



THE METHODIST MOSAIC

Volume 68 Number 7

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

July, 2026



2026 East Ohio Annual Conference *June 11 – June 13, College of Wooster*

The 57th session of the East Ohio Annual Conference met from Thursday, June 11, through Saturday, June 13, with 288 clergy and 310 laity gathered on the College of Wooster campus. Claire Bank and Mark Bank were members of this year's Annual Conference from our congregation.

During each of the three days of Annual Conference 2026, teacher, preacher, lecturer, and author Ray Buckley shared personal experiences of joy, grief, faith, and transformation in Bible study sessions to center the gathering. Each day also included at least one worship service, including an opening Service of Commemoration and Holy Communion, a Service of Licensing, Commissioning, Ordination, and Retirement, and morning worship services each day.

The East Ohio Conference Connectional Ministries team partnered with United Methodist Communications to present the inaugural Be UMC Awards to clergy and laity who demonstrate a commitment to discipleship, service, and leadership, embodying the transformational ministry to which United Methodists are called. Rick Stout, our Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry, received the Be UMC Lay Person of the Year Award.

In the report from the East Ohio Cabinet, the dean, Rev. Angela Lewis, spoke of the collaborative work of East Ohio and West Ohio in serving the Ohio Episcopal Area which has been united with the leadership of one bishop, Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, since September 2024. The Ohio Episcopal Area Task Team shared a report about its ongoing work toward a possible unified Ohio Conference of The UMC with a plan likely to be voted on at our 2027 East Ohio Annual Conference.

The Annual Conference also supported nine out of ten proposed Resolutions, which are expressions of opinion by the Annual Conference on areas of social concern. You can read the full text of each Resolution at www.eocumc.com/eoac26/resolutions. The titles of the nine supported Resolutions are:

- "Support for Creation Care and the Green Church Movement"
- "Creation of an Ohio Area Substance Abuse Task Force"
- "Concerning Christian Nationalism"
- "The East Ohio Conference and Disabilities"
- "Doing Justice: The Heart and Soul of Social Action"
- "On Christian Opposition to Cruel Treatment of Immigrants by the United States Government"
- "Of War, and Peace: Welcoming the Stranger in Our Midst"
- "Supporting Gender Inclusivity, Equal Protection, and the Sacred Worth of Transgender and Non-Binary People"
- "Support for Associate Members and Local Pastors in Legislative Efforts Toward General Conference 2028"

Visit www.eocumc.com/eoac26 for more information about this year's session of the Annual Conference, including links to photos and videos. The 58th session of the East Ohio Annual Conference will be held during the week of June 7-13, 2027, at the College of Wooster.



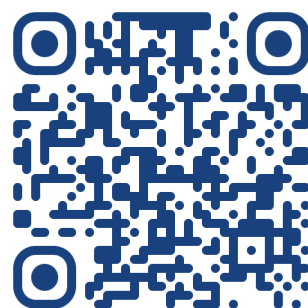
VBS is returning to the Kent UMC! Announcing Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS!

At Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS, your students will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they find their strength in God. They will become Challengers and discover how with God, they can do all things.

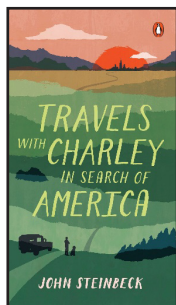
After a high-energy Opening Assembly time, the Challengers make their way to the Bible Story Station. Interactive Bible lessons reveal each Lift Lesson to equip your Challengers for an active life with God. Your Challengers will also discover our Mountain Motto (Bible memory verse), which will remain with them in their faith long after VBS. The students will expand on what they've discovered by making their own art projects at the Craft Station, singing new songs at the Music Station, exploring the wonders of God's creation at the Science Station, playing games at the Recreation Station, and enjoying tasty treats at the Snack Station. Along the way, the Challengers will hear about our mission project as they respond to God's call for action!

Snowball Mountain Challenge is scheduled to be in Pierson Hall July 13-16 from 6-8pm. This VBS is open to all kids who have just finished PreK through rising 6th graders.

To learn more, call Chelsea or Rick in the church office or send an email to rickstout@kentmethodist.org To register please scan the QR code or visit this link: <https://events.kentmethodist.org/vbs-2026>



Upcoming Book Discussions

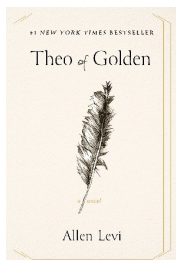


Travels with Charley: In Search of America

by John Steinbeck

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

Published in 1962 as a travelogue of a cross-country road trip made by Steinbeck in the company of his poodle, Charley, *Travels with Charley* is a reflection on aging and adapting to a changing world and the American character experienced along the way.

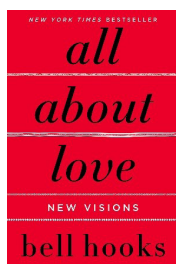


Theo of Golden

by Allen Levi

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

Theo of Golden is the endearing story of a curious old man who quietly moves into a southern city and, for reasons unknown to anyone but himself, undertakes a campaign of anonymous kindness and generosity. Over time, stories are shared, friendships are born, and lives are affirmed and transformed.



All About Love: New Visions

by bell hooks

Tuesday, October 6, at 7 pm in the Conference Room

All About Love offers new ways to think about love by showing its interconnectedness in our private and public lives. Moving from the cultural to the individual, hooks shows how love heals the wounds we bear as individuals and as a nation, for love is the cornerstone of compassion and forgiveness and holds the power to overcome shame.

Help Wanted

Children's Choir Director

SUMMARY:

The Children's Choir Director will be an active member of a staff team which seeks to lead and serve the UMC of Kent in living its mission to help all people become aware of God's seeking love as shown through Jesus Christ and to respond in faith, love, service, and gifts. This person will work closely with the Director of Christian Education to lead the children's choir as part of regular Sunday morning classes and during occasional worship services.

CORE COMPETENCIES:

The Children's Choir Director will have and be able to display:

- a firm grounding in Christian faith and a desire to help the whole congregation—especially children and their families—to grow in praise and service of God;
- an ability to work well with many different people including staff and members of the congregation and broader community; and
- experience in music performance and conducting, especially working with children.

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Children's Choir Director will be responsible for:

- rehearsing and directing children's choir on Sunday mornings during the school year;
- being the consistent point of contact between the congregation and children and their families on Sunday mornings;
- leading music components of summer Vacation Bible School programs;
- participating in worship team meetings to coordinate with all music staff;
- leading the children's choir in programs during worship services at least twice per year (typically December and April/May);
- selecting, purchasing, and maintaining appropriate music for the children's choir;
- working closely with the Director of Christian Education, Sunday school teachers, and other Sunday morning children's ministry helpers to provide excellent ministry opportunities for children and their families on Sunday mornings; and
- cultivating excellent relationships with children and families, including those already connected with the congregation and welcoming new children and families into the life of the congregation.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

This position is part-time (averaging approximately 5-7 hours per week), salaried without benefits, and will require flexible hours. The actual number of hours worked per week can vary with the church season. Compensation will be a beginning annual salary of \$7,000. The Children's Choir Director is expected to be present on Sunday mornings and at special worship services as requested by the Director of Christian Education and/or pastor. This position will report directly to the Director of Christian Education and the pastor and be accountable to the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) for ongoing evaluation and support.

Employment will begin 1 August 2026.

July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH	2 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH	3 Office Closed: Fourth of July Observance	4
5 Summer Sunday Schedule	6 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym	7 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	8	9 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 11 am Portage County Retired Teachers/PH 1 pm Grief Support Group/Parlor	10	11
12 Summer Sunday 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 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	15	16 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH	17 6 pm Family Movie Night/ Palmer Gym	18
19 Summer Sunday Schedule	20 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym	21 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	22	23 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 1 pm Grief Support Group/Parlor	24	25
26 Summer Sunday Schedule	27 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym	28 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	29	30 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans	31	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



Our sympathies to:

- Family and friends of Anne Statz
- Family and friends of Larry Wright
- Family and friends of Joyce Gross

Recent Hospitalizations, Surgeries, and Illnesses:

Josh Anderson, David Black, Glenn Foldessy, Joey Simon, George Wargo

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.

USHERS AND GREETERS	
Date	8:30/10:30
JUL 5	5
JUL 12	6
JUL 19	1
JUL 26	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 .	

JULY FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS	
JULY 5	Becky Mulloy
JULY 12	Carol Pozuc
JULY 19	John Lewis & Ginny Smith
JULY 26	Cathy Stemen

JULY LAY READERS	
JULY 5	Judith Nedel
JULY 12	Krista Clavecilla
JULY 19	Lori Foldessy
JULY 26	Janeen Phillips

10:30 A/V SCHEDULE	
Camera	
JULY 5	Andrew Alderson
JULY 12	Tom Lundberg
JULY 19	Eric Wertz
JULY 26	Eric Wertz

10:30 A/V SCHEDULE	
Proclaim/Sound	
JULY 5	Andrew Alderson
JULY 12	Bill Childers
JULY 19	Desmeal Leigh
JULY 26	Adam Stephens

United Worship Services with Kent UCC

Sundays, August 2 and 9

This summer, we will once again worship together with our siblings at Kent UCC. On Sunday, August 2, our two congregations will worship together at 10 am in the Sanctuary of Kent UCC (1400 East Main Street). On Sunday, August 9, our two congregations will worship together at 10 am in our Sanctuary. Please join us both weeks as we celebrate God's presence and our shared mission to love God and love our neighbors well.

Join UMCK at the Kent Heritage Festival

Friday, July 3

We have reserved a booth this year at Kent's downtown Heritage Festival on Friday, July 3. This will be a great opportunity for us to connect and share God's love with our neighbors. If you would be interested in helping at the booth at any point during the day, please contact Pastor Nathan (nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org).



Apply
Postage
Here

**The United Methodist
Church of Kent
PO Box 646
Kent, OH 44240**

**Church Office:
330-673-5879
Website:**

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 June 24

**Registration for Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS (July 13-16)
is available now at events.kentmethodist.org**

Worship Calendar

Date	Week	Scripture	Special Event
July 5	6th Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:1-17; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Communion
July 12	7th Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	
July 19	8th Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	
July 26	9th Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	



**Connect with us at www.kentmethodist.org,
facebook.com/UMCofKent,
or on Instagram @kentmethodist**

