

December GIFT



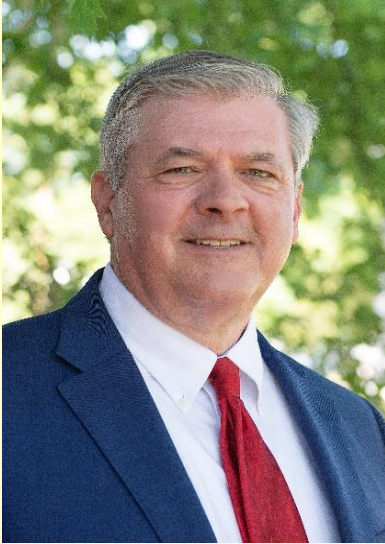
Great Inspiration for Thought

Hudson United Methodist Church

2670 Hudson Aurora Rd

Hudson OH 44236

REV.
BRUCE
HARDLEY



PASTOR'S PAGE

During

the Sundays of Advent, we are going to reflect on some of Isaiah's most memorable writings concerning the coming Messiah and what it will mean for the world when the Messiah comes. But we will also remind ourselves that the manager in Bethlehem was only the beginning of Messianic history. The kingdom of God came into the world with the birth of Jesus, but the fulfillment of that kingdom will only come when the Love of Christ reigns over all the earth.

So, Advent is a two-fold celebration, a celebration of the birth of the prince of peace, and a celebration of the coming age when the peace, joy and love of Christ will dwell in every heart.

Join the people of Hudson UMC as we live into realizing God's Kingdom on earth.

December 3, 2023

"WHEN THE MESSIAH COMES: THERE WILL BE LIGHT" ISAIAH 2:1-5

December 10, 2023

"WHEN THE MESSIAH COMES: THERE WILL BE SINGING" ISAIAH 35:1-10

December 17, 2023

"WHEN THE MESSIAH COMES: THERE WILL BE PEACE" ISAIAH 11:1-10

December 24, 2023 9:30

"WHEN THE MESSIAH COMES: GOD WILL BE WITH US" ISAIAH 7:10-16

Living in Hope,
Rev. Bruce



"SURELY THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD IS IN THIS PLACE"

Signs of God's Kingdom are among us at Hudson UMC.

October 29 the worship experience was designed, scripted, and led by the children and youth of the church. Those gathered to worship sensed this was a turning point for our congregation.

As a relative newbie, I invite your response to this question,

"What does this worship experience mean to you?"

Hudson UMC, we are making a difference!

Share your reply with the office humc@windstream.net or via land address.

CHANGES IN EAST OHIO CONFERENCE

If you have been a United Methodist in the East Ohio Conference, you may remember... Akron District, Norwalk District, when there 12 districts. You may remember the great debate at one Annual Conference when the motion was made to shrink to 10 districts.

There was less debate last summer at the Annual Conference when the proposal was to go from 10 to 4 districts! Bishop Malone invited members of East Ohio Conference to think creatively and with flexibility. Recently, the four district names were announced – they are West Plains, South Forest, Central Valley, and Northern Waters. **Hudson UMC as of January 1, 2024, will be part of Northern Waters.**

You are invited to visit eocumc.com and read the articles about this move.

MEMBERSHIP EXPLORATION

Rev. Bruce will gather with those who want to explore membership at Hudson UMC in January 2024.

Currently, the plan is to gather during the Church School time following worship and conclude by noon on Sundays, January 14 and 21.

This gathering is open to those who desire to transfer their membership or profess their faith and join Hudson UMC. Contact Debbie King by email at kings7565@gmail.com



AWAY IN A ...PAVILION?!

God is Love. God is unpredictable. Therefore, Love is unpredictable! Taken even further, one could surmise God's People should be unpredictable with God's love. Hudson UMC is doing something different this Christmas Eve, receive the Christ Child out in the community. Hudson UMC wants to share the Good News of love coming down at Christmas at... **Hudson Springs Park!** Start spreading the word that all are welcome to gather

at May Pavilion. Our **worship will start at 4:00pm.** God's people will hear God's Word, sing carols, and light candles.

We have no way of knowing if the weather will be frightful so dress appropriately. We will be warmed by others who gather, God's presence and maybe we will build warming stations and offer hot chocolate or Wassel.

If you can serve on set up and clean up, contact the office.

"Come all ye faithful" and **gather at Hudson Springs Park (7095 Stow Rd,) at 4:00pm December 24.** Invite neighbors, family, friends but especially strangers.

Let God's Love spring forth at the lakeshore!

Meanwhile, back at the church, a **family-oriented worship** service will begin at **5:30pm.** In our gay apparel worshippers will hear the familiar story of God coming to us, sing carols, and receive the light of Christ.

8:00pm God's People will gather in hope as God boldly steps into humanity with scripture lessons, marvel at the passion of our choirs, and expectantly receive the light of Christ.

Come, let us adore him.



Great Inspiration for Thought

HANGING OF THE GREENS



Please join us as we decorate the sanctuary and church on **Saturday, December 2, at 9:00a.** Enjoy George's Donuts and listen to Christmas music as we beautify God's House for the Advent Season.

With your help, we will take down the Christmas decorations on Saturday, January 13th at 9:00a

Hosting: Sheila and Jerry Hammar and Kathy and Hugo Sandberg

PAPER TOWELS FOR THE HUDSON FOOD PANTRY

Hudson UMC supports the Hudson Food Pantry by supplying one roll of paper towels every month for 70+ families. We've fallen short of 70 rolls the past few months. The rolls do not need to be individually wrapped.

Items requested at this time: PAPER TOWELS! canned fruit, name brand cereals

Checks can be made out to HUMC with monies directed to the 'Hudson Food Pantry'.

Donations may be dropped off at the church in the gathering area. Upcoming distribution:

December 16, 2023. THANK YOU! Nancy Kralik
nskralik@gmail.com 330-212-7581



CHRISTMAS AT FEED MY SHEEP

New or Like New Kids & Adult Gift Items

Do you have new or gently used gift items from years past? Ornaments, toys, puzzles, games, bobble heads, perfume, lotions, scarfs, hats, gloves, Snuggies, blankets, etc.?

Especially needed throughout these wintry months are blankets, coats, jackets, boots and other warm clothing items for men, women and children.

The deadline for Christmas donations is Thursday, December 21.



FEED MY SHEEP – DECEMBER OUTREACH

Women's Body Wash, Men's Shaving Cream, Non-Alcohol Mouthwash, Men's Size L T-Shirts, 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 on Fridays 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 330 212-7581 nskralik@gmail.com

Poinsettia Orders

Celebrate the Christmas season by purchasing a Poinsettia to place in the Sanctuary in honor of the birth of Christ. Each 7 ½ inch double stemmed potted plant will cost \$18.00 and you may choose either red or white. To dedicate your Poinsettia in memory/honor of someone please fill out the bottom of this insert and place it along with your check in the offering plate or drop it off in the church office. Your name, as well as those honored and remembered, will be featured in the bulletin.

Your Name: _____

Your phone number: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Number of RED _____ @ \$18.00 each= _____ total

Number of WHITE _____ @ \$18.00 each= _____ total

_____ TOTAL

Make checks payable to Hudson United Methodist Church; and put the word "Poinsettia" in the memo line.

☐ I wish to donate the poinsettias I purchase.

☐ I will pick up my plant after the Christmas Eve service or anytime up to January 7, 2024

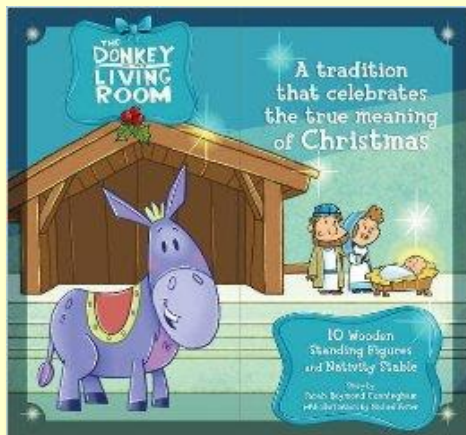
PLEASE PLACE YOUR ORDERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY

DEADLINE TO ORDER IS DECEMBER 17, 2023

MINISTERING TO YOUR FAMILY DURING *Christmas*

One evening in an Old Testament class, in the middle of our lesson, my teacher spontaneously erupted into song. We were looking at a piece of Scripture that was indented differently than the rest of the text, and instead of reading the words to us, he sang them. He pointed out that this was a fragment of the story that the original storyteller might have sung to his people, helping them to remember. And the remnant was written down many generations later. That moment gave me a great awareness and deep appreciation for the people who so devotedly preserved the stories of our faith.

At one time or another, we all play the storyteller. When we experience God, we have to tell about it. With children, the challenge is to tell it in a way that is creative and thus memorable.



The father of Sarah Raymond Cunningham was inspired to begin a unique tradition in his household around the telling of the Christmas story. He wrapped the figures of their family's nativity scene individually into small gifts. On each of nine days leading up to Christmas, his children would open one package. They would then crawl into his lap and hear the story of the nativity from the point of view of the figure they held in their hand. How did Mary feel about the angel's visit? What did the cow in the stable witness? After a few years, the children began to tell the story themselves.

Sarah would grow up to share this tradition with her own children. She found it so meaningful, that she decided to write down her own version for all to share. Her book, *The Donkey in the Living Room: A Tradition That Celebrates the True Meaning of Christmas*, celebrates storytelling, family closeness, and the anticipation and preparation that come with the Advent season. It

consists of nine entries that correspond to the figures of Mary, the donkey, the cow, the sheep, the shepherds, the angels, the camel, the wise men, Joseph, and finally, a Christmas entry for baby Jesus. The story, told in rhyme, is Biblically sound and quite touching. Here is Mary relating what the angel told her, "God's Spirit will help you; you will give birth, and the boy who is born, he will save the whole earth."

If you're looking for a new tradition to help you share the story of Christ's entry into the world with the children you love, give this book a try. The author makes a version available with nativity figures included, or you could try [this](#) Mini Christmas Activity Set, which has all the required characters. As "baby Jesus" says, "In all the hoopla, buying, and selling, remember that *this* is the story worth telling."



Have a blessed Christmas!



Introducing...

HUMC's ACOLYTE MINISTRY

ALL children and youth, Grades
2 and older

are invited to carry the *Light of
Christ*

into the sanctuary at the
opening of worship,
and out into the world at the
close of the service.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
Gingerbread House
DECORATING PARTY!

Saturday, December 9
3:00-5:00p

Hudson United Methodist Church
CAC (Christian Activities Center)

**** ALL SUPPLIES PROVIDED****
HOT CHOCOLATE, TREATS, PHOTO BOOTH

Please RSVP to the church office at
330.650.2650
OR click [HERE](#) to sign up electronically.

Questions? Contact Silvia Gudgel
rabit_foot29@hotmail.com

NURSERY SCHOOL



November was quite the month! We spent time preparing our annual Thanksgiving feast and we talked about being thankful and all the joys of Thanksgiving. We also had our school pictures taken.

I am very excited to announce we did a PJ drive to support local shelters and we collected over 80 pairs of PJs'. A big thanks to all our awesome families for making this happen.

December will be another big month for us. We will be talking about the true meaning of Christmas and getting ready for our big Christmas program. We may also have a special visitor stop by if we are behaving! Christmas is a time where we look forward to sponsoring a few families. This is a great learning experience for our children to help those in need.

We do have a few openings in our programs for the 2023-2024 year. Be on the lookout for registration materials for the 2024-2025 school year. We wish everyone a joyous season!

Nursery School Director,
Lisa VanBuskirk



Finance Update

As we approach the holidays, it is important to be thankful for all of the blessings we have. We are blessed at Hudson UMC to having a caring and giving congregation that has supported our mission to build disciples of Jesus Christ.

Here are some financial updates (data as of October 31, 2023):

- The fund supporting the General ministries of the Church has a negative balance of \$9,422.
- The Care & Repair Fund (supporting larger repairs to our church building and parsonage) has a positive balance of \$28,175.
- Total giving year-to-date has been \$8,945 better than expected. Thank you!
- We are doing a good job of controlling expenses, which have been \$19,956 less than expected.
- Our church apportionments are paid in full.

We still need your help to finish the year on a positive note. Ideally, we would finish the year having a positive balance in our General ministries fund and a larger balance in our Care & Repair Fund to offset any unanticipated repair needs.

2024 Stewardship campaign results:

- For the General ministries of the Church we have 47 pledges so far totaling \$240,770. As a reference, pledged giving for 2023 was \$280,000.
- For the Care & Repair Fund, we have 26 pledges totaling \$31,450

Pledged giving helps us determine our ministries and facility improvements for 2024. If you have not already done so, please turn in your 2024 giving pledge to our Financial Secretary, Kristen Bellar, at humcfinance@windstream.net as soon as possible.

Thank you for all that you do to support HUMC ministries. Blessings for a Merry Christmas and a 2024 filled with love, health and happiness.



UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

Hudson United Women in Faith board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, December 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the church.**

Mary Martha Circle will be participating in the **Open M Christmas for the Love of Children.** Please leave your gifts in the church office by **Sunday, December 3.** Cheryl Gamble will deliver them to Open M on December 5.

Mary Martha meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

Questions/Information contact Cheryl Maimona at ctm2949@roadrunner.com

Priscilla Circle will meet for some Christmas fellowship at the home of Marty Hannah, 34 Hickory Lane, Hudson at **6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 13th** and enjoy a charcuterie board and other small bites.

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

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

Books for Breakfast will meet on **Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.** The book for discussion is *Be Free or Die* by Cate Lineberry. (Watch your email for updates on meeting location or on Zoom).

Books for Breakfast usually meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m.

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**Thanksgiving Dinner Thank You**

The Hudson United Women in Faith would like to thank everyone who attended the Thanksgiving Dinner on Wednesday, November 15, 2023. We had great attendance with over 70 attendees who enjoyed a delicious turkey and ham dinner with all the trimmings and wonderful fellowship. We also thank you for your generous donations to the Free Will offering with a total of \$823 to benefit the Hudson Food Pantry. Happy Thanksgiving to our HUMC Family!

**Thanksgiving Dinner Thoughts 2023**

What an awesome night we had at HUMC for the Thanksgiving church dinner. It was fascinating to see the CAC transformation. First, on Monday the Scouts set up the tables and chairs, 12 tables with 8 chairs at each. Then Monday evening and Tuesday the UWF women added the decorations. Voila! We now had an elegant dining room. Behind the scenes people were preparing turkey and side dishes. Those began arriving in the kitchen on Wednesday, and the scent of Thanksgiving filled the air! The final touch was the beautiful diners who attended. They brought the warmth and love of fellowship and the giving of thanks. After the meal the Scouts jumped into action again and helped the UWF group with the cleanup. In a matter of an hour or so, the CAC reverted back to a room empty but ready for the next users. As a congregation we are blessed with God's presence shining through. The freewill offering netted an \$823 donation for the Hudson Food Pantry. How awesome is that? Thank you to each and every one of you for making such a lovely evening possible.

Carol Spinelli, Co-President, Hudson UWF

CWS - Blanket Sunday – Thank you!

The Hudson United Women in Faith would like to thank everyone who supported Church World Service- Blanket Sunday! Thanks to your generosity, we have raised over **\$969.00** which will help in providing **96** blankets to those in need. Church World Service Blanket Sunday is an annual mission project supported by the Hudson UWF. When difficult times or disasters happen, a kind and loving response from a warm blanket can make all the difference and remind them that they are not alone and that someone cares. Thank you for your continued support of Blanket Sunday and the missions of Hudson United Women in Faith.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

**CHRISTIAN UNITY PRAYER SERVICE AND LUNCHEON
JANUARY 18, 2024**

The annual **Christian Unity Prayer Service and Luncheon** will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2024 at First Congregational Church of Hudson. The service begins at 10:00 AM. The Christian Unity Prayer Service is an ecumenical celebration of the Word of God scheduled in conjunction with the international Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Hudson clergy will lead the congregation in prayer and praise in accordance with this year's theme, "You shall love the Lord your God....and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27). The Rev. Lynn Anderson, Chaplain of Independent Living at Laurel Lake will offer the Homily.

Following the service, a box lunch catered by Nosh's will be served to ticket holders. Sue Talarcek, from the Hudson Food Pantry will be our guest speaker following the luncheon.

Lunch choices are:

Turkey wrap – roasted turkey, lemon and fresh herbs, boursin cheese, avocado, Nosh bacon, "free leafy greens" lettuce tomato wheat wrap, chips and cookie.

Veggie Panini – roasted and marinated portabella mushroom, fired eggplant, tomato, Aioli, roasted peppers, fresh mozzarella, balsamic and tart cherry reduction, arugula Focaccia, chips and cookie.

Tickets for the luncheon and guest speaker are \$20.00 and are available through HUMC representatives, Cheryl Gamble, cgamble1114@yahoo.com or Debbie King, kings7565@gmail.com. Watch the weekly bulletins for dates in December to purchase tickets for the luncheon/speaker. The prayer service is free and open to all; it does not require a ticket to attend. Questions: contact Cheryl Gamble cgamble1114@yahoo.com.