



THE METHODIST MOSAIC

Volume 62 Number 9 The United Methodist Church of Kent—*A Place to Grow* October 2020

Dear Friends,

In more than 25 years as the senior pastor of UMC Kent, I do not believe I have ever missed a Sunday due to illness. I thank God for good health! Of course I have had bouts with flu, colds, and a case of shingles, but it all somehow happened in between Sundays. In the last full week of September, I contracted Covid-19, which I got from visiting my son Joshua at Mount Union. He subsequently tested positive for Covid, along with other members of the soccer team. Josh felt ill for a few days but then rebounded quickly. Being the old guy that I am, I have been struggling with the symptoms for a longer period. One of my worst days was Sunday, Sept. 27. But Doug Denton was already scheduled to preach! I cannot return to the church building for worship on October 4, but I will record the sermon ahead of time for use at all three worship hours. We might as well keep the streak going!

In our family in Kent, we have been wearing masks whenever we have been out in public for months; and at the University of Mount Union this fall, there has been a detailed Covid-19 protocol in place. At the time we visited Josh there were only six reported cases on campus—all of them quarantined. But we were in the wrong place at precisely the wrong time—the few days between when Josh was exposed and when he knew he was infected. It reminds me that illness and misfortune can simply happen to people. As it is said in the book of Ecclesiastes, “The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all.” (Ecclesiastes 9:11)

Yet within the vagaries of life, God is at work. I have been sustained by a deep awareness of the presence of God, and a confidence in what we proclaim every Sunday—God is good, all the time. In my case, I have been blessed to have had a relatively mild set of symptoms (though they have been unpleasant enough). I think of all those people for whom Covid-19 has been far more serious. In all times of illness and trouble, I rest in the conviction that we can find our real help and strength and hope in God. As the Psalmist said, “God drew me up out of the desolate pit, out of the miry bog. God set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.” (Psalm 40:2)

So I have had my own personal health battle to go along with the current sermon series—“Winning Life’s Battles with the Armor of Faith.” That series continues through this month. It reflects the fact that people of faith may face all sorts of battles in life. But we find the answer when, as the Scripture says, we “put on the full armor of God.” (Ephesians 6:11)

Dr. David Palmer

Youth Ministry News

October 2020



Believe it or not we have already started thinking about next year's youth mission trip. We will again this year be partnering with Mountain T.O.P. in order to be in ministry with the people of the Cumberland Mountain Range. The trip is scheduled for June 19-26, 2021. Students will again get to choose between Youth Service Project and Day Camp. Preparation for this trip began with a parent/student interest meetings on September 27. Additionally, the application process started at this meeting. Because of the uncertainties in our world deposits will not be due until January, so get your application from Rick and get them in as soon

as possible so you don't miss out on this amazing opportunity.

Also don't forget youth group meets every Sunday from 7-8:30. Grab a friend and come hang out for a time of fun and fellowship..

Shalom,

Rick <>

OCTOBER YOUTH CALENDAR

SUNDAY 4	6-7 ZAMARingers 7-8:30 Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 11	6-7 ZAMARingers 7-8:30 Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 18	6-7 ZAMARingers 7-8:30 Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 25	6-7 ZAMARingers 7-8:30 Youth Fellowship

Sunday school news:

In-person Sunday school will be suspended as long as we continue without in-person 10:30 worship services. However, we are 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.

UCM Fundraiser

While the pandemic is keeping us from gathering for the UCM Dinner, we know our supporters and alumni are looking forward to learning about KSU student life and UCM programs. Join us for the "Dinnerless" Dinner Virtual Fundraising Event! UCM staff and students will join supporters on Zoom for the premiere of the 2020 UCM video. Our goal is to raise \$1,000 through ticket sales and a special offering. All proceeds will be split between student programs and "Jake's Fund"—UCM's student emergency fund started many years ago by beloved campus minister, Rev. Bill "Jake" Jacobs. Tickets are \$25 per household, and the event will be held on Thursday, November 12 at 7:00 PM. Purchase tickets online at myucm.org or by contacting UCM by email at ucm@kent.edu.

All Saints' Day Commemoration

This year, All Saints' Day falls on a Sunday, November 1. During all services that day, the names of people who have been lost in the past year (November 2019–October 2020) will be read out to remember those who have ascended to heaven. Please use the form on our website (www.kentmethodist.org/saints/) to submit names for remembrance. If you have any questions, or need to make changes to your dedication, please contact the church office.

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!

Upper Room Devotional

Print copies of the September/October and November/December issues of the Upper Room are available in the church office entryway. You can pick up a regular or large print copy at any time; there is a basket for donations. We emailed the digital version of the September/October issue with a Weekly Word at the beginning of September to everyone on our email list. The Upper Room provides a brief devotional for each day.

THANK YOU

To members and friends of the church,

I want to express my deepest thanks for your prayers, cards, calls, and thoughts as I continue to heal from my major surgery, which was a complete success. The prayer quilt sure has been a welcome item in my surgery recovery. God's blessings to you all.

I also ask that you keep my brother, Larry Vandersall, in your continued prayers as he has his brain cancer back and is getting aggressive chemo treatments twice a week, every three weeks at the Cleveland Clinic.

The power of prayer and faith is awesome!

Sincerely,
Linda Thomas

United Methodist Women of Kent,

Thank you so much for your continued dedication to Habitat for Humanity. We feel seen and loved by you all. Please keep us in your prayers as we seek to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing to people here in Portage county!

Dominique Bollenbacher

Dear Friends,

The staff, volunteers, and consumers affiliated with Kent Social Services wish to extend our deep gratitude for your generous donation. Donations are always appreciated, but your recent donation of \$81 is particularly timely.

To accommodate the nutritional needs of those we serve, and to reduce the threat of spreading viruses, KSS has temporarily transitioned into a pantry and meal home delivery service. Your generosity supports our capacity to maintain the well-being of our neighbors.

With gratitude,
Marquice Seward, Program Mgr, KSS

Recent Hospitalizations and Surgeries:

Greg Beatty, Marcie Denton, Diana Douglas, Sally Ruckman, Kathi Smith, Roger Stiller, Linda Thomas, Dave Watkins

Our sympathies to:



- Friends and family of Maryalice Seaholts
- Vern Pees, on the death of his brother Gregory Pees
- Alan Baldwin and family on the death of his mother, Beth Baldwin
- Jeff and Tina Horne on the death of their son, Alec



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Dr. David Palmer,
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Douglas Denton,
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Rick Stout,
Director of
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and
Youth Ministries



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Mailed September 30

You shall worship the Lord your God, and I will bless your bread and your water; and I will take sickness away from among you.—*Exodus 23:25*

Worship Calendar

Date	Sermon	Scripture	Preacher	Special Event
October 4	"God's Good Guys"	Jeremiah 25:1-14	Dr. David Palmer	Communion
October 11	"Spiritual Warfare and The Armor of God"	Psalms 60:11-12; Ephesians 6:10-17	Dr. David Palmer	
October 18	"The Battle Is God's"	II Chronicles 20:1-23	Dr. David Palmer	
October 25	"The Lamb Wins"	Revelation 12:7-11; Romans 8:31-39	Dr. David Palmer	



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