



# THE METHODIST MOSAIC

Volume 68 Number 2

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

February, 2026

## Lent 2026 Worship Series

*Ash Wednesday – Easter Sunday*  
*February 18 – April 5*

The season of Lent began as a time for those who were new to the way of Christ to learn and prepare for their baptism on Easter Sunday. During those final forty days before Easter, they would study together what was essential to the life of the church and commit themselves to living the good news of God's love in the world. This year's worship series during Lent will be an invitation for us to consider (or reconsider) what is most foundational in Jesus' life and ministry so we can root our hearts and lives in the expansive goodness of God.



### **Come to the table... Lent Potlucks and Programs**

*Wednesdays, February 18 – March 25,  
6 pm to 8 pm, Pierson Hall*

All are welcome to join us for food and fellowship on Wednesday evenings throughout Lent. Bring a dish to share and your own table service; beverages will be provided. On February 18, our meal will be followed by our evening Ash Wednesday worship service in the Sanctuary (beginning at 7 pm). On February 25 – March 25, our meal will be followed by presentations and opportunities for conversation with individuals from a variety of local organizations, providing us with the opportunity to know and love our neighborhood more fully. Each evening, all ages are welcomed and encouraged to share in conversations and activities as we learn together and from each other.

- **February 18:** Ash Wednesday worship service
- **February 25:** Portage County Soil and Water Conservation District
- **March 4:** United Christian Ministries (KSU campus ministry)
- **March 11:** TBA
- **March 18:** David Hassler, Wick Poetry Center
- **March 25:** Jen Mapes, Mapping Kent's Historic South End

# Youth Ministry News

## February 2026

We have had a great start to the new year in youth group. Our youth group devotions have been following a series call "Asking for a Friend" where we are focusing on tough questions to ask God. Over the month we have asked "Is the Bible just a rule book?" "Why do bad things happen to good people?" Also we considered, "What is heaven and hell and who gets to go?" Additionally, we went bowling on Martin Luther King Day, January 19.

In February, we plan to rock climbing on Presidents Day at Kendall Cliffs, and attend the conference Youth Retreat February 27- March 1. Be watching for more information at youth group or in the mail.

Shalom,  
Rick<><

FEBRUARY YOUTH CALENDAR	
SUNDAY 1	6-7 ZAMARingers 7-8:30 Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 8	<b>NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES</b> (Super Bowl)
SUNDAY 15	<b>No ZAMARingers</b> 7-8:30 Youth Fellowship
MONDAY 16	Presidents' Day (Rock Climbing)
SUNDAY 22	6-7 ZAMARingers 7-8:30 Youth Fellowship
FRI-SUN 27-1	Youth Retreat at Camp Asbury

### Mission Trip News



For the 26th summer 14 of our youth and adults will be again traveling to Mountain T.O.P. located in Altamont, Tennessee the week of June 20-27. 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 either do minor home repair or, help lead "Day Camp" and make a difference in the lives of the people living "on the mountain." Day Camp is a program designed to broaden horizons, brighten futures, and build hope in youth ages 6-11 from Grundy County.

Day Camp is intentional about pairing Youth Summer Ministry participants with the Day Camp children, giving the YSM participants the opportunity to grow in their leadership and mentorship skills, and making sure our younger children have individualized attention.

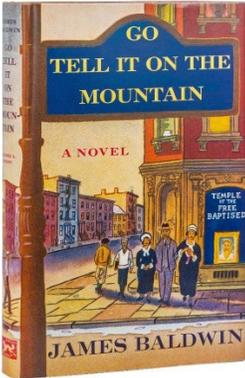
If you missed the opportunity to sign up but would like to attend this trip please contact Rick as soon as possible to check on available space. Additionally, Our Annual brick sale in support of this trip will occur in March. When you receive your letter in the mail we ask that you please prayerfully consider supporting the efforts the youth are making to share the love of Jesus to those who so desperately need it.

## Upcoming Book Discussions

### *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

by James Baldwin

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

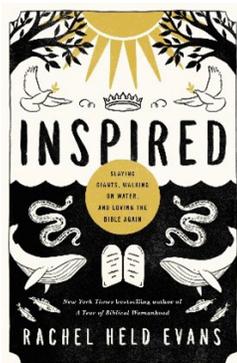


In James Baldwin's first published novel from 1953, he tells the semi-autobiographical story of John Grimes, an intelligent teenager in 1930s Harlem, and his relationship with his family and his church. Through the back stories of John's mother, biological father, and fanatically religious stepfather, 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.

### *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*

by Rachel Held Evans

Tuesday, March 3, at 7 pm in the Conference Room

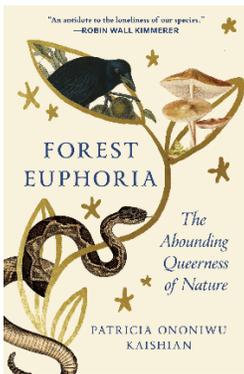


If the Bible isn't a science book or an instruction manual, what is it? What do we mean when we say the Bible is inspired? Join us for a conversation on Rachel Held Evans' exploration of questions like these, revealing how a relationship with the Bible can be as real and as complicated as a relationship with a family member or close friend. Discover alongside Evans that the Bible is not a static text, but a living, breathing, captivating, and confounding book of books that can equip us and inspire us to join God's loving and redeeming work in the world.

### *Forest Euphoria: The Abounding Queerness of Nature*

by Patricia Ononiwu Kaishian

Tuesday, April 7, at 7 pm in the Conference Room



Growing up, Patricia Ononiwu Kaishian felt most at home in the swamps and culverts near her home in the Hudson Valley. As a child who frequently felt out of place, she found acceptance in these settings among other amphibious beings. In snakes, snails, and fungi, she saw her own developing identities as a queer, neurodivergent person reflected back at her—and in them, too, she found a personal path into a life of science. Nature, Kaishian shows us, is filled with the unusual, the overlooked, and the ignored—and they have lessons for us all.

## Sunday Afternoon Walk

Sunday, February 8, 4 pm

UMCK Woods

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 trail in the woods at the back (north side) of our property. We will meet in the parking lot between Pierson Hall and the woods at 4 pm on Sunday, February 8.



## Coins for Lent Giving Calendar

Throughout the season of Lent, we are invited to reconsider the patterns of our lives and ways we can make a positive impact in our neighborhoods. Part of our renewal in God's grace is growing in compassion and offering generosity toward our neighbors, sharing Christ's love. Each day on the "Coins for Lent Giving Calendar" includes a prompt to consider the simple material blessings that are part of our lives and then to donate a coin for each as an opportunity to express our gratitude through generosity. You can decide the type of coins you want to collect or simply mark the number each day and write a check for the total at the end. (Hint: our counting teams would prefer you donate with a single check rather than lots of coins to sort and count!) Bring your total donation to worship on Easter Sunday (April 5 this year), and all donations will be given to support our neighbors through feeding programs at Kent Social Services. Thank you!

## Ash Wednesday Worship Services

**Wednesday, February 18**  
**12 pm or 7 pm in the Sanctuary**

Our journey through Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, this year on February 18. In worship together, we begin this season of renewal by rooting our hearts and lives in the expansive goodness of God. All are welcome to join us in worship in the Sanctuary at 12 pm for an abbreviated worship service or at 7 pm for a worship service including music and Holy Communion. Both worship services will include the imposition of ashes as a reminder of our mortality and our grounding in God.



## Scout Sunday Pancake Breakfast

**Sunday, February 8**  
**9 am to 1 pm, Pierson Hall**

This year, Scout Sunday will be on February 8, with scouts participating in the 10:30 am worship service. Troop 252 also will host a pancake breakfast in Pierson Hall from 9 am to 1 pm; there is no set cost for the breakfast, but you are encouraged to make a donation to support scouting programs throughout the year.

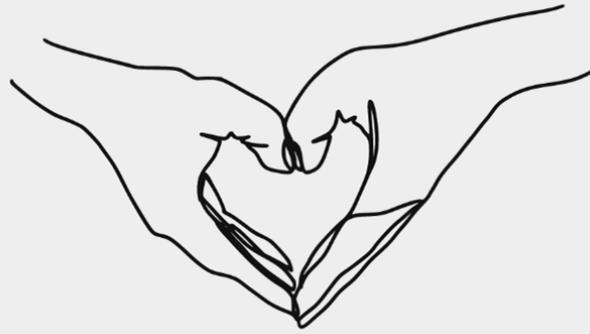
## Here Comes the Sun!

### *Investing in Solar Energy as Part of Our Care for Creation*

In November 2025, our Board of Trustees and Gifts, Memorials, and Investments Committee approved a plan for a local company to install solar panels on sections of our roof. This new solar array, which is scheduled to be installed by HelloSunray during the first half of 2026, is projected to generate 105% of our current annual electricity usage, saving our congregation approximately \$28,000 per year in electricity costs (based on recent costs which have been increasing each year) and significantly reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and production of carbon emissions.

Funding for this project will be provided from our unrestricted general endowment with electricity savings applied to repayment over time. Additionally, under the provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, we will be eligible to receive direct payment to cover 30% of the total project cost plus an additional 20% under state and local provisions, thereby offsetting half of the total project cost. We are not planning a capital campaign to fund this project, but if you would like to make a donation toward the cost beyond your regular tithes and offerings to invest in renewable energy, please mark your donation "solar project."

More information will be available soon on a section of our bulletin board in the atrium.



# LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS

## **“Loving Our Neighbors” Collection for February**

Throughout the month of February, you are invited to donate cleaning supplies to be given to Miller Community House to support our neighbors there. Begun in 1985, Miller Community House now provides emergency shelter and supportive services to individuals and families experiencing a housing crisis; food and basic personal items are provided for those who need them. Please support the work of Miller Community House by donating Pine-sol, dish soap, toilet bowl cleaner, and/or laundry soap. Donations can be placed in the donation box in the atrium any time during February. Thank you!

## **Building Together for Tomorrow** *Capital Campaign Update*

In the fall of 2024, we began a “Building Together for Tomorrow” capital campaign to raise funds to update the heating system in our Education Wing. In May 2025, we renewed this campaign, and you responded with extravagant generosity! Thank you!

### *Some Background*

In December 2023, we experienced water leaks from multiple heating units in classrooms on the first floor of our Education Wing. The Board of Trustees determined that all classrooms should have new heating systems installed to prevent this from recurring. The current units were original to that section of the building, were inefficient in their energy use, and no longer could be maintained or repaired. In May 2025, the Board of Trustees approved a plan from Wright Heating and Cooling to install new heating and cooling units in each classroom and restroom in our Education Wing at an estimated cost of \$200,000.

### *Thank you!*

Within a few months of renewing our capital campaign in May 2025, we received enough donations and pledges to meet our \$200,000 goal! Thank you for your quick and generous response to invest in the future of our many ministries and community connections through the use of our Education Wing. In January 2026, Wright Heating and Cooling completed this project, and all new heating and cooling units are now installed and fully functional. These new units will be much more energy efficient and will provide comfortable meeting spaces for our children’s Sunday school and choir, the Tree City Preschool, the annual Trash and Treasure Sale, scouts, AA, NA, Al-Anon, AARP Tax-Aide, piano lessons, and other local partners for years to come. Thank you for your generous support and participation!

# February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Regular Sunday Schedule	2 7 pm Small Group/Conference Room 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym	3 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH Room 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Rm 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	4 7 pm Small Groups/Rms 207 and 208	5 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room	6	7 10 am-1 pm Haymaker Farmers' Market/Pierson Hall
8 Regular Sunday Schedule 4 pm Walk in the UMCK Woods	9 7 pm Small Group/Conference Room 7 pm Bible Study/Parlor 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym	10 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	11 6:30 pm UWF Board Mtg/Conference Room 7 pm Small Groups/Rms 207 and 208	12 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 1 pm Grief Support Group/Parlor 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room	13	14 10 am-1 pm Haymaker Farmers' Market/Pierson Hall
15 Regular Sunday Schedule 11:30 am Green Team/Conference Room	16 7 pm Small Group/Conference Room 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym	17 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7 pm Trustees Mtg/Conf. Room 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Rm 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	18 11 am Red Cross Blood Drive/Palmer Gym 7 pm Ash Wednesday Worship in Sanctuary	19 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room	20 11 am Red Cross Blood Drive/Palmer Gym	21 10 am-1 pm Haymaker Farmers' Market/Pierson Hall
22 Regular Sunday Schedule	23 7 pm Small Group/Conference Room 6 pm Garden Club/PH 7 pm Bible Study/Parlor 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym	24 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	25 7 pm Small Groups/Rms 207 and 208 6 pm Lenten Potluck and Program/Pierson Hall	26 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 1 pm Grief Support Group/Parlor 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room	27	28 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**

<b>Date</b>	<b>8:30/10:30</b>
FEBRUARY 1	5
FEBRUARY 8	6
FEBRUARY 15	1
FEBRUARY 18-7 PM	2
FEBRUARY 22	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.



**Our sympathies to:**

- Family and friends of Janet Smerglia

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

Dottie Emerick, Gary Harvey, Sebastian Lowe, Julie Madden, Vern Pees, Kendra Proctor, Christy Siegfried Robinson, Pauline Yohe

**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.

**6-Week Adult Sunday School Class**

*Sundays, February 15 - March 22  
9:30 am in the Conference Room*

Starting at 9:30 am on February 15 in the Conference Room, Jeff Wattles will lead a six-week course on personal growth. The title is "Believe and Rejoice: From Humble Beginnings to a Joyous Harvest." Suggested readings will come from the Gospels and from Jeff's new book, *A Taste of Joy and Liberty*. All participants will receive free copies. And all are joyously welcomed if you haven't done any reading, cannot stay for the entire fifty minutes, or have missed previous sessions. Questions? (330) 687-7330 or [jhwattles@gmail.com](mailto:jhwattles@gmail.com).

**Thank You Note**

Dear church family,

Thank you so very much to Gail and Becky for delivering those gorgeous flowers for Christmas and after church. I am so grateful for your kindness and generosity. God bless.

Joanne Senyek

**10:30 A/V SCHEDULE**

**Camera**

- FEB 1 Eric Wertz
- FEB 8 Tom Lundberg
- FEB 15 Tom Lundberg
- FEB 18 Adam Alderson
- FEB 22 Eric Wertz

**FEBRUARY LAY READERS**

- FEB 1 Pat Baldwin
- FEB 8 Krista Clavecilla
- FEB 15 Wendy Seed
- FEB 22 Janeen Phillips



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

**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 January 28

### Worship Calendar

Date	Week	Scripture	Special Event
February 1	4th Sunday after the Epiphany	Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; I Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12	Communion, <i>Chancel Ringers</i>
February 8	5th Sunday after the Epiphany	Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112:1-9; I Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20	<i>New Spirit</i>
February 15	Transfiguration Sunday	Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 99; II Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9	<i>ZAMARingers</i>
February 18	Ash Wednesday	Luke 14:15-24	12 pm and 7 pm in the Sanctuary
February 22	1st Sunday in Lent	John 2:1-11; Matthew 13:31-31	<i>New Spirit</i>



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