

The January GIFT 2023



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Great Inspiration for Thought

Hudson United Methodist Church
2670 Hudson Aurora Rd
Hudson OH 44236

REV.
BRUCE
HARTLEY



PASTOR'S PAGE

We read in Matthew's Gospel not only about how the Magi discovered The Holy Family, but also that "having been warned in a dream,...the Magi returned by another route." Mt. 2:12

The change of direction may not mean much to the casual reader, but it causes me to noodle a bit about my life course. Will I go about living as I did last year or the last decade? Will I change my course? If so, what adjustments am I driven by God to make? We begin 2023 by first exploring "TIME". Psalm 39:4 will offer a challenge to us as we seek to "redeem time."

Following our brief focus on time, we will explore a path others have trod, "Paths of Righteousness."

Join Hudson UMC as we collectively explore "Paths of Righteousness". Together we will learn how the Old Testament faithful lived righteous lives and learn to walk the path of righteousness in a world that is wandering. How can we learn to walk a path of righteousness without becoming self-righteous?

Jan. 8 - Psalm 23 "Paths of Righteousness: David"

Jan. 15 – Genesis 6 excerpts; "Path of Righteousness: Noah"

Jan. 22 – Hosea 2:16-20; "Paths of Righteousness: Hosea"

Jan. 29 – Amos 5:1-17; "Paths of Righteousness: Amos"



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MISSIONAL BUDGET UPDATE

JANUARY 2023

The leaders at your church have developed a bold plan of ministry to continue our mission to make and mature Disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.

Together we celebrate the commitment of many, during the pandemic and now post-pandemic, to share God's Love in Christ with the world. It is evident Hudson UMC is not gripped by fear, but driven by love!

With Joy and Gratitude we share that we have received: **57 Giving pledges**

9 new pledges, 19 pledge increases

Pledged giving totals \$279,500

Considering pledges and other giving, total giving still needed to fulfill God's calling for Hudson UMC mission and ministry in 2023 is \$30,000.

Join us as we boldly connect, grow and serve Christ!

If you would like additional information on our giving and expenses, please contact our Financial Secretary, Sheryl Reynolds, at humcfinance@windstream.net

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!



APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT

June 11-17, 2023

Hudson UMC will be volunteering in Kentucky the week of June 11, 2023 to share God's love and help make homes warmer, safer, and drier for those in need. This coming year will be our church's 49th year of service with the Appalachia Service Project. As you are probably aware, flooding severely impacted many areas of Appalachia, including many areas of Kentucky that we have served in previously. Our help will likely be desperately needed next year. Friends and family are welcome.

Requirements for volunteers are age 13+ and having completed the 8th grade.

If you are wanting to volunteer for the Appalachia Service Project or would like more information about how you can support this mission, please contact Bill Centrello at bcentrel@gmail.com or visit the ASP website at asphome.org.



HUMC Wi-Fi UPGRADE

The Church and Nursery School recently went through an upgrade of our Wi-Fi system in order to better support our ministries such as Sunday School, Nursery School, Small Group meetings and Committees. If you are in the building and need access to the Wi-Fi network, please look for the network **HUMC Guest** and use password **hudsonumc.com**.

G.I.F.T.

THANK YOU



We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to beautifying the altar with the poinsettia dedications in Memory and Honor of loved ones.

Linda & Kirk Arnold	In Memory of our parents
Cheryl & Mark Gamble	In Honor of our children Justin and Amanda, our parents Betty & Cleveland Worley, Ann Gamble and Ruth Yeager In Memory of their parents, Roland Gamble, Mark's father and Carl Yeager, Cheryl's father.
Jan Gregrow	In Memory of her Mother, Father and Husband
Jerry & Sheila Hammar	in Honor of our children and grandchildren
Angie and Wally Helmer	In Memory of Ira Kimble, Angie's father
Steve, Marcia, Joe And Mattie Korane	In Memory of Bernice Jaquays, Steve's mom and Jean Huffman, Marcia's mom
Carolyn Mulroy	In Memory of James Mulroy
Rick & Trudy Painting	In Honor of our children and grandchildren
Rufus Reuben	In Honor of our family
Bill & Suzy Richards	
Rick & Linda Schmeichel	In Memory of our parents, Richard & Ruth Schmeichel, Melvin & Violette Schutt
Jim & Pam Sherer	In Memory of Jim's mother and father, Tom Williams
Sandy Simpson	In Memory of my parents, Don & Betty Weidig
Len & Karyn Stusek	In Memory of our parents, Richard and Sandra Pilarczyk, William & Lenore Stusek
Wendy & Bob Zimbleman	In Memory of their parents





How appropriate it seems to begin a ministry during the Advent season. The sense of anticipation and newness in the air matches my own excitement for what God will accomplish next here at Hudson United Methodist Church. I'm grateful to be along for the journey, and thought I would take this opportunity to tell you something of my general philosophies that will, with God's guidance, shape my ministry efforts.

I believe there is no better investment of our time, resources, and talents than ensuring that the next generation experiences the joy and peace that comes with a sustaining faith and a nurturing church community. Through active learning in a creative environment, the good news of God's love and grace can be communicated to our young people so that they can begin early on to form an understanding of God's place in their lives. Rather than waiting until they grow up to know God, children can grow up *with* God.

A large part of an effective ministry to children and youth is also recognizing the influence that parents and extended families have on the development of their children's faith. By designing programs for integrating parents in the religious education of their children, providing training and resources that help parents bring faith talks into the home, and creating opportunities that allow families to practice their faith together, the church can help empower families in this role.

This type of ministry to children, youth, and families is best supported in an environment where all generations come together regularly to learn alongside one another, to interact, play and grow. Today's research tells us that when generations worship, learn, and serve together, a valuable exchange takes place in the form of shared wisdom, fresh perspectives, and new opportunities for growth and introspection on all sides. For the young in particular, a significant benefit arising from this type of faith community is a felt sense of belonging. They know they are valued for what they bring to the life of a church, not just for the future, but today. This is fertile soil in which faith may grow, thrive, and last.



G.I.F.T.

So, we will most definitely target our different age groups with creative and effective children's curriculums, insightful youth resources, and compelling adult studies according to unique and specific needs. But beyond that, we will break down the silos to talk, listen, and play together as the true brothers and sisters in Christ we are. I invite you to imagine, along with me, what God will do in this family.

God Bless, and thank you so much for your warm welcome.

Elizabeth

JANUARY FAMILY FELLOWSHIP-WHITE ELEPHANT EXCHANGE

Saturday January 28th in the CAC at 6:30-8pm

Join us for our annual January tradition full of laughs and good cheer to ring in the New Year! All are welcome to join in the fun of the White Elephant Exchange. Bring at least one wrapped item that you no longer need in your home (welcome to bring more but you will take home as many as you bring!) Also please bring a pie to share with the group! Questions? Contact Becca Gates at Photochic22@gmail.com

KOH Volunteer Opportunities: Our church is blessed to host **The Key of Hope choir from Durban, South Africa, who will perform in our sanctuary on Thursday, January 5 at 7:00 pm.** We expect a great turnout and could use your help showing hospitality to both the choir and community. If you would like to help with set-up/clean-up for the meal we'll be serving the choir, or by donating cookies for our cookie reception, please email Jackie Beam at (jacqueline.beam@gmail.com) or you may volunteer via the sign-up genius link below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090948ADAC2AA2F49-keyofhope>
(jacqueline.beam@gmail.com).

You can also help by spreading the word to friends and neighbors, and by praying for the choir as they tour.

Meet the Smithers Family: Dan and Rachel Smithers are the missionaries behind Key of Hope. They moved from Pontiac, Michigan to Durban, South Africa in 2007 with their four daughters—the oldest was 7 and the youngest, just 6 weeks old. They didn't have any family or friends or connections in Durban but felt called by God to make this move in response to the HIV/AIDS crisis, along with a deep desire to help the children affected by it. When they arrived in Durban, they asked about the worst areas. Locals would tell them where not to go, and the next day, that's exactly where Dan would head. Today, they have a staff of 35 and minister to 1700 children on a weekly basis. The choir is just one part of the organization's ministry. For more information, please visit <<https://www.keyofhope.org>>.



NURSERY SCHOOL



December was a blur for 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. The 4/5 class also had a Grinch Day. We had our annual Christmas programs which was so exciting! We had not been able to have a program in two years. The children loved every minute performing for their families and we enjoyed watching them learn all new songs!

It is that time of year again that we are gearing up for registration for the **2023-2024 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 form and what to do. We will be holding an open house this year. Details will follow. The registration deadline is **Friday, February 3rd 2023**. 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



Life is a series of new beginnings, and as Christians we have the possibility of new birth through Jesus. As we move on from the bright lights and festivities, may we carry with us an internal light that illuminates our souls and blesses those around us.

HUMC has the opportunity to be a blessing to many people through Key of Hope Children's Choir. The choir is part of a larger ministry created to make a difference in conditions of severe poverty in South Africa. The Key of Hope choir will be presenting a free concert at HUMC, on **Thursday, January 5th at 7:00 PM.**

There will be opportunity for our young people to interact with the members of the choir prior to the concert as well as a cookie reception for all attendees following the concert.

What a glorious way to begin 2023: The sharing of Christ's love through music with people on the other side of the world, Spread the word. All are welcome.





FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

Hudson United Women in Faith Board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, January 9, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the church.**

Mary Martha Circle will not be having a regular meeting in January but there is a lot going on. You are invited to volunteer on **Thursday, January 5, 2023 at Heart 4 the City** with their food distribution in the morning. Also, on **January 5, volunteers are needed in the afternoon and evening for the Key of Hope concert at HUMC. Please contact Cheryl Maimona or Cheryl Gamble if you can volunteer for one of these events.**

In addition, everyone is invited to attend the Christian Unity Prayer Service which will be on Thursday, January 19, at 10:00 am at Hudson United Methodist Church.

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 winter break for January and February. 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: anningling@gmail.com, Marty Hannah marty2uin@windstream.net

Books for Breakfast will meet on **Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 9:30 am on Zoom.** The book for discussion is *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger.

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

Questions/Information contact: Michelle Novosel: novandkoz@yahoo.com

We are on Facebook - check us out at: Hudson United Methodist Church Women- be sure to "Like" us to get current updates.

G.I.F.T.

CUPS – Christian Unity Prayer Service – Thursday, January 19, 2023

“Do Good; Seek Justice” (Isaiah 1:17) is the theme for Hudson’s 2023 ecumenical prayer service in celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The interdenominational prayer service and luncheon will take place Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 10:00 AM at Hudson United Methodist Church.

Ticket holders will enjoy a box lunch catered by Nosh, immediately following the service. The lunch menu includes your choice of a chicken salad sandwich made with almonds, red grapes, and herb mayonnaise on multi-grain bread or creamy Havarti and artichoke vegetarian sandwich with baby arugula and basil aioli on artisan bread. Lunch also includes pasta salad and a dark chocolate chip cookie with sea salt. Coffee, tea, and bottled water will also be available. *You will need to make your lunch selection when you purchase your ticket.*

Ticket price is \$20.00 per person for the luncheon and speaker portion of the event. You do not need a ticket to attend the worship service.

Tickets will be sold in the Gathering Area on Sunday, January 8 and 15, 2023. Information about ticket reservations may be obtained by contacting Cheryl Gamble, cgamble1114@yahoo.com or 330-554-4081. Make checks for tickets payable to Hudson United Methodist Women. Reservation deadline is January 15, 2023.

MISSIONS

Church World Service – Blanket Sunday – Update

The United Women of Faith would like to thank everyone who donated to our mission outreach project: Church World Service Blanket Sunday. We are very pleased to share the new updated donation total of \$1169 which will help provide 116 blankets. Through your very generous donations, we continue to make a difference for families that have been impacted by recent flooding, hurricanes and other disasters. Thank you for your continued support and for showing God’s love in providing warmth, comfort, hope and love to those in need.

UMCOR Hygiene Kits Update

The Hudson United Women in Faith (UWF) would like to thank you for your participation in the collection of hygiene kits for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). With your diligent shopping and monetary contributions, **we are blessed to contribute 100 hygiene kits**. These hygiene kits will be delivered to the Eastbrook Mission Barn in New Castle, PA in January and will provide help to victims of floods, hurricanes, typhoons, and many other disasters. Your support is sincerely appreciated!

Kids Capes for Courage

Our next winter mission project is sewing capes for children in hospitals who need something to wrap themselves in to feel a little extra love. We come together at the church for a cutting session and kit making session and then anyone who wants to sew a cape is welcome to take a kit or two home to complete. We laugh a lot and enjoy lunch together. Stay tuned for details about our cutting session.

SAVE THE DATE: Watch for more details in the coming months.

Pancake Breakfast – Sunday, March 12, 2023

United Women in Faith Sunday – Sunday, April 16, 2023