



# THE METHODIST MOSAIC

---

Volume 63 Number 1 The United Methodist Church of Kent—*A Place to Grow* January 2021

---

Dear Friends,

We often hear the question, “When will we be returning to regular in-person worship?” Our basic answer has been, “When it is safe to do so.” Since we are called by Jesus to “love our neighbor,” we have felt that the church’s prime moral responsibility in these circumstances is to protect the health of our neighbor. This means that our current pattern of two livestreamed services (9:30 and 10:30) and one small in-person service (8:30, with masks, distancing, and no singing) will continue this winter.

But there is hope for a return to in-person worship in the near future! With the expected vaccination schedule, there should be a fair number of persons in our congregation who have been vaccinated by the end of March. It is not necessary that everyone be vaccinated before we restart in-person worship, because we will continue to have the livestreaming available; so people who are vaccinated can come to in-person worship, and those who are not yet vaccinated can continue to worship via livestreaming until they receive the vaccine. With this expectation, we are targeting a resumption of at least some of our in-person worship for Holy Week.

This means we would resume regular in-person worship services on Palm Sunday, March 28. We are not sure if we will be able to resume all three services at the same time – it depends on when the worship leaders can get the vaccine! So we may have something of a staggered restart, with different worship hours restarting in-person worship on different dates (but livestreaming continuing as usual). Note that the 10:30 service, as well as the 9:30 service, will be livestreamed in perpetuity. We have used this pandemic as an opportunity to thoroughly renovate the sound, video, projection, and streaming equipment in the sanctuary, so that we will have the capability to have in-person worship and livestreaming from the sanctuary simultaneously (we previously had this capability only in the gym).

Throughout the coming weeks, I will be sharing a sermon series entitled, “Out of Exile into Hope.” There is a strong parallel between our current experience in this pandemic and the experience of the people of Judah when they were in exile in Babylon. The people of Judah were in very trying circumstances, cut off from their usual lifestyle, and unable to worship in the temple. After a long period of exile (50 years!), they finally by God’s grace were enabled to return to their homeland, and with great joy they could once again worship in Jerusalem. We look forward to our “return from exile” – to be able to gather once again to worship as we did before! It is most appropriate that our “return” might be on Palm Sunday – celebrating the entrance of Jesus into the Holy City. As we get closer to Holy Week, we will continue to provide updates – based on actual developing Covid conditions – about how exactly our in-person worship will restart. If we restart in stages, it will be a further parallel to the return from exile; because the people did not return all at once, but returned rather in successive waves. But at every point the return was an occasion for renewal and joy!

If you are a part of a worship leadership team – in music or sound/video or hospitality (ushers, greeters, liturgists, readers, coffee hour leaders, Communion stewards) – you will receive communications in the future about when your role might restart and how things may be changing. Likewise Sunday School teachers and caregivers will receive communications when we are ready to restart classes.

The people of God are called to be patient. As the Scripture says, “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” (Romans 12:12) Our congregation has lived out that verse! Let us continue in this spirit as we keep attentive to how God is at work among us.

Dr. David Palmer

---

# Youth Ministry News

## January 2021

Happy New Year! I am so very thankful to be sitting here and able to write you on this wet and cold December day. As you may or may not know, in the month of May 2015 after I was hospitalized with bi-lateral pulmonary emboli, I was diagnosed with Antiphospholipid Antibody Syndrome (APS).

Antiphospholipid Antibody Syndrome (APS) is caused by the body's immune system producing abnormal antibodies called antiphospholipid antibodies. This increases the risk of blood clots developing in the blood vessels, which can lead to serious health problems, such as: deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and strokes.

Since that time I have been on Xeralto in order to reduce the chance of blood clots forming inside my body. On Thursday, October 22 I arrived at the church with no memory of how I had gotten here, tingling in my left hand and pain in my left shoulder. My blood pressure was 178/128 and it was obvious I was having a stroke.

That afternoon an ultrasound at UH Portage discovered a large blood clot attached to my aortic valve and I was transported to UH main campus in Cleveland for surgery. On Saturday, October 24 surgeons at UH performed a sternotomy to remove the blood clot saving my life from APS once again.

During my recovery we have learned much about my particular version of APS. I am what's known as "triple positive." Patients with antiphospholipid antibody syndrome that are triple positive (for lupus anticoagulant, anticardiolipin, and anti-β2-glycoprotein antibodies) are at higher risk for thrombosis and usually respond better to lifelong anticoagulation with warfarin. Which brings you up to date with where my health is currently.

The entire process has been a challenge, but I am back to work and am so thankful for the prayers and support my family and I have received from our entire church community.

Fortunately, the sun came up this morning and I was here to see it. Which means that as dark as the year 2020 has been it is my hope that 2021 will be a much brighter time in the lives of our youth group. Towards that end I would like to call a meeting of all our youth AND their parents on Sunday, January 10 at 7:00PM in our sanctuary.

At this meeting I would like to have an open discussion of the direction our youth program should be taking, and other pertinent issues such as mission trips, youth Sunday and the auction. Please! EVERYONE plan to attend this important meeting. Mask and social distancing will be required but we really need to meet and consider our future together.

Again, thank you to all for your continued prayers and support I look forward to coming back stronger than ever and leading our church youth into the future.

Shalom,  
Rick ∞



### Our sympathies to:

- Family and friends of Kathy Hardy
- Family and friends of David Vaughan
- Family and friends of Gene Mills
- Family and friends of Byron McCandless
- Mary Lou McGregor on the death of her son, Dan McGregor
- Mike Senyek on the death of his sister, Laverne
- Karen Bennett on the death of her close friend, Barbara

### Recent Hospitalizations and Surgeries:

Julie Barger, Janet Crnkovich, Marcie Denton, Diana Douglas, Dave Gynn, Pat Gynn, Lois Mauck, Alice Ross, Mark Siebert, Kurt Siegfried, Angel Siegfried, Margie Stahl



## **ZOE Empowers Virtual Mission Trip, East Ohio Conference!**

*The ZOE Zimbabwe Connection in EOC has been empowering orphans in their own communities with ZOE since 2005! Want to learn more?*

### **REGISTER BELOW FOR the EOC ZOE Virtual Mission Trip January 12,13,14, 2021 (Tues, Wed, Thurs, 9:30-11:00am)**

*Pack your bags for a virtual trip to Zimbabwe, Kenya, and India! Glimpse the kingdom of God with orphaned and vulnerable children around the world lifting themselves permanently out of poverty in 3 years. What does this unique travel experience include?*

- Day 1 on Jan 12 at 9:30 am: Travel to Zimbabwe and meet Barbara Matsanga, ZOE Zimbabwe Country Manager, visit live with some of the ZOE young people being empowered by the faithful, generous gifts of EOC churches, and hear their inspiring stories.
- Day 2 on Jan 13 at 9:30am: Explore a Kenyan village with Reegan Kaberia, Zoe's chief program officer and manager of Zoe Kenya. Hear directly from the incredible boys and girls in Zoe's program as they share how empowerment has helped them to help not only themselves, but also others in their communities.
- Day 3 on Jan 14 at 9:30am: Travel to the exotic location of India and speak with Nani Chintala, manager for Zoe Vizag, India. See God at work in urban slums on a new continent. Also learn how your gifts and skills can be used by God to change the world for these young people through ZOE Empowers, a UMC Advance mission.

Try to attend all 3 days but if you can only come for one or two, that is okay!  
(We will also be recording the trip for those unable to attend at those times)

You will be blessed, inspired, and humbled!

Your presence will bless the children as they share with you their struggles, progress, and amazing accomplishments.

**REGISTER HERE** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/zoe-virtual-mission-trip-tickets-130285199539>

Questions? Contact  
Rev. Janet Chilcote, ZOE Empowers Advocate  
[jkchilcote@aol.com](mailto:jkchilcote@aol.com)

[www.zoeempowers.org](http://www.zoeempowers.org)



## DONATING OUT OF YOUR IRA

If you are 70.5 years old or older and have an IRA, you can donate to your church or charity in a tax-advantaged way by designating some of your required minimum distribution directly to the cause you choose. You simply tell your IRA administrator that you want to give your required minimum distribution (or any part of it) to your church or charity in a rollover. The IRA administrator will send a check directly to the church/charity, and that amount will not be counted as income for your income tax. If you do not have enough total deductions to itemize, this will save taxes on the money that you donate. For more information, you can contact our financial coordinator, Lynnette Begue-Lavery, at [lynnette@kentmethodist.org](mailto:lynnette@kentmethodist.org).

## New Secretarial Position

We have reconfigured our church staff in response to changing requirements for our church's ministry. With a greatly expanded digital worship offering – the two livestreamed services each Sunday, plus other elements posted to our web site or our social media pages – we have changed Adam Alderson's job description so that he has more time to focus on the complex processes of our digital communications. Adam has been instrumental in enabling our shift in to the livestreaming that we are currently doing. Adam's key areas will now be digital communications and building management, plus he will also be adding a drama component, seeking in the future to develop short drama pieces for worship, such as we had in the past. Sarah Brosvic will be taking on many of the secretarial responsibilities that Adam previously did, adding to her work (in normal times) as our New Spirit Director. She and Adam will be sharing the main office. Sarah will be in the office from 9:00 to 12:30 on Mondays and Wednesdays, while Adam will be in the office the rest of the week, plus he is now doing a lot of weekend hours. Sarah has had significant previous church secretarial experience. We are blessed that she can now share those gifts on our church staff!

## Thank You

Doug and Andy Denton wish to thank many church members for their prayers during our daughter, Marcie's, battle with lymphoma. She was diagnosed with it December of 2019; underwent several rounds of chemo treatments for the next 11 months; had a stem cell transplant Nov. 27 of this year; and was discharged from the hospital Dec. 9. The doctor tells us she is now on track for full recovery. Thanks to everyone for their expressions of concern and prayers.

## Black College Fund Offering

Our United Methodist church has eleven historically black United Methodist colleges that are scattered across the southern states. These schools were founded in the aftermath of the Civil War, when African-Americans were routinely denied the opportunity to pursue higher education. The eleven colleges—Bennett College, Bethune-Cookman University, Claflin University, Clark Atlanta University, Dillard University, Huston-Tillotson University, Meharry Medical College, Paine College, Philander Smith College, Rust College, and Wiley College—opened the door in the nineteenth century for African-Americans to enter into career fields that had long been closed to them, and these schools continue to provide very important opportunities especially for ethnic minority students today.

On Martin Luther King weekend, we make an annual appeal for our congregation to give to the Black College Fund. Our Kent church seeks to raise a total of \$1100 (\$100 for each school). You can contribute at any time by mailing in a contribution or giving online; simply indicate that you want to use your gift for the Black College Fund.

## Zoe Mission

Every year we support the Zoe Mission, which helps orphaned children around the world, and we will be doing so again this year through our Easter Offering. This month (January) there is a "virtual mission trip" offered, which will provide great insight into what the Zoe Mission is doing. The details are on a page in this Mosaic, and you are invited to register for it. You can contribute to the mission at any time by indicating with your gift to the church that you want to use your gift for the "Zoe Mission" or the "Easter Offering."

## Contribution Statements:

Thank you for your continued stewardship through a very challenging year! If you made contributions online, you may login and print your statement. If you made contributions directly to the church, annual giving statements will be available upon request. Please email your request to [lynnette@kentmethodist.org](mailto:lynnette@kentmethodist.org). If you do not have access to email you may call the church finance office to request a statement of giving.





**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

Apply  
Postage  
Here

Mailing Label Here

Mailed January 5

"I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall know that I am  
the Lord" —Ezekiel 16:62

### Worship Calendar

Date	Sermon	Scripture	Preacher	Special Event
January 3	"The Outsiders Are Welcomed In"	Matthew 2:1-12; Ephesians 2:12-16	Dr. David Palmer	Communion
<b>New sermon series: <i>Out of Exile into Hope</i></b>				
January 10	"Our Time of Exile"	II Chronicles 36:5-23; Psalm 137:1-6	Dr. David Palmer	Second Sunday Zoom Event
January 17	"Keep on Anyway"	Ezekiel 1:1,4-22,26-26; Ezekiel 2:1-7, 3:4-11	Dr. David Palmer	
January 24	"The God Who Never Gives Up"	Ezekiel 16:59-63; Ezekiel 34:11-16	Dr. David Palmer	
January 31	"Beulah Land"	Isaiah 62	Dr. David Palmer	



Connect with us at [www.kentmethodist.org](http://www.kentmethodist.org),

[facebook.com/UMCofKent](https://facebook.com/UMCofKent),

or on Instagram/Twitter @kentmethodist

