



# THE METHODIST MOSAIC

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Volume 62 Number 7 The United Methodist Church of Kent—*A Place to Grow* July/August 2020

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Dear Friends,

In June we resumed in-person worship, in a carefully designed format, at the 8:30 hour each Sunday in the sanctuary. The design includes social distancing, wearing of masks, and no singing during the service, although we do have music in the form of the organ and also videos of musical presentations by members of our church. The service is meeting a need for the small number attending. Our livestreaming of our 9:30 and 10:30 services continues, and our online attendance continues to be stronger than our total worship attendance used to be. In these unusually troubled times, we are all finding strength and guidance in God, and a number of new persons have been connecting virtually with our church. God continues to be at work for good!

As the mission of our church continues, people continue to support our ministries by shifting their giving to online or mail-in formats. Thanks for remembering the church in these days!

One of the areas where our church income has suffered is in the realm of fundraisers. We no longer receive income to support our missions from the luncheons and dinners that we regularly produced in the building, and we were not able to hold the Trash and Treasure sale in the spring. But we look forward to a large Trash and Treasure Sale at the end of the summer! With stores now opened, it makes sense that we also can hold the sale (we will have plans for controlling the numbers and flow of the customers at each point in time, and we will ask people to wear masks). The Trash and Treasure Sale is now scheduled for the last weekend in August—August 28 and 29. Since we are doing just one sale this year, we expect a large quantity of items. (Anecdotally, we have heard that some people used the time of “sheltering in place” to clean out their house!) But we have a timing advantage this year, in that Pierson Hall is generally not in use, so we can have an extended period of gathering, sorting, and pricing the items. Below you will see the schedule, which will start on July 20. For the sale itself, we expect to be more spread out than usual, with items in Pierson Hall and the gym, plus some specialty items in designated rooms in the education wing. The chairperson is Carol Pozuc. She needs volunteers! You can come to help on any days of your choice in the schedule for a two hour time slot. No previous experience necessary! We also need lots of stuff for the sale! Please plan to bring your items to the church on any of the days in the schedule. If you need to make arrangements to get your items to the church, please contact Carol.

We are blessed that many people are continuing to contribute their time and talent to the mission of the church in new ways. God is leading us in fresh paths as we journey together in discipleship.

Dr. David Palmer

## New Sermon Series Begins August 16

What do we do with all the battle stories in the Old Testament? For many people, these stories are a real turn off. There is all this bloody slaughter; it causes some people to want to toss out the Bible altogether! Are these simply wretched relics of ancient bad behavior? In some ways they are. But they are far more! Many of these accounts are actually a sharp critique of warmongering, and they typically bring a strong spiritual message, communicating lasting truths for personal living. This is why there is a good deal of battle imagery in the New Testament, all with spiritual meaning. In this series, we will see how the Scripture would guide us through our personal battles in life.

## MAKE YOUR RECEIPTS COUNT!

Acme announced the dates for its 2020 Community Cash Back program, which runs from August 6 through December 28 (please note the date changes from past years)! Your Acme receipts can be placed in the collection envelope in the kitchen on the refrigerator and will be submitted to the Cash Back program for our UMW mission donations. UMW received over \$500 for missions at the beginning of this year! Receipts that are acceptable must be the entire receipt and have “Community Cashback” listed at the bottom followed by a dollar amount. Receipts that are missing this information or those that are partial receipts cannot be submitted. The UMW appreciates your efforts to collect and bring these receipts to us, so please let’s make sure that they count!

# Youth Ministry News

## July–August 2020

In the ever-changing and dynamic world of COVID-19 that we live in, it is very difficult to make firm plans about anything. Personally, I have struggled mightily with this uncertainty about everything because it's my personality style to have a plan and to follow that plan. Constant adjustments to everything and the inability in many cases to plan at all has left me perpetually frustrated.

Keeping these facts in mind and the fact that any plan can change at any time without notice... here is the plan for the return of in-person youth group in the fall:

Since Kent City Schools plan to have in-person classes at least two days a week in the fall, youth group will resume as well on Sunday, September 6 at 7:00 PM. ZAMARingers will also resume on that day at 6:00 PM. While we are excited for the return of these activities we must remember that we are still in the middle of a pandemic and will require the following safety precautions during all youth events.

First, there will be no meal offered at youth group. I will be providing a pre-packaged snack and a drink, however, the health codes for serving food are so strict that a meal with common serving containers is not possible.

Second, masks will be required.

Third, as long as the weather permits we will be meeting outside. When we are not outside we will be in the gym and practicing safe social distancing.

I know that these guidelines might sound very restrictive but we have to remember that as Christians it is our job to love each other and the best way to show our love for each other currently is to protect each other. If you have further questions or concerns regarding the safe reopening of youth group please feel free to call or email me at the church.

Shalom,  
*Rick* <

### **Trash & Treasure Sale – August 28-29** **Set-up begins on July 20**

The initial set-up for the Trash and Treasure Sale is scheduled for Monday, July 20, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in Pierson Hall. This will be the time of setting up tables and racks for the items that will come in. People can start bringing items to Pierson Hall on Monday, July 20, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Going forward, starting on Wednesday, July 22, and continuing into August, there will be work times for the sale on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays each week from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Items can be brought to the church at any of those times. Please note that no items will be accepted the week of August 24, which will provide several days for the items themselves to "quarantine." This gives you five weeks to bring stuff in! We also need helpers at all times! Please volunteer by notifying Carol Pozuc at [cpozuc@aol.com](mailto:cpozuc@aol.com), or by phone at 330-571-5741.

### **Sunday school news:**

In-person Sunday school will be suspended as long as we continue without in-person 10:30 worship services. However, beginning Sunday, September 6 we will be offering an online Sunday school option that students may tie in to. Our Children's Choir Director, Chelsea Alderson (formerly Chelsea Young) will be making videos for our Sunday school lessons and placing those videos on our church website. Currently, we have all Sunday school materials available for download on our church website. Chelsea will be teaching those lessons in a video format in order to enhance our online Sunday school experience as we continue with online worship into the fall.

## Fall Church Plans

To date we have refrained from moving into anything but very limited in-person worship, and that course of action has been corroborated by the recent spiking of the coronavirus in Ohio. We had hoped that we might resume a greater measure of in-person worship in the fall; but with COVID-19 cases climbing, we have concluded that we need to continue the present course for at least the next few months. It is simply not safe to gather large groups in an enclosed space for an extended period. **Our September plans** are now as follows:

**WORSHIP:** Each Sunday we will continue to offer our traditional service livestreaming at 10:30, our contemporary service livestreaming at 9:30, and our in-person service (with masks, social distancing, and no singing) at 8:30 in the sanctuary. Our regular usher, greeter, and media teams will continue to be in recess.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** We will begin an enhanced form of online Sunday School, with video Sunday School classes presented by Chelsea Alderson. See the related article for more details. Sunday School lessons are available for downloading each Sunday through the summer, and the expanded Sunday School program will begin Sept. 6.

**YOUTH GROUP:** Youth group, with masks and social distancing, will resume on Sept. 6, meeting from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Since our youth will be attending classes at school, we feel we can have youth activities with similar parameters. See the related article for more information.

**CONFIRMATION:** We have concluded that in the present circumstances it is not possible to provide the quality Confirmation experience that we have traditionally offered each year. Last year we did not have a Confirmation class, which is a good thing, since we never could have completed it! We now are aiming to have a 7th-8th-9th grade Confirmation program in the fall of 2021. This will be for this year's eighth, seventh, and sixth graders. In the history of this church, Confirmation has occurred in the range of seventh to ninth grade, and our program will be appropriate for

all three grade levels. By waiting until we can have a full in-person Confirmation experience with a good number of youth, we will be able to provide the best experience for our young teens.

**BIBLE PRESENTATION:** We normally present Bibles to third graders and connect them with a Bible mentor for experiences throughout the school year. The mentoring experience especially will not work during this pandemic. We therefore plan to present Bibles in the fall of 2021, to students who at that time will be in the third and fourth grades.

**CHOIRS:** There will be no vocal choirs this fall, since it is not safe to gather in a group to sing. This means no Sanctuary Choir, no New Spirit, and no Children's Choir.

**HANDBELLS:** The ZAMARingers will resume rehearsals on Sunday, Sept. 6, from 6:00 to 7:00. Handbells can be played safely with masks and social distancing. A decision about resuming Chancel Ringers will be made at a later time.

**DISCIPLE I:** Disciple I Bible study, led by Dr. Palmer, which takes participants through the Bible in 34 weeks, will be offered in a Zoom format. You do not need a Zoom account to participate, but you do need a computer and internet access. The classes via Zoom will take place on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00, beginning Sept. 8.

**ADVANCED DISCIPLE:** This fall we will offer Disciple IV, which takes participants on an in-depth journey through the wisdom literature of the Old Testament (Psalms, Proverbs, etc.) and through the gospel and letters of John and the book of Revelation in the New Testament. The prerequisite for Disciple IV is Disciple I (you do not need to have taken Disciple II or III). Disciple IV will be in a Zoom format on Wednesday nights and will be led by Claire Bank. **Register for either Disciple class through the church website ([www.kentmethodist.org/disciple](http://www.kentmethodist.org/disciple)). There is a \$40 cost for the study manual.**

### Our sympathies to:

- Family and friends of Betty Coleman
- Family and friends of Ken Wertz
- Shirli Dana on the

death of her father, Walt Chisholm

- Family and friends of Madeleine Dunn



### THANK YOU

A heartfelt thanks to all our church family for your prayers, calls, cards and food during Ken Wertz's illness and death. It is comforting to know our church family cares so much.

Nancy and Eric Wertz

### Recent Hospitalizations and Surgeries:

Linda Clark, Lois Dillenback, Diana Douglas, Karen Drotar, Julie Foster, Phil Kousaie, Dave Kurtz, Carolyn Plaskonka, Carrie Shelly



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

**Church Office:**  
330-673-5879

**Web Site:**  
[www.kentmethodist.org](http://www.kentmethodist.org)

**Dr. David Palmer,**  
Senior Pastor

**Douglas Denton,**  
Minister of Pastoral Care

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

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Mailed July 17

*“Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.”  
I Peter 5:7*

## Worship Calendar

Date	Sermon	Scripture	Preacher	Special Event
July 26	“All in God’s Time”	John 11:1–21	Dr. David Palmer	Disciple Sunday
August 2	“Stress as a Gift”	Jeremiah 1:4–19; Romans 5:1–5	Rev. Douglas Denton	Communion
August 9	“No Worries”	Matthew 6:25–34; Philippians 4:6–7; I Peter 5:6–7	Dr. David Palmer	
<b>New Sermon Series: <i>Confronting Life’s Battles with the Armor of Faith</i></b>				
August 16	“The Lord Is My Banner”	Exodus 17:8–16a	Dr. David Palmer	
August 23	“The Walls Come Tumbling Down”	Joshua 6:1–20	Dr. David Palmer	
August 30	“Victory for the Underdog”	Judges 7:1–23	Dr. David Palmer	



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