



# THE METHODIST MOSAIC

Volume 67 Number 5

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

May, 2025



## Thank you!

Surrounding this year's late-Lent and Easter celebrations, we are grateful for extra help to prepare for outreach and worship gatherings.

Thank you to all those who participated in this year's Easter Egg Hunt: those who donated candy, those who made our "bunny bags" to hold the candy, those who scattered eggs, those who participated in the hunt (see below), and those who helped welcome our neighbors.

Thank you to all those who helped fold palm branches into crosses for our worship together on Palm Sunday. This is a long-running tradition in our congregation and a beautiful part of our worship together as we begin Holy Week.



Thank you to the scouts and families from the Pack and Troop who meet in our building for preparing our outdoor chapel worship space and trails. They participated in two Saturday workdays to clean the area. Two leaders planned the project: Ed Sutera and Shawn Bruzda. Wood chips were donated by Davey Tree. And our Tuesday morning workgroup provided lots of help, too. Thank you all!



# Youth Ministry News

## May 2025

One of the highlights of the youth calendar is our church is "Youth Sunday." It's the one Sunday when the youth of our church lead us in the major portions of worship. This year Youth Sunday will be on May 18. On this special day we will feature performances highlighting the many skills of the members of our youth program. ZAMARingers will play, we will recognize our senior and have a message delivered by her. We will also be confirming our 2025 confirmation class.

As mentioned above, our congregation will also be recognizing graduates during the worship on Sunday, May 18 at 10:00AM. (Please note this special time as there will be only one service on that Sunday.) This year our sole senior is Savannah Phillips who will be attending The Ohio State University. Go Bucks!

I am sure I speak for our entire church when I extend congratulations to you upon your upcoming graduation from high school. I pray that God will continue to bless and guide you as you take new direction in your life.

### MAY ACOLYTES

MAY 4	Liam Russell
MAY 11	Evelyn Goff
MAY 18	Libby Filler
MAY 25	Rose Filler

Finally, on June 1 our Mountain TOP mission team will complete its training session in preparation for our trip on June 21. We are very excited to be sending 15 to the mountain to serve the people of the Cumberland Plateau on this our 25th year of service. I look forward to sharing our experiences upon our return. Please pray for our group as they prepare for another exciting yet challenging trip.

Shalom,  
Rick<><



### VBS is returning to the Kent UMC!

Announcing Operation Restoration VBS!

Kent UMC is hosting a Vacation Bible School called Operation Restoration: Mending God's World. During this exciting four day program, kids learn to be menders of the universe as they explore the daily themes of Feed, Heal, Forgive, Pray, and Rest. Operation Restoration is scheduled to be in Pierson Hall **July 28-31 from 6-8 pm.**

This VBS is open to all kids who have just finished PreK through 7th grade

To learn more, call Chelsea or Rick in the church office or send an email to [rickstout@kentmethodist.org](mailto:rickstout@kentmethodist.org)

### MAY YOUTH CALENDAR

SATURDAY 3	9:30-12 Confirmation
SUNDAY 4	6-7 PM ZAMARingers 7-8:30 PM Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 11	Mother's Day <b>NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES</b>
SUNDAY 18	<b>Youth Sunday</b> 7-8:30 Final Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 25	<b>NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES</b>

### Mission Trip News

The members of our Youth Mission Team would like to say thank you to all those who supported our mission trip to Mountain T.O.P. through the purchase of a symbolic brick. Thanks to you we are well on our way to meeting our goal. If you have not had an opportunity to donate but would still like to please feel free to drop a check in the collection basket and marking the envelope "Brick Sale." Be sure to look for pictures from our trip in the September issue of the Mosaic.





## Sunday Afternoon Walk

*Sunday, May 4  
4 pm at Morgan Park*

Enjoy the beauty of God's creation—both outdoors and in each other! Invite a friend or neighbor and join us. All are welcome! We will meet in the parking lot of Morgan Park (8828 State Route 44, Ravenna) at 4 pm and then walk some of the trails together.

## Serve with us at the Lord's Lunch

*Saturday, May 3  
Trinity Lutheran Church*

Join us as we serve a free meal for members of our community on Saturday, May 3, at the Lord's Lunch at Trinity Lutheran Church here in Kent. There are signup sheets available in the atrium for those who would like to prepare food and those who would like to serve the meal. Please contact the church office or Bob Berger with any questions or to express your desire to participate.

## Loving Our Neighbors Collection for May

Throughout the month of May, you are invited to donate dog and cat food to be distributed to neighbors through Kent Social Services and the Center of Hope in Ravenna as part of the work locally of the Madonio Animal Trust. Any type of food is appreciated, although the APL does recommend Purina Dog Chow Dry Complete with real chicken; Pedigree Adult Dry Dog Food; Purina Cat Chow Dry Cat Food; Purina One Kitten Formula; as well as Diamond Naturals. All donations can be placed in our donation box in the atrium. Thank you for your generosity!



## Summit Bells Concert

*Sunday, May 18, 4 pm  
Sanctuary*

Summit Bells is a community handbell ensemble based out of Cuyahoga Falls that has been ringing in our region for more than thirty years. All are welcome to join us at 4 pm in Pierson Hall on Sunday, May 18, for a free concert.

## New 6-Week Study

*Wake Up World: Hope Through Understanding*

*A Curriculum on the Climate Crisis for Faith and Community Groups  
Mondays, May 5 – June 16, 7 pm*

Living in relationship with God's creation and engaging in ministries of caring for and healing the earth are integral to our practice of discipleship. As United Methodists, we believe that all of creation is God's, and that we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Our natural world is to be valued and conserved because God has called us to be its caretakers (Genesis 1.26-31). All are welcome to join us on six Monday evenings at 7 pm, beginning May 5, as we journey together toward better understanding and more faithful action.

Published in 2023 by two lifelong United Methodists, "Wake Up World" provides an excellent introduction to our current climate crisis and to faith-based opportunities to respond. Through written materials, short video segments, and opportunities for conversation, we will be invited to live our calling. Through written materials and short video segments, we will be provided with a comprehensive basic understanding of the crisis and be engaged for individual and collection action to respond.

## Day of Learning and Service at Brookdale Orchard

*Saturday, May 24*

St. Matthew UMC in the Hough neighborhood of Cleveland has been developing a series of community gardens called "Brookdale Orchard" on vacant land. On Saturday, May 24, we will visit Brookdale Orchard to learn more about their ministry and to help with some of the springtime work there. Our departure time is yet to be determined, but we will plan to carpool from the church parking lot. For more information and to express your intent to participate, please contact Pastor Nathan (nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org).

### Interested in going for bicycle ride?

One of the great things about living in this area is the number of available trails for hiking and biking. Do you like to ride a bicycle? If so – now that the weather is getting warmer let's go for a ride! Contact Bob Machovec (bobmachovec@kentmethodist.org) and we can get interested folks together and pick a date and let's go for a ride!

## New Member Class

If you are interested in becoming a member of the UMC of Kent—or just want to learn more about our congregation, the United Methodist Church as a global connection, and what membership means—please contact Pastor Nathan at nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org. We will organize a three- or four-week class at a time that is convenient for those who want to participate.

## Celebrating Fifty Years of Membership at the UMC of Kent

On Pentecost this year, Sunday, June 8, we will recognize and give thanks for all who have been members of our congregation for fifty years during each of our morning worship services. In the past, it has been our tradition to do this every five years, but we missed the opportunity to do so in 2020, so we will "catch up" this year. If you became a member of our congregation any year from 1966 to 1975, please contact the church office to make sure that we include your name in our celebration on June 8.

## Order Your Geraniums

You are invited to donate geraniums to beautify our worship spaces on the Sunday before Memorial Day, May 25. You can donate in memory or in honor of loved ones, including veterans. Names of those being honored will be displayed on the screens at the beginning of worship services and posted on the website; flowers will be planted on the church grounds to remain throughout the summer. Please complete the information below (**please print** to avoid any errors), and return it to the church office. All checks must be made payable to the United Methodist Church of Kent and marked "Geraniums" in the memo line. Please return money with the form by **Wednesday, May 21**.



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

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

**OR**

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

BRANCH OF SERVICE IF VETERAN: \_\_\_\_\_

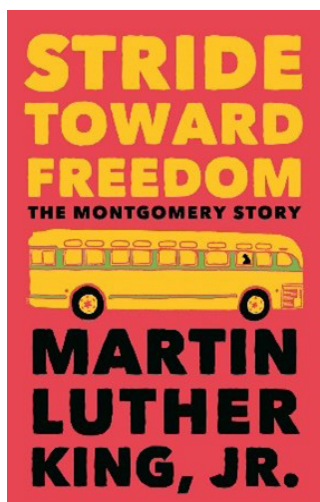
GIVEN BY: \_\_\_\_\_

## Upcoming Book Discussions

### ***Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story***

*by Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*Tuesday, May 13, at 7 pm in the Conference Room*

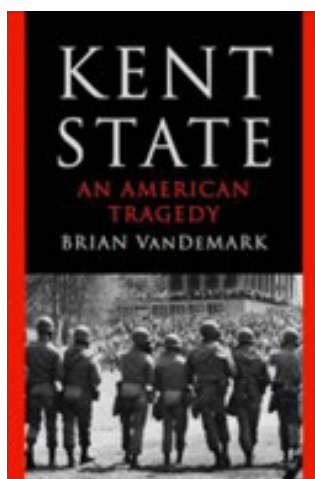


Written just two years after the successful completion of the boycott of the Montgomery, Alabama bus system, a young Rev. King tells the stories that informed his thinking before, during, and after the boycott—from first witnessing economic injustice as a teenager and watching his parents experience discrimination to his decision to begin working with the NAACP. Throughout, he demonstrates how activism and leadership can come from any experience at any age. Both comprehensive and intimate, *Stride Toward Freedom* emphasizes the collective nature of the movement and includes King's experiences learning from others, including Rosa Parks and Claudette Colvin. In so doing, it provides wisdom for our ongoing collective movements for social change as we seek together a more beloved world.

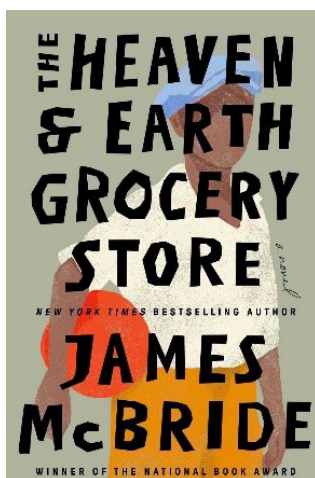
### ***Kent State: An American Tragedy***

*by Brian VanDeMark*

*Tuesday, June 3, at 7 pm in the Conference Room*



More than a half century has passed since Ohio National Guard members opened fire on college students during a war protest here at Kent State University, killing four students and injuring nine others. In this 2024 book, the author provides important context for that tragic event, including a description of our nation's divides over the Vietnam war which echo today's politics and divisions in many ways. "It was a tense, suspicious, and combustible atmosphere that required only a spark to ignite a tragedy," VanDeMark writes. Drawing on new research and interviews—including, for the first time, the perspective of the guardsmen who were on campus that day—VanDeMark provides a thorough reckoning of the tragedy which continues to impact our community and nation.



### ***The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store: A Novel***

*by James McBride*

*Tuesday, July 8, at 7 pm in the Conference Room*

In this novel from 2023, James McBride tells the story of Black and Jewish residents living side by side in the Chicken Hill neighborhood of Pottstown, Pennsylvania, in the 1920s and '30s. As the story unfolds, it becomes clear how much the people of Chicken Hill must struggle to survive and how damaging bigotry, hypocrisy, and deceit can be to a community. When hard truths are unearthed, McBride shows that it is love and community—heaven and earth—that ultimately sustain us.

# May 2025

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/Sanctuary	2	3 10 am Lord's Lunch/Trinity Lutheran
4 Regular Schedule Afternoon Walk 4 pm	5 7 pm Short-term Study/Room 200 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym	6 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Rm 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	7 7 pm Lay Leadership Comm./Conference Room	8 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 11 am PCRT Luncheon/PH 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir/Sanctuary	9	10
11 Regular Schedule Mother's Day	12 7 pm Short-term Study/Room 200 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym	13 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 6 pm Community Connections Team/Conf. Room 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Rm 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	14 6:30 pm UWF Executive Board Mtg/Conf. Room	15 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir/Sanctuary	16	17 5 pm Confirmation Rehearsal and Dinner/Sanctuary and Pierson Hall
18 10:00 am United Service New Spirit Video Presentation 4 pm Summit Bells Concert/Pierson Hall	19 6 pm Kent Garden Club/Pierson Hall 7 pm Short-term Study/Room 200 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym	20 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Rm 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	21 7:30 am UCM Endowment Advisors/Conf. Room	22 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 2 pm Mosaic Assembly/Conference Room 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir/Sanctuary	23 11 am Red Cross Blood Drive/Palmer Gym	24 Brookdale Orchard Work Day/TBD
25 Regular Schedule	26 Memorial Day Office Closed	27 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Rm 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym 7:30 Janus Circle/PH	28	29 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir/Sanctuary	30	31
<div>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</div>						

**USHERS AND GREETERS**

Date	8:30/10:30
MAY 4	6
MAY 11	1
MAY 18	2
MAY 25	3

If you are unsure of what team you are on, please call the office at 330-673-5879 x114 or email Cara at [caradesko@kentmethodist.org](mailto:caradesko@kentmethodist.org).

**10:30 CAMERA SCHEDULE**

MAY 4	Eric Wertz
MAY 11	Tom Lundberg
MAY 18	Tom Lundberg
MAY 25	Andrew Alderson

**MAY LAY READERS**

MAY 4	Janeen Phillips
MAY 11	Dottie Emerick
MAY 18	Youth Sunday
MAY 25	Tom Emerick



Remember  
These  
Members  
in Their  
Sorrow

**Our sympathies to:**

- Family and friends of Mike Senyek
- Family and friends of Peter Lorenz
- Family and friends of Charlie Nichols
- Roger Stiller and family on the death of his brother, Paul Stiller

**Recent Hospitalizations, Surgeries, and Illnesses:**

Maggie Bergman, Ralph Darr, Mike Hardy, Andy Lepp, Tony Russell, Thelma Siefert

**MAY FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS**

MAY 4	Laura Stephens
MAY 11	Christine Pryor
MAY 18	Mary Jacoby
MAY 25	TBA

**Fellowship Hour—  
Help Needed**

If you would like to host fellowship hour, you can sign up at [www.kentmethodist.org/volunteer-opportunities/](http://www.kentmethodist.org/volunteer-opportunities/) or contact the office by phone at 330-673-5879 to schedule a Sunday. No baking is required! All refreshments are provided by the church.

**Thank You Notes**

Dear United Methodist Church of Kent,

Thank you for your generous contribution to the KSU LGBTQ+ Center's Emergency Fund. Your donation goes directly to a student in need, with the hope that this will assist them in reaching graduation. It's because of folks like you that some of our students reach this important milestone in life. Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Ken M. Ditlevson, Director

Thank you for your continued support of the Holy Cow fund. We appreciate you all so very much.

Marquice Seward,  
Kent Social Services

UMC of Kent,

Thank you for your generous gift to the Los Angeles Fires Recovery Fund.

Your gift will provide immediate physical and spiritual support within our church communities of Altadena and Pacific Palisades. On January 7, 2025, the unprecedented high winds sparked blazes which ravaged these two historic towns over the following days. The aftermath of devastation and loss of life are heartbreaking to witness. The strength and resilience in the faith of our neighbors is truly inspiring.

Over 100 years ago, Community UMC of Pacific Palisades was one of the original buildings which founded the town of Pacific Palisades. Altadena UMC has been a staple in the historic African-American community of Altadena since 1880. We may have lost both church buildings and one parsonage, but we did not lose the heart and spirit of these communities. We will support, care, pray, and build back because of the many donors like you.

Our connectional system shows the best of us, and my heart is warmed by your gift and your heart of giving.

*Grace y paz,*

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank





Apply  
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Here

The United Methodist  
Church of Kent  
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Kent, OH 44240

Church Office:  
330-673-5879

Web Site:

[www.kentmethodist.org](http://www.kentmethodist.org)

Rev. Nathan Howe,  
Senior Pastor

Rev. Bob Machovec,  
Minister of Pastoral Care

Rick Stout,  
Director of  
Christian Education and  
Youth Ministries

Chelsea Alderson  
Director of Children's Ministries

Mailing Label Here

Mailed April 24

When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You.  
*Psalm 56:3*

### Worship Calendar

Date	Week	Scripture	Preacher	Special Event
May 4	3rd Sunday of Easter	Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19	Rev. Nathan Howe	Communion, <i>Chancel Ringers,</i> <i>Children's Choir</i>
May 11	4th Sunday of Easter	Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30	Rev. Nathan Howe	<i>New Spirit</i>
May 18	5th Sunday of Easter	Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35	Confirmation/Youth Sunday, <i>ZAMARingers,</i> 10:00 AM Combined Service	
May 25	6th Sunday of Easter	Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10-22:5	Rev. Nathan Howe	<i>New Spirit</i>



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or on Instagram/Twitter @kentmethodist

