

THE GIFT



AUGUST 2022

GREAT INSPIRATION FOR THOUGHT

HUDSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2670 HUDSON AURORA RD
HUDSON OH 44202

REV.
BRUCE
HARDLEY



PASTOR'S PAGE

Thoughts Along the Way...

“So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God
he created him;”

Genesis 1:27a NIV

As the world around us appears to be coming apart at the seams and we are coming together as pastor and people, I am drawn to focus on relationships.

Throughout Scripture we read about relationships; the relationship between God and creation, heavenly beings and human beings, humanity and nature, spouses, adults and children are all revealed. Although we read of some very loving expressions in the relationships I noted, we could also read of relationships destroyed by “hearts at war.” Adam blames Eve, Cain kills Abel, Moses kills an Egyptian...hearts at war, not peace.

And still, God created us to be in relationship. Special relationships have been the hallmark of God's dealings with humanity. God stirred new possibilities for relationship when God chose to enter into relationship with a particular people - the Hebrews - joining them together with an everlasting covenant. God later took radical steps to enlarge the covenant. The whole of humanity was adopted into the covenant through Christ's incarnation and his gift of life.

But if God is overwhelmingly committed to establishing relationships between the divine and creation, human beings seem to have become increasingly obsessed with singularity. The actions of humans have and are destroying what God intended.

I am optimistic God's intentions can be reclaimed and thus relationship restored. Such a radical transformation begins “in the beginning” when chaos ruled. God moved and chaos no longer dominated as humanity is created in the image of God.

I suggest respecting the image of God is the source of God's peace. I conclude, since everyone is made in the image of God, then you/me/we need to recognize, honor, and respect the image of God in everyone. No exceptions.

I long for the time when you/me/we can reflect God's image and see God's image in others. The world is not as God imagined it. The world has become truly "self-centered" and only occasionally reflects the image of God, the “Imago Dei.”

G.I.F.T.

I relate the thoughts of the philosopher Martin Buber, as he noted the polarizing ways humanity interacts with people:

1. We can see others as a person or...
2. We can see others as an object, an obstacle to be overcome, something to be used.

Searching for and rediscovering the “Imago Dei” is the essential task that will gradually open us to receiving and giving love to God, others, and ourselves, and thus to live peace filled lives.

You are created in the image of God from the very beginning. Everyone is made in the image of God; thus we need to recognize, honor, and respect the image of God in everyone. No exceptions

By our own actions, we are either moving the world a little closer to God’s vision of shalom – peace – or moving a little further away.

Recall the line from the musical *Les Miserables*,
“To love another person is to see the face of God.”

Let’s!

Living in Hope,

Rev. Bruce



The Hartley Family is most appreciative of the generous welcome to Hudson UMC. Our grandchildren felt like they were the most important people in the world that day. We realize many persons sacrificed a holiday weekend to be present in worship and in the C.A.C. cutting cake and serving drinks.

Thank you for the sincere hospitality and Christian fellowship.

Living in Hope,

Janet and Rev. Bruce

Great Inspiration for Thought

MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY

OCTOBER 12 - 14

As part of my involvement with East Ohio Conference disaster response ministry, I'm leading a team to Michigan. Want to consider joining? Contact me! Detroit has received repeated heavy rain storms resulting in the flooding of homes in older neighborhoods. There is a call for teams to conduct clean outs of flooded basements and make light repairs. Typically, this involves homes with single, elderly people living on the first floor and the need to clean up and sanitize the basements. It can mean clean up from combined sanitary/storm sewers, typically not. It may also involve houses with multiple families with the flooded basements used as living quarters displacing families. I will lead a team of up to 12 volunteers to travel to Detroit and serve from Wednesday, October 12 returning Sunday, October 16. The trip would include attendance at a local Methodist Church and an outing to experience cultural Detroit. The cost would be approximately \$300 which would include housing, meals, and work supplies. Transportation of personal vehicles vs. van rental is to be determined.

The location of work and housing will be the Jefferson/Chalmers neighborhood of East Detroit with lodging and meals provided by Hope House Detroit

(<https://hopehousedetroit.org/get-involved/volunteer-groups>) and the work sites identified and overseen by Jefferson East, Inc. a neighborhood development non-profit. Contact, **Tom King**, kings7565@gmail.com

FEED MY SHEEP, AUGUST

Body Wash, Alcohol-Free Mouthwash, Men's T-Shirts and gently used seasonal clothing for men, women and children is especially needed at this time. **School supplies are also requested.**

Once a month HUMC offers a choice of socks, briefs or T-shirt, a toiletry item and hotel-sized toiletries. Toilet paper is offered every week with 120 carry-out lunches. **Toilet paper and/or donations for the purchase of toilet paper is needed.** Please note **FMS TP** on your check. Blue collection bins are located in the narthex closet, near the hand bell cabinet.

Feed My Sheep is a church-based hot lunch program that takes place every Friday from 11:30a to 12:30p 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

Paper Towels for Hudson 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 Aug. 27 and Sept. 24. Thank you!
Questions? Nancy Kralik at 330.212.7581 or nskralik@gmail.com

Pastor/Staff-Parish Relations Committee

"Change is the only constant" Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher.

Understanding that change is a constant does not always make it easier to face. HUMC is not exempted from change. We are reminded of change evolving in our congregation as we share news from Kerrie Book.

Kerrie has provided faithful leadership to the children, youth, and families of HUMC as the Director of Family Ministries for the past 5 years. Kerrie has decided that she will transition to a new position and her last day of work at HUMC will be Nov. 18th. We wish Kerrie and her family many blessings as she moves into her new role.

Be assured HUMC is committed to nurturing faith in children, youth, and families. Your pastor and the Staff Parish Relations Committee will seek clarity where God is calling us to go as a congregation. The commitment to transparent communication is a priority for those involved. Contact Jake Protivnak, SPRC Chair, jiproktivnak@gmail.com, for questions.

Join in praying for the Book family and the ministry of making disciples at HUMC.



Family Vacation Bible School

Our Family Vacation Bible School will be happening **August 9-11**. Please pray for all of the families that will be attending & all of our volunteers!

Safe Sanctuaries Training

On Sunday, **August 21**, following the morning worship service, Hudson UMC will be hosting a church-wide Safe Sanctuaries training with Rev. Gary Jones, Director of Spiritual Formation and Camp & Retreat Ministries at the East Ohio Conference. The Christian Education Committee will be providing light refreshments after the morning worship service, and then we will have a presentation and Q&A with Rev. Jones. We anticipate that the presentation will be 1 hour and the Q&A will be a half hour.

Please look for information regarding the completion of the Safe Sanctuaries application soon in the bulletin.

All volunteers who work with children, youth and/or vulnerable persons must complete this training every three years. If you have any questions, or are unable to attend this training, but plan on volunteering at HUMC, please contact Kerrie Book at kerrievansbook@gmail.com.

Save the Dates!

Sunday school will be kicking off in September. **Rally Day will be Sunday, September 11** and Sunday school will officially start on Sunday, **September 18**.

Volunteers Needed for Sunday School

The Christian Education Committee is in need of teachers and substitutes for many of their classes. The kid's classes are 3 years-1st grade, 2nd-5th grade and 6th-12th grade. The commitments range from weekly to once a month. All teaching materials are provided. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Kerrie Book at kerrievansbook@gmail.com

NURSERY SCHOOL

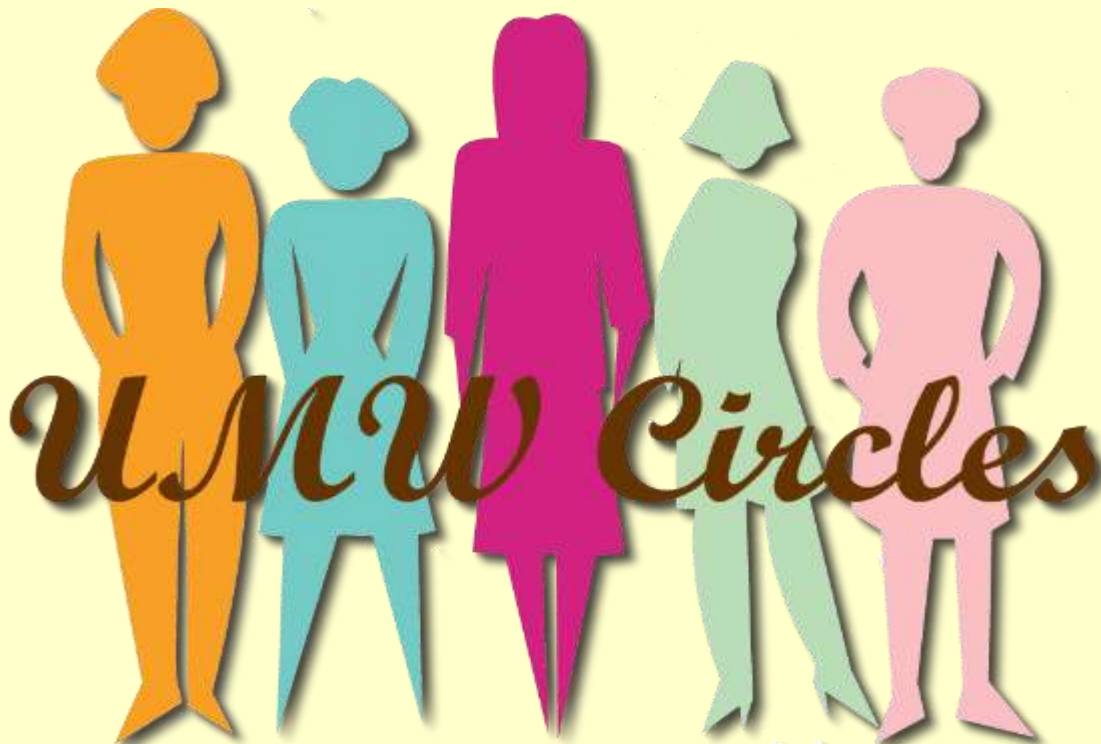


It is so exciting to think we will be returning to school for another exciting year! We are hoping this year is back to somewhat normalcy. The teachers are anxious to get back and start having fun. We are looking forward to welcoming new friends and having our old friends back.

We do have a few openings in our 2-day 3's and Toddler class. Please let anyone you know that we do have openings in those classes!

The school year will start on September 6th, and we will be welcoming everyone that week. Any questions feel free to call the office at 330-650-4091 ext. 106

Director,
Lisa VanBuskirk



FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

Hudson United Methodist Women's Board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, August 1, 2022** at 7:00 pm at the church.

Mary Martha Circle will be taking a summer break. **Save the Date—Thursday, September 1, 2022, to volunteer at Heart4the City.**

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

Priscilla Circle will be taking a summer break. **Meetings will resume in September.** Priscilla Circle meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm. Questions/Information contact: Ann Ingling: anningling@gmail.com, Marty Hannah marty2uin@windstream.net

Books for Breakfast will be taking a summer break. **Meetings will resume in September.**

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

Questions/Information contact: Michelle Novosel: 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/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.