



THE METHODIST MOSAIC

Volume 68 Number 4

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

April, 2026

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

WITH THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF KENT

Maundy Thursday, April 2

7 pm in the Sanctuary

On Maundy Thursday, named for the command or “mandate” Jesus gives to love one another, we remember Jesus’ example of servanthood and celebrate God’s presence with us in embodied acts of service and in the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.

Good Friday, April 3

*12 pm Community Crosswalk (downtown Kent,
beginning at First Christian Church)*

7 pm in the Palmer Gym

Our worship on Good Friday moves us directly into the stories of Jesus’ suffering, abandonment, and death. At noon, join us at First Christian Church for our second annual Community Crosswalk, reading scripture and walking through downtown Kent as we remember Jesus’ final steps. At 7 pm, join us in the Palmer Gym for a worship service focused on Jesus’ “seven last words”: the final words or phrases Jesus spoke while on the cross.

Easter Sunday, April 5

7:30 pm in the Outdoor Chapel; 8:30 am in the Sanctuary;

9:30 am in the Palmer Gym; 10:30 am in the Sanctuary

The Easter Season, also known as the Great Fifty Days of Easter, begins at sunset on Easter Eve and continues to the Day of Pentecost (this year on May 24). This is our most joyous season and the core of the entire Christian year. Together in worship, we focus on Christ’s resurrection as the triumph of God’s love over all the powers of death and the continuing invitation to live as Easter people, sharing God’s love and hope with the world.

Youth Ministry News

April 2026

Students and adults from across our region gathered at Camp Asbury, February 27–March 1 for the Camp Asbury Retreat, an annual winter weekend for youth groups. A total of 78 youth and adults came together from 15 churches across the Northern Waters, Central Valley, and West Plains districts. The retreat was filled with worship, teaching, small-group conversations, games, and time for reflection—creating space for students to reconnect with God and with one another.

The theme of the weekend was “Reset: Our Journey with God.” Throughout the retreat, students explored what it means to renew their walk with God through four main sessions:

- Reset Your Heart
- Reset Your Rhythm
- Reset Your Connection
- Reset Your Actions

Pastor Allison LeBrun (Boardman First UMC) shared a powerful message Saturday evening with communion while other adult leaders collaborated with students to bring the Word. The event was also supported by adult leaders from the Discipleship Learning Community cohort (Office of Discipleship Ministries), who served as part of the planning team, specifically Stef Williams (Boardman UMC) and Anne Horvath (Willoughby Hills UMC).

“I’m super pleased with the turn out (including four new churches) and the effect. Every session encouraged the kids to “take this home” and gave them challenges to live out in their local context,” said Horvath. Both Anne and Stef also serve as Youth Leader Network Regional Coordinators under the direction of Connectional Ministries.

Thank you to our congregation for always supporting our youth and making weekends like this one possible.

Shalom,
Rick<><



Faithful Resistance: February 25

Thank you to all who wrote and/or signed letters for me to deliver to congressional leaders on February 25 during The United Methodist Church's day of worship, public witness, and faithful advocacy for immigration justice. More than two thousand mostly United Methodists gathered, and about three dozen of you signed letters which I delivered to one of our senators, expressing the call of our faith to “oppose all laws and policies that attempt to criminalize, dehumanize, or punish displaced individuals and families based on their status as migrants, immigrants, or refugees” (from our United Methodist Social Principles, 2024). Visit <https://www.youtube.com/live/U-C5OPofPk> to view a recording of the day, and visit https://s3.amazonaws.com/account-media/19721/uploaded/f/oe20923870_1772136735_faithful-resistance-sermon-bishop-easterling-22526.pdf to read Bishop LaTrelle Easterling's sermon preached during the morning worship service. Thank you for your partnership in this work of faithful advocacy.

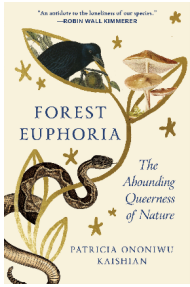
APRIL YOUTH CALENDAR	
SUNDAY 5	Easter NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES
SUNDAY 12	6–7 ZAMARingers 7–8:30 Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 19	6–7 ZAMARingers 7–8:30 Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 26	NO ZAMARingers 7–8:30 Youth Fellowship

Upcoming Book Discussions

Forest Euphoria: The Abounding Queerness of Nature

by Patricia Ononiwu Kaishian

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

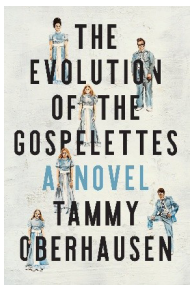


Growing up, Patricia Ononiwu Kaishian felt most at home in the swamps and culverts near her home in the Hudson Valley. As a child who frequently felt out of place, she found acceptance in these settings among other amphibious beings. In snakes, snails, and fungi, she saw her own developing identities as a queer, neurodivergent person reflected back at her—and in them, too, she found a personal path into a life of science. Nature, Kaishian shows us, is filled with the unusual, the overlooked, and the ignored—and they have lessons for us all.

The Evolution of the Gospelettes: A Novel

by Tammy Oberhausen

Tuesday, May 12, at 7 pm in the Conference Room

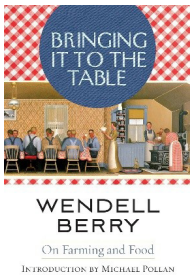


The Evolution of the Gospelettes follows a family in from the 1970s into the 2000s as they transform from a group of old-time gospel singers to performers on a televangelist program to founding members of a megachurch. Through one family's story, we get a glimpse of the changing landscape of some Christian movements in the United States. This book is not currently available in local library systems, but Pastor Nathan has six copies available for interested persons to borrow and read. Please contact Pastor Nathan to pick up a book at your convenience.

Bringing It to the Table: On Farming and Food

by Wendell Berry

Tuesday, June 2, at 7 pm in the Conference Room



For seven decades, Wendell Berry has embodied mindful eating through his land practices and his writing. "Eating is an agricultural act," he writes. We are all players in the food economy. Drawn from Berry's writing over thirty years, this collection of essays is essential reading for anyone who cares about what they eat and how eating connects us with God's creation.

Save the Date

United Christian Ministries (UCM) is hosting their Annual Spring Fling fundraiser on Sunday, April 12, 2026 from 2 - 3:30 PM in Van Meter Hall at the United Church of Christ (the Church Across the Street). This is a family event. There will be a Kids Fun Zone with playful activities for the youngsters and time for adults to gather, connect, and fellowship. Back by popular design is the Basket Silent Auction. Refreshments will be served including the famously delicious cakes that were the best part of the UCM Dinners in the past.

We are one of the local supporting churches for UCM. Their offices are housed in our building. Some of their costs are: \$40 = food for student meetings, \$60 = supplies for community service projects, and \$100 = evangelism and outreach on Kent State Campus. Check out UCM's website at www.myucm.org to see some of the wonderful activities and gatherings they have while growing in faith and caring for each other and the community.

Don't forget! Don't be late! Save the date! UCM Spring Fling fundraiser on April 12, 2026, from 2 - 3:30 at the United Church of Christ - right across the street!

2026 Solar Project

From our United Methodist Social Principles

“We affirm that all creation belongs to God and is a manifestation of God’s goodness and providential care. Human beings, nonhuman animals, plants, and other sentient and non-sentient beings participate in the community of creation, and their flourishing depends on the care of all God’s creation. Rather than treating creation as if it were placed here solely for humanity’s use and consumption, we are called to practice responsible stewardship and to live in right relationship with the Creator and with the whole of God’s creation (Gen. 1:26-31; Matt. 6:26-30; Rom. 8:22-24).”

“The burning of fossil fuels, including coal, oil, and, to a lesser extent, natural gas, is the greatest single contributor to the buildup of greenhouse gases and the consequent warming of earth’s atmosphere. To reverse the current trajectory of global climate change, increased investments are needed in the research, development, and distribution of alternatives to fossil fuels, including, but not limited to, solar, wind, geothermal, and hydrogen-based energy sources.”

At the United Methodist Church of Kent

In November 2025, our Board of Trustees and Gifts, Memorials, and Investments Committee approved a plan for a local company to install solar panels on sections of our roof. This new solar array—consisting of 281 panels—is projected to generate 105% of our recent annual electricity usage, thereby reducing our dependence on fossil fuels, reducing greenhouse emissions equivalent to 40 gasoline-powered cars driven for one year, and significantly reducing our long-term utility costs.

Funding for this project will be provided from our unrestricted general endowment with electricity savings applied to repayment over time. Under provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act (2022), we will be eligible to receive direct payment to cover 30% of the total project cost plus an additional 20% under state and local provisions, thereby offsetting half of the total project cost. The Green Team and Board of Trustees are pursuing other grant and funding options, as well.

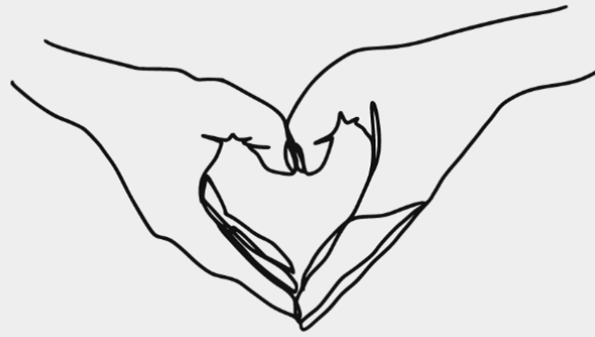
We are not planning a capital campaign to fund this project, but if you would like to invest in solar energy by donating beyond your regular tithes and offerings, please mark your donation, “solar project.” We anticipate solar panels to be installed in early- to mid-April 2026.

Journey of Hope: A Conversation on Violence, Justice, and Healing

Wednesday, April 15, 6 pm to 8 pm
Pierson Hall

“Our commitment to the inherent dignity and worth of every person and our historic stance as United Methodists compels us to oppose capital punishment and the imposition of the death penalty.... Tragically, the death penalty compounds the loss of human life with the deliberate taking of another life.” (from The United Methodist Social Principles, 2024)

On Wednesday, April 15, all are welcome to join us in Pierson Hall from 6 pm to 8 pm for a presentation and conversation about the death penalty and efforts to abolish its practice in the state of Ohio. In collaboration with Journey for Hope and Ohioans to Stop Executions, we will be blessed to host the Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr. Previously the Executive Director of the Ohio Council of Churches, Rev. Sullivan is a nationally-recognized speaker on the death penalty and will share his personal story as a murder victim family member along with reflections on faith, justice, and healing. RSVP is encouraged: <https://nodeathpenaltyoh.com/upcoming-events/>. If you would like to help provide hospitality by offering light refreshments or welcoming attendees to the event, please contact Pastor Nathan at nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org.



LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS

“Loving Our Neighbors” Collection for April CARES Center at Kent State University

Our collection in April will support the work of the CARES Center at Kent State University. “CARES” is an acronym, standing for Crisis, Advocacy, Resources, Education, and Support, and the CARES Center works collaboratively with students to secure resources to meet their basic needs, including financial, food, housing, and mental well-being. Throughout the month of April, please donate shampoo, conditioner, body wash or bar soap, toothpaste, and feminine hygiene products which the CARES Center will distribute through their free pantry. Donations can be placed in the bin in the atrium. Thank you for your generosity!

Sunday Afternoon Walk

Sunday, April 12, 4 pm
Dix 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 Dix Park (7318 State Route 44, Ravenna) at 4 pm and then walk some of the trails together.



Native American Ministries Sunday: April 19

One Church, Many Voices—Support Native American Ministries

Native American Ministries Sunday is one of six special offering opportunities each year in the life of The United Methodist Church. But it’s more than just an offering; it’s a movement to support Native American communities in our denomination. Your gifts help fund scholarships for Native American students pursuing ordained or licensed ministry, ensuring that Native voices continue to lead in the church. Additionally, 50% of all donations stay within our East Ohio Conference to support local Native ministries. Join us on April 19 as we give, learn, and honor the sacred traditions of indigenous peoples.

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7 pm Small Groups/Rms 207 and 208	2 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service/Sanctuary	3 12 pm Community Crosswalk/First Christian Church 7 pm Good Friday Service/ Palmer Gym	4
5 Easter Sunday Schedule 7:30 am: Outdoor Chapel; 8:30 am: Sanctuary; 9:30 am: Palmer Gym; 10:30 am: Sanctuary	6 7 pm Small Group/Con- ference Room 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym	7 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 6 pm Girl Scouts/PH 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7 pm Book Discussion/ Conference Room 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Rm 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	8 7 pm Small Groups/Rms 207 and 208	9 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 1 pm Grief Support Group/Parlor 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room	10	11
12 Regular Sunday Schedule 4 pm Walk in the UMCK Woods	13 7 pm Small Group/Con- ference Room 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym	14 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Rm 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	15 11 am Red Cross Blood Drive/Pierson Hall 7 pm Small Groups/Rms 207 and 208 6:15 pm UWF Board Mtg/ Conference Room	16 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room	17	18
19 Regular Sunday Schedule	20 7 pm Small Group/Con- ference Room 6 pm Garden Club/PH 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym	21 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 6 pm Girl Scouts/PH 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Rm 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym 7 pm Gifts, Memorials, and Investment/Conf Room	22 7 pm Small Groups/Rms 207 and 208	23 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 1 pm Grief Support Group/Parlor 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room	24	25
26 Regular Sunday Schedule	27 7 pm Small Group/Con- ference Room 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym	28 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Rm 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	29 7 pm Small Groups/Rms 207 and 208	30 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room	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
APRIL 2	3
APRIL 5	4
APRIL 12	5
APRIL 19	6
APRIL 26	1

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 Pauline Yohe

Recent Hospitalizations, Surgeries, and Illnesses:

Mark Anderson, Christy Siegfried Robinson, Claudia Sawyer

Fellowship Hour—Help Needed



If you would like to host fellowship hour, you can sign up at www.kentmethodist.org/volunteer/ 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 A/V SCHEDULE

Camera

- APR 2 TBA
- APR 5 Andrew Alderson
- APR 12 Tom Lundberg
- APR 19 Andrew Alderson
- APR 26 Eric Wertz

APRIL LAY READERS

- APR 5 Rev. Bob Machovec
- APR 12 TBA
- APR 19 Krista Clavecilla
- APR 26 Janeen Phillips

Coins for Lent 2026

Throughout the season of Lent, we have been invited to use “Coins for Lent Giving Calendars” to consider the simple material blessings that are part of our lives and to donate a coin for each of them as an opportunity to express our gratitude through generosity. Please remember to bring your total donation for Lent to worship with you on Easter Sunday, April 5. All donations will be given to support ongoing feeding programs through Kent Social Services. Thank you!

Thank You Notes

Dear Dottie & Rebecca Circle,

Thank you for having me to your meeting last month, and the generosity of the group in your giving to our women here at PARC. All of our women are so grateful, and so am I.

Thanks again,
Allyson Westover

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank this wonderful congregation for all of the love and concern during the illness and death of my husband, Vernon. I especially want to thank Pastor Nathan and Pastor Bob for all of their prayer and especially the many visits from Pastor Bob. We are truly blessed to have these two wonderful ministers.

I want to thank all of you for your prayers, cards, and telephone calls and especially all the beautiful altar flowers we have received over the past couple of years.

Thank you for the beautiful prayer quilt. Vern was covered by it up until the end.

Love,
Charleen Pees



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Website:**

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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 March 19

He isn't here, but has been raised.—*Luke 24:6*

Worship Calendar

Date	Week	Scripture	Special Event
April 2	Maundy Thursday	Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; I Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35	7:30 in the Sanctuary, Communion, <i>Sanctuary Choir</i>
April 3	Good Friday	Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42	12 pm Community Crosswalk at First Christian Church, 7 pm in the Palmer Gym, <i>Worship Band</i>
April 4	Holy Saturday	Lamentations 3:1-9; Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16; I Peter 4:1-8; Matthew 27:57-66	No worship service in the building: at-home worship resources will be provided
April 5	Easter Sunday	Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10	7:30 am in the Outdoor Chapel; 8:30 am in the Sanctuary; 9:30 am in the Palmer Gym; 10:30 am in the Sanctuary
April 12	2 nd Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; I Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31	<i>New Spirit</i> , 4 pm Walk at Dix Park
April 19	3 rd Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; I Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35	Native America Ministries Sunday, <i>ZAMARingers</i>
April 26	4 th Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; I Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10	<i>New Spirit</i>