

The liturgical color is green for growth & mission

PRELUDE "Rejoice and Be Glad" Jason W. Krug
Canticle Bell Choir

WELCOME Connie Irvin, liturgist

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, all who seek the way of Christ,
who calls us to love not only our neighbors but also our enemies.

**We come, longing to follow in the footsteps of Jesus,
to love as He loves, even when it is difficult.**

In a world that teaches division, Christ calls us to reconciliation.

In a time of conflict, He calls us to peace.

**We gather to be shaped by His grace,
to learn the way of mercy, and to embrace the power of love.**

Let us worship the God who loves without limits,
who calls us to do the same, that we may be children of the Most High.

**With open hearts and willing spirits,
we come to worship, to be transformed, and to live in love. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN** "Where Charity and Love Prevail" UMH 549

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

OPENING PRAYER

Children are invited to stay in worship or meet in the Narthex to go to Sunday School

SCRIPTURE Luke 6:32-36, p. 729

ANTHEM "Celebration and Grace" Michael Mazzatenta

SHARING STORIES OF GOD AT WORK THROUGH CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

** Congregation invited to stand if able*

MENTOR IN MINISTRY

SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "You Make the Sun to Rise" Craig Courtney
Chancel Choir; Bonnie Budziak, accompanist

***DOXOLOGY #94**

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, Whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

HYMN OF CENTERING "Help Us Accept Each Other" UMH 560
Hymn History: The music to his hymn was written by John Ness Beck. He was born in Warren, Ohio in 1930. Beck attended Ohio State University where he achieved both B. A. and B.S. degrees in English. After a two year service in the U. S. Army, he returned to OSU and earned both Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in music. He taught on the music faculty for seven years. During this time he composed and arranged many hymns. Beck left teaching and owned music publishing businesses. He died in 1987. The words to the hymn we sing today were written by Fred Kaan, (1929-2009), a Dutch born minister who preached in several churches in England. During World War II, his family was active in the Dutch Resistance Movement. This hymn is inspired by John 15:12 which reads: My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. (NIV).

SCRIPTURE Luke 6:27-31, p. 729

MESSAGE "Love Your Enemies"
Rev. Steve Stultz Costello

***HYMN OF MISSION** "In Unity We Lift Our Song" TFWS 2221

***BENEDICTION**

CHORAL BENEDICTION "The Blessing" arr. Heather Sorenson
Chancel Choir: Ben Chiappone, Karen Nemelka, soloists

POSTLUDE "Toccatina in C" J. S. Bach

Liturgy and prayers written by Pastor Steve with assistance from ChatGPT

Traditional Worship

February 23, 2025




Altar Flowers are presented by Judy Garris
In Loving Memory of Husband, Dale

To order flowers please contact Kathy Fellows at 440.477.4485

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At Mentor United Methodist Church,
our mission is to lead all onto a path of Christ-centered
discipleship through connection & love.