



# THE METHODIST MOSAIC

Volume 68 Number 3

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

March, 2026



## Lent 2026 Resources for Renewal

Historically, 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. The following are some resources we are sharing this year as we are grounded in God's goodness and grace:

### **Come to the table...** **Lent Potlucks and Conversations** *Wednesdays through 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. 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.

- March 4: Jodi Stillisano and KSU students, United Christian Ministries
- March 11: Jen Mapes, Mapping the Historic South End of Kent
- March 18: David Hassler, Wick Poetry Center
- March 25: Lynn Vogel, Portage Soil and Water Conservation District, Backyard Conservation

### **Lent Devotionals for All Ages**

We have two different devotionals available this year:

“Tell Me Something Good” is produced by “A Sanctified Art” and includes art, reflections, and poetry to accompany our journey through Lent. Designed for individual contemplation and conversations with others, copies of this booklet have been available on the table in the atrium beginning February 15.

Our Ohio Episcopal Area of The United Methodist Church has produced an “Intergenerational Lenten Journal 2026” with suggested reflections and activities. Copies of this booklet have been available on the table in the atrium beginning February 15.

### **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!

# Youth Ministry News

March 2026

**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 (which is our church's 26th year) we are again very excited to have 15 members of our youth group and various adults registered to attend Mountain T.O.P.!

MARCH YOUTH CALENDAR	
SUNDAY 1	6-7 ZAMARingers <b>NO YOUTH FELLOWSHIP</b>
SUNDAY 8	6-7 ZAMARingers 7-8:30 Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 15	<b>BRICK SALE</b> 6-7 ZAMARingers 7-8:30 Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 22	<b>NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES</b> (Spring Break)
SUNDAY 29	<b>NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES</b> (Spring Break)

While each student attending is responsible for more than 3/4 of their individual cost for the week, at Mountain TOP the funds for the remaining cost, including travel, need to be raised. Additionally, there are students from some families who may 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 15 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 huge undertakings, with God's grace and your generous support we can make it happen

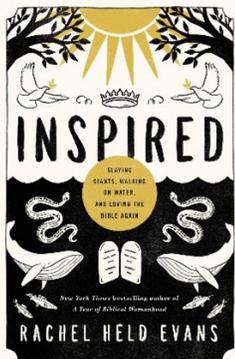
Shalom,

Rick<><

## Upcoming Book Discussions

### ***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***

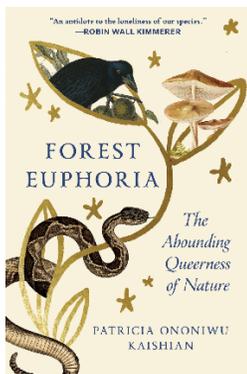


If the Bible isn't a science book or an instruction manual, what is it? What do we mean when we say the Bible is inspired? Join us for a conversation on Rachel Held Evans' exploration of questions like these, revealing how a relationship with the Bible can be as real and as complicated as a relationship 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.

### **A Day of Service at the Mission Barn**

***Saturday, March 21***

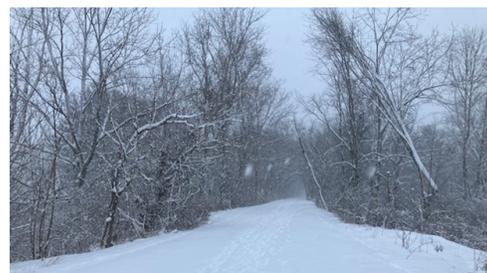
On the Saturday after UMCOR Sunday, we will travel to New Castle, Pennsylvania to visit and serve at the Mission Barn, one of six UMCOR Relief Supply Network depots across the United States. Children, youth, and adults, 1st grade and above, are welcome and encouraged to participate. We will meet in our parking lot at 8:30 am to share rides and plan to return to Kent by 3:30 pm. Work at the mission barn will include verifying or making UMCOR relief kits and/or building sections of wooden wheelchair ramps to be used in the surrounding community. If you plan to participate, **please RSVP to Pastor Nathan (nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org) by the end of the day on Monday, March 9.**

### **Sunday Afternoon Walk**

***Sunday, March 8, 4 pm***

***Munroe Falls Metro Park – Tallmadge Meadows Area***

Enjoy the beauty of God's creation, both outdoors and in each other. Invite a friend or neighbor and join us as we walk the trails at the Tallmadge Meadows Area of the Munroe Falls Metro Park. We will meet in the parking lot (1088 North Avenue, Tallmadge) at 4 pm on Sunday, March 8.



“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” - MATTHEW 25:35



**UMCOR Sunday: March 15**

*Supporting the operations behind the ministry of UMCOR*

Together, we can strengthen and develop the church’s global humanitarian response for on-the-ground relief and recovery efforts. Every dollar given on UMCOR Sunday covers the administrative costs of this vital ministry, ensuring that 100% of donations given throughout the year go directly to relief and recovery. Your generosity is a living witness to God’s love in action. Please prayerfully consider your support of the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

**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 22. Following the 10:30 AM service on Easter Sunday, April 5, flowers will be distributed to shut-ins by volunteers from the congregation.

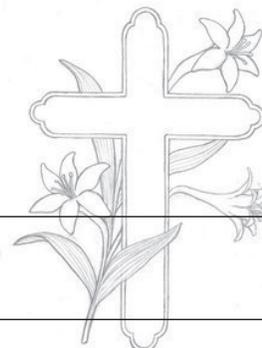
I/WE WISH TO PURCHASE \_\_\_\_ PLANT(S) AT \$12.00 EACH

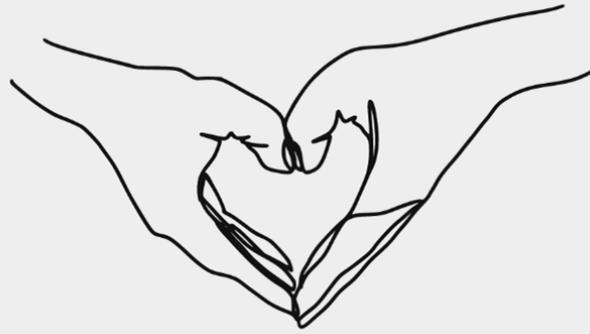
IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

OR

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

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





# LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS

## “Loving Our Neighbors” Collection for March

Our collection in March also will support the ministries of UMCOR. After a disaster or crisis, one of the ways UMCOR offers relief and support is by providing a variety of supply kits including “hygiene kits,” which replace basic necessary items lost and helping persons to stay clean and healthy. Throughout the month of March—before March 21—please donate only the following items specifically requested. You can donate items to complete an entire kit or individual items, all of which will be delivered to the Mission Barn in New Castle, Pennsylvania, when we go there on Saturday, March 21.

- One hand towel (between 15”x25” and 17”x27”)
  - No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- One washcloth
  - No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- One comb
  - Must be sturdy with at least four to seven inches of teeth
  - No pocket combs or picks
- One toenail or fingernail clipper
  - No emery boards or metal nail files
- Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger)
  - No Ivory or Jergen’s soap
  - Do not remove from packaging
- One adult toothbrush
  - Do not remove from packaging
  - Personal advertising not acceptable
- 10 adhesive bandages (3/4” x 3”)
  - Common household bandages are acceptable
- One one-gallon size re-sealable bag

Visit <https://umcmmission.org/umcor-hygiene-kit/> for more information about UMCOR Hygiene Kits.

# March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Regular Sunday Schedule 11:45 am SPRC Meeting/ Conference Room	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 7 pm Book Discuss/Conf. Room 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Rm 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	4 7 pm Small Groups/Rms 207 and 208 6 pm Lenten Potluck and Program/Pierson Hal	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 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 7 pm Small Groups/Rms 207 and 208 6 pm Lenten Potluck and Program/Pierson Hal	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 1 pm Easter Egg Hunt
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 New Spirit/Choir Rm 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	18 7 pm Small Groups/Rms 207 and 208 6 pm Lenten Potluck and Program/Pierson Hall 6:15 pm UWF Board Mtg/Conference Room	19 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room	20 11 am Red Cross Blood Drive/Palmer Gym	21 8:30 am-3:30 pm Day of service at Mission Barn 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 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 7:30 pm Janus Circle/PH	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
29 Regular Sunday Schedule	30 7 pm Small Group/Conference Room 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym	31			<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 1	4
MARCH 8	5
MARCH 15	6
MARCH 22	1
MARCH 29	2

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).



**Our sympathies to:**

- Family and friends of Carolina Galendez Bajao
- Family and friends of David Whitney
- Family and friends of Vern Pees
- Family and friends of Mark Fankhauser

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

Mark Anderson, Dawn Filler, Sebastian Lowe, Donna Stiller

**MARCH FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS**

MARCH 1	Melody Neumiller
MARCH 8	Krista Clavecilla
MARCH 15	Laura Stephens
MARCH 22	Debbie Flasher
MARCH 29	Ginnie Smith

**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**

MAR 1	Eric Wertz
MAR 8	Andrew Alderson
MAR 15	Tom Lundberg
MAR 22	Eric Wertz
MAR 29	TBA

**MARCH LAY READERS**

MAR 1	Jody Smith
MAR 8	Krista Clavecilla
MAR 15	Alex Seed
MAR 22	Dottie Emerick
MAR 29	Tom Emerick

**Holy Week Worship Opportunities**

**Sunday, March 29:** Palm/Passion Sunday—8:30 am in the Chapel; 9:30 am in the Palmer Gym; 10:00 am in the Sanctuary

**Thursday, April 2:** Maundy Thursday—7 pm in the Sanctuary

**Friday, April 3:** Good Friday—12 pm Community Crosswalk beginning at First Christian Church; 7 pm in the Palmer Gym

**Sunday, April 5:** Easter Sunday—7:30 am in the Outdoor Chapel; 8:30 am in the Sanctuary; 9:30 am in the Palmer Gym; 10:30 am in the Sanctuary

**Thank You Notes**

Thank you for the beautiful flowers from the altar. Thank you to Tina Ballentine for delivering them. I love to watch the sermon on YouTube and thanks to all who make that possible. I enjoy the choir, the flutists, the bell ringers, the Bible readings and the sermon. You are surely doing God's work.

Sincerely,  
Barb Farrell

We would like to sincerely thank all of you who have helped set up and serve or in some other way helped with the family funeral luncheons. It takes many people to come together to make this service of the church happen, and we are truly appreciative of your support. God is working in us to serve others. Thank you so much.

Donna Dietz,  
Service Committee



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

**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 February 27

### Worship Calendar

Date	Week	Scripture	Special Event
March 1	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent	Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17	Communion, <i>Chancel Ringers</i>
March 8	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent	Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Ephesians 3:20-21; Mark 6:32-44	<i>New Spirit</i>
March 15	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	I Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41	UMCOR Sunday, <i>ZAMARingers</i>
March 22	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45	<i>New Spirit</i>
March 29	Palm/Passion Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66	Palm Parade



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