

***The March 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

**As Lent begins, I am compelled to call the people of Hudson United Methodist Church to 40 days of prayer.** Our focused prayer will call upon God to bring clarity to the collective heart of Hudson UMC regarding nurturing the faith of all generations who currently or will in the future gather with Hudson UMC.

As United Methodists our mission is, “To make and mature disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.” This is not a slogan but a directive. I believe when God’s people are focused and united the world will be transformed.

Hudson UMC has a history of a strong Christian Education ministry as was acknowledged with recent responses to “The Bucket Brigade of Faith” message. I believe God is calling us to renew our commitment to a clear “pathway to discipleship.” Clarity does not just happen. Focus comes from intentional efforts and prayer is one of the disciplines.

The time of 40 days is reflected in God’s Word – for forty days:

- It rained and bore the ark on the waters and saved Noah and his family.
- God’s people were led to Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments and renew covenant.
- Jesus was led into the wilderness, where he fasted in preparation for his ministry.

Clearly God brought about new life through a time of searching and listening. God will not disappoint as God’s people called Hudson UMC to give ourselves to pray for clarity.



Your commitment to prayer was most recently evident when we united in praying for God to raise up the person who would come among us as Director of Family Ministries. Elizabeth Goodin is the answer to our prayers. A pause to pray is always a healthy use of time.

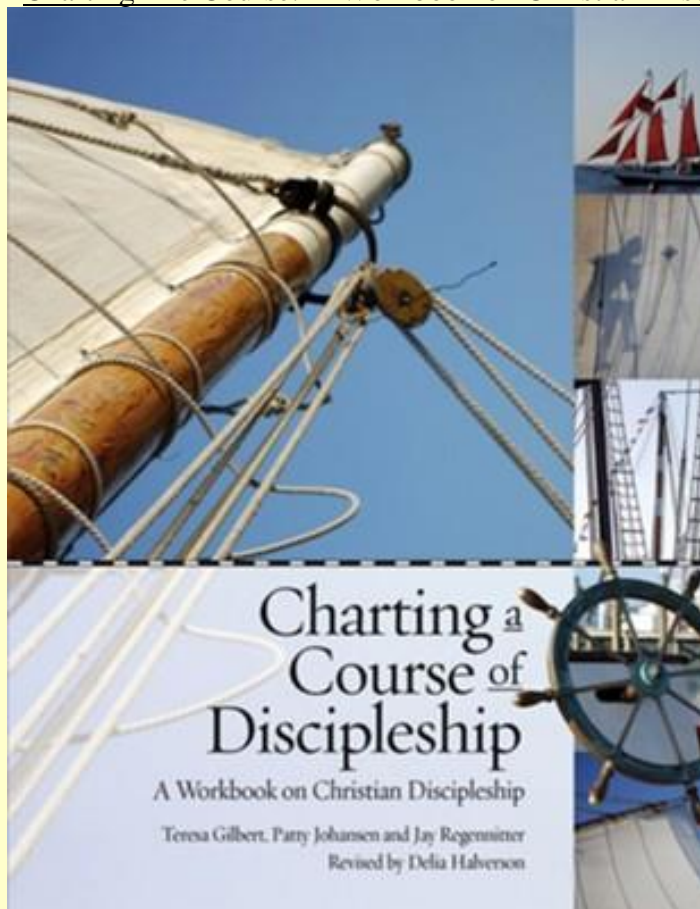
You may draft words to offer the Holy One as we seek clarity or lift the following prayer:

**“Ever-faithful God, you call us to make and mature disciples of Christ. Guide and direct us as we seek to rediscover the path of discipleship. We want to see who you envision us to be. Help us to stop, listen, and hear your voice. Be the lamp for our feet and the light leading us to see you at the end of the path. We pray in the name of the one we follow, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen.” \***

**Hudson United Methodist Church, Let Us Pray...**

Living in Hope (you will unite in prayer),

\*Charting The Course: A Workbook on Christian Discipleship, pg. 61



# Great Inspiration for Thought

## PAPER TOWELS FOR 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:**  
**Hunt's pasta sauce, canned chicken, canned pasta -ex. Ravioli, Spaghetti O's, canned peaches, ground coffee & Cheerios.**

Donations may be dropped off at the church in the gathering area. Upcoming distributions: March 25, April 22. **Thank you!** Nancy Kralik [nskralik@gmail.com](mailto:nskralik@gmail.com) 330-212-7581



## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Don't let finances get in the way of achieving your dreams of a quality education! Applications are open for scholarships from the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation. Every year, UMHEF awards \$2+ million to students planning to attend one of the 100+ UM-related colleges, universities, and seminaries across the country. For complete details, eligibility requirements, and to apply, visit <https://umhef.org>. The deadline is **March 1**.

## FEED MY SHEEP-MARCH

### Mouthwash, Coats & Jackets

**Gently used seasonable clothing for men, women and children is 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 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 330 212-7581 [nskralik@gmail.com](mailto:nskralik@gmail.com)





### Using God's Gifts to Do God's Work

I have no sense of direction. At shopping malls, I often turn the wrong way when leaving a store. I don't realize it until things begin to look too familiar, as if I had passed them just a few minutes earlier, and in fact, I have. The ability to orient myself is not one of my strengths, so I rely on others. It saves time.

Maybe God arranged it that way so that I would never walk through life alone.

In 1 Corinthians, Paul spoke of strengths, or gifts, as manifestations of the Spirit given for the common good. We are a body collectively, not individually. We need each other to accomplish what God has in mind for us.

Our work as a church has grown into many tasks, each requiring different talents and gifts. How successful would our ministry be—what potential could be reached—if those tasks were accomplished by individuals performing in their own unique areas of strength? Isn't this how God intended the body of Christ to work?

A few weeks ago, I spoke to a group of women about how we might discover our own unique gifts, strengths, and personality traits that direct us toward a particular way of being in the world. With this knowledge in hand, we may then lean toward certain types of ministries or tasks within a ministry that brings out our best, that energizes us, and that brings us joy.

Business author Marcus Buckingham describes how people may know when they are manifesting their strengths in a task: not only are they good at that task, but they instinctively look forward to doing it. It feels easy, and though they may be tired afterward, they feel full rather than empty. There is a sense of fulfillment because they have enabled God to work through them, using the gifts God gave them.

## G.I.F.T.

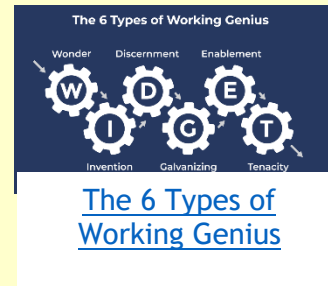
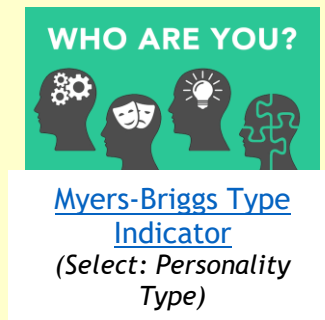
Is it possible that God has brought us together as a community of faith with our unique combination of gifts and talents *for such a time as this* (Esther 4:14) to accomplish God's shared mission for us in a way that only we, working together in harmony, can?

I encourage everyone: Search heart and mind to find a way, here at this church, to express who you are and what you love. Are you an organizer of data, things, or people? We need your gift. Are you good at visualizing the big picture? Tell us what you see. Does it bring you joy to create something from nothing? That something could be the answer we've been searching for. Trust that this comes from God and that you are meant to use it in this body. Seek out your way to contribute. Because, I feel certain that this is what will help to bring Hudson United Methodist Church closer to what God is calling us to be right now.

God Bless.

Elizabeth

For those who wish to dig further, below are some links to information and online assessments that will help you learn more about your unique gifts and personality. Please share what you learn. Your strength could be another's weakness (and vice versa!).





We are entering the season of Lent, a time when we reflect upon the sacrifice Christ made for us through His journey to the cross. The pain, sorrow, betrayal, and other emotions surrounding Jesus's final days have been depicted through music. Some Lenten music is able to reach the core of our beings.

I pray that the pieces our musical groups are preparing for this season will help deepen our understanding of what His sacrifice did and can still do for us. Below are the opening words of one of the anthems Chancel Choir will share in the upcoming season, "In the Shadow of the Cross." It invites us to experience both the darkness and the comfort of Lent.

In the shadow of the cross,  
underneath its mighty arms,  
There is refuge for the soul,  
There is shelter from life's harm.

For the One who suffered there  
Has redeemed us from despair.  
Come and rest in the shadow of the cross.





**Easter Flowers Orders**

We are offering the opportunity to purchase Easter Flowers for the Easter Sunday Altar in Memory or in Honor of loved ones. The Easter Sunday bulletin will list all of those who are being honored. Please make your selections from the list and turn in the form and check in the offering plate or mail them. Your check made out to Hudson United Methodist Church and note: Easter Flowers. **The final date for orders is Sunday, March 26.**

**\* Flowers may be picked up after the Easter Service or during the week.**

<i>Flower Choice</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Choice</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>x Qty.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Easter Lilies	White Double Stem		\$25.00		
Tulips	Red, Pink, Yellow		\$12.00		
Hyacinths	Blue, Pink		\$12.00		
Hydrangeas	Blue, Pink		\$25.00		
Daffodils	Yellow		\$15.00		
Donation Only	No Flowers Requested	Your Dedication Will Be in Bulletin	\$10.00		
<b>Total Due</b>					<b>\$</b>

<i>Given By</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>	<i>In Memory Of/In Honor of</i>



## NURSERY SCHOOL



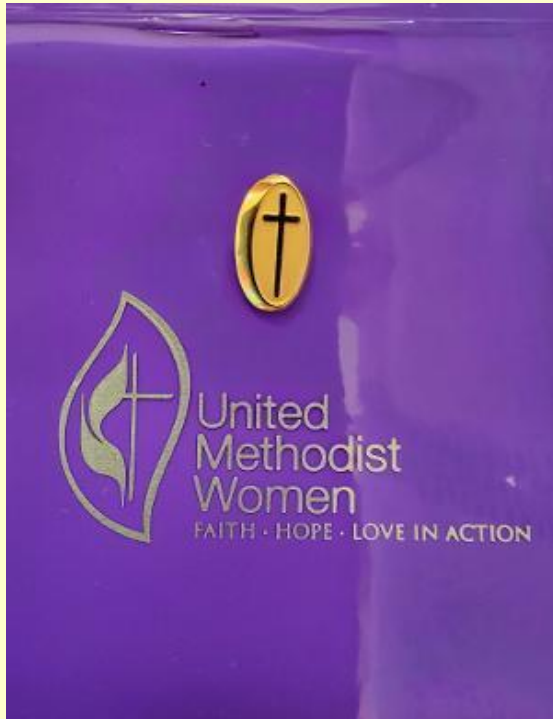
What a wild February! We had a great time sharing our Valentines and talking about the groundhog! We had a great visit from the Akron Zoo. They brought some really cool friends with them. We got to learn about them and even pet a few! Jungle Terry topped off the month of February with a great visit and brought some cool reptiles and such with him! We are looking forward to March as we will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day with a special snack and wearing our green. We had a great February and look forward to hopefully getting outside on our new playground real soon.

We will have a week off for spring break the last week in Mach.

We do have openings for the 2023-2024 school year if you know of anyone that may be looking for a preschool. They can either email the school or check out our website at [www.hudsonumns.com](http://www.hudsonumns.com) We hope everyone enjoys the month!

Director,

Lisa VanBuskirk



**FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:**

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

**Mary Martha Circle** will be volunteering at MedWish on **Thursday, March 9, 2023. Meet at the HUMC parking lot at 8:45 am to carpool.** Mary Martha meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 10:00 am. Questions/Information contact Cheryl Maimona at [ctm2949@roadrunner.com](mailto:ctm2949@roadrunner.com)

**Priscilla Circle** will meet on **Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 6:00 pm at the church.** The program will be “What are Deaconesses and Home Missioners?” Bring your own brown bag dinner. Priscilla Circle meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6:00pm. Questions/Concerns contact

Ann Ingling at [anningling@gmail.com](mailto:anningling@gmail.com) or Marty Hannah at [marty2uin@windstream.net](mailto:marty2uin@windstream.net)

**Books for Breakfast** will meet on **Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 9:30am on Zoom.** The book for discussion is *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. Books for Breakfast meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 9:30 am. Questions/Information contact Michelle Novosel at [novandkoz@yahoo.com](mailto: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:**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023 - UWF PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**Please Join Us!!**

**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 - 12:30** in the CAC (Christian Activity Center) We will be offering - **pancakes with all your favorite toppings, sausage, juice, and 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. Be sure to sign up on the sign-up board in the Gathering Area! Questions contact Cheryl Gamble at [cgamble1114@yahoo.com](mailto:cgamble1114@yahoo.com)



### **HEARTFELT THANKS**

As a follow-up to the pledge request letters that were sent out in January, 28 women have donated so far to the Hudson United Methodist Women. Thank you to those who have already pledged. This is wonderful news. At a time when pledges are our principle means of support instead of fundraisers, the UMW Board is quite grateful. The money will be distributed to a variety of mission agencies later in the year. All women of the church are part of the UMW. If you have not made your contribution to UMW it can be donated at any time. Checks should be made payable to Hudson UMW and mailed to Debbie King, UMW Treasurer, 12 Hudson Common Drive, Hudson, OH 44236. Also, please support our **Pancake Breakfast on March 12.**

### **GIFTS FROM THE HEART - THANK YOU!**

The Hudson United Women of Faith would like to thank everyone who contributed to our Mission Outreach Project: "Gifts from the Heart". Through your generosity, we collected **over \$1300** which will equally benefit Heart 4 the City in Akron, and The Center of Hope in Ravenna. The monetary donations provided will help these programs continue with their food ministries and help to enhance the well-being of the families and individuals in their communities. Thank you for your continued support.

### **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](mailto: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.

### **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH - SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**

#### **Save the Date**

The Hudson United Women in Faith will be providing the 9:30 am Worship service on **Sunday, April 16, 2023**. The special guest speaker will be Julie Carneal, Chief Operating Officer of OPEN M. 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 future bulletins 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 at [cgamble1114@yahoo.com](mailto:cgamble1114@yahoo.com).