



THE METHODIST MOSAIC

Volume 65 Number 11

The United Methodist Church of Kent—*A Place to Grow*

December, 2023

Advent – Christmas Worship Series



How does a weary world rejoice?

1st Sunday of Advent (December 3) – Baptism of the Lord (January 7)

Christ was born into a weary world. King Herod ruled the land with a legacy of ruthlessness. The Romans treated the people of Israel with contempt, imposing harsh taxes and land seizures that forced many into something like indentured servitude. Extreme poverty was pervasive. And yet, specifically into that weary world, Christ was born, bringing good news of great joy for all people.

As God's advent in Christ comes again to a weary world, during the seasons of Advent and Christmas this year, we'll be asking, "How does a weary world rejoice?" In worship together, we'll explore the opening chapters of the Gospel of Luke, and discover a few answers: we acknowledge our weariness, we find joy in connection, we allow ourselves to be amazed, we sing stories of hope, we make room, we root ourselves in ritual, and most importantly, we trust our belovedness. Knowing that the Christmas season often is an emotionally-charged time of year when we feel many things deeply, and sometimes all at once, we will hold space for our weariness and our joy to exist together, finding ways to rejoice in a weary world.

(resources for this worship series will be adapted with permission from A Sanctified Art)

Sunday Afternoon Walk **Sunday, December 10 at 4 pm** **Munroe Falls Metro Park**

We are blessed locally with multiple park systems that provide abundant opportunities to enjoy God's creation. Invite a friend or neighbor and join us on Sunday, December 10 as we experience the beauty of one of our local parks. We will meet in the Tallmadge Meadows Area parking lot of the Munroe Falls Metro Park (1088 North Avenue, Tallmadge) at 4 pm and then walk together along one or more of the paths. If you plan to join us, please RSVP to Pastor Nathan (nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org) by the end of the day on Thursday, December 7.

Changing Worship Colors

In our life together as church, we know what time it is by the colors used in our worship services. During Advent—the beginning of the new church year—either blue or purple is used. During the seasons of Christmas and Easter and other festival days, either white or gold becomes the primary color. During Lent, the penitent color of purple is used. On the Day of Pentecost, the color red reminds us of the Holy Spirit's presence as tongues of fire. And throughout Ordinary Time, green is used to remind us that we are always growing as followers of Jesus Christ.

Youth Ministry News

December 2023

DECEMBER ACOLYTES

DEC 3	Joseph Lepp
DEC 10	Audrey Hinkle
DEC 17	Alex Alderson
DEC 24 10 AM	Savannah Stephen
DEC 24 7 PM	Alvin Fields
DEC 24 9 PM	Jozsi Jakab
DEC 31	Audrey Hinkle

Late fall is always a busy time in the lives of our youth. On November 18 the youth hosted a movie night with members and friends. The movie Elf was played, and cookies, popcorn, and hot chocolate were served. Look for more exciting youth events as we start the new year.

Thinking about next year I am excited about all the things we have yet to come. Planning has already begun for our mission trip. We are preparing an exciting 30 Hour Famine in February, then there is Youth Sunday, and so much more. I

am grateful for the way that the youth have taken ownership of their own youth group with the understanding that programming doesn't grow a youth group, the willingness to invite friends does. It makes me excited to see what God has in store for the future of our youth.

Shalom,

Rick<>

DECEMBER YOUTH CALENDAR

SATURDAY 2	Confirmation
SUNDAY 3	6-7 ZAMARingers 7-8:30 Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 10	No ZAMARingers 7-8:30 Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 17	No ZAMARingers 7-8:30 Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 24	No Youth Fellowship or ZAMARingers
SUNDAY 31	No Youth Fellowship or ZAMARingers

CHRISTMAS MITTEN TREE:

In Portage County there are many families in need during the current economic times. In an effort to help the Sunday school department will once again be collecting mittens hats and gloves, and we would like to invite the entire congregation to help. There is a mitten tree outside the sanctuary to place the mittens on. Also, please keep the adults in mind as well by supplying gloves and hats in adult sizes.



Upcoming Book Discussions

At the heart of our discipleship journey—growing in our love of God and neighbor—is the ongoing challenge and opportunity to perceive ourselves and each other more fully and more truly as God’s beloved children. All are welcome to join us for one or more of these conversations around books that can help us grow in this sacred work. Each of these books can be found to borrow through most library systems or to purchase through most online sellers including thriftbooks.com and bookshop.org (two online book-sellers that reuse books and support local bookshops).

Enchantment: Awakening Wonder in an Anxious Age

by Katherine May

Tuesday, December 12 at 7 pm

Conference Room

Many of us feel trapped in a grind of constant change and anxiety: the noise of our news cycles and social media, our own families split along partisan lines. We feel fearful, tired, and on edge, not quite knowing why we are so wearied. For Katherine May, this low hum of fatigue and anxiety made her wonder what she was missing. Could there be a different way to relate to the world, one that would allow her to feel more rested and at ease, even amid changes? Might there be a way for all of us to move through life with curiosity and tenderness, sensitive to the beauty all around us? *Enchantment* invites each of us to open the door to human experience in all its complexity, and to find the goodness waiting for us there.

Jesus and the Disinherited

by Howard Thurman

Tuesday, January 9 at 7 pm

Conference Room

Howard Thurman’s theology and ministry have played a leading role in social justice movements and organizations throughout the 20th and 21st centuries. He was one of the principal architects of the modern nonviolent movement for civil rights and a key mentor to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who reportedly carried a copy of *Jesus and the Disinherited* throughout the Montgomery bus boycott. As our world and churches continue to struggle with issues related to poverty, white supremacy, anger, and distrust, all are welcome to read and join together for a discussion of this important and influential book.

Wholehearted Faith

by Rachel Held Evans with Jeff Chu

Tuesday, February 13 at 7 pm

Conference Room

At the time of her death in 2019, at the age of 37, Rachel Held Evans was recognized widely for her theologically astute, profoundly honest, and beautifully personal books which have guided, edified, and helped to shape countless Christians as they seek to live a just and loving faith. *Wholehearted Faith* is the book she was working on at the time of her death; in it, the author wrestles with God’s grace and love, looks unsparingly at what the church is and does, and explores universal human questions about becoming and belonging.

The Peace Light from Bethlehem Arrives in Kent

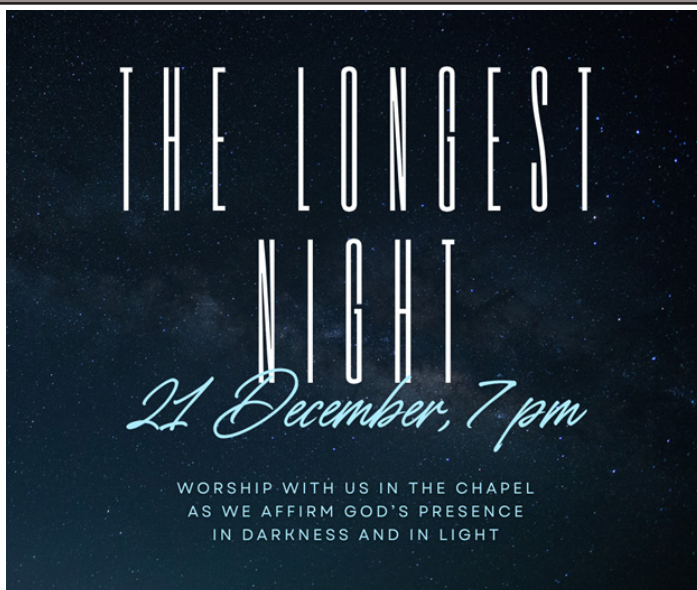
The Peace Light is a continuous flame originating in the grotto of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. It is shared person to person throughout the world with a message of peace and friendship. The Peace Light of Bethlehem, symbolic of the Light of Christ especially evident at Christmas, is meant to promote peace, harmony and unity among all people of the world.

Each year in late November, a child from Austria lights a lantern from the continuously burning candle in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the site of Jesus' birth. The light, known as the 'Peace Light', stored in special explosion-proof lanterns, is then flown with a safety adviser back to Vienna Austria, where it is shared with delegations from across Europe who distribute it with a message of Peace to their own countries for use at ecumenical services. Scouting organizations then take the light to houses of worship, hospitals, homeless shelters, nursing homes, and places of public, cultural and political importance - to anyone who appreciates the significance of the "gift".

In early December, Austrian Airlines representatives transport the Peace Light from Austria to New York, JFK International Airport. A distribution ceremony is held at the airport's Our Lady of the Skies Chapel to welcome the light of peace. The light's pilgrimage across the U.S. begins from NYC via volunteers, many of whom are Scouts and Scouters associated with the Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of the USA, transferring and sharing it in their communities. Many other volunteers share the Light as it spreads across North America. The Peace Light is a sign of hope. It has expanded from a small flame to a sea of lights and shines with its message to millions of people worldwide.

The Peace Light will arrive in time for the 2023 Christmas season and will be part of our Christmas Eve worship service. If you would like more information about the Peace Light, or how you might get the candle light for your home, contact bobmachovec@kentmethodist.org.

What starts as a small flame from the site of Jesus birth, spreads person to person across the world with the message of promoting peace, harmony and unity. In a world ravaged by war, we need to hear the message of hope and peace brought by a simple candle flame.



The holiday season can be especially difficult for some of us, a painful reminder of what has been lost or of what has never been. All are welcome to join us on the Longest Night of the year, **Thursday, December 21, at 7 pm in the Chapel** for a worship service of scripture, prayer, music, candlelight, and Holy Communion. Invite others, also, and join us as we reaffirm together our faith in God's presence with us, even in the darkest and loneliest seasons of our lives.

Habitat Workday set for December 9:

Our next work day on the house on Summit Street is set for December 9. If you would like to help on that day, no experience is needed just sign up in the church atrium. Lunch will be provided on that day.

Bible Study Opportunity: Covenant Bible Study

Mondays at 7 pm, beginning January 8

Covenant Bible Study is a 24-week, in-depth group Bible study curriculum based on the understanding that we can best experience scriptures' transformative power through study, reflection, and engagement in community. This study is organized into three 8-week modules, each focusing on a different aspect of "covenant"—creating, living, and trusting the covenant—underscoring the unique relationship God chooses with us as God's people. The first module ("Creating the Covenant") was offered this past fall. The second module ("Living the Covenant") will begin on Monday, January 8, at 7 pm in Room 200. Whether or not you participated in the first 8-week module, you are welcome to join us in January. Please contact Pastor Nathan (nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org) for more information and/or to express your intent to participate.

Goodyear Band Christmas Concert Sunday, December 17, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary

We again host the Goodyear Band for an annual Christmas concert in our sanctuary. The one-hour concert is followed by a fellowship time with punch and cookies in Pierson Hall. This event is open to all and always draws broadly from our community.

4-Week Advent Study

Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation

by Bishop William H. Willimon

Sundays, November 26 – December 17, 10:30 am

Wednesdays, November 29 – December 20, 7 pm

Conference Room

If we are to have a future different from the past, it must come as a gift, something not of our own devising. What we need is a God who not only cares about us but is willing to show up among us and to do something with us, here and now. In *Heaven and Earth*, Willimon introduces us to the God who does just that, bringing heaven to earth and changing everything. All are welcome to join us for this four-week study that will help us to celebrate the Advent season more fully as we anticipate the earth-shaking, life-transforming good news that God is coming to us. For more information or if you plan to participate, please contact Pastor Nathan (nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org).

Lighting the Candles on the Advent Wreath

Sundays of Advent and Christmas Eve

On December 3 this year, we will start counting down the Sundays leading to Christmas, and in our worship together, we will light an additional candle each Sunday on the Advent wreath. This is a great opportunity especially for families with children to participate in a tangible ritual, but of course, individuals, friends, or any other groupings are more than welcome, too. For more information or to sign up to offer a short reading and light the candle(s) on the Advent wreath this year during any of our three Sunday morning worship services from December 3 through December 24 or during either of our Christmas Eve worship services (7 pm and 9 pm), please contact Pastor Nathan (nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org).

Upcoming “Communion Sundays”

In December and January, we will adjust our typical rhythm of celebrating Communion on the first Sunday of the month. Please note that instead of this typical schedule, we will celebrate Communion during worship services on December 10 and December 31 (and not on December 3 or January 7). Thank you.

Order Your



Poinsettias

You are invited to donate poinsettias to beautify the sanctuary for Christmas. Flowers will be distributed by Circle members to shut-ins from our church. Circle members may pick up the poinsettias December 24, after the 9:00 PM service or later. Please complete the information below, printing legibly, and mail it to the church office, or drop it into the offering plate on Sundays. All checks must be made payable to the United Methodist Church of Kent and returned with this form by **December 17**.

I/WE _____

WISH TO DONATE _____ PLANTS AT \$10.00 EACH

IN MEMORY OF _____

OR

IN HONOR OF _____

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 New Spirit Cantata 8:30 & 10:30 am	4 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/Gym 7:30 New Spirit Rehearsal/Choir Room	5 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	6 7 pm Advent Study/ Conference Room	7 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary	1/8 1-3 pm Bible Study/Room 200	2/9
10 Regular Schedule Sunday Afternoon Walk 4 pm	11 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/Gym 7:30 New Spirit Rehearsal/Choir Room	12 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 6:30 pm Janus Circle/PH 7 pm Book Discussion/ Conference Room 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	13 7 pm Advent Study/ Conference Room	14 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary	15 1-3 pm Bible Study/Room 200	16
17 Regular Schedule Goodyear Band Concert 4 pm in the Sanctuary	18 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/Gym 7:30 New Spirit Rehearsal/Choir Room	19 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	20 7 pm Advent Study/ Conference Room	21 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 7 pm Longest Night Worship/Chapel 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary	22 1-3 pm Bible Study/Room 200	23
24 Sunday Morning: 10 am Sunday Evening: 7 pm and 9 pm	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	27	28 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans	29 1-3 pm Bible Study/Room 200	30
31 Regular Schedule					Regular Sunday Schedule 8:30 Worship Service/Chapel 9:30 Contemporary Service/Gym 9:30 Sunday School/Children's Choir/Childcare 10:30 Worship Service/Sanctuary 10:30 Sunday School/Childcare 11:30 Fellowship Time/Pierson Hall 12:00 Chancel Ringers/(Adult Bells)Sanctuary 6:00 pm ZAMARingers (Youth Handbells)/Sanctuary 7:00 pm Youth Fellowship/Gym and Pit	

USHERS AND GREETERS

Date	8:30/10:30
December 3	3
December 10	4
December 17	5
December 24 10 AM	6
December 24 7 PM	1
December 24 9 PM	2
December 31	3

If you are unsure of what team you are on, please call the office at 330-673-5879 x14 or email Cara at caradesko@kentmethodist.org.



Our sympathies to:

- Sherry Vanderneut on the death of her mother

Recent Hospitalizations and Surgeries:

Sterling Bradley, Wanema Flasher, Davina Gosnell, Claudia Sawyer

CHRISTMAS EVE

Worship with us at 7 pm or 9 pm
as we celebrate the gift
of God's presence with us in Jesus Christ.

United Methodist Church of Kent
1435 East Main Street
kentmethodist.org

10:30 CAMERA SCHEDULE

DEC 3	Eric Wertz
DEC 10	Andrew Alderson
DEC 17	Eric Wertz
DEC 24 10 AM	Andrew Alderson
DEC 24 7 PM	Eric Wertz
DEC 24 9 PM	Eric Wertz
DEC 31	Eric Wertz

DECEMBER LAY READERS

DEC 3	Janeen Phillips
DEC 10	Wendy Seed
DEC 17	Dottie Emerick
DEC 24	Pat Baldwin
DEC 31	TBA

Thank You Notes

My sincere thanks to all of you for your thoughtful acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy upon the death of my brother, Allan Miner. It is heart-warming to belong to such a caring congregation.

Janet Sessions

I'd like to *Thank You* for the prayers, cards, and thoughts as I recover from surgery. I so appreciate your kindness.

A *special* thanks to Dottie Emerick for the delivery of the beautiful altar flowers and the delightful and welcomed visit.

Blessing to all of you,

Linda Thomas



**The United Methodist
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**Church Office:
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Web Site:
www.kentmethodist.org**

**Rev. Nathan Howe,
Senior Pastor**

**Rev. Bob Machovec,
Minister of Pastoral Care**

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

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Mailed November 28

Worship Calendar

Date	Week	Scripture	Preacher	Special Event
December 3	First Sunday of Advent	Luke 1:1-23; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Rev. Nathan Howe	New Spirit Cantata at 8:30 & 10:30
December 10	Second Sunday of Advent	Luke 1:24-45; Isaiah 40:1-11	Rev. Nathan Howe	Holy Communion
December 17	Third Sunday of Advent	Luke 1:57-66; Psalm 126	Rev. Nathan Howe	Children's Pageant at 9:30 & 10:30
December 21	The Longest Night	7:00 PM service in the chapel featuring prayer, music, scripture, candlelight, and Holy Communion		
December 24	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Luke 1:46-55, 67-80	Rev. Nathan Howe	10 AM only in the Sanctuary
	Christmas Eve	Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20	Rev. Nathan Howe	7 PM and 9 PM in the Sanctuary
December 31	First Sunday after Christmas Day	Luke 2:21-38	Rev. Nathan Howe	Holy Communion