



# THE METHODIST MOSAIC

Volume 68 Number 1

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

January, 2026

“Life’s most persistent  
and urgent question is,  
‘What are you doing  
for others?’”

- REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



## HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

SPECIAL  
SUNDAY

### **Celebrate Love in Action on Human Relations Day**

*January 18*

Human Relations Day is an opportunity for us to celebrate and support ministries that empower communities and nurture hope. On the Sunday before Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday, we receive a special offering to support programs like Community Developers, Youth Offender Rehabilitation, and United Methodist Voluntary Services. Help us make a difference by marking your special offering “Human Relations.” Together, we can help bring the beloved community to life.

### **Monday Evening Bible Study**

*Mondays at 7 pm, January 12, 26; February 9*

*Parlor*

On three Monday evenings in January and February, all are welcome to join us in the Parlor at 7 pm for a three-week Bible study on the prophets. Guided by the recent book, *The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage*, by Richard Rohr, we will read selections of the biblical prophets and consider how they offer us a crucial path forward today. Purchasing (or borrowing) the book is recommended but not required. If you would like a copy ordered for you (cost is \$25, payable through UMCK), please contact Pastor Nathan as soon as possible ([nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org](mailto:nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org)).

# Youth Ministry News

## January 2026

Happy New Year!

In late December I received word from the Midwest Mission that the food packages we made in November were shipped as part of the Midwest Missions 68th shipment of 2025. This container went to Jamaica on December 16, 2025! The container that Midwest Mission disbursed held Storm Cleanup Kits and Rice Meals. The container weighed 43,570 lbs. and its value was \$62,960.00.

The shipment was sent through Midwest Missions partner Food For The Poor (FFTP). FFTP serves 17 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. In part because of our donations, people around the world have the supplies they need to live a hope-filled, healthy life.

The Midwest Mission sent a special thank you to all their donors and mission volunteers who purchased and assembled these essential kits that show God's love in a practical way. Every kit assembled at Midwest Mission was made by a volunteer. Without the dedication of youth like ours, they would not have been able to continue to help others.

Rice Meals and Kits Were Assembled By:

- Cross Winds UMC- Maple Grove, MN
- First Christian Church- Greenville, IL
- First UMC- O'Fallon, IL
- Greenfield Ingathering- IA
- Grosse Pointe UMC- MI
- IGRC Staff
- Jamaica Relief- Pawnee
- Julie Bard- IL
- Mayfield Church- OH
- Mt. Vernon First UMC- Evansville, IN
- Ohio Episcopal Area Youth
- Simpson Group- Springfield, IL

JANUARY YOUTH CALENDAR	
SUNDAY 4	<b>Last Day to Join Mt. T.O.P.</b> 6-7 ZAMARingers 7-8:30 Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 11	6-7 ZAMARingers 7-8:30 Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 18	<b>No ZAMARingers</b> 7-8:30 Youth Fellowship
MONDAY 19	MLK Activity (Bowling)
SUNDAY 25	6-7 ZAMARingers 7-8:30 Youth Fellowship

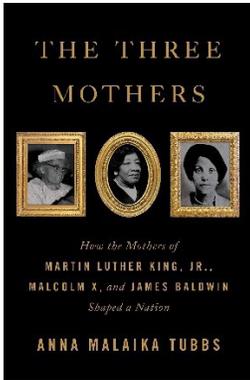
In other news: we have an exciting spring planned for our youth group and I wanted to take the time to share just a few of the highlights.

- January 4 is the last day to register for this summer's Mountain TOP trip. Please see Rick if you need registration forms.
- January 19 we will be planning an afternoon of bowling to celebrate school being off for Martin Luther King Day, look for details in the mail
- On February 16 we will be going Rock Climbing to celebrate Presidents Day.
- February 27 we are looking into attending the conference youth retreat at Camp Asbury
- May 24 is Youth Sunday
- June 7 is Mission trip training.

Overall, 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<><

## Upcoming Book Discussions



### ***The Three Mothers: How the Mothers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and James Baldwin Shaped a Nation***

*by Anna Malaika Tubbs*

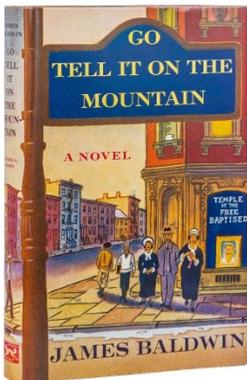
***Tuesday, January 6, at 7 pm in the Conference Room***

Much has been written about Berdis Baldwin’s son, James, about Alberta King’s son, Martin Luther, and about Louise Little’s son, Malcolm. But very little has been said about the extraordinary women who raised and helped to shape them. In her groundbreaking and essential debut, *The Three Mothers*, scholar Anna Malaika Tubbs celebrates Black motherhood by telling the story of the three women who helped to form some of America’s most pivotal heroes.

### ***Go Tell It on the Mountain***

*by James Baldwin*

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



In James Baldwin’s first published novel from 1953, he tells the semi-autobiographical story of John Grimes, an intelligent teenager in 1930s Harlem, and his relationship with his family and his church. Through the back stories of John’s mother, biological father, and fanatically religious stepfather, Baldwin focuses on the role of the Pentecostal Church in the lives of African Americans, both as a negative source of repression and moral hypocrisy and a positive source of inspiration and community.

### **Sunday Afternoon Walk**

***Sunday, January 11, 4 pm***

***Trail Lake 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 as we walk the trails of Trail Lake Park (605 Ravenna Road, Streetsboro). We will meet in the parking lot of the park at 4 pm on Sunday, January 11.



### **Baptism of the Lord Sunday**

***January 11***

During all three worship services on Sunday, January 11, we will remember the story of Jesus’ baptism from the Gospel of Matthew and reaffirm our participation in the covenant of baptism.

### **Epiphany of the Lord Sunday**

***January 4***

The Epiphany of the Lord is January 6 every year, but we will celebrate this festival together in worship services on Sunday, January 4. This day recalls the visit of the magi to Jesus, bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Literally meaning “appearance” or “manifestation,” Epiphany celebrates that God’s incarnation in Jesus demonstrates both God’s desire to be with us and God’s desire to be known by us. Join us in worship as we conclude our Advent and Christmas worship series on this day.

# January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 Office Closed	3 10 am-1 pm Haymaker Farmers' Market/Pierson Hall
4 Regular Sunday Schedule	5 7 pm Small Group/Con- ference Room 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 Small Groups/Rms 207 and 208 7 pm New Member Class/ Conference Room	8 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 11 am Portage County Retired Teachers/PH 1 pm Grief Support Group/Parlor 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room	9	10 10 am-1 pm Haymaker Farmers' Market/Pierson Hall
11 Regular Sunday Schedule 4 pm Walk at Trail Lake Park	12 7 pm Small Group/Con- ference Room 7 pm Bible Study/Parlor 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym	13 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 6 pm Community Connections/Conf Rm 6 pm Girl Scouts/PH 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Rm 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	14 7 pm Small Groups/Rms 207 and 208 7 pm New Member Class/ Conference Room	15 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room	16	17 10 am-1 pm Haymaker Farmers' Market/Pierson Hall
18 Regular Sunday Schedule	19 7 pm Small Group/Con- ference Room 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 pm Small Groups/Rms 207 and 208 7 pm New Member Class/ Conference Room	22 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 1 pm Grief Support Group/Parlor 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room	23 11 am Red Cross Blood Drive/Palmer Gym	24 10 am-1 pm Haymaker Farmers' Market/Pierson Hall
25 Worship Together: 10 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary UWF Sunday	26 7 pm Small Group/Con- ference Room 6 pm Garden Club/PH 7 pm Bible Study/Parlor 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym	27 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 6 pm Girl Scouts/PH 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Rm 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	28 7 pm Small Groups/Rms 207 and 208	29 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room	30	31 10 am-1 pm Haymaker Farmers' Market/Pierson Hall

**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
JANUARY 4	1
JANUARY 11	2
JANUARY 18	3
JANUARY 25-10 AM	4

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.



**Our sympathies to:**

- Family and friends of Hal Hall
- Dave Blair and family on the death of his brother, Bill Blair
- Family and friends of Tom Wagner

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

Dottie Emerick, Tami Frocchi, Virginia Goodell, Gary Harvey, Dick Mitchell, Vern Pees, Christy Siegfried Robinson, Claudia Sawyer, George Wargo, Jeff Zeager

**DECEMBER FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS**

JANUARY 4	TBA
JANUARY 11	TBA
JANUARY 18	No Fellowship Hour
JANUARY 25	UWF Potluck

**Fellowship Hour—Help Needed**

If you would like to host fellowship hour, you can sign up at [www.kentmethodist.org/volunteer/](http://www.kentmethodist.org/volunteer/) 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.

**10:30 A/V SCHEDULE**

**Camera**

- JAN 4 Andrew Alderson
- JAN 11 Tom Lundberg
- JAN 18 Eric Wertz
- JAN 25 Eric Wertz

**10:30 A/V SCHEDULE**

**Proclaim**

- JAN 4 Desmeal Leigh
- JAN 11 Adam Stephens
- JAN 18 Tom Lundberg
- JAN 25 Andrew Alderson

**JANUARY LAY READERS**

JAN 4	Tom Emerick
JAN 11	Dottie Emerick
JAN 18	Janeen Phillips
JAN 25	Krista Clavecilla

**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 years trip is scheduled for June 20-27. The last day to join our group in January 4. Please be sure to turn in your application and deposit to Rick before this date to be a part of this amazing opportunity.

**Thank You Notes**

We would like to thank all who contributed to the Santa Shop at the clothing center this year. We had a very successful distribution in that we gave 2727 items to almost 300 people. We would also like to give a special thank you to all the elves who helped. It is so rewarding to know that we are helping our friends and neighbors.

Thank you!  
Tina Ballentine and Dottie Emerick

Thank you for the beautiful flowers. They look wonderful.  
Pauline Yohe

Thank you to Rachelle and Marjorie for bringing me the beautiful altar flowers. The words of the note are very special. I appreciate the kindness shown to me. I will look at the flowers and remember that God is with me.

Blessings to all!  
Barbara Farrell

Thank you so much for the beautiful floral arrangement and the nice visit from Chris Schjeldahl. Both were enormously appreciated and it brightened our Sunday afternoon.

Jan and Jerry Hambleton



Apply  
Postage  
Here

**The United Methodist  
Church of Kent  
PO Box 646  
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**Church Office:  
330-673-5879  
Website:**

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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**

**Chelsea Alderson,  
Director of Children's Ministries**

Mailing Label Here

Mailed December 30

One unified worship service January 25 at 10 AM  
in the Sanctuary

### Worship Calendar

Date	Week	Scripture	Special Event
January 4	Epiphany of the Lord Sunday	Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12	Communion, <i>Chancel Ringers</i>
January 11	Baptism of the Lord Sunday	Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17	<i>New Spirit</i>
January 18	Second Sunday after Epiphany, Human Relations Day	Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; I Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42	<i>ZAMARingers</i>
January 25	Third Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; I Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23	United Women in Faith Sunday, One unified worship service at 10 AM, <i>New Spirit</i>



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