

STEEPLETALK

SEPTEMBER 2016



"Follow the Leader"

"Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1)

The childhood game, "follow the leader," presents simple rules: you imitate what another person does. If the other person (leader) claps their hands, stomps their feet or spins around, you do the same. This is a basic game of copycat. Children love it and they learn from imitation.

Jesus knew that, perhaps that's why he shared, "I tell you a truth, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 11:3) Jesus understood the importance of imitation. That's a strong message on the importance of living and instructing the faith in our homes. Children need this! But so do we!!

Thomas á Kempis, in his classic 15th century book, "The Imitation of Christ" begins with these words:

"He that followeth Me, walketh not in darkness," saith the Lord. These are the words of Christ, by which we are admonished how we ought to imitate His life and manners, if we will be truly enlightened, and be delivered from all blindness of heart."

á Kempis wrote his book as a challenge to imitate Jesus. He also wrote these words, "Wherever you go, there you are." This is an important concept to hold in mind when we consider who we will follow, after all, who we follow we will imitate, i.e. "follow the leader." Who we follow will take us where we go, and that's who you will be.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in the church of Corinth calling them to imitate him, just as he imitated Christ. Paul was playing a little "Follow the Leader." Most importantly, Paul was following Christ.

A disciple is a follower of Christ. One who adheres to the teachings of Jesus, who learns from Jesus how to live their life in worship, service and witness.

Our church mission is to lead all onto a path of Christ-centered discipleship. That path will lead us to follow Jesus, to be imitators of Jesus.

The Christian faith was never intended to be lived in isolation. Jesus chose 12 disciples, and then sent them out in pairs to do ministry. We are called to share the journey together. In our spiritual journey at Mentor UMC we are offering journey groups. These small groups of around 10 – 14 persons meet to grow in our faith. We're all on a journey, in our groups we journey together to be imitators of Christ. That means we'll learn, but we'll also help each other put into practice what we're learning.

More information will be shared in the coming weeks as we prepare for a church-wide study on the Path of Discipleship. Please join with us as we journey together, seeking to be imitators of Christ.

— Rev. Kurt

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The United Methodist Church has been growing rapidly in Africa over the last several decades. The growth in membership and the emerging socio-economic and political needs in their countries led the African bishops of the United Methodist Church (UMC) to call on their church to invest in higher education provision in Africa. This resulted in the development of Africa University in 1992.

The call of the university has been a vision to become a world class university for leadership development in Africa. The mission of Africa University is to provide quality education within a Pan-African context through which persons can acquire general and professional knowledge and skills, grow in spiritual maturity, develop sound moral values, ethics and leadership qualities.

The 25th anniversary will be marked in 2017.

On Sunday, September 11th, Bishop Marcus Mathews, a board of trustee member, will be our guest. He will bring greetings in all the services, and also the message during both the 9:00 and 11:00 sanctuary services.

Come and learn about the impact of the United Methodist Church in Africa.

African University CELEBRATION RALLY!!!

Sunday, September 11 — 4 p.m.

Celebration United Methodist Church, 771 E. 160th Street, Euclid

Sing, Pray, and Rejoice about how AU is helping to transform sub-Saharan Africa. Receive updates from the campus. Hear stories of how AU graduates are transforming their communities. Celebrate AU's successes. Learn about AU's exciting future. Meet scholarship recipients (via video). ALL are invited to share in receiving this exciting message!



Bishop Tracy S. Malone has been assigned as resident bishop of the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church effective September 1st.

She was serving as the District Superintendent of the Chicago Southern Region of Northern Illinois and was dean of the Cabinet when she was elected to the Episcopacy on July 13th. Prior to her appointment as Superintendent, she served as the senior pastor of Gary United Methodist Church in Wheaton, Illinois.

Bishop Malone is married to Derrick Malone and they have two daughters, Alexis and Ashley.



HOPE RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 9870 Johnnycake Ridge, Concord

Fun, family event! September 24 — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Sign up online at <http://hoperidge.com/stophungernow/>

CHANGE THE WORLD!
Be a part of supplying 20,000+ meals to those in need!

Hope Ridge is excited to announce that they have raised over \$6,000 to host a food packaging event through **Stop Hunger Now**. There is enough funds to package over 20,000 meals during this event. **What they need now are volunteers!**

In order to package this many meals, they need about 100 volunteers to work for one or two hours. If you have never participated in a meal packaging event, it is a great family activity. Kids from ages 5 and above can help! The packaging hours will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, September 24th.

Help fight hunger in this world and build bridges in our community so that we as a whole may work together to make an impact as servants of God.

September 21st is the Feast Day of St. Matthew in the western Christian world. Most of us know that Matthew was one of the twelve Disciples of Christ. Most of us also know he wrote the first book in the New Testament. Most also know that he was a tax collector (or publican). Tax collectors were some of the most despised Hebrews in ancient Judea.

Matthew as originally called Levi. He lived in the city of Capernaum which was situated along the road which connected Damascus to the Mediterranean Sea. It was also on the western side of the Sea of Galilee. Its location made a strategic spot to collect taxes for the Roman Empire. The Empire collected taxes on goods shipped across its provinces. In Judea, Rome selected a local Hebrew to collect the taxes. What made the system so despised was due to the fact that the local tax collector paid the Empire the taxes in advance and then collected them back from the local farmers and merchants. Needless to say, this made exploiting the people very easy as the local tax collector would charge far more than they should in order to line their own pockets. Their position as Roman tax collectors gave them the protection of the Roman Legions should anyone challenge them.

When Jesus met Levi, he called on Levi to follow Him. Levi, believing who Jesus was, immediately abandoned his tax collection job and followed Jesus. He took the name Matthew which is believed to be the shortened form of Mattathias which means "The Gift of God". Matthew threw a feast for his friends so they could meet Jesus. He also is believed to have repaid those whom he overcharged for taxes.

Following Jesus' Death and Resurrection, Matthew preached in Palestine for about 15 years. He was a keen observer of people and knew the aspiration of the Jewish people. His Gospel was written to emphasize to the Jewish people that Jesus was indeed the Messiah for whom they'd been waiting. He later traveled to Syria, Persia, and Ethiopia where he met his death. Tradition says he was martyred there.

The story of Matthew shows how Jesus can use anyone, regardless of background or occupation, to further His Kingdom. That should be a lesson for all of us. We are all valued by the Lord and can make significant contributions to His Kingdom.

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

GriefShare **Grief Recovery Support Group**

It's real help for deep hurt for those on the journey from *mourning* to joy. **The Fall Session meets Wednesdays for 13 week, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Dates are September 7th to November 30th. Cost is \$20 (includes book).**

Weekly video seminars are designed to help you successfully travel the journey from mourning to joy:



- Week
1. Is this Normal
 2. Challenges of Grief
 3. The Journey of Grief, Part 1
 4. The Journey of Grief, Part 2
 5. Grief and Your Relationships
 6. Why?
 7. Guilt and Anger
 8. Complicating Factors
 9. Stuck
 10. Lessons of Grief, Part 1
 11. Lessons of Grief, Part 2
 12. Heaven
 13. What Do I Live for Now?

Facilitators are Rev. Bev Wrobel, PC, and Janet Siekmann.

To register: email Rev. Bev Wrobel at blwrobel@mentorumc.org or phone her at 440 255-3496, ext. 14. For more information on GriefShare, visit their website at www.griefshare.org.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

RUTH-ESTHER CIRCLE MEETING: We kick-off fall with our first meeting on Tuesday, September 13th at 9:30 a.m. in the Adams Parlor. All women of the church are invited to attend. Join us for fellowship and refreshments.

NEW DAY CIRCLE: We will be exploring *Christianity and World Religions* using the book by Adam Hamilton as a guide. In the coming months we will take a brief look at Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism with the desire that we as Christians can build bridges with others so that we might grow in our faith, seek peace in our world, love our neighbor, and find positive ways to share the gospel.

Join us on Monday, September 12, from 10 - 11:30 a.m. in the Asbury Room to look at Hinduism. If you choose to read Adam Hamilton's book, you are encouraged to read the first two chapters before this meeting. **If you would like a copy of the book (cost \$10) or have questions, please contact Carole Ring (440-376-7231 or umw@entorumc.org).** All women are welcome to join us!

BIRTHDAY BASH
Guest Chef
Monday, September 19th
6:00—7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall



Women and girls of all ages are invited to gather for a time of celebration, fun and food as Mentor United Methodist Women hosts a Birthday Bash with "Guest Chef" Sherry Gallagher! Create your own salad at our salad bar supper followed by a cake decorating demo from Sherry. After learning some frosting techniques you will have a chance to try your hand with your own birthday cupcake!

We will be assembling birthday parties-in-a-bag for those whose circumstances prevent them from having a birthday celebration with all the "fixings." Please bring one or more: cake mix and frosting, birthday candles, cake decorations, birthday themed party plates, napkins & cups, balloons or small party favors.

We will also be sharing our gratitude with an opportunity to offer monetary donations for the UMW World Thank Offering.

No reservation is needed and there is no cost! Please contact Carole Ring (255-7213 or umw@mentorunc.org) if you have questions or need transportation. Please join us!



GINGERBREAD HOUSE CRAFT FAIR 2016 WORKSHOPS: Join us any Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Atrium (you can come for the whole time or part – bring your lunch if you like). We're open to new craft ideas – bring your own or we will have something for you to do. If you have questions, contact Kathy Fellows at 255-5899.

We've moved into the season when people start making applesauce, jams and jellies, and canning some of their harvest items. Please consider setting aside some of the "fruits" of your labor for our *Country Cupboard* tables at the Craft Fair in November.



It's time for a new choir season to begin! Singing and ringing together is about joy; it's about creating community; it's about enhancing worship as well as offering our own praise and thanksgiving to God. We are blessed beyond measure by dedicated choir members who raise their voices and bells to the glory of God. New members are always welcome.

Rehearsals begin Thursday, September 8th:

Canticle Bell Choir, Thursdays, 6:00 p.m., Wesley Room

Charter Members Men's Chorus, Thursdays, 7:00 p.m., Choir Room
(we began early — so join us now)

Chancel Choir, Thursdays, 7:45 p.m., Choir Room



If you are interested in a class on the Basics of the Christian faith consider attending . . .

“The Basics” offered on five Tuesday evenings in September from 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m., September 6, 13, 20, 27, October 4 in the Conference Room. Whether you’re a member or want to become a member, these five classes focus on the Bible, Jesus, Prayer and the Church. Led by Pastor Bev Wrobel. Registration is required.

These classes are required for membership but everyone is welcome to attend. To register, please email or call Pastor Bev Wrobel at blwrobel@mentorumc.org or 440-255-3496, ext. 14.

SERVANT OPPORTUNITIES

HEARTLAND of Mentor 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 contact Rich & Katie Ellwell at (440) 255-6794 or Don & Pat Humphrey at (440) 354-3833.

MORE THAN A MEAL



Free Community Dinner

Our next More than a Meal will be held on Saturday, September 24th. Please consider joining us. Extra hands are always appreciated for set-up, starting at 4:30 p.m. through clean-up, which is usually around 7 p.m. Stop in, lend a hand, eat and visit with some of our guests so that you can share in this wonderful ministry.

Sponsors for More than a Meal are still needed for Saturday, October 29th and Saturday, December 31st. We welcome MUM church members, attendees, groups, organizations, and volunteers through your workplace.

The calendar is empty as of now for 2017; we are taking names. If you are interested in October 29th, December 31st or any of the open dates in 2017, please call Lori Post at 440-477-6472 for more information and to sign up.



UPDATE: Thanks to all your donations, Middle School Mission Week filled wish lists and delivered to local agencies:

Project Hope:	a new pair of tennis shoes for all 40 men, women, and children
Karpos Ministry:	20 pairs of men’s shoes and 18 pairs of socks
Hope Chest:	13 large bags filled with Back to School shoes
Forbes House:	24 pairs of women’s and kids flip flops
Hannah’s Home:	several Payless Shoes gift cards
Salvation Army:	men’s flip flops, 25 adult pairs of tennis shoes, a gift card, and two children got a new pair of flip flops in the Lobby

The Director at Project Hope responded, “We are so very thankful for your thoughtfulness put into action!!! ... I can only imagine the smiling faces and joy you all brought to the individuals and families here. One thing you don’t know is that one man ended up in the hospital needing care for his poor feet and we prayed for shoes for him. Not only did the Lord see fit to give him shoes, but sent all you angels to get them for **EVERYone** else. You are a blessing.”

The Hope Chest Board, volunteers & clients send many hugs and thanks to the Middle School Mission Week children and our congregation for their generosity in donating 13 bags of back to school shoes. What a blessing to know that each child that is served at Hope Chest will have a new pair of shoes when she or he starts to school. Thank you again and God bless all of you.

KNOW

• **Sunday School FALL Schedule**

- . Babies & Toddler/2 Yr. olds AND 3 & 4 year olds (3 yrs. old as of September 30 & toilet trained) meet in Early Childhood Check-in.
- . Family Worship is FIRST Sunday of the month and K-6th graders remain in worship with their families
- . Promotion Sunday is September 11th—children will “move up” to their next class if eligible; please note 3 & 4 year olds MUST be that age by September 30th to move up)
- . K-2nd grade meet in Room 107
- . 3rd grade meet in Room 103
- . 4th-6th grade meet in Room 104
- . www.mentorumc.org/sunday-school

GROW

• **MOPS & MOMSnext Monthly Meeting**

- . Fellowship Hall on Friday, September 9th from 9:30 a.m. to noon — “We Are the Starry Eyed”

• **StuCo 56**, 5th & 6th grade youth group

- . Kick-Off meeting Sunday, September 11th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at MUMC
- . Family Hayride at Patterson’s Fruit Farm on Sunday, September 25th from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- . www.mentorumc.org/stuco-56

• **Positive Parenting Event**

- . Understanding the Adolescent Years with Dr. Bill Quigley, Asst. Professor of Youth Ministries from Malone University
- . Sunday, September 11 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- . Childcare will be provided while students in grades 5-12 will be in StuCo 56 & Occupy Student Ministry
- . RSVP at www.mentorumc.org/positive-parenting

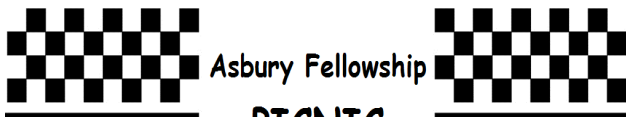
• **GENERATIONS**, family fellowship group

- . Annual Hayride at Patterson’s Fruit Farm on Sunday, September 25th from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- . www.mentorumc.org/generations

SHOW

- **Sunday School** sign up: www.mentorumc.org/sunday-school
- **Children’s Choir** (K-6 Grade) rehearses 10:15-10:45 in Room 112 beginning September 11th
- **Cherub Choir** (3, 4, 5 yr. olds) rehearses 10:15-10:35 in Room 104 beginning September 11th

CURRENT INFO and CHILD REGISTRATION FORMS: www.mentorumc.org/children



PICNIC

Saturday, September 17th
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Edward R. Walsh Park

Take Rt. 306 to Bellflower Drive (west - across from Lake Catholic High School) – go to Bellflower Court – turn left and continue to end (on right), Walsh Park.



We will supply hot dogs & buns and condiments. Please bring a dish or dessert to share and your own place settings. **ALL ARE WELCOME!!** More information? Call Mary Lou and Jim Haines at 534-1393.



YTD through JULY 2016

Receipts	\$572,322.
Disbursements	550,643.
Surplus	21,679.

Electronic giving available online at www.mentorumc.org

SINGLES MINISTRY

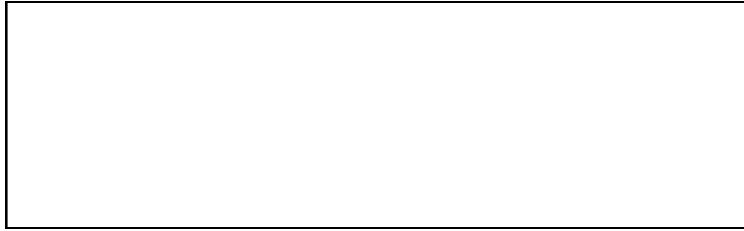
S.A.L.T., a singles ministry for those in their twenties and thirties meets each week on Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Adams Parlor or Conference Room.

If you are interested or need more information, please contact Robyn Sadler at 440-478-2803 or email her at robsad79@gmail.com

Mentor United Methodist Church
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



WORSHIP

SANCTUARY Worship — 9 & 11 a.m.

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

COMMUNION — 10:15 a.m.
Join us in the Chapel

CHILDCARE — 9 & 11 a.m.
Babies & Toddler/2Yr. Olds AND 3 & 4 Yr. Olds
meet in Early Childhood Check-in

SUNDAY SCHOOL — 9 & 11 a.m.
Kindergarten through 2nd Grade—Room 107
3rd Grade — Room 103
4th—6th Grade — Room 104

Family Worship 1st Sunday of the month
K-6th Grade worship with their families

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**

RE M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS**

**DEADLINE:
STEEPLETALK
September 8
For OCTOBER Issue**

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