



THE METHODIST MOSAIC

Volume 63 Number 3 The United Methodist Church of Kent—*A Place to Grow* March 2021

Dear Friends,

As you know, the rollout of the vaccine has been much slower than originally envisioned, due to short supplies, and this affects our target dates for gradually returning to regular in-person worship. At present, most of our worship leaders have not been able to receive the first vaccine shot, which means we cannot restart in-person worship as we had hoped during Holy Week. We now anticipate a restart sometime in May. But we have exciting new plans for special worship opportunities coming up, in particular:

In-person worship on Easter Sunday, April 4 – We are planning **outdoor worship at the 9:30 hour** for all who wish to attend. Since we will be outside, distanced, and wearing masks (except for the worship leaders who will be a good distance from the congregation), *everyone* can come! We will block off a large area of the parking lot behind Pierson Hall. People attending should bring lawn chairs to use for seating (although we will also have some extra metal folding chairs available). You can park along the parking lot perimeter and then set up your chairs wherever you wish in the blocked off area. Worship will be the contemporary service, with music led by our worship band. We hope to stream the service for those who will be connecting online, or at least to post a recording; some details are still in the works, and we will provide updates in the near future. *Please note that the outdoor service is weather dependent.* If it is raining, or extremely cold, the outdoor gathering will be cancelled and the service will be broadcast through the usual livestreaming. There will be weather-related updates posted on our web site. Note that there is also **in-person worship every Sunday at 8:30** in the sanctuary. This is an abbreviated service, with the only music being the organ prelude and postlude; people sit widely spaced in the sanctuary wearing masks. The 10:30 traditional Easter service will be livestreamed as usual. We expect to do the outdoor service as a special event only on Easter, as it requires considerable special preparations and rental of some sound equipment.

We will have prayer stations in the sanctuary on Maundy Thursday, April 1. Stations based on the stations of the cross will be set up around the sanctuary; at the final station you will be able to receive Communion. You can come to the sanctuary any time from 10:00 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. and move at your own pace through the stations. Masks are required. The format will be similar to what we did for Ash Wednesday; the many people who came to that stations worship experience found it quite meaningful.

A Good Friday worship service will be livestreamed on April 2 at 7:30 p.m. This will be a complete Good Friday service led by our Worship Band. Henrique Alvim will bring the message for the evening. As usual, the service will continue to be available as a recording, so that it can be accessed at any time after the livestreaming.

Wednesday Lenten Devotions are offered in an online format. Each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., a new 10–15 minute video devotion goes online, featuring inspirational music and Scriptures.

These can be accessed from the main page or the livestreaming section of our web site.

Meanwhile, **our regular pandemic worship format continues**, with the 9:30 and 10:30 services livestreamed each Sunday, and subsequently available as recordings, and with in-person worship for a small crowd offered at 8:30 in the sanctuary. **Sunday School** continues to be available in video form, with separate videos for preschool and elementary aged children; these can be accessed through our web site. **Youth Group**, for sixth through twelfth graders, is meeting each Sunday at 7:00 p.m.; masks are required. Our **Second Sunday** virtual gathering takes place at 11:30 a.m. on the second Sunday each month (March 11 this month).

In spite of the pandemic, we continue to find many ways to connect and to grow in spirit!

In Christ, Dr. David Palmer

Youth Ministry News

March 2021

While it feels different and there are many new rules to follow, youth group has been steadily running on Sunday evening since the start of the new year. Our youth group is open to all sixth through twelfth grades from 7-8:30 on Sunday evenings. Mask are required and social distancing is enforced but those in attendance continue to have fun fellowshiping and growing. So grab your friends and come to youth group next Sunday! As always feel free to contact Rick with your questions and concerns.

As many of you are aware the youth will be traveling again this summer to Mountain T.O.P. located in Altamont, Tennessee to be in ministry with the people of the Cumberland Mountain Plateau. This year we are very excited to have 7 members of our youth group and various adults registered to attend Mountain T.O.P. but there is still room for more. If you'd like to be added to the list of those going or have questions about the changes to the trip this year, again please contact Rick Stout.

Lastly we are planning a virtual youth Sunday for Sunday, May 16. Due to COVID restrictions, the youth portions of the service will be pre-recorded. If you'd like to be a part of one or our skits, or readings again please contact Rick Stout as soon as possible.

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.



Our sympathies to:

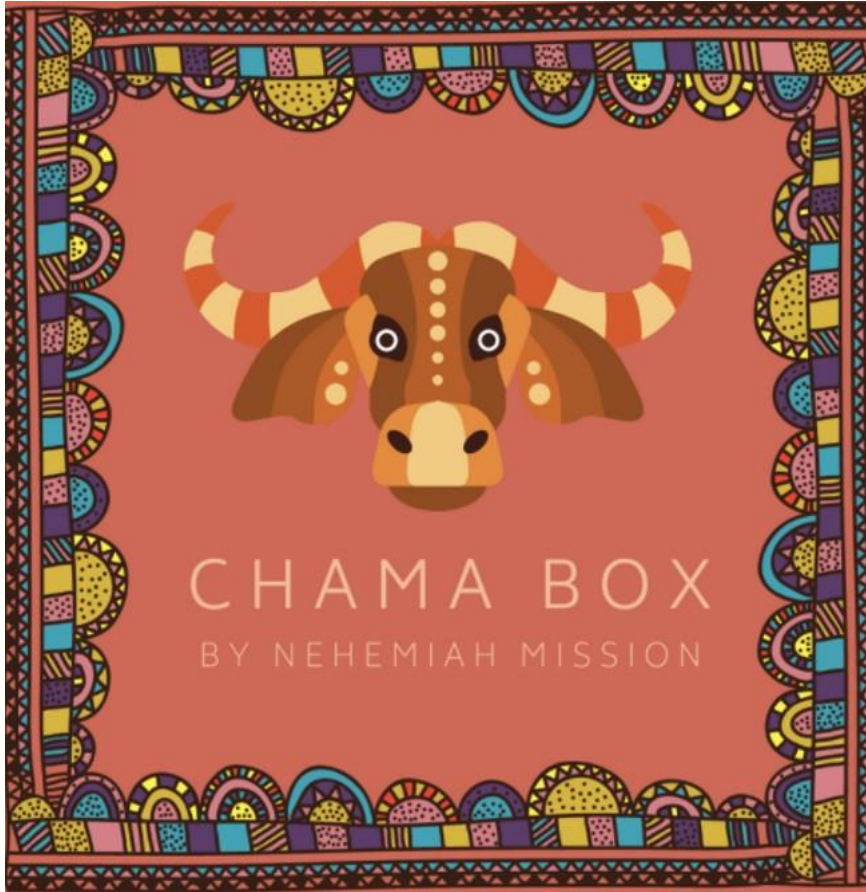
- the family and friends of Lela Irving

Recent Hospitalizations and Surgeries:

Sandra Andrews, Karen Andrews, Ray Beighley, Foster Ewing, Margaret Neel, Mark Siebert

CHAMA BOX

The Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland is still holding their annual fundraiser dinner; this year it's from the comfort of your own dining room.



Celebrate Nehemiah's 17th Year with a Chama Box (Swahili for Party)

Your donation will help bolster and support programs including feeding and distributing supplies to the homeless through Luke 3:11; mentoring, tutoring, and loving African refugee children through #Corner65; serving community meals through Bread on Bridge; and restoring, painting, and cleaning homes through Sowing Seeds of Hope.

Go to
<https://www.nehemiahmission.org/chama-box-annual-fundraiser> to order your box today.

EACH CHAMA BOX
(\$100) WILL INCLUDE:

FURAH! A TASTE OF HOME

BY ESTER NGENBA

CONGOLESE SEASONINGS AND
RECIPES YOU CAN SHARE WITH
FRIENDS AND FAMILY

KITCHEN ESSENTIALS FROM

BUTTERPEAR

HANDMADE IN AFRICA TO SUPPORT
EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

TWO SISTER'S CHOCOLATE

HOMEMADE, DELICIOUS DESSERT
FROM A SMALL, LOCAL BUSINESS

THE "YEAR IN REVIEW"

LEARN ABOUT NEHEMIAH'S VARIOUS
MINISTRIES AND HEAR A MESSAGE
FROM BISHOP TRACY MALONE

AND MORE

LEARN ABOUT THE #CORNER65
SOCCER TEAM, FIND OUT WHO WAS
NAMED THE 2020 VOLUNTEER OF THE
YEAR, AND MORE!

PREMIUM CHAMA BOX
(\$150) ALSO INCLUDES:

HANDCRAFTED WOOD

CARVING

MADE BY ARTISTS IN WEST AFRICA



UCM SPRING FUNDRAISER

Join our Reunion/Open House
Event on Zoom!
Wednesday March 24th, 7:30pm
Let's talk about the past, present of future
of UCM!
Make a free-will donation in any amount
at www.myucm.org
(\$25 suggested donation)
Zoom link will be sent to your email

Thank You

Dear friends,

Thanks to your support, when veterans experiencing homelessness living in the Portage County area and across Ohio turn to Freedom House for help, we are able to give them the critical programs and support that they so desperately need. Freedom House is the only facility in Portage County that provides refuge and supportive programming to homeless veterans, and we couldn't do what we do without support from the community—like you. You have made it possible for us to continue to provide safety, support and comfort to our veterans. Your support gives our veterans the opportunity to achieve their goals of having a safe place to call home. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

With heartfelt thanks,
Lisa Burton,
Program Manager
Freedom House

Dear friends in mission,
Thank you!

The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be—Thank you!

Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate genuine love for our neighbors.

Grace and peace,
Roland Fernandes,
General Secretary

SUMMER CAMP

Summer Camp is open this summer at our East Ohio United Methodist camps! The parameters are adjusted due to the pandemic; but our Conference leaders have realized that the setting of camp—where campers can be widely spaced in the out-of-doors—is one of the best possible settings this summer for Christian Education to take place among young people. You can find out about camp opportunities through our church web site or by going directly to www.eastohiocamps.org. As always, our Kent church offers a “campership” that will cover one half of the Tier 1 cost of camp. There is also an early bird discount for registrations prior to May 1. Go to our web site to Spiritual Growth>Children's Ministry>Summer Camp for more details.

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.

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!



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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 5

“The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.” *Lamentations 3:25*

Worship Calendar

Date	Sermon	Scripture	Preacher	Special Event
March 7	“Like a Tree Planted in the Water”	Psalms 1; Jeremiah 17:5–8	Dr. David Palmer	Communion
March 14	“By Grace We Are Saved”	Jeremiah 30:12–22, 31:2–14; Ephesians 2:1–8	Dr. David Palmer	Second Sunday Zoom Event
March 21	“God’s Promises are Sure”	Jeremiah 31:31–34; Jeremiah 33:1–16	Dr. David Palmer	
March 28	“The One Who Truly Saves”	Zechariah 9:9–12; John 12:12–16	Dr. David Palmer	Palm Sunday



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or on Instagram/Twitter @kentmethodist

