



The Methodist Mosaic



Volume 56 Number 1

United Methodist Church of Kent - A Place to Grow

January 2014

Dear Friends,

Some years ago a book hit the New York Times Bestseller list entitled Conversations with God. The author, Neale Walsch, claimed to have received extensive communications from God in response to a series of questions he had written down. The book was so popular that there were eight sequels, plus a movie.

Why was the book so popular? Did God really talk to this guy? Most people upon reading the book and its sequels concluded that Walsch was hearing his own subconscious more than he was hearing God. But perhaps the very idea of the book was what was most intriguing – *we long for communication with God*.

But how can we experience authentic communication with God? Many people have claimed to hear a “word from God” that is entirely bogus. In the case of Conversations with God, Walsch seems mainly to be hearing the soundings of popular culture. The series reflects all the themes of contemporary American pop spirituality, (which explains why it gained such a readership). Thus Walsch in his books spelled out some good ideas, plus a lot of shallow and wacky ones. As Alexander Campbell (an early 19th century American preacher) once observed about Joseph Smith’s Book of Mormon, “He has gathered almost every error and every truth discussed in New York for the past ten years.”

If we long for communication with God, how can we avoid just hearing our own “inner voice” or the loud echo of all the voices in the culture around us? Perhaps the place to begin is with some **real conversations with God**. The idea that a person might have a “conversation with God” is, of course, by no means new or unique. The Biblical story is full of such conversations with God! In the Bible we find a number of inspiring and instructive cases in which people authentically heard the voice of God.

So if you wish to hear a word from God, I invite you to join me in a sermon series starting this month entitled, “Real Conversations with God.” We will journey through several key Biblical stories in which people truly conversed with God, and we will find answers to central questions: Does God “talk” to people? If so, how do such “conversations” happen? How can we get ourselves into a position where we can hear God’s voice? How do we know that it is God’s voice we are hearing and not just our own imaginings? What sorts of things does God say in real conversations with God?

The series will begin on Sunday, January 12, and will continue until the start of Lent (the beginning of March). I look forward to sharing with you in worship, as together we seek to authentically hear what God is saying to us.

In His Service,
Dr. David Palmer

New Worship Service Finds Good Response

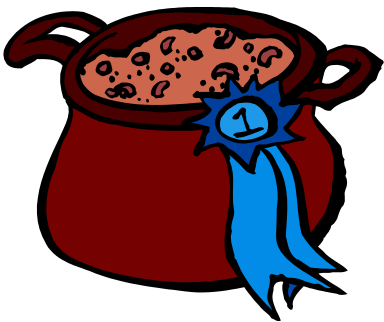
Last September we expanded our Sunday morning worship schedule to include a 9:30 contemporary worship service in the gymnasium. The service has received a very good response, averaging more than 60 in attendance across its first four months. The service features an outstanding praise band and includes the same sermon that is preached at the 8:30 and 10:30 hours.

Meanwhile, worship attendance at our 8:30 service remains steady, averaging around 50 per Sunday, while attendance at 10:30 continues strong, averaging nearly 300 per Sunday. We also have a Wednesday night youth worship service – with music led by Michael Goff and a message from Rick Stout – which averages about 25 per week. There will be a full **year end report** on worship attendance, membership, the church’s financial condition in the February issue of the Mosaic.

Cruise with a Purpose

Davina Gosnell, who serves on the Volunteer in Mission Committee with our East Ohio Conference, is taking part in a “cruise with a purpose” in January. The cruise is sponsored by the North Central Jurisdiction (which includes United Methodist Conferences from Ohio to Minnesota) and is being led by a minister and his wife from Minnesota who have led more than 30 Volunteer in Mission teams to the Caribbean. Cruise participants will depart from Miami, Florida on the Norwegian Sun and visit 5 Methodist mission sites in St. Thomas, US Virgin Island / Roseau, Dominica / Bridgetown, Barbados / Castries, St Lucia / and Phillipsburg, St Maarten. They will be connecting with Methodist church leaders on the 5 islands, taking some needed school and medical supplies, learning about current specific needs, and assessing and making plans for recruiting and organizing future mission work teams. They will also have opportunity to worship and fellowship with Methodist congregations on the islands. An informational sheet about the specific mission goals on each island is posted on the atrium bulletin board.

Davina will be using the experience for her ongoing work on the East Ohio Conference Volunteer in Mission committee, and she will be a good resource for anyone in our church who might be interested in a future Caribbean mission opportunity. Our thoughts and prayers go with Davina as she departs on this journey!



CHILI COOK-OFF SUNDAY JANUARY 12TH

Enter your famous Chili at the Kent UMC's Chili Cook-off to win bragging rights, prizes and a chance to help those in need! If you don't have a chili recipe that you wanted to enter then help name the best chili at the church. The Fellowship Committee is hosting the cook-off after the 10:30 service on Sunday, January 12th. All of the toppings, plates and drinks will be provided – all we need is some friendly competition and award winning chili to be donated. For just one dollar you can taste 4 bowls of chili, or buy one full bowl. These donations will go towards the church's discretionary fund to help those in need at our home church. If interested in competing, please sign up in the atrium or contact Christine Goff at christinejgoff@gmail.com.

Building Updates

Our building has been a very busy place lately, not only with all the groups and ministries that go on within it, but also with contractors fulfilling a number of tasks. Here are the most recent developments:

The **sanctuary roof repair** was completed. There had been deterioration along the north edge of the building and in some of the drainage channels along the east side.

The **Pit** (our youth room under the sanctuary) suffered water damage from the leaky sanctuary roof. Water ran down through the sanctuary walls and emptied into the Pit below, causing a mess on the wall and considerable damage to the carpet. Thanks to Rick Stout for cleaning and repainting the wall! The 17-year-old carpet, which already was very worn and stained, had to be replaced. We got a very good price on an extremely durable carpet that will be perfect for a youth room! The carpet is now installed.

The **automatic doors** in Pierson Hall and the Parlor entrance have been repaired and are now fully functioning.

A 50-year-old **freezer** in the campus ministry wing went bad and was replaced with a new unit.

The **cost** for all of these projects was covered by estate funding. People have remembered our church in their will. Their funds are carefully invested and grow, and these funds then accomplish a great deal! You can learn more about such legacy gifts through our Gifts, Memorials, and Estates Committee, chaired by Kevin Patrick.

Meanwhile, engineers from five different companies have been preparing final bids for the boiler project and the HVAC maintenance and controls contract. We expect to install a new boiler system in the coming months.

Youth Ministry News

January 2014

Happy New Year! And what an exciting year we have planned. We have completed our spring calendar and are very excited about our upcoming events. Here are a few of the highlights of what to expect this spring:

- * The weekend of January 3-4 we will be traveling to Saline Michigan and participating in the 30 hour famine with our friends up north. Packets have been distributed so see Rick if you need more information about this exciting weekend.
- * February 17 we will play laser tag and have a pizza party to celebrate President's Day
- * March 9 is Youth Sunday.
- * The Time and Talent Auction is scheduled for Sunday, April 27th.
- * And June 13-15 is Youth Annual Conference

Over all 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 Wednesday from 7-8:30. Make sure you plan to come and bring a friend to any or all of these events.

Shalom,
Rick <><

DID YOU KNOW?

The last day to sign up to be a part of this years Mountain TOP team is Sunday, January 5, however, the trip is already almost full! If you'd still like to go but haven't signed up see Rick about getting one of the few remaining spaces.

Youth group meets Wednesdays, between 7 and 8:30 in **THE FIG**.

January

3-5	30 hour famine (at Saline)
6	Last day to join Mountain TOP team
8	7-8:30 Youth Fellowship
11	Confirmation 9:30-12
15	7-8:30 Youth Fellowship
22	7-8:30 Youth Fellowship
29	7-8:30 Youth Fellowship

January Acolyte Schedule

January 5	Molly Fankhauser Anna Swan
January 12	Andrew Collier Ryan Stevenson
January 19	Carlie Thompson Josh Palmer
January 26	Ryan Dean Josh Ronowski



Calling all actors:

Youth Sunday is an annual day when the youth of our church lead our Sunday morning worship service. It is characterized by a focus on the music of our youth musical groups Resurrection and the ZAMARingers, liturgical dance, drama and teaching by a senior member of our youth group.

On Sunday, January 12 at 4:00 in the sanctuary there will be an informational meeting and open try outs for anyone interested in being a part of this year's Youth Sunday. At this meeting we will explain this year's theme, talk about ways to be involved and discuss rehearsal times. We need both actors, and dancers for this annual event. If you would like to be involved, please plan to attend this important meeting as part of the Youth Sunday preparation process.

ADULT RETREAT 2014

All adults in the church family are invited to participate in the Adult Retreat. It will occur on March 14 – 16 at the Berlin Grande Hotel in Berlin, Ohio – the heart of Amish Country. We meet for dinner Friday night and wrap up with breakfast and a worship service led by Dr. Palmer on Sunday morning. We will have a special Saturday evening dinner at “The Farm at Walnut Creek” in Sugarcreek, Ohio. The activities of the weekend are yet to be planned but we always have a good time including some free time to enjoy the area. The total cost will be about \$250.00 (double occupancy and singles are welcome) plus meals on your own Friday night and Saturday noon. The hotel gives us a fine conference room for our meetings and has a great Breakfast Buffet. To participate make out a deposit check for \$20.00 to the church marked “Adult Retreat Deposit” and give it to Roger Stiller or put it in the offering plate. For more info call Roger at 330-297-8933.

Black College Fund

On the Sunday of Martin Luther King weekend we take a special offering for the Black College Fund. This fund supports eleven historically black United Methodist colleges that are scattered across the South. Methodists established these colleges after the Civil War in order to give African Americans an opportunity for higher education when other institutions were closed to them. The colleges are: Bennett College, Bethune-Cookman University, Claflin University, Clark Atlanta University, Dillard University, Huston-Tillotson University, Meharry Medical College, Paine College, Philander Smith College, Rust College, and Wiley College. These schools continue to do important work today. Our goal is to contribute \$1100 -- \$100 for each school. You can contribute by marking a check or envelope "Black College Fund."

UNIVERSITY OF LIFE — WINTER TERM
Classes for adults Sundays 9:30-10:15
Child Care Provided
Starts January 5th
Leader: Dr. Jonathan Smith
Location: Conference Room

Walk as Jesus Walked. Join us as we reflect on a unique video series to bring special meaning into some familiar scriptures. This five session small group Bible study uses video filmed in the Holy Land to weave in historical, cultural, religious and geographic contexts into discussions of what it means to understand God's call to us today. The topics have such intriguing names as 1. The Passion of Elijah 2. Learn to Walk Like Jesus. 3. An Unlikely Disciple 4. Why Christians Suffer: The Weight of Gethsemane 5. Don't Forget Us. Join us as we link an understanding of faith in Biblical times to an understanding of faith in the 21st Century.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

This Bible Study takes place after the 9:30 am service on the theme Loving God. This study uses a video, reflection, and discussion format that requires no study or preparation outside of the class. Just come to the class session in the Conference Room! (office wing of the building) The class meets from 10:40 to 11:30 each Sunday morning and is led by a rotating team of facilitators – Chris Ryan, Bob Dean, and Carol Pozuc. All materials are provided; just bring yourself, and a heart open to knowing God more fully.

Ushers

January 5 - Team 5

January 12 - Team 6

January 19 - Team 1

January 26 - Team 2

If you are unsure of what Team you are on please check the website at

www.kentmethodist.org

> Calendar > Service Team Schedule

VIDEOTAPING SCHEDULE

January 5 - Eric Wertz

January 12 - Jack Miller

January 19 - Gary Mote

January 26 - Eric Wertz

Hospitalized and Surgeries:

Janet Crnkovich, Marta Lane, Carol Neff,
Robert McGowen, Marjorie Tronge,
Joan McCandless

Canal District Leadership Training

Saturday, January 25, 2014

9:00am – 3:00pm

Wooster UMC 243 N. Market St.
Wooster, OH 44691

The Canal District leadership training event this year features both morning and afternoon workshops, with a luncheon and keynote speaker in between. You will find a description of the full event posted on our church bulletin board. You can register for the whole event or part of it. Cost for lunch is \$8. The church will cover the church cost. Please let our office know if you are planning to attend. This event is open to all church members.



January 5 - Sharon Coia

January 12 - Don Ashton

January 19 - Betty Sweet

January 26 - April Hinkle

Lay Readers

January 5 - Judy Price

January 12 - Hal Hall

January 19 - Dan Cox

January 26 - Lee Hall

New Member Orientation

The *New Member Orientation* is for all persons who are interested in learning more about our church and who are interested potentially in joining the church. It is led by Dr. Palmer and will take place in two sessions during the month of January.

The first session will be on Sunday, January 12, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. This session provides an overview of the United Methodist Church. The class meets in room 200 in the education wing (the first room at the top of the stairs). Child care is offered throughout the session.

The second session will be on Saturday, January 25, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. This session includes a "New Member Dessert," with the desserts brought in by members of the church. The session provides a more specific orientation to our local church, plus a preparation for the worship service in which persons are received into membership. Child care is again offered throughout the session.

Persons choosing to join the church will be received into membership during any of our three worship hours on Sunday, January 26. If you (or someone you know) would be interested in being a part of this new member orientation, or if you would like more information, please be in touch with our church office.



Our Sympathies Go To:

Margaret and Phyllis Neel on the death of their cousin.

January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Years Day Office Closed	2 7am Men's Discussion Group/Diggers Rest 12pm Lion Lunch/PH 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	3 January 3-5, 2014 30-Hour Famine Saline Michigan	4 10am- 1pm Farmers Market in Pierson Hall
5 <i>Communion</i> <i>Regular Sunday</i> <i>Schedule</i>	6 7:30 New Spirit/Choir Room	7 8:30 am Men's Work Group 12/Noon Rotary/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	8 6pm Yoga/Parlor 7-8:30pm Youth Group/ Pit 8:30-1030pm Praise Band Rehearsal	9 7am Men's Discussion Group/Diggers Rest 12pm Lion Lunch/PH 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	10	11 10am- 1pm Farmers Market in Pierson Hall
12 <i>Regular Sunday</i> <i>Schedule</i> <i>11:30am Chili Cook-off/</i> <i>PH</i>	13 7:30 New Spirit/Choir Room	14 8:30 am Men's Work Group 12/Noon Rotary/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	15 6pm Yoga/Parlor 7-8:30pm Youth Group/ Pit 8:30-1030pm Praise Band Rehearsal	16 7am Men's Discussion Group/Diggers Rest 12pm Lion Lunch/PH 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	17	18 10am- 1pm Farmers Market in Pierson Hall
19 <i>Regular Sunday</i> <i>Schedule</i>	20 MLK DAY Office Closed 7:30 New Spirit/Choir Room	21 8:30 am Men's Work Group 12/Noon Rotary/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	22 6pm Yoga/Parlor 7-8:30pm Youth Group/ Pit 8:30-1030pm Praise Band Rehearsal	23 7am Men's Discussion Group/Diggers Rest 12pm Lion Lunch/PH 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	24 Regular Sunday Schedule 8:30 Worship/Chapel 9:00 Holy Donut Shop/Kitchen 9:15 Children's Choir, 4 yrs-6th grade 9:30 Contemporary Worship Service/ Gym 9:30 New Spirit/Sanctuary 9:30-10:15 University of Life Classes	25 s
26 <i>Regular Sunday</i> <i>Schedule</i>	27 7:30 New Spirit/Choir Room 7pm Finance Committee Meeting/Conference Rm.	28 8:30 am Men's Work Group 12/Noon Rotary/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	29 6pm Yoga/Parlor 7-8:30pm Youth Group/ Pit 8:30-1030pm Praise Band Rehearsal	30 7am Men's Discussion Group/Diggers Rest 12pm Lion Lunch/PH 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir 7pm Gifts, Memorial, and Investments/ Confer. Rm.	3 9:30 Child Care 10:30 Worship/Nursery 10:40 Sunday School Preschool-6th Grade 11:30 Fellowship Time/Pierson Hall 11:45 Chancel Ringers/Sanc 5to 6 pm Club 56/gym 5 to 6 pm Resurrection/Choir Room 6 pm ZAMARingers(Y outh Handbells) Sanctuary	

Thank You Notes

Thank you to all of the people that helped make the new and improved Consecration Sunday and Continental Breakfast a meaningful and worthwhile event.

Thank you to Stewardship committee members Laing Kennedy and Gayle Pytel for helping prepare, serve, and clean up. Thank you to Lee and Hal Hall for picking up the extra donuts. Thank you to Beckwith's for donating apples and cider to enhance the brunch. Thank you to Shirley Beaumont and Sharon Coia for serving the beverages. Thank you to Lynnette Lavery for helping create this new format. Everyone's efforts made for a very nice and spiritual morning.

Sincerely,
Julie Schmidt
Stewardship Chairperson

Thank you for all the cards, phone calls, flowers, visits and food I received from members of the church when I had recent knee replacement surgery.

Thanks, to Doug Denton for his visits and phone calls. To Susan Maxwell for bringing me communion. and to Margaret and Phyllis Neel for delivering the Altar Flowers.

Also thanks for the prayer quilt. It is wonderful to belong to such a caring church.

Sue Harvey

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the staff, volunteers, and recipients of the Lord's Pantry and Hot Meal Program of Kent Social Services, we would like to express our sincere thanks for your generous donation this holiday season.

Each year Kent Social Services continues to advance its mission of feeding those in need. Through our hot meal and pantry programs, we have seen many lives changed for the better. With the help of donations from supporters such as you, we will continue to see improvements in our program.

Again, we would like to say thank you, we could never do it without the compassionate support from people like you.

Happy Holidays,
Christie Anderson
KSS Manager
Marquice Seward
KSS Assistant Manager

Dear Kent United Methodist Church Volunteers,

On behalf of Catholic Charities Serving Portage and Stark Counties, I would like to thank you for your continuing donation of potatoes and corn to our Emergency Food Pantry. Your generous gifts will allow us to continue to serve those in our community who are in need by providing them with opportunities to access assistance in a welcoming, caring, environment.

As you know, during these difficult times we are even more dependent upon our community for its generosity and support. Please know that your kindness is greatly appreciated.

On behalf of those who will receive assistance through your donation, we want to say thank you and may God bless you always.

Sincerely yours,
George Garchar
Executive Director
Catholic Charities
Serving Portage and Stark Counties

Central Conference Pension Initiative \$25 Million Fundraising Goal Accomplished.

The Central Conference Pension Initiative (CCPI) has achieved its \$25 million challenge goal - the amount needed to fund pensions for current retirees and surviving spouses in the central conferences (those outside the United States). A recent generous donation from the General Board of Discipleship completed our fundraising - making it possible to retire the fundraising effort once all pledged contributions are received.

With the achievement of this goal, all clergy around the world, including every eligible central conference pastor, now have reliable pension support through their conference and/or government program. In January 2013, all central conferences seeking pension support through CCPI had met the necessary pension program start-up criteria. Plans are now fully funded and in operation in Africa, Asia and Europe, covering 2,801 retirees and surviving spouses. *[Our Church contributed \$12,500 to this goal.]*

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David Palmer,
Senior Pastor

Douglas Denton,
Minister of Pastoral Care

Rick Stout,
Director of
Christian Education
And
Youth Ministries

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START THE YEAR RIGHT - START WITH GOD!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ARTICLES — 10TH OF EACH MONTH

WORSHIP CALENDAR

SUNDAY	SERMON	SCRIPTURE	PREACHER	SPECIAL EVENT
January 5	"Silent Night, Holy Night"	Isaiah 60: 1-6 Matthew 2: 1-12	Rev. Douglas Denton	Communion
January 12	"That Only Happens in the Bible"	Luke 1: 5-25	Dr. David Palmer	Children's Choir
January 19	"How to Answer When God Calls"	Isaiah 6: 1-8	Dr. David Palmer	Black College Fund/ Spiritual Gifts Inventory
January 26	"How Do We Know When It Is God Speaking"	I Kings 22: 1-17	Dr. David Palmer	New Members Join/ ZAMARingers



Visit our Church Web Site: <http://www.kentmethodist.org>

Visit us
on the Web

