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Great Inspiration for Thought

**HUMC
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REV.
CLARK
STEIN



PASTOR'S PAGE

"He is not here, but has risen." Luke 24:6a

As I sit down to write this article, it is officially spring. I am writing on the second day of spring, and the sun is shining on the landscape outside my window, and birds are chirping over the sounds of traffic and the constant music that keeps me company in the background. It seems to be an Easter-like day, as new beginnings surround me from the outside in...

There was a Sunday school teacher who had just finished telling her third graders about how Jesus was crucified and placed in a tomb with a great stone sealing the only way in or out. Then, wanting to share the excitement of the resurrection, and the surprise of Easter morning, she asked, "And what do you think were Jesus' first words when he came bursting out of that tomb alive?"

A hand shot up in the air from the rear of the classroom. It belonged to a most excited little girl. Leaping out of her chair she shouted excitedly, "I know, I know, I know." "Good." Said the teacher, "tell us."

Extending her arms high in the air she sang out, "Ta-da!"

I have shared with many of you the irony of the notion that we hold empty spaces to be very sacred. Be the empty chairs around our tables that used to hold grandparents, or parents, or children long since grown up and moved on, or dear friends or spouses. Memorials often work the same way, erected in now empty spaces that remind us that significant people and things occupied this space at one time. The empty tomb is like that. We know that it was once occupied, but its emptiness speaks volumes to us that we can't even adequately relate to anything we might describe.



I suggest to you that all of these things combine to give you "Ta-da!" moments on every turn. I pray that as you make your way through this Easter time of new life, new beginnings, new seasons, the empty spaces, and the spaces that are filled with new people and meaning for you, set off this simple "Ta-da" in your brains and hearts. I feel it must be one of God's sacred words, uttered every time someone "gets it" and journeys towards home...

Great Inspiration for Thought

HUMC NURSERY SCHOOL BOARD IS SEEKING

Do you have a heart for children? Maybe you're a bit strapped for time but would like to serve in a meaningful way that benefits our church and our community. Or perhaps you are a creative, resourceful, or business-savvy person.

If any of this sounds like you, we have a wonderful opportunity we would like you to consider? The HUMC Nursery School Board of Directors is seeking additional Board members. The Board oversees the operations and finances of the nursery school. The commitment entails approximately 4-6 meetings per year, currently via Zoom.

If you are interested, or would like further information, please contact Carrie Protivnak, Board Chair, at 330.488.7868 or cprotivnak@gmail.com

Volunteers must be Safe Sanctuary trained. Email Jackie Beam at Jacqueline.beam@gmail.com if you are able to help, or if you have any questions or comments.



Find Your Gloves, dust off your rake ... and **SAVE THE DATE, April 2nd, 9AM.** Rain Date April the 9th @ 9am. **Trustees Spring Garden Blitz.** More details to come. Many hands make Light Work ... See you all there

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We need a few more childcare volunteers for our new women's Bible study, which has begun meeting weekly at church on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:00. Can you help? Please consider volunteering, even just once a month, to help us with this important outreach/ministry. We hope it will bring more families to our church. Volunteers must be Safe Sanctuary trained. Email Jackie Beam (Jacqueline.beam@gmail.com) if you are able to help, or if you have any questions or comments. Thank you!

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

HUDSON FOOD PANTRY EASTER BASKETS

Easter baskets will be prepared for children and 20 adult/teens - 50 baskets/plastic buckets are needed.

For the adults/teens the suggested items are: fast food coupons, gift certificates and word or Sudoku puzzles.

For the women: scented soaps, body lotion, brushes, combs, nail polish and lip gloss

For the men: body wash/spray, and lip balm
All products can be dropped off at HUMC or Rejoice Church **on or before April 12.**



Feed My Sheep -April

Redeemer UMC Easter Outreach for Children

The church is requesting Easter baskets, grass, plastic eggs and candy.

Gently used spring/summer clothing for men, women and children is especially needed at this time. Each month HUMC passes out socks, briefs, T-shirts, toilet paper and toiletries. Body wash, conditioner, toothpaste and hotel sized toiletries are needed this month.

Deadline: Thursday, April 7. Blue collection bins are located in the narthex closet, near the hand bell cabinet.

Feed My Sheep is a church-based hot lunch program every Friday from 11:30a to 1p at Redeemer UMC (265 Cuyahoga Falls Ave.) in Akron's North Hill neighborhood.

Contact: Nancy Kralik at 330 212-7581 or nskralik@gmail.com

PAPER TOWELS FOR HUDSON FOOD PANTRY



Hudson Community Food Pantry

Hudson UMC supports the Hudson Food Pantry by supplying paper towels every month for 35+ families. Staple food items requested on a monthly basis are, **baked beans, fruit cups, applesauce cups, pancake mix, canned chicken and tuna.**

Donations may be dropped off at the church in the gathering area. Upcoming distributions are **April 23 and May 28.** Thank you!

Questions contact, Nancy Kralik at nskralik@gmail.com or 330-212-7581





Our music ministry has been hard at work preparing music to take us through the depths of sorrow and joy of Jesus' journey to His crucifixion and resurrection.

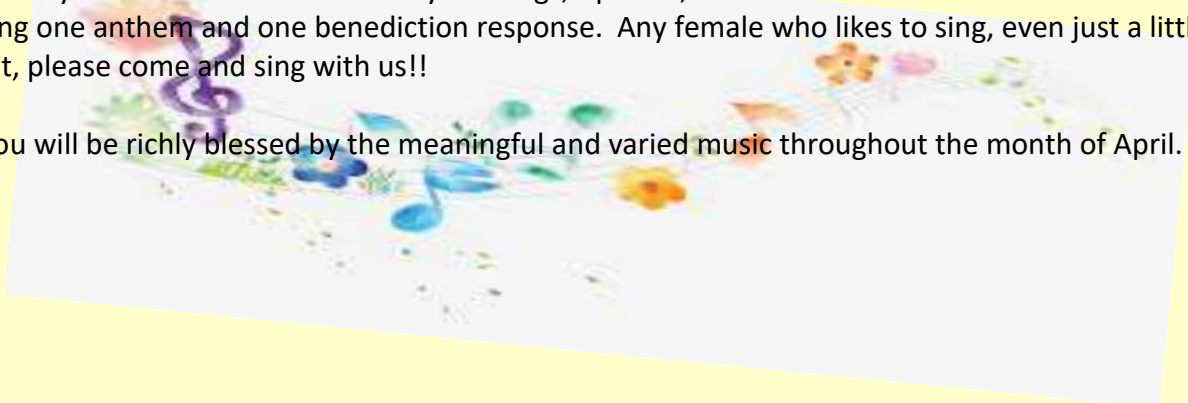
April 10th our Bell Choir, Chancel Choir, Children's Choir and guest trumpeter will begin our Palm Sunday service with a grand musical procession, followed by anthems and hymns to commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

The tone will drastically change at our Good Friday service on April 15th as the Chancel Choir will sing a chilling anthem and lead us through mournful hymns.

Easter morning will begin with a piano/organ duet and a celebratory piece by a brass ensemble comprised of professional musicians, who will also play with our Chancel Choir for a rousing anthem, as well as congregational hymns. Our Bell Choir has been working on a beautiful Easter anthem, as well as an accompaniment for our final hymn. Jinyang, our immensely talented organist/pianist is at the core of this most meaning music of the season.

Sunday, April 24th is United Methodist Women Sunday. Be sure to join us as a wonderful service is being planned. ALL women are invited to sing in our Women's Chorus on that Sunday. We will rehearse Thursday evenings, April 7th, 14th and 21st from 5:30-6:15. We will sing one anthem and one benediction response. Any female who likes to sing, even just a little bit, please come and sing with us!!

You will be richly blessed by the meaningful and varied music throughout the month of April.





With signs now of Spring all around us, our attention is renewed with activities involving our church.

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, April 2 at 9:00am, as our Spring Clean-up Day. The saying “many hands make for light work” is no truer than on events such as these. Volunteers need not have any particular skill, just a willingness to help and beautify the church grounds.

The board has authorized the renewal of last years’ lawn and garden vendors and of course, our church caretaker cares to the day-to-day requirements of our grounds, but we use this Spring Clean-up event to get us off to a great start to the season. So, we look forward to seeing everyone who can make it on the 2nd at 9:00 am.

This spring also sees our church’s activities and programs kicking up once again. With the church now fully opened and with masks optional, the Trustees have been reviewing the building’s use policies and we are welcome to your suggestions as we work through this process.

A special thanks goes out to Dave Abei for his efforts in securing from GOJO new hand sanitizer and soap dispenser units for our church. And in another improvement to the church’s unseen but daily duty of care, our alarm monitoring system has been upgraded from the inefficient and outdated landlines to a more effective cloud-based system.

There have also been recent maintenance and repairs at the parsonage where a new hot water cylinder was installed and the dryer repaired amongst other sundry items. The impending change of our pastor has also required plans to make adjustments to our brick and mortar signage and at the same time provide additional, temporary, in-ground signage for the promotion of our church-sponsored Nursery school.

In summary, this spring will no doubt provide its traditional increase in activity around and within the church and we invite you to get involved, hopefully with our kick-off on Saturday, April 2nd!

NURSERY SCHOOL



March was another busy month for the Nursery School. We celebrated the weather warming up a little bit and we even got to take a few walks outside! We also celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a special green snack and we all wore our green for the day and celebrated! March brought us Spring break. I think we all looked forward to a little time off and spending time with family and enjoying the spring weather.

We will be having our annual Art show after taking two years off! The show will be on **April 20th and 21st**. Our theme is Under the Sea. It should be very exciting. Look for the Narthex to be transformed to the sea. This is always a beautiful show.

April we will talk about butterflies and watch as we have chrysalises turn into butterflies. This is always an exciting time for the children. We will have our pictures taken for one last time, this year as well.

The school year has flown by and we have enjoyed every minute of being able to be in school and socializing with our friends.

We do have a few spots left for the 2022-2023 school year. If you know of anyone looking for preschool please let them know.

Director,
Lisa VanBuskirk





FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

Hudson United Methodist Women's Board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, April 4, 2022 at 7:00 pm** at the church.

Mary Martha Circle will volunteer at **MedWish** on **Tuesday, April 12, 2022 from 9:30-11:30 am. Watch for details in your email.** (Please note the date change).



Mary Martha usually meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 10:00 am. Questions contact: Cheryl Maimona at ctm2949@roadrunner.com

Priscilla Circle will meet on **Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 6:00 pm at the church.** The theme of their meeting will be, Friendship Across Generations. They will provide dinner and share fellowship with the youth that were recently confirmed into the church.

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

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

Books for Breakfast will meet on **Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 9:30 am on Zoom.** (Please note the date change). The book for discussion is *Extra Life: A Short Story of Living Longer* by Steven Johnson.

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

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 contact: Debby Fabian at 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.

OUTREACH

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S SUNDAY

The Hudson United Methodist Women will be providing the 9:00am Worship service on Sunday, April 24, 2022. The special guest speaker will be Katie Peterson, Deaconess and Church and Community Worker, of Eastbrook Mission Barn located in New Castle, PA. All women are invited to participate in the worship service as a reader, usher, or join the Hudson UMW Choir. All ages are welcome and reading selections will be provided for you... so this is easy. Please see the sign-up on the board in the Gathering Area near the church office or contact Debbie King- kings7565@gmail.com for ways you can be a part of United Methodist Women's Sunday.



CHRISTIAN UNITY PRAYER SERVICE AND LUNCHEON

The annual Christian Unity Prayer Service and Luncheon are rescheduled for Thursday, April 28, 2022 at St. Mary Catholic Church in Hudson, located at 340 N. Main St. The ecumenical service, led by local clergy, begins at 10:00am. It is followed by a luncheon and guest speaker. The service, traditionally held during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, has the theme, "We saw His star in the East, and we came to worship Him" (Matthew 2:2) Rev. Lawrence Jurcak, St. Mary Parish, Hudson, will give the sermon.

After the service, a box lunch will be served for ticket holders. The box lunches are catered by Nosh's of Hudson.

Ticket price is \$15.00 per person and will be sold in the Gathering Area on Sunday April 3, and April 10. You can also contact Cheryl Gamble or Debbie King.

The prayer service is free and open to all; it does not require a ticket to attend.

