

STEEPLETALK

News from Mentor United Methodist Church

Summer

2020

Through the Years

In a world turned upside down due to COVID-19, one of the most affected areas of life is that of education. Our students and teachers have had to adapt to continue learning. Congratulations goes out to the many Mentor United Methodist scholarship winners. Our church has a distinguished record in offering financial aid for education. I will be sharing more about our scholarship donors in future columns.

The United Methodist Church itself has a very long and proud history of establishing institutions of higher education. By the year 1820, the Methodist movement had grown strong in numbers and financial stability. The one thing the church was lacking was any colleges or universities. Methodist students had to go to institutions run by other denominations. That changed with the General Conference of 1820. The church began to establish colleges and academies. The oldest surviving college is Wesley University in Middletown, Connecticut. It was founded in 1831. From 1830 to 1861, a total of fifty-three colleges were established in the United States with the Methodist Church founding thirty-two of them! It is an impressive record. While many of these schools have little or no direct United Methodist connection today, it is still a legacy of which the church should be proud.

One Institution that continues its religious connections is the Chautauqua Institute in New York State. The Institute was founded by two men, Lewis Miller and Reverend John Heyl Vincent. Miller was a philanthropist based in Akron, Ohio. He made his fortune by inventing the first combine (harvester-reaper machine) with the blade mounted efficiently in the front of the driver, to the side of the horse, rather than pulled behind. Miller donated much of his wealth to Methodist causes. He also invented the Akron Plan layout for churches and Sunday schools in conjunction with Rev. Vincent and architect Jacob Snyder. His daughter, Mina, married Thomas Edison.

Rev. Vincent, who later was made a Bishop, set up the Chautauqua Institute as a training ground for Sunday school teachers. Teachers would arrive by steamboat on Chautauqua Lake. The park was used to teach the geography of the Holy Land. The Institute developed its programs for religion, arts, music and education. It was later called the Chautauqua movement and was adopted elsewhere. The Institute is on the National Register of Historic Places and is designated a National Historic Landmark. This great center for culture had its beginnings thanks to a Methodist pastor and a Methodist philanthropist.

Stay safe and continue to follow Christ, our strength and our Redeemer!

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

STAFF

Lead Pastor
Rev. Sondra Snode
SSnode@mentorumc.org

Associate Pastor
Rev. Quincy Wheeler
QWheeler@mentorumc.org

Director of Children & Family Ministries
Tammy Palermo
TPalermo@mentorumc.org

Director of Youth Ministries
Leah Nash
LNash@mentorumc.org

Director of Music
Organist, Bell Choir Director,
Charter Members Director,
Chancel Choir Director
Amy Bender
ABender@mentorumc.org

Director of Modern Worship
Michelle Park
MPark@mentorumc.org

Minister for Congregational Care
Rev. Barbara Holzhauser
BBholzhauser@mentorumc.org

Address and Phone:
8600 Mentor Ave.
Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 255-3496

www.mentorumc.org
Facebook.com/mentorumc
Twitter: @MentorUMChurch
info@mentorumc.org



Children and Family Ministries

Register for events through the app or at www.mentorumc.org/children
www.mentorumc.org/sunday-school

Summer is humming along. It is crazy how quickly it has gone! Theatre Arts Camp was able to happen and looked very differently but came together very nicely. There was a total of thirty-two children, youth, and adults that came together to produce three one acts that culminated in A Night of One Acts on Friday, July 24. Thank you to all who supported our endeavors!

As the summer has progressed I have continued offering Sunday morning meet ups at 10:30 am for the children. Kate & Abby Colbow have done an amazing job creating video lessons for the preschool children. These are impressive and are greatly appreciated! I've also been available for Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am as well but have not had much luck. I guess the days are too nice to be on a screen. ;)

I know that I had mentioned that the East Ohio Camps had suspended their programs for the summer, but I have recently learned that they ARE offering Family Camps! That is pretty exciting for those of you looking for something do this summer. Here are the camp links:

[Camp Aldersgate](#)

[Camp Asbury](#)

[Camp Wanake](#)

I am looking ahead to August when we celebrate our incoming third graders as they receive their Bibles. Please know that the Children's Ministry Team is working to still make this happen although it will look different than in years past. If you have a child entering THIRD GRADE this fall, you should have received an email from Tammy regarding the plan. If you did not receive this email, please contact her ASAP at tpalermo@mentorumc.org.

It is not too late to sign up your family or your children individually for the [EAT THIS BOOK Challenge!](#) It is a way to plunge into the New Testament. You can join at any time but need to have your sessions completed by September 5th.

I know the months of June and July looked different than in years past. We are still making our way through this pandemic. God knows our needs and our hearts. We just need to remember to lean into His love and care for us. I pray that you are staying safe and healthy and making the best decisions for your family during these days.

By HIS Grace and through HIS love,
Tammy Palermo
Director of Children and Family Ministries
tpalermo@mentorumc.org

Second Quarter Financial Update

The second quarter of 2020 is over and we continue to celebrate your financial support of our ministry. Although COVID-19 has altered our ministry it has not halted our ministry.

Because of your generosity we continue to fulfill our financial commitments. We are current on our Erie Bank mortgage payments; are current with our conference and district apportionments; continue to support our full-time staff; and continue to actively engage in ministries in our church and community.

Because of your generosity we have purchased or ordered items that will assist our ministry moving forward, such as cameras and technology for live-streaming, and essential cleaning equipment.

Most importantly, because of your generosity we continue to impact lives through our worship, ministry with children, food ministry, care of those with specific needs, and mission outreach. As you mail your weekly contribution, give on-line or drop off your offering please be assured, and thankful, that you are making a difference for Christ.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

The Finance Committee
July 15, 2020

Youth Ministries

This summer has been filled with surprises, excitement, and change. It has been an honor to be a part of the long-standing traditions of this congregation and youth ministry by leading Youth Service Project, Middle School Mission Week, and completing our Confirmation Class.

This year in our Confirmation Class we had seventeen students. When the pandemic began, our class still had three more sessions which were able to complete via Google Meet, which was both challenging and entertaining. There were many discussions of favorite breakfast foods, pets that liked to crash the calls, and students (and teachers) who felt more sleepy than when we met in person. We had to postpone our retreat to Camp Asbury, but we hope to be able to have a picnic at a park sometime in the future. The students completed their interviews with Pastor Sondra and Pastor Quincy, who enjoyed talking to them about what faith means to them. And finally, on June 28, we were able to have our Confirmation Sunday with the students' close family members in the Sanctuary and baptize three students. With love, congregation members met them at the portico entrance to honk their car horns in celebration.

For the Youth Service Project, our plans changed but God provided us with a local mission for a family in Thompson, Ohio. Throughout the week of June 21-27, the YSP Team helped rebuild the Collen Family's home. There were 8 students and 12 adults from MUMC, though there were others that came and helped a few days during the week. The Team replaced and reframed windows, doors, put in a new stairway, added supports to the floor, and framed the interior of the house. We also put up siding, painted, leveled the floor in the barn, and helped out with barn chores.

Each day was met with morning music, and our evenings ended with devotions at Thompson UMC. The students gained new skills, befriended horses, and grew closer as a team through fun riddles and card games. It was a joy to learn more about God's Kingdom throughout the week as we focused on our scriptures. Matthew 5:3-12 allowed us to see a clear picture of God's Kingdom, and that it is a place where we are comforted, filled, loved, and called the Sons and Daughters of God.

For our Middle School Mission Week, our 22 students endured a very hot week of service projects on July 6-10. We were able to do yard work around the church, clean out the shed, and paint the planters by the road. We also got to take a trip to the YSP site and meet the Collen Family. We worked in the pasture clipping bushes along the fenceline, and scrubbed down the saddles and bridles in the tack room. Later in the week, we cut the fabric that made 164 masks, made cards for our shut-ins (learning to address envelopes in our clearest handwriting), and helped cook and deliver meals to the shut-ins. On Friday, we held a car wash that raised over \$500 for our various meal ministries at MUMC and ended our week soaking wet with a water balloon fight. It was great still being able to serve our communities and focus on the same verses that our YSP Team learned from.

This entire Summer, and year for that matter, I have heard people say again and again how different things are. A verse that we focused on during YSP and MSMW showed us that we should continue to do God's work, even when it feels different. Ecclesiastes 11:4 says, "If you wait until the wind and the weather are just right, you will never plant anything and never harvest anything."

I want to end this letter with encouragement and love for all of the Youth and their families. You will get through this, and I hope this time allows you to grow in your relationship with God. We will get a chance to celebrate our incoming seventh graders, have a new Confirmation group, and have Youth Group, though the circumstances may be different. We are still able to plant seeds, even though there are restrictions, and we will be able to have a bountiful harvest when this is over. Please continue to keep an eye out for information as we find ways to continue to reach out to one another and plan safe activities. I miss you all very much!

Leah Nash
Director of Youth Ministry

From Pastor Quincy

Chelsea and I want to thank everyone for your warm welcome of Augustine Harley Wheeler as he arrived at our home. So many of you extended warm congratulations, cards, meals, and gifts - we are so blessed. So far, Augustine is a very good baby, and Elliot, our oldest, likes him a lot, usually alternating between kissing him and giving him "encouraging pats."

We are excited about doing some new, creative things in online worship to keep the service fresh, especially trying to engage our families who are watching with kids at home. We also are working on offering Zoom/Google small groups for the fall, and offering chances to continue conversations on the need for multiethnic conversations on racial justice issues.

In these trying times, I encourage you to remember and treasure the connection you have with this amazing church. Even though we can't be together right now as we used to be, we can still reach out to let our family in Christ know how much we love them.

Thank You

I would like to thank Larry Hoon, of the Joseph Ministry, for all his hard work teaching and letting me help remove and install a new ramp on my home thru this hot weather. It is a great improvement! Thank you again Larry Hoon.

God Bless,
Kathy Joczcyk

2020 Scholarship Recipients

The June Pfeiffer Scholarship

Jaron Grantz
Audrey Woledge

The Mentor United Methodist Church Scholarship

Katherine Lowe
Ellie Busch
Abigail Busch
Katherine Busch
Ben Gingrich

The A. Hugh Brown Scholarship

Jacob Carlson

The Eleanor D. & Herbert W. Weil Scholarship

Annika Carlson

The Ed & Dorothy Carter Scholarship

Hannah Gingrich

The Rev. Dorothy Penny-Larter Scholarship

Eliana Palermo

The Rev. Ronald & Marna Eppler Scholarship

Roxy Beers

The Barbara S. Davis Education Scholarship

Nathan McMillen

The Rebecca Horvath Scholarship

Roxy Beers

Scholarships

The June Pfeiffer Scholarship

June Pfeiffer was a very active member of Mentor United Methodist Church. She was an original member of the 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Class which met for many years. She often led the class Bible study. She spent many hours working in the Church Office assisting the secretarial staff, in the Christian Education Office lending a hand to the Christian Ed. Director, and was very involved in the educational ministries of the church. She supported the United Methodist Women in their many activities. She did extraordinary needlepoint and supported the UMW Gingerbread House Craft Fair with the donations of many beautiful handmade items.

On July 21, 1988, Mrs. Pfeiffer established a large Irrevocable Charitable Remainder Unit Trust which names Mentor UMC as the beneficiary. The charitable trust mandate was the education of church members. She contributed her many gifts and talents to the service of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God, and she leaves for the people of God a legacy of discipleship to be modeled by all.

The Mentor United Methodist Church Scholarship

Mentor United Methodist Scholarships are awarded through the generosity of individual contributions to the Gifts, Endowments, and Memorials (G.E.M.) Committee of Mentor United Methodist Church. The Endowment Fund was created on May 20, 1991 to ensure the future of the church. Scholarship is one of several endowment-funded areas.

The A. Hugh Brown Scholarship

A. Hugh Brown (October 8, 1930 - September 27, 2002) was a longtime resident of Mentor and Sarasota, Florida. He was a member of Mentor United Methodist Church, a trustee for Lake Hospital Systems, was a Shriner and a member of Charles M. Setzer Free and Accepted Masons Lodge 693.

He was a U.S. Army Air Force veteran and a VFW member. Mr. Brown served on the Mentor Board of Education for 20 years. He was a former president of Mentor High School PTA and served as chairman for the MHS PTA Circus for 10 years. He was a past president of TOP 25 Parents Club. The Mentor Cardinal Stadium was dedicated in Mr. Brown's honor. He earned the honor of Outstanding Citizen of the Year in 1975. He was a member of Mentor Rotary, Mentor Chamber of Commerce, Elks Lodge and chairman of School Neighborhood Action Community Committee. He retired from General Electric in 1990 after 41 years of service.

The Eleanor D. and Herbert W. Weil Scholarship

Eleanor "Davie" Weil (1924-2017) attended the Massachusetts College of Art and was Art Director at Meister Publications in Willoughby. She was also a painter, and several members of Mentor UMC have her work in their homes. She held leadership positions in Mentor Women's Club and other civic organizations that raised scholarship money. At Mentor UMC, she sang in the Chancel Choir and volunteered in many other areas.

Herbert W. Weil (1925-1982) held music degrees from Queens College (NY) and was the chief arranger and tenor saxophone player in the 179th General Hospital Band during WWII. He taught music for over 30 years in Kirtland, Cleveland Heights, and Brecksville, and he was also the choir director at Old South Church in Kirtland for 20 years.

Davie and Herb passed their love of the arts on to their sons, a musician and a writer and English professor.

The Ed & Dorothy Carter Scholarship

This scholarship was given by Gene McNabb in memory of his Aunt Dorothy and Uncle Ed. They were very special to him and an important influence in his life. Gene was born December 22, 1924 and died April 5, 2007. He was a graduate of Monroe High School. Gene served as a First Lieutenant in the 447th Bomber Group during World War II. He earned a business degree from Miami University. Gene was an active member of the United Way and served on many committees at MUMC. Just a week or two before he passed away, he was at MUM helping to distribute food baskets at Easter.

The Reverend Dorothy Penny-Larter Scholarship

Dot Penny-Larter (May 21, 1958 - December 15, 2011) was born in Bradford, England. She graduated from Tong High School in Bradford, England and attended school at Bulmershe College in Reading, England. After coming to Ohio, she earned her Master of Arts degree in Biblical studies in 1998, and her Master of Divinity degree in 2003, both at Ashland Theological Seminary.

She served Millersburg UMC from 1998 to 2001, Gnadenhutten UMC from 2001 to 2005, and Mentor UMC from 2005 to 2010. She taught several Disciple classes at Mentor United Methodist.

The Reverend Dorothy Penny-Larter Scholarship was established by individual memorial donations in her memory.

The Rev. Ronald and Marna Eppler Scholarship

Ronald and Marna Eppler met at Baldwin Wallace College in 1954 and were married at the First United Methodist Church, New Philadelphia in 1956. Marna earned her Bachelor's Degree in Education, and Ron went on to earn his Master of Divinity Degree at Boston University Seminary. Ron served as a pastor at several churches in the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church, served as a Minister of Music, and became Mansfield District Superintendent in 1987. In retirement, he served the Mentor United Methodist Church as Visitation Pastor and was given the honorary title of Pastor Emeritus in 2002. Marna taught history, served as secretary of the Painesville United Methodist Church for most of the 1970's, and then returned to teaching and tutoring children. Ron and Marna were happily married nearly sixty years and considered themselves in ministry together to the communities of the United Methodist Church.

The Rev. Ronald and Marna Eppler Scholarship was established through the donations of many individuals in their memory.

The Barbara S. Davis Education Scholarship

Barbara Davis (February 21, 1929 – June 15, 2015) was a lifelong resident of Mentor and member of Mentor United Methodist Church. She was a graduate of Mentor High School, earned her Bachelor's Degree at Kent State University and Master's degree in Education at Lake Erie College. An active member of Mentor United Methodist Church, she served as a trustee and on many committees. She was a member and past president of Phi Delta Kappa and Delta Kappa Gamma Sororities.

An accomplished author, she wrote many articles relating to education as well as two books, Who Says You Can't Change the World? and Roses to Retail: Growing up with Mentor. She was honored to be listed in a Directory of Distinguished Americans, Who's Who in the World, Who's Who in America, and Who's Who in American Education.

Her many distinctions include induction into the Mentor High School Alumni Hall of Fame in 2002 and recognition as the Phi Delta Kappa Educator of the Year in 1997. She earned federal acknowledgement by President George H. W. Bush in 1990 as Principal of a Blue Ribbon Elementary School, Center Street Elementary School, where she also attended as a child. She was presented with the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Mentor Board of Education and was named a Martha Holden Jennings Scholar.

The Rebecca Horvath Scholarship

Rebecca A. Horvath (June 13, 1978 - December 8, 1997) was an Architect Major at Ohio State University in Columbus. She attended Garfield Elementary School, Mentor Memorial Junior High and graduated from Mentor High School in 1996. She was a member of the tennis team, worked in the Unit Office all three years of school and was Editor of the 1996 Mentor High School Yearbook to which she also contributed photographs.

Rebecca was an active member of Mentor United Methodist Church. She volunteered in the Sunday School and with the Vacation Bible School program. She contributed many volunteer hours here at church and in school. She was a very loving and caring young woman.
2019 Scholarship Awards



Our 2020 Graduating High School Seniors

Amanda Balaban
 Roxy Beers
 Ellie Busch
 Annika Carlson
 Rylee Domonkos
 Hannah Kate Gingrich
 Jaron Grantz
 Ashley Hensel
 Katherine Lowe
 Alyse Madormo
 David Medvecky
 Eliana Palermo
 Ryan Smith
 Ben Stansbrey
 Nolan Vernon
 Audrey Wooledge

Congratulations to our College Graduates

Amanda Galvan - Lakeland Community College
 Gabrielle Galvan - Webster University, Stage Management
 Matthew Lowe - Baldwin Wallace, Healthcare Management

Daniel Martin graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Cincinnati with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, double majoring in Risk Management and Finance. He is working as a Production Underwriter at Great American Insurance Group in Cincinnati.

Josie Mansperger graduated from BGSU with her Masters degree in Food and Nutrition. Having completed her internship rotations and passed the RD exam, she is now a Registered Dietitian. Josie is getting married in September and will be moving to Michigan.

Mentor United Methodist Church
8600 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, OH 44060

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Thank you for Youth Service Project (YSP) and Middle School Mission Week (MSMW)

To Mentor United Methodist Church/YSP, Mentor United Methodist Church,
May God bless you for the wonderful work you folks did on our house. We enjoyed getting to know you folks as good friends!

Vic & Mable, Amy, and Micky

To Mentor United Methodist Middle School Youth Group/MSMW,
Mentor Methodist Youth Group,

You Kids did such a great job out at our farm. I didn't know how bad the tack room was until you kids pulled everything out!! I show everyone that comes how great it is now! The work in the pasture was also great.! I never go out there so I didn't realize what a mess it was!!

God bless each and every one of you!!

Vic & Mable Collen and Family

Livestream worship Sundays 9 AM and 11 AM
Facebook, YouTube and our website, www.mentorunc.org