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Great Inspiration for Thought

Hudson United Methodist Church
2670 Hudson Aurora Rd
Hudson OH 44236

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PASTOR'S PAGE

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?..." Isaiah 43:19

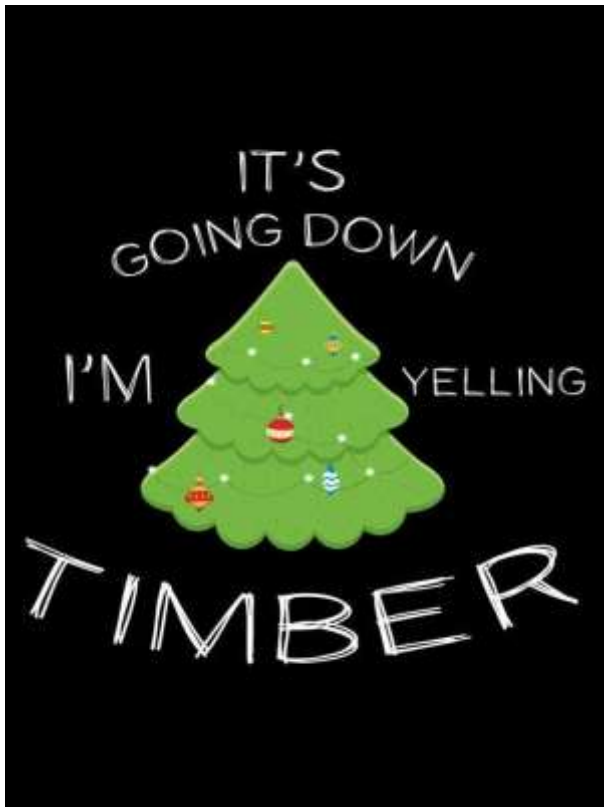
I think it no small coincidence that our celebrations of Christmas and welcoming in a New Year are so closely linked. The two events hold such wonderful promise for us. We hear once again the old, old story of God's love for us revealed in the birth of Jesus, and then we welcome in yet another New Year. Both celebrations are ripe with potential. Both celebrations are places we have visited before, and will again, God willing. Yet, each time we "go there" are we simply repeating the rituals of years past, or do we really anticipate something new? God's promise that God is about to do a new thing is as real for us as it was in Isaiah's time and in Jesus' time. God wants us to perceive the new thing. God is ready, waiting for our eyes to open, our ears to tingle, our noses to sniff, and our hands to touch. Are we able to enter into this time together with a sense of anticipation that we will be met like we've never been met before?

A little boy was working hard on a drawing and his daddy asked him what he was doing. The reply came back, "Drawing a picture of God." His daddy said, "You can't do that, honey. Nobody knows what God looks like." But the little boy was undeterred and continued to draw. He looked at the picture with satisfaction and said very matter-of-factly, "They will in a few minutes."

As we approach this New Year, may we do so with anticipation and wonder of what the picture will look like. God continues to draw, and rather than being certain, we know what the picture looks like, maybe we need to just anticipate its unveiling. We certainly don't know what is in store for each and every one of us. But, we can be certain that whatever it is, we can anticipate God's presence and care, God's knowledge of us, and where we are. It's hard sometimes to just enjoy the gift of the day. Yet in all of the hustle and bustle, in this time of new beginnings and time-honored traditions and rituals, I pray you will anticipate something new, and find life revealed before you in new ways. Ways that linger and fuel your wonder and awe at the incredible God we worship, and the notion that you are noticed, and can be met in new and exciting ways.

Warmth and abiding peace,
Pastor Clark

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.

MEMORIAL ENDOWMENTS AND GIFTS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Recently, this committee was able to support music, family ministry and the finance office by designating some of their funds. The committee approved purchasing new choir music folders, smaller tables and chairs for the preschool aged children and replacement cabinets for the Finance Secretary's office.

As you think of those special persons (a teacher, a pastor or a loved one) who have touched your life, you may want to donate to Memorials Endowments and Gifts. It is a simple way to demonstrate that those who enrich our lives are remembered. Envelopes for donations can be found in the church pews. The envelopes can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office. Thank you for your support. *Debbie King, MEG Chair*



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



Family Fellowship in January

Family Fellowship will be Saturday, January 22 at 6:30 p.m. at HUMC. We will be doing a white elephant gift exchange. Please bring a wrapped gift to play. (Don't buy anything! Just wrap something from your house that you want to get rid of!) Please RSVP to Kerrie Book kerrievansbook@gmail.com or Becca Gates at photochic22@gmail.com. All are welcome!



Youth Group

Youth Group will resume on Sunday, January 9. Youth group is for students in grades 6-12. If you are not on the weekly list for youth group updates and would like to be, please contact Kerrie Book at kerrievansbook@gmail.com.



Sunday school

January is a great time to join a Sunday school class! There are classes for children & adult Bible studies. **Sunday school is at 10:00 a.m.**, immediately following the morning worship service. Some adult classes also have virtual options available. Please contact Kerrie Book for more information.



Psalm 98:1 – Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arms have worked salvation for him.

2 Corinthians 5:17 – Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here.

While many of us have warm memories and current circumstances we want to hang on to, “The old has gone, the new is here” is a scripture that may prompt others of us to shout “Amen!” as we wave “Good-bye” to 2021 and “Hello” to 2022.

I am eager to begin our music ministry for 2022 and couldn’t be more excited about the potential it holds. The pandemic has damaged so much of what we hold dear, and there is no way we can undo that. However, what we can do is start with a clean slate from where we are right now. A clean slate gives us unoccupied space to move and grow in unlimited capacities.

2022 may be a good time to try an area of HUMC’s music ministry you may have not previously considered. Anyone is welcome to sit in on one of our rehearsals and see what you think. Bell Choir and Chancel Choir will both start up on Thursday, January 6th. Bells meet 6:15 -7:15, and Chancel Choir, 7:30-9:00. Children’s Choir will begin on Sunday, January 9th during Sunday School at 10:45 for a Worship/Music time, then practice until 11:10.

There will be a Bell Clinic on a Saturday in early February, which will be an opportunity for anyone who would like to learn more about playing bells, either experienced ringers or people who have never rung bells.

Feel free to contact me any time at ssimpson923@yahoo.com, musicdirector@hudsonUMC.com, or 330.284.7831 if you want more information about our music ministry. There is no better time than 2022 to praise God together through music!

NURSERY SCHOOL



December was a blur for the Nursery School, we were so busy getting ready for the holidays. We learned some really good Christmas songs, we made a gift for our family, and we made Gingerbread houses. We had a Grinch Day in the 4/5 class, and so much more. We did not let COVID get us down or stop us from celebrating this joyous holiday. We are making the best of each day and doing it safely.

It is that time of year again that we are gearing up for registration for the **2022-2023 school year**. We will have packets available down at the Nursery School wing. The information will also be on our web site as far as registration forms and what to do. We will more than likely be holding a virtual open house this year. Details will follow.

The registration deadline is Friday, February 4th 2022. If you have any questions feel free to visit our web site or call the office at 330-650-4091 ext. 106. We have programs for children from 2 ½ through 5 yrs. Pre-K. We are very excited to open registration again!

We are looking forward to a great January filled with all kinds of winter fun! Everyone is loving being back in school with all their friends and the teachers are excited to be back as well!

Director,
Lisa VanBuskirk



Trustee

Our Hudson UMC Stewardship Campaign will be occurring throughout the month of January. The theme for our campaign is appropriately titled Welcome Home, as it is a reflection of the return of activity to our Church building and Hudson UMC's outreach around the world.

During the month of January, Dave and Eileen Aebi will be leading the congregation in reflection about our Church home, and how each of us can have a profound impact on the ministries of Hudson UMC through our prayers, presence, gifts, and service. These reflections will occur during Worship Services on January 9, 16, 23, and 30. Materials will also be mailed to homes. January 30th will serve as our Consecration Sunday, where we would like friends and church members to express their intentions regarding tithes and offerings to the church during 2022.

Remember that it is not too late to offer a special offering to the church this Christmas season as an expression of gratitude for all that we each have to be thankful for!



Bill Centrello



FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

Hudson United Methodist Women's Board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, January 3, 2022, at 7:00 pm on Zoom.**

Mary Martha Circle will meet on **Thursday, January 13, 2022, at 10:00 am.** Watch your email for updates on the location—on **Zoom or at the church!**

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

Books for Breakfast will meet on **Thursday, January 27, 2022, at 9:30 am on Zoom.**

The book for discussion is *The Jane Austin Society* by Natalie Jenner.

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

Questions contact: Michelle Novosel at novandkoz@yahoo.com

Priscilla Circle is taking a holiday break for December and January. Check back in February for information on the next meeting.

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

Questions/Information contact: Ann Ingling at 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 meet on the 2nd Friday of the month at 5:30 pm.

Questions/Information 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.

SAVE THE DATE

Hudson UMW (United Methodist Women) will be offering a **Mission Moment for "Gifts from the Heart" on Sunday, February 13, 2022.** "Gifts from the Heart" is a mission project that supports Heart 4 the City in Akron and also Center of Hope in Ravenna. Watch for more details in the bulletins. Questions/Information contact: Cheryl Gamble or Sandy Bernert.



FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

CHRISTIAN UNITY PRAYER SERVICE AND LUNCHEON

A few tickets are still available for the annual **Christian Unity Prayer Service and Luncheon** to be held on Thursday, January 20, 2022, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Hudson, located at 340 N. Main St. The service begins at 10:00 AM. The Christian Unity Prayer Service is an ecumenical celebration of the Word of God scheduled in conjunction with the International Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Hudson clergy will lead the congregation in prayer and praise in accordance with this year's 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.



Following the service, a box lunch catered by Nosh's will be served to ticket holders.

Our featured speaker after the luncheon is Rev. Nayiri Karjian, from Living Water Association. An Armenian Christian born and raised in Aleppo, Syria, she was educated in Beirut, Lebanon, and received her Master of Divinity degree from Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, PA. Since her ordination in 1985, she has served UCC congregations in several cities throughout the United States.

Tickets for the luncheon and guest speaker are \$15.00 and are available through your representative, Cheryl Gamble, cgamble1114@yahoo.com. **The deadline for ticket reservations is January 9. Make checks for tickets payable to Hudson UMW.** The prayer service is free and open to all; it does not require a ticket to attend.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been celebrated throughout the United States and around the world since 1908 and it has been celebrated in Hudson since 1968. The Christian Unity Prayer Service, formerly known as Interfaith, brings together the Hudson church community through prayer and praise, reflecting the prayer of Jesus Christ, "That all might be one" (John 17:21).