

February GIFT

You Are Important.

You Are Loved.

You Matter.

- Castnoble



 CASTNOBLE

Great Inspiration for Thought

Hudson United Methodist Church

2670 Hudson Aurora Rd

Hudson OH 44236

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PASTOR'S PAGE

The hymn, “Love Came Down at Christmas” was still echoing in my ears, and I glanced ahead to Lent. Imagine my shock as the calendar revealed Easter was in March, barely. I then began flipping back in the calendar and discovered that Lent begins in mid-February, February 14 to be precise – Valentine’s Day! Ash Wednesday and Valentine’s Day – this is a union that will give Hallmark and American Greetings card designers’ a real test!

May I suggest LOVE is a thread woven into both days, Ash Wednesday, and Valentine’s Day. Whereas many, Christ followers or not, will be drawn to the heart–heart–shaped chocolate boxes, heart-shaped jewelry, or heart-shaped cards. Ash Wednesday’s symbol is the cross made from ashes, but no less a message of love.

Ash Wednesday - a day of penitence and the start of a penitential season. Ash Wednesday is a particular time for new beginnings in the faith, a time for returning to the Lord. On this day we reflect on our mortality and wait upon the Lord for a renewing Spirit. This is a time for putting aside the sins and failures of the past in light of who we are yet to become by the grace of God.

Redemption is the word that surfaced in my heart. God’s love. In God’s eyes humanity is never beyond restoration, no matter how much of a mess we’ve made. We can always be cleansed, always be redeemed.

Join Hudson UMC throughout Lent as we confront our messy lives, confess our sins and reexperience the life God offers us. No fears. No regrets. Just love. Love. LOVE.

February 14, Ash Wednesday 7:00 pm Imposition of ashes and communion.

February 18 Luke 18:9-14 “What a Mess!”

February 25 Ephesians 2:8-9 “Who Made This Mess?”

March 3 Romans 5:1-11 “Bless This Mess?”

March 10 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 “Stop Messing Around”

March 17 Luke 10:38-42 “Confronting the Mess”

March 24 Matthew 22:34-40 “The Message in the Mess”

March 28 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm communion

March 31 Easter

Vital congregations do not just happen. Vital congregations develop over time as members intentionally seek the spirit of cohesiveness and togetherness. When congregations emphasize teamwork and cooperation they become very effective.

The image of the body is highlighted in scripture when describing the church. The church is like the body – each member must perform his or her ministry in cooperation with every other person.

It is important that each person discovers his/her own ministry which in turn leads to vitality and honors Christ.

Hudson UMC is stronger when gifted people like yourself serve. Below you will learn more about the Administrative Committees. As you prayerfully read the functions of these committees listen for God's nudge and consider serving. Contact Rev. Bruce at pastor@hudsonumc.com or Paul Brown, lay leader, at hrassetspb@gmail.com with your interest. Your interest will be included in the work of the Nominations Committee's effort to compile the strongest team possible.

Church Council (Church Leadership Team): • clarifies ministry goals, sets priorities, coordinates the work of leaders, and directs the committee on nominations and leadership development concerning leadership needs; • oversees leader development as one component of disciple formation.

Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee: • identifies and supports candidates for church vocations; • builds relations of appointed and employed staff with the congregation.

Trustees: The trustees together have several legal and administrative functions. They are to: • oversee, maintain, and supervise all local church property; • report annually to the charge conference on the state of the church's property, equipment, investments, and resources; • receive and administer all gifts made to the congregation; make certain that all trust funds of the congregation are invested properly; • ensure that the articles of incorporation of the congregation are kept up to date, if applicable; • maintain adequate insurance coverage on all church property and develop appropriate risk management policies.

Finance: is to nurture the financial vitality of the congregation. • oversee stewardship, • compile a budget annually, • raise sufficient income to meet the budget, • administer funds received by the church, • count and deposit the offering, • disburse funds, • establish internal control policies, • review and report annually on the adequacy and effectiveness of internal controls, • use contributions in accordance with donors' intent

Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development: • identifies, develops, deploys, supports, and evaluates the leadership of laity who work with appointed and employed leaders; • shines a spotlight on leadership development and builds a congregational culture of mentoring, support, and challenge for one another.

By God's grace, I will offer myself to serve Christ through Hudson UMC on Trustees, Finance, Staff Parish Relations, Church Council (at-large) Circle one or more and return to the office.

Name:

Preferred contact information:

Great Inspiration for Thought

ACME RECEIPTS

We are still collecting Acme receipts for the Cash Back program. Please put your receipts in the green bin by the pastor's office or email the Community Cash Back amount on the bottom of the receipt to sibernert@aol.com. We will be using the money we get back from this program for missions. Thank you!



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, strawberry jam



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 distributions: **January 27, February 24. THANK YOU!**
Nancy Kralik nskralik@gmail.com or 330-212-7581



FEED MY SHEEP – FEBRUARY OUTREACH

**Men's Shaving Cream, Men's 3 in 1
Women's Body Wash
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 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 at 330 212-7581 or nskralik@gmail.com





A MISSION TO MAKE DISCIPLES

Disciple and Discipleship are words that have come up in many conversations among our church leadership recently, beginning with the October all-church 3R (Reflect, Realign, Renew) planning/visioning meetings. If you attended any of those meetings, then you may remember that there was much talk regarding the idea of alignment around a common goal or mission. In other words, Hudson UMC will be most effective in achieving what we set out to do if we're all paddling in the same direction. The question then becomes, "What are we setting out to do?" or "What is our purpose?"

An answer to this question has already been provided for us by Jesus in his Great Commission:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

The United Methodist Church has aligned its own mission statement with the Great Commission: *To make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.* (Book of Discipline). The Discipline further goes on to state that *Local churches and extension ministries of the Church provide the most significant arenas through which disciple-making occurs.*

In light of this, we came away from the 3R meetings with a commitment to align our own purpose as a local Methodist church around the UMC mission and The Great Commission. We are about making disciples. This is the direction in which we have chosen to face.

Before we take our first step, however, it's important that we pause to define our terminology. What exactly **is** a disciple? Here is my short answer: A disciple is one who not only knows about God's will but is conducting one's life according to God's standards. This person is in the process of discovering their own place in fulfilling God's purposes and is seeking ways to live it uniquely and authentically in the world. There is both choice and personal responsibility associated with growing oneself as a disciple.

In making disciples, the church carries a responsibility as well. Through its resources, the church may help to define a pathway to discipleship and inspire all encountered to pursue their own journeys. It is the church's role to provide invitations and opportunities for those seeking to grow in their spiritual walk. In practice, this covers everything from visitor hospitality and fellowship to education and discovery to leadership, service, and mission. Removing any obstacles that might block the development or pursuit of this pathway is a crucial step.

Because discipleship often begins with education, the CEC (Christian Education Committee) team has taken on the task of discernment around creating a discipleship plan for Hudson UMC. As we know, however, pursuing discipleship involves deeds in response to knowledge, so we expect that this effort will grow to become church-wide, involving multiple committees, teams, and leaders.

We, as a church, are at the cusp of creating a culture at HUMC that enables personal spiritual transformation and intentional action for all ages and stages. We work in expectation that lives will be changed. It's challenging. It's exciting. And it's no less than what we are here to do.

God Bless,

Elizabeth





CLASSICAL *Concert*

**AN AFTERNOON OF CLASSICAL MUSIC,
FEATURING**

Andrew Bolden | tenor

Director of Music, St. Timothy's
Episcopal Church, Massilon

Lesilee Gardiner | soprano

HUMC Choir

Sandy Simpson | organ and piano

Director of Music, HUMC

Jinyang Tian | organ and piano

Organist&Pianist, HUMC

MARCH 3 | 3:00 PM

HUDSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2670 Hudson Aurora Road

Free Will Offering to support HUMC's 60th Anniversary

Cookie reception to follow





Finance Update

The 2024 Church budget was recently approved by the Finance Committee and Church Council based on expected giving and other income. Here is a summary of how your gifts will be applied toward our mission of making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ.

Income (from pledges, giving and other income)	\$429,000
Expenses:	\$429,000
Pastor/Staff salary and benefits (supporting our ministries, discipleship)	
\$252,000	
Facilities (Church, Parsonage, Nursery School)	
\$108,000	
Apportionments (supporting Methodist ministries worldwide)	
\$ 48,000	
Education, Communication, Other Ministries	
\$ 21,000	

Our ministries are made possible by your generous giving which is greatly appreciated. Thank you! Increasing your gifts, even by a little, would help us to do so much more as a congregation.

The Finance Committee works hard to be good stewards of God's gifts and to provide transparency.

If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to our Financial Secretary, Kristen Bellar, at humcfinance@windstream.net.



Appalachia Service Project (ASP) is an adult and youth mission project that aims to make homes warmer, safer, and drier for those in need. 2024 is Hudson United Methodist Church's 50th year of service volunteering at ASP!

Youth and adults will be serving in Kentucky from Sunday, June 9th through Saturday, June 15th, 2024. We would love to have you join us on this experience. Prior construction knowledge is not required.

If you would like additional information, are looking for ways to support the trip, or would like to volunteer please contact Bill Centrello (bcentrel@gmail.com)

NURSERY SCHOOL



In January, we welcomed everyone back to school and heard about all the fun that was had over Christmas break. It sure sounds like Santa was good to everyone!

We started talking about winter and all the wonders, even though we had a couple of warm days! We went into the month of January talking about our dads. We welcomed our dads to school to see all the fun we have. It was a good time had by all.

We also have registration going on for our 2024-2025 school year. We have openings from 2 ½ through 5 years (Pre-K). Registration packets are available online and in the office.

We had Akron Zoo come visit and they brought some pretty cool animals. This was a special surprise. We look forward to celebrating Valentine's Day with our friends. As you can see we are very busy here at school!!

Nursery School Director,
Lisa VanBuskirk

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

SMALL GROUP

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

Hudson United Women in Faith board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 5, 2024 at 7:00pm at the church.**

Mary Martha Circle will meet on **Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 10:00am at the church.** The speaker will be Elizabeth Goodin with a program on *The Return of the Prodigal Son* by Henri Nouwen. She will present some of Henri Nouwen's insights on the parable from this book. **Lunch after the program at Aladdin's in Hudson.** 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 be on winter break in February. Check back in March for information on the next meeting. Priscilla Circle meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00pm. Questions/Information contact Ann Ingling at anningling@gmail.com, Marty Hannah marty2uin@windstream.net

Books for Breakfast will meet on **Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 9:30am.** The book for discussion is *Stolen Focus* by Johann Hari. (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.

Sunday, February 11, 2024 – UWF Pancake Breakfast
Please Join Us for Pancakes!!

The Hudson United Women in Faith will be hosting their Fat Sunday Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser! It will be held **on Sunday, February 11, 2024 ~ 10:30am to 12:30pm in the CAC (Christian Activity Center)**. We will be offering: pancakes with all your favorite toppings, sausage, juice, and coffee. There will be a Freewill Offering to support our missions for women and children. We will be supporting "Snow Angels". This is an organization that was started by Erin Victor in 2015 in Akron, Ohio. Snow Angels "Spread the Warmth" by providing the less fortunate with warm clothing, blankets, toiletries and lunch. 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, cgamble1114@yahoo.com



SAVE THE DATE:

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH SUNDAY

The Hudson unit of United Women in Faith will be offering the Worship Service on **Sunday, April 7, 2024**. Our special guest speaker will be Belva Denmark Tibbs. Watch the bulletin and the GIFT for more details in the coming months. If you would like to participate in the worship service or the UWF Choir, please contact Cheryl Gamble: cgamble1114@yahoo.com

