

G.I.F.T.

August GIFT



Great Inspiration for Thought
Hudson United Methodist Church
2670 Hudson Aurora Rd
Hudson OH 44236



PASTOR'S PAGE

Thoughts Along the Way...

I was scrolling through an app in search of some books to listen to while mowing our lawn. My eye, or was it my heart, was caught by one title: Difficult Teachings: The 40 Most Challenging Teachings of Jesus by Matthew Kelly.

I paused long enough to read the brief description, "What's the hardest part about following Jesus? What teaching do you find particularly hard to live? Explore 40 of Jesus' most difficult teachings with Matthew Kelly."

I have not read the book...yet. The title of the book stirred my mind to consider my faith journey and the teachings of Jesus that I find difficult. The teachings of Jesus stirred the questions others have posed over years of teaching and preaching. As a result, I developed a brief sermon series I call, "Jesus' Hard Teaching."

The teachings I will focus on are by no means complete. You may look at the series and proclaim, "What is so hard about praying or giving to the poor?" For you it may not be that difficult, but there may be other teachings of Jesus that are very difficult. To repeat a question from the book description, "What teaching do you find particularly hard to live?"

Join Hudson UMC, in person or on-line, during August and learn about some of Jesus' hard teachings. See it you agree. Make a list of the hard teachings you have experienced. Share your list with me pastor@hudsonumc.com

Aug – 6 "Jesus' Hard Teaching: Remember the Sabbath"
Exodus 20:8-11 **communion served in pews**

Aug 13 – "Jesus' Hard Teaching: Prayer – God's Timing"
Psalm 40:1-4

Aug 20 – "Jesus' Hard Teaching: Be Happy...Really?"
Matthew 5:1-12

Aug 27 – "Jesus' Hard Teaching: Give to the Poor...But Jesus!"
Mark 10:17-24

Sept 3 - "Jesus' Hardest Teaching: Love One Another"
John 15:9-12 **communion served in pews**

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Realm is New...Did You Know????

In order to maintain our membership directory and such, Sheryl Reynolds, Finance Secretary and Debbie King, Membership Secretary, have moved away from updating the PowerChurch program and are now using a program called **Realm**. You can add the **Realm** app to your tablet or phone, and you will have a church directory and a summary of all of your giving right at your fingertips. It is a great way to make sure that your contact information and giving is accurate. Even better, add a photo so we can get to know our church family better. If you have not opted in to use Realm yet, please contact Sheryl Reynolds (humcfinance@windstream.net) and you will be sent a link. Once you have a Realm login you can download the app which is called *Realm Connect – For Our Church*. Any corrections and updates to the church directory should be made by email/in writing to Debbie King at kings7565@gmail.com



Hudson UMC has signed up to have a table at the Farmers' Market on their Community Day on Saturday **August 12th**. Six volunteers to staff the booth would be optimal. The market runs from 9-12:30 so we could have two shifts of three. Set up has to be done by 8:45. I am looking for volunteers to commit via email by **Monday, August 7**. Please contact Debbie King at kings7565@gmail.com A presence on the downtown green that day would be great.



HUDSON
FARMERS MARKET



Last year, HUMC helped construct a new home, at 347 Watson St. in Akron's Goodyear Heights neighborhood, for James and his daughter Zoey. The excitement they shared upon receiving the keys to their new home warmed my heart. As a member of the Hudson Coalition of Habitat for Humanity of Summit County, HUMC contributed over \$2000 towards construction material and staffed volunteers for three construction build Saturdays. Thank you so much for your valuable support.

This year's home for Sabrina and her three children is under construction on Norman St. in Barberton. We will have a special offering for Habitat on Sunday August 27th. HUMC will have four build dates this year that start with a safety meeting at 9:00am and the work ending by 3:30pm.

- Wednesday August 30th
- Saturday October 21st
- Saturday October 28th
- Saturday November 4th

Please consider supporting Habitat's mission with donations and/or volunteer work. The above dates are near the end of the construction process and will be indoor work, drywall finishing and painting.

If you would like to volunteer on any of the above dates or have any questions, please contact John Kralik at jpkralik@gmail.com.

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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 tuna, canned chicken, apple juice, grape juice, orange juice, rice sides, black beans, kidney beans, garbanzo beans, vegetable soup

Donations may be dropped off at the church in the gathering area. Upcoming distribution will be on **August 26, 2023**

Thank you! Nancy Kralik, 330-212-7581 or nskralik@gmail.com



FEED MY SHEEP – AUGUST

Toothpaste, Men's and Unisex Deodorant, Shampoo, Gently Used Seasonable Clothing for Men, Women and 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, a 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 or nskralik@gmail.com



Hudson UMC Financial Update

As we enjoy the nice weather of Summer, the Finance Committee wanted to provide a mid-year update on Church finances. Data shown below covers the time period from January 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023.

About 62% of our pledged giving for the year has already been received. Thanks to your generosity, and the fact that expenses during the first half of the year are running \$15,000 less than expected, the fund that supports the general ministries of the Church currently has a positive balance of \$10,107. Our Church Care & Repair Fund has a positive balance of \$20,540.

During the month of June, expenses exceeded income by \$10,533. Our church apportionments are paid in full through June 2023.

Please keep in mind that your ongoing support of Church ministries is essential, as we are still projecting a deficit by year-end of over \$30,000 based on current pledged giving and other anticipated income.



THE JOY OF MINISTRY

I've recently been reminded why ministering to young hearts and minds is as much a joy and a divine privilege as it is a weighty responsibility. The responsibility, I take seriously and is something I think about with every planning session, lesson, and gathering. The joy hits me randomly.

That familiar feeling of exhilaration comes over me when I experience a young person's understanding and expression of ideas that seems beyond their years. They're making connections, asking questions, and drawing conclusions that I hadn't expected. Suddenly the roles are reversed, and they're teaching me, not only about God in a particular story or message but about God in that particular moment. There are other times when a quietness comes over our little group. Even in the silence though, you can see wheels turning, and I wonder when and how those thoughts will be expressed. Will it be with words or through action? In these instances, it is the Spirit most assuredly working in and through our kids, and I am simply present to witness it.

You might ask when, specifically, these times have occurred? My own recent experiences have come through two different occasions of teaching: during our Spring intergenerational youth and adult *Bible Stories for Grown-ups* class and regularly during the *Children's Sermon* time when the adults are in worship hearing the same inspiring message from Rev. Bruce. It is likely that other adult leaders involved in our young person's ministry have witnessed these moments as well.

Both of these learning opportunities, the intergenerational class and the children's sermon, were introduced as new and somewhat experimental initiatives in the faith formation of our young people here at HUMC. My takeaway is clear: Keep Doing Them. There is potential here.

Let's not ever underestimate the wisdom and insights of our young ones, their capability of developing and discussing ideas around matters of faith, the ready and valuable engagement of the faithful adults around them who will help nurture them, or finally and especially, the ability of the Spirit to produce an abundant crop in this field—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

God Bless.

Elizabeth

Children's Summer Sunday School 10:45 to 11:45 am

Storytime with a Purpose

Discerning the nature of God and his will for the world through an exploration of children's picture books.



ANNOUNCING! an HUMC Fellowship Event



SAVE THE DATE...

for this all-ages HUMC fellowship event!

AKRON RUBBER DUCKS GAME

Saturday, September 16th

7:05 pm

Tickets \$13

***Watch your email for the link to purchase tickets
in HUMC's reserved seating section.***



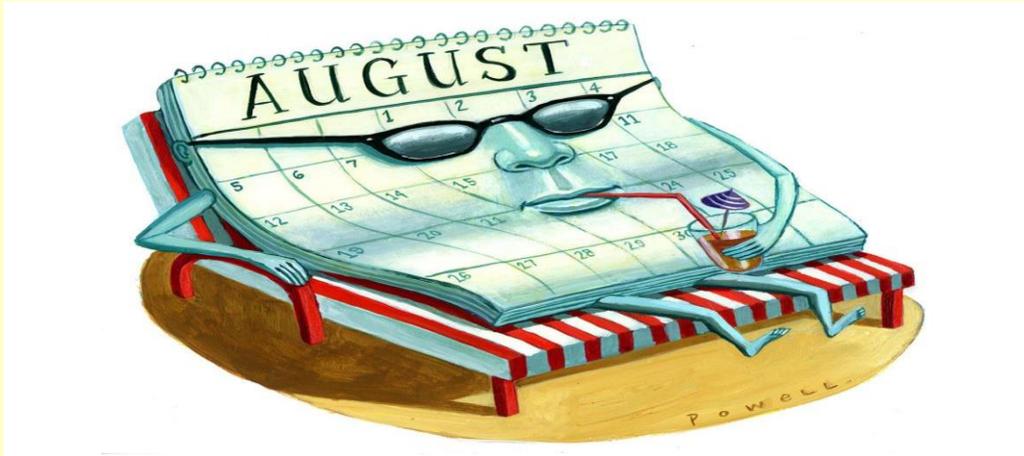
A big thank you for the people who have been offering up their talents to God during the summer months. It is a treat every week to hear the unique messages and styles each of you give. All four Sundays in August will bless us with a different ensemble.

This is a good time to consider taking part in one of our larger musical groups which will begin the week after Labor Day: Chancel Choir rehearses Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:00; Bell Choir Thursday evenings from 6:15-7:15 and Children's Choir from 10:45-11:05 on Sunday mornings. All are welcome.

The music ministry kick-off picnic will be Sunday, August 27th beginning at 4:30 PM at Hudson Springs Park. We hope to see many of you there!



NURSERY SCHOOL



I cannot believe we are talking 'back to school.' I am not sure how the summer flies by! Each year it seems to go faster and faster.

The Nursery school will be getting ready to welcome old friends and new friends. This is always an exciting time for all. The teachers are getting their much-needed rest and getting rejuvenated for another successful school year. We are very excited to have the rest of our playground completed. We added a new sandbox, Orb Rocker and a fire engine multi-sensory piece. We have the best playground around, is what are kiddos are saying.

We have added a brand-new smart board in our Library, and we are very excited to put that to good use. The one we had was over 12 years old and just a little outdated!! Well, actually very outdated! We are very excited to surprise the children with this addition; it's a great learning tool.

The teachers will return the last week of August and the children will return right after Labor Day. We do have some openings in each of our classrooms. If you know of someone looking for a preschool, please let them know we have openings. Our website is www.hudonumns.com and the school email is humns@windstream.net. The school phone is 330-650-4091 ext. 106.

We are looking forward to another great school year!

Director,
Lisa VanBuskirk



FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

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

Mary Martha Circle will resume their meetings in September.

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

Priscilla Circle will resume their meetings in September.

Priscilla Circle meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm.

Questions/Information contact, Ann Ingling at anningling@gmail.com, or Marty Hannah marty2uin@windstream.net

Books for Breakfast will resume meetings in September. The book for discussion is Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese.

Books for Breakfast meets on 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.



The Hudson Unit of United Women in Faith will be hosting the **Canal District United Women of Faith Fall Gathering at HUMC on Saturday, September 23, 2023 from 9:00am – Noon.** All Women are invited to attend this special gathering. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

Questions, please contact Cheryl Gamble at cgamble1114@yahoo.com

SAVE THE DATE:

Hudson Christian Unity Prayer Service: **Thursday, January 18, 2024** at First Congregational Church of Hudson. Watch for more details in the coming months.