



THE METHODIST MOSAIC

Volume 66 Number 8

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

August, 2024



LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS

Give “Missing Recess” The Boot

Recently, members of our congregation contacted Kent City Schools to ask about what supplies they need the most for the upcoming school year. The answer wasn't what you'd expect. It wasn't crayons, pencils, or folders that were needed, but boots! Did you know that some kids have to miss recess in the colder months because they don't own boots? No child should have to stay inside during their recess because they don't own the proper shoes. For the month of August, we'll be collecting children sized rain or snow boots. Please only donate boots that are new or gently used. Donations may be taken to the designated container in the atrium. Let's give missing recess the boot!

Save the Dates: Trash and Treasure Sale August 22–24

The dates have been set for this year's Trash and Treasure Sale. With a big “thank you” to Carol Pozuc and the excellent team of committed volunteers, please mark your calendars with the following dates:

- Donations of items will be received beginning the evening of August 13 through August 20.
- The sale will run from the evening of August 22 through August 24.

Save the Date: Fall Kickoff, September 8

On Sunday, September 8, we will resume fall programming, including Sunday school classes for children, youth, and adults. To celebrate the day together, we will have one worship service only, at 10 am in the Sanctuary, and that worship service will be followed by a potluck picnic. Please plan to join us.



Youth Ministry News

August 2024

AUGUST ACOLYTES	
AUGUST 4	Joseph Lepp
AUGUST 11	Jozsi Jakab
AUGUST 18	Audrey Hinkle
AUGUST 25	Alex Alderson

The time has come to start again. Fall Sports seasons have begun to practice, school shopping has begun and many of the traditions associated with the fall are beginning. Our youth group will also be starting back up very soon as well.

We **WILL** be having a confirmation class again this year! Youth group will restart with a normal format on Sunday, September 8 at 7:00 pm. We have already selected the dates of June 21-28 for the Mountain T.O.P. trip during the summer of 25, which will also be a very special year as it is

our churches 25th anniversary on the mountain!

We are planning for a Halloween party, another trip Rock Climbing and much, much more. Be looking for a "Welcome Back" letter with all the details in the mail soon, and let's get ready to have an awesome year!

Shalom,
Rick<><

Confirmation News

One of the most important parts of the life of the church is Confirmation. For seventh (and sometimes eighth, ninth or tenth) graders, Confirmation provides an opportunity to really think about what it means to be a Christian, and it leads up to the Service of Confirmation, when young people "confirm" or "say yes" to the Christian faith.

Our Confirmation program is a combination of classroom experiences, where we focus on major elements of Christian faith, and local mission trips -- where we put Christian faith into action. Our Confirmation Class generally gathers once a month on a Saturday. We have a class session at the church in the morning, followed by an afternoon trip.

Confirmation begins with a **CONFIRMATION LUNCHEON**, immediately following worship on Sunday, September 15. This is for all students grades seven and beyond who have not been confirmed, and their parents and families. You are invited to a light lunch, after which Rick Stout and Pastor Nathan will explain the Confirmation program in detail. We should be finished by about 1:15 PM. It is very important that everyone planning to be a part of Confirmation be present for this luncheon. This is what will "bring you on board" with our Confirmation program. To register for Confirmation and for the September 15 luncheon, please contact Rick Stout at the Church office

Attention all third graders and their parents

As you enter the third grade this year, your church would like to present you with a very special gift -- your very own Bible. The Bible is one of the most wonderful gifts that the church can give, because it contains God's message of salvation!

Bible Presentation Sunday will be September 8 during the unified 10:00 a.m. service being planned for that day; third graders and their parents will be called to the front of the sanctuary to receive Bibles. Parents are involved in the Bible presentation, because this is a way of recognizing the important role that parents play in enabling children to attend church.

Of course, the Bible only becomes valuable when we use it. To this end, we have some powerful helps for third graders learning to use their Bible. First, our Sunday School enables children to really learn the Bible, how to use it, and how to apply its message to our lives. Secondly, we have a Bible mentor program. Each third grader is paired with an adult who will be his or her Bible mentor throughout the school year. Mentors guide third graders through a variety of activities that help them to enjoy, appreciate, and become familiar with their Bible. The mentors are also invited to be part of the Bible presentation and will be given a Mentor guide on that day.

If you have questions or would like to sign your 3rd grader up to receive a Bible, please contact Rick Stout at 330-283-4838 or rickstout@kentmethodist.org

Attention Sunday School Teachers

There will be a meeting for all Sunday School Teachers and those interested in becoming Sunday School teachers on Sunday, August 18th at 11:30 in the conference room. Additionally, if you are interested in helping in the Sunday School this year, please plan on attending the meeting. We are still in need of some lead teachers, and teacher's aides to work on selected Sundays with lead teachers.

Back to School Blessing and Backpack Tags

Sunday, August 18
all three worship services
(8:30 am, 9:30 am, 10:30 am)

Join us in worship on August 18 as we pray for students, teachers, and support staff in our local schools as they begin a new school year (Kent State University fall classes begin on August 19, and Kent City Schools begin classes on August 21). We will have “backpack tags” available as a reminder of God’s love—and our congregation’s love—throughout the new school year.



Take Me Out to the Ballgame!

Akron RubberDucks vs.
Harrisburg Senators
Sunday, August 25 at 1:05 pm
at Canal Park

Invite friends and neighbors and bring the whole family for an afternoon of baseball and fellowship at Canal Park as the Akron RubberDucks take on the Harrisburg Senators. Tickets are \$12 each, payable to “UMCK,” and the deadline to reserve your ticket is Monday, August 19 (or whenever we run out of tickets). For more information and to reserve your tickets, contact Adam Alderson in the office (adamalderson@kentmethodist.org).

Upcoming Book Discussions

Rough Sleepers: Dr. Jim O’Connell’s Urgent Mission to Bring Healing to Homeless People
by Tracy Kidder

Tuesday, August 6, at 7 pm in the Conference Room

When Jim O’Connell graduated from Harvard Medical School and was nearing the end of his residency at Massachusetts General Hospital, the chief of medicine made a proposal: Would he defer a prestigious fellowship and spend a year helping to create an organization to bring health care to homeless citizens? That proposal turned into O’Connell’s life’s calling. In *Rough Sleepers*, Tracy Kidder travels with O’Connell as he navigates the city, offering medical care, socks, soup, empathy, humor, and friendship to some of the city’s most vulnerable citizens—the “rough sleepers” who sleep on the streets. Along the way, he shows how one person can make a difference by creating a community of care.

The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World
by Dalai Lama XIV, Desmond Tutu, and Douglas Abrams

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

Nobel Peace Prize Laureates His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu have survived more than fifty years of exile and the soul-crushing violence of oppression. Yet, despite their hardships—or, as they would say, because of them—they have been two of the most joyful people on the planet. In April 2015, Archbishop Tutu traveled to the Dalai Lama’s home to celebrate His Holiness’ eightieth birthday and to create a gift for others, offering some of their hard-won, practical wisdom about living with joy in the face of life’s inevitable suffering.

Mountain T.O.P. Adults in Ministry Trip

On the dates of October 24-27, the United Methodist Church of Kent will be sponsoring an adult trip to Mountain T.O.P. Therefore, on Sunday August 11, there will be an information and organizational meeting at 11:30 in the conference room. At this meeting details about this trip will be given out and questions will be answered. If you would like to attend the trip but can't attend the meeting please contact Rick Stout at 330-283-4838.

East Ohio Conference Book Discussion *Our Hearts Were Strangely Lukewarm: The American Methodist Church and the Struggle with White Supremacy* by John Elford

Saturday, September 21

Our East Ohio Conference has invited all congregations to read *Our Hearts Were Strangely Warmed* and to join a broad conversation of the book on Saturday, September 21. This book invites us on a journey through Methodist history from John Wesley to the present day. Along the way, we discover the many ways the White American Methodist Church became seriously entangled with White supremacy, and we'll find inspiration in those Methodists who stood against the tide and those today who are guiding the church toward the horizon of racial justice. More details regarding the book discussion will be shared as they become available. In the meantime, please begin reading this important book and plan to join us.

MAKE YOUR RECEIPTS COUNT!

Acme announced the dates for its 2024-2025 Community Cash Back program, which runs from August 1 through February 15. Your Acme receipts can be placed in the collection envelope in the kitchen on the refrigerator and will be submitted to the Cash Back program for our UWF mission donations. UWF received over \$330.00 for missions at the beginning of this year. Receipts that are acceptable must be the entire receipt and have "Community Cash Back" listed at the bottom followed by a dollar amount. Receipts that are missing this information or those that are partial receipts cannot be submitted. UWF appreciates your efforts to collect and bring these receipts to us, so please let's make sure that they count!

Breakfast "To Go" for KSU Students *Monday, August 19*

The first day of classes for KSU students will be Monday, August 19. With so many students parking in our lot, this gives us an easy opportunity to offer a little support and hospitality as they begin the fall semester. Please donate breakfast bars, granola bars, and other individually wrapped breakfast items that can be available to students as they head from our parking lot to campus for their first day of classes. And if you are interested in being present at the table with these items during the day on Monday, August 19, please contact Rick Stout (rickstout@kentmethodist.org) or Chelsea Alderson (chelseaalderson@kentmethodist.org).

New 6-Week Bible Study: *The Gospel of Mark: A Beginner's Guide to the Good News* *Mondays at 7 pm, September 8 – 15, October 6 – 27* *Conference Room*

All youth and adults are welcome to join us for a 6-week study of the Bible's earliest Gospel. If you plan to participate, you are invited to read the first four chapters of Mark in preparation for our first group conversation on September 8. There is no additional book to purchase; just use, and bring with you, whichever translation of the Bible you prefer. Contact Pastor Nathan by email (nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org) for additional information.

Grundy County Fall Festival Coat Drive 2024

On October 24-27, the United Methodist Church of Kent will again be sponsoring an adult trip to Mountain T.O.P. As part of this weekend Mountain T.O.P. will be hosting its annual Fall Festival where shoes and boots, winter coats, books and school supplies will be distributed to the people of Grundy County. Towards this end Mountain T.O.P. has asked The United Methodist Church of Kent to sponsor a coat collection for the fall festival. During the months of September and October we will be collecting new or gently used coats and jackets of various sizes to be given out to the people of Grundy County. If you have questions, please contact Rick Stout at 330-283-4838 or at rickstout@kentmethodist.org

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

Ohio Episcopal Area



New Bishop Assigned to the East Ohio Conference Beginning September 1, 2024

On July 13, it was announced that the North Central Jurisdiction Committee on the Episcopacy has assigned Bishop Hee-Soo Jung to be resident bishop of the new Ohio Episcopal Area effective September 1, 2024. As resident bishop of this newly-formed episcopal area, he will be bishop of both the East Ohio Conference and the West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Bishop Jung has served as resident bishop of the Wisconsin Conference for the past twelve years after previously serving eight years as resident bishop of the Northern Illinois Conference. He has served as president of the General Board of Global Ministries since 2016 and chair of the United Methodist Korean National Plan since 2012.

Bishop Jung earned a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He also holds an M.A. from the Institute of Buddhist Studies, affiliated with the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California; an M.A. from the Dongguk University Graduate School in Seoul, South Korea; and a B.Th. from the Methodist Theological Seminary in Seoul, South Korea. He and his wife, Im-Hyon, an elder in the Wisconsin Conference, are the parents of two adult children and the grandparents of one.

Bishop Tracy S. Malone, who has been resident bishop of our East Ohio Conference since September 1, 2016, has been assigned resident bishop of the Indiana Conference effective September 1, 2024.

Dear Church family,

We are pleased to share with you an update on our church's financial stewardship and ministry impact over the past six months. Financial statements are more than a regulatory requirement—they are the cornerstone of transparency and accountability. They are a narrative that intertwines faith and stewardship. Here, amid the soft echoes of hymns and the warmth of community, financial statements take on a deeper significance, reflecting the congregation's commitment to their spiritual mission and the responsible management of resources entrusted to them.

As dedicated servants of the faith entrusted with overseeing the financial health of the congregation, throughout the year, we have worked hand in hand with the Counting, Finance, Budget and Stewardship Committees, poring over spreadsheets and entries that chronicled the ebb and flow of donations, expenditures, and investments. They tell a story of the faithful contributions, each tithe and offering representing not just monetary gifts but acts of devotion and support for the church's ministries. These funds were carefully recorded, not merely as entries in a ledger, but as symbols of trust and belief in the mission to spread love, compassion, and spiritual growth.

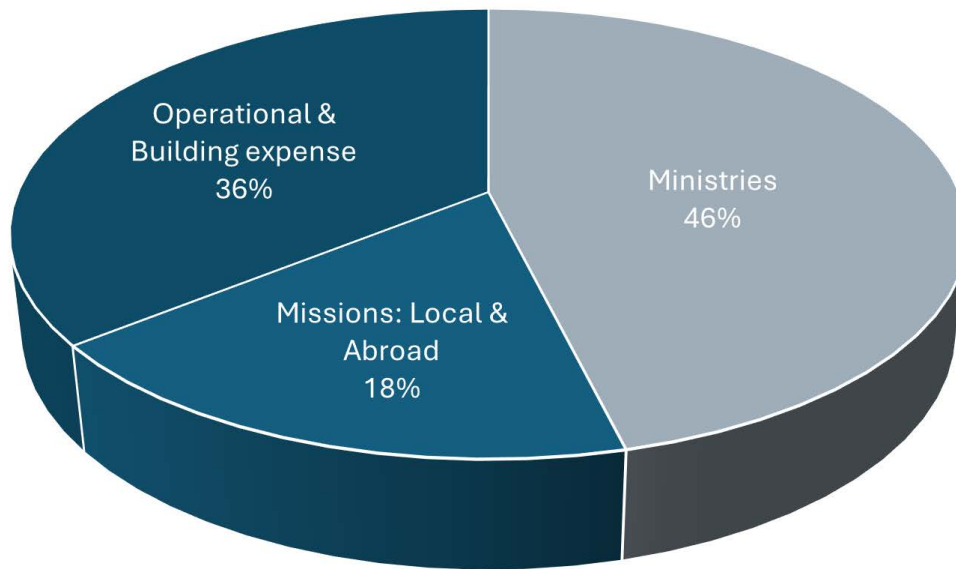
As the year unfolded, included were the operational expenses necessary to sustain the church's ministries and vibrant community life. From maintaining the sanctuary and facilities to supporting outreach programs and pastoral care, every dollar spent reflected a commitment to nurturing both the spiritual and practical needs of members and the broader community. Church ministries include not only worship services, but fellowship groups like women's circles, Tuesday morning work group, music ministries, children's ministries like VBS, youth group, bible studies, book groups, prayer quilts and transportation ministry. Community life includes such groups as Lions, Rotary, AA groups, Al-anon groups, NA groups, UCM, Basketball, Tree City Preschool, Boy Scouts, and elections along with many other hosted groups and events. Not only do our ministries happen when someone enters our facility, they also happen when we reach out to our neighbors and enjoy things like community walks.

The ministry connection speaks of missions locally and abroad, where funds supported humanitarian efforts to spread the teachings of faith to distant corners of the world. It highlighted outreach initiatives, where church resources were deployed to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and provide hope to those in need. We have supported Habitat for Humanity Apostle Build, the Marie Miller house, KIFA (Kent Inter Faith Alliance) UCM (United Christian Ministries), Kent Social Services, Neighborhood Bridges, Hunger Network, Hurman Relations, Native American Sunday, Peach with Justice, and UMCOR (see some specific numbers below).

Moreover, investments were made to ensure the church's long-term sustainability and growth. Prudent financial stewardship meant not only meeting immediate needs but also planning for the future; building reserves, maintaining endowments, and investing in infrastructure that would support generations to come. Funds set aside for future projects include funds for the paving and restriping of the parking lot, for future needs of the organ, tools or equipment needed to maintain our large facility, needed renovations, as well as endowments managed by our Gifts & Memorial committee to ensure our future.

The financial health of the church was not without its challenges. Economic downturns and changes in leadership and staff tested resilience, prompting careful budget adjustments and calls for increased community support. Yet, through it all, you have remained steadfast in our message of faith, resilience, and unwavering commitment to serving a higher purpose. These are the stories of impact—lives transformed, communities strengthened, and hope renewed through the collective generosity and dedication of this church family.

In the end, the financial health of the church is more than a balance sheet or income statement. It is a testament to faith in action, a testament to the enduring bonds of community, and a testament to the belief that every dollar given and spent was a sacred trust—a means to fulfill the church's mission to love and serve others, guided by the teachings of compassion and grace. Thank you for your faithful and continuing participation in the ministry of building God's beloved community.



A few specific missions we support

Local Kent Social Svc (gas/bus cards)	\$1,875
Kent Social Services (food gift cards)	\$1,600
Neighborhood bridges	\$139
Hunger Network	\$251
Human Relations Day	\$1,070
Native American Sunday	\$695
Peace with Justice	\$1,726
UMCOR Sunday	\$2,140
UMCOR	\$3,300
Beef Fund	\$1,500
Habitat for Humanity Apostle Build	\$19,170
Lord's Lunches	\$368
Apportionments	\$55,818
Shared Ministry Goal	\$4,057

August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH	2	3
4 Summer Schedule	5 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/Gym	6 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	7	8 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans	9	10
11 Summer Schedule	12 7-8 pm Goodyear Concert Band/Sanctuary 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/Gym	13 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	14	15 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH	16	17
18 Summer Schedule	19 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/Gym	20 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	21	22 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 6-8 pm Trash and Treasure Sale/Pierson Hall	23 9 am-3 pm Trash and Treasure Sale/Pierson Hall	24 9 am-1 pm Trash and Treasure Sale/Pierson Hall
25 Summer Schedule RubberDucks Game 1:05 pm Canal Park, Akron	26 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/Gym	27 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	28	29 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans	30 Summer Sunday Schedule 8:30 Worship Service/Chapel 9:30 Contemporary Service/Gym 9:30 Sunday School—Preschool-6th Grade, Youth 10:30 Worship Service/Sanctuary 10:30 Child Care/Nursery 11:30 Fellowship Time/Pierson Hall	

USHERS AND GREETERS

Date	8:30/10:30
August 4	6
August 11	1
August 18	2
August 25	3
If you are unsure of what team you are on, please call the office at 330-673-5879 x14 or email Cara at caradesko@kentmethodist.org.	

Recent Hospitalizations and Surgeries:

Dan Bell, Jason Bergman, Gail Closs, Marlene Hardy-Gomez, Sue Maxwell

AUGUST FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS

AUGUST 4	Melody Neumiller
AUGUST 11	Please consider volunteering so that we can continue offering Fellowship Hour. (see right)
AUGUST 18	
AUGUST 25	

Fellowship Hour— Help Needed

If you would like to host fellowship hour, you can sign up at 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.

10:30 CAMERA SCHEDULE

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

AUGUST LAY READERS

AUGUST 4	Alex Seed
AUGUST 11	Krista Clavecilla
AUGUST 18	Janet Sessions
AUGUST 25	Wendy Seed

Lay Visitation Training to Begin

Last spring, several folks met together to begin exploring ways in which to develop our lay visitation ministry. We will offer training those interested in lay visitation beginning Saturday August 24 from 10 am until noon. There will be three sessions Aug 24, Sept 7, and concluding Sept 21. Those interested in becoming trained in Lay Visitation ministry, please contact Rev. Bob Machovec at bobmachovec@kentmethodist.org or phone 234-282-6009.

Thank You Notes

Dear friends,

Thank you for your recent donation of \$72.10 to Kent Social Services hot meal and pantry program. Your contribution helps us provide aid and

bridge the gap to those in our community who suffer from food insecurities and hardships.

Kent Social Services would not be successful without the generous support of such a caring community. We want to remind you that you are truly helping us make a difference. Thank you again for your donation and generosity.

Marquice Seward,
KSS Program Manager

Thanks so much to my wonderful church family for your continued support following my recent knee surgery. The gorgeous flowers from the June 30 service that Patti and Peg delivered to me, the many uplifting cards and messages, and offers for help as well as our pastor visits have been much appreciated.

Sue Maxwell

I was overwhelmed with the support from the Church members with my hip surgery. All the prayers and cards are much appreciated. They found a few extra things while I was in the hospital and they are working on them. What a caring congregation you are.

Gail Closs



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Church of Kent
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**Church Office:
330-673-5879
Web Site:**

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 July 26

*The Goodyear Band will perform its annual summer concert in
our Sanctuary on Monday, August 12 at 7:00 PM!*

Worship Calendar

Date	Week	Scripture	Preacher	Special Event
August 4	11th Sunday after Pentecost	2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a; Psalm 51:1-12; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35	Will Fenton-Jones, Dir. of Multicultural Ministries for the East Ohio Conference	
August 11	12th Sunday after Pentecost	2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130; Ephesians 4:24-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51	Rev. Angela Lewis, District Superintendent for the Northern Waters District	
August 18	13th Sunday after Pentecost	1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14; Psalm 111; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58	Rev. Bob Machovec	
August 25	14th Sunday after Pentecost	1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30; Psalm 84; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:59-69	Rev. Bob Machovec	RubberDucks Game



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or on Instagram/Twitter @kentmethodist

