

MENTOR

UNITED

WEEKLY UPDATE

METHODIST

CHURCH

OCTOBER 6, 2024

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 & 11 AM Modern

9 & 11 AM Traditional



PANCAKE BREAKFAST
TODAY IN THE GALLERY

Pastor's Letter

When Prayers Go Unanswered

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.
- Psalm 22:2

Have you ever prayed for something really important and have that prayer go unanswered? As a people of faith, as followers of Jesus, we are taught that prayer matters. In John's gospel, Jesus tells his disciples, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you." - John 15:7. In Matthew's gospel, Jesus says "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move: and nothing will be impossible for you." - Matthew 17:20. Similarly, in Luke's gospel, Jesus says, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you." - Luke 17:5b-6.

There are many people who have lost faith in God when they prayed for something important, and their prayer was not answered. Others who have not abandoned their faith when prayers go unanswered have nonetheless questioned or doubted. A two-year-old gets diagnosed with terminal cancer. The family, their friends, and everyone at their church pray for God to heal this young child they love. But the child dies. It makes no sense! Who wouldn't cry out to God in protest? Who wouldn't ask over and over again *Why?*

I'd guess that just about everyone has a story about a time when their prayers went unanswered. I'd love to hear your story. How did it affect your faith? How did you make it through? How are you making it through now? Did your experience ultimately lead to a deeper and stronger faith? The biggest example of unanswered prayer in my life is when my sister, Shelly, died of colon cancer nine years ago this past July. Shelly was seven years older than me. I'm the youngest of four. Shelly was like a second mother to me. Compared to my brothers and me, Shelly was the healthiest. She exercised, she didn't drink alcohol, she didn't smoke, she ate healthily, she wasn't over or underweight, she was involved in her church, and as a mental health therapist, she helped many people. She was always upbeat and fun to be around. She was loved by many. She was the mother of five children, two were still in high school. Throughout her journey with cancer, literally thousands of people were praying for her to be healed, to make the cancer just go away. My brother even fasted and prayed for 7 days! But, after three years of scans, surgeries, chemo, radiation, and prayers, she died. Our prayers went unanswered.

This week, we are invited to wrestle with the experience of when prayers go unanswered. How can we help one another and those we love through this kind of wrestling? How might our wrestling bring us to a stronger and deeper faith? For now, I encourage us to consider Psalm 22:2 quoted above. If nothing else, know that we are not alone in our wrestling. People of faith, like the psalmist, have experienced the pain and confusion of unanswered prayers for millennia. In fact, you may recognize Psalm 22:1 (I invite you to look it up). It's one of the final words of Jesus as he was dying on the cross.

Finding faith as we wrestle together,



Pastor Steve



Shelly Nichols,
Pastor Steve's Sister

ANNOUNCING A NEW BEGINNING AT MUMC

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? - Isaiah 43:19

Effective Sunday, December 1st, Mentor United Methodist Church will transition from four services to two. Our Modern Worship Service will be at 9:00 AM and our Traditional Worship Service will be at 11:00 AM each Sunday, both will also be livestreamed. The MUMC Administrative Council, with affirmation from our Church Ministry teams and staff, proactively embraces the impacts of the pandemic, staff and member transitions, and General Conference emphasis that all who seek Christ are seen and valued in our church. This decision has gone through several stages of discernment involving many leaders, prayer, and conversations since July 28th.

It is our prayer that this new schedule will provide the most impactful Worship Services to inspire and transform our faith. Our Leadership team understands this change will have an impact on each of our schedules and preferences. Please reach out to our Pastors or leaders so that we can be of support during this time of adjustment.

We look forward to seeing you in Worship and for your continued volunteer and financial support of our church family. We are excited to Worship with each other in our much-anticipated Advent Season. Look for future communications and the many exciting opportunities planned around this change!

Blessings siblings in Christ!

Dan Gallagher, Lay Leader, Administrative Council Chairperson

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 & Richard Anderson, Doug Kepp

Salida Woods - Doris Sturm

Aristocrat Berea - Virginia Gilman

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

Grand River Health & Rehab - Beverly Hill

Tapestry - Gloria McFeely

Symphony of Mentor - Lorraine Ahlstrom

Breckenridge/Fairmount - Patricia Laubscher

Village of St. Edward: Dale Porter

Holly Hill - Floyd Richards

Members who are in need of prayer:

Karen Mancini, Marilyn Oliver, Luke Sanvido, Lois Dyckman,
Carol Anderson, Pam Crawley, Bob Linsell, Patrick, Russ Lancaster,
Dick & Nancy Smith, Laurie & Craig Eppler

Need to Know

Youversion

<https://bible.com/events/49327290>

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

Bread, Broth, Brownies, & Bingo Luncheon

Join Mentor United Women in Faith for another bread, broth, and brownies luncheon! October's menu includes cornbread, vegetarian chili, salad, and brookies (brownie + cookie). Pastor Tammy will share some highlights from her recent cross-cultural tour experience. We hope to see you on Wednesday, October 9th at noon in the MUMC Gallery! Please RSVP to uwf@mentorumc.org, register online [here](#), or find the signup sheet in the Info Hub.

Now Hiring: Part-Time Modern Worship Director

Please [visit our website](#) to learn more about the part-time Modern Worship Director position here at MUMC. If you're eager to lead our community by planning transformative worship, utilizing your talents in music, technology, and leadership to draw hearts closer to God, then we invite you to join us.



WEEKLY UPDATE

Music at Seven: Snacks & Songs

Join us on Friday, October 25th at 7 PM in the Gallery for an exciting night of music! We'll enjoy a snack potluck and beautiful performances by Pastors, staff, worship team members, and more! No RSVP necessary.

Healthy Congregations Workshop

Join us on Saturday, November 9th from 9-4 PM at Mayfield UMC for a special workshop, lunch included. This event is sponsored by the East Ohio Conference and is open to anyone however church leaders are especially encouraged to attend. The Healthy Congregations 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](#)

Support for All

Anyone with/who has health, mental, physical disabilities, or are caregivers, etc. are invited to meet at MUMC on Monday, October 21st from 6-8 PM. No RSVP needed.

CWC Luncheon

Join us on Tuesday, October 15th from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM at Pine Ridge CC for a Basket Raffle Extravaganza & luncheon. RSVP to 440.488.4351 or email cwcstonecroft@yahoo.com

Lake Baptism

All are invited to join us at Headlands Beach on Sunday, October 20th for a special afternoon of Baptism at 4 PM. You can remember & renew your baptism or experience it for the first time. Please get in touch with Pastor Steve if you have questions. Details about the specific area in Headlands that we will meet are coming soon.

Advent Devotionals

This year for Advent members of our congregation have created an incredible and meaningful devotional to celebrate the season. We are inviting any and all to contribute pieces of art to be included in this booklet. Please submit by Monday, October 21st. These are the themes to base your art off of: God with Us: Hope Thru Vulnerability, Peace Thru Embodiment, Joy Thru Identity, Love Beyond Love, Found in Participation. For any questions or to look at the devotional for more inspo, please contact Kenna: ktanner@mentorumc.org

MENTOR UMC

UMCOR Disaster Relief

You can donate to UMCOR directly or designate your online giving to disaster relief (type "disaster relief" or "UMCOR" in the comment section). Learn more about UMCOR by [clicking here](#).

Thanksgiving

Missions Commission is pleased to announce that Mentor UMC will once again serve a traditional Thanksgiving turkey dinner for our community on Thanksgiving Day. We will be dining in fellowship together and delivering meals to those who are unable to come to the church. Info about volunteering & donations is coming soon!

Gingerbread 2024

Join us for this year's Gingerbread House Arts & Crafts Show on Friday, November 8th from 4:00 pm - 8:30 pm and Saturday, November 9th from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. If you are willing to make crafts to donate, may have items for our Attic Treasures Room, snack and baked goods check out Current Events in the Weekly Update on our MUMC website and scroll down to 2024 Gingerbread House. Keep an eye out in weeks to come for info about volunteering and drop off times for your donations.

What's Your M.O.? Mission Opportunities

Treat Street Signups

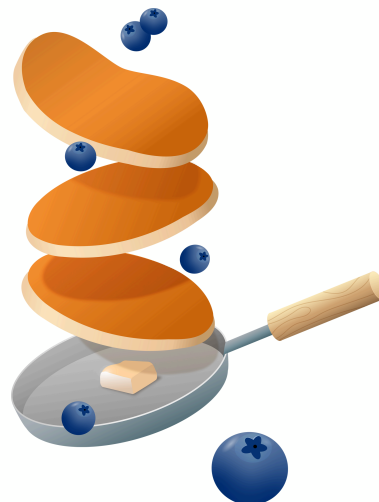
[Sign up online here](#) to share in the fun and hand out candy on October 19th: you can volunteer to be a trunker, a game or activity host, to donate candy, and more.

Project Hope

PH for the Homeless is hiring a full-time Finance Director. The position requires an accounting degree. There is also a preference for non-profit experience. Check out their website or our socials for details. If interested, send a resume to Judy Burr: director@projecthopeforthehomeless.org

Hope Chest

Hope Chest is in need of toothpaste and toothbrushes. You can drop items off in the Community Center.



More Than a Meal

The next MTAM is on Saturday, **October 26th** You can help cook, clean up, or hand out meals while interacting with guests. Please use [this link](#) to sign up online or visit our Missions page on our website!

Trafficking Series

Women United is hosting a communitywide Speaker Series focusing on Human Trafficking in Northeast Ohio on Thursday, October 10, 2024 from 5:30 - 8:30 PM at the Paradigm at Mentor High School. A light Meal and beverages are provided for those in person. Learn more and [register here](#).

Birthing Cards for a Cause Fundraiser

Make a difference for a mom in need while treating yourself to 30 beautifully embellished cards in a decorative box for just \$30! Each purchase supports Birthright with a \$13 donation. Order at <https://bit.ly/birthingCFAC24>. Boxes available for pick-up at Birthright on November 8th. For more info, email hello@morewithmary.com.

WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

Sunday Morning Kids

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

- [Check-In Instruction Video](#)
- Ages 0-2 and 3-4 sign in at the Early Childhood Area before service
- 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@mentorumc.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@mentorumc.org

MOMCo

MOMCo is October 11th. Moms join us in the Gallery from 9 - 12. Check our [website](#) for more dates.

Child & Caregiver Class

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

- FALL: October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, November 6
- 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!](#)

Spiritual Parenting class

Join us on Tuesdays: October 8, 22, 29, & November 5, 12 from 6-7 PM for a new Spiritual Parenting class using the book by Michelle Anthony. [Check out the book here](#) and [find the registration here.](#)

Treat Street

Families & friends of all ages are invited to our annual trunk-or-treat here at MUMC. This event is FREE and will have CANDY, GAMES, POPCORN, and a family-friendly HAUNTED HOUSE. We can't wait to enjoy an afternoon with you on October 19th from 3-5 PM.

Middle School

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

Fall Fest

Youth are invited to join us on a visit to Hornyak Farms on Sunday, October 13th from 5 - 7:30 PM. We'll leave the church at 4:30 PM. There is no cost for this event!

Tea Time

Youth are invited to meet at MUMC in the Library between Sunday services (around 10 AM). We'll enjoy drinks and snacks, talk, do devotions, and more. No need to RSVP, just pop in!

Football Outing

Join us on October 18th for a Mentor HS game to support our students and students of the community. Arrival time to the field is 6:30 PM (game at 7). TICKETS FOR SALE ONLINE ONLY: [Learn more on our website.](#)

