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# Mentor United Methodist Church

## WEEKLY UPDATE

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8600 Mentor Ave. Mentor, OH 44060

[mentorumc.org](http://mentorumc.org) 440.255.3496

**December 5, 2021**

Traditional Worship at 9 AM and 11 AM

Modern Worship at 9 AM

The Gathering 11 AM, Fellowship Hall, mask required

Worship with us online every Sunday at 9 and 11 AM at [mentorumc.org](http://mentorumc.org), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/mentorumc), and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/mentorumc).

For many years our Christmas rituals included finding a live tree for our home. We loaded up our boys, headed to the nursery, and then debated among ourselves which tree would find its place in our home. The fresh smell of pine, needles on the floor, sap on the doorframe – all part of our holiday. We even resorted to the use of nails one year when we could not keep a tree upright. One of us knew when it was chosen it was going to be a problem. One of us will confess to which parsonage has a hole in its floor ... should the question ever arise.

We do many things to prepare for Christmas. What are your rituals and traditions? What makes Christmas, Christmas? In reality, we can work on the outward appearance of Christmas and miss the essence of Christmas.

This week, our Advent journey continues as we light the candle of hope. Hope bursts through all outward appearances to offer life. That is, into brokenness and despair, loneliness and pain, Jesus comes. That is, into debates and disagreements, traditions and unknowns, Jesus comes. Hope is the good news of Christmas. Jesus comes.

Let us always pray: Christ be my hope

Pastor Sondra

### **YouVersion**

The YouVersion link for this week is <https://bible.com/events/48805525>.

**More Than A Meal** Please note that More Than a Meal for this month is moved to the third Saturday of the month, which is December 18.

### **Advent Candle Lighters Sign Up**

Advent is fast approaching and we need people to light the Advent candles each week and on Christmas Eve. This is a much loved tradition and is so special this year. Use the [Sign Up Genius link](#), sign up at the Info Hub, call the Church Office, or email Tammy at [TPalermo@mentorumc.org](mailto:TPalermo@mentorumc.org).

### **Christmas Play Tickets**

Truth & Light Players will present their annual Christmas production. This year is "The Grunch" on December 11 at 4 PM. Tickets are necessary to obtain prior to the show. Please go to <https://mumctlp.booktix.com/>, or see the app and website.

## Congregational Care

In our prayers today and in your personal prayer time, please remember the following:

Members admitted to the Hospital: Lake West - Doris Sturm • UH - Mary Jane Scott

Members admitted to Rehab, Assisted Living or Nursing Home Facility:

Aberdeen Crossing - Barbara Bradarich • The Enclave - Kay Disbro, Jeanne Babcock  
Vista Springs - Audrey Arslanian • Continuing Healthcare of Mentor - Virginia Gilman  
Parker Place - Opal Pinasky, Bill Owen, Bob and Sandy Linsell  
Danbury Senior Living - Kathryn Bevacqua, Hugh Samson • Salida Woods - Doris Sturm  
Maple Ridge Sr. Living - Bob Chamberlin • Brookdale Wickliffe - Fran Rose  
Tapestry Senior Living - Gloria McFeely • Symphony of Mentor - Lorraine Ahlstrom  
Breckenridge/Fairmount - Patricia Laubscher, Ann Shetler

Members who are home or homebound:

Karen Mancini, Karen Scott, Beverly Rhoades, Ruth Johnson, Noel Barber, Dale Snyder,  
Jeff Klein, Joyce Trimble, Dick Smith

## Fellowship Time December 12

There will be Fellowship Time on December 12 between services and at noon.

### Children & Family Ministries

[www.mentorunc.org/children](http://www.mentorunc.org/children)

Tammy Palermo [TPalermo@mentorunc.org](mailto:TPalermo@mentorunc.org)

## MUMC Sunday Morning Kids' Journey Groups, mask required in Education Wing and Early Childhood Area

- 9:00 AM at MUMC
  - 0-2 year old & 3-4 Year old sign in at the Early Childhood Area prior to service
  - Kindergarten through 6th grade begin worship with their families. You will be dismissed from there to go to the Education Wing.
  - Leaders are still needed [Winter Sign Up](#). Please note that all leaders are asked to wear a mask as we LOVE GOD & LOVE PEOPLE.
- 11:00 AM The Gathering (mask required)
  - Interactive, Intergenerational, and Intentional worship service

There are still some Advent Calendars available. First come, first served. [Order Link](#)

**MOPS & MOMSnext** meets Friday, December 10, from 9:30 AM to Noon at MUMC.

MUM Preschool will start the Young 3's class in January. Registrations are underway. If you have a three-year-old who is toilet-trained, they are eligible for this beginning preschool experience on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the morning.

Pre-Registration is open for the 2022-2023 school year for **MUM Preschool**. If you know of anyone looking for a preschool next fall, please share the [mentorunc.org/preschool](http://mentorunc.org/preschool) website.

### **Giving Trees - Gifts Due by December 12**

The Giving Trees are up! We are doing a combination of the "old" way and the "new" way. There are names on the tree in the gallery of children to donate gifts to. These are mostly single child families. On the Signup Genius are families with 2 or more children. If you are planning on picking several children, please visit the [Signup Genius](#) and bless a whole family. Gifts are due back to MUMC by December 12 at noon. **Gifts must be wrapped and tagged.**



[Signup Genius link here](#)

**Please note:** The distribution of gifts is December 13 and 14. Gifts must be brought in, wrapped and on time by December 12, to be given out. As soon as your gifts are ready, please feel free to bring them up to the church. We have secure storage for them. Thank you!

Also on the trees are throughout the church are :

**YELLOW ANGELS:** these represent names of members of our church in need of prayers. Please feel free to take these ornaments home.

**BLUE BELLS:** These represent good deeds or acts of kindness that can be completed.

**RED HEARTS:** These represent charities that we are supporting this holiday season. They include:

Nehemiah Mission • The Salvation Army • The Lake County Free Clinic

**CHURCH WINDOWS:** These ornaments are for donations to Africa University to help fund the building of a dormitory.

On Sundays, there is a green box in the Information Hub by the Church Office to place your red heart or church window donations in, or give them to the office during the week.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions at 440-283-6524. Thank you, Betsy Iskra

### **Custodial Volunteer Assistance**

The month of December is a busy month at Mentor UMC – and occasionally custodial assistance is needed. Are you willing to help with some cleaning, set-up or tear-down? Are you willing to be on-call when a need arises? We are especially in need of some assistance on Christmas Eve. We are so glad to welcome the community back into our building! We appreciate your willingness to help engage in our ministry needs. Please contact the church office for more info at 440-255-3496.

### **Part-time Office Assistant Position**

Our church is looking for a part-time office assistant. If you are interested in learning more about the position or would like a copy of the job description, please call or stop by the church office.

## Advent Study

The classic Christmas tale of The Grinch is the inspiration for our Advent study. Our study will be The Heart That Grew Three Sizes by Matt Rawle.

This is open to ALL ages and will be Sunday evenings from 5:00-7:00 PM and will include dinner.

The study is every Sunday evening in Advent, November 28 through December 19. Sign-up is required at [this link](#) on our website and app, or contact the Church Office at 440.255.3496.



## Christmas Eve Schedule and Ushers

We are so pleased to return to our Christmas Eve service schedule of  
3 PM Traditional Worship - Communion • 5 PM Children-led service (mask required)  
7 PM Modern Worship • 7 PM Traditional Worship - Charter Members  
9 PM Traditional Worship - Hallelujah Chorus • 11 PM Traditional Worship  
The 7 PM Modern and 9 PM Traditional services will also be livestreamed

Volunteers are needed for ushering during the five Sanctuary Christmas Eve services. Please consider serving your congregation, and meeting new people, by ushering! A sign-up sheet will be at the Information Hub beginning November 21.

You can also sign up through the website and app at [this link](#). If interested in ushering but hesitant, training will be provided on Tuesday, December 7 or Wednesday, December 15 in the Narthex from 7 – 8 PM. If you have further questions, please contact Chris Meldrum at (440) 220-0824.

# Blue Christmas

a service of healing and hope



Monday, December 20th, @ 7:00 pm

*Please gather in the chapel for worship as we remember loved ones who are no longer physically present with us. On the eve of the shortest day of the year when darkness lingers, and with a mix of sadness and gratitude for them, the light Christ will illumine our path as we make our way through the holidays. Come, behold the Light of the world!*



In the rising of the sun and its going down, we remember them.  
In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember them.  
In the opening of the buds and the rebirth of spring, we remember them.  
In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer, we remember them.  
In the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn, we remember them.  
In the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them.  
When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.  
When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.  
When we have joys we yearn to share, we remember them.  
So long as we live, they too will live, for they are now a part of us,  
as we remember them.



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