



# THE METHODIST MOSAIC

Volume 67 Number 2

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

February, 2025



## LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS

### Loving Our Neighbors Collection for February

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) provides assistance to persons and communities following natural disasters or other crises. One way UMCOR offers relief is by providing affected persons with supply kits to help them as they strive to rebuild their lives. During the month of February, you are invited to participate in this relief work by donating items for “hygiene kits,” which replace basic necessity items lost in a disaster and helping persons to stay clean and healthy. Please donate only the following items specifically requested. You can donate items to complete an entire kit or individual items which we will assemble in early March:

- 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.

# Youth Ministry News

February 2025

## Mission Trip News



For the 25th summer 15 of our youth and adults will be again traveling to Mountain T.O.P. located in Altamont, Tennessee the week of June 21-28. Grundy County where we will be working is one of the poorest counties per capita in the entire United States, and our youth group will be traveling there to either do minor home repair, or for the first time in many years, help lead

“Day Camp” and make a difference in the lives of the people living “on the mountain.” Day Camp is a program designed to broaden horizons, brighten futures, and build hope in youth ages 6-11 from Grundy County. Day Camp is intentional about pairing Youth Summer Ministry participants with the Day Camp children, giving the YSM participants the opportunity to grow in their leadership and mentorship skills, and making sure our younger children have individualized attention.

SATURDAY 1	Confirmation (Lord’s Lunch)
SUNDAY 2	6-7 PM ZAMARingers 7-8:30 PM Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 9	<b>NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES</b> (Super Bowl)
SUNDAY 16	6-7 PM ZAMARingers 7-8:30 PM Youth Fellowship
MONDAY 17	Presidents’ Day (Rock Climbing)
SUNDAY 23	6-7 PM ZAMARingers 7-8:30 PM Youth Fellowship

If you missed the opportunity to sign up but would like to attend this trip please contact Rick as soon

FEBRUARY 2	Libby Filler
FEBRUARY 9	Rose Filler
FEBRUARY 16	Zach Filler
FEBRUARY 23	Maddy Conley

as possible to check on available space. Additionally, Our Annual brick sale in support of this trip will occur the week of March 9th. When you receive your letter in the mail we ask that you please prayerfully consider supporting the efforts the youth are making to share the love of Jesus to those who so desperately need it.

# 2024 Financial Report

## *United Methodist Church of Kent*

Through your generous participation, our congregation continues to make a significant impact within and beyond our local community. In addition to supporting our congregation's many ministries—worshiping, fellowship, and learning together—we have extended the reach of our love into the broader community by welcoming groups who regularly use our building. These include a variety of 12-step groups (e.g., AA, NA, Al-Anon), Kent Friends, Piano Quest, Kent Rotary, Kent Lions, PEO Chapter, Garden Club of Kent, Scouts (both Scouting America and Girl Scouts), Tree City Preschool, Kids Kare Kent Campus (daycare), and United Christian Ministries (campus ministry). Through your generosity, we are able to provide warm and welcoming spaces for community connection, sharing God's love and hospitality with our neighbors. Thank you for making this possible!

In addition, we have once again fulfilled our commitment to participating in the larger body of Christ through United Methodist apportionments (shared ministry) and financial gifts offered both locally and globally. In 2024, these contributions included:

- \$102,771 to support 101% of United Methodist Apportionments and Shared Ministry Goals.
- \$7,891 through “special giving” Sundays, including Human Relations Day, UMCOR Sunday, Native American Ministries Sunday, Peace with Justice Sunday, Blanket Sunday, World Communion Sunday, and United Methodist Student Day.
- \$16,595 to support other UMC-related missions, such as ZOE Ministries and disaster relief through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).
- \$21,955 to support local missions, including KIFA, LGBTQ+ Emergency Fund, Marie Miller House, Kent Social Services, KSS Food Pantry, Heart 4 the City, Pennies for Hunger, our youth programs, Beef Fund, County Clothing Center, and the gloves and mittens program.
- \$8,869 through the mission commitments and local giving of our United Women in Faith circle.

Your continued generosity and commitment enable us to be a light in our community and the world. We praise God for the impact we have been able to have together, and we remain committed to being faithful stewards of the resources God's grace entrusts into our hands. Looking ahead, for 2025, you have named financial commitments to support our continuing ministries in total of \$303,582, which is a 6.7% increase from 2024. Additionally, you have pledged \$48,540 toward our capital campaign, “Building Together for Tomorrow,” which will provide new, more efficient heating units for classrooms in our Education Wing.

Thank you for your heartfelt generosity, prayers, and commitment to sharing Christ's love with others.

With Gratitude and in God's service,

Lynnette Begue-Lavery  
Finance Director

Rev. Nathan Howe  
Pastor

## Sunday Afternoon Walk

*Sunday, February 9 at 4 pm  
Freedom 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, February 9, as we experience the beauty of one of our local parks. We will meet at the Middlebury Trailhead parking lot of the Freedom Trail (1324 Middlebury Road, Kent) at 4 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, February 6.



## Scout Sunday Pancake Breakfast

*Sunday, February 9, 9 am to 1 pm  
Pierson Hall*

Scout Sunday will be on February 9 this year, with scouts participating in the 10:30 am worship service. They also will host a pancake breakfast from 9 am to 1 pm in Pierson Hall. There will be no set cost for the breakfast, but you are encouraged to make a donation to support scouting programs throughout the year.

## Job Opportunity: Custodian

Following years of faithful and committed service in the life of our congregation, our current custodian, Rick Hall, is preparing to retire. If you or someone you know would be interested in being our new custodian (approximately 32 hours per week, salaried without benefits), please contact Pastor Nathan (nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org) for more information and to express your interest.

## Ambassadors Football

*Wednesday, February 12, 7 pm  
Pierson Hall*

All are welcome to attend an information and inspirational session on February 12 at 7 pm in Pierson Hall: "The Local and Global Reach of the Lord through Soccer: The Story of Ambassadors Football."

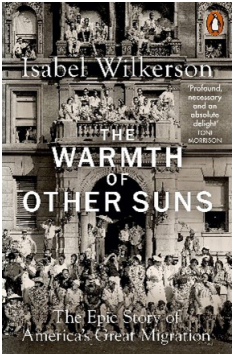
Ambassadors Football began in 1990 as Ambassadors In Sport (AIS) in Bolton, England. They continued as AIS until the current name was adopted in 2013. The ministry was founded by a small group of Christian college soccer players partnering with churches and Christian organizations to develop grassroots football (soccer) ministry. To this day, the work continues through football ministry training, football camps, clinics, prison ministry, school ministry, men's and women's teams, international tours, and global football event ministries including the World Cup. Ambassadors Football now has officers around the world, and through diligent prayer, calling, and research, continues to expand each year.

Bob Dean, a longtime member of our congregation who serves as the Director of Global Development for Ambassadors, will introduce local missionaries Matt and Olivia Warner (Matt is a Kent native who played soccer at Theodore Roosevelt) who serve in the North Hill section in Akron, and Ben Marias, the Director of Ambassadors South Africa. We invite you to hear their stories and witness, ask questions, and learn more about the inspired work of Ambassadors in our communities and around the world.

## Upcoming Book Discussions

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

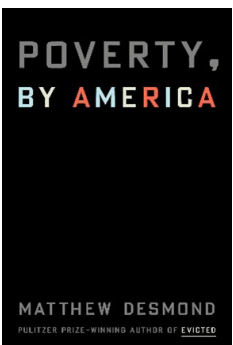
***Tuesday, February 11, at 7 pm in the Conference Room***



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

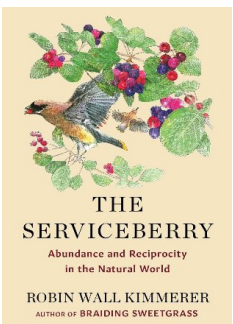
***Tuesday, March 4, at 7 pm in the Conference Room***



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.”

# February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Regular Schedule	3 7 pm Social Principles Study/Parlor 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym	4 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	5 1:30 pm Rebecca Circle/Pierson Hall	6 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir/Sanctuary	7 11 am-5 pm Red Cross Blood Drive/Palmer Gym	8 
9 Regular Schedule Scout Pancake Brunch 9 am-1 pm Afternoon Walk 4 pm	10 7 pm Social Principles Study/Parlor 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym	11 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	12 7 pm Ambassador's Football Meeting/Pierson Hall	13 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 6 pm Youth Basketball/Palmer Gym 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir/Sanctuary	14 	15 
16 Regular Schedule	17 7 pm Social Principles Study/Parlor 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym	18 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 6 pm Community Connections Team/Conf. Room 7 pm Janus Circle/PH 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Rm 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	19 	20 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 6 pm Youth Basketball/Palmer Gym 7 pm Communications Team/Conference Room 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir/Sanctuary	21 	22 
23 Regular Schedule	24 6 pm Garden Club/PH 7 pm Social Principles Study/Parlor 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym	25 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Rm 7:30 Janus Circle/Pierson Hall 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	26 12-5 pm Red Cross Blood Drive/Pierson Hall	27 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 6 pm Youth Basketball/Palmer Gym 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir/Sanctuary	28 	<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**

<b>Date</b>	<b>8:30/10:30</b>
February 2	4
February 9	5
February 16	6
February 23	1

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

**Our sympathies to:**

- Family and friends of Pat Lacy
- Charlie Nichols on the death of his son-in-law, Dan McGinnis
- Gail Lundberg and family on the death of her sister
- family and friends of Lois Rezie

**Recent Hospitalizations and Surgeries:**

Dave Gynn, Mike Hardy, Andy Lepp, Pete Lorenz, Rose Luttner, Sean Phillips, Margaret Siegfried

**10:30 CAMERA SCHEDULE**

FEBRUARY 2	Andrew Alderson
FEBRUARY 9	Eric Wertz
FEBRUARY 16	Eric Wertz
FEBRUARY 23	Eric Wertz

**FEBRUARY FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS**

FEB 2	Janice Anderson
FEB 9	Scout Pancake Brunch
FEB 16	Cathy Stemen
FEB 23	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.

**FEBRUARY LAY READERS**

FEBRUARY 2	Judy Smith
FEBRUARY 9	Janet Sessions
FEBRUARY 16	Mark Lewis
FEBRUARY 23	Janeen Phillips

**Thank You Notes**

To: The United Methodist Church of Kent:

Thank you for the many prayers, pastoral visits, telephone calls, and lovely poinsettia that was delivered by Darlene Flynt, all of which helped to brighten my days in the hospital.

Jerry Hambleton

Thank you for the beautiful prayer quilt. The love of prayers from our church friends warms my heart.

Dave Gynn



Apply  
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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 January 23**

**“He says to the snow, ‘Fall on the earth,’ and to the rain shower,  
‘Be a mighty downpour.’” —Job 37:6**

### **Worship Calendar**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Week</b>	<b>Scripture</b>	<b>Preacher</b>	<b>Special Event</b>
February 2	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany	Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 70:1-6; I Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30	Rev. Nathan Howe	Communion, <i>Chancel Ringers</i>
February 9	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany	Isaiah 6:1-13; Psalm 138; I Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11	Rev. Bob Machovec	<i>New Spirit,</i> Scout Sunday
February 16	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany	Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; I Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26	Rev. Nathan Howe	<i>ZAMARingers</i>
February 23	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany	Genesis 45:3-11; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; I Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38	Rev. Nathan Howe	<i>New Spirit</i>



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