

THE GIFT



GREAT INSPIRATION FOR THOUGHT

HUDSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2670 HUDSON AURORA RD
HUDSON OH 44236

REV.
BRUCE
HARTLEY



PASTOR'S PAGE

Thoughts Along the Way...

The time “before Christmas” is a season on the Christian calendar called Advent - the beginning of the Christian Year. Our culture will count the “shopping days” before Christmas (which seems to begin in September...or earlier). Advent is a time of preparation in the Church. One lesson Advent teaches is that waiting is a healthy discipline. (*If you want to know more about “Advent” go to UMC.org*)

I recall being told when packages began to appear under a tree in our home, “**Do not open before Christmas!**” I recall telling our daughters, “**Do not open before Christmas!**” I now hear our granddaughters being told, “**Do not open before Christmas!**” Have you heard this command? Have you shared this command? It is hard to follow those instructions.

This year during Advent, I challenge you to disobey what you have been told. I propose that to celebrate Christmas (the event as designed by God) we should **open some things before Christmas...and keep opening all year ‘round:**

Sunday, November 27 “Before Christmas - Open Your Ears” Isaiah 55:3

Sunday, December 4 “Before Christmas - Open Your Eyes” Luke 2:30; Isaiah 35:1-10

Sunday, December 11 “Before Christmas - Open Your Heart” Luke 1:26-38

Sunday, December 18 “Before Christmas - Open Your Mouth” Psalm 51:15

Gather with Hudson UMC before Christmas so we are prepared for God’s gift of love – Jesus! Invite a neighbor, family member or friend to worship in person or on-line. Help them to open themselves to The Christ.



Great Inspiration for Thought

CHRISTMAS AT FEED MY SHEEP

New or Like New Children & Adult Gift Items

Do you have new or gently used gift items from years past? Ornaments, toys, puzzles, games, bobble heads, perfume, lotions, sweaters, scarfs, hats, gloves, Snuggies, blankets, etc.? Especially needed throughout these wintry months are blankets, coats, jackets, boots and other warm clothing items for men, women and children.

The deadline for Christmas donations is Wednesday, December 14.

Once a month HUMC offers a toiletry item and a choice of socks, briefs or T-shirt plus hotel-sized toiletries. Toilet paper is offered every week with 130 take-out lunches.

Blue collection bins are located in the narthex closet, near the hand bell cabinet. Feed My Sheep is a church-based hot lunch program Fridays from 11:30a to 12:30p at Redeemer UMC (265 Cuyahoga Falls Ave.) in Akron's North Hill neighborhood. Thank you for supporting Feed My Sheep! Contact Nancy Kralik at 330-212-7581- nskralik@gmail.com



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY

Please welcome **Sandra Simpson**. Sandra has transferred her church membership from Church of the Lakes in Canton to Hudson United Methodist Church, as the Music Director.

If you would like to become a member of Hudson United Methodist Church, please contact Pastor Bruce Hartley. His contact information can be found on our website and in the Sunday church bulletin.

We are trying to make sure that our church directory is current/correct as we adopt new software. If you have any updates, please pass them along to Debbie King, kings7565@gmail.com More information about this software change will be coming soon.

PAPER TOWELS FOR HUDSON FOOD PANTRY

Hudson UMC supports the Hudson Food Pantry by supplying paper towels every month for 40+ families.

Staple food items requested at this time: cooking oil, pasta sauce, kidney beans, white beans, canned pasta, canned chicken, tuna and salmon, cream of chicken soup, cream of mushroom soup, peanut butter, ketchup, deodorant, toothbrushes.

Donations may be dropped off at the church in the gathering area. Upcoming distributions are December 17 and January 28. **Thank you!** Nancy Kralik at nskralik@gmail.com or 330-212-7581

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

5:30 pm Family Service – Gather the family at Hudson UMC to worship the newborn King. The young and the young at heart will hear the Good News, sing praises and receive the light of Christ revealing the wonders of God’s love.

7:30 pm Candlelight Service – Hudson UMC gathers as God’s faithful people to hear again the amazing arrival of the Prince of Peace. Hearts will delight in the singing of traditional carols and sounds of the bell choir. The Light of Christ will illuminate those who gather while singing “Silent Night.” The wonders of God’s Love still warm our hearts.

Christmas Day 9:30 am – Sunday is the Lord’s Day, and we gather on that day to celebrate, remember, and worship him. *This tradition has existed since the resurrection, more than 2000 years ago.* Far be it from Hudson UMC to break with tradition. Admittedly, interrupting a typical Christmas morning to gather in worship is counter cultural. Join us and be counter-cultural and focus on Jesus by gathering to worship the Newborn King!

Invite your neighbors, friends, and family to either Christmas Eve Service and Christmas Day.

Share the Good News so that others may experience the wonder of God’s Love.

SAVE THE DATE

On **January 5, 2023 at 7:00 pm**, **The Key of Hope Choir** from Durban, South Africa will fill our sanctuary with the sounds of joy, faith, and hope. Please join us and be sure to invite family and friends to this special performance, a powerful way to begin a new year.

The hour-long concert is **FREE**, although the choir accepts donations and will be selling merchandise after the event. Key of Hope is an international non-profit in Durban, South Africa, which reaches children affected by poverty and AIDS with the hope found in Jesus Christ through long-term mentoring relationships.

If you would like to help with preparations—for instance, we will need volunteers to plan/serve a meal beforehand—or if you’d like more information, please contact Jackie Beam (jacqueline.beam@gmail.com). You can also visit www.keyofhope.org.

**TAKING DOWN THE GREENS**

We are all enjoying the beautiful Christmas decorations and request your help to take down the Christmas decorations on Saturday, January 7th at 9:00 a.m. Please come and enjoy George’s Donuts as we end this wonderful Advent Season. See you then!





Elizabeth Goodin



SPRC would like to welcome Elizabeth Goodin as our new Director of Family Ministries. Elizabeth comes to Hudson UMC with ten years of experience in children's, family, intergenerational, and discipleship ministries. Her passion is in equipping leaders and in bringing together seekers and followers of all ages to grow in their faith together. Prior to her years in ministry, Elizabeth was a stay-at-home mom, an active church and school volunteer, and she also taught piano lessons privately.

Elizabeth and her husband Mark live in Solon and are empty-nest parents to Samantha, Alexander (married to Danielle), Melody, and Monica (married to Traci), and grandparents to Teo and Xavi. In their free time, Elizabeth and Mark love to Facetime with their kids or go on walks with their schnoodle, Suzi.

Elizabeth may be reached via familyministries@hudsonumc.com or through the church office at (330) 650-4047, Ext. 105.



NURSERY SCHOOL



We are in full swing celebrating the holidays. We had our annual Thanksgiving Feast; it was so exciting to have parents and grandparents back in our building! We all enjoyed the Feast so much. We sang our Thanksgiving songs that we had been practicing so hard each week and we wore our decorated vests and headbands. It was an exciting day!



We are now gearing up to celebrate Christmas. We will be making many fun crafts and making a special gift for our family. Santa will be able to visit this year as well! We are very excited to bring this tradition back as well. We will also once again for the 29th year, be helping out the families less fortunate than us. We will be sponsoring 2-3 families in hopes of brightening their holidays.

Registration packets will be out early January for the 2023-2024 school year. If you know of anyone looking for a great pre-school, please send them our way. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and stay well and safe.

Director,

Lisa VanBuskirk



Music Ministry



LOCALLY RENOWNED HANDBELL CHOIR CONCERT AT HUMC SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3rd, at 3:00 PM

Harmony Ringers is a premier semi-professional handbell choir centered in the Stark County area. They are a hit everywhere they go with jaw-dropping technical precision, heartfelt artistic expression, and elements of showmanship that is sure to entertain the whole family. They have chimes as tall as the ceiling, as well as other percussion instruments that are fun to hear.

Harmony Ringers brings with it many years of experience, including their director, Christine Allison, who conducted a workshop for our own HUMC bell choir last winter. Harmony Ringers' Christmas repertoire is a glorious combination of sacred and secular arrangements. We are blessed that Harmony Ringers will be offering a free concert at HUMC on Saturday, December 3rd, at 3:00 PM in our sanctuary. Don't miss this opportunity to put a smile on your face and the Christmas Spirit in your heart.

Our musical groups have been hard at work preparing Advent and Christmas selections that will surely add meaning and beauty to this season. It is our great honor to celebrate and reflect upon the birth of our Lord and Savior through music.

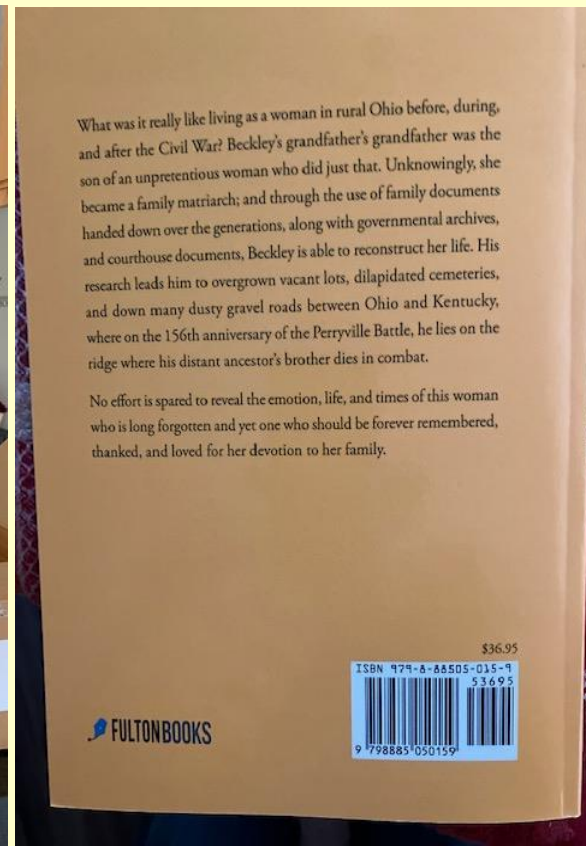
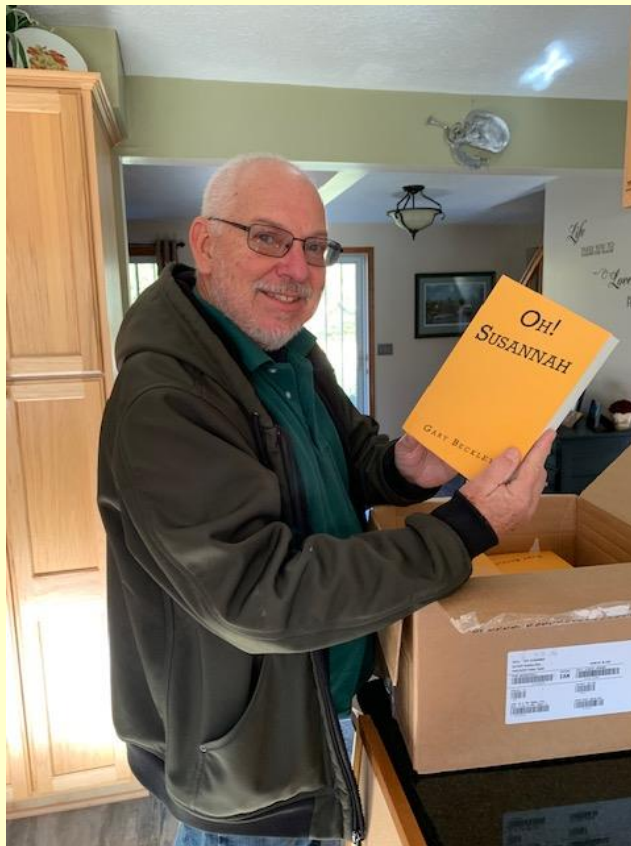
Anyone who would like to make music with us this holiday season is most welcome. Our adult groups rehearse Thursday evenings: Bells at 6:15; Chancel Choir at 7:30, and the children meet on Sunday mornings at 10:45.





Fulton Books author Gary Beckley, who has become his family's historian, a political scientist, and storyteller, has completed his most recent book, "Oh! Susannah": a captivating account of a woman's life during Civil War era America that centers around the author's 3rd-great-grandmother, Susannah, who became a powerful matriarch.

Readers who wish to experience this engaging work can purchase Gary's book at bookstores everywhere, or online at the Apple iTunes store, Amazon, Google Play or Barnes and Noble.





FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

Hudson United Women in Faith Board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, December 5, 2022 at 7:00 pm at the church.**

Mary Martha Circle will be participating in the **Open M Christmas for the Love of Children.** Please deliver the children's gifts to **Cheryl Gamble by Sunday, December 4.**

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

Priscilla Circle will meet the **second Wednesday of the month, December 14th at 6:00 pm in the home of Marty Hannah.** Our Advent celebration, devotion, and fellowship time will include a meal, goodies, and sharing a meaningful/favorite Christmas tradition. Let Marty or Ann know if you are able to join us. Watch your email for more details as Dec.14th approaches.

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 meet on **Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 9:30 am on Zoom.** The book for discussion is *The Girl with Seven Names* by Hyeonsoo Lee.

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 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.





THANKSGIVING DINNER UPDATE

The Hudson United Women in Faith would like to thank everyone who attended the Thanksgiving Dinner on Wednesday, November 16, 2022. It had been 2 years since we could hold the Annual dinner due to the pandemic. We had great attendance with over 70 attendees who enjoyed a delicious turkey and ham dinner with all the trimmings.

Special recognition was given to Amy Lunn and Sandy Wristen who brought the first Thanksgiving Dinner to the Priscilla Circle in November, 2009. They hosted a dinner each year within their Circle. Then in 2013 the 5th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner was open to the congregation and the dinner became a widely anticipated event each year. We also gave tribute to Joanne Roenigk and honored Lee Roenigk for their many years of preparing turkeys and helping behind the scenes for many past Thanksgiving dinners at HUMC. We also thank you for your generous donations to the Free Will offering with a total of \$1118.00 going toward HUMC kitchen equipment updates.

MISSIONS

CWS - BLANKET SUNDAY – THANK YOU!



The Hudson United Women in Faith would like to thank everyone who supported Church World Service- Blanket Sunday! Thanks to your generosity, we have raised over **\$800** which will help in providing **80 blankets to those in need**. Church World Service Blanket Sunday is an annual mission project that UWF supports. When difficult times or disasters happen, a kind and loving response of a warm blanket can make all the difference and remind them that they are not alone and that someone cares. Thank you for your continued support of Blanket Sunday and the missions of Hudson United Women in Faith.



HUDSON UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH-FALL PROJECT



The Hudson United Women in Faith are very grateful for your support of the UMCOR hygiene kits project. At the time of this writing the project has 10 days remaining and your support has been tremendous. We greatly appreciate the contributions of hand towels, washcloths, combs, toothbrushes, nail clippers, and soap. You have helped so many people who are in need. Thank you again! Stay tuned for December bulletins for actual number of hygiene kits donated to UMCOR. Angie Helmer - Cawhelmer@aol.com

SAVE THE DATE

The **Christian Unity Prayer Service (CUPS)** will be held at Hudson United Methodist Church on Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 10:00 am.

The theme is "Do good; seek justice". (Isaiah 1:17)

Watch for more details in the coming months. If you have any questions, contact Cheryl Gamble: cgamble1114@yahoo.com





Poinsettia Orders

Celebrate the Christmas season by purchasing a Poinsettia to place in the Sanctuary in honor of the birth of Christ. Each 7 ½ inch double stemmed potted plant will cost \$20.00 and you may choose either red or white. To dedicate your Poinsettia in memory/honor of someone please fill out the bottom of this insert and place it along with your check in the offering plate or drop it off in the church office. Your name, as well as those honored and remembered, will be featured in the bulletin.

Your Name: _____

Your phone number: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Number of RED _____ @ \$20.00 each= _____ total

Number of WHITE _____ @ \$20.00 each= _____ total

_____ TOTAL

Make checks payable to Hudson United Methodist Church; and put the word "Poinsettia" in the memo line.

I wish to donate the poinsettias I purchase.

I will pick up my plant after the Christmas Eve service or anytime up to January 1, 2023

DEADLINE TO ORDER IS December 18, 2022

