This week we have been unsettled by events in our nation's capital. As God's people, we are required to "act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God." (Micah 6:8)

Like you, I am not always sure what I can do or how I can respond to make a difference in the world, in my country, in my community, church, or family.

As Solomon dedicated the temple to God, God spoke to him. Included in God’s message, “… if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray …” (2 chronicles 7:14). I know it was to a specific time and people but God calls us (God’s people) to humble ourselves (quietly, obediently set aside ourselves) and pray (call out to God and listen for God to speak).

We can do something – we can seek God. When we pray, we are trusting God to speak, and then empower us to work for justice, extend mercy, and boldly walk with God who is revealed to us in Jesus.

This week, we begin a new sermon series based on the book of Jonah. Most of us know Jonah … the guy who was swallowed by a big fish and lived to tell about it. Interestingly, Jonah is not a highly quoted prophet but instead one who is known for his actions. I encourage you to read Jonah … located among the other 12 minor prophets. Over the next few weeks, we will seek to discover some life lessons that help us in our faith journeys. We begin by considering the benefits of running towards God instead of away from God. Which way are you running?

I’m going to strive to run towards God …
and act justly, love mercy, and humbly seek Emmanuel -

Pastor Sondra

Sunday Morning Services
The YouVersion link for this week is https://bible.com/events/48154039

Blood Drive
MUMC will hold a Red Cross Blood Drive each month. The next drive is February 1, from 9 AM to 3 PM in the Asbury and Wesley rooms. You can schedule an appointment at www.redcrossblood.org.

Giving Tree Report
Betsy Iskra is pleased to report that the Giving Tree ministry helped 106 families, 289 children and resulted in 1,605 packages given out! Volunteers participated by purchasing, donating funds, wrapping, sorting, delivering, shopping, computer assistance, data input, sending out forms and making phone calls. Thank you, again, to all who helped in any way for this ministry.
Congregational Care

Members admitted to the Hospital:
TriPoint - Russ Lancaster  •  Cleveland Clinic - Jeanne Babcock, Sarah Wade

Members admitted to Rehab, Assisted Living or Nursing Home Facility:
Aberdeen Crossing - Barbara Brodarich
The Enclave - Kay Disbro  •  Brookdale Mentor - Norma Kuzik
Mentor Ridge - Gloria Meyer  •  Parker Place - Opal Pinasky
Danbury Senior Living - Ross & Kathryn Bevacqua
Maple Ridge Sr. Living - Bob Chamberlin  •  Brookdale Wickliffe - Fran Rose
Tapestry Senior Living - Gloria McFeely
Fairmount - Patricia Laubscher, Art Sydow
Continuing Healthcare of Mentor - Virginia Gilman

Members who have returned home or are homebound:
Dale Snyder, Linda Leach, Karen Mancini, Val Hardy, John Proegler
John Hurley, Tom Knesbeck, Noel Barber, Evelyn Scott

Our sympathy to Barb Denton and family in the passing of Barb’s mother, Nancy Morris, on December 29, 2020.

Our sympathy to Gloria McFeely and family in the passing of Ron McFeely on December 27, 2020.

Youth Group
Youth Group will restart virtually via Zoom tonight, January 10, at 6:30 PM. We will have a Bible Lesson and play online games together as a group. We look forward to starting off the New Year with you!
Please email Leah at lnash@mentorumc.org for information or the meeting link.

MUMC Youth Bible Study
We are excited to announce our new virtual Bible Study: L.T.L.C., geared towards student-led topics, for our older students! (10th grade and higher, exceptions will be made for interested 9th graders.) We hope they will join us to discuss the hard questions about faith, the Bible, and showing God’s love.

It will begin Friday January 15 at 4 PM. Following weeks will be determined by student’s schedules and availability. We do hope to make this an in-person study with planned activities as soon as we are able! This Study is being led by Leah Nash and Laurie Babcock.

Please email Leah at lnash@mentorumc.org for information, meeting links, or questions regarding the content and plans for the study.

YSP Update
Letters of intent for YSP 2021 are due February 7. Please fill out the form to submit your intent to join our trip this year! For more information about YSP 2021, please reach out to Leah Nash at lnash@mentorumc.org
YSP Letter of Intent can be found at this link https://forms.gle/B5DRpAzH9C5cdmbNA.

Our next information meeting will be January 31 at 4:00 PM online. Email Leah for the meeting link at lnash@mentorumc.org.
MUMC Family Style Sunday Morning Kids’ Journey Groups are every Sunday morning at 10:10-10:50 AM. Check your email for login details or contact Tammy.

PS, K, 1st gr led by Kate & Abby Colbow
2nd, 3rd, 4th gr led by Eliana Palermo & Ryan Poje
5th & 6th gr led by Barb Brown & Leah Nash

The Talks Study: A parent’s guide to critical conversations about sex, dating and other unmentionables is being offered starting January 19 online. Registration is currently open at this link http://bit.ly/3mE9LlK. Every parent knows about “the talk.” What many parents fail to realize is that one conversation isn’t enough. Your kids desperately need help to navigate the rapidly changing sexually-charged culture in which they live. Packed with solid research and practical tools, The Talks provides you with the help you need to get comfortable having some critical conversations in your home. It covers both “what to know” and “what to do.” Whether your kids are 6 or 16, you’ll be equipped to help your kids make wise choices now and to prepare them to experience God’s gift of sexuality in the right time and in the right way.

Positive Parenting Book Club’s next book is Lisa TerKeurst’s book, It’s Not Supposed to Be This Way: Finding Unexpected Strength When Disappointments Leave You Shattered. We will read and then meet to discuss the book biweekly starting on January 7 and concluding on March 18 at 7:30 PM.

MOPS & MOMSnext meets Thursday, January 28 in the evening. The group will be meeting virtually until further notice. The theme is Decide to Rise and is very appropriate and timely. Contact MOPS at mops@mentorumc.org for more information.

Youth 56 meets tonight on Zoom! Sign up at the link https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4cabab29a2fa7-youth1. We meet on Zoom from 6 to 8 PM.

Middle School Mission Week 2021
It’s time to begin planning our MSMW Service Project for 2021! Our first information meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 27, at 7:00 PM. Following meetings will be on the 4th Wednesday of every month. If you are interested in helping plan the event or have questions about MSMW, we invite you to join us! Please email Leah at lnash@mentorumc.org for the meeting link and password.

Please consider making this mission week part of your Summer plans and help our youth find ways to serve!