

January GIFT



**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...

“Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.” — **Marie Curie**

I migrated to the concept of fear being dispelled when we pause to understand. I found this concept while reading this book:

[I Never Thought of It That Way: How to Have Fearlessly Courageous Conversations In Dangerously Divided Times](#) by **Mónica Guzmán**

Here is a brief description of this book

“We think we have the answers, but we need to be asking a lot more questions.

Journalist Mónica Guzmán is the loving liberal daughter of Mexican immigrants who voted—twice—for Donald Trump. When the country could no longer see straight across the political divide, Mónica set out to find what was blinding us and discovered the most eye-opening tool we’re *not* using: our own built-in curiosity.”

Well, one thought led to another, and I moved on from the presidential election that stirred her quest to understand her parents and then hundreds of others. The questions she posed were leading me to rethink and even fear less, some I had never taken the time to better understand. Then October 7 rattled the world with an invasion into Israel resulting in killings and hostages taken.

I listened to Palestinians pleading for bombs to stop bombarding their children and homes in Gaza. I heard strong rhetoric from Israel’s leaders about annihilating Hamas. I realized how little

I understood about the parties involved in the war. I then recalled Guzman's book. I was stirred to do more than internally reflect but to pursue deeper understanding amid fearful times.

So, beginning January 14, 2024, we will explore some elementary learnings about some World Religions. The series is entitled: What Christians can learn.

Jan. 14 - What Christians can learn from Judaism.

Jan. 21 - What Christians can learn from Muslims.

Jan. 28 - What Christians can learn from Hindus.

Feb. 4 - What Christians can learn from Buddhists.

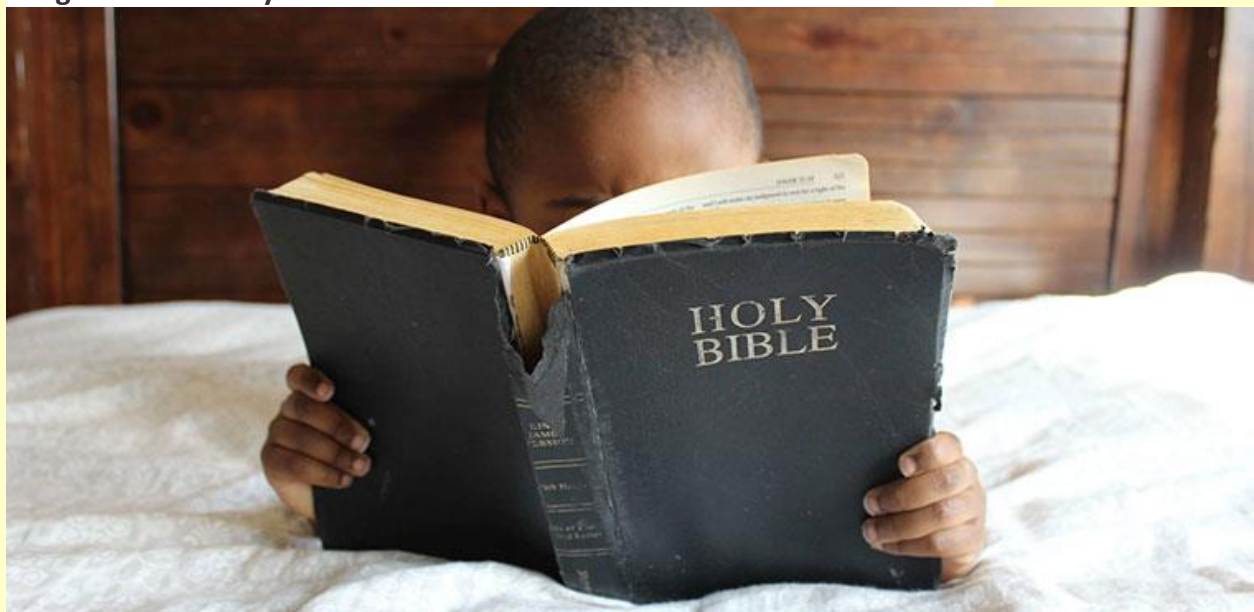
Feb. 11 - Why I am a Christian.

I hope we can understand more and fear less. I pray we can enter into healthy conversations in these divided times.

Living in Hope,

Rev. Bruce

Watch for further information of a study in the process of development focusing on World Religions. This study will coincide with the sermon series described above.



Great Inspiration for Thought

TAKING DOWN THE GREENS



We are all enjoying the beautiful Christmas decorations and request your help to take down the Christmas decorations on Saturday, January 13th at 9:00 a.m. Please come and enjoy George's Donuts as we end this wonderful Advent Season. See you then! 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 50+ families. The rolls do not need to be individually wrapped.

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

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: **January 27**

THANK YOU! Nancy Kralik @ nskralik@gmail.com 330-212-7581

MEMORIAL ENDOWMENTS AND GIFTS

The following individuals made contributions in memory of Harry & Sally Adams:

Donald & Beryl Burkle, Richfield, OH

Douglas & Georgette Ensign of Toledo, OH

Jo Ellen Immel-Davis of Shofield, WI

Wendy Weiss of Fremont, WI

FEED MY SHEEP - January
Women's Body Wash, Men's 3-in-1 Body Wash, Men's Shaving Cream, Non-Alcohol Mouthwash, Men's Size Large 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.

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

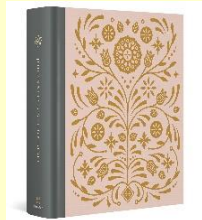
HUMC also supplies toilet paper, and a roll is offered every week with 130+ carry-out lunches.

Blue collection bins are located in the narthex closet, near the hand bell cabinet. Contact Nancy Kralik 330 212-7581 nskralik@gmail.com



Bible in a Year

I have a hoarding tendency when it comes to Bibles. I probably own close to 30. Some were gifts from a church. Some are associated with a particular class or event I attended. I do make a point of collecting children's and youth Bibles. And finally, I just love reading all the different translations, sidebars, and study notes. I'm always discovering new insights, interpretations, and ways of using my different Bibles. I find that thrilling – anyone with me??



So... I can't wait to break into my newest Bible, the [ESV Journaling Study Bible](#) (number 31?). This one has something my others don't: enough space in the margins to record thoughts, notes, questions, and wonderings. I even got special no-bleed fine line pens made for this purpose! These "conversations" will become a record of where I am at this particular time in my life and faith journey.

I'm sharing all of this **because I would like to invite YOU to embark this year, along with me, on a Bible reading plan with your favorite Bible.** I wanted to try something new, so I did some investigating and found a unique chronological cross-reference Bible reading plan from the people at Bible Study Together. Here is an excerpt from their website that describes a little about how this plan works. I'm intrigued!



Bible Study Together's Bible reading plan interweaves the New Testament and Old Testament together in a single tapestry so that Old Testament stories, psalms, and prophecies connect as much as possible to New Testament teaching without losing their original context (Note: It is also Chronological). So, when you are reading in James about Abraham offering Isaac on the altar, you are also reading this account in Genesis. Likewise, when you are reading about the Day of Atonement in Leviticus, you are also reading in Hebrews about Jesus being the fulfillment of this sacrifice.

There is also an app associated with this plan that contains daily study questions, videos and resources, and that allows a group to interact together as they read. That's the part

that interested me. [Here](#) is a link to much more information about this plan and all that it offers.

I would love to form a Hudson UMC online Bible reading community this year, to help each other stay on track, share questions and insights, and simply journey together. If that appeals to you as well, let this be your sign to take on this challenge with me and others. In the early mornings, I'll be in my favorite chair with my new Bible, my pen, and a hot cup of coffee. Won't you join me?

familyministries@hudsonumc.com

God Bless, and Happy New Year!

Elizabeth

2024 FAMILY Bible Reading Plan 15-30 minutes per day

Contains 52 readings, covering the best-known stories and important lessons from the Bible. Each reading is accompanied by a simple question/reflection.



Click [HERE](#) to download a plan for reading the Bible together as a family.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN THIS MONTH FOR GRADES 7 AND OLDER.

Families, please email Elizabeth at familyministries@hudsonumc.com to register for class and provide needed input on scheduling. Also, mark your calendars for the **Confirmation Retreat, Friday through Sunday, February 23-25, 2024 at Camp Wanake.** For retreat details, and to register online, click [HERE](#).





Our journey into 2024 holds hope and promise for each of us. We will encounter intentional choices on our path, as well as things that may leave us with no choice. Regardless of the many directions our individual lives may take, we can be assured that God wants to travel with us in whatever capacity we call upon Him. - Navigator, co-pilot, trip advisor, place to rest our heads, cleanse our bodies and our souls, feed our bodies and our souls, quench our every thirst, be that listening ear or shoulder to cry on.... the list goes on.

In much the same way, our HUMC family is the hands and feet of Christ. I have personally been blessed by this compassion and grace during my personal "travel experiences" through health issues in 2023. "Thank you" does not even break the surface of the gratitude and love my heart holds for you. Psalm 40 expresses some of it. May it provide us with new strength and inspiration as we set foot on our journey of 2024 together:

Psalm 40: 2-3

"He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the bog and mire and set my feet on a hard, firm path, and steadied me as I walked along. He has given me a new song to sing, of praises to our God. Now many will hear of the glorious things He did for me, and stand in awe before the Lord, and put their trust in Him."

NURSERY SCHOOL



December was a blur for Nursery School for we were so busy getting ready for the holiday. We learned some really good Christmas songs. We made a gift of Gingerbread houses for our family. We had a Grinch Day in the 4/5 class. We also had a great time doing our annual Christmas Program; the children loved every minute of performing for their families, and we enjoyed watching them learn all new songs!

It's that time of year again that we are gearing up for registration for the **2024-2025 school year**. We will have packets available down at the Nursery School wing. The information will also be on our website as far as the registration form and what to do. We will be holding an open house this year. Details to follow. The registration deadline is **Friday, February 9th, 2024**. If you have any questions feel free to visit our website or call the office at 330-650-4091 ext. 106. We have programs for children from 2 ½ through 5 yrs. Pre-K. We are very excited to open registration again.

We are looking forward to a great January filled with all kinds of winter fun! Everyone is loving being back in school with all their friends, and the teachers are excited to be back as well!

Nursery School Director,
Lisa VanBuskirk

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

SMALL GROUP

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

Hudson United Women in Faith board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, January 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the church.**

Mary Martha Circle will join in fellowship with the Christian Unity Prayer Service (CUPS) at the First Congregational Church of Hudson on **Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.**

Mary Martha usually 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 join in fellowship with the Christian Unity Prayer Service (CUPS) at the First Congregational Church of Hudson on **Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.**

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

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

Books for Breakfast will meet on **Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.**

The book for discussion is *Mrs. Poe* by Lynn Cullen. (Watch your email for updates on meeting location or 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.

United Women in Faith Sunday—April 7, 2024

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:**CHRISTIAN UNITY PRAYER SERVICE & LUNCHEON**

In celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Hudson churches are planning the annual interdenominational prayer service and luncheon scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 10:00 AM. First Congregational Church of Hudson, located at 47 Aurora St., will host the event. The ecumenical prayer service, led by local clergy, will focus on the theme, “You shall love the Lord your God...and your neighbor as yourself” (*Luke 10:27*) Rev Lynn Anderson, Chaplain of Independent Living at Laurel Lake, will give the sermon. The resources for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by a group of Christians from Burkina Faso, West Africa.

Ticket holders will enjoy a box lunch catered by Nosh, immediately following the service. The box lunch options are

- **Veggie Panini** – roasted and marinated portabella mushroom – fried eggplant tomato aioli, roasted peppers, fresh mozzarella – balsamic and tart cherry reduction arugula – focaccia, includes chips and a cookie.
- **Turkey Wrap** – roasted turkey, lemon and fresh herbs, Boursin cheese, avocado, Nosh bacon, “free leafy greens” lettuce, tomato wheat wrap, includes chips and a cookie.

Coffee, tea, and bottled water will also be available. *You will need to make your lunch selection when you purchase your ticket.*

Our featured speaker after the luncheon is Sue Talarcek from the Hudson Community Service Assoc. (HCSA) Food Pantry.

The ticket price is \$20.00 per person for the luncheon and speaker portion of the event. **Tickets are available and will be on sale in the Gathering Area on the following dates: **January 7 and 14, 2024.** Reservation deadline is Sunday, January 14, 2024.**

Make checks for tickets payable to: HUMC and note on the memo line – CUPS Lunch. The prayer service is free and open to all; it does not require a ticket to attend. This year's offering will be divided with half going to the HCSA Food Pantry and half to Doctors Without Borders. Questions or to purchase a ticket contact: Cheryl Gamble, Marty Hannah or Debbie King.

SAVE THE DATE:**Sunday, February 11, 2024 – UWF Pancake Breakfast Please Join Us!!**

The Hudson United Women in Faith will be hosting the Fat Sunday Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser! **Sun, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm in the CAC.** We will be offering: pancakes – with all your favorite toppings, sausage, juice, 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.