



THE METHODIST MOSAIC

Volume 67 Number 1

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

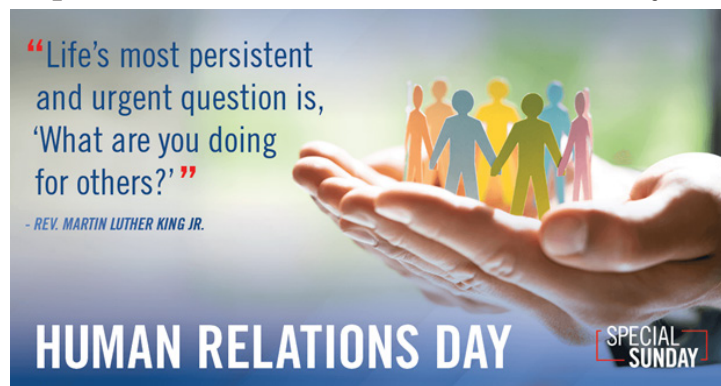
January, 2025



LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS

Loving Our Neighbors Collection for January

Throughout the month of January, you are invited to donate toilet paper and Clorox or Lysol all-purpose cleaning spray 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 these requested items; donations can be placed in the marked box in the atrium any time during January. Thank you!



Special Offering Opportunity Sunday, January 19

On Human Relations Day, the Sunday before the national observance of Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday, we celebrate and receive a special offering to help bring God’s vision of beloved community to life. Your gifts toward this special offering will support important ministries including Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services, and Youth Offender Rehabilitation. You are invited to give through our offering plates or online as we continue this vital work together. Simply mark your donation “Human Relations Day.” Thank you!

Youth Ministry News

January 2025

JANUARY ACOLYTES	
JANUARY 5	Zach Filler
JANUARY 12	Maddy Conley
JANUARY 19	Liam Russell
JANUARY 26	Evelyn Goff

Happy New Year!

We have an exciting spring planned for our youth group and I wanted to take the time to share just a few of the highlights:

- January 5 is the last day to register for this summer’s Mountain TOP trip. Please see Rick if you need registration forms.

- January 20 we will be planning an afternoon of bowling to celebrate school being off for Martin Luther King Day, look for details in the mail
- On January 31 our confirmation class will attend the interfaith service at Temple Israel in Akron.
- On February 17 we will be going Rock Climbing to celebrate Presidents Day
- May 18 is Youth Sunday
- June 1 is Mission trip training

Overall, 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 Sunday from 7-8:30 PM. Make sure you plan to come and bring a friend to any or all of these events.

Shalom,
Rick<><



JANUARY YOUTH CALENDAR

SATURDAY 4	Confirmation
SUNDAY 5	6-7 PM ZAMARingers 7-8:30 PM Youth Fellowship Last Day to Join Mt. TOP
SUNDAY 12	6-7 PM ZAMARingers 7-8:30 PM Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 19	6-7 PM ZAMARingers 7-8:30 PM Youth Fellowship
MONDAY 20	MLK Activity (Bowling)
SUNDAY 26	6-7 PM ZAMARingers 7-8:30 PM Youth Fellowship
FRIDAY 31	6:15 PM Interfaith Service

Mission Trip News

This year the youth will be traveling to Grundy County Tennessee to partner with the Mountain TOP organization to serve those living on the mountain. This year's trip is scheduled for June 21-28. The last day to join our group is January 5. Please be sure to turn in your application and deposit to Rick before this date to be a part of this amazing opportunity.



**East and West Ohio Conferences
to Commemorate MLK Day Together**

Sunday, January 19, 4 pm

Garfield Memorial UMC, Pepper Pike

The East and West Ohio Conferences of The United Methodist Church are coming together to honor the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a joint worship service on Sunday, January 19, 2025, at Garfield Memorial United Methodist Church in Pepper Pike. Themed “Living the Dream: Bold Faith, Hopeful Future,” the event hosted by Bishop Hee-Soo Jung will focus on building Dr. King’s vision of a beloved community rooted in justice, love, and hope.

The service, scheduled from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., will open with gathering music at 3:45 p.m. and feature retired Bishop Julius C. Trimble, General Secretary of the General Board of Church & Society of The United Methodist Church as the keynote speaker. Known for his commitment to justice and reconciliation, Bishop Trimble will offer a message of inspiration and challenge.

Music will be provided by Garfield Memorial UMC’s praise band, setting the tone for a meaningful and uplifting gathering. The service will be live-streamed, allowing broader access for those unable to attend in-person.

Following the service, an informal reception will take place, offering light refreshments and opportunities for fellowship and conversation.

This event, which is free and open to the public, aims to inspire participants to carry forward Dr. King’s God-given vision of unity and hope. “Our hope is that people will leave this worship experience inspired to build on Dr. King’s vision of beloved community,” organizers said. Join us as we celebrate the legacy of Dr. King and seek to embody his dream for a bold faith and hopeful future.

Sunday Afternoon Walk

***Sunday, January 12 at 3 pm
Portage Hike and Bike Trail***

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, January 12, as we experience the beauty of one of our local parks. We will meet at the Lake Rockwell Road parking lot of the Portage Hike and Bike Trail (1557 Lake Rockwell Road, Kent) at 3 pm and then walk a portion of the multipurpose trail. If you plan to join us, please RSVP to Pastor Nathan (nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org) by the end of the day on Thursday, January 9.

Epiphany of the Lord Sunday

January 5

The Epiphany of the Lord is January 6 every year, but we will celebrate this festival together in worship services on Sunday, January 5. This day recalls the visit of the magi to Jesus, bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Literally meaning "appearance" or "manifestation," Epiphany celebrates that God's incarnation in Jesus demonstrates both God's desire to be with us and God's desire to be known by us. Join us in worship as we conclude our Advent and Christmas worship series, "Blessings for New Beginnings," on this day.

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

January 12

During all three worship services on Sunday, January 12, we will remember the story of Jesus' baptism from the Gospel of Luke and reaffirm our participation in the covenant of baptism.

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.

Short-Term Study for Youth and Adults

***Mondays at 7 pm, beginning January 27
in the Parlor***

First adopted by the 1972 General Conference, the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church reflect our shared response to today's most urgent social issues. During an eight-year timeframe, 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 together our Social Principles and consider opportunities for our congregation to move from discussion to advocacy, moving our faith into faithful action. Childcare will be available in Room 202. Please join us. For more information, contact Pastor Nathan (nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org).

United Women in Faith Present

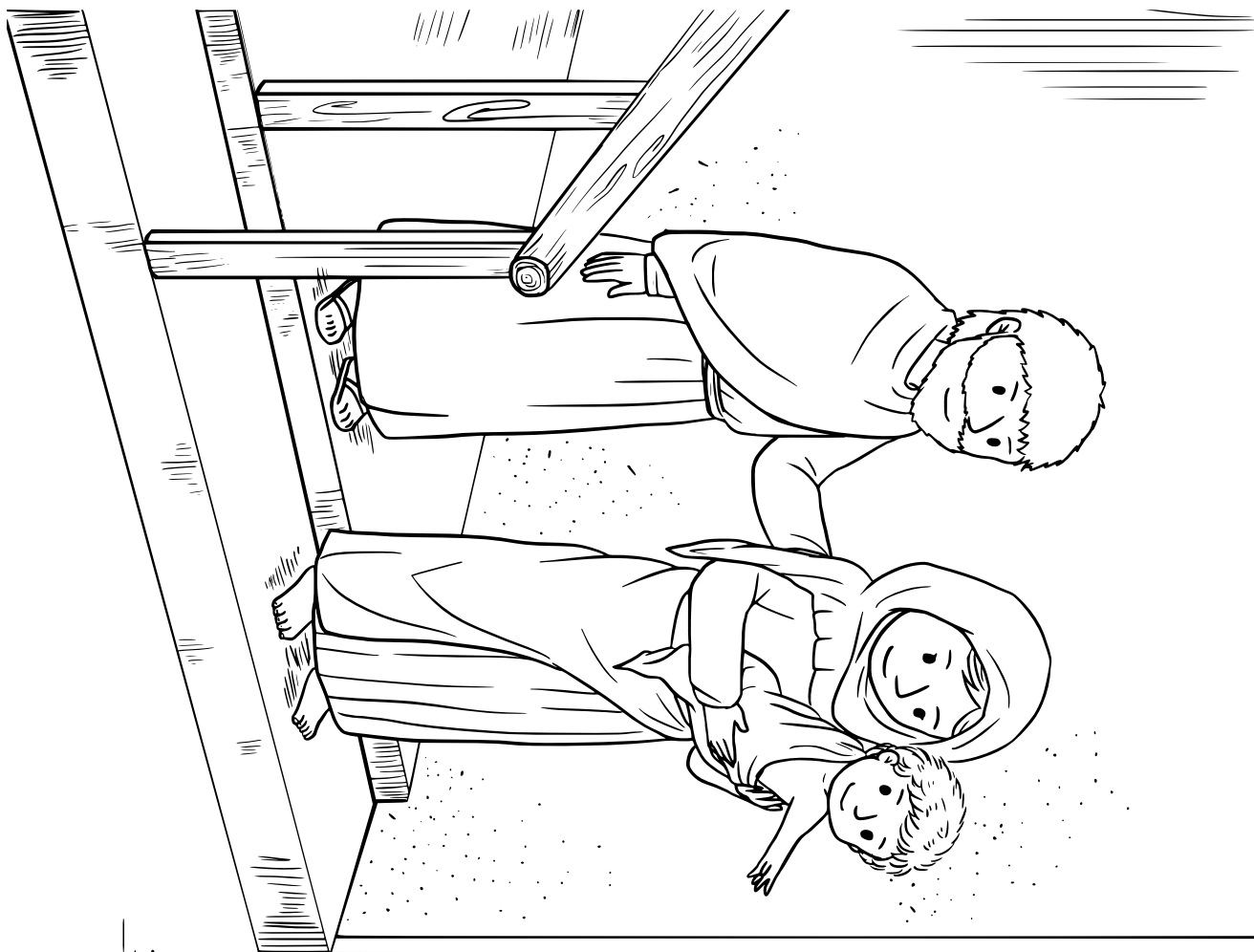
WINTER *potluck*

Food | Face Painting | Crafts

Sunday, January 26, 2025
10 AM Combined Worship in Sanctuary
Festivities to follow in Pierson Hall

Bring a Dish to Share!

Epiphany Sunday is January 5!



January 2025

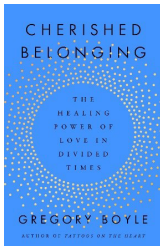
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Office Closed New Year's Day	2 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir/ Sanctuary	3	4 9:30-3 Confirmation
5 Regular Schedule	6 6:30 pm Cub Scouts/PH 7 pm Worship Band Re- hearsal/ Palmer Gym	7 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Rm 7 pm Book Discussion/ Parlor 7-9 pm Basketball//Palmer Gym	8	9 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 6 pm Youth Basketball/ Palmer Gym 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir/ Sanctuary	10	11
12 Regular Schedule	13 6 pm Garden Club/PH 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal//Palmer Gym	14 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 6 pm Community Connec- tions Team//Conf. Room 7 pm Janus Circle//PH 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Rm 7-9 pm Basketball//Palmer Gym	15	16 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 6 pm Youth Basketball/ Palmer Gym 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir/ Sanctuary	17	18
19 Regular Schedule	20 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal//Palmer Gym	21 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Rm 7-9 pm Basketball//Palmer Gym	22 12-5 pm Red Cross Blood Drive//Pierson Hall	23 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 6 pm Youth Basketball/ Palmer Gym 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir/ Sanctuary	24	25
26 10 AM Combined Worship in Sanctuary Winter Potluck after in Pierson Hall	27 6 pm Garden Club/PH 7 pm Bible Study//Parlor 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal//Palmer Gym	28 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7 pm Gifts, Memorials, and Investments//Conf. Room 7-9 pm Basketball//Gym	29 7 pm Finance Committee/ Conference Room	30 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 6 pm Youth Basketball/ Palmer Gym 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir/ Sanctuary	31	

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

Upcoming Book Discussions

Cherished Belonging: The Healing Power of Love in Divided Times by Gregory Boyle

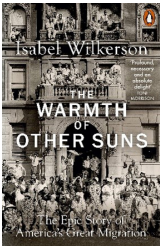
Tuesday, January 7, at 7 pm in the Conference Room



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

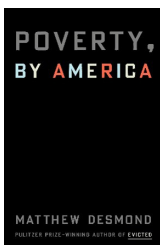
Tuesday, February 11, at 7 pm in the Conference Room



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.

Poverty, by America by Matthew Desmond

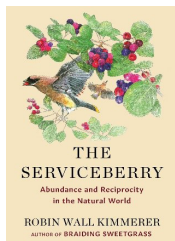
Tuesday, March 4, at 7 pm in the Conference Room



The United States, the richest country on earth, has more poverty than any other advanced democracy. Why? Why does this land of plenty allow one in every eight of its children to go without basic necessities and authorize its corporations to pay poverty wages? In this 2023 book, sociologist Matthew Desmond draws on history, research, and original reporting to show how affluent Americans both knowingly and unknowingly keep impoverished people impoverished. This compassionate book gives us new ways of thinking about a morally urgent problem and helps us imagine solutions, beginning with collective belonging.

The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Tuesday, April 1, at 7 pm in the Conference Room



As Indigenous scientist (and author of *Braiding Sweetgrass*) Robin Wall Kimmerer harvests serviceberries alongside the birds, she considers the ethic of reciprocity that lies at the heart of the gift economy. How, she asks, can we learn from Indigenous wisdom and the plant world to reimagine what we value most? Our economy is rooted in scarcity, competition, and the hoarding of resources, and we have surrendered our values to a system that actively harms what we love. Meanwhile, the serviceberry's relationship with the natural world is an embodiment of reciprocity, interconnectedness, and gratitude. The tree distributes its wealth—its abundance of sweet, juicy berries—to meet the needs of its natural community, and this distribution ensures its own survival. As Kimmerer explains, “Serviceberries show us another model, one based upon reciprocity, where wealth comes from the quality of your relationships, not from the illusion of self-sufficiency.”

USHERS AND GREETERS

Date	8:30/10:30
January 5	6
January 12	1
January 19	2
January 26	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.



- Our sympathies to:**
- Family and friends of Dorothy Gizzi
 - Doug Long on the death of his sister, Lorna Leonard
 - Family and friends of Dr. James Robenstine

Recent Hospitalizations and Surgeries:

Jill Calvin, Gail Closs, Aaron Flynt, Dave Gynn, Jerry Hambleton, Rose Luttner, Sean Phillips, Ben Pratt, Tony Russell



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

JANUARY 5	Andrew Alderson
JANUARY 12	Eric Wertz
JANUARY 19	Eric Wertz
JANUARY 26	Eric Wertz

JANUARY LAY READERS

JANUARY 5	Krista Clavecilla
JANUARY 12	Janet Sessions
JANUARY 19	Mark Lewis
JANUARY 26	Janeen Phillips

Thank You Notes

To: The United Methodist Church of Kent:

Thank you for the beautiful white poinsettia plant. We have it in our front window and enjoy it every day! A special thanks to Phyllis Neel who so graciously brought it to our home.

We also deeply appreciate all the prayers for Peter.

Peter and Judy Lorenz

Dear friends,

Thank you so very much for the lovely bouquet of cheerful flowers delivered to us by Elaine and Tony Alexander. We appreciate your prayers and kindness.

Mike and Joanne Senyek



Apply
Postage
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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 December 27

*When they saw that the star had stopped, they were
overwhelmed with joy. —Matthew 2:10*

Worship Calendar

Date	Week	Scripture	Preacher	Special Event
January 5	Epiphany of the Lord Sunday	Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12	Rev. Nathan Howe	Communion, <i>Chancel Ringers</i>
January 12	Baptism of the Lord Sunday	Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-22	Rev. Nathan Howe	<i>New Spirit</i>
January 19	Second Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; I Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11	Rev. Nathan Howe	<i>New Spirit</i> , Human Relations Day
January 26	Third Sunday after Epiphany	Nehemiah 8:1-10; Psalm 19; I Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21	Sherri Buehl	UWF Sunday, <i>ZAMARingers</i> Single 10:00 AM Service only



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