

STEEPLE TALK

JANUARY 2017



Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) was a theologian, pastor, and university president. He has been called the most significant American churchman of the 18th century and one of America's greatest preachers; he was a leading figure in the (first) Great Awakening.

The only son in a family of eleven children, he entered Yale in September, 1716 when he was not yet thirteen and graduated four years later (1720) as valedictorian. He received his masters three years later. He pastored for several years and was elected president of the College of New Jersey (later named Princeton) in 1757.

One of his legacies is found in his list of resolutions he began drafting while a teenager. They amounted to 70, and have been written about, re-written, categorized and most importantly, used through the years. Joining in that vein, as we begin the New Year, following are my abridged adaptations and revisions. May we, in the spirit of Jonathan Edwards, understanding that we can't do anything without God's help, and humbly seeking God's grace, resolve...

1. ...to do all I think or say to the glory of God and not to take into consideration my own comfort, profit or pleasure.
2. ...never to do anything which I should be afraid to do if it were my last hour of my life.
3. ...if I see a problem try to solve it or if someone needs help to help them.
4. ...to never do anything out of revenge.
5. ...to maintain the wisest and healthiest practices in my eating and drinking.
6. ...to study the Scriptures so steadily, and so constantly, and so frequently, that it becomes evident—even obvious—to myself that my knowledge of them has grown.
7. ...to strive to my utmost every week to be brought to a higher spiritual place, and to a greater experience of grace, than I was the week before.
8. ...to inquire every night, as I am going to bed, where I may have been negligent, what sin I have committed.
9. ...to never, from this day until the day I die, act as if I were in any way my own, but entirely and altogether belong to God, and then live in a way agreeable to this reality.
10. ...to endeavor to my utmost to deny whatever is not most agreeable to a good, and universally sweet and benevolent, quiet, peaceable, contented, easy, compassionate, generous, humble, meek, modest, submissive, obliging, diligent and industrious, charitable, even, patient, moderate, forgiving, sincere temper; and to do at all times what such a temper would lead me to.
11. ...to endeavor always to keep a gracious demeanor, and air of acting and speaking in all places and in all companies, except if it should so happen that faithfulness requires otherwise.
12. ...to act lovingly, respectfully, godly towards all and when I am feeling ungodly to quickly repent.

These are 12 of the 70. I would encourage you to keep these handy and refer to them often throughout 2017. Perhaps you might focus on one each month. With God's help, following these will take us further along the path of discipleship.

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SANCTUARY
Rooted in Tradition, Growing in Christ

Have a good year!
Pastor Kurt



THROUGH THE YEARS

This month, we will continue with some additional information about the 1906 sanctuary. This was the sanctuary that stood where the chapel now sits. In the back of the church there were covered horse sheds which later were used for automobiles. The sheds were torn down around 1920. By 1915, more classroom space and a dining hall were needed so members of the church dug out a basement under the sanctuary. This was difficult work and was done wheelbarrow by wheelbarrow.

Electric lights were added in 1914 when electric lines were installed down Mentor Avenue. This also was the year when a pipe organ was installed. Another interesting fact is that with the addition of electricity, a street car ran down Mentor Avenue.

The 1906 church saw much history come and go including two World Wars and the Great Depression. The community of Mentor also experienced growth. In 1950-51, the church added a fellowship hall and a kitchen. The cost was \$44,000. This area is now the location of the Wesley and Asbury Rooms, as well as the bride's room. Membership at this time stood at 490.

In 1957 it was determined that more space was needed for educational activities and the education wing was constructed. The cost of this project was \$215,000. Besides classrooms, the addition included church offices, a parlor, and restrooms. Church membership in 1957 had grown to nearly 1,200 members.

The pastors serving the church from 1937-1963 include Revs. Clarence Bowers, C. E. Achberger, Richard Pettit, David Skeen, and John Freiling.

The 1906 sanctuary was torn down and made way for the current chapel in 1988. Much of the information shared in this article comes from the Memories book which was published in 1988 and can be found in the church library.

For those more senior members of our church who remember the 1906 sanctuary, it holds many cherished memories.

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.

FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS



Beth Goll has retired from the position of GEM (Gifts, Endowments & Memorials) Secretary/Treasurer. She served in this position for 20 years. **On SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, following both the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services there will be a reception in the Gallery. Please plan to stop by and greet Beth and thank her for her many years of service to Mentor United Methodist Church.**



The Staff-Pastor Parish Relations Committee has announced the hiring of Norman Wells as the new Treasurer/Secretary of the GEM Committee. Norman has a long history of working with both non-profit and for profit organizations in the financial area. He has a broad and diverse experience in accounting and business. He and his wife Marilyn are members of the church. We welcome Norm to this staff position.

The GEM (Gifts, Endowments and Memorials) Committee recently requested the Finance Committee consider borrowing \$160,000 from GEM investments to pay down the bank loan on the In THIS House building enhancements. The request was built around an effort to pull the GEM fund allocation ratio of equity/cash to match the guidelines set forth. The church would also benefit with a lower interest rate.

The Finance Committee reviewed the request and accepted the offer, adding \$90,000 in accumulated funds collected for In THIS House. With this action, the bank loan has been reduced by \$250,000. The Finance Committee is committed to continue an aggressive approach to retiring the bank loan and the mortgage payment will stay at the same level. Once

KNOW

• **Sunday School**

- Children 0-4 years old—Early Childhood area
- K-2nd Grade—Room 107
- 3rd-4th Grade—Room 103
- 5th-6th Grade—Room 104
- Family Worship is **FIRST** Sunday of the month and K-6th graders worship with their families

GROW

- **StuCo 56**, 5th & 6th grade youth group
 - **Sunday, January 8th**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. (Super Bowl of Caring Prep)
 - **Sunday, January 22nd** from 12:00-6:00 p.m. Lunch at MUMC with Occupy Youth Ministry AND SNOW TUBING at Boston Mills Brandywine
 - <http://mentorumc.org/stuco-56>
- **MOPS & MOMSnext Monthly Meeting**
 - Fellowship Hall, January 13th, 9:30—Noon Meeting
 - Friday, January 27th, 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Discussion Groups
 - <http://mentorumc.org/mops>

SHOW

- Sunday School Servant sign up www.mentorumc.org/sunday-school
- Children's Choir (1-6 Gr.) rehearses Sundays 10:15-10:45, Room 112
- Cherub Choir (3 Yr. Old-K) rehearses Sundays, 10:15-10:45, Room 104

NEWSLETTERS & CHILD REGISTRATION FORMS:

<http://mentorumc.org/>



children

Ann and I are very grateful for all your help moving me into assisted living quarters. So many helpers to do the many chores!

No word of THANKS is adequate enough to show our appreciation. You proved to be Jesus' disciples by all you did for us.

RUTH-ESTHER CIRCLE: We won't be having a meeting in January. Join us February 9th — we will be cleaning the candle holders from Christmas Eve services. Please bring a paring knife if you have one.

GRIEFSHARE
A Grief Recovery Support Group

It's real help for deep hurt for those on the journey from *mourning* to *joy*.

Winter session: Wednesdays, February 1 to April 26, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Cost is \$20 (includes book).

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

You can register by calling or emailing Rev. Wrobel, blwrobel@mentorumc.org, 255-3496, ext. 14.

These weekly video seminars are designed to help you successfully travel the journey from mourning to joy.

For more information on GreifShare, visit their website at

FINANCE UPDATE

www.griefshare.org.



YTD through NOVEMBER 30, 2016

Receipts	\$907,814.
Disbursements	881,634.
Surplus	\$26,180.

Electronic giving is available online at www.mentorumc.org/onlinegiving

Text your giving—text 440-210-9089 with the amount you would like to contribute, complete the registration, and receive verification by text and email.

Offering Envelopes



We hope you find these options convenient. Contact Teresa Simons at 255-3496, ext. 11, if you have questions or need assistance.



MISSION MINISTRIES

SADDLE UP & MOSEY ON IN FOR A FREE CHILI LUNCH! **Fellowship Hall at 12:30 p.m.** **Sunday, January 8th**

Cori Babcock will be sharing experiences from her trip to Hungary where she was hosted by Mark and Eszti Landerholm and helped with the horse camp where they work with orphans.

There is no cost for the lunch, but donations will be gratefully accepted for the Landerholms' mission work in Hungary. The lunch is sponsored by the Missions Commission and Mentor United Methodist Women.

All are welcome to attend!
Round up your family and friends and join us!

January 2017 Mission Mentions....

The New Year is upon us, the Missions Commission has some new and exciting ideas for ways that we can serve and share the love of Christ in our community and to those in need. With the fall sermon series, you may have thought about your role in the mission and ministry here at Mentor UMC. We have several ongoing mission opportunities that are always looking to grow the groups.

- We provide food on a regular basis here at the Church with our **More Than a Meal** program on the last Saturday of each month. This ministry is seeking servants for the monthly meals.
- We provide a meal on the first Wednesday of each month to be served at **Project Hope**. These meals just need to be delivered to the shelter and they take care of service.
- **There are lots of other ways to serve too.** Just contact Pastor Bruce at bbecker@mentorumc.org or Johanna Martin at johannamartin@sbcglobal.net for details.

New for 2017 are these two opportunities. Both of these are practical ways to share the love of Jesus in common and needed ways.

- **School Partnership Program**—This is a very exciting ministry where we partner with Catalyst Ministries and serve in the Painesville Elementary Schools each week.

We are present with two volunteers for two hours one day a week and we work with the classroom teacher on whatever the needs are in the classroom. A great way to get to know the staff and the kids. We also help provided for needs of that classroom. Kind of adopting the class as a church. We help with classroom supplies such as pencils and paper. There are a lot of ways to serve. We just need excited and willing folks to be a part.

- **Western Reserve District ERT (Early Response Team)**
Have you ever seen a disaster happen and wondered how in the world I can help. Well here is your chance. This team has over 60 members across our district. Members of the team have responded to more than a dozen areas of disaster over the past six or seven years. There is no requirement to pick up and go as a team is put together, but the offer is made once the need is identified, and then those that are able and available to go can choose to serve. Pastor Bruce has been a part of this group since it started and can give lots of details. Training is provided when you join the team.

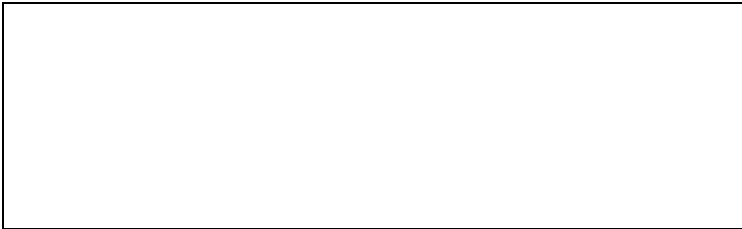
PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR

Church member registration began on December 1st. **Starting January 3rd** registration opens for current stu-

Mentor United Methodist Church
8600 Mentor Avenue
Mentor OH 44060

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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 2016 & 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



JOIN US ON THE PATH
Saturday, March 4—Sunday, March 5
At the Hilton Garden Inn, Twinsburg

Relax, reflect and connect. Join us as author Carole Hamm leads us in a “*Springtime of the Soul*” experience of personal discovery designed to awaken and deepen our faith. Registration forms will be available beginning January 8th at the Sign Up Center on Sunday mornings, online, or in the Church Office. Overnight cost with meals ranges from \$110-\$175 (financial assistance may be available). This retreat is open to all women of the church, friends, and family.

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:
**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**
REMEMBER:
**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS**

STEEPLETALK
January 9, 2017
For FEBRUARY Issue



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