

The April 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...

“Now – on your way. Tell his disciples and Peter that he is going on ahead...” Mark 16:7 MSG

Picture and reflect on the following people:

- Three people in your life whom you most like.
- Two people who've had the most positive influence on you.
- A person who inspires you to do your best.

As you picture the faces of those you have mentally noted above, consider WHY they stand out in your life. There is a theory as to why the people you picture and reflect upon come to mind, you feel seen by them. Something about the way they see and engage with you makes you feel like you matter. The thought is you feel this way with them because, to them, you do matter. A book I am reading calls what I just described, *outward mindset*.

Consider this: *the difference between a self-focused inward mindset and an others-focused outward mindset.*

Those who gathered at the empty tomb were admittedly self-focused, grief will do that – turn our attention upon ourselves. It was while in the presence of the Holy the grief-stricken followers were startled by “a young man” who instructed the women to go and tell the others that “he” (Jesus) is going on ahead.”

The Easter story transforms Jesus' Followers from self-focused to others-focused, from inward to outward. Throughout Jesus' earthly ministry, he gave witness to “others-focused/outward mindset.”

Easter People, the Church, are challenged to be like Christ... “others-focused/outward mindset.”

I propose a healthy question to pose is the very same question once posed to Jesus, “who is my neighbor?” To love our neighbor, we need to know our neighbor.

How will this benefit?

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- It will enable us to be Christ-like thus others-focused.
- It can assist us to consider what our neighbors' needs and challenges are.
- We can begin to pray and plan to address their needs and challenges.

I am praying this, “What would change in a five-mile radius of the church if those in this area were to experience a community of faith that made them feel like they mattered, to God and to God’s people?”

I invite you to join me in praying this question. I hope we can discuss God’s answer.

Living in Hope,



Great Inspiration for Thought

PICKLEBALL AT HUMC

So you've probably heard of pickleball but didn't know where to start? Or were afraid to go and learn in a crowd? No worries, our own **Hugo Sandberg** has helped set up a pickleball court in our Fellowship hall and is offering to introduce HUMC members to the fastest growing game in America.

We are offering 1-hour "Intro to Pickleball" sessions on Sundays at 3pm and 4pm. Sessions are limited to groups of 4. We ask that you sign up and bring 2 people from outside our church to the session. Paddles and balls will be provided. Wear tennis shoes and comfortable clothing.

Available Sundays (more dates to be offered later):

March 26 April 16 April 30

You can call the church to sign up or use the genius link provided.

Questions - feel free to reach out to Hugo at 330-388-3480



FEED MY SHEEP-MARCH

Easter Outreach April Needs...

Conditioner Toothbrushes Deodorant

Requesting new or like new items for children's Easter Baskets. Small toys, candy, plastic eggs, pencils, erasers, activity/coloring books, etc. Easter Baskets needed also.

Easter Basket Deadline is TH April 6

The **Blue** collection bin is located in the Narthex closet, near the hand bell cabinet.

Gently used seasonal clothing for men, women and children is especially needed. 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.

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. Contact Nancy Kralik at 330.212.7581.



FOOD PANTRY

Paper Towels for Hudson Food Pantry

Hudson UMC supports the Hudson Food Pantry by supplying paper towels every month for 50+ families. **Staple food items requested at this time: Canned chicken, canned fruit, canned mixed vegetables, canned carrots & canned white potatoes.** Donations may be dropped off at the church in the gathering area. Upcoming distribution is **April 22, 2023. Thank you!** Contact Nancy Kralik at nskralik@gmail.com or 330-212-7581





WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL?

Did you know that children's Sunday school is a relatively recent invention? It began in the 19th century as general education, with **some** religious training. Since then, Sunday school has evolved from education to faith formation and cycled through many movements, styles, and approaches. At Hudson United Methodist Church, we're settling into our own unique program of active learning that is shaping our children, nurturing relationships, and most importantly helping our children to know and worship a loving God.

I want you to know that there is intention and purpose behind everything we do for our children on Sunday mornings, from the stories we tell to the variety of activities we do. Even the arrangement of our seating and the snacks we eat together are chosen with deliberateness and intention. We use the human experiences of community, storytelling, and exploration to bring understanding to the truths of Heaven. Here is a small sampling of recent ways we have done this.

On the day when Rev. Bruce gave everyone red hearts, we talked during the children's sermon time about nurturing the seeds of love that God has planted in our hearts. The kids then made their own hearts from modeling clay, potting soil, and wildflower seeds, with instructions to plant them in the ground to be watered by the melting snow, until springtime flowers bloom. I can't guarantee wildflowers, but the seeds of that lesson did take hold.



A few weeks ago, the Sunday school classes combined for a lesson about Peter walking on water. The kids were invited to

put their hands in actual water to test how it would feel if their fingers tried to walk on water. They were asked, “What would happen if those were your feet trying to walk on water?” and “Do you think Peter should have stayed in or gotten out of the boat?”



For their Easter lesson, the Preschool through Grade One class made a painting of sunrise colors covering over a small paper cross. Peeling away the cross after they were finished then revealed a surprise. The cross that told a sad story the week before, reappeared surrounded by sunlight and the hope of a new day. Later, the class prayed together, “Help us to remember that Jesus’ death was not the end; it was a new beginning for all of us!”

What these accounts don’t capture is the part where God takes over. There is a safe space throughout all we do within which God acts, where connections and lasting impressions are made and where relationships are nurtured. Amidst the art projects, the games and all the other activities, is the Spirit hovering... accomplishing more than we could ever do in 45 minutes.

God Bless.

Elizabeth



The music ministry at Hudson UMC has been working hard to prepare music that will draw us closer to Jesus and give a depth of understanding surrounding the events leading up to His crucifixion and resurrection.

Palm Sunday will begin with a processional of "All Glory, Laud and Honor" led by The Bell Choir, trumpet, organ, and the Chancel Choir. Chancel Choir, trumpet and percussion will offer a joyous anthem by G.F. Handel, "Sing Hosanna," followed by a trumpet offertory.

We will feel the gravity of Maundy Thursday through a sorrowful arrangement of "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord" sung by the Chancel Choir, as well as reflective hymns.

The victorious spirit of Easter Sunday will be captured through the music of a brass quartet, handbells, Choir, Chancel Choir, organ, piano and festive congregational singing.

May we feel the suffering, power and glory of our Lord in the music that this season holds for us.

April 16th is United Women in Faith Sunday. Women of all ages and girls fourth grade and higher are invited to unite in song for the service. We are forming a chorus that will **practice Tuesday, March 28th, 6:30 PM - 7:15 PM, and Wednesday, April 11th.** We will sing an anthem and benediction response by composer Natalie Sleeth. **Join us!!** The music is not difficult at all.



Join Hudson Faith Communities
For a dialogue to explore
Common challenges we face staying relevant and vibrant to optimally serve our community!

SUNDAY, APRIL 23RD, 3PM-5PM

HUDSON MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA, 83 N. OVIATT ST. HUDSON

What: During the dialogue, participants will have the opportunity to explore this topic in small groups of mixed denominations, followed by the opportunity to consider what might apply within their own congregation. Additionally, options for joint collaboration to support community needs will be considered.

Who: Current and past congregants, as well as those not yet affiliated, age range from teenage to seniors.

Facilitators: Groups will be facilitated by the Dialogue Company, in collaboration with facilitators from Hudson's Civic Engagement Facilitator Team.

Funding Provided by: The Hudson DEI Alliance, with special thanks to Diebold Nixdorf Co., The Krapf Family, and the Burton D. Morgan Foundation for funding the Civic Engagement Dialogue Training for community leaders.

Please RSVP by April 10th using this link: <https://forms.gle/WfwPFKMhQMMp5cjZ8>

Questions? Contact Jen Batton at HudsonDEIAlliance@gmail.com , James Field at jdfield23@aol.com or Jill Centrello at jillcentrello@gmail.com.

Partners:



NURSERY SCHOOL



March was another busy month for the Nursery School. We celebrated the weather warming up a little bit. We even got to take a few walks outside! We celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a special green snack and we all wore our green for the day in celebration! March also brought us Spring break. I think we all look forward to a little time off and spending time with family and enjoying the spring weather.

We will be having our annual Art show. The show will be on April 19th Our theme is the zoo! It should be very exciting. Look for the Narthex to be transformed into a Zoo! This is always a beautiful show.

April, we talk about butterflies and watch as we have chrysalises turn into butterflies. This is always an exciting time for the children. We will have our pictures taken one last time. The school year has really flown by and we have enjoyed every minute of being able to be in school and socializing with our friends.

We do have a few spots left for the 2023-2024 school year. If you know of anyone looking for preschool please let them know.

Director,

Lisa VanBuskirk



FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

Hudson United Women in Faith board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, April 3, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the church.**



Mary Martha Circle will be providing a Teachers Appreciation Luncheon at the Orchard School on **Thursday, April 13, 2023.** They will be carpooling from the HUMC parking lot at 10:30 a.m.

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

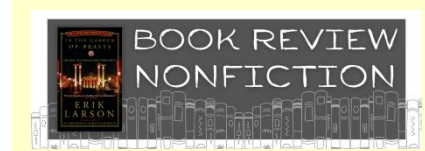
Priscilla Circle will meet on **Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 6:00 pm at the church in room 109.** The program will be *Exploring UWF and HUMC online resources.* **Please bring your own brown bag dinner.**

Priscilla Circle meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm. Questions/Information contact Ann Ingling at anningling@gmail.com, Marty Hannah at marty2uin@windstream.net

Books for Breakfast will meet on **Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 9:30 am on Zoom.** The book for discussion is *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larsen.

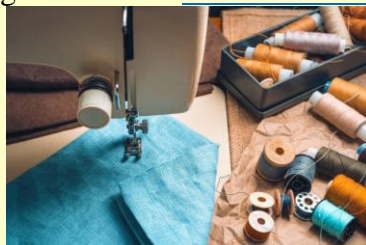
Books for Breakfast meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 9:30 am. Questions/Information contact Michelle Novosel at novandkoz@yahoo.com

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



KIDS CAPES OF COURAGE

Many thanks to Carol Spinelli, Sandy Bernert, and Pam Wittenberg for your expert sewing skills in making capes for the UWF winter mission project. At this time, **48 capes** have been sewn. **We have more kits to make and invite anyone who likes to sew to participate.** For additional information contact Angie Helmer at cawhelmer@aol.com or 330 221-9252.



SPIRITUAL OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH – SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Attention Ladies: YOU ARE INVITED

All Ladies and young Ladies of Hudson United Methodist Church are invited to participate in the United Women in Faith Worship Service on Sunday, April 16, 2023

If you would like to participate in the Worship Service, please sign-up on the Board in the Gathering Area or contact: Cheryl Gamble at cgamble1114@yahoo.com

Please consider joining the United Women in Faith Choir for the UWF Worship Service on Sunday, April 16, 2023

If you would like to be a part of the Choir, be sure to sign up on the Board in the Gathering area.

Choir Practice Schedule:

Tuesday, March 21 @ 6:30 – 7:15 pm

Tuesday, March 28 @ 6:30 – 7:15 pm

Wednesday, April 12 @ 6:30 – 7:15 pm

Questions: Contact: Sandy Simpson: ssimpson923@yahoo.com



MISSIONS:

UWF PANCAKE BREAKFAST - THANK YOU!

The Hudson United Women in Faith would like to thank everyone who attended our Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser! We hope you enjoyed the delicious pancakes and all the yummy toppings. There were approximately 75 in attendance, and it was wonderful to see everyone enjoying fellowship with one another. We are extremely thankful for your generosity and with your donations, **we raised \$795.**

Your support will help us continue our commitment to provide funding to missions and projects that help improve the lives of women, children and youth. Once again, we thank you for your continued support of United Women in Faith.



G.I.F.T.



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.

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		
Donation Only	No Flowers Requested	Your Dedication Will Be in Bulletin	\$10.00		
Total Due					
					\$

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

