



THE METHODIST MOSAIC

Volume 68, Number 9

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

September 2026

HARVEST EXCHANGE



Share in the abundance. Take and give freely.

Join us in celebrating and sharing the abundance of God's provision. If you are a home gardener and have extra vegetables you can share with others, please bring them and place them on the round table in the atrium. If you can use some extra vegetables, please visit that table and take what you will use. Any "leftover" vegetables will be given to Kent Social Services to distribute to our neighbors.



Faith Build

Habitat for Humanity®
of Portage County

The Faith Build committee at our church has volunteered to serve two workdays for Project 75. The days are set for Saturday, September 19 and Saturday October 24. Both workdays run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch will be provided, and sign-up sheets are in the atrium. Won't you please consider signing up to work one or both of these days as we push to complete Project 75 before winter arrives?



"Grounded Resistance" Watch Party for the 2026 Environment and Spirituality Summit

Tuesday, September 29

6:30 pm

Sanctuary

On Tuesday, September 29, we will host a gathering at 6:30 pm in our Sanctuary to stream Bill McKibben's keynote from Faith in Place's 2026 Environment and Spirituality Summit and then discuss it together in person. The summit's theme, "Grounded Resistance," explores how we care for the goodness of God's creation from a place of deep grounding, collective support, and sustained resistance to environmental harm. Bill McKibben is an author, educator, and environmentalist who helped form 350.org, the first global grassroots climate campaign, and recently founded Third Act, an organizing movement specifically for people over the age of 60. The watch party is free, and all are welcome to participate, so invite your friends and neighbors to join us! Learn more and register in advance at www.aes-summit.org.

Youth Ministry News

September 2026

It's hard to believe that summer is coming to an end. Our youth group had a memorable week at Mountain T.O.P. Many were involved in the programs at our East Ohio Camps. Fall sports, marching band, and other school activities have started. Now it's time to resume our youth activities.

Youth Group will begin on Sunday, September 6, for all sixth- through 12th-graders at 7:00 PM. I am also excited to announce that we will continue to serve a light dinner on Sundays at 7:00, between ZAMARingers (which will start September 13) and Youth Group.

Looking ahead to fall, we have invited the UCC to join us at Youth Group on Sunday, September 13, for a cookout, laser tag, and a campfire at our firepit. Please mark this date and invite friends to join us for this special night.

Our Time and Talent Auction is scheduled for September 27, a hayride is being planned for October 17, and there will be a special activity on November 8 as we host Project Feed. Be sure to mark your calendars, keep these dates open, and plan to participate in all of these activities.

Believe it or not, we have already started thinking about next year's youth mission trip. We will once again partner with Mountain T.O.P. to be in ministry with the people of the Cumberland Mountains. The trip is scheduled for June 19–26, 2027. Preparation for this trip will begin with a parent/student interest meeting on September 20 at 7:00 PM in Pierson Hall. At this meeting, we will announce several changes planned for next year's trip and officially begin taking registrations. It is important that anyone in grades 6–12 who is interested in going on the mission trip attend this meeting. The opportunity to register for the trip will close during the first week of January. I am very excited about next year's trip and look forward to sharing all the exciting news at the meeting on September 20.

Shalom,
Rick ∞

SEPTEMBER YOUTH CALENDAR

SUNDAY 6	7–8:30 Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 13	6–7 ZAMARingers 7–8:30 Youth Fellowship (Laser Tag with UCC)
SUNDAY 20	Mountain TOP Interest Mtg (parents) 6–7 ZAMARingers 7–8:30 Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 27	Time and Talent Auction NO EVENING ACTIVITIES

Grundy County Fall Festival Coat Drive 2026

This year, we are again planning an ADULT TRIP to the mountain on October 22–25. If YOU would like to be a part of this amazing experience or feel called to be a part of this ministry, please contact Rick Stout to learn how you can take part in this wonderful opportunity.

As part of this trip, Mountain T.O.P. will host its annual Grundy County Fall Festival during the weekend of October 24! While the festival focuses on providing new shoes to people in need throughout the area, Mountain T.O.P. will also distribute winter coats, books, and school supplies to the people of Grundy County. To help with this effort, Mountain T.O.P. has asked our church to once again sponsor a coat collection for the Fall Festival.

Beginning September 1, coats can be placed in the bin in the atrium. Please remember that we are looking for NEW or EXTREMELY GENTLY used coats and jackets in various sizes to be given to the people of Grundy County. You may also drop them off at Rick Stout's office.

If you have questions or would like to travel to Mountain T.O.P. with the coats and be a part of the Fall Festival, please contact Rick Stout in the church office.

Mountain T.O.P. interest meeting September 20

Believe it or not, plans are underway for our annual mission trip. This year we will again be going to Mountain TOP. Mountain TOP is an interdenominational Christian Mission, affiliated with the Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church. Its ministry is dedicated to improving the quality of life for the rural people living in the Cumberland Mountains of Tennessee. This year's trip is scheduled for June 19 through June 26, 2027.

An interest meeting for anyone interested in attending next year's trip (even if you've already been to Mountain T.O.P.) is scheduled for September 20 at 7:00 p.m.

in Pierson Hall. At the meeting, any changes to next year's trip will be discussed. Therefore, we require that at least one parent attend with each student in grades 6-12 who is interested in going on the trip. However, attendance at this meeting does not guarantee participation on the trip; this is only an information gathering time.

Please contact Rick at 330-283-4838 if you are unable to attend this meeting but are planning to go to Mountain T.O.P. Also, feel free to contact me with any other questions or concerns. I look forward to seeing everyone on that Sunday.

Annual Time and Talent Auction Sunday, September 27

Sunday, September 27 will be the return of the youth's annual "Time and Talent Auction" and luncheon sponsored by the Kent Youth Group. In the past each year our auction served as the MAJOR FUNDRAISER used to support the many activities our youth participate in during the year.

We already have the following items available for this year's auction:

- Two tickets to the Northwestern vs. OSU on Nov. 14 with parking pass
- Use of a flat in London for a week
- An OSU winter coat

While we are asking each of the youth to donate an item, there is room for the entire church to get involved in the fun. Donation items could include:

- Theme baskets
- Craft or handmade items.
- Theater or movie tickets (Weathervane)
- Knickknacks
- Use of a cottage, cabin or timeshare
- Dinner events
- Use of a pool or picnic area
- Gift certificates
- Collectibles or antiques

The ideas are endless.

Won't you please prayerfully consider ways you might be able to support our youth ministry through the donation of an item. Those interested in donating an item can do so by calling Rick at 330-283-4838 or by email at rickstout@kentmethodist.org.

Attention all third graders and their parents!

As you enter the third grade this year, your church would like to present you with a very special gift—your very own Bible. The Bible is one of the most wonderful gifts that the church can give, because it contains God's message of salvation!

Bible Presentation Sunday will be September 13 during the 10:00 a.m. service; third graders and their parents will be called to the front of the sanctuary to receive Bibles. Parents are involved in the Bible presentation, because this is a way of recognizing the important role that parents play in enabling children to attend church.

Of course, the Bible only becomes valuable when we use it. To this end, we have some powerful helps for third graders learning to use their Bibles. First, our Sunday School enables children to really learn the Bible, how to use it, and how to apply its message to our lives. Secondly, we have a Bible mentor program. Each third grader is paired with an adult who will be his or her Bible mentor throughout the school year. Mentors guide third graders through a variety of activities that help them to enjoy, appreciate, and become familiar with their Bible. The mentors are also invited to be part of the Bible presentation and will be given a Mentor guide on that day.

If you have questions or would like to sign your 3rd grader up to receive a Bible, please contact Rick Stout at 330-283-4838 or rickstout@kentmethodist.org.

Save the Date: Fall Kickoff, September 13

On Sunday, September 13, we will resume fall programming, including Sunday school classes for children, youth, and adults. To celebrate the day together, we will have one worship service only, at 10 am in the Sanctuary, and that worship service will be followed by a potluck picnic in Pierson Hall. Please join us!

Pet Blessing Sunday, October 4 on the lawn between the Chapel and the Sanctuary

On Sunday, October 4, at 5 p.m., all are welcome to bring their pets and join us on the lawn near the office entrance as we give thanks to God for our animal companions and ask God's blessing upon them. Please have larger animals on a leash and smaller animals in a carrier.

In preparation for this year's Pet Blessing, you are invited once again to send pictures of your pets to Pastor Nathan beginning September 20 (nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org). We will print and display pictures of our animal companions on a bulletin board in our building, giving thanks to God for the blessing of their presence in our lives.

Directory Update Project

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is updating our church directory, our first new directory since 2019. We hope it will foster better communication and connection among our church family.

We will not be working with a traditional photography company. If you would like a picture in your listing, you may submit any photo you like, including a candid shot, or have a new photo taken at church. Tom McGrew and Mark Bergman have generously volunteered their time and talent to help. We will soon share a SignUpGenius with available times. They can take a formal posed photo or a casual picture in your favorite location around church, then upload it to the directory and email you a digital copy at no cost.

Members of SPRC and other volunteers will also reach out by email or phone to confirm your current address, email, phone number, and the information you want included in the printed directory. You may also update your information using the form below or by emailing this information to info@kentmethodist.org.

We hope to gather photos and updated contact information in August and September and self-publish the new directory later this fall. Thank you in advance for participating!

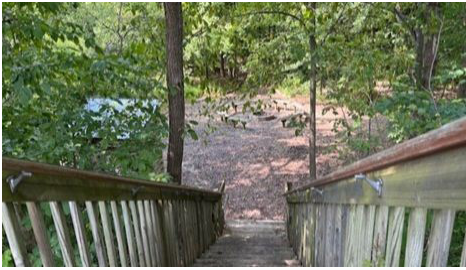
Update Your Directory Information

Please return this form to the office when it is complete. You may also fill this out online at www.kentmethodist.org, or you may email this information to info@kentmethodist.org. We request that you provide each piece of information for each member of your household. If you would like this information to be withheld from the directory, please check the "Do Not Publish" box.

	Person 1	Person 2	Do Not Publish
Full Name			☐
Cell Phone Number			☐
Email Address			☐
Mailing Address			☐
Home Phone			☐

Sunday Afternoon Walk

Sunday, September 13, 4 pm
UMCK Woods



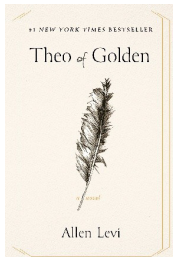
Enjoy the beauty and goodness of God's creation, both outside and in each other! Invite a friend or neighbor and join us as we walk through the wooded section of our property. We will meet in our parking lot on the north side of our building (near Pierson Hall) at 4 pm on September 13, and then walk through the woods together, identifying and appreciating the beauty in our backyard. Please join us!

Upcoming Book Discussions

Theo of Golden

by Allen Levi

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

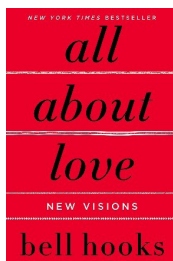


Theo of Golden is the endearing story of a curious old man who quietly moves into a southern city and, for reasons unknown to anyone but himself, undertakes a campaign of anonymous kindness and generosity. Over time, stories are shared, friendships are born, and lives are affirmed and transformed.

All About Love: New Visions

by bell hooks

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

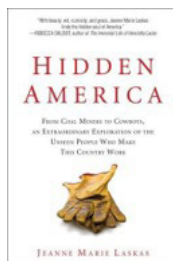


All About Love offers new ways to think about love by showing its interconnectedness in our private and public lives. Moving from the cultural to the individual, hooks shows how love heals the wounds we bear as individuals and as a nation, for love is the cornerstone of compassion and forgiveness and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

Hidden America: From Coal Miners to Cowboys, and Extraordinary Exploration of the Unseen People Who Make This Country Work

by Jeanne Marie Laskas

Tuesday, November 10, at 7 pm in the Conference Room

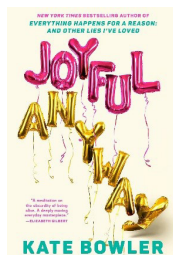


In Hidden America, we discover stories about the people who make our lives run every day—and yet, we rarely consider them. Among other places, the author spent weeks on an Ohio coal mine, on an Alaskan oil rig, in a Maine migrant labor camp, on a Texas beef ranch, in the air traffic control tower at New York's LaGuardia Airport, at a California landfill, and in the cab of a long-haul truck in Iowa. By reading the stories of the lives of those who work in these and other places, we are reminded of our interdependence with our neighbors.

Joyful, Anyway

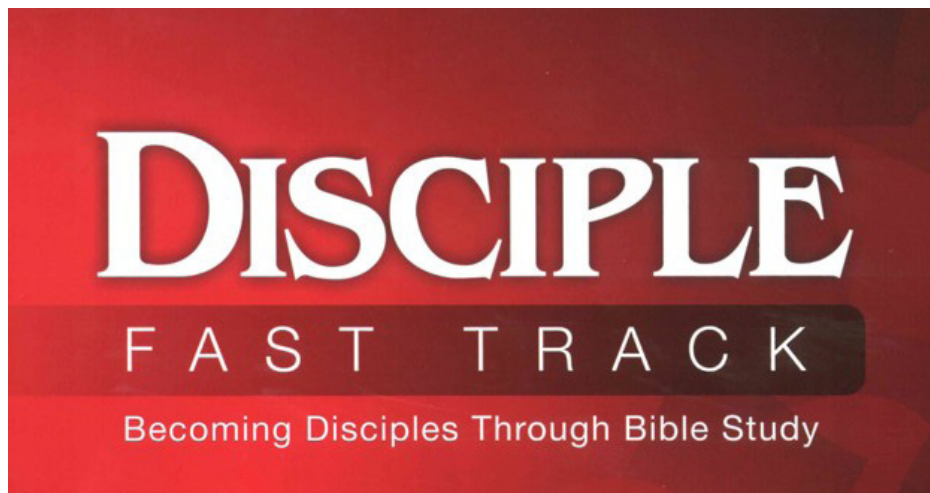
by Kate Bowler

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



We live in a culture convinced that chasing happiness will optimize our bodies, our minds, our relationships, and our lives. But in the meantime, bad news usually stays bad: illness, chronic pain, grief, and disappointment don't obey our plans. In Joyful, Anyway, author and Duke University professor Kate Bowler offers a deeply human case for joy that doesn't depend on everything getting better. Joy reminds us: no matter what, life still is worth loving.

UPCOMING STUDY AND SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES



Disciple Fast Track: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study
Mondays, September 14 – November 23, 7 pm
Parlor

Part 1 of Disciple Bible Study will meet for twelve sessions during the fall of 2026, on Monday evenings from September 14 through November 23. This first section will focus on the First Testament (the Old Testament) with participants invited to read 3-5 chapters of the Bible daily in preparation for weekly meetings. Study Manuals are designed to guide your personal study while also preparing you for the weekly group meetings. To sign up and order a Study Manual (\$16 each), please contact Pastor Nathan (nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org).

New Small Groups Forming in September
meeting at various days and times

Beginning in mid-September, we will launch new small groups as an opportunity to find and build community while growing in our faith by sharing life together. All of us have some desire to be known by others and to do good in the world. These small groups are designed to be an opportunity to do this in community with others.

What are small groups? Small groups are communities of five to ten individuals who meet regularly on the journey of becoming more deeply committed followers of Christ. Groups can meet two or three times per month, deciding the pattern that will work best for their participants. They can meet consistently for up to two years, but to begin, we ask for a six-week commitment. At the end of six meetings, groups and participants can reevaluate their plans and decide what will be best moving forward.

Interested in hosting a small group? Being a host allows you the opportunity to provide a space for others to share joys and concerns, to learn together, to grow in faith, and to serve in our community. Hosts aren't "experts"; they just need to be willing to offer space and love for their neighbors. Interested or have questions? Contact Pastor Nathan (nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org).

Interested in participating in a small group? Being part of a small group can be a transformative way to experience connection by journeying together alongside others who are seeking to be known and to do good in our community. Please contact Pastor Nathan (nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org) to let us know if you are interested in connecting in this way.

Help Wanted

Children's Choir Director

UMC of Kent seeks a faithful, collaborative musician to lead its children's choir and help children and families grow through worship, music, and Christian community.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Rehearse and direct the choir during Sunday morning classes in the school year
- Lead the choir in worship at least twice annually
- Support Vacation Bible School music
- Select and maintain appropriate music
- Coordinate with Christian Education, worship staff, teachers, and families
- Welcome and build relationships with children and families

QUALIFICATIONS

- Strong Christian faith and commitment to ministry
- Experience in music performance and conducting, especially with children
- Excellent communication and teamwork skills

POSITION DETAILS

Part-time, approximately 5–7 hours weekly; flexible and seasonal schedule. Sunday mornings and occasional special services required. Salary begins at \$7,000 annually, without benefits. For complete details, contact the church office at info@kentmethodist.org.

Acme Community Cash Back

It is that time of year again: United Women in Faith is collecting Acme Community Cash Back receipts, and we are asking the congregation for your help.

Through this program, we earn 5% back from eligible receipts. United Women in Faith uses these funds to support local charities and serve our local community.

Please turn in the entire receipt. At the bottom of your receipt, you will see "Community Cash Back," which shows the percentage that qualifies for the program.

Clear Acme receipt collection boxes are located throughout the building, including Pierson Hall, the atrium, and the table by the chapel.

The last day to turn in receipts is February 13, 2027.

Thank you again for participating and helping United Women in Faith support our community. If you have any questions, please contact Krista Clavecilla.



René Schiffer, Cello

Sunday, September 13, 2:30 p.m. Sanctuary

Cellist René Schiffer will give a recital presentation on the Cello Suites by Johann Sebastian Bach on Sunday, September 13 at 2:30 p.m. in our sanctuary. René's recording of the complete Bach Cello Suites was released on AVIE Records in June.

René is well known in Northeast Ohio as the principal cellist of Apollo's Fire, Cleveland's Baroque orchestra directed by Jeannette Sorrell. He is a founding member of the ensemble. He has performed on over 50 commercial recordings, including most of the 30 recordings released by Apollo's Fire. He was cellist for the Apollo's Fire's recording with tenor Karim Sulayman, *Songs of Orpheus*, which won a Grammy in 2019. He is also active as a composer, sometimes under his own name and sometimes using amusing pseudonyms.

René performs on period instruments. These are instruments that either were made in the same general time as when the music was composed or reproductions of these instruments. They are always set up in Baroque style – gut strings rather than steel, no end pin, Baroque bow, and numerous other differences. René often plays a 1768 Benoît Fleury cello, which he used for some of the suites in the new recording.

According to ChatGPT, as of December 2025 there were 282 recordings of the complete Bach Cello Suites. And yet, René's recording is what the world truly needed! His recordings are available at online stores and on the streaming venues. Some of the tracks are even available on YouTube.

For his presentation, René will perform some of the movements from the Bach Cello Suites, and he will offer insights about the music, the instruments, Baroque performance style, maybe Linda Ronstadt, and whatever else happens to come up in his wildly unpredictable creative mind. Don't be surprised if there is a Q&A.

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	2 7 pm Children, Youth, and Family Ministries/Conf Rm	3 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lions Lunch/PH 6:30 pm SPRC/Conf Rm	4	5
6 Summer Sunday Schedule	7 Labor Day— Office Closed	8 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 6 pm Community Connections Team/Conf Rm 6 pm Girl Scouts/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	9	10 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 1 pm Grief Support Group/Parlor	11	12
13 Regular Schedule Unified Service 10 AM Picnic to follow 4 pm Walk in the UMCK Woods	14 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/Palmer Gym	15 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7 pm Trustees Meeting/ Conference Room 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	16 11 am-5 pm Red Cross Blood Drive/Pierson Hall	17 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lions Lunch/PH	18	19
20 Regular Schedule	21 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/Palmer Gym	22 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym 7:30 pm Janus Circle/PH	23	24 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 1 pm Grief Support Group/Parlor	25	26
27 Regular Schedule Youth Time and Talent Auction (after 10:30 service)	28 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/Palmer Gym	29 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym 7 pm Environment and Spirituality Watch Party/ Sanctuary	30		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 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
SEP 6	2
SEP 13	3
SEP 20	4
SEP 27	5

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.

Recent Hospitalizations, Surgeries, and Illnesses:

Gary Harvey, Alice Ross, Al Siegfried

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS

SEP 6	Melody Neumiller
SEP 13	Church Picnic
SEP 20	Pat & Dave Gynn
SEP 27	Meghan Harper

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.

SEPTEMBER LAY READERS

SEP 6	Lori Foldessy
SEP 13	Karen Bennett
SEP 20	Krista Clavecilla
SEP 27	Pat Baldwin

Thank You Notes

Dear congregation,

I would like to thank Sally Dean for the delivery of the flowers. They were much appreciated. I would also like to thank the many members who served as ushers for Larry Wright's service. You were a great help.

Thank you,
Mary Wright

Dear UMC of Kent,

Thank you for your generous gift to the Portage County Pride Fund's Student Emergency Grant Fund. Your support helps local students overcome unexpected barriers and continue pursuing their educational goals.

With gratitude,
PoCo Pride Fund

UMC of Kent,

Thank you for supporting CWS! We are so grateful to have you as a partner in Mission and Ministries. Your \$400 gift will help to provide warmth, hope, and the tools needed for a brighter tomorrow.

Thank you,
Tiffany DeTienne,
Development Ops Coordinator, Church World Service

10:30 A/V SCHEDULE

	Camera	Proclaim/Sound
SEP 6	Andrew Alderson	Desmeal Leigh
SEP 13	Andrew Alderson	Tom Lundberg
SEP 20	Tom Lundberg	Andrew Alderson
SEP 27	Tom Lundberg	Bill Childers



Apply
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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**

Mailing Label Here

Mailed August 21

This year's fall kickoff picnic will be Sunday, September 13!

Worship Calendar

Date	Week	Scripture	Special Event
September 6	15th Sunday after Pentecost	Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20	Communion
September 13	16th Sunday after Pentecost	Exodus 14:19-31, 15:1b-11, 20-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 20:1-16	Fall Kickoff (Unified Service at 10 am followed by a church picnic, Sunday Afternoon Walk - 4 pm)
September 20	17th Sunday after Pentecost	Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Acts 2:14-21, 33-35; Matthew 20:1-16	
September 27	18th Sunday after Pentecost	Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4; Acts 3:1-19; Matthew 21:23-32	



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facebook.com/UMCofKent,
or on Instagram @kentmethodist**

