



THE METHODIST MOSAIC

Volume 67 Number 3

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

March, 2025

Lent 2025: Resources for Renewal

Lent is our forty-day season of preparing to live as Easter people: to embrace and embody the fullness of life Christ offers to us all. By worshiping, praying, studying, fasting, and serving, we rest in God's presence and are renewed by God's grace. The following are some of the resources we will share this year to help guide and nourish our Lenten practices for renewal.

Ash Wednesday Worship Services

Wednesday, March 5

12 pm or 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Our journey through Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, this year on March 5. In worship together, we begin this season of renewal first by acknowledging our limitations, including our mortality: we are dust, and to dust we shall return. But being "dust" also means we are connected, both to each other and to the goodness of the soil, the dust, the earth from which God has formed us. God's grace is sufficient to sustain and nourish us as we refocus and realign our lives in relationship with God and with our neighbors. All are welcome to join us in worship in the Sanctuary at 12 pm for an abbreviated worship service or at 7 pm for a worship service including congregational singing, the organ, the choir, and Holy Communion. Both worship services will include the imposition of ashes as a sign of our mortality and our commitment to changing our hearts and lives in cooperation with God's grace.

Come to the table...

Lent 2025 Potluck Dinners and Conversations

Wednesdays, March 5 – April 16

6 pm to 8 pm, Pierson Hall

All are welcome and encouraged to join us for food and fellowship on Wednesday evenings throughout the season of Lent. Bring a dish to share and your own table service; beverages will be provided. On March 5—Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent—our meal will be followed by a worship service in the Sanctuary at 7 pm. On March 12 through April 9, our meal will be followed by Bible study and table conversation, designed for collaborative learning among children, youth, and adults. On April 16, we will share a presentation from the Kent Environmental Council as an opportunity to live more sustainably in relationship with our neighbors and with the goodness of God's creation.

(Continued on p. 3)

Youth Ministry News

March 2025

Matthew 25:40 reads *“Then the king will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’*

A major way that our church gives opportunity to your youth to make a difference in the world is through our mission trip. As many of you are aware the youth will be traveling again this summer to Mountain T.O.P. located in Altamont, Tennessee to be in ministry with the people of the Cumberland Mountain Plateau. This year (which is our churches 25th year) we are again very excited to have 14 members of our youth group and various adults registered to attend Mountain T.O.P.!

While each student attending is responsible for more than 3/4 of their individual cost for the week, at Mountain TOP the remaining cost including travel needs to be fundraised. Additionally, there are students from some families who may have difficulty paying their required portion. Therefore, we

would like to ask the congregation to consider getting involved in our quest to raise the required funds for this year’s trip by considering participating in one of the following financial opportunities to help.

1. Scholarships. As mentioned above there are several families who may have difficulty in today’s economy paying for the required portion of their trip. Monies given toward the required portion from each student, and full sponsorships are a wonderful way to help.

2. Buy a brick. At the time of this writing, our annual brick sale will be Sunday Afternoon, March 9 beginning at 4:00. When you receive the letter from the youth please prayerfully consider supporting their efforts by purchasing a \$25 brick in support of these trips. Remember every gift no matter how big or small goes to make a difference in the lives of another.

While these trips may seem like a huge undertakings, with God’s grace and your generous support we can make it happen.

Shalom,
Rick<><

Rebecca Circle

Rebecca circle meeting is the first Wednesday of every month in Pierson Hall at 1:30pm. If you are interested in joining us please feel free to do so. If you have any questions call or text message Tina Ballentine at (330) 221-6682.

MARCH YOUTH CALENDAR

SATURDAY 1	9:30–12 Confirmation
SUNDAY 2	6–7 PM ZAMARingers 7–8:30 PM Youth Fellowship
WEDNESDAY 5	Ash Wednesday
SUNDAY 9	4–6 Mt. TOP Brick Sale 6–7 PM ZAMARingers 7–8:30 PM Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 16	6–7 PM ZAMARingers 7–8:30 PM Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 23	Spring Break (No Youth Activities)
SUNDAY 30	Spring Break (No Youth Activities)

MARCH ACOLYTES

MARCH 2	Liam Russell
MARCH 5 (ASH WED.)	Evelyn Goff
MARCH 9	Libby Filler
MARCH 16	Rose Filler
MARCH 23	Zach Filler
MARCH 30	Maddy Conley

A Note from our Finance Director

All 2024 contribution statements have been emailed. If you did not receive yours and would like a copy, please contact Lynnette to be sure we have the correct email. Likewise, if you have any questions or concerns about your statement, please don’t hesitate to call (330-673-5879 ext. 111).



(Continued from p.1)

March 5: Ash Wednesday worship service in the Sanctuary

March 12: “Bread of Life”—John 6.25-40

March 19: “Bread for Growth”—Luke 13.18-21

March 26: “Bread for Each Day”—Matthew 6.9-13

April 2: “Bread for Sharing”—Luke 14.7-14

April 9: “Bread for Community”—Luke 19.1-10

April 16: Presentation on sustainability from the Kent Environmental Council

This Lent, join us as we break bread together, savor the generosity of God, learn from each other, and rise to share with the world out of the abundance we have received from the bread of life.

At-Home Lenten Resources

Please use one or more of the following resources by yourself, as a family, or with a group of friends to help nourish your journey through Lent:

Bread of Life Lenten Devotional

Eight devotions—one for Ash Wednesday, one for each Sunday in Lent, and one for Easter Sunday—are designed for individual contemplation and conversation with someone in your home or in your community. Each devotion includes a passage of scripture, a reflection that connects the scripture to the season of Lent, discussion questions, and a prayer. This may be used alongside or apart from either or both of the resources below.

Bread of Life Lent for Families

Eight devotions—one for Ash Wednesday, one for each Sunday in Lent, and one for Easter Sunday—are designed especially for families with children, youth, and adults of all ages. Families are encouraged to explore the material together and set aside time each week to gather and re-center. Each devotion includes a passage of scripture, a reflection that connects the scripture to the season of Lent, discussion questions, a suggested family activity, and a prayer.

Bread of Life Lenten Spiral

Images of the spiral are available in full-color or black-and-white so you can color the picture as you go. Beginning Ash Wednesday, each day of Lent offers a simple activity for you or your family to complete together. During the course of each week, you will find a scripture verse to provide foundation for the rest of the week; a spiritual practice to engage the theme; a Friday family conversation prompt to discuss together; a Saturday nature walk to encourage connecting with creation; and a Sunday feast day to celebrate God’s presence together.

Coins for Lent 2025

During the season of Lent, we are invited to reconsider the patterns of our lives and ways we can make a positive impact in our neighborhoods. Part of renewal in God’s grace is growing in compassion and offering generosity toward our neighbors. Each day on the “Coins for Lent Giving Calendar” includes a prompt to consider the simple material blessings that are part of our lives and then to donate a coin for each as an opportunity to express our gratitude through generosity. You can decide the type of coins you want to collect or simply mark the number each day and write a check for the total at the end. (Hint: our counting teams would prefer that you donate with a single check rather than lots of coins!) Bring your total donation to worship on Easter Sunday (April 20 this year), and all donations will be given to support coming feeding programs through Kent Social Services. Thank you!



UMCOR Sunday
Sunday, March 30

UMCOR Sunday is an opportunity to give thanks and to commit our support for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Gifts given on UMCOR Sunday play a vital role in enhancing our global humanitarian response because these funds cover UMCOR’s administrative costs. This support ensures that 100% of donations given to UMCOR throughout the year can be directed toward on-the-ground relief and recovery efforts, allowing UMCOR to effectively respond to crises and provide assistance where it is needed most. By investing in UMCOR’s operations, we empower the church to mobilize resources quickly and efficiently, making a meaningful impact in communities affected by disaster and hardship around the world. Please prayerfully consider your generous participation on UMCOR Sunday, March 30. Thank you!

Sunday Afternoon Walk

Sunday, March 9

4 pm at Towner’s Woods Park

Enjoy the beauty of God’s creation—both outdoors and in each other! Invite a friend or neighbor and join us. All are welcome! We will meet in the parking lot of Towner’s Woods Park (2264 Ravenna Road, Kent) at 4 pm and then walk some of the trails together. If you plan to participate, please RSVP to Pastor Nathan (nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org) by the end of the day on Thursday, March 6.

Special Community Choir Concert

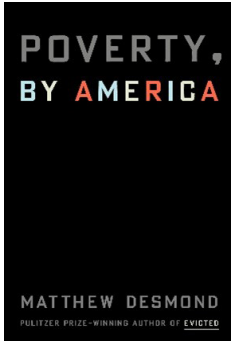
On Sunday, March 23, at 4:00 PM, our church will be blessed to host *When in Our Music God Is Glorified: An Ecumenical Choir Concert!* This community event will include our choir, joined by the choirs from Kent United Church of Christ (Cory Fowler, director) and the First Christian Church of Kent (Patty Wiley, director and Donna Oberlin, accompanist). The choirs will be performing music by Randall Thompson, Amy Beach, Stephen Paulus, David von Kampen, John Tavener, and Ralph Vaughan Williams, as well as inviting attendees to join in congregational hymns. Please plan on enjoying this special event.

Upcoming Book Discussions

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.

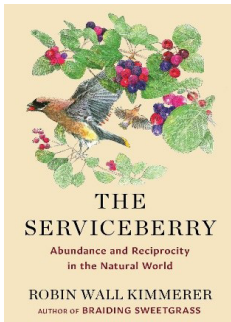


The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World

by Robin Wall Kimmerer

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

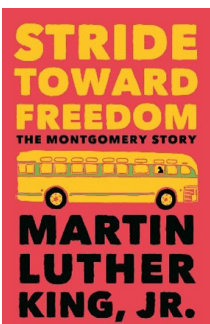
As Indigenous scientist (and author of *Braiding Sweetgrass*) Robin Wall Kimmerer harvests serviceberries alongside the birds, she considers the ethic of reciprocity that lies at the heart of the gift economy. How, she asks, can we learn from Indigenous wisdom and the plant world to reimagine what we 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.”



Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story

by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Tuesday, May 13, at 7 pm in the Conference Room



Written just two years after the successful completion of the boycott of the Montgomery, Alabama bus system, a young Rev. King tells the stories that informed his thinking before, during, and after the boycott—from first witnessing economic injustice as a teenager and watching his parents experience discrimination to his decision to begin working with the NAACP. Throughout, he demonstrates how activism and leadership can come from any experience at any age. Both comprehensive and intimate, *Stride Toward Freedom* emphasizes the collective nature of the movement and includes King's experiences learning from others, including Rosa Parks and Claudette Colvin. In so doing, it provides wisdom for our ongoing collective movements

for social change as we seek together a more beloved world.

March 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 12 pm Ash Wednesday Service/Sanctuary 1:30 pm Rebecca Circle/Pierson Hall 6 pm Lenten Potluck/PH 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service/Sanctuary	6 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir/Sanctuary	7	1 9:30-3 Confirmation 8
9 Regular Schedule Afternoon Walk 4 pm	10 6:30 pm UWF Executive Board/Conference Room 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym	11 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 6 pm Community Connections Team/Conf. Rm 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Rm 7 pm Book Discussion/Parlor 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	12 6 pm Lenten Potluck/PH 7 pm Lenten Program/PH	13 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Portage County Retired Teachers Luncheon/Pierson Hall 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir/Sanctuary	14	15
16 Regular Schedule Green Team meeting 11:30 am in Conference Room	17 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 6 pm Lenten Potluck/PH 7 pm Lenten Program/PH	20 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 7 pm Communications Team/Conference Room 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir/Sanctuary	21 11 am-5 pm Red Cross Blood Drive/Palmer Gym	22
23 Regular Schedule	24 6 pm Garden Club/PH 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 6 pm Lenten Potluck/PH 7 pm Lenten Program/PH	27 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir/Sanctuary	28	29
30 Regular Schedule	31 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym				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
March 2	2
March 5	3
March 9	4
March 16	5
March 30	6

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 Helen Brinker
 - Family and friends of Elizabeth Jane Hudkins
 - Bill Childers on the death of his aunt, Helen

Childers

- Family and friends of Margaret Arnold

Recent Hospitalizations and Surgeries:

Dottie Emerick, Aaron Flynt, Gary Harvey, Jordan Huck, Andy Lepp, Pete Lorenz, Tony Russell, Karin Underwood

MARCH FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS

MARCH 2	Melody and George Neumiller
MARCH 9	TBA
MARCH 16	Ginny Smith
MARCH 23	TBA
MARCH 30	TBA

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

MARCH 2	Eric Wertz
MARCH 5	Eric Wertz
MARCH 9	Andrew Alderson
MARCH 16	Eric Wertz
MARCH 23	Eric Wertz
MARCH 30	Eric Wertz

Thank You Notes

Dear United Methodist Church,
I don't know where to begin to express my heartfelt gratitude for the unwavering support, love, and kindness UMC members have shown towards the Miller Community House families and residents. I'm truly humbled by the profound impact of your collective love and generosity, which has enabled us to meet the basic needs of our residents and families. Your selfless acts of kindness have embodied the love of God and exemplified what it means to compassionately care for those who are less fortunate.

Thank you,
Renee Jones, family and child advocate
Miller Community House

Dear Kent UMC UWF,
On behalf of Flat Rock Homes I thank you for your plan to include Flat Rock Homes in your UWF Sunday. It was an honor to work with you and to share the ministry and mission of Flat Rock Homes with your church family.

God Bless you and Kent UMC,
Deaconess Sherri Beuhl

Thank you.

It is the open hearts of individuals and groups like the United Methodist Church that carries the Clothing Center through each and every day.

Your donations, your volunteers, your prayers help us to help the less fortunate of our community.

Thank you for the winter warm hats, gloves, and scarves. You have helped many during this blistering cold season.

The Clothing Center Board

MARCH LAY READERS

MARCH 2	Janet Sessions
MARCH 9	Judith Nedel
MARCH 16	Janeen Phillips
MARCH 23	Krista Clavecilla
MARCH 30	TBA



Apply
Postage
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**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 February 25

"I then turned my face to my Lord God, asking for an answer with prayer and pleading, and with fasting, mourning clothes, and ashes." —Daniel 9:3

Worship Calendar

Date	Week	Scripture	Preacher	Special Event
March 2	Transfiguration Sunday	Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; II Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36	Rev. Nathan Howe	Communion, <i>Chancel Ringers</i>
March 5	Ash Wednesday	Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17; II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	Rev. Nathan Howe	Service of Ashes at 12 PM and 7 PM
March 9	First Sunday in Lent	Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13	Rev. Nathan Howe	<i>New Spirit</i>
March 16	Second Sunday in Lent	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:1-9	Rev. Nathan Howe	<i>ZAMARingers</i>
March 23	Third Sunday in Lent	Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; I Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9	Rev. Nathan Howe	<i>New Spirit, When in Our Music God Is Glorified Concert</i>
March 30	Fourth Sunday in Lent	Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; II Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	Rev. Nathan Howe	