

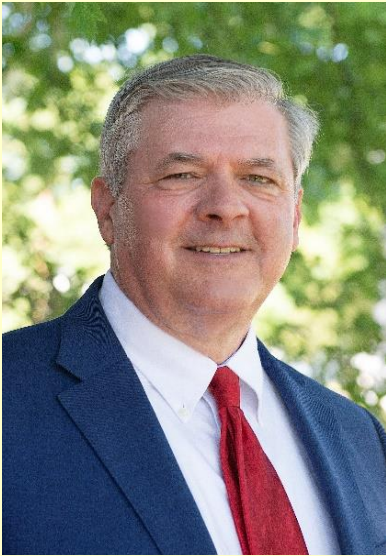
MAY G.I.F.T.

Great Inspiration for Thought



*Hudson United Methodist Church
2670 Hudson Aurora Rd
Hudson OH 44236*

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PASTOR'S PAGE

Thoughts Along the Way...

Optimism grows at Hudson UMC! During the April 14th worship service those pictured united with Hudson UMC. This picture highlights 13 adults who joined and four children of the new members. Due to a family crisis, three members of the Taylor family were not present for the service.

16 persons have chosen to unite with others to mature their faith and serve with current members to serve the community and the world. Allow me to introduce you to our sister and brothers in Christ.



(L to R, top and bottom row)

David/Jane Beam transfer from St. Petersburg First Presbyterian, **Andrew/Sarah Louise Gribble** transfer from Strongsville UMC/Crawford St. UMC, Vicksburg, MS, Rich/Sylvia Gudgel (Lukas/Betka) transfer from Fayetteville UMC, Fayetteville, NY, **Kevin/Jennifer Mohr** Kevin

transfer from Stow UMC, Jennifer profession of faith, **Carolyn Mulroy** (bottom row) profession of faith, **David/Marcia Rais** transfer from Christ Community Chapel, **Bruce/Kathleen Richardson** transfer from Havre, MT Messiah Lutheran Church.

It was a deep pleasure to get acquainted with these people. Each person brings a commitment to serve the Lord and to continue to mature in their faith. I hope you will extend Hudson's hospitality and invite them into a Women's Circle, Bible Study, or a Sunday School class.

Welcome to Hudson UMC!
Living in Hope,

Rev. Bruce

If you want to explore the UMC and membership at Hudson UMC, contact Rev. Bruce pastor@hudsonumc.org

Let's talk

SAVE THE DATE
HUMC Celebrates its 60th Anniversary

HUMC invites the community and congregation to its **60th Anniversary celebration** on **Saturday, September 14 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm**, for a fun evening featuring The Jazz Society Big Band. Bring a picnic blanket or a chair and enjoy live music, food, activities for kids, and time with friends and family.

The Jazz Society Big Band is a 19-piece ensemble consisting of current and retired music educators and community professionals based in Northeast Ohio including our own beloved Director of Music at HUMC, Sandy Simpson. The band performs from a vast repertoire of music in the tradition of the great Big Bands like Buddy Rich, Count Basie, Frank Sinatra, Michael Buble, Maynard Ferguson, and Duke Ellington, as well as jazz ensemble arrangements of modern pop music by artists such as Bruno Mars and Pharrell Williams. Saxophones, Trumpets, Trombones, Drums, Piano, Guitars, and Vocalists come together to provide an exciting set of music to entertain and inspire!





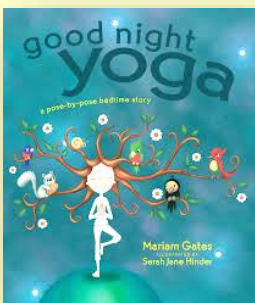
Moments with Children

Last week at the beginning of the Children's Sermon time, Jackie Beam and I asked the kids what we anticipated would be a quick review question leading into the morning's lesson: "Who can say what we learned last month from Jesus coming back alive?" Hands went up, and we heard many responses ranging from simple to complex, according to age. What we found so encouraging was that each, in their own ways, gave the same answer: love is stronger than sin (light overcomes dark). Inside, I was jumping up and down shouting, "They got it!"

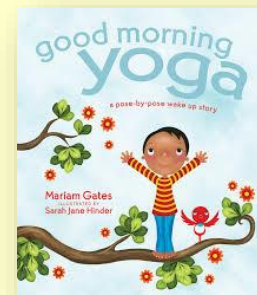
But what happened next thoroughly warmed my children's minister's heart. They had follow-up questions. "If...then...?; What about...?; Why...?" We realized that in that moment, our kids perceived themselves in a safe space where they could ask about what they needed to know. We saw the opportunity and ran with it.

I came away from that time together with a reinforced belief in the capability of kids to process and grasp significant ideas and the absolute necessity for us to facilitate those occasions for learning. On Sunday mornings, while the adults receive enlightenment through Rev. Bruce's words, *our kids are talking and playing their own sermon*. I'd like you to know more about how this happens, so what follows are just a few snippets.

You may remember certain Isaiah passages from Rev. Bruce's Advent series. To help the kids understand the ways in which Isaiah spoke about the coming of the Messiah, we compared human words to their God-inspired counterparts: change vs. transformation; happiness vs. joy, and quiet vs. peace. The kids then acted out the differences: a parched desert bursting into bloom and the lame leaping like a deer. When we talked about a peaceable kingdom, the kids re-created their own version using stuffed animals – and we made sure to include a little boy doll in the mix.



During his series on world religions when Rev. Bruce taught about Hinduism, we introduced the kids to the practice of yoga as the sacred means for Hindus to unite together with the God force and source of peace within them. The kids participated in guided Good Night and Good Morning yoga routines and compared meditation to prayer.



One of my favorite recent sermon series was about our messes. The kids heard that the mess we've created is like the world turned upside down and that God is working to right it. Along with that lesson, they played a game with plastic cups, where two groups worked at cross purposes to flip them over. By gradually making the size of the "right-side-up" team larger, the message of what God is doing in the world was brought into clear focus.

Parents, I encourage you to make a point of having follow-up conversations with your kids at home. Further, help them to see the crucial connections to their everyday life.

Because if you got the morning's message, you can be sure that they did too.

God Bless,

Elizabeth

I want to thank **Isabel Lee** and **Jackie Beam** for their faithful co-leadership of these lessons. As we continue throughout the summer and beyond, I invite others to step in and be a part of what is happening during this consequential time devoted to young discipleship.



We're Starting a 2nd At-Home Online Bible Reading Group!

Beginning on Pentecost Sunday, May 19

This is a built-in accountability and support group for helping each other to read and discern the Bible together in TWO YEARS following a chronological, cross-reference Bible reading plan.

Readings, study questions, supplementary videos AND access to our HUMC Fellowship Group comment board are accessible through the free *Bible Study Together* app.

Join with a friend. ALL ARE WELCOME!

For more information on the Bible Study Together reading plan, click [HERE](#).

To sign up to join the Bible Study Together Group Two, click [HERE](#).

QUESTIONS? Contact Elizabeth at familyministries@hudsonumc.com



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

HUMC Safe Sanctuaries Training

Saturday, May 4, 10:00-11:00am

HUMC Sanctuary

Training is required every three years for all adults, 18 years or older, who currently or may potentially work with children, youth, or vulnerable adults.

Click [HERE](#) to sign up for training, to see possible alternative dates, or to check on your last training.

QUESTIONS? Contact Elizabeth at familyministries@hudsonumc.com



Trustee Committee News

The recent replacement of fluorescent tubes and ballasts with LED tubes in the church will bring cost savings of up to \$149 per month! The Trustees led by Lee Roenigk replaced tubes in the gathering area, Room 109, the kitchen, and the entire Nursery Wing this past fall. With these energy-efficient bulbs in our frequently used areas, our electric bills went down by 14% comparing 3 months of 2023 to 2024.

Many members know that in July of 2023 a thunderstorm passing the church caused extensive damage from an electrical surge. The Trustees have been at work since last summer repairing the damage: replacing our fire alarm panel, automatic door closures, the sanctuary screen closures, the sanctuary overhead speaker, and other damage, together costing over \$14,000. With many hours, several church volunteers figured out and oversaw repairs. The church incurred similar electrical damage just two years previous. We also are working to prevent future electrical storm damage. This month Western Reserve Lightning Rod Co. is installing grounding of our steeple, and we have Thompson Electric installing surge protection on our breaker panels as well as enhancing our electrical system grounding. These protections will total an additional \$14,000 to hopefully prevent future damage! Your continued support of the Care and Repair Fund can help to restore our Fund balance and reserves to enable future capital replacements and repairs.

NURSERY SCHOOL



April was another great month for the Nursery School. We were very excited to have our annual Art Show. It was a great success! Our theme was the great outdoors! We turned the Narthex into a variety of outdoor creatures and activities. It is always so exciting to see what wonderful artwork the children do each and every day.

We are all very excited for Spring and to be able to get on the playground and run with our friends! We also watched our butterflies grow and then we were able to let them go outside. This was very exciting!

We had spring pictures and our parents could see how much we had grown over the school year. It is hard to believe that school is almost over. We look forward to another successful school year. We will say goodbye to some of our friends as they move on to Kindergarten and we will welcome some new families in the fall. We do have a few spots left in the school. If you know anyone looking for a preschool for a 2½ through 5-year-old please let them know.

Nursery School Director,
Lisa VanBuskirk



FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

Hudson United Women in Faith board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, May 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the church.**

Mary Martha Circle will be **hosting a Teacher Appreciation Luncheon at the Orchard School on Thursday, May 9, 2024.**

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, May 15, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the church. They will be putting together hygiene kits for female students at North High School in Akron.** *Look for a follow-up email listing the requested items.* The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. with another Build a Salad bar.

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 at marty2uin@windstream.net

Books for Breakfast will meet on **Thursday, May 25, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. This will be the 2024/2025 Book Selection at the home of Michelle Novosel.**

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.

MISSIONS**“Gifts from the Heart” – UWF Mission Project**

The Hudson United Women in Faith is sponsoring their mission project, **Gifts from the Heart** (formally Brown Bags) food program which will begin Sunday, **May 12** and will end Sunday, **May 26**. We will be supporting the **Center of Hope** (Ravenna), **Heart 4 the City** (NE Akron). Your monetary donation makes a difference. For every \$1 donation, the Foodbank can provide the equivalent of 4 meals to the **Center of Hope** and **Heart 4 the City**. Please make your check payable to Hudson UMC with “Gifts from Heart” noted in the memo. The deadline is Sunday, **May 26**. For more information: please contact Sandy Bernert: sibernert@aol.com. Thank you for supporting this important mission outreach program sponsored by the Hudson United Women In Faith.



The UWF vision statement says...

United Women in Faith turns faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.

On April 7, UWF Sunday we recognized two women who embody these ideas of faith, hope, and love through their service within the walls of our church and beyond the walls of our church. Combined, their dedicated time and talents shine in a wide variety of commitments such as Open M, Sunday School, church choir, office angels, serving on the UWF Board, Priscilla Circle, United Methodist Volunteers in Mission, and Nursery School Board. They serve with enthusiasm and grace. It was an honor to present the 2024 mission pins to **Marty Hannah and Carol Spinelli**.