



# THE METHODIST MOSAIC

Volume 66 Number 12

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

December, 2024



## **Advent – Christmas Worship Series**

### *Blessings for New Beginnings*

#### *1st Sunday of Advent (December 1) – Epiphany Sunday (January 5)*

Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year begins. Christ's birth ushers us into a new way of living and loving; and yet, the world as we know it spins madly onward. In many ways, Mary was surrounded by endings: large and small, personal and political. But she also proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new. Christ's birth offered a beautiful new beginning for shepherds and magi alike. Meanwhile, King Herod tried to bring Christ's story to a premature end. As we navigate seasons filled with endings and beginnings, we need reminders of God's blessings: words that can steady us like a firm path for our feet as we step forward into the unknown.

This year, as we journey together through the Advent and Christmas seasons, we will focus in worship on words of blessing: words we need to hear again and again as we begin a new season or chapter of life. As we travel together in the coming weeks, may you hear words of blessing, belovedness, and hope. May you hear words for beginning again. No matter what lies ahead of you, no matter what this new day or season will bring, God's love is your new beginning.

<b>December 1 (First Sunday of Advent):</b>	Being a Blessing
<b>December 8 (Second Sunday of Advent):</b>	The Blessing of Companions
<b>December 15 (Third Sunday of Advent):</b>	The Blessing of Doing Good
<b>December 22 (Fourth Sunday of Advent):</b>	The Blessing (and Risk) of Hope
<b>December 24 (Christmas Eve):</b>	The Blessing of Love Made Flesh
<b>December 29 (First Sunday after Christmas Day):</b>	The Blessing of Joy
<b>January 5 (Epiphany Sunday):</b>	The Blessing of New Beginnings

# Youth Ministry News

December 2024

## DECEMBER ACOLYTES

DECEMBER 1	Rose Filler
DECEMBER 8	Zach Filler
DECEMBER 15	Maddy Conley
DECEMBER 22	Liam Russell
DECEMBER 24	6 PM - Evelyn Goff
	9 PM - Libby Filler
DECEMBER 29	Rose Filler

Late fall is always a busy time in the lives of our youth. On November 16, the youth had an afternoon of trampoline fun at Sky Zone with 13 members and several invited friends. On December 22nd we are planning to Christmas carol at Kent Ridge with the children's ministry kids. Look for more exciting youth events as we start the new year.

Thinking about next year, I am excited about all the things we have yet to come. Planning has already begun for our mission trip. We are preparing an exciting 30 Hour Famine in the spring, then there is Youth Sunday, and so much more. I am grateful for the way that

the youth have taken ownership of their own youth group with the understanding that programming doesn't grow a youth group, the willingness to invite friends does. It makes me excited to see what God has in store for the future of our youth.

Shalom,  
Rick<><

## Thank you

On behalf of the people of Grundy County and the staff at the Mountain T.O.P. ministry, I'd like to say thank you for the many, many coats that were given by the members of our church to this year's fall festival. Our church donated over 220 coats, combined with the coats remaining from previous years giving us a total of 481 coats that were distributed to the 320 community members that came through the gates on October 26th. In other exciting news, the 258 coats that remain will be sent to Asheville, North Carolina to be distributed to those who lost everything in the Hurricane.

## Goodyear Band Christmas Concert Sunday, December 15, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary

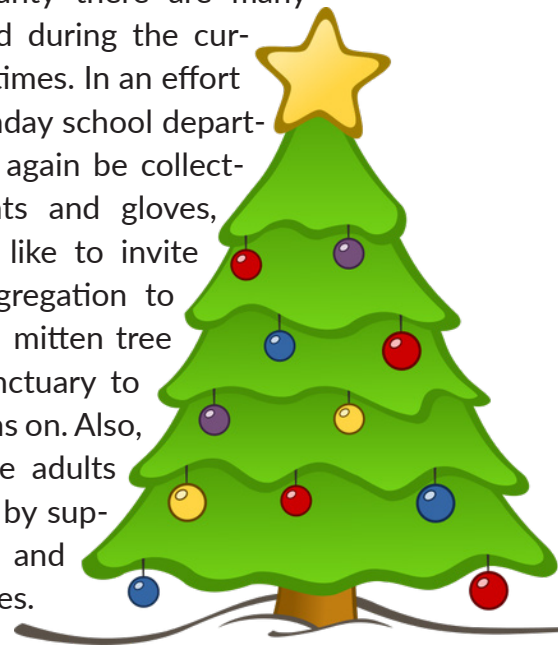
We again host the Goodyear Band for an annual Christmas concert in our sanctuary. The one-hour concert is followed by a fellowship time with punch and cookies in Pierson Hall. This event is open to all and always draws broadly from our community.

## DECEMBER YOUTH CALENDAR

SUNDAY 1	NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES
SATURDAY 7	Confirmation
SUNDAY 8	6-7 PM ZAMARingers 7-8:30 PM Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 15	6-7 PM ZAMARingers 7-8:30 PM Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 22	Caroling at Kent Ridge
SUNDAY 29	NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES

## CHRISTMAS MITTEN TREE:

In Portage County there are many families in need during the current economic times. In an effort to help, the Sunday school department will once again be collecting mittens hats and gloves, and we would like to invite the entire congregation to help. There is a mitten tree outside the sanctuary to place the mittens on. Also, please keep the adults in mind as well by supplying gloves and hats in adult sizes.





The holiday season can be especially difficult for some of us, a painful reminder of what has been lost or of what has never been. All are welcome to join us on the Longest Night of the year, **Saturday, December 21, at 7 pm in the Chapel** for a worship service of scripture, prayer, music, candlelight, and Holy Communion. Invite others, also, and join us as we reaffirm together our faith in God's presence with us, even in the darkest and loneliest seasons of our lives.

### **4-Week Advent Study**

*The Christmas Letters:  
Celebrating Advent with Those Who  
Told the Story First*  
by Magrey deVega

**Mondays at 7 pm, November 25 –  
December 16 in the Parlor**

This four-week study for Advent will invite us to hear the story and significance of Jesus' birth from those who first told the story: the writers of the New Testament's letters. These letters contain the church's first attempts to understand and celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation—Jesus Christ being fully human and fully divine. Join us as we consider these sacred, ancient words together and the impact they might have on our lives today. Please contact Pastor Nathan for more information ([nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org](mailto:nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org)).

### **Lighting the Candles on the Advent Wreath**

*Sundays of Advent and Christmas Eve*

On December 1 this year, we will start counting down the Sundays leading to Christmas, and in our worship together, we will light an additional candle each Sunday on the Advent wreath. This is a great opportunity especially for families with children to participate in a tangible ritual, but of course, individuals, friends, or any other groupings are more than welcome, too. For more information or to sign up to offer a short reading and light the candle(s) on the Advent wreath this year during any of our three Sunday morning worship services from December 1 through December 24 or during either of our Christmas Eve worship services in the Sanctuary (6 pm and 9 pm), please contact Pastor Nathan ([nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org](mailto:nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org)).

We want to thank all the people who gave so generously to the Santa Shop at the County Clothing Center. As of this week our Church has contributed more than 150 lbs of clothing, toys and blankets. Your giving will make a huge difference in the lives of many people this Christmas. Without your help many members of our local community would not have a happy Holiday Season. Thank you again, and bless you all!  
—Tina, Donna and Dottie.

**Sunday Afternoon Walk**  
*Sunday, December 8 at 4 pm*  
*Trail Lake Park*

We are blessed locally with multiple park systems that provide abundant opportunities to enjoy God's creation. Invite a friend or neighbor and join us on Sunday, December 8 as we experience the beauty of one of our local parks. We will meet in the parking lot of Trail Lake Park (605 Ravenna Road, Streetsboro) at 4 pm and then walk together along one or more of the paths. If you plan to join us, please RSVP to Pastor Nathan (nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org) by the end of the day on Thursday, December 5.

**Christmas Eve Worship Schedule**  
*3 pm at The KentRidge Senior Living*  
*6 pm and 9 pm in our Sanctuary*

Worship with us at 3 pm, 6 pm, or 9 pm as we celebrate the gift of God's presence with us in Jesus Christ. The 3 pm worship service will be with our neighbors at The KentRidge Senior Living (5241 Sunnybrook Road, Kent). We would like for some of our congregation to worship alongside the residents there; because space will be limited, please contact Pastor Nathan if you plan to join us (nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org). The 6 pm and 9 pm worship services will be in our Sanctuary. The 6 pm worship service will include music led by our modern worship band. The 9 pm worship service will include music led by the organ and the sanctuary choir. Each worship service will conclude with candlelight and singing "Silent Night." Please join us for one or more of these worship opportunities on Christmas Eve.

**Altar Flowers Sign Up**

The new 2025 calendar to sign up to sponsor altar flowers for the 8:30 and 10:30 worship services is now available in the Atrium. Please print clearly your name, whether you are dedicating in memory or in honor, and to whom or what you are dedicating the flowers. Altar flowers are \$35 to sponsor, which can be paid by check with your regular offering. Just mark it "Flowers" in the memo line. Thank you for supporting this ministry!

**Volunteers needed**

Volunteers are needed to help take blood pressures in the Parlor before the 10:30 service each Sunday. Volunteers would need to arrive by 10 AM. Training will be provided. Please contact Betty Sweet at 330-673-5700 for more details or to volunteer.

Hello to all our church family!

Please come to our Christmas open house on Sunday, December 15. Hours are 3 pm–9 pm at 609 Edgewood Dr. in Kent (330-524-3363). Please help us kick off the holiday season with your presence—we'd love to see you!

—Georgia Foster and Sarah Derrit

**Short-Term Studies for Youth and Adults**

*Mondays at 7 pm in the Parlor*

All youth and adults are welcome to join us for short-term studies on Monday evenings in the parlor. Children always are welcome, too, with childcare available in Room 202 (the children's choir room). Please join us:

**Our United Methodist Social Principles (6 weeks)**

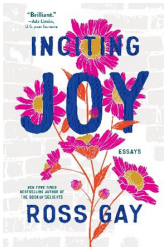
*Mondays at 7 pm, January 20 - February 24*

First adopted by the 1972 General Conference, the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church reflect our shared response to today's most pressing social issues. During an eight-year time-frame, the General Board of Church and Society managed a global process toward a significant revision of these statements which was then approved by the 2024 General Conference. As 2025 begins, we will explore and discuss our Social Principles and consider opportunities for our congregation to move from discussion to advocacy, moving our faith into faithful action. Please join us.

## Upcoming Book Discussions

### *Inciting Joy: Essays* by Ross Gay

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

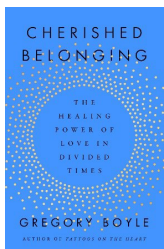


In these gorgeously written and timely pieces, poet and author Ross Gay considers the joy we incite when we care for each other, especially through life's hard moments. Throughout *Inciting Joy*, taking a clear-eyed look at injustice, political polarization, and the destruction of the natural world, he explores how we might resist and how the study of joy might lead us to a wild, unpredictable, and unboundaried solidarity that will help us survive and do so with joy.

### *Cherished Belonging: The Healing Power of Love in Divided Times*

by Gregory Boyle

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

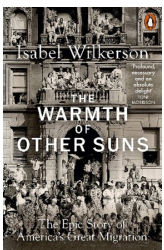


Over the past thirty years, the Jesuit priest Gregory Boyle has helped to transform tens of thousands of lives through his work as the founder of Homeboy Industries, the largest gang-intervention program in the world. The program runs on two unwavering principles: 1) We are all unshakably good (no exceptions), and 2) we belong to each other (no exceptions). In this new book, Boyle argues that these two principles allow all of us to cultivate a new way of seeing. Rather than the tribalism that excludes and punishes, this new narrative proposes a village that cherishes. In *Cherished Belonging*, Boyle calls us back to Christianity's origins as a subversive spiritual movement of equality, emancipation, and peace. Through colorful and profound stories brimming with wisdom, humor, and inspiration, we are invited to nurture the connections all around us and live with radical kindness.

### *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*

by Isabel Wilkerson

*Tuesday, February 11, at 7 pm in the Conference Room*



From 1915 to 1970, an exodus of almost six million black citizens from the south to the north and the west forever changed the face of America. With stunning historical detail, Wilkerson tells part of this story of migration through the lives of three unique individuals, capturing their treacherous trips, their new lives in new places, and the ways they changed those places through their food, faith, and culture.

### **Serving Together at the Lord's Lunch**

*Saturday, December 14  
Trinity Lutheran Church*

We are signed up to prepare and serve a free lunchtime meal at the Lord's Lunch (Trinity Lutheran Church, 600 South Water Street, Kent) on Saturday, December 14. We would like to have between six and eight individuals for this opportunity and will prepare the meal together in our kitchen before traveling to Trinity Lutheran to serve the meal. For more information or to express your desire to participate, please contact Pastor Nathan ([nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org](mailto:nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org)).

### **Changing Worship Colors**

In our life together as church, we know what time it is by the colors used in our worship services. During Advent—the beginning of the new church year—either blue or purple is used. During the seasons of Christmas and Easter and other festival days, either white or gold becomes the primary color. During Lent, the penitent color of purple is used. On the Day of Pentecost, the color red reminds us of the Holy Spirit's presence as tongues of fire. And throughout Ordinary Time, green is used to remind us that we are always growing as followers of Jesus Christ.

## A Note from the Finance Director:

Dear Church family,

I am pleased to let you know that your generosity and compassion has reached a new level. ♥ Your contributions to date for UMCOR US disaster relief now totals more than \$13,375.00! In addition, we continue to support other ministries through our apportionments. You may not be aware what our apportionments are, or how much annually we give. Apportionments fund the global mission and witness of the church. They provide both the funding for administrative/leadership networks and funding directly to the ministries and missions. Apportionment funds from the East Ohio Conference (EOC) of the United Methodist Church (UMC) support a variety of ministries and missions, including:

- **Connectional Ministries:** Provides resources and guidance to congregations, pastors, and faith communities.
- **Heart 4 the City:** A ministry supported by the 2023 Annual Conference offering.
- **United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) teams:** A ministry supported by the 2023 Annual Conference offering.
- **Bishop's Discretionary Fund:** A ministry supported by the 2023 Annual Conference offering.
- **Mustard Seed Migration Grant:** A grant of up to \$2,000 for community-based ministries for migrants and refugees.
- **World Service Fund**
- **Connectional Support**
- **Episcopal Fund**
- **Clergy Support**
- **Interdenominational Cooperation Fund**
- **Africa University Fund**
- **District Support**

Our church has always been a beacon of hope and generosity in our community, and with your continued support, we can continue that tradition in 2024. This year, our apportionments total \$104,390, along with contributions to Heart 4 the City, and we've already made incredible progress by paying 75% of our apportionments. But we know that together, we can do even more. In years past, our church has given 1%—sometimes even 3%—above and beyond, and we've seen the impact that generosity can make in the lives of others. Your contribution to the **general fund** will not only help us meet our goals, but it will also enable us to share God's love and support the ministries and outreach efforts that make a difference in our world. Let's continue this legacy of giving, and let's do it together. Will you help us make 2024 a year of incredible impact by marking your contribution to the **general fund**?

As always, if you would like to know more about your contributions, please feel free to reach out to me via phone **330-673-5879 ext. 111**, or via email at [lynette@kentmethodist.org](mailto:lynette@kentmethodist.org).


2024 Contribution Statements will be **emailed** to you by January 31, 2025.

Merry Christmas,

*Lynnette*



png image from pngtree.com

**Order Your Poinsettias** 

You are invited to donate poinsettias to beautify the sanctuary for Christmas. Flowers will be distributed by Circle members to shut-ins from our church. Circle members may pick up the poinsettias December 24, after the 9:00 PM service or later. Please complete the information below, printing legibly, and mail it to the church office, or drop it into the offering plate on Sundays. All checks must be made payable to the United Methodist Church of Kent and returned with this form by **December 15**.

I/WE \_\_\_\_\_

WISH TO DONATE \_\_\_\_\_ PLANTS AT \$10.00 EACH

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

OR

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

# December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Regular Schedule	2 7 pm Advent Study/ Parlor 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/Palmer Gym	3 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7 pm Book Discussion/ Conference Room 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	4 1:30 Rebecca Circle/ Pierson Hall	5 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir/ Sanctuary	6 1 pm Book Study/Rm 200	7 9:30-3 Confirmation
8 Regular Schedule	9 7 pm Advent Study/ Parlor 7 pm Worship Band Re- hearsal/ Palmer Gym	10 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7 pm Janus Circle/PH 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Rm 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	11	12 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 10 am Portage County Retired Teachers/PH 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir/ Sanctuary	13 1 pm Book Study/Rm 200	14
15 Regular Schedule Goodyear Concert Band 4 PM in Sanctuary	16 7 pm Advent Study/ Parlor 6 pm Garden Club/PH 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	19 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir/ Sanctuary	20 11 am-5 pm Red Cross Blood Drive/Palmer Gym 1 pm Book Study/Rm 200	21
22 Regular Schedule	23 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/Palmer Gym	24 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 3 pm KentRidge Service 6 pm Candlelight Service/ Sanctuary 9 pm Candlelight Service/ Sanctuary	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans	27 1 pm Book Study/Rm 200	28
29 Regular Schedule	30 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/Palmer Gym	31 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Gym	1 New Year's Day Office Closed			

**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
December 1	5
December 8	6
December 15	1
December 22	2
December 24 6 PM	3
December 24 9 PM	4
December 29	5
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.	



Remember These Members in Their Sorrow

Joan Lipsitz

**Our sympathies to:**

- Family and friends of Milt Schwenk
- Family and friends of Phil Koussaie
- Roger Stiller on the passing of his sister-in-law,

**Recent Hospitalizations and Surgeries:**

Kathy Blair, Tom Emerick, Dave Gynn, Jan McGinnis, Burton Stemen, Jim Wagner

**DECEMBER FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS**

DEC 1	Kiersten McMahon and Marjorie Zeager
DEC 8	Janice Anderson
DEC 15	TBA
DEC 22	TBA
DEC 29	TBA

**Fellowship Hour— Help Needed**

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

DECEMBER 1	Andrew Alderson
DECEMBER 8	TBA
DECEMBER 15	Eric Wertz
DECEMBER 22	Tom Lundberg
DECEMBER 24 6 PM	Eric Wertz
DECEMBER 24 9 PM	Eric Wertz
DECEMBER 29	Eric Wertz

**DECEMBER LAY READERS**

DECEMBER 1	Janeen Phillips
DECEMBER 8	Mark Lewis
DECEMBER 15	Dottie Emerick
DECEMBER 22	Judith Nedel
DECEMBER 29	Tom Emerick

**Thank You Notes**

Many thanks to our wonderful church family for your support during my recent hospitalization. Your cards, calls, flowers, visits, and especially your prayers have strengthened me. Bob's visits were joyful.

Dave Gynn

The flowers are so beautiful. I have them on my table. I can see them all day. Thank you so much. The church and you are in my prayers.

Pauline Yohe



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

**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 November 21

**The Goodyear Band Christmas Concert is Sunday, December 15  
at 4:00 PM in the Sanctuary**

### Worship Calendar

Date	Week	Scripture	Preacher	Special Event
December 1	First Sunday of Advent	I Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 1:26-38	Rev. Nathan Howe	Communion, <i>Chancel Ringers</i> , Children's Pageant
December 8	Second Sunday of Advent	Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 1:39-45	Rev. Nathan Howe	<i>New Spirit</i>
December 15	Third Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 58:9b-12; Luke 3:7-18	Rev. Nathan Howe	<i>ZAMARingers</i>
December 21	Longest Night		7 pm Service in the Chapel: prayer, music, candlelight, and Communion	
December 22	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-20	Rev. Nathan Howe	<i>New Spirit</i> Holiday Presenta- tion
December 24	Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-24; Luke 2:1-20	Rev. Nathan Howe	6 PM and 9 PM candlelight services
December 29	First Sunday after Christmas Day	Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52	Rev. Nathan Howe	