

APRIL GIFT



Great Inspiration for Thought

Hudson United Methodist Church

2670 Hudson Aurora Rd

Hudson OH 44236

REV.
BRUCE
HARTLEY



PASTOR'S PAGE

Recently, our two older granddaughters enjoyed an experience given to them by their Aunt Megan. She gave them the experience of sleeping over at her house in Gahanna and then go to Magic Mountain. I was a hit. So much so that one of the girls exclaimed, “I wish Christmas was every two months and we could do this again and again!”

I have heard people, mostly children, wish Christmas was every day. I have yet to hear an adult desire Christmas more than once a year.

Reflecting on the excitement of having Christmas experience more than once a year, led me to wonder about Easter. I have never heard someone say, “I wish Easter was every month or week or day!”

All the experiences above led me to wonder...

What if Easter was more than a day?

What if Easter was more than a season? (The Easter season is also named the “Great 50 Days”, lasting through Pentecost)

What if Easter was not a length of time but a lifestyle?



I am not implying those who believe in Christ would wear their Easter dresses and corsages, color eggs and gorge on chocolate, or eat pickled eggs and ham. What I am implying is that those who follow the Risen Lord would exude joy, hope and renewal each day.

My wondering led me to develop a sermon series highlighting what it would look like to live Easter long beyond the day. The Acts of the Apostles reveals the early Church living Easter every day, spreading joy, hope and renewal throughout the world as it was known then.

Join Hudson UMC, on-line or in person, and learn what it takes to live an Easter lifestyle.

“You Will Be My Witnesses:”

April 14 – **“Sharing Community”** Acts 2:43-47; 4:32-25

April 21 – **“Breaking Down Barriers”** Acts 10:1-20

April 28 – **“Power to be Bold”** Acts 4:1-4, 23-31

May 5 – **“Offering of Oneself”** Acts 16:6-15

May 12 – **“Promised Power”** Acts 1:1-11

May 19 – Pentecost **The Church: United or Untied?** Acts 2:1-21

The world was transformed by those who witnessed to the Resurrection, with faithful intentionality let’s live as through Easter makes a difference!



Great Inspiration for Thought

TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING

Join the team!

Join the church Trustees as we clean up our flower beds, pickup branches, remove some basement clutter and other chores. Saturday, **April 6,**

9 - 11 am

Donuts, coffee @ 9 am



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! Deodorant for men & women, Lotion, Feminine Products

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: **March 23, 2024 THANK YOU!** Nancy Kralik nskralik@gmail.com 330-212-7581

Feed My Sheep March Outreach **Men and Women's Shaving Cream, Lotion** **Non-Alcohol Mouthwash,** **Toilet Paper** **Gently Used Seasonal Clothing** **for Men, Women and Children** **Small Household Items -** **Travel Size Toiletries**

Feed My Sheep is a church-based hot lunch program on 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 nskralik@gmail.com



Family Ministries



SEASONS

I'm in a season of life when I don't cook big dinners anymore. Even my style of cooking has changed since the time when I was feeding my family of six. It's what is called for now. It's not a banquet, but that's okay, because mealtime for Mark and me remains a time when we come together, share our days, and relish simply being a family.

It was never about what we were eating.

At Hudson UMC, we have entered a new season that has brought the Christian Education Committee (CEC) to a decision regarding our "menu." After much information gathering, discernment, and weighing of options and emotions, we have come to the realization that our current context does not support a vacation Bible school offering this summer.

Though we were touched by the potential volunteers who offered their help, we could not find a week when the majority would be available together. When looking at our roster of kids, we realized that many were beyond the age of attending. Our value for the program strengthened our resolve to look meticulously at the various possibilities at our disposal, but in the end, it became clear to us that this is a program best left to others in our community who are better positioned to make the most of all that VBS has to offer. We are simply in a different season.

Since I began my ministry here at Hudson UMC, I've heard many stories about how this church has nurtured, inspired, supported, and served its members and greater community. The common thread flowing through these stories was a spirit that was captured in last October's 3R Reflect gathering with words like faith, warmth, caring, fun, belonging, hope, comfort, safe, loved, and family. In whatever we do, in whatever season we're in, **this** is the spirit that we need to capture, preserve, and share. As many have expressed, it's who we are at our best.

This notion helped me to make sense of the ensuing energy that arose around our CEC table after making the decision to let go of something that has been an important part of our history.

Numbers and programs may change, but the spirit behind it doesn't. That spirit will support something new emerging that is best suited to our unique identity: a caring, multi-generational family that values growing spiritually, serving others, and nurturing relationships. With these values in mind, ideas on that day flowed, and as we continue our process of discernment, we will share them. Know that we are not discouraged, as you should not be; rather, we are buoyed by the possibilities now open to us in this particular and vital time and place. We ask that you, with anticipation and expectation, stay tuned.

*God bless,
Elizabeth*



REGISTRATION IS OPEN for 2024 East Ohio Summer Camps: Grades 1 through 12

Theme: *Faith Alive*

Key Verse: *Let all that you do be done in love.
(1 Corinthians 16:14)*

Children, youth, and adults come together to learn new skills, have new experiences, and make new friends all under the guidance of trained, creative, and compassionate staff.

We will focus on 5 community faith practices: reading the Bible, worshipping, praying, providing hospitality, and living a life of service to the world. These are a great launching point for campers to incorporate faith into everyday living. If we remember only one thing about living out our faith, it is to let love be our rule.

Rev. Gary Jones, Director of Camp & Retreat Ministries



Carrollton, OH

Open House &
Summer Camp Preview
Sunday, May 5
2 to 5p



Hiram, OH

Open House &
Summer Camp Preview
Sunday, April 7
2 to 5p



Beach City, OH

Resurrection Egg Hunt &
Summer Camp Preview
Saturday, April 27
2 to 6p

For more detailed information, click [HERE](#) OR pick up a brochure in Elizabeth's office (Rm 117).

NURSERY SCHOOL



March was another busy month for the Nursery School. We celebrated the weather warming up a little bit & we even got to take a few walks outside! We celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a special green snack and we all wore our green for the day! March also brought us Spring break. I think we all look forward to a little time off and spending time with family and friends while enjoying the spring weather.

We will be having our annual Art show. The show will be **April 17th**. Our theme is, Backyard Adventure! It should be very exciting. Look for the Narthex to be transformed to a cool art gallery. This is always a beautiful show.

April we will talk about butterflies and watch as we have chrysalises turn into butterflies. This is an exciting time for the children. We will have our pictures taken for one last time. This school year has really flown by and we have enjoyed every minute of being able to be in school learning and socializing with our friends.

We do have a few spots left for the 2024-2025 school year. If you know of anyone looking for a good preschool, please let them know.

Nursery School Director,
Lisa VanBuskirk



FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

Hudson United Women in Faith board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, April 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the church.**

Mary Martha Circle will be **volunteering at the Akron Food Bank on Thursday, April 11, from 9-11:30 a.m.** Meet at the **Route 8 parking lot at 8:15 a.m.** Watch your email for more instructions. Anyone else who would like to volunteer can contact Michelle at novandkoz@yahoo.com

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 on **Wednesday, April 17, at 6:00 p.m. at the church.**

The program is TBD. Please bring your own brown bag dinner.

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, April 25, at 9:30 a.m.** The book for discussion is *The Ride of Her Life* by Elizabeth Letts. (Watch your email for updates on meeting location or on Zoom).

Books for Breakfast 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.

SPIRITUAL OUTREACH

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH – SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

The Hudson United Women in Faith will be providing the 9:30 am Worship service on Sunday, April 7. Our special guest speaker will be Belva Demark Tibbs. She will share her message of: “Sarah, the Mother of Faith”. Belva holds a BS in Medical Education, honors program, (which included the completion of the first two years of medical school) from Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago, and an MBA from Cleveland State University where she was inducted into the Business Honor Society. She also received a certificate from the Advanced Leadership Program at the University of North Carolina.

All women are invited to participate in the worship service as a reader, usher, or join the Hudson UWF Choir. Check the sign-up board in the Gathering Area ~ there are still a few openings if you would like to be a part of the worship service.

If you are interested in being a part of this special Sunday worship service, contact Cheryl Gamble, cgamble1114@yahoo.com

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

The UWF mission project called Kids Capes of Courage is well underway. In late February we had a cutting session to cut fabric, Velcro, and heat and bond to prepare the sewing kits. Those kits are now available for sewing and are stored in the prayer room on the bottom shelf next to the wall. If you are interested in sewing one of the capes, feel free to pick up one or more. We are delighted to have so many sewers this year and the number of capes we are making is growing day by day. Thank you to all who have participated in this project to comfort children in hospitals who need a little extra love to get them through a difficult time. Please contact Angie Helmer at cawhelmer@aol.com for additional information.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, May 12 - Gifts from the Heart

(Mission Outreach in support of Heart 4 the City and Center of Hope)

Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

**From
H
U
M
C
Staff**

