



# THE METHODIST MOSAIC

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The United Methodist Church of Kent—*A Place to Grow*

April 2020

Dear Friends,

These are extraordinary times, but one result is an outburst of creative activity. Our staff and our members are finding new ways to connect and new ways of being in ministry. Here is a brief rundown of some of the new forms of our life together in the United Methodist Church of Kent—

- Worship is now totally online, and we have had hundreds of people connecting with both our 9:30 contemporary worship experience and our 10:30 traditional worship experience. We are blessed to have a small team of musicians and technical people each Sunday producing these live-streamed services (which also are available as recorded files after Sunday morning)
- Sunday School is online. Parents can download Sunday School lessons each week for various age groups from our website
- Children's Choir has gone digital. Chelsea Young is preparing a video each week for all of the children in the choir.
- Youth Group has likewise gone digital through an interactive format; contact Rick Stout if you are not yet involved with this!
- Disciple Bible Study and the Sunday Men's Study Group are continuing by using Zoom.
- A new ministry has begun in which church members are making fabric masks for the hospitals at home; contact Dottie Emerick or our church office to get involved.
- Rev. Denton is coordinating an outreach ministry to our shut-ins, in which members are making regular contact by phone or by notes.
- Giving continues via electronic means at [www.kentmethodist.org/give](http://www.kentmethodist.org/give)
- There are still three small groups meeting in the church building – two Narcotics Anonymous groups and one Alcoholics Anonymous group
- The Farmer's Market has adopted a new format, with vendors set up in a drive-through fashion in our parking lot each Saturday morning

Everything looks different, but a great many ministries continue in a strong fashion!

Holy Week will also look very different this year. The first Sunday of the month, April 5, is Palm Sunday (without actual palms this year), and it is also a Communion Sunday. Under the authority and blessing of our bishop, we are adopting a new way of sharing Communion. Before April 5, you need to get some bread and grape juice, and have it ready when you connect with the live-streamed service. During worship, I will guide us all through the service of Communion, and everyone can join in taking the elements at home. We may be physically distant, but the Spirit of Christ unites us all!

We normally share in a Maundy Thursday Communion and Tenebrae service, led by our Sanctuary Choir, and a Good Friday service, led by our worship band. These services both lead worshippers through a profoundly meaningful experience, but the experience cannot be replicated online! We therefore will not be having Maundy Thursday or Good Friday services this year.

But we have added a spiritual element that is available every weekday. I have begun writing Crisis Counsels, a set of reflections that apply the messages of Scripture to our circumstances today. These are going out by email (subscribe to the email list at [www.kentmethodist.org/email](http://www.kentmethodist.org/email)) or they are also available on our web site in both print and audio form.

Easter Sunday will also be very different this year – with an empty church building. But again we can connect virtually! We will have live-streamed worship as usual at 9:30 and 10:30. There will be no Easter lily deliveries. The few lilies that have been ordered will suffice to decorate our worship spaces. But we can still join in spirit to rejoice in the Resurrection! Live-streamed worship will continue through April and, we expect, some time beyond.

Through the prophet Isaiah the Lord said, "Behold I am doing a new thing." (Isaiah 43:19) God is doing many new things through our church today!

In His Service,  
Dr. David Palmer

# Youth Ministry News

April 2020

## The year that got paused

As I write this morning, the date today is March 24, 2020. It is day one of the stay at home order given by Governor DeWine and it's been 11 days since the schools were ordered closed. As I sit here watching the numbers of the COVID-19 infected grow on the local, national and global level it's really begun to sink in that (at least for this year) life as we understand it is going to change. I've done a lot of praying over the past week, I've done a lot of thinking, I've read a lot of funny posts, and I've come to one undeniable conclusion and that is... LIFE goes on. Life and faith and learning and growing all go on.

As I delivered groceries to my mother-in-law on Sunday I couldn't help but notice that her daffodils were up and in bloom. The birds have started to migrate north and you can hear them singing in the mornings. The sun comes up, the moon shines at night, many of the trees in some areas are starting to bud, and the perfect world that God created is moving on. We may not get what we want this year. Spring sports may not happen, proms may not go on, and the school year may end differently than we thought it would, but the perfect life that God designed goes on. The life God created always goes on. What has changed is the way mankind moves around in the world that God created and is in control of. And YES! He still is in control.

At the time of this writing I can't comment on the plans for the future. I'm not sure when youth activities will return to normal. I can't say for sure if the Mountain TOP trip will still happen. There are a lot of unknowns in man's plan right now, but I know for sure God's plan will go on. Additionally, I am thankful for the portions of our plan that we got to finish.

One of the highlights of the youth calendar in our church is "Youth Sunday." It's the one Sunday when the youth of our church lead us completely in worship. I'd like to say thank you to all the youth who helped out whether you were a greeter, usher, reader, singer, musician or part of the plays, your efforts are greatly appreciated, and Youth Sunday could not have happened without you. Additionally, I want to especially recognize Cade McDougal, Brandon Harvey, Arijana Kooijman, Aron Kooijman, Savannah Phillips, Jaden Lepp, Jeremiah Lepp, Bronwyn Stewart, Laura Zalewski, Chrissy Griggy, Yulan Wang, and Cassie Holman for their leadership. I also want to especially recognize Katie Kulis for bringing us a heartfelt message of hope. Everyone's hard work and dedication to delivering a spirit-filled worship service was very evident on this day. Remember, nothing can separate us from the love of God!

I want to conclude by saying we will go on too. It may look different but we will go on. Currently, I am exploring ways to meet virtually and to continue to be in ministry together. I look forward to the day things go back to what we perceive as "normal" but please remember, until then God's creation is going on and so should we.

Shalom,  
*Rick* <>

## Spring District Conference

The Canal Spring District Conference, which was originally scheduled for April, has been postponed. We are awaiting a new date. We will make an announcement through the Mosaic and our website once a date is determined.



## Our sympathies to:

- Family and friends of Virginia Mead
- Family and friends of Jack Benak
- Family and friends of Winona Garrett
- Family and friends of Gerry Strawman

## Recent Hospitalizations and Surgeries:

Gail Closs, Joe Coia, Regina Coia, Lois Enlow, Rod Knauss, Gretchen Laflin, Charlie Nichols, Vern Pees, Margie Stahl

## Summer Camp Registration Is Open

Children in our church have a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth by going to summer camp at any of our three United Methodist church camps in east Ohio. The various sorts of camp experiences are described at [www.eastohiocamps.org](http://www.eastohiocamps.org). Because our church believes strongly in the value of camp, we also provide funding assistance, called a "campership." The United Methodist Church of Kent will pay half the "tier one" cost of camp. For full information on how to receive a campership from our church, or other camperships from the District or Conference, visit our web site at <https://www.kentmethodist.org/camp>. You may also contact Dr. Palmer or Lynnette Begue-Lavery, our financial coordinator.

## 2020 Janus Scholarship

It is that time again to apply to The Janus Circle Scholarship! The Janus Circle Scholarship was established in 2014 to recognize student members of the United Methodist Church of Kent, Ohio for their active involvement in our church and service to the community and who plan to pursue post-secondary education the following school year.

The Janus Scholarship is awarded to high school seniors who have demonstrated an exceptional level of service in the church during their teen years. The application calls for a listing of all the points of a student's involvement; however, there are no GPA requirements or essay! In addition, any college-bound or other educational pursuit is eligible!

Applications are available from the church office or may be found on-line on the UMC of Kent website.

More details are also available on the website. Applications may be mailed or delivered in person to the Kent UMC office to the attention of Adam Alderson, postmarked or received in person by April 15.

The award recipient(s) will be announced at Senior Recognition Sunday and it is possible for the award to be shared among multiple recipients.

Through this scholarship, the Janus Circle is tangibly recognizing the youth members who demonstrate their commitment and service to our church and community. For more information, please contact Denise Mote at 330-678-6048. Donations to the Janus Scholarship Endowment Fund are welcome; please mark your envelope Janus Circle Scholarship Fund! Good luck, seniors!



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**Dr. David Palmer,**  
Senior Pastor

**Douglas Denton,**  
Minister of Pastoral Care

**Rick Stout,**  
Director of  
Christian Education  
and  
Youth Ministries

Apply  
Postage  
Here

Mailing Label Here

Mailed March 30

**“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”**  
*Psalm 46:1*

## Worship Calendar

Date	Sermon	Scripture	Preacher	Special Event
April 5	“Into the Hands of the Father”	Psalm 31:1–5; Luke 23:46	Dr. David Palmer	Palm Sunday, Communion
April 12	“We Are Not Forsaken”	Psalm 22:1–7, 16–24, 27–31; Mark 15:33–39; Mark 16:1–17	Dr. David Palmer	Easter
<b>New sermon series: “The Sign of Jonah”</b>				
April 19	“When God Calls”	Jonah 1	Dr. David Palmer	
April 26	“Out of the Deep”	Jonah 2	Dr. David Palmer	



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