

G I F T



*The
Gift
of God*

Hudson United Methodist Church
2670 Hudson Aurora Rd
Hudson OH 44236

Great Inspiration for Thought



PASTOR'S PAGE

Romans 11:16-18

“Behind and underneath all this there is a holy, God-planted, God-tended root. If the primary root of the tree is holy, there’s bound to be some holy fruit. Some of the tree’s branches were pruned and your wild olive shoots were grafted in. Yet the fact that you are now fed by that rich and holy root gives you no cause to crow over the pruned branches. Remember, you aren’t feeding the root; the root is feeding you.”

The Holidays bring back powerful memories. Some come to my mind on a regular basis, others return at the craziest times. Yet each time I am transported back in years, those memories feed my soul. They aren’t so much reminders of what I now miss, but rather touch points of where I have been, and with whom. I’ve been thinking a lot lately about holes in our gospel. Some, I think we realize quite easily, others sneak up on us like a good story or a parable. They catch us unawares, but put a hitch in our breath and fill our eyes with cleansing stuff...I remembered a story.

When I was much younger, and our family gathered together was peopled by folks who now reside in eternity, we had some interesting traditions. My grandmother used to like to make cream pies. We loved them. We only really saw them around the holidays and looked forward to them. They were tasty and held a special treat if you were sneaky enough to attempt to get away with it. The meringue layer on the top of the pie would be baked. My grandmother liked to peak the meringue. It looked decorative, but also provided wonderful pickup points for dollops of baked meringue.

From the time the pies were set on the counter to the time they were brought to the table, many of us saw those meringue peaks as fair game. By the time dessert would roll around, and the pies would be brought to the table, it appeared as though they were indeed full of holes. Throughout the course of the day, those meringue peaks had been surgically removed, leaving holes where they used to reside. We cut the remains of the pies and enjoyed them just the same.

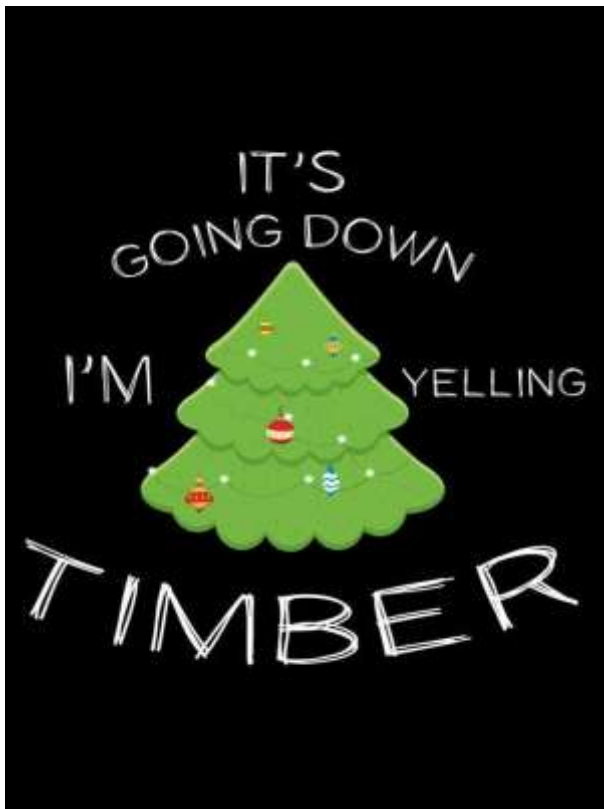


G.I.F.T.

We travel these roads but a while, and folks come and go so quickly around here. I think sometimes we perceive those exits as leaving gaps in our lives, holes in our experience that must be filled in some other way. I have learned that you can't do that. We don't even have cream pies as a part of our holiday experience anymore, yet I can still feel the excitement of taking one of those peaks and taste the goodness as it popped into my mouth. Those times have become a part of the root of celebration. They aren't gone at all. No need to replace something that hangs with you and has become a part of who you are. It is good to remember that we aren't feeding the root. I remember it all as if it was yesterday...and God is good.



Great Inspiration for Thought



Taking Down the Greens

Saturday, January 8th at 9:00 a.m. bring a friend. George's donuts will be served.



Acme Community Cashback is here! Don't forget to save your receipts and put them in the drawer by the pastor's office. If you are unable to do that, you can email the cashback total at the bottom of the receipt to Sandy Bernert at s1bernert@aol.com. The program started August 5 and runs till **December 25**. The money that we get back from this program goes to various missions.

CHRISTMAS AT FEED MY SHEEP

NEEDED: Gently Used Coats, Jackets, Hats, Gloves, Scarfs, Blankets, Seasonal Clothing for Families, New or Like New Gift Items for Children and Adults.

Toys, Decorations, Ornaments, Cards, etc.
Deadline: Wednesday, December 15

Feed My Sheep is a church-based Friday lunch at Redeemer UMC (265 Cuyahoga Falls Ave.) in Akron's North Hill neighborhood. Each Friday, 80+ bagged to-go lunches are prepared and distributed together with canned goods, produce & toilet paper. Once monthly HUMC offers toiletries, socks, briefs & T-shirts. **Gently used seasonal clothing for men, women and children, Christmas toys and gifts items are is needed at this time.** Toilet Paper, cleaning products and small household items are also accepted.

Donations may be dropped off on Sundays and during office hours.

Alternatively, donations may be picked up. Thank you for supporting Feed My Sheep! Questions contact Nancy Kralik 330 212-7581 or



****Have you remembered the Hudson United Methodist Church in your will or your estate plan?***

FAMILY MINISTRIES



Join us to make your Advent Wreath!

We will be making them Sunday, December 5 at 11:30 a.m. (after Sunday school). We will provide the supplies for one wreath per family and snacks & hot chocolate that you can take home. This is a whole church event. Everyone is invited! Please RSVP by Wednesday, December 1, so we can ensure that we have enough supplies for everyone who would like to participate. RSVP by contacting Kerrie Book at kerrievansbook@gmail.com.

New Date - Bible Workshop & Presentation

The Date has changed! The Bible Workshop & Presentation will be January 8-9. Please see the details below.

Hudson United Methodist Church traditionally presents Bibles to our students in third grade and to children who are new to our church or were not able to attend the Bible Workshop in the past. This year, we would like to invite ALL children in **3rd - 5th grade**, whether they have received a Bible in the past or not, to participate in this fun workshop. The Bible Workshop will take place on Saturday morning, **January 8**, from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. There will be lively games & activities that help our children learn and review the books of the Bible followed by a (socially distant) pizza lunch. Workshop participants that have not received a Bible in the past will receive a New Revised Standard Version Bible inscribed with their name on Sunday, January 9, at the 9 am service. A reception will follow in Sunday school.

The Christian Education Committee (CEC) believes it is very important that each child learn how to use their Bible. If your child is in 3rd - 5th grade, we strongly encourage them to participate in this year's program. If you are interested in participating but have not registered for this event, please contact Kerrie Book at kerrievansbook@gmail.com.



JOY IN HIS LIGHT

Advent has always been the season that fills me with the greatest amount of joy. I remember thinking something was wrong with me during my childhood because I was keenly aware that I enjoyed the time leading up to Christmas more than I enjoyed Christmas Day itself. We had plenty of gifts and festivities, but what sticks with me are uneventful quiet nights spent with my immediate family simply absorbing the light of the season. My gaze would alternate between huge snowflakes dancing diagonally into the streetlights and the old-fashioned multicolored lights on the Christmas tree. Our ordinary daily lives turn extraordinary when we become aware that the light of the season, of Christ, is surrounding us.

The mesmerizing movement of the snow in the night sky and the Christmas lights reflecting from the faces of my parents could only be seen in their full beauty and glory when contrasted against the darkness. There were more than 400 silent years of silence, darkness, spanning between the ministry of Malachi and the appearance of John the Baptist. No new prophets were raised and God revealed nothing new to His people during that time period. God knew that His people needed darkness before they could truly know light.

Last year during the Advent season, sixty years later, as I watched the snowflakes dance into the street lights and the Christmas lights now reflecting from the faces of my grandchildren, the spectrum of joy I remember as a child has evolved into something broader and brighter. Experiences of darkness give clarity and focus to the light and power of Jesus. He surely is the light of the world.



This Advent season at HUMC, we will be "Dancing in the Light" of our Lord through Pastor Clark's sermons, scripture, hymns and special musical offerings by our Chancel, Bell and Children's choirs. I can attest that our rehearsals have already been filled with the joy and light that shines through fellow believers who gather to raise His name through music. We come together, often tired after a long day, but as the rehearsal goes on, we become energized and illuminated by the fellowship and music.

It's not too late to be part of our Advent and Christmas celebrations through music. You don't need to have the world's greatest voice or be able to read music. I guarantee you will be blessed while also being a blessing to others. Bell Choir rehearses Thursday evenings from 6:15-7:15, Chancel Choir, Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:00, and Children's Choir will meet during the last fifteen minutes of their Sunday school hour for a musical worship time, then remain ten minutes longer to rehearse. Children's Choir will begin on Sunday, November 28th. Our flute choir has reunited and will bless us with two Christmas anthems on Sunday, December 19th.

Whether through singing, playing, or listening, may you dance in the light of the music that proclaims the arrival of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior this Advent season.

Sandy Simpson



NURSERY SCHOOL



We are in full swing celebrating the holidays. We had a mini Thanksgiving Feast just in our classroom. We missed being able to sing for our families and celebrate with them. We were just glad we made our Native American outfits and were able to celebrate Thanksgiving in a smaller way.

We are now gearing up to celebrate Christmas. We will be making many fun crafts as well as making a special gift for our family. Santa will not be able to visit this year, but we have a few tricks up our sleeves. We will also once again for the 27th year will be helping out the families less fortunate than us. We will be sponsoring 2-3 families and make them have a brighter day!

Registration packets will be out early January for the 2021-2022 school year. If you know of anyone looking for a great pre-school, please send them our way.

I and my staff hopes everyone has a wonderful holiday season and stay well and safe!



Director,
Lisa VanBuskirk



Trustee

As the holidays are rapidly approaching, I am both thankful for and impressed by our Church family. There are many exciting things happening across the congregation with worship, discipleship, and missions. Having just returned from a mission trip in Puerto Rico, I was amazed at the joyous service exhibited by all of our volunteers.

I am also thankful for the generosity exhibited by the congregation. Year-to-date donations and other income through October month-end were just over \$322,000. Overall, our committee chairs have been very good stewards of the gifts that we have been given. Trustees and Finance committees in particular have taken many steps to lower operating costs for the church and the parsonage while still making necessary repairs and completing proactive maintenance. We prioritized apportionment payments and I am happy to report that by year-end, we will have paid both our outstanding 2020 apportionments and our current 2021 apportionments in full. Our total expenses through the end of October were just over \$370,000.

The fact that year-to-date expenses have exceeded income, has resulted in a deficit of just over \$48,000, which has reduced the balance of our General Fund from a healthy \$68,000 at the start of 2021 to only \$20,000. Our Care & Repair Fund balance is just over \$38,000.

As we enter the holiday season together, I hope you will join me in ensuring that any pledged amounts are paid in full and consider offering an additional gift of thanksgiving to the extent you are able. This will help us eliminate this deficit and put us on solid financial ground to start the New Year. There are many exciting things on the horizon for Hudson UMC that will be realized through our prayers, presence, gifts, and service.

I wish everyone in our extended Church family joy, love, and peace this Christmas

- Bill Centrello



Save The Date!

Christian Unity Prayer Service

"We saw his star in the East, and we came to worship him" (Matthew 2:2)

DATE: January 20, 2022
PLACE: Saint Mary Parish, Hudson
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
Box Lunches

NOTE: This year the reservation deadline is much earlier than usual, Jan. 2, 2022.

Tickets for the lunch and speaker are \$15 and will be sold in the Gathering Area on the following Sunday mornings:

***December 5, 12 and 19, 2021
after the 9:00 am Worship service.***

Questions about tickets please contact Cheryl Gamble: cgamble1114@yahoo.com



FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

Hudson United Methodist Women's Board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, December 6, 2021** at 7:00 pm on Zoom. (Please wear your most festive Christmas sweater).



Books for Breakfast will meet on Thursday, December 16, 2021, at 9:30 am on Zoom. The book for discussion is *Never Sit if You Can Dance* by Jo Riese.

Books for Breakfast meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 9:30 am
Questions/Information contact Michelle Novosel: novandkoz@yahoo.com

Mary Martha Circle is participating in **Christmas for the Love of Children** organized by Open M.

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

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



Priscilla Circle will be taking a break for **December and January**. Check back in February for information on the next meeting.

Priscilla Circle meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm.

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

Novels at Night will notify members by email/phone when they are ready to resume meetings. Novels at Night 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.