 7:30PM

Bring family and friends for this evening of sacred music. A free-will offering will be taken and refreshments will follow in the Gallery.

Mentor United Methodist Church
8600 Mentor Avenue
Mentor OH 44060

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



MENTOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Christmas Eve Services

- 3 PM Traditional Service, Communion Served
- 5 PM Traditional Children's Service Led by Children,
Featuring Children's Choirs and a Special
Reading
- 7 PM Traditional Service Featuring the Charter
Members Choir
- 7 PM Modern Service iConnect Worship Team
- 9 PM Traditional Service Featuring Chancel Choir,
Canticle Bells, Hallelujah Chorus
- 11 PM Vesper Service in the Chapel

All Christmas Eve services will have candle light with the option of candles or glow sticks.
The 11 PM service will be a quiet, reflective service in the Chapel.

Shopping on Amazon for the Holidays?

We are registered with AmazonSmile Foundation as a charitable organization. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, 0.05% of the price of the eligible purchases are donated to MUMC. There is no cost to the church and no cost to you.

It is easy to get started visit smile.amazon.com and select Mentor United Methodist Church.



Traditional worship service in the Sanctuary Sundays 9 AM and 11 AM
Modern worship, iConnect, in Fellowship Hall Sundays 9 AM and 11 AM
Deadline for the January Newsletter is December 7.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
09:00 AM - Confirmation Class 01:00 PM - Christmas Show Rehearsal 06:00 PM - Occupy Youth Ministry 07:00 PM Journey Group - Nagle	10:00 AM - Worship at Brookdale Heisley 11:00 AM - Worship at Atria Newell Creek 06:30 PM - DivorceCare	04 10:00 PM - Membership Committee 07:00 PM - Usher Training	05 See page 4 for regularly scheduled meetings. 08:15 AM - Organ tuning 09:30 AM - Young at Heart Meal Prep 12:00 PM - Young at Heart Luncheon 07:00 PM - Missions Commission 07:00 PM - Trustee Meeting 07:00 PM - Imbler Journey Group 07:00 PM - Journey Group - Wrobel 07:00 PM - Journey Group - Gallagher	06 06:30 PM - Disciple I - Landerholm	07 04:00 PM - Christmas Show - The Other Wise Man 06:00 PM - Christmas Show Potluck	01 01:00 PM - Christmas Craftersnoon
06:00 PM - StuCo 56 06:00 PM - Occupy Youth Ministry 07:00 PM Journey Group - Nagle	10:00 AM - New Day Circle 06:30 PM - GriefShare Surviving the Holidays 07:00 PM - IConnect Planning 07:00 PM - Top 25 Show Choir Holiday Concert 07:30 PM - Communications Team	11 07:00 PM - Christmas Gift Distribution	12 11:00 AM - GS Group 06:00 PM - Fellowship/Evangelism 07:00 PM - Children's Ministry Team 07:00 PM - Finance Committee 07:00 PM - Imbler Journey Group 07:00 PM - Journey Group - Wrobel	13 11:30 AM - Ruth Naomi Circle 06:30 PM - Disciple I - Landerholm 07:00 PM - Mentor Jr. Women's Club Meeting	14 09:30 AM - MOPS & MOMSnext Meeting 07:30 PM - Charter Members Christmas Sing	15 08:00 AM - Journey Group Leader Meeting 08:15 AM - Cantata rehearsal
Christmas Cantata - 9 & 11 AM 09:00 AM - Confirmation Class 04:30 PM - YSP Meeting 06:00 PM - Occupy Youth Ministry - Christmas Party 07:00 PM Journey Group - Nagle	10:00 AM - Christmas Gift Sorting 10:15 AM - Worship at Mentor Ridge Creek 11:00 AM - Worship at Atria Newell 04:30 PM - Christmas Gift Distribution	18 04:30 PM - Christmas Gift Distribution	19 01:15 PM - Mentor Miscellany Club 07:00 PM - Imbler Journey Group 07:00 PM - Usher Training	20 12:30 PM - Piano Tuning	21 09:30 AM - MOPS & MOMSnext Meeting	22
06:00 PM - StuCo 56 07:00 PM Journey Group - Nagle	Christmas Eve Services Office Closed	25 Merry Christmas! Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27	28 09:30 AM - MOPS & MOMSnext Meeting	29 04:30 PM - More than a Meal Prep 05:30 PM - More than a Meal
07:00 PM Journey Group - Nagle	Office Closed	01 Happy New Year! Office Closed				05

December 2018



Young at Heart Luncheon
 Wednesday, December 5
 Noon in Fellowship Hall
 Hosted by Mentor United Methodist Women



All those 62 years and older 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!

Please call the church office at 440-255-3496 by November 30, and ask to be added to the Young at Heart Luncheon list! Let us know when you call if you need a ride. We will be happy to arrange one for you!

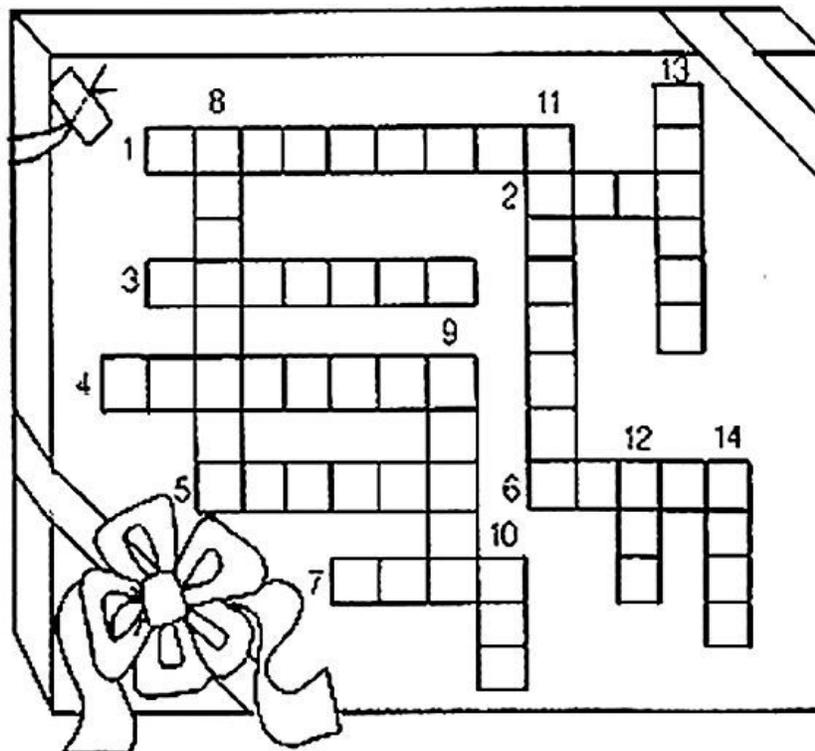
Ruth Naomi Circle

December 13, 11:30 AM at Marie Scramblers.

Join us for the Christmas Lunch at Marie Scramblers! Bring a wrapped white elephant gift to share and knitted hats, scarfs and gloves to donate. There will not be a meeting in January. Contact Georgeanna Allen with any questions at (440) 255-5515.

Ruth Naomi Circle will not meet if the Mentor Schools are closed due to bad weather. Feel free to call the church office to confirm at 440-255-3496.

Christmas Crossword



Across

- 1. Hang these on the tree
- 2. Evergreen or pine
- 3. Frosty is one
- 4. You give and receive these
- 5. Tie this on your package
- 6. A Christmas color
- 7. For the top of the tree

Down

- 8. Rudolph
- 9. Jolly toymaker
- 10. Color of Santa's suit
- 11. Hang this from the mantle
- 12. Santa's Helper
- 13. Santa's transportation
- 14. Christmas carol

answers on page 5