

*Hudson United Methodist
Church*



*Great Inspiration for
Thought*

Gift



Matthew
20:1-16

Rev. Clark Stein

PASTOR'S PAGE

“It’s not fair!” How often do we hear these words?

A wealthy landowner needs workers for his vineyard. So he goes out throughout the day and employs people in need of work. In fact, in one instance he even asks, “Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?” They answer, “Because no one has hired us.” The vineyard owner employs them as well. Everything seems to be okay until the end of the day. When the day’s work is done, regardless of when the workers have entered the vineyard, he pays them the exact same wage. And that would be bad enough, but he pays the last to come in first, and the first to come in last. Can you imagine that? The ones who came on the job at 5:00, just an hour or two before sundown, got the same pay as those who had worked from the early sunrise. You can only imagine the grumbling by those early ones as they stood at the back of the line...and rightly so, wouldn’t you say?

Ah, but this story challenges our feelings by suggesting to us that what we would term as fair is not what is important. It is what helps that makes the difference. It is what helps that is important. Jesus told this story about a wealthy man. He had the power to do anything he wanted. He could help; but the people grumbled at the way in which he helped.

We, who tend to grumble, must begin to realize that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is about grace, not morality, not decency, not being watchdogs of the public welfare. The Gospel doesn’t have to do with our goodness except as some kind of by-product, and it really doesn’t have anything to do with our trying to become salty and radiant persons ON OUR OWN. It is about the business of so steeping ourselves in the goodness and grace of the Lord, that the beauty of His spirit and the brightness of His light reflects in our lives. It is extra. It is the way God deals with us beyond what we deserve or feel that we have earned. For in spite of our grumbling...it is not what is fair that makes the difference...it is what helps.

Please pray for peace,
PC



Great Inspiration for Thought

EMPTY NESTERS AUGUST- SEPTEMBER 2021



When - 2nd Monday of the Month (8/9 and 9/13) 6pm

Where - Hudson First and Main Green, by the pergola. Everyone can pick up/bring their own dinners, bring your own chairs, and we can make a circle on the green. We did notice that several restaurants are closed on Mondays so you might want to double check if your restaurant of choice is open. No RSVP necessary!

If the weather doesn't cooperate, we will cancel and reschedule the following Monday.

As always, no real rules for this group! All are welcome, feel free to share with others that would enjoy an evening out with some amazing Christian friends!

FIRST SERVE

Be a part of the 10th Annual Day of Service on Saturday, Sept. 11th, by volunteering for one of many projects. Breaking from tradition, First Serve has moved to a Saturday to coincide with the 20th Anniversary of 9/11. Our morning will start with a brief outdoor sending service-Rise up in Faith, Hope and Love-as we remember 9/11 and ground ourselves for our communal work in the community.

Most project will be located at North High School, in Akron focused on updating and refreshing classrooms, hallways, and restrooms in the school and areas outside. We will also have outside projects at many of our long-time partner locations.

Building relationships is the primary focus of First Serve and a better way to meet people by working on a project, sharing lunch or playing a game. This year, many projects will be done within a few hours leaving time for people to join or cheer on badminton games, play Frisbee and participate in a soccer skill course.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2021!

For more information visit

joinfirstserve.org

Please contact Colleen Padgett, HUMC Committee Representative, if you have any questions.

330-701-8569 Mobile crpadgett@msn.com



**Registration for First Serve
2021 is Now OPEN**

FEED MY SHEEP AUGUST 2021

NEEDED: Alcohol free Mouthwash,
Lotion, Toothbrushes and Gently Used
Seasonal Clothing for Families

Feed My Sheep is a church-based lunch program on Fridays at Redeemer UMC (265 Cuyahoga Falls Ave.) in Akron's North Hill neighborhood. Every Friday, **80 bagged lunches** are prepared and distributed together with canned goods, produce & toilet paper. Once monthly HUMC offers toiletries, socks, briefs & T-shirts. Gently used summer clothing for men, women and children is needed at this time.

Cleaning products, small household items and paper products are also accepted. Donations may be dropped off on Sundays and during office hours. Alternatively, donations could be picked up. Thank you for supporting Feed My Sheep!

Questions/contact: Nancy Kralik
330 212-7581 nskralik@gmail.com

**PAPER TOWELS FOR HUDSON FOOD PANTRY**

Hudson United Methodist church has committed to supporting the Hudson Food Pantry by supplying one roll of paper towels every month for 35+ families. Paper towels can be dropped off on Sundays or during office hours. In addition, pantry donations may be dropped off at Rejoice Lutheran Church on the second Thursday each month from 4-6pm. Questions? Nancy Kralik nskralik@gmail.com, 330-212-7581. Thank you!





Church Council Highlights of Tuesday, June 22 Meeting

- Council adopted new policy for reopening the HUMC building:
 - If you are vaccinated, you will not be required to wear a mask or socially distance, but all should be respectful of others and their potential vulnerability. Within the church building if you are not fully vaccinated, please wear a mask and socially distance.
 - Worship will be celebrated in our sanctuary beginning no later than Sunday, August 1 with improvements underway with new equipment and technology. The improvements will continue to allow us to share our weekly worship online: Facebook, YouTube, HUMC website.
 - Our past guidelines were put in place to best protect all members of our church family and others in the community taking part in our many ministries.
 - We would like small groups to discuss preferences of those in attendance with respect to masking and distancing within their circles.
- To reduce traffic cutting through our parking lot the Trustees will begin to chain off the Aurora entrance during weekdays with a movable pylon for better safety and reduce accidents.
- New carpet will soon be installed in the sanctuary.
- The General Fund balance as of May 31 is a bit lower at \$65,950 and the Care and Repair Fund has a balance of \$45,918. 2020 Conference and District Apportionments have been paid off and we are looking to pay off our 2021 Apportionments by the end of this year.
- Nursery School is seeking new Board members.
- Referrals of candidates are needed to fill both the custodian position and Director of Music.
- Paul Brown has filled the team of 8 for the November Puerto Rico Mission trip.
- The Vacation Bible School theme is Concrete and Cranes and they are recruiting volunteers for the evenings of August 5, 12 & 19. Yard signs to promote sign-ups are available. The Safe Sanctuary team is updating polices and almost everyone at HUMC will need recertification since done in 2017.
- Debbie King is now chair of Memorial, Endowments and Gifts Committee. As of the end of April the MEG Fund Balance was \$94,254. The remaining money in the Meditation Garden Fund is being transferred to Care and Repair, \$466. The Kitchen Fund is being combined with the Reception Fund adding \$90.
- The UMW Gifts from the Heart campaign raised \$885 for Heart 4 the City, and Center of Hope.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, July 27

NURSERY SCHOOL



It is so exciting to think we will be returning to school for another lively school year.

We are hoping this year we can get back to normal routines. The teachers are anxious and ready to get back and start having fun! We are looking forward to welcoming new friends and having our old friends back.

We do have a few openings in our 2-day 3 yr. old class and both Toddler classes. Please let anyone know that we have availability in those classes!

The school year will start September 7th. We will be welcoming everyone back during that week. Any questions feel free to call the office at 330-650-4091 ext. 106

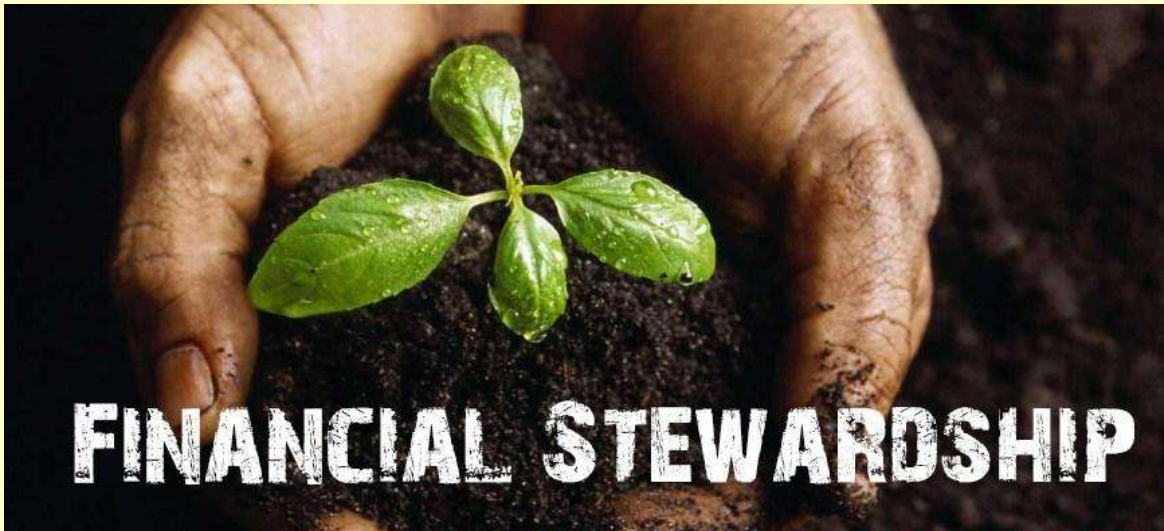
Lisa VanBuskirk
Director



**This year's VBS, CONCRETE AND CRAINS, begins Thursday, August 5.
Jesus is our strong foundation!
Runs 3 consecutive Thursdays-August 5, 12 & 19 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.**



Financial Corner by Bill Centrello - Finance Committee Chair

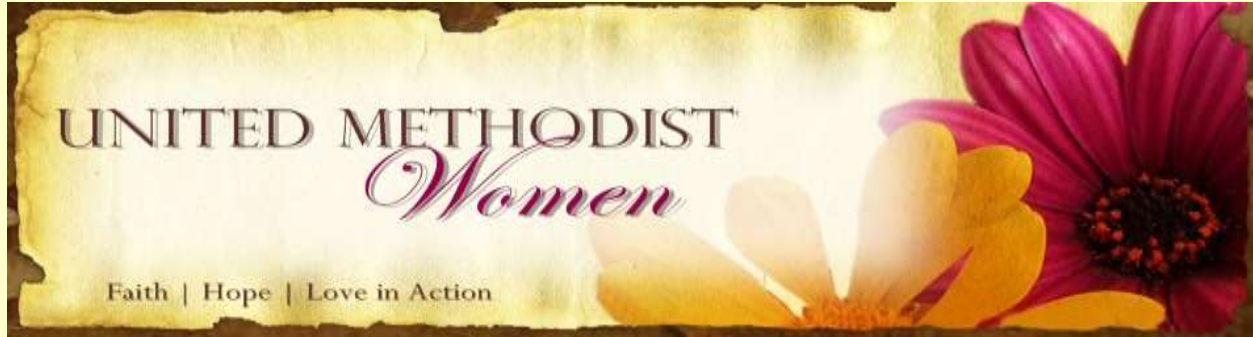


It's hard to believe, but summer is certainly moving fast. I wanted to take a moment to provide the congregation with an update on HUMC's financial position now that we are halfway through the year. Looking at the first half of the year, there are many things to be thankful for, including (but not limited to):

- Continuing outdoor Worship and expanding our reach online and via Hudson Community Television
- Safely maintaining various ministries that we support in the Church such as Nursery School, and Scouting
- Safely supporting other ministries including traveling to Kentucky for Appalachian Service Project
- Paying off outstanding 2020 Apportionments, thereby supporting worldwide UMC ministries
- Returning to indoor Worship and having the pleasure of welcoming old friends and new into our Sanctuary
- Maintaining small group relationships through Zoom and other technologies

Financially, we ended the first six months of the year with both giving and expenses being less than anticipated. Overall, this has resulted in an overall General Fund deficit of \$28,000 as of June 30th. As a congregation, we are also \$11,000 behind on our payment of 2021 Apportionments. Our Care & Repair Fund balance is just over \$47,000, which will provide support for upcoming repairs for parking lot sealing and striping work as well as some contingency for future planned and unplanned repairs.

I am hoping that the second half of 2021 brings a renewed energy to the entire church via our prayers, presence, support for our church family, sharing of spiritual gifts and financial giving in a spirit of gratitude for how God is actively working in our lives.



FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

Hudson United Methodist Women's Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at 7:00 pm at the church. The August meeting has been cancelled.

Mary Martha Circle

Save the Date---Thursday, September 9th--11:30 a.m.--- 2021-2022 planning luncheon--place: Lager and Vine.

Mary Martha usually meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 9:30 am.

Questions/Information contact: Cheryl Maimona, ctm2949@roadrunner.com

Books for Breakfast

Books for Breakfast will meet on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 9:30 am at the home of Amy Pendergrass. The book for discussion will be *Evening and the Morning* by Ken Follett.

Books for Breakfast meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 9:30 am.

Questions/Information contact: Michelle Novosel, novandkoz@yahoo.com

Priscilla Circle Check back in September for Fall updates.

Priscilla Circle meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm at the church.

Questions/Information contact: Ann Ingling, anningling@gmail.com, Marty Hannah marty2uin@windstream.net

Novels at Night will notify members by email/phone when they are ready to resume meetings. Novels at Night usually meets on the 2nd Friday of the month at 5:30 pm.

Questions/Information contact: Debby Fabian, debrah.fabian@gmail.com

We are on Facebook - check us out at: Hudson United Methodist Church Women- be sure to "Like" us to get current updates.

MISSIONS

Gifts from the Heart - Thank You!

The Hudson United Methodist Women would like to thank everyone who contributed to our "Gifts from the Heart" mission outreach project. Through your generosity we provided support of \$450 to Heart 4 the City and \$450 to The Center of Hope. This support will help provide meals to many families in need during the difficult challenges they have faced during the pandemic. We thank you for your continued support.