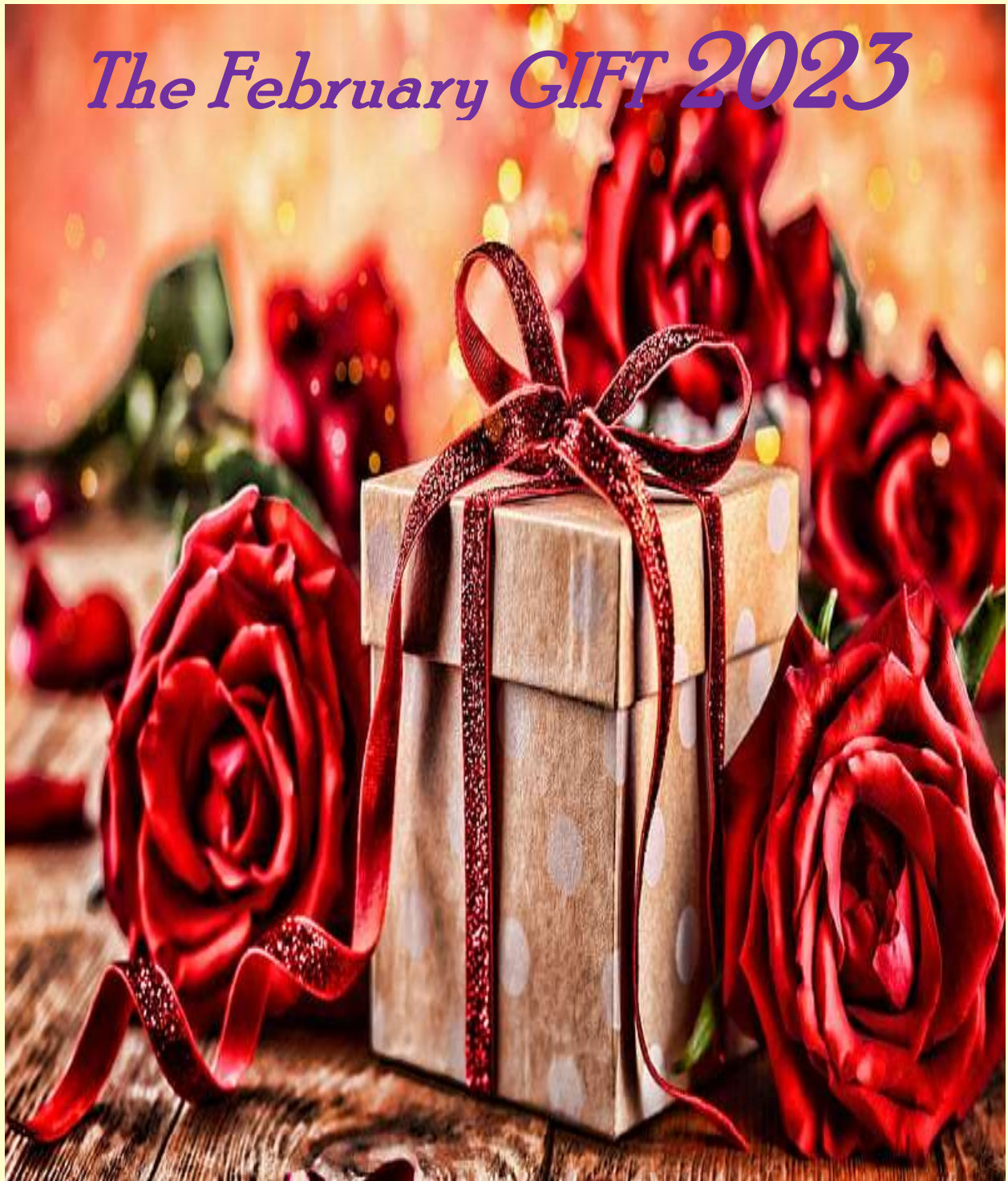


The February GIFT 2023



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...

As our relationship as pastor and people deepens, it seemed like a healthy time to share some happenings. Communication is a bases for every healthy relationship and it builds trust.

- Maybe you are wondering about Nominations and a rotation of leadership at Hudson UMC. Well, Nominations has been meeting for nearly two months. The team includes Paul Brown (Lay Leader), Michelle Novosel, Jerry Hammar and me as the Chair. We have sought to identify the needs of various standing committees and prioritize the teams for supporting the “Next Step” at HUMC.

Traditionally, shifts in leadership happen on January 1 but following this schedule is not a requirement. If you would like to be considered for a committee in the church, email me pastor@hudsonumc.com As persons are identified and agree to serve, you will be informed. Thank you for your patience.

- Maybe you have passed room 111 and read a new name plate outside the door. Jennifer McKinley is the Hudson Community Resource Coordinator. Jennifer is not on staff at Hudson UMC. Rather she is employed by the Hudson Ministerial Association. She works to connect those who live, work or worship in Hudson with support networks, thereby improving the daily lives of many. Thank you to the Trustees for offering her space so she can improve Hudson one person at a time.
- Serving Christ’s Church happens in many ways. I encourage all to serve as a liturgist and or an usher during the morning worship service. Contact Sheila Hammar sdhammar@windstream.net for liturgist; Dave Aebi aebida@gmail.com to usher. One advantage is you are not required to attend committee meetings!
- I wish to use this space to express my gratitude to the many who took a risk to host the “Key of Hope Choir!” So many of you gave yourselves to bless the Hudson community with the love for Christ that was witnessed in the young people from South Africa. If you

attended this experience, I hope you will consider sharing the story of Key of Hope with others and direct others to the website or Facebook.

Some conversation is happening about “The Next Big Thing” at Hudson UMC.

- On February 5, Rev. Ed Fashbaugh, Executive Director of Connectional Ministries of East Ohio Conference will share his message of God’s healing presence. His healing is powerful and you will be blessed.

Thank you all for the continued expressions of grace extended to Janet and me. We are truly blessed to serve among you.

Living in Hope,

Rev. Bruce



LENT 2023 AT HUDSON UMC

The season of Lent will soon unfold on February 22 as we gather to observe Ash Wednesday.

Throughout Lent Hudson UMC will witness lives of several in a sermon series entitled “Encounters with Christ.” Here are the lives who had a life-changing encounter:

Feb. 26 “ENCOUNTERS WITH CHRIST: THE MAN BORN BLIND” John 9:1-41

March 5 “ENCOUNTERS WITH CHRIST: JESUS WITH MARY AND MARTHA”
LUKE 10:38-42 Communion

March 12 “ENCOUNTERS WITH CHRIST: JESUS AND NICODEMUS” JOHN 3:1-17

March 19 “ENCOUNTERS WITH CHRIST: JESUS AND THE WOMAN AT THE WELL”
JOHN 4:7-15

March 26 “ENCOUNTERS WITH CHRIST: JESUS AND JAMES AND JOHN”
MATTHEW 20:20-28

April 2 “ENCOUNTERS WITH CHRIST: JESUS AND CAIAPHAS” MATTHEW 26:58-68

April 6 MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE AT 7:00PM Communion

April 9 EASTER

Gather in person or on-line at Hudson UMC and observe a Holy Lent with others.
Invite a neighbor, co-worker or friend to worship with you!

Great Inspiration for Thought

PARSONAGE FOR RENT

Parsonage for rent, please spread the word. We are asking \$3000.00 per month, all appliances included (including washer and dryer. Utilities and lawn maintenance not included.

Parsonage rental income is a very important part of our 2023 budget, but it is also not good for the house to just sit empty. If you know of anyone that is interested, have them reach out to CRPM our Property Management Company @ 330 - 230 - 9949. Any questions feel free to reach out to the trustees.



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 are canned chicken, canned tuna, yellow mustard, Hunt's pasta sauce, deodorant, and toothpaste.

Donations may be dropped off at the church in the gathering area. Upcoming distribution dates are January 28, February 25 and March 25.

Thank you! Nancy Kralik, 330.212.7581 or nskralik@gmail.com

FEED MY SHEEP

January, February

Blankets, Coats, Bodywash, Mouthwash
Gently used winter clothing for men, women and children are especially needed at this time. 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 130 carry-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.

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





Worship is central to what we Christians do and to who we are, and it can be especially meaningful to share it with a child. It can also be especially difficult. Two of my children (I won't say who) were not allowed to sit next to each other in worship because inevitably, they would share a joke and begin laughing at the most inopportune moments. I admit there were times when I worried about what others were thinking about the Sunday school teacher and her distracted kids. The truth was, I wanted the service to have meaning for them, as it did for me, but sometimes it was just one long hour for all of us.

In solidarity with any parents who might be feeling a similar angst in response to their children's recently extended time in worship, I've created some resources to help parents and children cross the great divide from "Be quiet and good" to "Be still and know that I am God."

When you come to worship with your children or grandchildren, please take and use one of our new *Children's Bulletins*. It was created to help children of all ages engage more fully in the experience of worship. The order of worship is the same as in the adult bulletins, but with a more kid-friendly look and with accompanying explanations for why we do what we do.

As you worship together, encourage your children to notice their surroundings and actively take part in the service. Have them use the accompanying *Bookmarks* to mark the upcoming hymns in their hymnals, and when it's time to sing, help them follow the words. Invite your young child to draw a picture on their *My Offering* card of a loving act over the past week that they can dedicate to God.

Show your children the readings of the Call to Worship and the Invocation in your bulletin or on the screens, even if they don't read or understand the words yet. They'll understand the spirit behind them. Help guide your children by pointing out the different sections in the bulletin to them, explaining how they represent the

G.I.F.T.

Christian response to God: We gather, we sing, we pray, we listen for God's Word, we give, we praise, and we serve. During the sermon, your older children may use the insert as an aid in actively listening. Afterwards, talk to them about the words they did not know, and share your own thoughts on the message. If your children take part in the Children's Sermon time, ask them what they did or talked about. Relate memorable ideas from the adult's message.

Your children are already learning to love a God who cares of them, gives them strength, and guides them. In response to these blessings, and with your nurture, guidance, and example, they can also learn to worship this God in a way that is meaningful and significant...and only funny when it's supposed to be.

God Bless.

Elizabeth

We Come Together

WELCOME
We welcome everyone to Hudson United Methodist Church and share news of what's happening in our church.

PRELUDE
A prelude is a fancy way of saying "music that is played before worship begins." During this time, notice anything different in the sanctuary or the bulletin. Bookmark today's songs in the hymnal and today's Scripture reading in the Bible. Use this quiet time to think about God.

CALL TO WORSHIP
We share words that invite us to begin worshipping God.

OPENING HYMN
We stand and sing a joyful song to praise God.

INVOCATION
We share words that remind us we are in God's presence, and our focus is on God.

ANTHEM
The choir sings a song that helps us worship.
How does this music make you feel?
What do the words say about God?

CHILDREN'S BULLETIN



NURSERY SCHOOL



January we welcomed everyone back from Christmas break. It sounds like all the children had a great holiday! We started back talking about the winter weather and then we moved into talking about our dads. This year will be very different as we cannot have our dads come visit our school. We will be doing special things to honor our dads. February is also registration for the 2022-2023 school year. It seems hard to believe we are already doing registration! Time flies when you are having fun!! In February we will celebrate Valentine's Day. We will share our special Valentine's with our friends, we will have a special snack and play some fun games. We are always making the best of the situation at hand. If you know of anyone looking for pre-school please let them know we are registering.

Director,

Lisa VanBuskirk

G.I.F.T.



A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS



CHRISTMAS

G.I.F.T.

KEY OF HOPE CHOR



G.I.F.T.





Church Council Meeting Highlights of January 17, 2023: Tom King offered devotion with opening prayer and minutes of September 27 Council meeting approved.

Planning for the Next Big Thing: A meeting was held to debrief the Key of Hope concert and plan a similar event in the future - the “Next Big Thing”. It was suggested for the next time we host an event that we create a concert program that includes information about HUMC and also an invitation to upcoming HUMC events. Ideas for the Next Big Thing included: a Jazz Night concert; presence at the Community Days Farmers Market (June 17), also the Ice Cream Social (June 16); hosting a Bike Rodeo in conjunction with our Scout troops; and again hosting Trunk or Treat. Elizabeth Goodin advised to use our energy to advance a strategic goal and Sherry Newill advised to keep in mind that our resources (organizers and volunteers) are limited which could affect the quality of our results. Bruce suggested we make T-shirts that show we are Hudson UMC to show our presence to the community. Another idea put forth was to have a float in the Memorial Day parade; Chris offered use of his flatbed trailer; and it was suggested it could feature our church musicians.



Finance Report and adoption of 2023 Budget:

The proposed budget for 2023 forecasts pledges of \$280,000 and projected income from the parsonage rental. While projecting lower expenses due to apportionments, and showing a 3% staff increase on July 1st, the budget remains with a \$29,900 deficit. We have relied on interfund borrowing to carry these deficits. The 2023 General Fund budget is one of faith and was approved unanimously.

Ministry Reports:

- **Committee on Education and Family Ministries** - Review is underway of a new children's Sunday school curriculum for Preschool-Grade 1 and Grades 2-5 and curriculum for Grades 6-12 class. Teachers to lead that age group are needed. The new plan for the children to remain in worship is underway with the youngest children (up to Gr. 2) are invited to move to the CAC during the sermon for a short kid-oriented lesson on the same message. We are equipping parents to serve as their children's worship mentors with new children's bulletins and a new booklet *Worshipping Together; A Guide for Families*. For adult ministries we have a new subscription to *Amplify Media*, a study resource by the EOC, replacing its "Media Center".

Missions - Alternative Giving raised \$1,945 in donations to local, national, and international missions. The ASP mission trip is June 11 - 17, our 49th year. Local missions support continues for Open M, Feed My Sheep, and Hudson Food Pantry.

Communications - Bill said more help is needed with AV of worship services.

UMW - A name change to **United Women of Faith** is underway. Capes for Courage is a sewing project for Children's Hospital. Soon to start is collection for Gifts from the Heart.

Rev. Hartley - Former pastor Don Kline has moved back to the area.

Trustees - The furnace blower in the Fellowship Hall has failed, replacement would be \$30,000, but a fix for \$3000 will be made. Patching and sealing drives will likely be deferred to 2024. Please inform the office of all church events so that the snow clearing can be scheduled for their safety.

Membership Secretary - Debbie is working with Sheryl Reynolds to generate a more accurate member list. Elizabeth Goodin is asking all small groups to record names of attendance so the church can monitor people's connections.

Closing Prayer was offered by Reverend Hartley, taken by Tom King

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, February 28, 7 pm





FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

Hudson United Women in Faith board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 6, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the church.**

Mary Martha Circle will meet on **Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 10:00 am at the church.** Elizabeth Goodin, the new Director of Family Ministries at HUMC, will be speaking on the topic "Using God's gifts to do God's work". This will be a great opportunity for everyone to get to know Elizabeth and see how Mary Martha might assist her in her new role at the church. Lunch at Aladdin's after the meeting.

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

Priscilla Circle will be on winter break for the month of **February**. Check back in March 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 or Marty Hannah at marty2uin@windstream.net

Books for Breakfast will meet on **Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 9:30 am on Zoom.** The book for discussion is *The Women of Chateau Lafayette* by Stephanie Dray.

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

Questions/Information contact Michelle Novosel at 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.

MISSIONS

“GIFTS FROM THE HEART” – UWF MISSION PROJECT

The Hudson United Women in Faith is sponsoring their mission project, **Gifts from the Heart** (formally Brown Bags) food program which will begin **Sunday, February 12, 2023**. We will be supporting the **Center of Hope** (Ravenna), and **Heart 4 the City** (NE Akron). Your monetary donation makes a difference. For every \$1 donation, the Foodbank can provide the equivalent of 4 meals to the **Center of Hope** and **Heart 4 the City**. Please make your check payable to Hudson UMC with “Gifts from Heart” noted in the memo. **The deadline is Sunday, February 26, 2023**. For more information: please contact Sandy Bernert: s1bernert@aol.com or Cheryl Gamble: cgamble1114@yahoo.com

Thank you for supporting this important mission outreach program sponsored by the Hudson United Women in Faith!

KIDS CAPES OF COURAGE

The UMW/UWF are very busy with the Kids Capes of Courage project. Capes have been cut and are waiting to be sewn. If you or someone you know would be interested in helping sew, please contact Angie Helmer at 330 221-9252 or cawhelmer@aol.com. We are hoping for our best year yet and offer many thanks to Jean Corporon, sister-in-law of Linda Arnold, for completing 15 capes and to Pam Gates, mother-in-law of Becca Gates, for donating much fabric to our project and for sewing capes.

FELLOWSHIP

Christian Unity Prayer Service

Hudson United Methodist Church recently hosted the 55th Annual Christian Unity Prayer Service, an Ecumenical Celebration of the Word of God. This year’s theme “Do Good; Seek Justice” (Isaiah 1:17) was presented by clergy representing 5 different Hudson Churches with our own Rev. Bruce Hartley giving the homily. Professor Prester Pickett presented his reenactment of sharing words and wisdom of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. Following the worship service, a delicious lunch catered by Nosh Eatery was enjoyed by upwards of 90 in attendance. Special Guest speakers, Jennifer Batton and Dr. James Greenwood of the Hudson Diversity Equity Inclusion Alliance shared how they are working to address the struggles of equality and justice in our community. Next year’s CUPS will be held on January 18, 2024 at First Congregational Church of Hudson.



SAVE THE DATE(S)



BEAUTIFUL AFGHANS AVAILABLE FOR DONATION

One of our church members has donated 4 beautiful afghans that she crocheted herself and would like to see them go to a good home.

They are new, never been used and will be displayed in the Gathering Area during Fellowship time on **Sunday, February 19, 2023**. The afghans will be available to purchase by donation. All proceeds from the afghans will go toward the United Women in Faith mission project,

Gifts from the Heart.

Please stop by the table to see these lovely afghans and purchase one to keep you warm and cozy on these cold and snowy winter nights. For more information contact Cheryl Gamble: cgamble1114@yahoo.com

UWF PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Pancake Breakfast returns! The Hudson United Women in Faith are excited to announce the return of their Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser! It will be held **on Sunday, March 12, 2023** 10:30 am – Noon in the CAC (Christian Activity Center) we will be offering – **pancakes with all**



your favorite toppings, sausage, juice, coffee. There will be a Freewill Offering to support our missions for women and children. HUWF has donated to many mission projects in the past including but not limited to: UMCOR, Flat Rock Homes, HUMC Love Fund, Stewart's Caring Place and Summit County Battered Women's Shelter. Mark your calendars, and please plan to join us ~ come for worship and stay for delicious pancakes. Questions contact: Cheryl Gamble, cgamble1114@yahoo.com (**Watch for more details in the coming months**).

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH – SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

The Hudson United Women in Faith will be providing the 9:30 am Worship service on Sunday, **April 16, 2023**. All women are invited to participate in the worship service as a reader, usher, or join the Hudson UWF Choir. Watch for more details in the coming months on how you can participate in the service. If you are interested in being a part of this special Sunday worship service, contact Cheryl Gamble, cgamble1114@yahoo.com.

