

MENTOR

UNITED

WEEKLY UPDATE

METHODIST

CHURCH

JANUARY 19, 2025

8600 MENTOR AVE

MENTOR OH 44060

MENTORUMC.ORG

440.255.3496

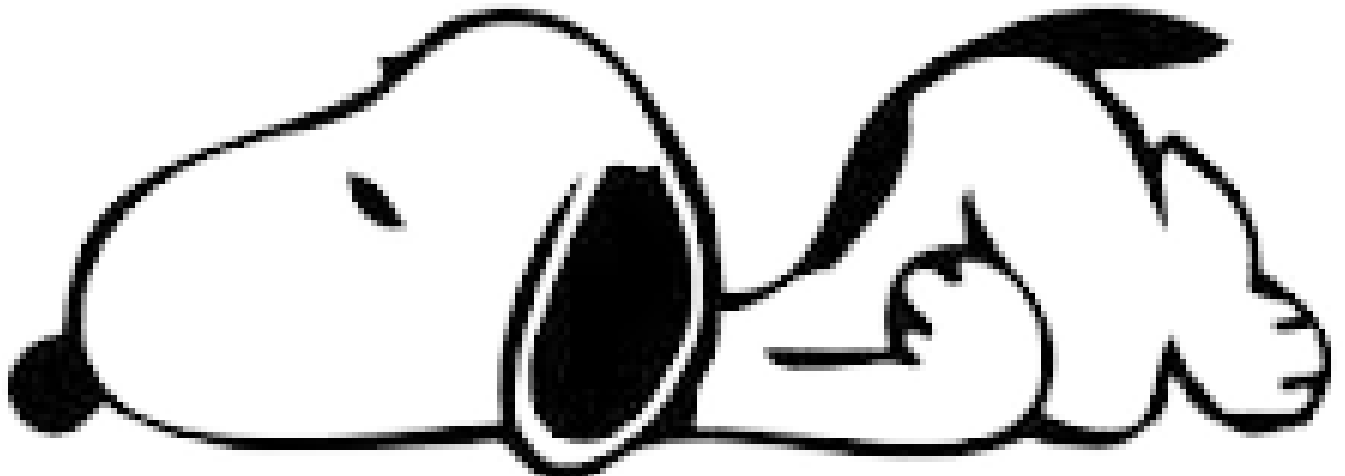
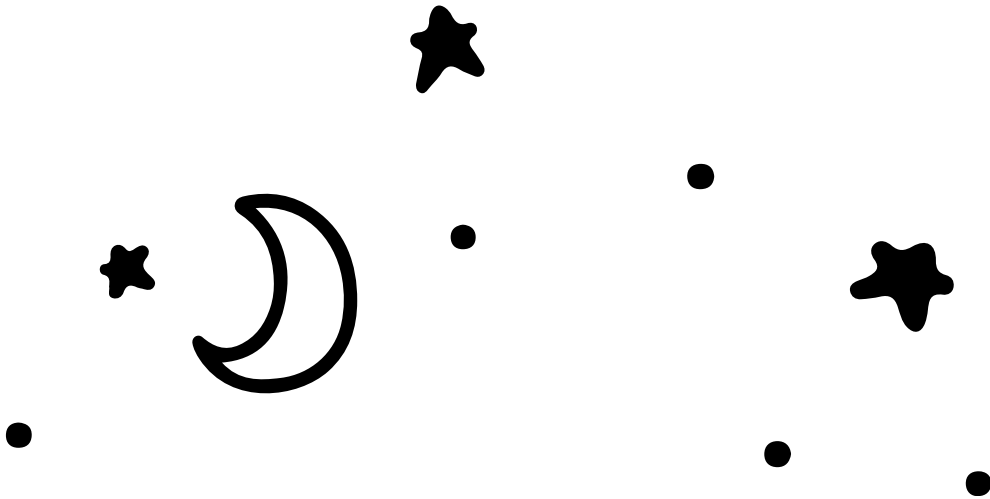
Worship with us in-person or online:

Mentorumc.org, [Facebook](#), and [Youtube](#)

Worship Schedule

9 AM Modern

11 AM Traditional



Pastor's Letter

GOOD GRIEF!

They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. 'Peace, peace,' they say, when there is no peace. Are they ashamed of their detestable conduct? No, they have no shame at all; they do not even know how to blush. – Jeremiah 6:14-15 NIV

Charlie Brown, from Charles M. Schulz Peanuts comic strip, first said "Good grief!" seventy-three years ago! Since then, the expression has become forever associated with this beloved character. He says it whenever there is a disappointment—like getting his kite caught in a tree! It's a sweet expression that evokes compassion for Charlie Brown. "Poor guy, things never seem to go his way." The expression can also be an invitation to think a little more deeply about grief, and can it in fact be good?

According to the American Psychological Association (<https://www.apa.org/topics/grief>):

Grief is the anguish experienced after significant loss, usually the death of a beloved person. Grief often includes physiological distress, separation anxiety, confusion, yearning, obsessive dwelling on the past, and apprehension about the future. Intense grief can become life-threatening through disruption of the immune system, self-neglect, and suicidal thoughts. Grief may also take the form of regret for something lost, remorse for something done, or sorrow for a mishap to oneself.

That's heavy! Can it be good? How?

When we turn to the Bible, we find a lot of grief and a lot about grief. In fact, the entire book of Lamentations is a collection of laments, which is defined by Merriam-Webster as "Crying out in grief." For this Sunday, I invite you to ponder two passages, Jeremiah 6:14-15 (see above) and Matthew 2:18:

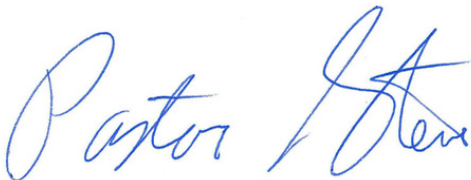
*A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled,
because they are no more. – Matthew 2:18 NRSV*

In the Matthew text, following Herod's order to have all the boys aged two and under to be killed in and around Bethlehem, Jeremiah is quoted to show an appropriate response of grief. Rachel owns her grief and refuses to be consoled. In other words, any and all efforts to make her feel better right now will be insensitive, out-of-place and simply rejected. The magnitude of the loss warrants a grief that cannot be rushed through.

By comparison, in Jeremiah 6:14-15, God grieves for the fact that God's own people the Israelites have forgotten how to grieve. They have no shame, no remorse, no embarrassment for the pain and suffering of the people that has come because of their greed and lack of concern. They have "forgotten how to blush."

Clearly, grief has a legitimate place in our journey of faith. In what ways can it be good? What are the causes of grief in your life? How do you respond to it? In what ways, if any, would you call it good? I'd love to hear about it.

As followers of the one who grieves with us, I am grateful for you. We're in this together!



Pastor Steve



Care CONGREGATIONAL

In our prayers today & in your personal prayer time, please remember the following:

Members admitted to Rehab,

Assisted Living or Nursing Home Facility:

The Enclave - Delores Tackett, Johanna Kessler, Dee Smith,
Mary Lou Haines, John Shetler, Carol Anderson

Governors Point - Doris Sturm

Parker Place - Bill Owen, Bob & Sandy Linsell,
Deloris Parsons, Mary Ann Haycox

Tapestry - Gloria McFeely

Symphony of Mentor - Lorraine Ahlstrom

Breckenridge/Fairmount - Patricia Laubscher

Village of St. Edward: Dale Porter

Holly Hill - Floyd Richards

Brookdale - Bill Wolfgang

Mentor Ridge - Russ Lancaster

Concord Ridge - Jack Brown

Members who are in need of prayer:

Karen Mancini, Marilyn Oliver, Luke Sanvido,
Bob Linsell, Joan Korenko, Katie Weiss.



Church Office will be
CLOSED
on Monday, January 20th
in celebration of
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Need to Know

Youversion

<https://bible.com/events/49376837>

Learn more about Sunday's scriptures & worship by visiting this link.

Disciple Bible Study

Ongoing in 2025 are a few Disciple Bible studies. Pastor Steve is leading a Disciple 1 class on Thursdays, 4-6 PM starting January 16th. Lucas & Wendy Rhoads are leading Disciple 2 on Thursdays from 7-9 PM. This will go all 2025, with a break in the summer. Pastor Tammy is facilitating the fast track version, which is 24 weeks, on Tuesdays. [Register here](#) or **get in touch with the leaders to join while it's still early in the course.**

Journey Group

On Sunday, January 19th the Martin Journey Group will begin a study by Sandra Richter in her *Epic of Eden* series. This one, her latest, is *Deborah: Unlikely Heroes and the Book of Judges*. Join in the conference room on Sunday mornings from 10 to 11 AM. We will take 16 weeks to complete the study. We will not meet on Easter Sunday and possibly not on Palm Sunday either. This study will take us almost until Memorial Day. To learn more about this study [click here](#) or visit our site.

You, Me, and Mentor UMC

Join us around 12:15 PM in the Gallery on Sunday, January 19, 2025 for a light luncheon to welcome and meet Pastors, new friends, and members. [RSVP online.](#)

Read the Bible in a Year

Join Pastor Ivy in following "The Bible Year", by Magray Devega. Readings are mapped out for you day by day, just get in touch or join Slack! Purchase the book online or follow the guided list from Pastor Ivy. Join the Slack workspace (click on the #bibleinayear channel) to experience more and stay in touch with others participating in readings. [Click here.](#)

Wesleyan Prayer

Led by Pastor Tammy, we will pray one prayer a week for a year and immerse ourselves in a "short course" in Wesleyan thought and theology. [Join the Slack workspace](#) to get involved.

Fast & Pray

Pastor Steve is doing a "Fast & Pray" experience this year. Fasting can have health benefits but it is recommended that you consult with your doctor to be sure it is a healthy practice for you. Join the Slack workspace to stay in touch with others that are participating in fasting.

Bread, Broth, Brownies, & Bingo

Join Mentor United Women in Faith for February's bread, broth, and brownies luncheon! The menu includes dinner rolls, vegetable beef soup, salad, and butterscotch chip brownies. This month's theme is "Sharing God's Love," and you are invited to bring any of the following items to share with Project Hope for the Homeless: 10-12 oz. disposable cups, plasticware, Lysol spray, toilet bowl cleaner, 33-gallon trash bags. We hope to see you on Wednesday, February 12th at noon in the MUMC Gallery! Please RSVP to uwf@mentorumc.org, register [online here](#), or find the signup sheet in the Info Hub.

Healthy Congregations Workshop

Healthy Congregations is on Saturday, February 8th from 9-4 PM This workshop is designed to equip leaders to respond to the presence or potential threat of anxiety in a congregational system in ways that prevent destructive conflict and help the church stay focused on its unique mission and purpose. The cost is \$15 and can be paid by cash or through our online giving. [Click here to access the registration form](#)

Pastors Discretionary Need

As winter heightens and the holidays draw near, the Pastor's Discretionary fund is in need of financial support. The purpose of this fund is to help needy individuals in a confidential and timely manner at the discretion of either the Lead or Associate Pastor of the church. This fund has helped many families in need of emergency rent, utilities, medical needs prescriptions, etc. Often these families are living in a car, have fallen on hard times, are disabled, or working in low paying jobs and don't qualify for other assistance. Mentor UMC's Pastor's Discretionary fund has been a life saving vehicle. Because of the great need in our community, this fund is dangerously low, and contributions would be welcomed. Checks can be made out to Mentor UMC and designated to Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Thank you for your generosity!

Hope Chest

While Hope Chest is in the process of moving locations. During this process, we ask that donations be paused. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

What's Your M.O.? Mission Opportunities

Blood Drive

The next Blood Drive at MUMC is Tuesday, March 18th. Signup [online here](#) or at our site.

Home Healthcare

For those interested in assisting in home healthcare please contact Susan Swain, 440.567.6249

Snacks for Theatre Kids

[Sign up online](#) to donate snacks for the kids of Memorial Middle School as they rehearse this winter for their upcoming performance under the guidance of Pastor Tammy and Kat Fisher. This ministry is so important in building connections out in the community.

More Than a Meal

More Than a Meal is a free meal that is served to the community on the last Saturday of each month. The next MTAM is Saturday, January 25th at MUMC. Doors open at 5 PM and meal is served at 5:30 PM. You can sign up to help with this monthly mission online. Visit our site or [click here](#).



Food Ministry

You can designate your giving in person or online to Food Ministry (envelopes available in the Info Hub and Narthex). Help support our ongoing food outreach including More Than a Meal, Local Food Distributions, Meal Blessings to shut-ins & shelters, and more. [Click here](#).

WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

Sunday Morning Kids

9:00 & 11:00 AM at MUMC for all services.

- ALL ages are encouraged to check in at the Early Childhood Center (or Gallery, if available).
- Grades K-5 begin in worship with their families and then be dismissed to the Education Wing.

Sunday Morning Signup

MUMC's mission is to lead all onto a path of Christ-centered discipleship. Here is a great place to do just that! [Click here for leader signup](#). There are spots for various ages/levels, so check out what section works for you:

"Worship one, serve one!"

2024-2025 Preschool Reg

There are still a few openings for 2024-2025 Preschool. If you have questions or wish to register, please contact State Manager, Brittany Jones at bjones.preschool@mentor.org.

Pre-Reg for 2025-2026

Pre-register for the 2025-2026 school year at MUMC: [link here](#). Get in touch with Brittany Jones to learn more: bjones.preschool@mentor.org

MOMCo

MOMCo meets Fridays, January 10 and 24. Moms join us in the Gallery from 9 AM - 12 PM. Upcoming dates: February 14, 28
March 14, 28
April 11, 25
May 9, 23

Child & Caregiver Class

Age 2 ½ to 3 ½
9:15-10:45 AM in the Early Childhood Area

- WINTER: January 15, 22, 29, February 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5
- SPRING: March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14

Cost is \$60 per 8 week session (prepaid, non-refundable). [Apply here!](#)

Middle School

Grades 6-8 are welcome Sundays from 9:15-10 AM in the Youth Room.

Youth Group

Starting on January 26th, Youth are invited to meet on the second and fourth Sunday evenings of the month in the Youth Room from 4-6 PM.



Young Adult Small Group

Young Adults are encouraged to join a small group that meets in-person and online regularly (Winter/Spring schedule coming soon). This group is ongoing and accepting new friends at anytime. [Sign up online](#) or get in touch with Mackalyn.

Winter Jam

Youth are invited to come to a contemporary Christian concert at Wolstein Center on Friday, January 31st. We'll leave from the church together at 4 PM. Cost is \$15 (plus money for food) at the door. Learn more about Winter Jam on [their website](#) or by getting in touch with Mackalyn.

Ice Skating

Youth will meet at Mentor Civic Center to ice skate from 1:30 to 3:30 PM on Sunday, February 2nd. Cost is \$11. Let Mackalyn know if you need a ride.

Hockey Game

Youth are invited to a Monsters Hockey game in Cleveland on Saturday, March 1st. Tickets will be about \$20-30 and individuals will be responsible for their own concessions. First twelve kids to sign up will get their ticket half off!