

Hudson United Methodist Church

2670 Hudson Aurora Rd Hudson OH 44236

April 2020



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*Great Inspiration for
Thought*



Rev. Clark Stein

PASTOR'S PAGE

“Jesus went through the Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.” Matthew 4:23

It is getting to the time of year when we begin to look at our thermostats and thermometers. We glance outside to see how far the mercury has climbed, and we then make adjustments to the thermostat inside so that we can remain somewhat comfortable in the changing temperatures.

I wonder, in our lives of faith, if we would consider ourselves thermostats or thermometers? It seems to me as though Jesus was a pretty consistent thermostat. He not only was able to figure out the temperature of situations and people, but he worked to change that temperature when he felt it needed to be adjusted. Healing and preaching the good news, providing food for multitudes, walking on water, stilling storms, raising Lazarus, money changers in the temple, parables and storytelling, water to wine, last supper, crucifixion, resurrection, all of these point to a person who actively worked to change the temperature. He was a keen observer. Before working for change, we must recognize the current condition of the climate, and discern the best way to work for adjustments. However, the adjustments are not solely personal, but also change the surrounding climate for people in dire need of a change.

We live in the middle of many different climates. We appreciate the change of the seasons. We make adjustments based on weather patterns and keep our eyes out for storms on the horizon. Maybe we who have invented snow blowers and early warning weather advisory systems could also take a look at the horizon of humanity and all of the many apparent needs. Surely we who can adjust our thermostats to provide comfort in our homes can find new ways of impacting the weather patterns that

G.I.F.T.

affect the surrounding culture. Notice that Jesus often impacted people outside of synagogues and temple. He met them where they were and provided hope for change in systems that often caused the mercury to rise.

As we move into another change in the seasons, think a bit about what a thermostat actually does. Far too many of us simply want to be thermometers, sticking our fingers up in the air and proclaiming the heat. Far too few of us want to respond anymore by helping to bring the temperature down, not just for ourselves, but for our brothers and sisters; brothers and sisters who know war, who live in extreme poverty, who don't know where tomorrow's food will come from, and have no health care. Brothers and sisters who are also made in the image of our Creator, children of God just like you and me.

Thermometer or thermostat?

Peace, and praying you are all well.

Pastor Clark



Great Inspiration for Thought

EASTER FLOWERS

We will not be able to accept Easter Flowers orders because of the uncertainty of whether there will be services on Easter.



MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day falls on, Sunday, May 10, this year. The church was slated to sell flats of flowers in the month of April but have abandoned that idea with the current situation.

We'd like to move forward with a fresh plan, to have flowers planted around the church to be blooming bright and colorful for Mother's Day. Please, be thinking about the possibility of donating flowers to the church garden for beautification.

You can purchase a flat of flowers for drop-off, date yet to be determined, or send in or drop off a check with a note in the memo line for garden flowers



Spring has sprung, the birds are chirping, the weather is warming and it is time to prepare the garden to bloom in all its splendor and tidy up our house of worship.

On **April 18th at 9am** come rain or shine, open or closed, join us in fellowship as we spruce up for spring. There are tasks for any age and ability level. Bring your favorite rag, rake, bucket, gloves and smile.

This will be a light rain or shine event, as we have an obligation to complete this task in working with our lawn service company.

A few notes; pending on the current situation at that time, there may or may not be coffee or donuts provided. If we are still on some type of lock-down the event will be a Bring Your Own Coffee event (BYOC)... We will also work in small groups of 4 or less to accomplish the tasks at hand.

Vital to our success & planning, Please, log into Sign-up Genius Link.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040848AFA62BA5FD0-spring>

Contact any Trustee or the Main Office for more details or questions. Yes, the Office line is open. Thank you, Christopher Basil





Family Ministries will be providing online resources twice a week for family discipleship, including devotionals, verses to memorize, songs, book suggestions, activities, etc.



The Sunday school classes for children in the 3 year old-1st grade class and the 2nd-8th grade class are also sending out weekly lessons & activities.

Youth Group will meet weekly on Zoom on Sundays at 6:15pm.



If you are not on the email lists for any of these, and would like to be, please email Kerrie Book at kerrieevansbook@gmail.com.

We will give additional updates as we find more ways to stay connected during this time. In the meantime, stay connected by encouraging and praying for one another!





Church Council Task Group Meeting – Minutes for February 25, 2020

Attendance: Chris Basil, Paul Brown, Becca Gates, Tom King, Bob Murphy, Jake Protivnak, Paula Shaw, Jim Sherer, Rev. Clark Stein. Devotion: Tom read a prayer of the need to show up and be present for God, then the group shared prayer concerns.

Sharing God Moments: Tom shared times of God's presence in Puerto Rico and Chris of power outage in the salt mine under Lake Erie.

Council Meeting Minutes Approval: Minutes of the January 28 meeting were reviewed but will await the March Council meeting for approval.

Pastor of Worship and Community Outreach position: The TAP grant from the Canal District runs out at the end of February which funded this position. Bob Book as decided to not continue with the position on a volunteer basis. His last Crossroads worship service will be March 1 and he will continue to lead the Youth Group until June. Chris Basil observed that the most successful staffing for youth group and family ministry occurred when we were fortunate to get a spouse to share in the staff position.

Financial Overview: Bob explained that our General Fund is approximately \$30,000 in the red versus over \$20,000 in the black at the start of the fiscal year, April 1. This is due to unusually high building maintenance and replacement expenses needed by the Trustees, and donations lower than budgeted. We will have to make some difficult decisions if this trend continues. Tom said it is hard to get a good picture of month to month what has been happening because we have been in the process of changing our financial reports over to a new system.

Future Forward – Visioning: The group discussed the vision writing process in that it is hard to narrow down with a large group working on it. Yet we need buy in from the congregation. We need a clear sense of our unique benefit, "our brand" to focus our energy within our four walls and out to the community. Clark relayed that he received an offer from District Superintendent Ed Peterson that we could have a facilitator help with this process. The District would pay for church leadership to be led through a Ministry Action Potential Study (M.A.P.S.).

We would have to commit our church leaders participating in a number of sessions with the consultant to identify where we should build our strengths. Two or three sessions of either one day each, or two evenings, would cover the material in those 2 or 3 steps. The group then discussed whether this should be accepted and our ability to invest in the time commitment. Each member present thought this would be valuable for our church and we need to make this commitment.

Building our Ministry: Due to the late hour, reports were abbreviated. Paula reported for the Membership and Congregational Care Committee that the New Member Class is being rethought. They are thinking of having three sessions for new members but transfers from another UMC would just attend one session. Kim Young will continue to coordinate Greeters and we are need of a focal point for hosting memorial receptions. The Trustees would like to install the discussed Prayer Box for the community at their planned April 4 Garden Party yard clean-up. And this year they will ask the congregation for donations for the planting of flowers for Mother's Day.

Communication Team: Tom said that Becca Gates and Linda Brown are now taking responsibility for administering the church's Facebook page and that will now include upcoming events with sign ups. Persons signing up for events will be referred to the person responsible for the given event. He proposed that a larger Communication Team be formed with Becca and Linda and others including: Bill Centrello who has been our web master, John Neff volunteering to work with the web site, Michael Beam and a representative from the Membership and Congregational Care Committee. In addition to the web site and Facebook, the group would help others with advertising and submitting articles in the HUB, and Constant Contact. The group talked about need for oversight of public postings and concluded the oversight should vary by the medium. On-line postings can be modified or taken down but with print the group felt a reviewer should okay the content written by the author, receiving two sets of eyes. Tom said that a new web site was needed and asked for support to request \$1,000-2,000 to build a new one. The group thought this should be a priority.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm and Clark gave the closing prayer.
Prepared by Tom King

NURSERY SCHOOL



It seems so strange to be writing this article for April with so much uncertainty. I would normally be boasting about all the fun activities we have planned for the month of April. I am hoping, of course, if it's safe we can do some of the things we had planned.

The teachers and I really miss seeing all the children's smiling faces and keeping us energized!

The Nursery School will open when the governor says it is safe to do so. We are keeping the children busy with lessons they can do on the computer and resources for parents on line. I am hoping that when I write this article for May I can tell you we are back in school and doing all the exciting things we had planned for the children.

We do have openings for the fall 2020-2021 school year. If you know someone who is looking for preschool please let them know. I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy.

Lisa VanBuskirk
Director



United Methodist Women

SAVE THE DATE:

Gifts from the Heart—May 10, 2020

