



# THE METHODIST MOSAIC

Volume 66 Number 3

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

March, 2024



Join us in worship throughout the rest of the season of Lent into Easter Sunday as we prepare to live more fully as Easter people: as God's children raised into a fuller, more loving way of life.

## **Palm/Passion Sunday**

8:30 am (Chapel); 9:30 am (Palmer Gym and online); 10:30 am (Sanctuary and online)

Palm/Passion Sunday begins Holy Week by embodying its sharp contrasts. In the palm procession, we experience the joyous inaugural parade of Jesus as he enters Jerusalem. In the concluding reading of the Gospel, we are confronted by the story of Jesus' passion or suffering. By this sharp contrast, we are reminded of our various seasons of faithfulness: that our lives of faith are filled both with suffering and with joy, with times of following Jesus closely and with times of falling away.

## **Maundy Thursday**

7:30 pm (Sanctuary and online)

On Maundy Thursday, named for the command or "mandate" Jesus gives all disciples to love one another, we remember Jesus' example of servanthood and celebrate the Lord's Supper. The worship service concludes with the ancient practice of stripping the altar table as a demonstration of Jesus' abandonment during the events of this night and Good Friday. Worship on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are celebrated as one continuous worship service, so we are encouraged to begin on Thursday and continue on Friday.

## **Good Friday**

7:30 pm (Palmer Gym)

Our worship on Good Friday continues the service begun on Thursday. We will move to the Palmer Gym for a service in the form of *Tenebrae*, or a "Service of Shadows," based on a 12th-century extended meditation on the passion of Christ. The modern worship band will lead us in our songs, and a series of scripture readings will lead us in the story as we draw near to Jesus' cross and join him, as closely as we are able, in his experience of suffering, abandonment, and death.

## **Easter Sunday**

7:30 am (Outdoor Chapel)

8:30 am (Sanctuary); 9:30 am (Palmer Gym and online); 10:30 am (Sanctuary and online)

The Easter season, also known as the Great Fifty Days, begins at sunset on Easter Eve and continues to the Day of Pentecost (this year on May 19). This is our most joyous season and the core of the entire Christian year. Together in worship, we focus on Christ's resurrection, the triumph of God's love over all the powers of death, and the continuing invitation to us to live as Easter people, sharing God's love with the world.

# Youth Ministry News

## March 2024

### MARCH ACOLYTES

MAR 3	Alvin Fields
MAR 10	Sienna Heeman
MAR 17	Savannah Stephan
MAR 24	Joseph Lepp
MAR 28	Audrey Hinkle
MAR 31	Alex Alderson

**Matthew 25:40** reads "Then the king will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

A major way that our church gives opportunity to your youth to make a difference in the world is through our mission trip. 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 14 members of our youth group and various adults registered to attend Mountain T.O.P.!

While each student attending is responsible for more than 3/4 of their individual cost for the week, at Mountain TOP the remaining cost including travel needs to be fundraised. Additionally, there are students from some families who will have difficulty paying their required portion. Therefore, we would like to ask the congregation to consider getting involved in our quest to raise the required funds for this year's trip by considering participating in one of the following financial opportunities to help.

1. Scholarships. As mentioned above there are several families who may have difficulty in today's economy paying for the required portion of their trip. Monies given toward the required portion from each student, and full sponsorships are a wonderful way to help.
2. Buy a brick. At the time of this writing, our annual brick sale will be Sunday Afternoon, March 10 beginning at 4:00. When you receive the letter from the youth please prayerfully consider supporting their efforts by purchasing a \$25 brick in support of these trips. Remember every gift no matter how big or small goes to make a difference in the lives of another.

While these trips may seem like a huge undertakings, with God's grace and your generous support we can make it happen.

Shalom,  
Rick<><

### MARCH YOUTH CALENDAR

FRIDAY 1	6:15 PM Confirmation Inter-faith Service
SATURDAY 2	Confirmation 9:30-12
SUNDAY 3	6-7 ZAMARingers <b>No Youth Fellowship</b>
SUNDAY 10	4-6 Mountain TOP Brick Sale 6-7 ZAMARingers 7-8:30 Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 17	6-7 ZAMARingers 7-8:30 Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 24	<b>Spring Break— No Youth Activities!</b>
SUNDAY 31	<b>Easter— No Youth Activities!</b>

### East Ohio Summer Camps

Campers! We want your summer to be full of fun, faith formation, adventure, and growth! Our hope is when you tell the story of what you did this past summer you say, "I connected with great friends and great counselors, had fun adventures, learned new things, experienced God, and now my faith is soaring!" That is what we are planning for Summer 2024 at Aldersgate, Asbury, and Wanake!

Brochures are available in the church office and remember register through our church and receive a tuition discount

## Contacting the Office or Staff by Phone:

Please note that extensions recently have changed for all of our staff members connected through our office phone system. To reach any staff person, begin by dialing the church's phone number (330-673-5879). You will be given a list of staff persons with their assigned extensions. After you enter your desired extension, you will be asked to say your name and then hold until the person you are trying to reach answers the phone or you are directed to their voicemail. If you are directed to a staff person's voicemail, please leave your name, phone number, and a brief message so that we can return your calls promptly within office hours.

## 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 booksellers that reuse books and support local bookshops).

***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.*

***The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times***  
by Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams  
Tuesday, May 14 at 7 pm in the Conference Room

Looking at the headlines, it can be hard sometimes to feel optimistic. And yet, hope has never been more desperately needed. In conversation with Doug Abrams, Jane Goodall focuses on four reasons for hope: the amazing human intellect, the resilience of nature, the power of young people, and the indomitable human spirit. Told through stories and fascinating research, *The Book of Hope* addresses vital questions and responses for our time.



## Community Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 23, 1 pm to 3 pm

On Saturday, March 23, from 1 pm to 3 pm, we will join with Kids Kare Daycare and Tree City Preschool to host a Community Easter Egg Hunt on our property. All children up to age 12 are welcome and encouraged to participate and will be asked to register in advance (details on registration will be provided in upcoming weekly email newsletters, or contact Pastor Nathan at [nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org](mailto:nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org)).

This should be a great opportunity, also, for our whole congregation both to connect with the daycare and preschool and to reach out with God's love to children and their families from our neighborhood. Please prayerfully consider being involved in any of the following ways:

1. Help with planning the event
2. Donate small individually wrapped candy
3. Serve as a host on the day of the event (from noon to 3:30 pm)

To express your interest and for more information, please reach out to Pastor Nathan via email at [nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org](mailto:nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org).

## EASTER LILIES

You are invited to purchase Easter lilies to beautify the church during our Easter services. Please complete the information below and mail it to the church office, or drop it into the offering plate on Sunday. **Please print** for the best legibility! All flower requests must be accompanied by payment. All checks must be made payable to the United Methodist Church of Kent by March 24. Following the 10:30 AM service on Easter Sunday, March 31, flowers will be distributed to shut-ins by members of our UMW Circles.

I/WE WISH TO PURCHASE \_\_\_\_\_ PLANT(S) AT \$10.00 EACH

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

OR

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

GIVEN BY: \_\_\_\_\_







## LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS

Welcome to the new “Loving Our Neighbors” column of our monthly newsletter. The goal of this column is to highlight opportunities for all of us to meet some of our core commitments: to worship, study, serve, give, and share. Each month in this column, we will highlight a local organization or mission project and ways that we can get involved, either as individuals or as a group from our congregation.

“For you shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39). This is the second part of the greatest commandment. We can show love to our neighbors in many ways, but we will focus each month on one identified need in our community with opportunities to give, serve, and/or share with our neighbors who are experiencing those needs. We ask that everyone lift up our neighbors experiencing the highlighted needs in their daily prayers and contribute in whatever other ways they can. Thank you so much for all of your support!

### **UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Sunday** *Sunday, March 10*

UMCOR Sunday is one of six annual special giving opportunities in The United Methodist Church. Donations to UMCOR Sunday underwrite 100% of UMCOR’s administrative costs, thereby ensuring that 100% of gifts given for humanitarian response and recovery go directly to communities in need. These gifts ensure that UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and represent hope and healing for those who are most vulnerable. Gifts can be made through the UMC of Kent either online or by check by designating “UMCOR Sunday.” Thank you for your generous participation in this faithful work.

### **Sunday Afternoon Walk** *March 10 at 4 pm, Morgan Park*

We are blessed locally with multiple park systems that provide abundant opportunities to enjoy God’s creation, both outside and in each other. All are welcome to join us for our next Sunday afternoon walk on March 10. We will meet in the parking lot of Morgan Park (8828 State Route 44, Ravenna) at 4 pm and then walk the trails together. Invite a friend or neighbor, and join us! If you plan to join us, please RSVP to Pastor Nathan by the end of the day on Thursday, March 7.

### **Navigating the Chaos of Reentry** *Wednesday, April 3* **6 pm Potluck Dinner in Pierson Hall** **7 pm – 8:30 pm Panel Discussion** *in the Sanctuary*

“Second Chance Month,” observed in the United States during April since 2017, is a nationwide effort to recognize the importance of helping individuals, communities, and agencies appreciate our collective role in supporting safe and successful reentry for millions of people returning from incarceration each year. In collaboration with partners in the West Ohio Conference of The UMC and from Kent State University, we will host a panel discussion in our Sanctuary on Wednesday, April 3, from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. This will be a great opportunity for all of us to learn more about the challenges our neighbors face in reentering a community after an incarceration experience and how we might offer support. Panelists will include individuals from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, individuals who have personally navigated the reentry process, and individuals currently engaged in offering local support. The panel discussion will be preceded by a potluck dinner in Pierson Hall, beginning at 6 pm. Come for food and fellowship and stay for an opportunity to learn more about ways we can love our neighbors.

Save the Date!

June 17-20, 2024

VBS is coming to  
the Kent UMC!

## ***Wednesdays through 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:

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

## **Bible Study Opportunity: Covenant Bible Study Mondays at 7 pm, March 11–25, April 8–15, May 6–20 Room 200**

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 and second modules have been offered previously ("Creating the Covenant" and "Living the Covenant"). The third and final module ("Trusting the Covenant") will begin on Monday, March 11, at 7 pm in Room 200. Whether or not you participated in either of the previous modules, you are welcome to join us this spring for this final 8-week session. Please contact Pastor Nathan ([nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org](mailto:nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org)) for more information and/or to express your intent to participate.



## ***Lenten Potluck Dinner and Program***



## **Mission Journey to Cambodia December 31, 2024 – January 12, 2025**

In 2017 and 2019, I was blessed to travel three times to Cambodia to meet and build relationships with neighbors on the other side of the world. Christianity remains a very small portion of the population in Cambodia, but the Methodist movement has been growing in recent years especially among young people. Traveling to Cambodia and being with Methodists there provides a wonderful opportunity to learn from and with first-generation Christian communities while offering encouragement and support.

I am now in the early stages of planning a mission journey through United Methodist Volunteers in Mission to Cambodia at the end of December and beginning of January (2024–2025). If you might be interested in participating in this journey with me, please email me ([nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org](mailto:nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org)) to express your interest and with any questions. The expected cost including travel, lodging, and food probably will be around \$4000 per person; financial assistance may be available. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

—Pastor Nathan

# March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Regular Schedule	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 5 pm Drama Kids/Palmer Gym 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	6 6 pm Lenten Potluck/Pierson Hall 7 pm Special Presentation/Pierson Hall	7 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary	1 2 9:30 am Confirmation Class/Conference Room	2
10 Regular Schedule	11 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/Gym 7 pm Covenant Bible Study/Room 200 7:30 New Spirit Rehearsal/Choir Room	12 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	13 6 pm Lenten Potluck/Pierson Hall 7 pm Special Presentation/Pierson Hall	14 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary	8 15 16	9
17 Regular Schedule	18 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/Gym 7 pm Covenant Bible Study/Room 200 7:30 New Spirit Rehearsal/Choir Room	19 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 5 pm Drama Kids/Palmer Gym 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	20 6 pm Lenten Potluck/Pierson Hall 7 pm Special Presentation/Pierson Hall	21 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary	22 11 am-5 pm Red Cross Blood Drive/Gym	23
24 Regular Schedule	25 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/Gym 7 pm Covenant Bible Study/Room 200 7:30 New Spirit Rehearsal/Choir Room	26 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 5 pm Drama Kids/Palmer Gym 7 pm Music Committee/Conference Room 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	27	28 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary 7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service/Sanctuary	29 7:30 pm Good Friday Service/Palmer Gym	30
31 Easter Sunday (See front page)					<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	



## USHERS AND GREETERS

Date	8:30	10:30
March 3	1	1
March 10	2	2
March 17	3	3
March 24	4	4
March 28	5	5
March 31	1	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](mailto:caradesko@kentmethodist.org).



Remember  
These  
Members  
in Their  
Sorrow

## Our sympathies to:

- family and friends of Rev. Steven Protzman

## Recent Hospitalizations and Surgeries:

Larry Adaska, Carl Bauer, Gail Closs, Dave Gynn, Pat Gynn, Sean Phillips

## Unnatural Disasters: Creation Care in the Age of Climate Change

*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 (the first two were offered in January and February), hosted by the West Ohio and East Ohio Conferences of our United Methodist Church, take us to places around the country experiencing unnatural disasters in this present age of climate change. Following the documentary on March 17, 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. The meeting is 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.

## 10:30 CAMERA SCHEDULE

MAR 3	Andrew Alderson
MAR 10	Tom Lundberg
MAR 17	Eric Wertz
MAR 24	Eric Wertz
MAR 28	Eric Wertz
MAR 31	Eric Wertz

## Thank You Notes

Dear friends of Heart 4 the City,

We wanted to send a note to thank you for partnering with us in 2023. Your prayers and generosity have been such a blessing to us!

Thank you!

Thank you for the flowers delivered by Janice and Mark Anderson. You do not realize the concern people from the church have for you. Very nice.

Bob Iarussi

Dear friends,

Thank you for your organization's recent gift to University Hospitals Portage Medical Center. Your generosity will allow us to continue to provide and improve upon the highquality, compassionate health care our patients have come to expect from UH. Together we are building on our mission of more than 150 years—*To Heal. To Teach. To Discover.*

Sincerely,

Sean E. Chamberlin

Vice President, Institutional Relations & Development

## MARCH LAY READERS

MAR 3	Janeen Phillips
MAR 10	Edgar Kooijman
MAR 17	Pat Baldwin
MAR 24	Dottie Emerick
MAR 31	Tom Emerick



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Here

**The United Methodist  
Church of Kent  
PO Box 646  
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**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**

Mailing Label Here

**Mailed February 29**

**“And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.”  
*I Corinthians 6:14***

### Worship Calendar

Date	Week	Scripture	Preacher	Special Event
March 3	Third Sunday in Lent	Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; I Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39	Rev. Nathan Howe	Communion
March 10	Fourth Sunday in Lent; UMCOR Sunday	II Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; II Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9	Rev. Kathy Dickriede, Missions and Community Engagement Dir., EOC	
March 17	Fifth Sunday in Lent	Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17; II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	Rev. Nathan Howe	
March 24	Palm/Passion Sunday	Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; I Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15	Rev. Nathan Howe	
March 28	Maundy Thursday 7:30 pm in Sanctuary	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38	Rev. Nathan Howe	Communion
March 29	Good Friday 7:30 pm in Palmer Gym	Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; Mark 14:1-15:47		
March 31	Easter Sunday	Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; I Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8	Rev. Nathan Howe	7:30 am Outdoor Service (weather permitting)