



THE METHODIST MOSAIC

Volume 57 Number 10 The United Methodist Church of Kent—*A Placeto Grow* December 2015

Dear Friends,

We are entering the season of Advent, which for many of us is one of the most meaningful seasons of the church year, as we reflect about the coming of our Savior. Advent begins on Sunday, November 29, and we look forward to the following special elements in our worship schedule:

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT, NOV. 29.

The beautiful symbolism of our church Christmas decorations, the music of carols, and the lighting of the Advent wreath all enrich our worship. The Chancel Ringers will provide prelude music at the 10:30 hour.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT, DEC. 6 – COMMUNION

The sermon series on “Prophetic Visions” continues through the month. The ZAMARingers will play during the offertory.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT, DEC. 13 – CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

At the 10:30 hour, our Children’s Choir will be sharing with us a delightful and inspiring Christmas musical entitled “Sing a Song of Christmas.” I will be preaching a shorter sermon at all three worship hours. The 8:30 and 9:30 services will include additional music.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT, DEC. 20 – NEW SPIRIT CHRISTMAS MUSICAL at 8:30 and 10:30; YOUTH DRAMA at 9:30

At 8:30 and 10:30 worship, the New Spirit singers and band will proclaim the Christmas message through the cantata, “One Silent Night,” by Pepper Choplin. Both services will be in the sanctuary. Resurrection will sing at the 10:30 and 9:30 hours.

The 9:30 service will feature a Christmas drama entitled, “Christmas Unwrapped.” Combining lively humor and a great message, this play will be performed by twelve of our youth and will comprise most of the worship hour.

CHRISTMAS EVE, THURSDAY, DEC. 24 – CANDLELIGHT SERVICES, 7:00 & 9:00 P.M., CHRISTMAS PRELUDE AT 8:30

These two services are essentially identical, except that we have a children’s time and the children’s choir at 7:00, and the sanctuary choir at 9:00. Special music at both hours will be provided by soloists. The Christmas Prelude, starting at 8:30, features a variety of soloists and ensembles. Child care is provided at the 7:00 service only.

SUNDAY, DEC. 27 – COVENANT RENEWAL.

What better way can there be to head into a new year than to renew our covenant with God? As a part of our worship experience we share in a covenant renewal service that John Wesley created for Methodists to use on or near New Year’s Eve. Here is an opportunity to truly “start the year right” – by getting ourselves right with God!

EPIPHANY SUNDAY, JANUARY 3 – COMMUNION

On this Sunday we remember the visit of the wise men to the infant Jesus.

I look forward to joining with you as in many ways we rejoice and share in the good news of Christmas!

In His Service,
Dr. David Palmer

Youth Ministry News

December 2015

As I reread the article I wrote for last year's December mosaic I can't help but think to myself, WOW, what a year this has been. Two fantastic mission trips where lives were touched and people transformed, and record numbers this fall with our youth group activities highlighted by over 100 people for the first time at our Halloween party.

But most of all it's been a year of personal growth for myself. The near death experience I had on May 3rd has forever changed who I am and who I want to be. As we started this school year, I told my interns the focus this year is going to be relationships. I told them we are going to lead with our heart and make sure each one of our students feel welcomed and loved when they show up on Sunday night. And to me that has made all the difference in the world.

Our goal this year has been to put our faith into action as a youth staff. We try every day to model a life in which our lives are centered on loving God and loving others. Through this combination of belief and action, I feel transformation has begun to happen in the lives of our youth. But as is always the case when you put others first, I know that I have gained so much more than I have given, and I believe my youth staff feels the same.

As we look ahead to 2016 my heart is filled with excitement for what God has planned for our youth group. Two more mission trips along with all the other activities we do as a youth to give students the opportunity to hear the Gospel of Christ. But more importantly I'm excited for the opportunity we have been given to truly love God and love others.

It makes my heart smile and fills me with thankfulness again that I get to continue to serve God through our youth ministry and look forward to spreading Christ's love for many years to come.

Shalom,

Rick <>



Advent Devotions For Adults, Youth, And Children

Our Advent Devotions book, which contains meditations for each day of Advent written by members of our church, is available this year as an e-book. Additional copies will be available at the church.

A Children's Advent Calendar also will be distributed to all children's families through Sunday School classes on the first Sunday of Advent, November 29.

The calendar has a tab for children to open on each day of Advent.

We also will have children's Advent activities available. These will be available for \$1 each in the Atrium.

DECEMBER

SUNDAY 6	7-8:30 PM Youth Fellowship
SATURDAY 12	9:30 am-3 pm Confirmation trip to County Clothing Ctr.
SUNDAY 13	7-8:30 PM Youth Fellowship (Christmas Party)
SUNDAY 20	NO YOUTH GROUP
SUNDAY 27	NO YOUTH GROUP

December Acolyte Schedule

DEC 6	Brandon Harvey	Josh Thompson
DEC 13	Abbey Poole	Faith Kaminski
DEC 20	David Richardson	Olivia DeVries
DEC 27	Brandon Harvey	Josh Thompson

WE WILL BE COLLECTING MITTENS AND HATS

And we would like to invite the entire congregation to help. There is a mitten tree on the second floor of the Education Wing to place the mittens on. In Portage county there are many families in need during the current economic times.

Please help by bringing mittens! Also, please keep the adults in mind as well by supplying gloves and hats in adult sizes.

ADULT RETREAT 2016

All adults in the church family are invited to participate in the Adult Retreat. It will occur on April 15–17 at the Berlin Grande Hotel in Berlin, Ohio—the heart of Amish Country. We meet for dinner Friday evening at the Farmstead Restaurant adjacent to the hotel and wrap up with breakfast and a worship service led by Dr. Palmer on Sunday morning. We try to schedule a special dinner experience for Saturday evening. The activities of the weekend are yet to be planned but we always have a good time including some free time to enjoy the area. The total cost will be about \$250.00 per room including the Saturday evening dinner (two persons) plus meals on your own Friday night and Saturday noon. The hotel gives us a fine conference room for our meetings and has a great Breakfast Buffet. To participate, make out a deposit check for \$20.00 to the church marked “Adult Retreat Deposit” and give it to Roger Stiller or put it in the offering plate. For more info call Roger at 330-297-8933.

New Staff

Our new custodian, Rick Hall, has gotten off to a very good start. He has indicated that he would actually prefer to be working less than full time; so our Staff-Parish Committee has adjusted his position to a fewer number of hours and has hired an assistant custodian, with the following responsibilities:

1. The assistant custodian will be the custodian on Sundays—opening and closing the building, and doing some cleaning on Sunday afternoons
2. The assistant custodian will work additional hours as needed, in order to assist Rick Hall with particularly large jobs, such as stripping and waxing the floors, or doing snow removal on heavy snow days
3. The assistant will be the substitute when Rick Hall is on vacation or ill
4. The assistant custodian will be the one who ordinarily works for outside groups such as weddings or outside group dinners

We have hired Richard Pryor as the assistant custodian. The Sunday hours will dovetail perfectly with Richard’s volunteer work as our bus driver, and he is also generally available to cover the other sorts of hours when he will be needed.

This custodial adjustment was put into effect already for the second half of November. Welcome, Richard, to our church staff!

Did You Know This about Christmas? (from the Dec, 1955 Compiler)

- As early as 1604, a German manuscript mentioned fir trees decorated at Christmas with flower made of colored paper, ornaments of gold foil, and apples.
- While American children look for their presents in their stockings, the children of Norway seek them in hiding places all through the house. In Italy, they seek them in “Urns of Fate,” and in France in wooden shoes placed by the fireside.
- The date of December 25 as the birthday of Jesus became generally observed in most Christian nations in the fourth and fifth centuries. In Shakespeare’s time (1564–1616) Christmas was observed for 12 days!

Goodyear Band Christmas Concert

We are pleased to have the Stan Hywet Goodyear Band once again in our church sanctuary to celebrate the season with inspiring sounds of Christmas. The band will present a Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 6, at 4:00 PM. The hour-long concert will be followed by a fellowship time in Pierson Hall. Everyone is invited!

United Christian Ministries Updates

This holiday season, UCM will remain open and active. They are collecting new and unwrapped toys and gifts items. These will be blessed and dedicated before being donated to the children served by Kent Social Services. Please bring donations to Karrie in the UCM office on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, or to the main office any other day. Your generosity is appreciated!

Even as our hearts are broken for all the humanitarian tragedies from Syria and Beirut, to Paris and Iraq, UCM gathered in shared purpose with the Muslim Student Association and fellow KSU students in a show of unity, faith and peace. The interfaith prayer vigil was held on campus Thursday, November 19. This is an extension of UCM’s continual engagement with other faith-based groups on the Kent State campus to provide a voice that is active in issues of social justice, peace and reconciliation. For more information, and to connect with them and support this mission, visit MyUCM.org.



Janus Christmas Cookie Fundraiser Sale

It's that time again when Janus Circle members start their annual Christmas Cookie fundraiser! This is the major event to raise money for missions, projects, and the new Janus Circle Scholarship fund.

The popular and delicious Christmas shaped Cutout Cookies will be available (which may be ordered Frosted or Unfrosted), along with Peanut Butter Cookies and Chocolate Crinkles. Also available to order is an Assorted Mix, which includes six Cutouts, three Peanut Butter, and three Chocolate Crinkles. Each dozen is \$8 and payment can be made in cash or by **check payable to "United Methodist Women"**. Payment in full is due when ordering.

The last date for placing an order is Sunday, December 6. Cookies will be distributed on Sunday, December 13 at the church after each service. These make great gifts for the Christmas season and money raised goes towards missions and good causes!

Please support the Janus Circle fundraising project and place your order for Janus Christmas cookies! Thank you!

Kent UMC Janus Circle Christmas Cookie Sale 2015

	QTY	Price	Total Cost	
COOKIES sold by the DOZEN:				
Iced Cutouts		\$8		
Peanut Butter		\$8		
Chocolate Crinkles		\$8		
Mixed Dozen (6 Iced Cutouts, 3PB, 3CC)		\$8		
Unfrosted Cutouts		\$8		
Grand Total				

PAID-
List below
"Cash" or
Check #

- Order must be PREPAID in Full
- Please pay with cash or checks **payable to UMW (United Methodist Women)**.
- Orders must be turned in by Sunday, December 6.
- Cookie orders that are not picked up at the designated time will be donated.
- If needed, please contact Denise at her email address dmote@kent.edu, using the subject line "Janus Cookie Sale."

Thank you for supporting our service missions!

Print Name (First & Last) _____

Phone Number(s) _____

Email Address _____

Order Your

Poinsettias



You are invited to donate poinsettias to beautify the sanctuary for Christmas. Flowers will be distributed by Circle members to shut-ins from our church. Circle members may pick up the poinsettias December 24, after the 9:00 PM service or later. Please complete the information below, printing legibly, and mail it to the church office, or drop it into the offering plate on Sundays. All checks must be made payable to the United Methodist Church of Kent and returned with this form by **December 6**.

I/WE _____

WISH TO DONATE _____ PLANTS AT \$10.00 EACH

IN MEMORY OF _____

OR

IN HONOR OF _____

KENT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ANNOUNCE DECEMBER MEETINGS

Miriam Circle of Kent United Methodist Women will meet at **9 AM on December 2** in the Kent United Methodist Church parlor. A program of "Christmas Music" will be the focus topic. Co-hostesses will be Diane Dinkans and Donna Dietz. Devotions and the Mission Moment will be led by Christine Pryor.

An afternoon of "Christmas Celebration" will be held at **1 PM on December 2** by Mary Reed Circle in the church parlor. The Hostess will be Judy Hayden and Pat Gynn will present Devotions and the Mission Moment.

Kent UMW's Rebecca Circle will meet at **6:30 PM on December 2** at the home of Hostess Judy Smith. The evening will begin with a Christmas salad dinner followed by a Christmas Ornament exchange. Members are asked to bring toys for Kent Social Service and/or underwear, socks, or other clothing for the County Clothing Center. Devotions will be led by Judith Nedel and Charlene Pees will present the Mission Moment.

Janus Circle will gather for their Christmas Fellowship in the church parlor at **9:15 AM on December 6**. Rebekah Kulis and Rachel Slippery will serve as Co-hostesses. The Circle is selling Christmas cookies as a fundraiser for missions.

Stewardship Update

We had an uplifting Consecration Sunday on the November 8. If you were not able to be present that day and have not yet turned in a pledge card for 2016, you are invited to do so! Cards are available around the church building.

If you would like an update on where you are in your giving to the church for 2015, please contact our Financial Coordinator, Lynnette Begue-Lavery, at 330-673-5879, ext. 11, or lynnette@kentmethodist.org.

NEW THIS YEAR

This year, our Advent devotional booklet is available as an e-book! It will include, as in years past, short devotions and Bible passages (about 2-3 minutes of reading) for each day leading up to Christmas, written by congregation and staff members.

This year, instead of mailing the book, it will be available at no charge as an e-book through Amazon.com for Kindle devices and apps and Apple iBooks for the iPad, iPhone, and iPod touch. In order to receive a link to the e-book, please submit your email address to adamalderson@kentmethodist.org.

CHURCH RE-KEYING PROJECT

Did you know that our church building has more than 120 doors? And since the church was built in stages, with multiple renovations, those doors have all sorts of different keys. Some of the locks have deteriorated over time. Some of the keys are wearing out. Lots of keys were given out to various users that then were never returned.

This whole jumble will be rectified in the coming weeks, as we are having the entire building rekeyed. Lots of problems with various locks and doors will be solved, and we will have a new comprehensive system in the end. Keys will be issued to users that give precise access to the particular areas that various people need. Electronic doors on the east and west sides of the building (the education wing and campus ministry entrances) will use programmable fobs that will be especially useful for the many outside groups that use the building. The whole system will be coordinated and monitored through the office of our business manager, Adam Alderson.

Adam will begin issuing new keys shortly before the work is completed. Watch the bulletins as the date nears. (New locks will be installed in late December and early January.) If you currently use a key to access the building or certain rooms, please contact Adam in the office to discuss building access and be notified when new keys are available.

University of Life Late Fall Class

University of Life classes are adult Bible study courses presented from 9:30-10:15 each Sunday morning in the Conference Room. The classes are usually offered in 6-8 week courses, with different themes throughout the year.

Last year, John and Sandy Kerstetter led a series of very popular video-based studies, which used a short video presentation that led into an interactive class session focused on aspects of Christian living. Currently, they are leading an exciting course entitled "The Wesleyan Way," prepared by Bishop Scott Jones.

Along with Bishop Jones, the video each week will include various presenters sharing personal faith experiences. Presenters include Adam Hamilton, Olu Brown, Felicia Hopkins, Jessica Moffat Seay, Jorge Acevedo, Rob Fuquay and author Scott Jones.

The themes of the December sessions are as follows:

- Transform Yourself and the World
- Invite Others on the Journey
- Christ No Matter What

Join this class to gain insight into the Wesleyan approach to discipleship and to grow your walk with Christ. No study book is required. Just come to the class!

December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Luncheon/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	2 6 pm Yoga/Parlor	3 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Little City Grill 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir 8 pm Missions Comm./Conference Room	4	5 10 am-1 pm Haymaker's Farmers Market/Pierson Hall
6 Regular Sunday Schedule Communion 2 nd Sunday of Advent 4 pm Goodyear Band Concert/Sanctuary and Pierson Hall	7 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Room	8 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Luncheon/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	9 6 pm Yoga/Parlor	10 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Little City Grill 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	11 12 pm Portage County Gardeners' Lunch/Pierson Hall	12 10 am-1 pm Haymaker's Farmers Market/Pierson Hall
13 Regular Sunday Schedule 3 rd Sunday of Advent	14 6 pm Garden Club/Pierson Hall 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Room	15 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Luncheon/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	16 6 pm Yoga/Parlor	17 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Little City Grill 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	18 2-6 pm Red Cross Bloodmobile/Gym	19 10 am-1 pm Haymaker's Farmers Market/Pierson Hall
20 Regular Sunday Schedule 4 th Sunday of Advent	21 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Room	22 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Luncheon/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	23 6 pm Yoga/Parlor	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 7 PM and 9 PM	25	Regular Sunday Schedule 8:30 Worship Service/Chapel 9:00 Holy Donut Shoppe/Kitchen 9:15 Children's Choir—4 years-6th grade 9:30 Contemporary Service/Gym 9:30 New Spirit/Sanctuary 9:30 Child Care/Nursery 9:30 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship Service/Sanctuary 10:40 Sunday School—Preschool-6th Grade, Youth 11:30 Fellowship Time/Pierson Hall 11:45 Chancel Ringers/Sanctuary 5:00 pm Club 56/Gym 5:00 pm Resurrection (Youth Choir)/Choir Room 6:00 pm ZAMARingers (Youth Handbells)/Sanctuary 7:00 pm Youth Fellowship/Gym and Pit
27 Regular Sunday Schedule	28 Office Closed Dec. 25-28 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Room	29 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Luncheon/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	30 6 pm Yoga/Parlor	31 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Little City Grill 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	1	

USHERS AND GREETERS

Date	8:30/10:30	9:30
December 6	3	4
December 13	4	5
December 20	5	1
Christmas Eve (7 and 9 pm)	6 1	2 3
December 27	2	4

If you are unsure of what team you are on, please call the office at 330-673-5879 x10 or email Adam at adamalderson@kentmethodist.org.

DECEMBER LAY READERS

DEC 6	Judith Nedel
DEC 13	Adam Alderson
DEC 27	Eric Wertz

December 6-Sharon Coia
 December 13-Don Ashton
 December 20-Betty Sweet
 December 27-Janice Anderson



Our Sympathies Go to the Friends and Family of:

- Art Ward
- Carol Neff
- John Mathes

Recent Hospitalizations and Surgeries:

Louise Klein, Sue Maxwell, Paula Patterson, Sally Ruckman, Kathi Smith

December 4 Christmas Tea Announced

Church Women United hosts their final Christmas Tea at 1 PM December 4 in Pierson Hall. The program "Women of the Bible" opens the event with Pete-the-Pig contributions to be collected. Guests are requested to donate the newborn baby items to be delivered to University Hospital Portage Medical Center (formerly Robinson Memorial). The afternoon event concludes with refreshments.

VIDEOTAPING SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 6	Gary Mote
DECEMBER 13	Brittany Brode
DECEMBER 20	Jack Miller
CHRISTMAS EVE	Eric Wertz
DECEMBER 27	Eric Wertz

THANK YOU NOTES

To our wonderful church family,

Our 3-month journey with Dad's leukemia has sadly ended, and now as a family we have to learn our "new normal." We thank God for each day we had since he was diagnosed in July. Our grieving process started then, and we felt every day was a blessing and a gift. Thank you for being with us every step of the way. We appreciated everyone's visits, calls and support. The power of prayer was felt by us all. Dad loved his church family and choir. He felt blessed and comforted by all of you during his illness. We buried Dad with his prayer quilt, so he will always be surrounded by your love. Through the haze of hurt, we hope to get hints of happiness as we start a new life ahead of us.

In Christian Love,
 Shirley Beaumont, Karen, Sharon, David, and families

Dear members of the United Methodist Church of Kent,

Thank you so much for partnering with our school with your donation of \$300 in March. These funds are helping us provide educational, recreational and spiritual opportunities for the children and youth in this community in Paraguay. Thank you for being part of this special ministry as we not only provide educational services but share Christ with our students and their families.

On behalf of our children, their families and staff, I want to thank you so much for your donation to our New Horizon Advance Project. Our vision is to prepare these students to be leaders guided by Godly principles and the Holy Spirit so that they can be change agents in a country abounding with crime

and corruption.

May God guide and bless you in all you are doing to further God's love and His kingdom in your community and around the world.

Love in Christ,
 Sue Givens,
 Missionary Director, New Horizon Methodist School

Dear United Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of tooth brushes, hand towels, nail files and combs. As you know, Safer Futures is a shelter and resource center for women and children escaping domestic violence. It is because of your generous gift that we are able to continue to provide support, information, and advocacy to those affected by domestic violence.

When families leave Safer Futures, it can be very difficult to start over and provide what is needed for themselves and their children. Your generosity contributes greatly to those new beginnings.

Sincerely,
 Brittany Bates
 Domestic Violence Specialist

Walt Strawman and Ralph Darr have really "Made a Difference" this past week. They carefully cleaned flowerbeds, trimmed shrubs, and raked leaves for me. My heartfelt thanks.

Most Sincerely,
 Carol Taylor



**The United Methodist
Church of Kent**
PO Box 646
Kent, OH 44240

Church Office:
330-673-5879
Web Site:
www.kentmethodist.org

Dr. David Palmer,
Senior Pastor

Douglas Denton,
Minister of Pastoral Care

Rick Stout,
Director of
Christian Education
and
Youth Ministries

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 14
KENT, OHIO

Mailing Label Here

Mailed November 20

Celebrate the Savior's birth!

Worship Calendar

Date	Sermon	Scripture	Preacher	Special Event
December 6	"Freedom from Fear"	Isaiah 7:1-4, 11-16	Dr. David Palmer	Communion, <i>ZAMARingers</i>
December 13	"They See the Lord's Advent"	Isaiah 52:7-10	Dr. David Palmer	10:30 Children's Musical
December 20	8:30 and 10:30 9:30	New Spirit performs "One Silent Night" Youth present "Christmas Unwrapped"		<i>Resurrection</i>
December 24	"Arise, Shine, for Your Light Has Come"	Isaiah 60:1-3	Dr. David Palmer	7 PM Children's Choir 9 PM Sanctuary Choir
December 27	"The New Covenant"	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Dr. David Palmer	Covenant Renewal Service



Connect with us at www.kentmethodist.org,

facebook.com/UMCofKENT,

or on Instagram @umcofkent

