

STEEPLETALK

December 2013



Traditions are especially in vogue during the month of December. We share special traditions in our own lives, with family and in the church. Many are time-honored while other newer traditions take root further enriching the holiday season.

Traditions are varied and take many shapes, flavors and colors. Certain foods, decorations, music, and activities have become our traditions. They come around as sure as December 25th! What are your family traditions? For many of us, it's watching a special movie. From old classics to animations to new features, Christmas and movies go together.

During the weeks of Advent we will be looking at the messages of love, hope, joy, and peace through the lighting of the Advent Candles as well as through beloved holiday movies. As we unpack the scriptures, our favorite Christmas movies will bring insights to this important season.

Sermon schedule:

December 1	LOVE	“White Christmas”
December 8	HOPE	“The Muppets Christmas Carol”
December 15	JOY	“National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation” (Choir Cantata in the Sanctuary)
December 22	PEACE	“Elf”

During the season of Advent through Christmas, we will hold to a number of church traditions:

- **Advent studies** on Sunday evenings from 6:00-7:30 p.m., December 1, 8, 15
- **Children’s Christmas Musical** on December 7 at 4:00 p.m.
- **Choir Cantata** on December 15
- **Food basket collection and distribution** on December 15 & 16
- **Charter Members Christmas Concert** on December 20 at 7:30 p.m.
- **December 22 Christmas Caroling** from 3:00-5:00 p.m. with dinner following. Meet at Hope Ridge for the caroling and dinner.
- **December 24 Christmas Eve services at 3:00, 5:00, 7:00 (both Sanctuary & iConnect), 9:00 (both Sanctuary & iConnect), and 11:00**

Looking to start a new holiday tradition? On Tuesday, December 3, any online gift sent to the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries (Missions) will be matched. There are more than 850 United Methodist-related projects and 300 missionaries that have been reviewed and approved by Global Ministries.

Are you willing to consider cutting back on your Christmas shopping by \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 or more and use that money to support United Methodist Mission Tuesday with an online gift?

Here’s what you need to do:

On Tuesday, **December 3 only**, go to www.umcmmission.org/give and follow the instructions to make a donation. As you do, keep in mind our relationship with:

- Camphor Mission #12548A
- The McCurdy School #581325
- Red Bird Mission #773726

Lead Pastor

Kurt Landerholm
klanderholm@mentorumc.org

Associate Pastor

Of Pastoral Care & Counseling

Beverly Wrobel
blwrobel@mentorumc.org

Associate Pastor

Of Modern Worship & Evangelism

Curt Bissell
cbissell@mentorumc.org

Associate Pastor

Of Discipleship & Outreach

Jon Wilterdink
jwilterdink@mentorumc.org

Associate Pastor of Missions

Kathy Dickriede
kdickriede@mentorumc.org

Youth Ministry

Lauren Ring
lring@mentorumc.org

Children & Family Ministries

Tammy Palermo
tpalermo@mentorumc.org

Adult Education Ministries

Sally Carr
scarr@mentorumc.org

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440 255-3496

Web

www.mentorumc.org
[Facebook.com/mentorumc](https://www.facebook.com/mentorumc)
Twitter: @MentorUMChurch
info@mentorumc.org

— Pastor Kurt

YOUTH MINISTRY



Middle School Mission Week is selling BAKER'S SQUARE PIE CARDS again! Pick one up on Sunday mornings at the Welcome Center, from Lauren Ring or the Church Office during the week. Help support our Middle Schoolers!

HONEY BAKED HAM CO. order forms for Christmas will be available at the Welcome Center on Sundays December 1-15. No waiting in line at the store! Place an order and then just pick it up here at the church on Monday, December 23 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Proceeds benefit Middle School Mission Week. Any questions, contact Lauren Ring at 255-3496, ext. 16 or Nancy Nagle at 255-1452.

JOIN US SUNDAY MORNINGS:

Pulse (grades 9-12) Youth Room—10:10 -10:40 a.m.
Pulse 78 (grades 7-8) Asbury/Wesley—10:10–10:40 a.m.
Youth grades 7 and up attend worship with their families. During Pulse and Pulse 78, they can meet with their peers to deepen friendships, pray for each other and learn more about how to become examples to all believers in conduct. - 1 Timothy 4:12

High Definition Youth Group (Grades 7-12), 6-8 p.m.
Sunday Evenings: All youth meet at church on the **1st & 3rd Sunday** with separate activities for Middle School and High School. Food served at 6 p.m. On 1st Sundays High School has Youth Service Project (YSP) meetings. Middle School has Youth Group.

High Definition Small Groups
Four Small Groups for Middle School Guys & Girls, and High School Guys & Girls, **meet the 2nd & 4th Sundays** at the church after some whole group activities.

For up-to-date details, email lring@mentorunc.org to be added to parent or youth email lists. Check Youth Ministries at www.mentorunc.org and find us on Facebook!

UPDATE ON MURRAY BLUE

On September 23 a called session of the Church Conference voted to tear down Murray Blue. Since then work has begun with the removal of trees, environmental testing, disconnecting of utilities and entering into a contract with a demolition company. In addition, the Church Trustees granted permission to the Mentor Fire Department to use the house for training. Because of the uniqueness of the house and location, it affords the fire department an opportunity to train, including a burn that they have not had in eight years. This is deeply appreciated by the Mentor Fire Department and is a service to the whole community. When the training is completed and all permits secured, the house will come down and the lot will be graded and covered with stone. The costs have come in at or below budget.

SERVANT OPPORTUNITIES

HEARTLAND VISITATION . . .

On Sunday, December 15th at 10:45 a.m. we will celebrate the birth of Christ with the residents of Heartland. Join us as we listen to the familiar Bible story and sing carols together.

MUMC MORE THAN A MEAL



Free Community Dinner

We are looking for families to host one of our monthly meals. As a host, you can choose the menu and help to coordinate shopping for food and instructing our volunteers in the kitchen that evening. We encourage families to group together and financially support a meal for the month. Costs have been averaging \$150 to feed up to 75 people. **The next three dates that are available to host are December 28th, February 22nd, and March 29th.** If you would like to sign up to host or volunteer for a meal, please email Karen Martin at dansgirl9065@sbcglobal.net. Also, sign up is available at the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings.

The word agape means love and extends to the love of one's fellow man. As a small gesture to the guests who have been joining us, we have giving out **agape bags** for them to take home. We are looking for donations of gloves, mittens and hand warmers for the cold weather. If you would like to contribute items suitable for the agape bags, please place them in the tub marked "More Than a Meal AGAPE" at the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings. We have been handing out approximately 40 bags each month, but expect that to grow.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SERVANT OPPORTUNITES:

Please prayerfully consider giving some time to our children.

- Winter Sunday School sign up:
<http://tinyurl.com/SSWinter>
- Discoverers Leadership sign up:
<http://tinyurl.com/DiscLeaders>

THE RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE will be here on Sunday, December 8th in the Asbury/Wesley Room from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Considering that every unit of blood donated can be made into three different life-saving components, your donation can help many people. Please give prayerful thought to becoming a donor.

This holiday, give something that means something – Give the gift of life.

LAND OF FORGOTTEN TOYS:

If you didn't pick a name off the Giving Tree or want to do something extra, drop off your unwrapped toy donations in the Church Office.

FAIR TRADE GIFT IDEAS



Great gifts that help the world . . . Fair Trade Coffee, Tea & Cocoa Sale

The Missions Commission will be selling Fair Trade products every Sunday morning starting December 1st through December 23rd.

Benefits of these products include:

- Small farmers across the globe reap the benefits
- Most of the products are grown in a healthy organic fashion
- For every pound of Fair Trade products sold, fifteen cents goes to UMCOR to assist in dealing with disasters

All regular coffee is \$7 per 12 oz. bag:

- Bright Day Brew, Breakfast Blend, Ethiopian, Hazelnut, French Vanilla

Decaf Coffee is \$8 per 12 oz. bag

Hope's Blend is \$7.50 per 14 oz. can

Cocoa is \$5.50 per 12 oz. can

All teas are \$3.50 per box of 20 bags:

- English Breakfast, Jasmine Green, Chamomile, Irish Breakfast, Peppermint, Rooibos, Decaf English Breakfast

Our 2013 Christmas Offering . . .

Local:

Nehemiah Mission and City Mission

National:

McCurdy School and Covenant relationship with Deaconess Stephanie Suggs

International:

UMCOR Typhoon Haiyan Relief



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



Charter Members Men's Chorus Annual Christmas Concert Friday, December 20th 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Bring your family and friends for this wonderful holiday event!

Refreshments will follow in Fellowship Hall.

A free-will offer will be taken.



The Children & Youth of Mentor United Methodist Church will be presenting their **Annual Christmas Musical** on

**Saturday, December 7th
4 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

A Potluck Dinner will follow the program in Fellowship Hall. A—L are asked to bring a main dish feeding 6-8 people and M - Z are asked to bring a side dish or salad.



ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS CAROLING

We will meet at Hope Ridge UMC
Sunday, December 22
3:00—5:00 p.m.

Everyone invited!
Dinner following at Hope Ridge

RSVP: <http://tinyurl.com/XmasCaroling13>



Young at Heart Luncheon for folks age 62-102!

Wednesday, December 11th
at Noon in Fellowship Hall

Has your Young at Heart luncheon invitation been lost in the holiday mail? You are welcome with or without an invitation! Please call the Church Office at

255-3496 by Sunday, December 8th. To say you will be joining us for Christmas-y lunch, some festive games and fellowship with church staff and



A SPECIAL SERVICE OF HOPE & HEALING

Mentor UMC and Hope Ridge UMC will hold a "Blue Christmas" service on Sunday, December 8th at 1:30 p.m. at Hope Ridge UMC

The holidays aren't a joyful time for everyone. Many have lost a loved one and continue to feel the grief of life without a family member or friend. Some have experienced other losses that can result in feelings of emptiness or loneliness. Join us for this special service of hope and healing.

Contact Pastor Bev Wrobel for more information, 255-3496, ext. 14 or email blwrobel@mentorumc.org.

THROUGH THE YEARS

The Christmas season is upon us and it is difficult to go anywhere or watch ads on television without seeing Santa Claus. Often referred to as "Jolly Old St. Nick" he is a huge part of the commercial celebration of the Christmas season.

But why the reference to St. Nick? It honors St. Nicholas who was a real life Christian Bishop who performed many acts of kindness and generosity. St. Nicholas was born in modern day Turkey in the year 270. His wealthy parents died when Nicholas was young. He used his inheritance to help the sick and the poor in true Christian tradition. He became the Bishop of Myra (present day Turkey). He took part in the historic Council of Nicaea in 325.

Nicholas made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land to deepen his faith. Returning by sea, his ship encountered heavy storms. While the crew was terrified, Nicholas remained calm and prayed during the ordeal. He is the Patron Saint of sailors.

The story that so closely associates St. Nicholas with Christmas concerns a poor man with three daughters. The man did not have money to pay for a dowry for any of his daughters to get married. As was the custom then, they would probably have to be sold into slavery. Nicholas is credited with mysteriously throwing three bags of gold through a window or dropping the bags down the chimney so each girl could get married. The bags fell into the stockings the girls had hung to dry. Hence the origins of the modern day tradition of the Christmas stocking. One version of the story has the bags landing in shoes placed on the hearth. Children in Scandinavian countries still put shoes on the hearth for Christmas.

St. Nicholas died on December 6, 343 in Myra. December 6 became his feast day. Indeed in many countries such as Holland and the Czech Republic, his feast day is a big part of the Christmas celebration.

Whether we learn of the real St. Nicholas or just like to see his modern equivalent, Santa Claus, the spirit of kindness and generosity remains an important lesson to remember this and every Christmas season. Merry Christmas!

Do you have any MUM history you would like to share with the congregation? Please send it to:

Mr. Don Humphrey
7330 Holly Park Drive
Concord OH 44060-6704

Or email to dhumphrey@ameritech.net.



Here is a list of present and former pastors if you would like to include them on your Christmas card mailing list this year:

Rev. & Mrs. Kurt Landerholm
7929 Newell Creek Drive
Mentor OH 44060

Rev. John Richard Hendricks
P. O. Box 533
Scio OH 43988-0533

Rev. & Mrs. Ron Eppler
807 West Avenue, Apt. 5006
Elyria OH 44035-9205

Mr. Steve & Rev. Beverly Wrobel
2959 Gale Road
Willoughby OH 44094

Revs. Gary & Peggy Streiff
753 Kenwood Drive
Gates Mills OH 44040

Rev. & Mrs. Allan Bevere
263 E. Mill Street
Akron OH 44308

Revs. Jon & Beth Wilterdink
9890 Juniper Court
Mentor OH 44060

Dr. & Mrs. Richard Lehto
5280 Clover Drive
Sheffield Village OH 44035

Mrs. Ruth Adams
5328 Clover Drive
Sheffield Village OH 44035

Dr. Dan & Rev. Kathy Dickriede
129 East Oakmont Way
Northfield OH 44067-2796

Rev. & Mrs. Michael Gibson
6709 Silvermound
Mentor OH 44060

Rev. & Mrs. Curt Bissell
568 Deerwood Court
Painesville OH 44077

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

OFFERINGS:

- **Family Sunday:** 1st Sunday of the month; 3rd through 6th grade remain in worship; no Children's Message; 3 year olds through 2nd grade meet in Chapel then go to Education Wing.
- **The BREAKFAST CLUB, a Young Family Study**
Sundays from 10:10-10:50 in Room 109;
Childcare is available in Room 102.
- **Parents Morning Out** (toddlers—4 yr. olds)
Mondays, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.
- **Discoverers (5 YO-6 Gr)** Tuesdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m.; "What's in the Bible?" curriculum;
Winter session — January 7—February 25.
- **Children's Choir** (K-6th grade) rehearses
Sundays, 10:15-10:45 in the Chapel
- **Cherub Choir** (3,4,5 YO) rehearses
Sundays, 10:15-10:35 in Room 103
- **StuCo 56 (5th/6th grade)** meets Friday, December 6
<http://tinyurl.com/StuCo56RSVP> and
December 15 for food sorting
<http://tinyurl.com/StuCo56FoodSort>
- GENERATIONS, family fellowship group, is encouraged to participate in any of the MANY offerings for the MUMC community.

REGISTRATION FORM:

A current form needs to be completed for each child for 2013-2014:

Printable: <http://tinyurl.com/MUMCKidMinReg>

Electronic: <http://tinyurl.com/CFMReg13-14>

NEWSLETTERS:

Sunday's Cool News <http://tinyurl.com/SCNDec13>
and **ROOTED** <http://tinyurl.com/ROOTEDDec13>.

MOPS & MOMSnext:

"A Beautiful Mess: Embrace Your Story"

- "Together-MESS": Friday, December 13 from 9:30 to 12 pm
- MOPS: Moms with children birth - kindergarten
- MOMSnext: Moms with school aged children
- To learn more, and/or reserve childcare: email mops@mentorumc.org or call 255-3496, ext. 18
By December 10.

ADVENT CALENDARS are on sale at the Welcome Center Sunday mornings.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



NAOMI CIRCLE will meet at noon on Wednesday, December 4th at Alexander's Restaurant, Johnnycake Ridge (across from Hope Ridge UMC) for their holiday lunch.

The NEW DAY CIRCLE will meet on Monday, December 9th from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the Asbury Room.

Please feel free to bring a light snack to share. Contact Carole Ring (255-7213) or umw@mentorumc.org if you have questions. All women are welcome to join us!

RUTH-ESTHER CIRCLE will hold our annual Christmas Party at Scrambler Marie's on Mentor Avenue, at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 10th. Join us for lunch and a time of fellowship. Please bring an unwrapped knit item for a child (gloves, mittens, hats, scarves).

All women of the church are invited! Call the Church Office (255-3496) to make your reservation by Monday, December 9th.

SOMETHING NEW FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

MUMC is pleased to announce the introduction of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when traveling, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

Direct Debit Giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings to the church's bank account. **Online Giving** lets you go to www.mentorumc.org at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history. As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving.





HOLIDAY FOOD & GIFT MINISTRIES

This holiday season show Christ's love to others through buying, sorting, or distributing food baskets and gifts to families in need. Reflecting on over 300 people who were fed by the church last year it is a reminder that Jesus called his disciples to "feed my sheep" and to this day nothing about that calling has changed. As we move into the Christmas season each of us as disciples have an opportunity to help show the love of Christ to our community through the simple act of providing food for another. There are a number of ways you can serve, please pray over connecting in one or more of the areas below.

Shopping for Food: Pick up a grocery bag and shopping list after the worship services on December 1st & 8th, fill the bag with the listed items, and bring back to the church by Sunday, December 15th. This is a simple way to make showing the love of Christ part of your daily routine. Invite family to shop with you and pray over the items you buy before bringing them to church as we gather food for the Christmas distribution..

Sorting or Preparing Food: The church prepares food boxes for anywhere between 70—100 families in the Mentor areas which means there is a great need for people to sort and assemble food boxes so that every family sent to the church gets fed. **On Sunday, December 15th, 12:15 p.m.—3 p.m., we will join together to sort and assemble the Christmas food boxes and sorting and packaging the gifts for families.**

Distributing: What better way to show Christ's love than to warmly welcome families into the church and provide them with food that will feed adults and children this season. Come to Fellowship Hall on Monday, December 16th, 11 a.m.—1 p.m. or 6 p.m.—8 p.m. to help distribute food and gifts to the families, as well as be a loving presence for all that enter the church doors.

Interested in how the church connects people and food the rest of the year? Contact Pastor Jon Wilterdink, jwilterdink@mentorumc.org to find out more ways to show Christ's love through feeding people.

The Praying, Caring, and Sharing Trees are up: You are invited to take a tag! There are many of our members that need extra prayers at this time of year, acts of caring you can do for your friends and family, and charities that need our help to complete their missions to help others.

Christmas Gift Trees: In conjunction with the Food Distribution you are invited to show Christ's love by gifting the children of families listed as in need of assistance, giving to a local community organization, praying for another, or serving someone nearby you. Starting December 1st, *Praying, Caring, Sharing & Giving* Gift Trees will be located in Fellowship Hall and outside the Chapel. Consider taking an ornament from these trees that include:



A GREEN TREE ornament symbolizing GIVING. The ornament will have the name, age, gender, and interests of a child for whom you may purchase a gift.



A RED HEART symbolizing SHARING. There will be hearts with different dollar amounts which include a gift card to give a loved one telling them the charity you have donated to in their name.



A YELLOW ANGEL symbolizing PRAYING. Each ornament will have the name of someone who needs your prayers throughout the holiday season.



A BLUE BELL symbolizing CARING. Each ornament has a suggestion for something you can do to help your friends, neighbors, church members or other people in need.



A WHITE CHURCH symbolizing SHARING. The church ornament allows you to help fund an individual's trip to the Camphor Mission Station in Liberia.



NEW this year: CHURCH WINDOW ornaments. Woodlawn Home in Painesville is in need of volunteers to take families from their development shopping for the holidays. Funds are provided for them to shop. Contact Jon Wilterdink for information.

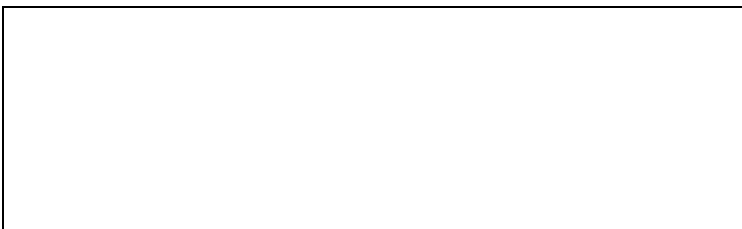
Contact Betsy Iskra at 216-404-6434 or Iskra5@aol.com with questions or to volunteer.

Any GIVING gifts (green tree tags) must be returned to Mentor UMC by December 15th in order to be distributed to the families on Monday, December 16th.

Mentor United Methodist Church
8600 Mentor Avenue
Mentor OH 44060

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Mentor OH 44060
Permit No. 37

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



FINANCE



Year-to-Date Operating
October 2013

Receipts	\$762,084.63
Disbursements	775,391.11
Deficit	(\$13,306.48)

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**
RE M I N D E R :
**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS**

**DEADLINE:
STEEPLETALK
December 6
For JANUARY Issue**

WORSHIP

SANCTUARY Worship — 9 & 11 a.m.

iCONNECT Worship — 9 & 11 a.m.
(Fellowship Hall)

COMMUNION — 10:30 a.m.
(Adams Parlor)

CHILDREN

CHILDCARE — 9 & 11 a.m.

For infants—2 year old

SUNDAY SCHOOL — 9 & 11 a.m.

For 3 year olds—6th grade

CHECK-IN — 3 year old—6th grade

Check in before worship in the Chapel

PICK-UP — The children are in their
Classrooms in the Education Wing

YOUTH

PULSE — 10:10 a.m. (Pettit Youth Room)

For 9th—12th grade

PULSE 78 — 10:10 a.m. (Asbury/Wesley Room)

For 7th & 8th grade

ADULTS

BREAKFAST CLUB — 10:10 a.m. (Room 109)

For young families

ADULT BIBLE STUDY — 10:10 a.m.

(Room 112)

