

STEEPLE TALK

February 2016



*From the
Pastor*



A New Year . . .

Did you know that because 2016 is divisible by 4, but not by 100, it is a leap year? Dating back to Julius Caesar the idea of leap year was put into place to add another day to the calendar every four years. It takes the earth approximately 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds to circle once around the sun. By making this adjustment we are able to keep our modern day Gregorian Calendar in alignment with the Earth's revolutions around the sun. Without this change, after 100 years our calendar would be off by approximately 24 days.

Because this is a Leap Year we will have a 29th day in February. I would imagine that merchants will capitalize on this with Leap Day sales. And for those who were born on a 29th day of February, they will be able to celebrate their birthday on the actual date. But I also see some important spiritual ties to Leap Year.

Hebrews 2:1-3b reads, *"Therefore we must pay greater attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. For if the message declared through angels was valid, and every transgression or disobedience received a just penalty, how can we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?"*

First, we are prone to wander off the path of discipleship and lose sight of God. Just like the earth drifts off from the calendar, we have the tendency to drift away from God. It begins with simple choices, like Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. The warning to churches in the Book of Revelation speaks to this drifting with losing your first love or being neither hot nor cold. Our lives which should be oriented to God become out of sync.

Secondly, we can fall away from Christian community. My observation is that most often this happens subtly. A person misses a week or two of worship or Bible study, and then it is harder to come back and easier to stay away. One didn't mean for it to happen, but now you are out of Christian fellowship and their calendar no longer in sync with Sunday worship. Again the book of Hebrews speaks to this saying, *"And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some."* (Hebrews 10:24-25) We can drift away from Christian community and get into a habit of staying away.

Third, for some there is a drifting from faith. It might begin with an unanswered prayer, a hurt feeling, some doubts and questions. Bit by bit a person retreats from faith, probably not their intention, but the reality. Again, the writer to the Hebrews sheds some light on this by saying, *"And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."* (Hebrews 11:6) Unlike drifting from God or Christian community, this drift is into a faithless existence.

With these in view we find another important lesson from Leap Year. Ultimately our spiritual walk comes down to trust, and trust requires taking a step. Unlike the baby steps that might lead us away from God, fellowship and faith; this is a step of faith that results in a new embrace of faith, we could call it a leap of faith. It is coming back from where we have drifted to where we need to be. Everything we do or have become began with a step. In this Leap Year,

let's re-
solve to
take
steps in
the right



SANCTUARY
Rooted in Tradition, Growing in Christ



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MUMC 2016

Are you a confirmed member of Mentor UMC or know someone who is that will be attending college in the Fall of 2016? If so, Mentor UMC is once again offering scholarships to students in the high school graduating class of 2016, as well as seminary students and students that are currently enrolled in college and will continue on in the Fall of 2016.

Applications for the scholarship can be completed online by navigating to <http://www.mentorumc.org/scholarship>. Instructions on submitting the application are also included in the application. All completed applications must be turned in to the Church Office by Friday, April 1st by 4:00 p.m.

FINANCE UPDATE **YTD through DECEMBER 31,2015**

Receipts	\$1,009,379.
Disbursements	959,592.
Surplus	49,787.

Electronic giving is available online at www.mentorumc.org

2016 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN & IN THIS HOUSE 2 Debt Reduction Campaign Update – We have received the following commitments:

2016 Operating: 342 pledges for a total of \$748,158.96. This is 98% of our 2016 pledge goal.

IN THIS HOUSE 2: 202 pledges for a total of \$707,133.00. This is 84% of our goal.

If you have not pledged yet and need a pledge card, you can pick one up in the Narthex, or at the back of Fellowship Hall after worship. Please return your card by leaving in the offering plate, drop off in the Church Office during the week, or return by mail.

2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES: Stop in the Arcade on Sunday morning (hallway between the Narthex and Chapel) or drop by the church during the week to pick up our envelopes.



SUB SANDWICH SALE!!!

MUMC Bible Quiz Team is selling Super Bowl Sub Sandwiches to support the Bible Quizzing Ministry.

Order forms will be available at the Sign-Up Center outside Fellowship Hall. A six-inch turkey or triple meat sub is \$4, and a bag of 3 chocolate chip cookies is \$1. **Sub orders must be made by January 31st. They will be available for pick-up in the Gallery on Sunday, February 7th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Delivery arrangements can be made if you are unable to pick your order up.

THROUGH THE YEARS

The month of February contains a date which is significant in Methodist history. On February 28, 1784 John Wesley issued the "Deed of Declaration" to define how the Methodist movement would continue in the future. By 1784 John Wesley was eighty years old and he knew that his time on earth was getting short, and was concerned how the Methodist movement would continue after his death. In his Declaration, Rev. Wesley outlined how the succession of leaders would be identified. Wesley had established conferences where leaders would come together to plan their activities for carrying on Methodist work. The conference would meet annually and fill vacancies in its ranks, elect a president and secretary, assign preachers and admit new ones.

Later in 1784, Rev. Wesley ordained Thomas Coke as a superintendent and sent him to the United States. (Coke then assumed the title of Bishop when he arrived in the U.S.) The American Revolution had caused a reduction in Methodist preachers and Coke's mission was to grow their ranks. (Wesley himself had been in the United States in Georgia for about two years in the 1730s.) While John Wesley remained a member of the Church of England his entire life, his ordination of Coke meant, for all practical purposes, that the Methodist Church would become separate from the Church of England.

John Wesley died in 1791 but the idea of annual conferences within the Methodist Church continues to this day.

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

Don Humphrey
7330 Holly Park Drive
Concord OH 44060-6704

Or email to dhumphrey@ameritech.net

SERVANT OPPORTUNITIES



OUR WINTER COAT MINISTRY TAKES A NEW TURN . . .

Many thanks to Carol Ryan's passion and history in beginning the Coat Ministry at Mentor UMC. 209 coats have been given away during this season. Carol is now a proud grandmother to Madeline in Cincinnati so she has turned this ministry over to Laura Bozickovich and Maggie Goats. They are excited to be heading up this ministry now.

A WINTER COAT CLEARANCE IS COMING TO A STORE NEAR YOU!!!

We are in need of winter coats, hats, gloves, and scarves (new and gently used) still in good condition, to give to people in need all throughout Lake County. **We need you to help make this happen so clean out your closet, shop at the Thrift Store or purchase new at a store.** All sizes needed, infant to 5XL! We especially need MEN'S COATS in all sizes. Please drop your donations off at the church on Sunday mornings or 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. throughout the week. Items are being collected in the Mission Closet off of Fellowship Hall. Be the answer to someone's prayer.

Coats will be handed out at the February More than a Meal Ministry. Winter coats are available for those who do not have a warm winter coat. Call the Church Office if in need (440 255-3496).

ALDI GIFT CARDS NEEDED

Mentor UMC Missions and our Food Pantry are in need of \$25 and \$50 Aldi's gift cards for the Easter March 21st food distribution. Last year we helped over 100 families in the Mentor area with holiday food baskets. The gift cards from Aldi's were a part of this ministry. You can either put funds in the offering plate designated for this ministry or the next time you are at Aldi's purchase a card and drop it in the office or the offering plate. We need these donations by March 1st so that the gift cards can be ordered through the Aldi's corporate office. Thanks for your help with this ministry.

MUMC FOOD PANTRY

KNOW

- **Sunday School**
 - Children 0-4 years old—Early Childhood Area
 - K-2nd Grade—Room 107
 - 3rd Grade—Room 103
 - 4th-6th Grade—Room 104
 - Family Worship is FIRST Sunday of the month and K-6th graders remain in worship with their families
 - <http://www.mentorumc.org/sunday-school>

GROW

- **StuCo 56**, 5th & 6th grade youth group
 - Wednesday, February 3 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Making dinner for Project Hope
 - Sunday, February 7—Holding soup pots for Souper Bowl after services
 - Sunday, February 28—Rock Wall Climbing at Cleveland Rock Gym
 - <http://mentorumc.org/stuco-56> for details & RSVP
- **GENERATIONS**, family fellowship group
 - Saturday, February 6 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.
at Mentor Ice Arena for Ice Skating
 - <http://www.mentorumc.org/generations>
- **MOPS & MOMSnext Monthly Meeting**
 - Fellowship Hall on Friday, February 12 from 9:30 to noon “Pruning Back”
 - Friday, February 24 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.
MOPS Playgroup & MOMSnext discussion
 - <http://www.mentorumc.org/mops>

SHOW

- **Sunday School Servant sign up for SPRING**
 - March, April & May
 - <http://www.mentorumc.org/sunday-school>
- **Vacation Bible School Servant sign up:**
 - <http://www.mentorumc.org/children>
- **Children’s Choir (1-6 Grade)**
 - Rehearses Sundays, 10:15-10:45 in Room 112
- **Cherub Choir (3 Yr. Olds/Kindergarten)**
 - Rehearses Sundays, 10:15-10:45 in Room 104

NEWSLETTERS & CHILD REGISTRATION FORMS:

- <http://www.mentorumc.org/children>

HEARTLAND VISITATION . . .

Consider joining us for a brief service at Heartland on the 3rd Sunday of each month. We begin at 10:45 a.m. and are finished approximately 20 minutes later. It’s a great opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ with the Heartland residents. If you have any questions, please

**FEBRUARY & MARCH 2016
CLASS OFFERINGS**

To register for these classes, email gavery@mentorumc.org

Not A Fan calls you to consider the demands and rewards of being a true disciple. With a frankness that is sprinkled with humor, discover how to live the way Jesus lived. Class Offerings at Mentor UMC:

Tuesdays, 6:30-7:45pm, Feb. 9 - March 22 (Childcare available)
Sundays, 5:00-6:30pm, Feb. 14 - March 20
Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30am, Feb. 16 - March 22
Thursdays, 7:00-8:00pm, Feb. 18 - March 24 (Childcare available)

The Wesleyan Way - Cultivate a "faith that matters." Seekers and believers are invited to practice discipleship as a way of life, seeing Christianity from a Wesleyan perspective. Led by Kathy Dickriede, Mondays, from 10:00-11:30am, Feb. 15 - March 21 at Mentor Centenary.

Wonderstruck - Recognize the presence of God in the midst of your routine, and discover peace in knowing you're wildly loved. Led by Carole Ring, Tuesdays, from 9:30-11:00am, March 29 - May 10 at Mentor UMC.

NEW OFFERING: The new Greeting Card Class is open to anyone interested in crafts and learning how to make a variety of greeting cards. We'll meet on the 2nd Wednesday of every month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. You will make two greeting cards each time – one for you to keep and one to donate to the Visitation Ministry Team to be shared with our members who are shut-in or in care facilities. Please bring a pencil, ruler and scissors. All other materials will be provided. Cost each session is \$2 to pay for the supplies.

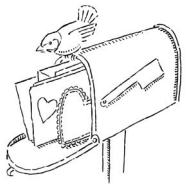
Contact Phyllis Wendorf at 357-8890 with questions. Upcoming dates: February 10, March 9 and April 13 – come to one or come to all!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

JOIN US ON THE PATH (Women's Retreat)
Saturday, March 5th - Sunday, March 6th
The Hilton Garden Inn, Twinsburg

For the past 15 years, the Mentor United Methodist Church has gathered women of all faiths for a weekend of fellowship. Join us on The Path as we explore how God wants all of us to be united in Him, serve Him and share our gifts. Our speaker will be Valerie Stultz.

Registration forms are available at the Sign-Up Area (in the Atrium outside Fellowship Hall) Sunday mornings, online, or in the Church Office. Registration deadline: February 8th with balance due February 21st. Overnight cost with four meals ranges from \$110-\$175. (A limited amount of financial assistance is available on a first come, first served basis.)



*Valentine Boxes for
Our College Students*

This retreat is open to all women of the church, friends and family. **For more information and to register go to www.mentorumc.org and click on The PATH 2016 registration.**

We are collecting monetary donations to purchase items for the Valentine boxes (we will purchase the items so all the boxes are identical). You can place your donation in the offering plate on Sunday mornings (be sure to note "Valentines") or leave it in the Church Office. The last Sunday for donations will be February 7th.

PARENTS: Please email your college students address to Gayle at gavery@mentorumc.org or drop in the offering plate or leave in the Church Office.

ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME TO HELP PACK BOXES on Monday, February 8th at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.



Have you checked out our new Library? Come in any time and look around. The Library is open any time the church is open.

Please note, the Library sends out reminders of past due items by email each month. After two email reminders we send out a letter by regular mail with the cost to replace the item. We have had some people say they never saw the emails. This may be because your computer thought it was spam and filtered it to your spam file. If this happened to you, please check your spam folder and mark as "not spam".



**Come & See the Movie
WAR ROOM**

On Sunday afternoon, January 31st in the Asbury Room at 4 p.m.. From the makers of **Courageous**, this movie depicts the



**ASBURY FELLOWSHIP
Sponsored**

**VALENTINE DINNER
& PROGRAM**

**Saturday, February 13th
Fellowship Hall**

**5:30 p.m. Appetizers . 6:00 p.m. Dinner
7:15 p.m. Program**

Asbury Fellowship invites you to join them for their annual Valentine Dinner & Program. Dinner choices are: Prime Rib, Salmon, or Chicken, accompanied by potato, vegetable, salad, rolls & dessert. Jim Post will be catering our event. Cost is \$20 per person. Tickets are available at the Sign-Up Center outside Fellowship Hall, January 31 & February 7th. Our program will be a wonderful musical presentation by husband & wife team, Joe & Kelly Monaghan. For more information or questions, contact Jim and Mary Lou Haines at 1-440-255-2287.



Order Your
Easter Flowers

TIME TO PLACE YOUR EASTER FLOWER ORDER

This year we are offering lilies, tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and hydrangeas. The prices are as follows:

Tulip, Daffodil or Lily	\$8
Hyacinth	\$8
Hydrangea	\$10

Please send your order along with your check to The Altar Guild, c/o Mentor United Methodist Church, 8600 Mentor Avenue, Mentor OH 44060.

The Altar Guild will also have a table set up at the Sign-Up Center (Atrium outside Fellowship Hall) on Sunday, February 7th and 28th with forms to order plants. **The last day to order will be March 6th**, so we can place our order and they can be delivered for Easter.

Your plants may be picked up after the 11 a.m. service on Easter morning.

Please indicate how many you want:

___ Tulip ___ Lily ___ Daffodil ___ Hyacinth ___ Hydrangea

Total \$ _____

(PLEASE PRINT NAMES)

From _____

In memory of _____

In appreciation of _____

Is God calling YOU to be a part of

ROYAL FAMILY KIDS CAMP — June 6-10, 2016?

Royal Family Kids (RFK) is a network of Camps, children's Club, and child Mentoring Program for abused, abandoned and neglected children in the foster care system. RFK was founded in 1985 and operates over 160 camps nationally. Mentor UMC partners annually with Willoughby Hills UMC to put on a Camp for 32 traumatized children ages 6-12 who live in Lake and Geauga counties.

The Camp follows a highly structured schedule and maintains a ratio of one adult volunteer for every two children. Adult role models encourage positive experiences through a variety of activities, including fishing, swimming, crafts, games and woodworking. The highlight of the summer Camp is the giant birthday party with cake and gifts for all campers. Volunteers assist with music, drama, Bible study and provide extra help ... so many are needed.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for this year's RFK Camp (June 6-10), please pick up an application at the Information Center or talk to Pastor Bev Wrobel. Recruitment takes place NOW as the team is put in place and there is mandatory training for all volunteers on April 22-23.

PLEASE help support our local *Royal Family Kids Camp #271* by . . .

- 1) Support our "RE-GIFTING TABLE" (it's actually a box) by bringing in any NEW items that are around the House that you won't be using. Items can be put in the Box marked for RFK Re-Gifting and will be used to make silent auction baskets for our Annual Fundraiser on March 5th.
- 2) Attend our Annual Fundraiser "**Kids Singing for Kids**" on Saturday, March 5 at 6:00 p.m. at the Mentor High School Arts Center. The evening features a concert by The Mentor Top 25 Show Chorus and the renowned Singing Angels from NE Ohio. There will be a large silent auction prior to the concert. Purchase tickets in the Church Office: \$15/age 13 to ~~Adult; \$8/age 6-12; 5 and under are free.~~



MUMC PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration is open for the 2016-2017 school year. Call 255-3496, ext. 23, to register or email us at mumpreschool@mentorumc.org. You can also visit our website at mentorumc.org/preschool to see all of the exciting things we have to offer. Hurry! Spots are filling up fast and registration is now open to the community.

LOOKING HEAD . . .

Summer 2016

Vacation Bible School — June 2016

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

For children age 4 (as of 1/1/16) through 6th Grade

Cost \$10 per kid BEFORE May 15—\$15 AFTER May 15

Get Out Doors (G.O.D.) Camp — June 2016

9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For children who just completed 5th and 6th Grade

Cost \$60 per camper

Theatre Arts Camp — July 2016 (two week camp)

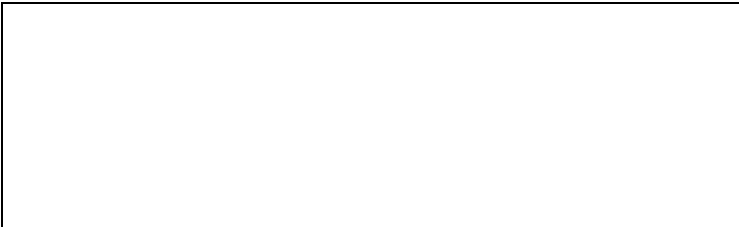
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

For children who just completed Kindergarten through 8th Grade

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



WORSHIP

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

COMMUNION

10:30 a.m.
Join us in the Chapel
(Except for the 1st Sunday of the month)

CHILDCARE

9 & 11 a.m.
Babies & Toddler/2 Yr. Olds
(as of September 1st 2015 & toilet trained)
Early Childhood Check-In

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9 & 11 a.m.
K—2nd Grade — Room 105
3rd Grade — Room 103;
4th—6th Grade — Room 104

FAMILY WORSHIP

(1st Sunday of the month)
Kindergarten through 6th Grade
Worship with their families



February 10, 2016

Chapel open for
Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion

6:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
5:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service

Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion
7:30 p.m. — Sanctuary



In the event of possible church closings due to weather or power outages, please go to News Channel 5 for updates.

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

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

STEEPLETALK
Deadline
For MARCH Issue
February 8th