



THE METHODIST MOSAIC

Volume 67 Number 6

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

June, 2025

Ascension of the Lord Sunday

Sunday, June 1

The fortieth day of Easter is remembered and celebrated as the Ascension of the Lord, recalling the story of Jesus' ascension as told in Luke 24 and Acts 1. Because this day always falls on a Thursday, we celebrate the event in worship the following Sunday, this year on June 1. Please join us in worship at 8:30 am, 9:30 am, or 10:30 am as we celebrate Christ's ongoing presence and commission in our lives.

Day of Pentecost

Sunday, June 8

The Day of Pentecost is the fiftieth and final day of the Easter season and the third of our three great festivals that give shape to the Christian Year (the other two are Christmas and Easter). On the Day of Pentecost, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to the church as told through the story in Acts 2.

This year, on Pentecost, we also will receive new members into the life of our congregation and celebrate the ongoing participation of those who have been members of UMCK for fifty years or more. Please join us at 8:30 am, 9:30 am, or 10:30 am. **And in celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit (often depicted in scripture as wind, breath, or fire), all are encouraged to wear red or some other "fire-inspired" color, e.g. yellow or orange, as we worship together.**



Save the Dates:

United Worship Services with Kent UCC

Sundays, July 20 and 27

This summer, we are bringing back an old tradition of worshipping together with our siblings at Kent UCC. On Sunday, July 20, our two congregations will worship together at 10 am in the Sanctuary of Kent UCC (1400 East Main Street). On Sunday, July 27, our two congregations will worship together at 10 am in our Sanctuary. Please join us as we celebrate God's presence and our shared mission to love God and love our neighbors well.

Youth Ministry News

June 2025

The youth Mountain TOP trip is scheduled to take place from June 21-28. We will be finishing our training in preparation for the trip with our tool training on June 1 from 6-8. Additionally, the team has sent out a mailing requesting that the congregation please consider supporting this trip by purchasing a symbolic "brick" in the amount of \$25. If you did not receive a donation letter please contact Rick Stout to receive one or simply place a check in the offering and mark the memo line "brick sale." The youth would also like to thank everyone for their support of this worthwhile cause.

I am including in this month's newsletter a prayer journey that the congregation can use to guide them in prayer for the youth as they head to Mountain T.O.P. on June 21.

JUNE ACOLYTES	
JUNE 1	Zach Filler
JUNE 8	Maddy Conley
JUNE 15	Liam Russell
JUNE 22	Evelyn Goff
JUNE 29	Libby Filler

Prayer Journey for the Congregation of the Kent United Methodist Church as they support the Youth trip to Mountain T.O.P. June 2025

An Experience in Intercessory Prayer

June 21 day 1 Psalm 139:1-6

Pray for safe travel. Pray that the Holy Spirit will prepare the way for the team and its members to do his work. Praise God for this special ministry.

June 22 day 2 Psalm 3:3-5

Pray for a welcoming spirit all around, for those coming, and for those who will receive. Pray rest and energy. Praise God that he is able to sustain us.

June 23 day 3 Proverbs 3:5-8

Pray for wisdom to see the paths of understanding between people or mercy in difficult situations. Praise God for his guidance, comfort and strength.

June 24 day 4 Philippians 1:3-11

Pray for the team, its members, and the people they serve to be open to the work of the Holy Spirit. Praise God for Christ who intercedes for us.

June 25 day 5 Exodus 4:10-17

Pray for the team to be spiritually prepared to act and speak God's word. Praise God for his protection.

June 26 day 6 Romans 1:14-17

Pray for encouragement in body and spirit. Rejoice that God keeps steadfast love for good to those who love him and are called to his purposes.

June 27 day 7 II Corinthians 4: 7-12; 16-18

Pray for renewal of spirit and body and to know that there is a treasure in this earthly vessel. Praise God for the work he has done.

June 28 day 8 Psalm 8

Praise God for this day, which is his. Pray for these special ones to be kept safe as they return home.

Shalom,
Rick<><



Peace with Justice Sunday

Sunday, June 15

The United Methodist Church has a historic commitment to peace and justice. In response to the Gospel, our Social Principles call us to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as peacemakers in resolving conflicts, both locally and globally. On Peace with Justice Sunday, we renew our commitment to participate in transforming the world and challenging injustice by calling on our leaders and elected officials to prioritize policies that support communities and reflect God’s economy of abundance and grace. Your offerings designated “Peace with Justice Sunday” will help to foster programs that respond to God’s call for a faithful, just, disarmed, and secure world for all, investing in servant leadership, community building, and ministries of peace with justice. Please prayerfully consider your contributions on June 15, and thank you for your generosity.

Akron Zoo Meetup

Saturday, June 7th
10 am



Meet up with church friends at the Akron Zoo! Bring the whole family for some fun social time. Wear a UMC of Kent

shirt if you have one, and meet us at 10:00 am in front. Tickets are not included. Contact Chelsea Alderson at chelsealderson@kentmethodist.org with any questions!

Park Meetups!

Start your Mondays with a trip to the park! Join us at SKIP Park in Stow this Summer, Mondays at 10:00am. Starting

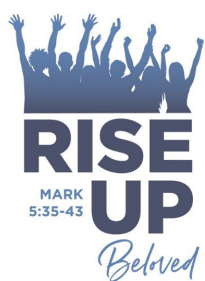


June 2nd. No RSVP necessary, weather permitting. Email Chelsea Alderson at chelsealderson@kentmethodist.org with questions.

Sunday Afternoon Walk

*Sunday, June 8
4 pm at Morgan 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 Morgan Park (8828 State Route 44, Ravenna) at 4 pm and then walk some of the trails together.



2025 East Ohio Annual Conference
*June 12 – 14,
College of Wooster*

The 56th session of the East Ohio Annual Conference will meet at the College of Wooster from Thursday, June 12, through Saturday, June 14. Our theme for the new quadrennium (2025 - 2028) is "Rise Up, Beloved," based on Mark 5.35-43. In this first year of the quadrennium, our specific theme will be "Rise Up, Beloved: Trust in God's Promises," and we will focus on healing and restoration in our communities.

Visit www.eocumc.com/eoac25 for more information about this year's session of the annual conference, and please pray for all those who will be leading and participating in worship services, business meetings, and other gatherings that are part of our United Methodist connection here in East Ohio.

Join UMCK at Pride Festivals

Saturdays, June 7 and 14

All are welcome to join us at upcoming Pride Festivals as we celebrate God's love for all people and bear witness to our congregation's commit to welcome and affirm all persons. We will be in Cleveland (Pride in the CLE) on June 7 and in Canton (Stark Pride) on June 14. Please sign up on sheets on the table in the atrium or contact the church office for more information.



What Are Those Jars That Say 2-cents a Meal?

2-Cents a Meal is a fund raiser for Hunger Network in Ohio (HNO), an advocacy and networking organization whose focus is to stamp out hunger and poverty. East Ohio Conference is a founding member of this ecumenical organization based in Columbus. West Ohio Conference is also a member organization.

The idea behind 2 Cents is that most of us can spare two cents a meal and it is amazing how those pennies add up. It is also a way that children in Sunday School can help make a difference. Of the two cents collected, one cent stays in our local church to help those in our own community and one cent goes to HNO for their work in advocating for fair legislation to help people escape the debilitating poverty that makes so many go hungry. HNO also networks between various social service agencies, like our own Kent Social Services and Center of Hope, in their work feeding the hungry throughout the state.

Currently Hunger Network is working diligently reviewing the proposed two-year state budget to advocate with State Representatives and State Senators so that our tax dollars will be used fairly to help our brothers and sisters who need that assistance to get back on their feet. For more information on Hunger Network in Ohio you can find them on facebook and at www.hungernetohio.com.

The coins from the jars are collected until there are enough to take to the bank in exchange for cash. Then turned into Lynette Begue-Lavery. The most recent amount collected was \$174.00 or \$87.00 to HNO and \$87.00 that will stay in our own community.

Let's keep those pennies coming! It is a simple way to help feed hungry children and help remove poverty from our communities.



January – April 2025 Ministry Report

United Methodist Church of Kent

Thank you for your generous participation in our life together as a congregation during the first four months of 2025. By God’s grace and with your participation, these are just a few of the many ways God has been working in and through us so far this year:

- we celebrated our participation in the baptismal covenant, returning the waters of baptism with Christ on **Baptism of the Lord Sunday** (January 12);
- we celebrated **United Methodist Women in Faith Sunday** (January 26) with a united worship service, learning about the ministry of Flat Rock Homes and then enjoying food and fellowship together;
- we enjoyed the goodness of God’s creation and the company of each other during **monthly walks in our local parks**;
- we learned about our **United Methodist Social Principles**, statements of faith on a variety of social issues, through a short-term study in January and February;
- we learned about opportunities to be in ministry with migrant neighbors and to connect with and support established ministries in our region including **Ambassadors Football** and **Royal Family Kids**;
- we gave thanks for the years of service **Rick Hall** gave to our congregation and welcomed **our new custodian, Terry Horton**, to our staff team;
- we donated toilet paper and cleaning spray to support neighbors at **Miller Community House** and forty-one hygiene kits to support our neighbors through the ministry of the **United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)**;
- we journeyed together through Lent, including with this year’s **Lenten Potluck Dinners and Programs**, learning together and from each other through conversations based in stories from our scriptures about meals Jesus shared with his community;
- we began a new **Green Team** to help the congregation become more informed and involved regarding the current climate crisis and opportunities to live as faithful stewards of the goodness of God’s earth (this team currently meets on the third Sunday of each month after the 10:30 am worship service and is open to additional participants);



- we hosted a **community Easter Egg Hunt** in partnership with Tree City Preschool and Kids Kare Daycare;
- we participated in a **Kent Community Good Friday crosswalk** with siblings from other Kent congregations, praying and walking our way through downtown Kent; and
- we welcomed more than 400 worshipers on **Easter Sunday** (a 17% increase from 2024), including worship services in our Outdoor Chapel, Palmer Gym, and Sanctuary.



In addition to these and other ministries carried out during these first four months of 2025, you have been generous through special financial gifts which extend our reach with God's love toward our neighbors, including:

- **\$5447** to support our United Methodist response to wildfires in southern California;
- **\$436** to support United Methodist community development and youth offender rehabilitation ministries through our Human Relations Day special offering;
- **\$1680** to support administrative costs of our United Methodist Committee on Relief through our UMCOR Sunday special offering;
- **\$5074** to our "Beef Fund" to provide food for our neighbors through Kent Social Services;
- **\$5165** to support our Youth Mission Trip to Mountain TOP in June 2025;
- **\$5400** to support directly-funded projects in our building, including a new ice machine in our kitchen and new computers for use during worship services in our Chapel and the Palmer Gym;
- **\$9277** toward our "Building for Tomorrow" capital campaign which will provide new heating and cooling units in classrooms throughout our Education Wing;
- **\$690.80** for our Lenten Coin Calendar offering to support feeding ministries through Kent Social Services;
- **\$13,344** for our Easter offering to support ongoing mission partnerships including United Methodist camps, campus ministries at Kent State University, Miller Community House, and Kent Social Services; and
- **\$10,075** to support building maintenance so we can continue to offer our building and grounds both for our congregation's ministries and to build relationships with community partners.

That's a total of **\$56,588.80** beyond our general operating budget toward special projects and ministries that share God's love directly with our neighbors!

Thank you for your extraordinary generosity! Thank you for all the ways you participate in our life and ministry together, through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. As we continue to discern and follow God's calling in 2025—especially during a season of significant economic uncertainty—**please continue to give and participate generously.** We cannot be what God is calling us to be without your financial gifts to support our general operating budget and your gifts of time and talent to support our ministries. You are the primary way God works through our congregation to share Christ's love with our community and world. **Thank you for being an instrument of God's grace!**

For more information, including your own giving statement for the first four months of 2025, please contact Lynnette Begue-Lavery (Finance Director) at lynnette@kentmethodist.org.

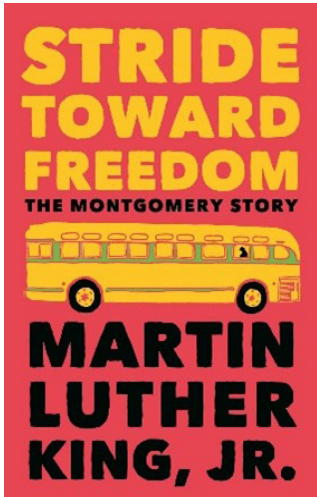


Upcoming Book Discussions

Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story

by Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

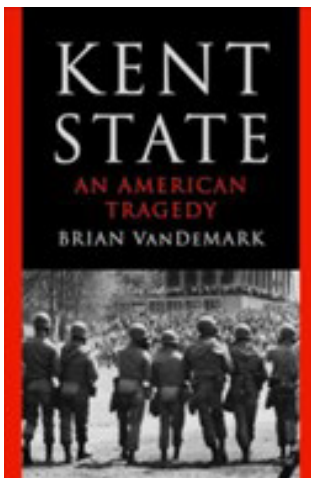


Written just two years after the successful completion of the boycott of the Montgomery, Alabama bus system, a young Rev. King tells the stories that informed his thinking before, during, and after the boycott—from first witnessing economic injustice as a teenager and watching his parents experience 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.

Kent State: An American Tragedy

by Brian VanDeMark

Tuesday, July 8, at 7 pm in the Conference Room

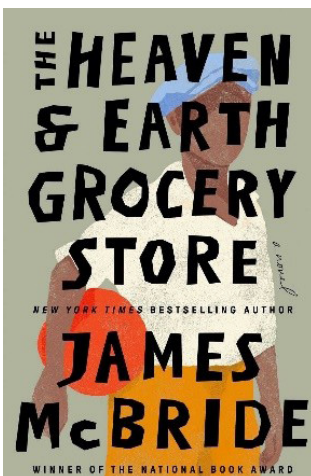


More than a half century has passed since Ohio National Guard members opened fire on college students during a war protest here at Kent State University, killing four students and injuring nine others. In this 2024 book, the author provides important context for that tragic event, including a description of our nation's divides over the Vietnam war which echo today's politics and divisions in many ways. "It was a tense, suspicious, and combustible atmosphere that required only a spark to ignite a tragedy," VanDeMark writes. Drawing on new research and interviews—including, for the first time, the perspective of the guardsmen who were on campus that day—VanDeMark provides a thorough reckoning of the tragedy which continues to impact our community and nation.

The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store: A Novel

by James McBride

Tuesday, August 5, at 7 pm in the Conference Room



In this novel from 2023, James McBride tells the story of Black and Jewish residents living side by side in the Chicken Hill neighborhood of Pottstown, Pennsylvania, in the 1920s and '30s. As the story unfolds, it becomes clear how much the people of Chicken Hill must struggle to survive and how damaging bigotry, hypocrisy, and deceit can be to a community. When hard truths are unearthed, McBride shows that it is love and community—heaven and earth—that ultimately sustain us.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Free!

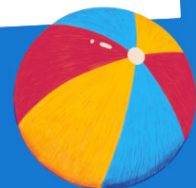


MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
Kent Community Churches
Vacation Bible School

July 28-31, 2025

6:00-8:00pm

age 4 through middle school



**UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF KENT**

Building Together for Tomorrow Capital Campaign

In the fall of 2024, we began a “Building Together for Tomorrow” capital campaign to raise funds to update the heating system in our Education Wing. Thank you to all of you who have pledged donations to this effort already! If you have pledged but not yet given your donation, please do so at your earliest convenience. If you have not yet pledged but would like to do so (or did pledge but would like to add to your commitment), please keep reading for more information about this project.

Some Background

In December 2023, we experienced water leaks from multiple heating units in classrooms on the first floor of our Education Wing. The Board of Trustees quickly determined that all classrooms in our Education Wing should have new heating systems installed to prevent this from happening in the future. The current units are original to that section of the building (1965), are inefficient in their energy use, and no longer can be repaired and maintained. New units will be more durable, energy-efficient, and provide the opportunity both to heat and to cool classrooms (previously, we have not had the ability to provide cooling in our classrooms).



How Much Will this Cost?

The Board of Trustees recently approved a plan from Wright Heating and Cooling to install new heating and cooling units in twenty-one classrooms in our Education Wing at a total cost of \$200,000 (less than \$10,000 per room). This cost may decrease slightly if we receive enough contributions to allow us to install all units at once than a few rooms at a time as funds become available.

More than an “Education” Wing

Did you know that our Education Wing is used for much more than education? Every week, in addition to our congregation’s ministries—including children’s Sunday school and choir, the Tree City Preschool, the Prayer Quilt ministry, and the annual Trash and Treasure Sale—we also connect with our neighbors by providing space in this part of our building for Scouting America, Girl Scouts, AA, NA, Al-Anon, piano lessons, AARP Tax-Aide, and other local partners, making this one of the most heavily used parts of our building and grounds. More than an “Education Wing,” it really is a community gathering place and an expression of our mission to share God’s love among our neighbors. **Your pledge to support this “Building Together for Tomorrow” capital campaign is an investment in the future of our ministries and connection with our community. Thank you for prayerfully considering your ability to support this important campaign.**

Pledges can be made online (www.kentmethodist.org/digital-pledge-card) or by submitting a printed pledge card to the office. Thank you for your participation!

June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Summer Schedule	2 10 am Park Meetup/ SKIP Park, Stow 7 pm Short-term Study/ Room 200 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 5 pm 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	7 8 am League of Women's Voters/Pierson Hall 10 am Akron Zoo Meetup 11 am Cleveland Pride/ Public Square, Cleveland
8 Summer Schedule 4 pm Walk at Morgan Park	9 10 am Park Meetup/ SKIP Park, Stow 7 pm Short-term Study/ Room 200 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym	10 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 6 pm Community Con- nections Team/Conf. Room 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	11	12 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir/ Sanctuary	13	14 1 pm Stark Pride/ Centennial Plaza, Canton
15 Summer Schedule	16 10 am Park Meetup/ SKIP Park, Stow 7 pm Short-term Study/ Room 200 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym	17 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	18	19 Office Closed 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir/ Sanctuary	20 11 am Red Cross Blood Drive/Palmer Gym	21
22 Summer Schedule	23 10 am Park Meetup/ SKIP Park, Stow 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym	24 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym 7:30 pm Janus Circle/ Pierson Hall	25	26 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 2 pm Mosaic Assembly/ Conference Room 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir/ Sanctuary	27	28
29 Summer Schedule	30 10 am Park Meetup/ SKIP Park, Stow 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym					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
JUNE 1	4
JUNE 8	5
JUNE 15	6
JUNE 22	1
JUNE 29	2

If you are unsure of what team you are on, please call the office at 330-673-5879 x114 or email Cara at caradesko@kentmethodist.org.



Our sympathies to:

- Family and friends of Ralph Darr
- Family and friends of Tony Russell

Recent Hospitalizations, Surgeries, and Illnesses:

Maggie Bergman, Sally Dean, Terry Miller, Christy Siegfried Robinson, Thelma Siefert

JUNE FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS

JUNE 1	TBA
JUNE 8	TBA
JUNE 15	Laura & Adam Stephens
JUNE 22	Krista & Leo Clavecilla
JUNE 29	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

JUNE 1	Andrew Alderson
JUNE 8	Andrew Alderson
JUNE 15	Tom Lundberg
JUNE 22	Andrew Alderson
JUNE 29	Eric Wertz

JUNE LAY READERS

JUNE 1	Pat Baldwin
JUNE 8	Krista Clavecilla
JUNE 15	Dottie Emerick
JUNE 22	Tom Emerick
JUNE 29	Janeen Phillips

Thank You Notes

Dear church members,

We would like to thank Donna and all the volunteers who helped in making Mike Senyek's service memorable. The food was delicious and everyone helped so much. Please accept this donation as a token of our appreciation.

All the Senyek family

A huge thank you to my church family who are always so helpful to me as my mobility challenges increase. A special thank you to Tom & Dottie Emerick and Dr. Leo & Krista Clavecilla.

Love and Prayers,
Claudia Sawyer



Apply
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**The United Methodist
Church of Kent
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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 May 22

Registration for *Operation: Restoration* VBS is open now!
July 28-31

Worship Calendar

Date	Week	Scripture	Preacher	Special Event
June 1	Ascension of the Lord Sunday	Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53	Rev. Nathan Howe	Communion
June 8	Day of Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8, 17, 25-27	Rev. Nathan Howe	50-Year Member Recognition
June 15	Trinity Sunday; Peace with Justice Sunday	Proverbs 8:1-4; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15	Rev. Nathan Howe	
June 22	Second Sunday after Pentecost	I Kings 19:1-15a; Psalm 42; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39	Rev. Nathan Howe	
June 29	Third Sunday after Pentecost	II Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62	Report from Mt. T.O.P. Mission Trip (June 21-28)	