



THE METHODIST MOSAIC

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Dear Friends,

As previously announced, we are aiming for a gradual resumption of regular in-person worship this spring, which will have the following parameters:

- We will ask that people return to worship only after they have been fully vaccinated
- A particular service will restart only after enough worship leaders have been vaccinated
- We will follow guidelines from the state, the city of Kent, and our bishop
- Livestreaming will continue of both the 9:30 and 10:30 worship services.

Our original target was to begin this restart on Palm Sunday, March 28, but it has become apparent that there is not nearly enough vaccine to achieve the originally anticipated vaccination schedule. Although we expected that we would restart with small crowds – with most people continuing to connect via livestreaming – our particular issue is that our worship leaders cannot get vaccinated. We will keep providing updates on our worship plans.

The season of Lent begins in February, and since we are still in full pandemic restrictions, our Lenten season will look different from usual. Instead of Lenten potlucks or Wednesday Lenten programs, we will be posting a special **Lenten devotional video** each Wednesday online. This will include Scripture plus musical offerings by Dawn Filler and Sarah Brosvic. Each devotional video will run about 15 minutes. The series will go for six Wednesdays, starting on Feb. 24 (the week after Ash Wednesday) and ending on March 31 (the Wednesday of Holy Week). We will provide updates about this in coming weeks.

We also look forward to a special type of **Ash Wednesday** service, on **February 17**. We cannot do our normal Ash Wednesday service, but at the same time it is not really possible to do virtual ashes! So we have planned a unique approach that involves “stations worship.” In stations worship, the individual worshiper moves through a series of meditative stations that are spread out through a large space. In the sanctuary, we will have six stations in different places, which will guide you through various spiritual reflections. One of the stations will have ashes – available in separate little containers – so that you can place the ashes on your own forehead along with the guidance offered at that station. There will be meditative music; and there will be clear directions for how to proceed at the sanctuary entrances. Our sanctuary will be open for this from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Ash Wednesday, February 17, so that you can come at any time; and with people spread out through the day it should be easy to keep social distance, with only one person at each station at a time. Masks are required (we will have extra masks at the entrances). We have used stations worship in the past in our Youth Group and also at our Wednesday evening Lenten programs.

For young people, our **Youth Group**, for sixth through twelfth graders, is meeting each Sunday at 7:00 p.m.; masks are required. **Sunday School** for children continues to be provided online, with two Sunday School videos available each Sunday – one for younger children and one for older children. We are currently working on what the resumption of in-person Sunday School will look like.

Also keep in mind that our **Second Sunday** virtual gathering takes place at 11:30 a.m. on the second Sunday each month. This is a half-hour virtual fellowship time, involving three small group breakout sessions, which provide opportunity for conversation with a variety of people!

As has been the case throughout this pandemic, unusual circumstances spur creative initiatives! Within these challenging times, we seek to continue to be faithful as disciples of Jesus Christ.

In His Service,
Dr. David Palmer

Youth Ministry News

February 2021

Calling all actors:

Youth Sunday is an annual day when the youth of our church lead our Sunday morning worship service. It is characterized by a focus on the music of our youth handbell choir the ZAMARingers, occasionally a liturgical dance, drama and teaching by a senior member of our youth group.

We are in the process of planning youth Sunday for Sunday May 16. If you would like to be involved as part of Youth Sunday in some way, please contact Rick Stout to find out how you can be a part of this year's very special Youth Sunday.

Shalom,
Rick <>



For our 21st summer the youth will be again traveling to Mountain T.O.P. located in Altamont, Tennessee the week of June 19-26. Grundy County where we will be working is the poorest county per capita in the entire United States, and our youth group will be traveling there to do minor home repair and make a difference in the lives of the people living "on the mountain." If you missed the opportunity to sign up but would like to attend this trip please contact Rick as soon as possible to check on available space.

Dial-a Prayer

During this season of concern over the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pastoral Care Department at UH Portage Medical Center has had to make changes to provide safe care. Their volunteer staff have not been given clearance to come back into the hospital yet; nevertheless, Chaplain Johnson has continued his rounds. They have also instituted "call-in" visits for patients requesting pastoral care when the chaplain is not here. Volunteers call patients who are able to speak on the phone. After-hours emergencies are being handled the same way. The Dial-a-Prayer line that has been available to patients and staff there for over 15 years has been changed to a phone number that can be accessed by outside lines, 330-297-2545. They are encouraging anyone with pastoral care concerns at the Medical Center to reach out at this number.

Our sympathies to:

- Nancy Lewis on the death of her mother, Sandra Cannon
- Margie Stahl on the death of her brother, George
- Greg Curtin on the death of his father
- Jan Long on the death of her brother-in-law, Jerry Riter



Recent Hospitalizations and Surgeries:

Ray Beighley, Diana Douglas, Julie Foster, Nicki Heisser, Lois Mauck, Margaret Neel, David Watkins, David Williams

Thank You

Dear Friends at the UMC of Kent,

We are so grateful for your recent gift in support of Flat Rock's ministries. It is the faithful prayers and support of people like you that enable us to continue to meet the needs of our individuals.

Be well, and may God continue to bless you as you continue to be a blessing.

Rose M. Darling

Dear UMC of Kent,

Thank you for your support of the work we do for clients living with chronic mental illness and addiction and those who are housing insecure. Your donation to Coleman Professional Services ensures that we can continue to bring hope to those we serve. As you requested, your donation has gone to the Burns Endowment for Residential Services.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Your gift will make a difference in the lives of Coleman clients by helping to Foster Recovery, Build Independence, and Change Destinies for those we serve.

With gratitude,

Steven P. Bossart,

VP of Business Development and Marketing

Dear Rev. Palmer and congregation,

We sincerely appreciate your generous, prayerful support to our Pastoral Care Office ministry. For over 50 years, community support has made the commitment to provide a part-time administrative secretary to the Pastoral Care office at UH Portage Medical Center possible.

Please keep the hospital and the Pastoral Care Department in your prayers.

Sincerely,

Glen Johnson

Chaplain, Pastoral Care Dept. UH Portage

Dear Rev. Denton and the UMC of Kent,

Thank you so much for the care and time you gave our family during our dad's, Dave Plaskonka's, illness and his passing. He would have been so pleased with the beautiful service Rev. Denton gave. He made us all chuckle when he mentioned our dad had given him "the look" as well. Our dad really enjoyed service as an usher and counting the offering. Because of the qualities God gave him, it seemed perfect for his personality. Again, thanks to Rev. Denton and the entire church.

Sincerely,

Lorie, Christine, Teresa, Bryan, and Scott

Dear friends at the UMC of Kent,

Thank you so very much for your generous donation to the outreach ministries at Heart 4 the City! The need in the community has increased, as you have most likely seen as well, and your gift will help us to continue to meet those who are struggling with not only food and clothing, but with the Gospel. We can't do what we do without wonderful supporters and friends like you!

Blessings,

Heart 4 the City

Dear friends,

Thanks to your support, when men, women, and children are experiencing homelessness in the Portage County area and across Ohio, they can turn to Miller Community House for help. We are able to give them the critical support they so desperately need by providing them with emergency shelter and supportive on-site case management.

We thank you for recognizing the great responsibility our community has to service those who are experiencing homelessness and personal crisis. Your support is so appreciated as we service those who hope for a place to call their own.

With heartfelt thanks,

Miller Community House staff

Dear friends,

Thank you for thinking of Haven of Rest this new year and blessing us with your gift. I know this past year was not easy for many of our friends. As the cold weather remains for a while, the needs of our guests increase during this season.

Thank you, again, for allowing us to continue service the Lord by service those in need with your donation. May God bless you and your loved ones as you have blessed the Haven of Rest. Happy New Year!

In Him,

Rev. Jeffrey A. Kaiser, CEO

Audio/Visual Volunteer Team

In-person worship will be resuming in the coming months, and with it, a new set of responsibilities for volunteers assisting with worship. We are extremely grateful that many of the previous volunteers are returning to their roles, but we need additional help to keep services running smoothly. If you have ever been interested in audio or video equipment, or if you have been enjoying the online services and are curious about how they come together, there is a role available for all comfort levels. Visit our new page, www.kentmethodist.org/volunteers, to read about and watch brief videos outlining the roles available to anyone of any age or experience level. We are excited about the changes we've made, and look forward to welcoming you to the team!

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. If you do not have access to email you may call the church finance office to request a statement of giving.



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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 February 8

“Repent, and believe the gospel!” Mark 1:15

Worship Calendar

Date	Sermon	Scripture	Preacher	Special Event
February 7	“Those Bones Rise Again”	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Dr. David Palmer	Communion
February 14	“Come to the Waters”	Ezekiel 47:1-12; Isaiah 55	Dr. David Palmer	Second Sunday Zoom Event
February 17	Ash Wednesday	Stations worship in the Sanctuary from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.		
February 21	“Get a New Heart and a New Spirit”	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 19-24,30-32; Jeremiah 31:27-31; Ezekiel 36:25-28; Titus 3:3-7	Dr. David Palmer	
February 28	“God’s Kind of Fasting”	Isaiah 58:1-14	Dr. David Palmer	



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