



# THE METHODIST MOSAIC

Volume 66 Number 1

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

January, 2024

## **Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast** **“Let’s Strive Together”** *Saturday, January 13, from 10 am to 11:30 am*

The NAACP of Portage County will host its annual MLK Day Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, January 13 at Kent United Church of Christ (1400 East Main Street, Kent). Check-in will begin at 9:30 am, and the program itself will run from 10 am to 11:30 am. This year’s two speakers will be the Rev. Eddie Harris, Senior Pastor at Upper Room Ministries (COGIC) in Ravenna, and Dr. Michael Daniels, Director of the E. Timothy Moore Student Multicultural Center at Kent State University. Tickets are \$20 per person with all proceeds supporting local scholarships and youth programs through the NAACP. You can order your tickets and pay online at [www.portagecountynaacp.org](http://www.portagecountynaacp.org) or by calling 330-657-8594.

## **Unnatural Disasters: Creation Care in the Age of Climate Change** *January 21, February 18, and March 17, from 6 pm to 7:30 pm* *online via Zoom*

As the planet warms around us, causing more frequent and more severe disasters including floods, hurricanes, wildfires, and droughts, how can people of faith be better stewards of God’s creation? This series of three documentaries, hosted by the West Ohio and East Ohio Conferences of our United Methodist Church, will take us to places around the country experiencing unnatural disasters in this present age of climate change. Following each documentary, there will be time for discussion about how the church can respond. The group will meet online via Zoom from 6 pm to 7:30 pm on January 21, February 18, and March 17. The meetings are free, but participants do need to register in advance to receive the link to join. Visit [www.eocumc.com/eventregistration](http://www.eocumc.com/eventregistration) to find the link to register, or contact Pastor Nathan ([nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org](mailto:nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org)) for assistance.

## **LGBTQ+ Safe Space: Ally Training** *Wednesday, February 7, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm* *Pierson Hall*

On Wednesday, February 7, all are welcome and encouraged to join us from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm for LGBTQ+ Safe Space: Ally training. Attendance will be limited to fifty participants, so please RSVP to Pastor Nathan ([nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org](mailto:nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org)) if you plan to participate. This training event will be an important opportunity for all of us to become better neighbors by:

- developing a deeper awareness of personal ideas, stereotypes, and assumptions related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ+) individuals;
- developing an increased comfort level in addressing concepts and language regarding LGBTQ+ individuals and communities;
- developing an increased awareness of services in the community that support LGBTQ+ persons and allies; and
- developing a network and community to support people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions within our community and congregation.

# Youth Ministry News

## January 2024

### JANUARY ACOLYTES

JAN 7	Alex Alderson
JAN 14	Savannah Stephen
JAN 21	Alvin Fields
JAN 28	Sienna Heeman

Happy New Year! As I write this newsletter, I am at home recovering from a very successful total knee replacement and am looking forward to getting healthy and being with everyone very soon. I would also like to thank Dave and Trista Johnson for all they do to assist in our youth programming. Their help is vital in the life of our youth group and I feel so blessed that God has given me the opportunity to work with them.

We have an exciting spring planned for our youth group and I wanted to take the time to share just a few of the highlights.

- January 7 is the last day to register for this summer's Mountain TOP trip. Please see Rick if you need registration forms.
- January 15 we will be planning an activity to celebrate Martin Luther King Day, look for details in the mail
- The weekend of February 1-2 the youth will participate in World Visions 30 hour famine. Once the details are finalized packets and important information will be distributed so see Rick and watch the mail if you need more information about this exciting weekend.
- April 28 is Youth Sunday
- May 19 is Confirmation Sunday.

Over all I am very excited about our plans and hope that everyone will take advantage of one or more of these events. Additionally, don't forget youth group is every Sunday from 7-8:30 make sure you plan to come and bring a friend to any or all of these events.

Shalom,  
Rick<><

### Mission Trip News

This year the youth will be traveling to Grundy County Tennessee to partner with the Mountain TOP organization to serve those living on the mountain. This year's trip is scheduled for June 22-29. The last day to join our group is January 7. Please be sure to turn in your application and deposit to Rick before this date to be a part of this amazing opportunity.

### JANUARY YOUTH CALENDAR

SATURDAY 6	Confirmation
SUNDAY 7	Last Day to Join Mt. TOP team! 6-7 ZAMARingers 7-8:30 Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 14	6-7 ZAMARingers 7-8:30 Youth Fellowship
MONDAY 15	MLK Activity (bowling)
SUNDAY 21	6-7 ZAMARingers 7-8:30 Youth Fellowship
FRIDAY 26	Confirmation



## 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](http://thriftbooks.com) and [bookshop.org](http://bookshop.org) (two online book-sellers that reuse books and support local bookshops).

***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.

***Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents***  
**by Isabel Wilkerson**  
*Tuesday, March 12 at 7 pm*  
*Conference Room*

In this book published in 2020, Isabel Wilkerson—also author of *The Warmth of Other Suns* (2011)—offers a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in the United States as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how our country today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings. Beautifully written and deeply revealing, *Caste* is an essential story of people and history and a reexamination of what lies just underneath the surface of ordinary lives in the United States today.

## 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.

## CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:

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 [lynette@kentmethodist.org](mailto:lynette@kentmethodist.org). If you do not have access to email, you may call the church finance office at 330.673.5879 ext. 111 to request a copy of your statement of giving.

## STOCK CONTRIBUTIONS:

Often people choose to donate to the church through stock gifts. These gifts are always sold right away. If you would like to make a stock contribution, our new broker is Schwab. To make a transfer your broker will need the following information: Schwab account United Methodist Church of Kent #4367 4562 DTC#0164. If you have any questions or elect to make a stock contribution, please email or call our Finance Director, Lynnette Begue-Lavery, [lynette@kentmethodist.org](mailto:lynette@kentmethodist.org) or call 330.673.5879 ext. 111. This allows us to be sure your gift is sold and noted to your account.

## CHANGES ARE COMING:

In an effort to streamline data and reduce costs, beginning January 1, 2024, we have a new provider for our online giving. The new giving portal is: [giving.servantkeeper.com/umckent](https://giving.servantkeeper.com/umckent) You can easily sign up for an account. Please be sure to use the email we have on file here at the church. If you are unsure which email that is, please don't hesitate to call and verify 330.673.5879. If you have any questions or need help, please feel free to reach out to Lynnette anytime at ext. 111 or [lynette@kentmethodist.org](mailto:lynette@kentmethodist.org). Thank you for your continued support.

## Sunday Afternoon Walk Sunday, January 14 at 4 pm Portage Hike and Bike Trail

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, January 14, as we experience the beauty of one of our local parks. We will meet at the Lake Rockwell Road parking lot of the Portage Hike and Bike Trail (1557 Lake Rockwell Road, Kent) at 4 pm and then walk a portion of the multipurpose trail. If you plan to join us, please RSVP to Pastor Nathan ([nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org](mailto:nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org)) by the end of the day on Thursday, January 11.

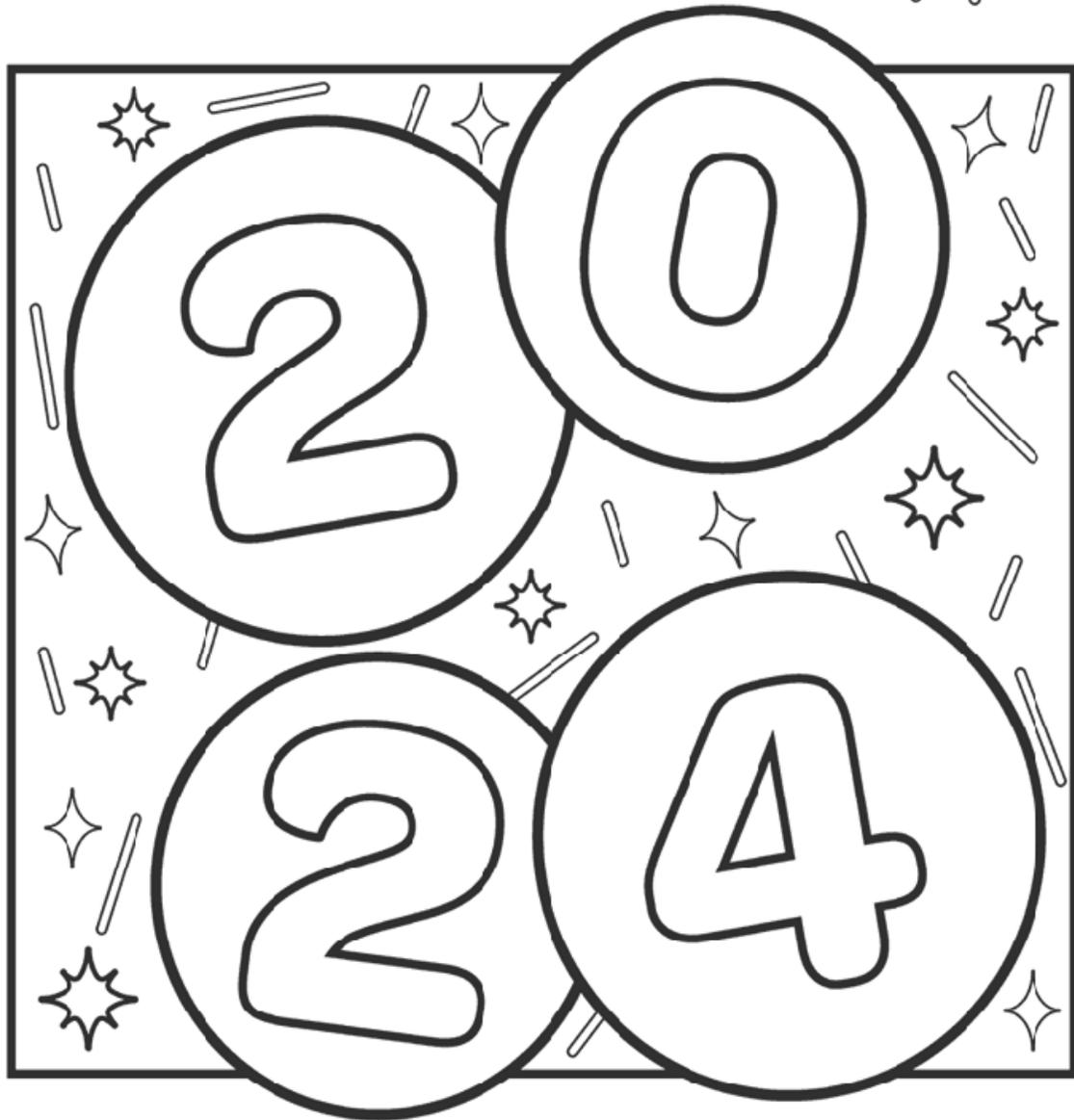
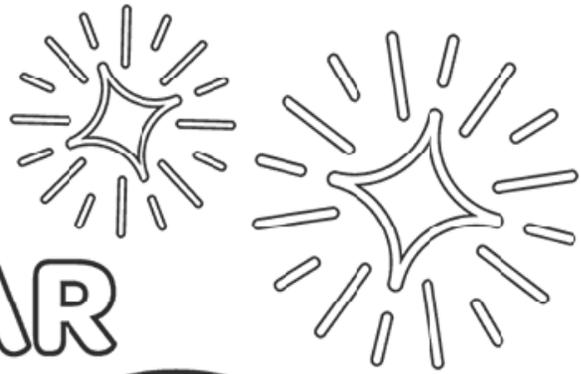
## Baptism of the Lord Sunday January 7

During all three of our worship services on Sunday, January 7, we will conclude our Advent-Christmas Worship Series (“How does a weary world rejoice?”) by reading the story of Jesus’ baptism from the Gospel of Luke (3.21-22) and reaffirming our participation in the covenant of baptism.

## 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](mailto:nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org)) for more information and/or to express your intent to participate.

HAPPY  
NEW YEAR



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# January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	3 1:30 pm Rebecca Circle/ Pierson Hall	4 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary	5 1-3 pm Bible Study/Room 200	6
7 Regular Schedule	8 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/Gym 7 pm Covenant Bible Study/Room 200 7:30 New Spirit Rehearsal/Choir Room	9 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	10	11 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary	12 1-3 pm Bible Study/Room 200	13
14 Regular Schedule Sunday Afternoon Walk 4 pm	15 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/Gym 7 pm Covenant Bible Study/Room 200 7:30 New Spirit Rehearsal/Choir Room	16 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7 pm Gifts, Memorials, Investments Comm/Conf. Room 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	17 7 pm Finance Comm/Conf. Room	18 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary	19 1-3 pm Bible Study/Room 200	20
21 Regular Schedule	22 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/Gym 7 pm Covenant Bible Study/Room 200 7:30 New Spirit Rehearsal/Choir Room	23 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	24 7 pm SPRC/Conf. Room	25 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary	26 1-3 pm Bible Study/Room 200	27
28 Regular Schedule	29 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/Gym 7 pm Covenant Bible Study/Room 200 7:30 New Spirit Rehearsal/Choir Room	30 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	31			<b>Regular Sunday Schedule</b> 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



**Our sympathies to:**

- Becky Mulloy on the death of her brother, Dr. Phil Lambert

USHERS AND GREETERS	
Date	8:30/10:30
January 7	4
January 14	5
January 21	6
January 28	1
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.	

**Recent Hospitalizations and Surgeries:**

Wanema Flasher, Jerry Hambleton, Nicki Heisser, Rick Stout, Jerry Stranathan

**“Community Heart to Heart: Where Need Meets Ministry”**

*A Panel Discussion hosted by KIFA  
(the Kent Interfaith Alliance for Racial Reconciliation and Justice)  
Sunday, January 28*

In the afternoon on January 28 (exact time TBA), KIFA will host a panel discussion at the First Christian Church (335 West Main Street, Kent) with speakers from the Community Action Council, the Portage County Housing Authority, and Kent Social Services. Please save the date and keep an eye out for more information in upcoming Wednesday morning emails.

**Thank You Notes**

My sincere thanks to Andy and Jaden Lepp. Also to Des-meal Leigh for raking leaves on a cold day in December.

Betty Hejma-Sweet

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Pastor Nathan and Pastor Bob for their visits and prayers while I was recuperating. Also, all the cards and prayers from the church members and members of Rebecca Circle. A Great Big Thank You.

Jane Minard

Thank you for offering so much more than just a rented room!

Kent Alanon Family Group

Thank you for the lovely altar flowers delivered by Gail Pytel on my 97<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Mary Lou McGregor

Dear Friends,

Many thanks for the prayers, cards, phone calls and flowers from our church after my recent surgeries. Special thanks to Rev. Bob Machovec for his visit and follow-up calls. You are all very special people.

Wanema Flasher

Dear Kent UM Church Friends,

Your generosity and commitment is greatly appreciated. For 76 years, Wanake has served thousands of campers of all ages—and year round retreat guests who continue to return every year. Your support makes that happen. Thank you for being a part of Wanake past, present, and future. (\$3,350 in honor of Dr. David Palmer)

Joel

**10:30 CAMERA SCHEDULE**

JAN 7	Eric Wertz
JAN 14	Eric Wertz
JAN 21	Andrew Alderson
JAN 28	Eric Wertz

**JANUARY LAY READERS**

JAN 7	Judy Smith
JAN 14	Dottie Emerick
JAN 21	Janeen Phillips
JAN 28	Pat Baldwin



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Church of Kent**  
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**Rev. Nathan Howe,**  
**Senior Pastor**

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

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

Mailing Label Here

Mailed December 20

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

### Worship Calendar

Date	Week	Scripture	Preacher	Special Event
January 7	Baptism of the Lord Sunday	Genesis 1:1-5; Luke 3:21-22	Rev. Nathan Howe	
January 14	Second Sunday after Epiphany	I Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; I Corinthians 6:29-31; John 1:43-51	Rev. Nathan Howe	
January 21	Third Sunday after Epiphany	Jonah 3:1-5; Psalm 62:5-12 I Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20	Belva Tibbs	UWF (UMW) Sunday
January 28	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; I Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28	Rev. Nathan Howe	



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