



THE METHODIST MOSAIC

Volume 66 Number 2

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

February, 2024



Lent is our forty-day season of preparing to live as Easter people by worshiping, praying, studying, fasting, and serving. Throughout the season, our scriptures take us into multiple forms of wilderness. We begin on Ash Wednesday, giving attention to the wilderness—the “wild-ness,” the inescapable uncertainty—of our mortality: “remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Then, on the First Sunday in Lent, we join Jesus in the wilderness where the Spirit guides him, where he comes face-to-face with temptation and struggle. But through Jesus’ forty days of fasting, resisting, and wandering in the wilderness, he is both sustained and shaped for his ministry. Similarly, through our forty days in the wilderness of Lent, we are invited to surrender to the Spirit who guides us to remember who and whose we are. There is no wilderness that is too harsh or too threatening for God’s enduring love.



Ash Wednesday Worship Services

Wednesday, February 14

Noon in the Sanctuary or

7:30 pm in the Sanctuary and online

Our journey through Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, this year on February 14. In our worship together, we are invited into this season of preparing by first acknowledging our limitations, including our mortality. We are dust, and to dust we shall return. But God’s grace is sufficient to receive us, to hold us, and to perfect us in love as we refocus and realign our selves in relationship to God and to each other.

All are welcome to join us in worship in the Sanctuary at noon for an abbreviated worship service or in the Sanctuary or online at 7:30 pm for a worship service including congregational singing, the organ and the choir, and Holy Communion. Both worship services will include the imposition of ashes as a sign of our mortality and our commitment to changing our hearts and lives in partnership with God’s grace.

Youth Ministry News

February 2024

FEBRUARY ACOLYTES

FEB 4	Jozsi Jakab
FEB 11	Joseph Lepp
FEB 14	Audrey Hinkle
FEB 18	Alex Alderson
FEB 25	Savannah Stephan

Calling all actors:

April 28 is **Youth Sunday**, 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 currently in the process of planning this year's Youth Sunday. 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<><

FEBRUARY YOUTH CALENDAR

SATURDAY 3	Confirmation
SUNDAY 4	6-7 ZAMARingers 7-8:30 Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 11	No Youth Activities! Super Bowl
WEDNESDAY 14	Ash Wednesday
SUNDAY 18	6-7 ZAMARingers 7-8:30 Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 26	6-7 ZAMARingers 7-8:30 Youth Fellowship

Mission Trip News

For our 24th summer, 12 of our youth and adults will be again traveling to Mountain T.O.P. located in Altamont, Tennessee the week of June 22-29. Grundy County where we will be working is one of the poorest counties 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.

Additionally, our annual Brick Sale in support of this trip will occur the week of March 10th. When you receive your letter in the mail we ask that you please prayerfully consider supporting the efforts the youth are making to share the love of Jesus to those who so desperately need it.

Sunday Afternoon Walk Sunday, February 11 at 4 pm Dix 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, February 11, as we experience the beauty of one of our local parks. We will meet in the parking lot of Dix Park (7318 State Route 44, Ravenna) at 4 pm and then determine our walking plan based on those who are present. If you plan to join us, please RSVP to Pastor Nathan (nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org) by the end of the day on Thursday, February 8.

Lenten Devotionals: The Sanctuary for Lent 2024 *available in the atrium beginning Sunday,* **February 11**

The Sanctuary for Lent 2024 contains readings for each day in Lent, from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday, including suggested scripture passages, a short devotion, and a brief prayer—all based on the scripture readings we will be exploring together in worship on Sundays. Please pick up a copy and add this devotional to your daily practice this Lent.

Habitat Workday set for **February 10:**

Our next work day on the house on Summit Street is set for February 10. 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.

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 booksellers that reuse books and support local bookshops).

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.

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge,
and the Teachings of Plants
by Robin Wall Kimmerer
Tuesday, April 9 at 7 pm
Conference Room

From the author's website:

Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, a mother, and a woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices. In a rich braid of reflections that range from the creation of Turtle Island to the forces that threaten its flourishing today, she circles toward a central argument: that the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. For only when we can hear the languages of other beings will we be capable of understanding the generosity of the earth, and learn to give our own gifts in return.

**Wednesdays, February 14 – March 20, 6:30
pm
Pierson Hall**

All are welcome to join us for food and fellowship during the season of Lent. Each Wednesday night, from February 14 (Ash Wednesday) through March 20, just bring a food item to share and your own table service; beverages will be provided. Our shared meal will be followed each week by worship or a speaker who will share with us opportunities to connect with our neighborhood:

February 14: Ash Wednesday worship in the Sanctuary at 7:30 pm

February 21: United Christian Ministries (KSU campus ministry) staff and students

February 28: Kent Interfaith Alliance for Racial Reconciliation and Justice (KIFA)

March 6: Rev. Dr. Tammy Kuntz, Coordinator of United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) for the North Central Jurisdiction

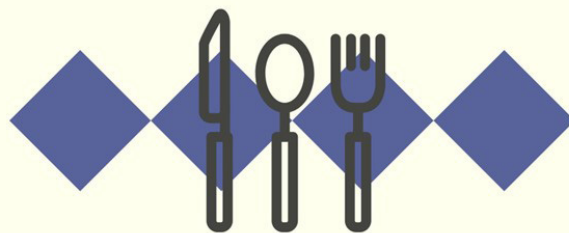
March 13: Kent City Schools

March 20: Hunger Network in Ohio

**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) 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.



***Lenten Potluck Dinner
and Program***

**Unnatural Disasters: Creation Care in
the Age of Climate Change
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 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 to find the link to register, or contact Pastor Nathan (nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org) for assistance.

2023 Financial Report

United Methodist Church of Kent

As we look back on the past year and all the transitions, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the extraordinary generosity and unwavering support you have shown to and through our church community. Change can be difficult, but your contributions—whether in the form of time, talent, and/or financial gifts—truly have made a profound impact on our ability to fulfill our mission and spread God's message of love and compassion.

In addition to meeting our congregation's operating expenses in full in 2023, we made significant improvements to our building and grounds which support not only our congregation's many ministries but also our broader community through groups who use our facility regularly, including a variety of 12-step groups (e.g. AA, NA, Al-Anon), Kent Friends, Piano Quest, Kent Rotary, Kent Lions, Garden Club of Kent, Scouts, Tree City Preschool, Kids Kare Kent Campus (daycare), and United Christian Ministries (campus ministry). Restrooms were renovated in multiple parts of the building, the roof over the education wing was replaced, signage was updated surrounding the building, and carpets and drapery were professionally cleaned, all through the generosity of memorial gifts and your ongoing support. It is through your generosity that we are able to create warm and welcoming spaces for our community to worship, fellowship, and connect. Thank you!

And your generosity certainly has reached beyond our "walls," as well, as we participated in the larger body of Christ in 2023 by **giving more than \$156,000 to support transformative ministries both locally and globally**, including:

- **\$102,771** to support 101% of our United Methodist Shared Ministry goal;
- **\$4,643** on "special giving" Sundays, including Human Relations Day, UMCOR Sunday, Native American Ministries Sunday, Peace with Justice Sunday, World Communion Sunday, and United Methodist Student Day;
- **\$17,580** through our Christmas offering to support the home we are building for the Powe family in Ravenna through our partnership in an Apostles' Build with Habitat for Humanity of Portage County;
- **\$5,761** through the mission commitments of our United Women in Faith (formerly "UMW") circles;
- **\$20,078** to support other UMC-related missions, including Africa University and disaster relief through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR); and
- **\$5,385** to support other local ministry partners including Kent Social Services, Marie Miller House, Freedom House, County Clothing Center, the LGBTQ+ Emergency Fund at KSU, Kevin Coleman Burns Endowment, Heart 4 the City, UH Portage Hospital Chaplaincy, Haven of Rest, and Nehemiah Mission.

Your kindness and generosity strengthen the foundation of our congregation and allow us to continue serving and connecting with our neighbors in meaningful ways. Thank you for your generosity in 2023. And thank you for your ongoing commitments for 2024. Because of your commitments for the coming year, we look forward to continuing and expanding our many ministries. **For 2024, you have named financial commitments of \$268,234, which is a 6.3% increase from financial commitments for 2023.**

From the bottom of our hearts, we extend our sincerest thanks for your continuing contributions. May the spirit of unity and love that you exemplify continue to guide us on our shared journey of faith.

With deepest gratitude and in God's service,

Lynnette Begue-Lavery
Finance Director

Rev. Nathan Howe
Pastor

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary	2	3
4 Regular Schedule	5 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/Gym 7 pm Covenant Bible Study/Room 200 7:30 New Spirit Rehearsal/Choir Room	6 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 5 pm Drama Kids/Palmer Gym 6:30 pm Janus Circle/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	7 6:30 pm LGBTQ+ Ally Training/Pierson Hall	8 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary	9 11 am-5 pm Red Cross Blood Drive/Gym	10
11 Regular Schedule Sunday Afternoon Walk 4 pm	12 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/Gym 7 pm Covenant Bible Study/Room 200 7:30 New Spirit Rehearsal/Choir Room	13 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 5 pm Drama Kids/Palmer Gym 7 pm Book Discussion/ Conference Room 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	14 12 pm Ash Wednesday Service/Sanctuary 6:30 pm Lenten Potluck/ Pierson Hall 7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service/Sanctuary	15 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary	16	17
18 Regular Schedule	19 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/Gym 7 pm Covenant Bible Study/Room 200 7:30 New Spirit Rehearsal/Choir Room	20 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 5 pm Drama Kids/Palmer Gym 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	21	22 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary	23	24
25 Regular Schedule	26 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/Gym 7 pm Covenant Bible Study/Room 200 7:30 New Spirit Rehearsal/Choir Room	27 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 5 pm Drama Kids/Palmer Gym 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	28	29 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary	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
February 4	2
February 11	3
February 14	4
February 18	5
February 25	6

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.

Remember
These
Members
in Their
Sorrow



- Our sympathies to:**
- Family and friends of Arne Haukaas
 - Family and friends of Nikki Heisser
 - Charlene Pees on the death of her brother
 - Tina Ballentine on the death of her birth-mother
 - Greg Beatty on the death of his aunt

Recent Hospitalizations and Surgeries:

Ralph Darr, Donna Stiller

Scout Sunday Pancake Breakfast
Sunday, February 11, 9 am to 1 pm
Pierson Hall

Scout Sunday will be on February 11 this year, with scouts participating in the 10:30 am worship service. They also will host a pancake breakfast from 9 am to 1 pm in Pierson Hall. There is no charge for the breakfast, but you are encouraged to make a donation to support scouting programs throughout the year.

10:30 CAMERA SCHEDULE

FEB 4	Eric Wertz
FEB 11	Andrew Alderson
FEB 14	Tom Lundberg
FEB 18	Andrew Alderson
FEB 25	Eric Wertz

Thank you for the delivery by Peg Arnold. The poinsettia is beautiful, but thinking of Helen is most appreciated. Blessing in 2024 for all.

Sincerely,
Helen Brinker

Thank you to my church family for your concern during my recent hospitalization. Your calls, cards, emails, and prayers were so appreciated. Thanks to Dottie and Tom Emerick for delivering the beautiful pink and white altar flowers and Rev. Bob Machovec for his hospital visit. It is so wonderful to belong to such a friendly, caring congregation of the United Methodist Church of Kent.

Donna Stiller

Dear Kent UMC,

Thank you for your recent donation of hats, gloves, and scarves. Those are always such needed items to help keep our shoppers warm in the winter.

Thank you so much for always supporting the Clothing Center throughout the years. We could not exist without your help.

Sincerely,
Candy Pollard

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your recent gift to Haven of Rest ministries as we head into the new year. Your partnership enables our staff to continue to provide physical, emotional, educational, and spiritual care for hundreds of people in need.

May God bless you and your family for your kind and giving heart all through the new year.

In Him,
Rev. Jeffrey A. Kaiser, CEO

FEBRUARY LAY READERS

FEB 4	Mark Lewis
FEB 11	Dottie Emerick
FEB 18	Alex Seed
FEB 25	Pat Baldwin



**The United Methodist
Church of Kent
PO Box 646
Kent, OH 44240**

**Church Office:
330-673-5879
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 January 23

“All go to one place; all are from the dust, and all turn to dust again.”
—Ecclesiastes 3:20

Worship Calendar

Date	Week	Scripture	Preacher	Special Event
February 4	Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; I Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39	Rev. Nathan Howe	Communion
February 11	Transfiguration Sunday; Scout Sunday	II Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; II Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9	Rev. Nathan Howe	Scout Pancake Brunch 9 am-12 pm
February 14	Ash Wednesday	Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17; II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	Rev. Nathan Howe	Worship at noon and 7:30 pm
February 18	First Sunday in Lent	Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; I Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15	Rev. Nathan Howe	
February 25	Second Sunday in Lent	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38	Rev. Nathan Howe	