October Prayer Focus - Grace Is Greater

"... but God said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.’ So I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me."   - 2 Corinthians 12: 9

Jesus wants us to know that even when difficulties arise, God’s grace is steadfast. When we cry out in weakness, God will reveal His strength. When we recognize God cares for us, we come to see that God cares for others in their weaknesses, too. Pray that all those who struggle with various things ... will know God’s grace! Pray for our divorce and grief Care Groups, as well as others who gather for prayer and support. Pray for caregivers, and especially our Caring Servants who extend the love of Christ to others. Pray for ministries that touch people who need to know they are not alone: More than a Meal; ESL classes; our Assisted Living Facility worship services ... What else comes to mind?

God is our strength and power. May we rely on God, and help others recognize Him at work.

“Scams Targeting Citizens” Program and Chili Lunch

Sunday, October 6 at 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall

Join us for a chili lunch and a program featuring a Crime Prevention Officer from our local Police Department who will help us learn ways to prevent, recognize, and report scams and fraud.

This event is sponsored by Mentor United Methodist Women and is free and open to all. Invite family, friends, and neighbors to join you! No RSVP is needed, but please contact Carole Ring (umw@mentorumc.org or 255-7213 and leave a message) if you have questions.
Tom and I purchased our home when snow was on the ground. Honestly, after all the snow in the back yard melted …. well, we took a deep breath!

As the months have progressed we have enjoyed working in our yard together. We have watched the yard come alive with green leaves, flowering trees, and various plants. It has been fun identifying trees, and expectantly waiting to see what a budding plant will look like. We enjoy sitting on our deck as birds feed, squirrels scurry, and deer seek to claim their place.

Oh, there is still work to do! We realize that we can’t transform our small plot overnight or even in one summer. However, we’re working on it and enjoying the process. I’m not sure we will enjoy raking the leaves that will soon fall. I’ll keep you posted.

I am reminded of the Israelites wandering in the desert hoping for the promised land. Surely God’s plan was for them to arrive in days not 4 decades. Even without GPS, traveling from A to B could not have been that difficult. Did they get confused about which cloud to follow? FORTY YEARS …

During their travels they feared the unknown … but God was faithful.
During their travels they were hungry and thirsty … but God offered manna and quail and water
During their travels they became weary and grumbled … but God kept guiding them
During their travels they feared their enemies … but God provided leaders and strategies and victory

When we look at the landscape of our lives do we trust God’s plan – promise – provision?
   Do we anticipate God’s faithfulness seeing us through difficulties?
   Do we rely on God’s peace to help us face trials?
   Do we live into God’s goodness and mercy and envision joy and abundance?
   Do we do the work of discipleship … following, praying, listening, trusting?

As we continue our journey with Christ may we help each other discover grace and mercy. Let us envision a community of faith where God is glorified and praised ….

Regardless of the landscape or difficulties or challenges God is at work in us and among us and through us! It’s a beautiful reality.

The deep breaths we take can be because we are overwhelmed by God’s goodness and the joy of possibilities! Take a deep breath!

God loves you!

May this good news give you vision for the future.

Pastor Sondra
Through The Years

Have you ever heard of a Love Feast? It is not a five star dining experience but rather a Christian fellowship meal that recalls the meals (not the Last Supper) that Jesus shared with His disciples. Its purpose was to express the sharing or fellowship enjoyed by the family of Christ. Love Feasts or Agape Meals, as they are sometimes referred to, are very old practices going back to Jewish and early Christian traditions.

John Wesley was introduced to the Love Feast during a meeting with the Moravians in Savannah, Georgia in 1737. The Moravians had begun this type of meal in Germany in 1727. The meal consists of bread, cake, crackers, or rolls along with a cup. The cup is usually water but it can be drinks such as coffee or tea. Giving for the poor was also part of the experience. Love Feasts are not to be confused with Holy Communion, which is a sacrament in the United Methodist Church. The Moravians usually sat in a circle and shared the items to be consumed. They remained quiet during the meal.

Wesley was deeply impressed by the Love Feast concept but decided that it should be a time of testimony, rather than quiet contemplation. He encouraged that Love Feasts be performed regularly. Indeed, during the early years of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, Love Feasts were done by congregations during the long intervals when a circuit riding pastor was away. Unlike Communion, a Love Feast does not have to be administered by a member of the clergy. A leader is appointed and participants usually, but not always, sit in a circle or at a table. Wesley added hymns, prayers and scripture to the meal. Participating groups can range from a disciple group to the entire congregation. Love Feasts have also been known to be followed by a full dinner.

The Love Feast typically begins with a hymn followed by prayers. Scripture is then read which is followed by an address on those scriptures from one or several people. The bread is then passed. A collection for the poor is taken and testimonies are given. The cup is then circulated. A Love Feast cup is either two handled or three handed making it easier to pass. Individual cups can also be used as alternative vessels. Another hymn is sung and then a dismissal with blessing ends the meal. The use of Love Feasts greatly diminished over the years but are still performed in some Methodist settings. While we don’t do these meals much anymore, perhaps our famous United Methodist Potlucks are another example of showing our community and fellowship with Christ.

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
Fall is in full swing! Apples, pumpkin, and sweater weather is upon us. How is your family doing as you continue to disciple your children? Where can I help you in this process? It has been great to see families on Sunday mornings either in Kids’ Journey Groups, Choir, or Youth 56. Parents, are you in a Journey Group where you can cultivate your relationship with God? If not, what is holding you back? Where can I come alongside you? At the time of this writing, I do not have anyone signed up for Spiritual Parenting. My husband says it is because no one wants to miss Monday night football... Maybe by the time you are reading this something has changed, and maybe it hasn’t. How can I offer learning and growing opportunities that will meet your needs?

I am excited about offering a study on The Talk(s): A parent’s guide to critical conversations about sex, dating and other unmentionables by Barrett & Jennifer Johnson. This study will look at a parent’s responsibility, having “the talk”, the impact of social media, when they’re ready to date, the pornography problem, and discovering a better way. This will begin on Tuesday, October 15 (avoiding Monday night football…) from 6:00 to 8:00 PM and continue through November 19. Who is ready to register and learn more about this important conversation with your children?

Our first Positive Parenting Book Club is November 4 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. The book is Becoming a Spiritually Healthy Family: Avoiding the Six Dysfunctional Parenting Styles by Michelle Anthony. “We all want to guide our children into the abundant life that Jesus offers, but when we pursue the ‘more’ and ‘better’ life that the world offers above our pursuit of Jesus, we fall into dangerous and subtle dysfunctional parenting habits.” WOWZA! I look forward to the discussion that will ensue after reading this book. Will you join me?

And for something fun and festive, don’t forget about the annual Fall Fest and Trunk or Treat! It will be on Saturday, October 19 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. This is a FREE, no need to preregister event! Make your way through the trunks into the building to Fellowship Hall for games and activities. I am looking for “Trunkers” to attend with their trunks and to hand out candy. We will also need servants to assist with the festival! Who wants to be a part of our fun fall event? Looking forward to assisting you with your family’s discipleship path! Please don’t hesitate to ask questions and to let me know how I can help you and cheer you on!

By HIS Grace and through HIS love,

Tammy Palermo
Director of Children and Family Ministries
tpalermo@mentorumc.org

New Youth Director
We are excited to announce that Leah Nash has joined Mentor UMC as our new Director of Youth Ministries. Leah is a recent graduate of Ohio University and has a strong background in teaching and instruction. She has also been active in different United Methodist Churches and has worked as an Activity and Program Director at youth camps, including Camp Asbury. Please join us in making Leah and her husband, Chris, welcome at Mentor UMC, as they come alongside us all and assist us in living into our church’s mission of leading all onto a path of Christ-centered discipleship.

Thank You
A special thank you to the many talented musicians that shared their special gifts with our church family during the summer months. Our Thursday evening chapel services and Sunday morning traditional services were blessed by your special music. Thank you for praising our Lord through your music.
Library Notes

The Library Committee continues to work on improving the Merkel Library by reviewing the inventory of books, DVD’s, etc. to make sure that your church library is meeting the needs of Mentor United Methodist Church. Over the past month, many new books have been added to the shelves including materials for youth and adults. We are working on setting up monthly events to highlight specific books that we feel will be of interest to the congregation. This is a lot of work, bear with us as we implement our visions for the library.

You can help the committee with our focus for October. We will be working to get any books or other materials returned to the library that may be past due. Please check around your house and see if this may apply to you. Thanks for your help with this effort to retrieve past due Merkel Library materials. Also, if you have any suggestions to improve the library operations please let us know that too! Thanks for your help.

You can contact the library via email at library@mentorumc.org

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GINGERBREAD HOUSE CRAFT FAIR
Friday, November 8th from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday, November 9th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Friday Night – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Sloppy Joes & Vegetarian Chili

Lunch Saturday – 11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Homemade Soup & Chili * Hotdogs * Taco Salad

Here is your chance to help support this major fundraiser for the UMW Mission Programs and have fun at the same time!
How can you help?

ATTIC TREASURES (mini-rummage sale) needs any kind of treasures (except clothing) - small appliances, cooking pans, kitchen items, knick-knacks, crystal, dishes, etc. This is your chance to do some clearing out before the holidays! Bring your items to the Asbury Room starting Monday, November 4 through Thursday, Novemb 7.

WE NEED YOUR HOMEMADE BAKED GOODS - cakes, coffee cakes, pies, cookies, cupcakes or any of your favorite specialties for our BAKE SHOP. You can drop your items off in the church kitchen on Thursday, November 7, Friday, November 8 or early Saturday morning. Please be sure to mark your items NUT, NUT FREE or GLUTEN FREE.

COUNTRY CUPBOARD needs homemade candies, fudge, pickles, jellies, apple butter, snacks (flavored popcorn, Chex snack mixes, etc.) - also mark NUTS or NUT FREE - or any of your family favorites. Mark for GBH and leave in the church kitchen any Monday, November 4 - Friday, November 8.

If you made any handmade crafts and/or Christmas ornaments to help fill the United Methodist Women’s craft tables, your items can be left in the Conference Room starting Monday, November 4 through 3 p.m. on Friday, November 8.

Please be sure to come and shop -- tell your friends & neighbors, too!
We have 85+ crafters & a few vendors! No admission fee and plenty of free parking!
You are invited to the next gathering of

**Ruth-Naomi Circle**
Thursday, October 10
at 9:30 AM in the Adams Parlor

Rev. Sondra Snode will be joining us for our October meeting. This will allow us the opportunity to get to know one another better. Mark your calendars now to join us at 9:30 AM, Thursday, October 10 in the Adams Parlor. We hope you will join us for this time of fellowship. All women of the church are welcome to attend. You are also welcome to become a part of Ruth-Naomi Circle. And you are always welcome to bring a friend.

If you would like more information or have questions, please contact Georgeanna Allen at 255-5515. Refreshments will be served. Hope to see you there!

**School Supplies for Catalyst Ministry School Partnership Program with Painesville Schools**
We are collecting the following new school supplies and playground equipment in October for distribution early November. These items are to replenish classroom and playground supplies to help the teachers and students. Please contact Bill Mueller at 440-257-1470 if you have questions.

**Requested School Supplies**
Pocket Folders, Erasers, Crayons, Scissors, Glue Sticks, Highlighters, Dry Erase Markers, Supply Boxes, Ziploc Bags (quart size), Composition Notebooks, Pencils

Please place these items in the Catalyst Ministry School Supplies bin in the Community Center.

**Requested Playground Equipment**
5 soccer balls, 5 basketballs, 10 kick balls, 10 quality jump ropes.

Playground equipment can be placed in the Coat Ministry bin in the Community Center.

**Coat Ministry**
Starting October, we will again be collecting Winter Coats, Hats, and Gloves for the Mentor UMC Coat Ministry. These items are distributed at Thanksgiving, Christmas and as needed for the winter.

Please place new or gently used, clean coats, hats, and gloves in the Coat Ministry bin in the Community Center. All sizes are needed, from children’s to XXL, boys, girls, men, and women. Please contact Carol Mueller at 440-257-1470 if you have questions.

**Baptism and Re-affirmation Opportunity, Sunday, October 20**
During our worship series “Grace is Greater,” Mentor UMC is offering a special opportunity for any youth or adult who would like to be baptized by full immersion, or who would like to have their baptism re-affirmed by full immersion, to participate in a baptismal/affirmation ceremony using our new, heated baptismal tank.

Sunday, October 20, choose either the 9 AM or 11 AM Modern Worship Service, or a special worship opportunity following either service for your baptism.

We welcome all to prayerfully consider being a part of this opportunity, whether you typically worship in Traditional or Modern Worship. Contact Rev. Quincy Wheeler no later than October 7 if you are interested at qwheeler@mentorumc.org or by calling 440-255-3496 ext. 111.
We need a lot of hands to make this UMW MISSION PROJECT!

Duties: Everything will already be priced, all you have to do is sell the items and keep the tables stocked or be a floater to give relief to workers for lunch/breaks. Just arrive 10-15 minutes early. People are needed to help with clean up and to put the church back together after the event. Please check days and areas where you are willing to help.

**CHEESE TABLE (Amish Cheese & Sausage from Middlefield)**
- Friday, November 7th
  - 4:00—6:30 p.m.
  - 6:30—9:00 p.m.
- Saturday, November 8th
  - 10:00—12:30 p.m.
  - 12:30—3:00 p.m.

**BAKE SHOP & COUNTRY CUPBOARD**
- Friday, November 7th
  - 4:00—6:30 p.m.
  - 6:30—9:00 p.m.
- Saturday, November 8th
  - 10:00—12:30 p.m.
  - 12:30—3:00 p.m.

**UMW CRAFT AREA **
- Friday, November 7th
  - 4:00—6:30 p.m.
  - 6:30—9:00 p.m.
- Saturday, November 8th
  - 10:00—12:30 p.m.
  - 12:30—3:00 p.m.

**ATTIC TREASURES (Mini-rummage sale)**
- Please check area of preference

**FLOATERS (Help where needed)**
- Friday, November 7th
  - 4:00—6:30 p.m.
  - 6:30—9:00 p.m.
- Saturday, November 8th
  - 10:00—12:30 p.m.
  - 12:30—3:00 p.m.

**HELP during the week to set-up**
- M  ___  T  ___  W  ___  Th  ___  F  ___
- 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  1:30 - 3:30 p.m. (You can volunteer any amount of time)

**HELP TO CLEAN-UP after the event, and set-up for Sunday morning.**
- 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**NAME____________________________________ PHONE ______________________
Email _____________________________________

Please leave in the offering plate Sunday or stop at the Information Hub on Sunday morning or during the week. Sign up is also available online on the Church website.

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The October 2019 Baby Bottle Blessings Campaign for Mentor’s Hannah’s Hometo SAVE Babies

Hannah’s Home exists to provide a safe and nurturing home for single women who are pregnant. Baby bottles for loose change will be available at the Information Hub beginning September 29. Check or cash donations can be placed in envelopes for the Offering. Please make checks out to MUMC and note “Hannah’s Home”. For online giving, please choose the fund “Hannah’s Home”. Donations are due no later than November 4. Please consider donating to this important ministry. Any questions? Contact Adda Porter at 440-974-8160, 440-289-8786, or addaporter@oh.rr.com.
God Cares
Many people who live in care centers struggle daily with loneliness. They need friends who will help them find hope and peace in the Lord. This is something any willing Christian can do. If you desire to experience the joy of giving to people who will truly appreciate your time, this training program is for you. This training program will also provide great helps and resources for Christians desiring to minister to any frail senior.

Saturday, October 12 • Mentor United Methodist Church
9:00 AM to 3:30 PM • Doors open at 8:30 AM

Registration is required. There is a $30 cost to cover your training outline; the handbook, and lunch. (Scholarships are available.)
For questions or to register contact God Cares at 440-930-2173.

Traditional Worship service in the Sanctuary Sundays 9 AM and 11 AM
Modern Worship in Fellowship Hall Sundays 9 AM and 11 AM
Deadline for the next Newsletter is October 8.
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<td>10:00 AM - Journey Group</td>
<td>09:15 AM - Parents Morning Out</td>
<td>09:30 AM - Journey Group - Palermo</td>
<td>10:00 AM - Centenary Bible Study</td>
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<td>01:00 PM - Journey Group - Fournier / Korenko</td>
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<td>08:00 AM - iConnect - Vocal Anointing</td>
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<td>07:00 AM - Men's Group Meeting</td>
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For the most current information, please see the calendar at www.mentorumc.org.