

G.I.F.T.

*June G.I.F.T.  
2023*



**Great Inspiration for Thought  
Hudson United Methodist Church  
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REV.  
BRUCE  
HARTLEY



## PASTOR'S PAGE

Thoughts Along the Way...

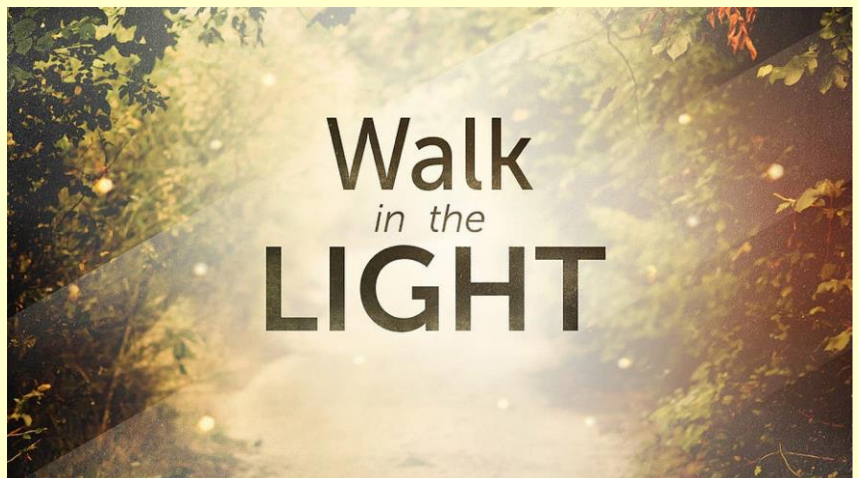
During the 40-day time of Lent, I invited those who call Hudson UMC home to pray,

**“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.”**

As your pastor, I was drawn each time I prayed to the sentence, “Guide and direct us as we seek to rediscover the path of discipleship.” I am sensing God’s guidance and direction for Hudson UMC, and I offer them as we “walk in the light.”

“We must never become too busy sawing to take time to sharpen the saw.” My prayers for guidance and direction opened my heart to something I read over a decade ago, the quote noted above from Stephen Covey.

For Covey, *Sharpening the Saw* is about taking the time to renew and refresh the four dimensions of our natures — physical, spiritual, mental, and social/emotional — so that we’re more effective in our life’s work. It’s about regularly investing in ourselves so that we can reap dividends on a continual basis. **It means working smarter, not harder.**



I began, albeit, without naming is as a “sharpening exercise”, with the post-Easter sermon series, “Arise, Shine” in which we reflected on God’s initiative, imagination and love revealed throughout history in LIGHT.

While drawing closer to the Light myself, God revealed a bold challenge to lead Hudson UMC to reclaim our purpose or our why. Although summer months may be viewed as “vacation”, Elizabeth Goodin and I are offering experiences to “get to our why”. Before our focus on why, leadership will gather to learn about “working genius” (feel free to Google it), take an assessment and then reflect on our individual results and how the church can balance the many “geniuses” at Hudson UMC as we “walk in the light.”

Another response to my prayer for God to “guide and direct as we seek to rediscover the path of discipleship”, is to offer to the church what a “Jesus-shaped life” would look like and how to achieve this life. (Take a breath. There are no sit-ups or crunches necessary to be reshaped.) With God’s direction, I am prayerful this goal will launch in September.

The efforts I have defined are essential to living more faithfully God’s mission for Hudson UMC and more effectively transforming Hudson and the world. So, enjoy your summer – hike, swim, bike, nap but also sharpen the saw with your church and “Arise, Shine” in the Light of Christ.

Click on the link and read more about “Sharpening the Saw”

<https://www.artofmanliness.com/character/habits/the-7-habits-sharpen-the-saw/>



**"We must never become too busy sawing to take time to sharpen the saw." ~ Dr. Stephen R. Covey**

# Great Inspiration for Thought

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE



**East Ohio Conference**  
The United Methodist Church

The 54<sup>th</sup> Session of the East Ohio Annual Conference will be held Thursday, June 8 through Saturday, **June 10, 2023**. The theme this year is "Faith Hope Love" The scriptural focus is 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3. Annual Conference will be held at John S. Knight Center (Akron University)

Hudson UMC will be represented by Jill Centrello, Lay Member to Annual Conference and Rev. Bruce.

Highlights this year include worship each morning, ordination, and the Service of Commemoration and Holy Communion. In addition, conversation and votes will be taken on matters of congregations disaffiliating from the UMC and a proposal to reconfigure districts in the Annual Conference.

If you desire to view various elements of the three-day conference, you are directed to [eocumc.com](http://eocumc.com) and click on the live-stream link.

## FEED MY SHEEP

### Feed My Sheep - June

**Lotion, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Men's Deodorant, Gently Used Seasonable Clothing for Men, Women & Children, Small Household Items, Travel Size Toiletries**

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. A clothing room with household items is open every Friday as well.

Once a month HUMC offers a choice of socks, briefs or T-shirt, toiletry item(s) and travel size toiletries.

HUMC also supplies toilet paper and a roll is offered every week with 130+ carry-out lunches.

Blue collection bins are located in the narthex closet, near the hand bell cabinet. Contact Nancy Kralik at 330- 212-7581 [nskralik@gmail.com](mailto:nskralik@gmail.com)



# Great Inspiration for Thought

## VBS ANNOUNCEMENT

We regret to announce that at this point in our early planning for this summer's VBS program, we have come to the unfortunate realization that many of our key leaders and volunteers are unavailable. Rather than moving ahead and possibly sacrificing the quality of what we offer, **we have decided to cancel our original plans for offering a traditional 5-day VBS program on July 24-29.**

We do plan to look for new and creative ways to use this wonderful curriculum, possibly in a smaller-scale way, through an evening program in the Fall. Please stay tuned for announcements, as we hope that our families will yet be able to be a part of our VBS ministry in a different form.

As always, we appreciate your prayers in support of our continued ministry to children, youth, and families.

Elizabeth Goodin and Jackie Beam  
VBS Coordinators



## LEADERSHIP OFFICERS

Leadership Adjustments at Hudson UMCs  
Although leadership rotations typically happen on January 1, this year adjustments happened on May 1 and a few other shifts may happen over the next couple months. Here are the chairpersons now in place. The full directory will soon be available in the office.



Church Council - Jackie Beam

Finance - Bill Centrello

Staff Parish Relations - Jerry Hammar

Trustees - Tom King

Lay Leader - Paul Brown

Lay Member to Annual Conference - Jill Centrello

Nursery School Board - Diana Chatigny

Missions - Paul Brown

Debbie King - M.E.G. Chr. (Memorial, Endowment, Gifts)

Cheryl Maimona - Treasurer

Communication - Bill Centrello

Discipling (CEC) - Elizabeth Goodin (staff)

**SUMMER FASHION UPDATE ---T-SHIRT SALE**

The Next Big Thing Committee decided that it would be a good idea to design and sell T-shirts that we can wear when we are out and about serving in the community. So, whenever you are volunteering with Feed My Sheep or Open M or Habitat for Humanity, or other activity you will be noticed as a person affiliated with Hudson United Methodist Church. The church name will be on the front and a design with hands created by Linda Brown will adorn the back of the shirt. An example of the shirt design is displayed in the gathering area near the Fellowship Hall. Kids sizes (\$12) and adult sizes (\$17) are available, and orders will be taken and paid for in advance with checks made out to **Hudson UMC with T-shirt in the memo line**. We have not had church T-shirts since we celebrated the church's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary is coming up next year. Orders can be given to Debbie King **OR** placed in the Membership Secretary box in the church office. Don't delay...order today!

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Number of Shirts Ordered \_\_\_\_\_ Kids Sizes: \_\_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ L  
Adult Sizes: \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ XL  
Paid by:      Cash    Check # \_\_\_\_\_ **\*\*\*\*ORDER DEADLINE IS JULY 7, 2023\*\*\*\***





### MORE STICKINESS

I don't think that it would surprise anyone to hear that when surveyed, 86% of kids said that their most significant influencers were not teachers, coaches, small group leaders, friends, celebrities or YouTube stars, but their parents. Parents create the home culture that nurtures their children, and they serve as the role models from which their children learn their most significant daily lessons. As parents, we know that the best way we can impart such values as compassion, thoughtfulness, and respect is by living it ourselves and teaching by example.



In teaching a faith that sticks, the approach is the same. Our children learn the most about God's unconditional love by witnessing and experiencing it in their families. It's in the daily habits. So, what might those daily habits look like? Here is a short list that I've compiled, and I encourage parents to talk to each other further about what might appear on their own lists.

**Pray with your children.** Pray together at mealtime, bedtime, in times of crisis, in times of celebration, about important decisions; pray for them by name.

**Read the Bible together.** Start with a storybook Bible when your children are young and most receptive to a great story, new ideas, and a warm lap.

**Encourage questions.** The Gospel can stand up to scrutiny. Give your children the freedom to ask about what doesn't make sense to them. God will use your conversation to lead you together toward God's truth.

**Serve together.** Look for occasions to serve, and bring your child with you. Your children will learn that valuing others and giving of oneself is part of life in the Kingdom of God.

**Worship together.** Teach your child what to do and why it's important to you. Talk about the big ideas at home. Even if your child is only listening second-hand, he'll absorb more than you think.

**Listen to praise music together.** Music speaks on a different level. Give your child the opportunity to hear God through this powerful language. (Have an old VBS CD?)

**Point to God in the everyday.** Look for God in the faces of others and in the coincidences. Remind your child of their constant companion, and encourage trust and faith. Show how goodness wins.

Sometimes parents feel unprepared or unqualified to lead their children spiritually. I believe that the Holy Spirit will guide any small attempts, but for those wanting more tangible help, there is support and potential resources available here at church and elsewhere in the form of groups, classes, books, articles, media, etc. Ask me, and I will point you to some.

Families, as you spend more unstructured time together this summer, be alert for those opportunities to share your faith, talk together about faith, and demonstrate your faith in action. Your kids are watching and listening, and if it's coming from you, it will stick!



God Bless,  
*Elizabeth*



## **ANNOUNCING...**

**SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY**

**June 4, 2023**

**Honoring and blessing our graduating seniors**

**If you have a graduate in your household,  
please send us their information:**

**Name of school**

**Post-graduation plans**

**Senior or current picture, along with a favorite childhood photo.**

**Email to [familyministries@hudsonumc.com](mailto:familyministries@hudsonumc.com)**



# NURSERY SCHOOL



Well, we finished another successful year in the Nursery School. We will have children leaving us to go to kindergarten and children returning to enjoy all the fun we have! This year proved to be another exciting year!

We ended the school year with Bubble Day and Field Day. Bubble Day was a blast! We got to try all kinds of different bubble wands and make little and huge bubbles. The most exciting part of the day was a big surprise. We had an ice cream truck visit us!! The children always love this day.

Field day was another success. We got to do relay races, the parachute and dance to silly songs. We ended our day with popsicles after all the hard work.



We had our year-end picnics at Hudson Springs Park which turned out to be a great day. We got to have snack with our friends and parents. We also got a special treat from the school.

We are looking forward to the fall and all it has in store for us! We do still have some openings in our programs. If you know someone who is looking for a preschool, please let them know.

Director,  
Lisa VanBuskirk