

# *G.I.F.T.*

September 2024  
Great Inspiration for Thought



Hudson United Methodist Church  
2670 Hudson Aurora Rd  
Hudson OH 44236

# PASTOR'S PAGE



**“Make love your aim.”** 1 Corinthians 14:1 NJB

The recent sermon series, “Doing What Disciples Do” addressed five areas of intentionality would-be-disciples dedicate themselves to doing – Love, Follow, Worship, Work and Prayer. By no means should these five foci be limited to just these. But these, and more, should be lived out in the spirit of love.

Humanity is created with the desire **to be loved and to love**. Jesus understands that need, thus he reminded his disciples, to “abide in my love.” Jesus taught this core belief that love is an **experience** before it is an **expression**. The Church is given the task to **express** love to a world starving for love.

As Hudson UMC realigns all we do with “making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ,” we must remember we do so as the Christ Body, “making love our aim.”

My heart was stirred by Henri J.M. Nouwen in his book [A Spirituality of Fundraising](#):

“What is the kingdom? Jesus is clear that if we make the kingdom our first priority, “all these other things will be given to you as well” (Matt. 6:33). The kingdom is where God provides for all that we need. It is the realm of sufficiency where we are no longer pulled here and there by anxiety about having enough. “So, do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow will take care of itself” (Matt. 6:34). Jesus also compares the kingdom to a mustard seed, “which, at the time of its sowing, is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade” (Mk. 4:31-32). Even a seemingly small act of generosity can grow into something far beyond what we could ever ask or imagine – the creation of a community of love in this world, and beyond this world, because wherever love grows, it is stronger than death (1 Cor. 13:8). **So, when we give ourselves to planting and nurturing love here on earth, our efforts will reach out beyond our own chronological existence.** Indeed, if we raise funds for the creation of a community of love, we are helping God build the kingdom. **We are doing exactly what we are supposed to do as Christians.** Paul is clear about this: ‘**Make love your aim**’ (1 Cor. 14:1).”

## G.I.F.T.

When followers obedient to Christ make love their aim, hearts **experience** love and then **express** love and the world will be transformed, maybe not as fast as we would like, but God will see to ultimate transformation.

In the coming months, Hudson UMC will hear an invitation to express love through our commitment to financially support the mission and ministry God is challenging us to offer towards the building of the Kingdom. I am committing to pray, **“Lord of Love, I long to live faithfully and enlarge your kingdom. Trusting in your abundance, reveal to me how to express your love through my gift. Amen.”**

I invite you to commit to praying this or a prayer of your making, as Hudson UMC makes love our aim.

Living in Hope,  
Rev. Bruce Hartley



# Great Inspiration for Thought

## FEED MY SHEEP

### SEPTEMBER OUTREACH

**Lotion, Liquid Hand Soap, Non-Alcohol Mouthwash, Men's 3-in-1, Men's medium T-Shirts and Boxer Briefs**

**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 125+ 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](mailto:nskralik@gmail.com)

## 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 this month:**

**PAPER TOWELS!!! canned chicken, rice sides, canned pasta (e.g. Chef Boyardee), Hunt's (canned) pasta sauce**

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

Upcoming distributions:

**Saturday, Sept. 28 & Saturday, Oct. 26**

**THANK YOU!** Nancy Kralik 330 212-7581 or [nskralik@gmail.com](mailto:nskralik@gmail.com)

## Youth Basement Flooded by August 8 Rainstorm



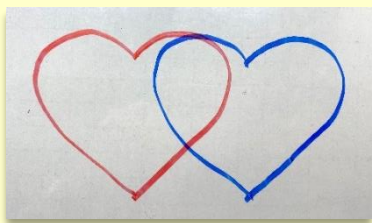
Friday morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> revealed 1.5" of sewer water had flooded the Youth basement and storage rooms. Thankfully, 10 volunteers showed up to clean up and move furniture, stored equipment, material and tools. The Trustees secured the Cut and Dry restoration company to begin that day with additional water removal, removal of all soiled carpeting and mold prevention treatment at a cost of \$12,698. (Impacted by the water with some damage and moved from the carpeting were ASP tools, equipment, stored files, Christmas decorations, and Scout and Youth room furniture.) Along with all carpeting, the much-loved huge bean bag chairs had to be tossed out. The Trustees are now considering various waterproof floor coverings after restoration. This restoration expense has a major impact on the Care and Repair fund after lighting damage repairs, electrical surge and lightning protection expenses, walk repair and other expenses. The balance of the Care and Repair Fund will be left substantially depleted. Your continued support is certainly needed. We thank you!

Tom King, Trustees Chair



## Fall Sunday School Begins September 22<sup>nd</sup>

Our summer Sunday school unit, *Power of Prayer*, wraps up on August 25<sup>th</sup>, as we complete our study of different ways to pray, including the way Jesus taught his disciples to pray.



The Sunday school kids learned that when we talk and listen to God, we are setting our hearts on something in a way that shapes our life and leads us to action. Prayer helps us to align our hearts with God's heart.

When talking about the Lord's Prayer, we said that when Jesus' disciples asked him to teach them how to pray, it was as if they were asking Jesus, "What should we set our hearts on?" We imagined Jesus choosing his words carefully in response, knowing that he was teaching them (and all of his followers to come) a pattern for a way of thinking and living that would set them in line with God's will for the world.

We think about Bible stories in the same way. They survived and are re-told because they hold significant meaning, teaching us what we need to know about God's nature and God's will.

As the school year begins, we will continue to teach our kids the important stories and core concepts of our faith. For the **Preschool through Grade 5** age group, last year's new ***WonderInk*** curriculum proved to be effective, fun, and meaningful. We will continue using it with new stories this year, following the church calendar: Old Testament stories up to Advent, stories of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection through Lent, and early church history through May.

The youth class, **Grades 6 through 12** will turn from last year's over-arching story of the Bible to a study of Christian core beliefs as they are illustrated through Scripture. This study will be guided by a new curriculum, ***Activate: The Building Blocks of Faith***. Among the 17 foundational elements of faith that we will cover are the Trinity, God's Glory, Salvation, Grace, God's Mission, Discipleship, The Church, God's Presence, and more.

**Right-click** on the images below to view introductory videos:



God Bless, *Elizabeth*

## FALL SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE - *Note Changes*



*We appreciate all efforts to adhere to this schedule to ensure that adult and kids' Sunday school begins and ends together and that all classes have their full planned time allotments.*

- 9:30 - 10:30a      Worship
- 10:30 - 10:50a    Coffee/Fellowship
- 10:50 - 11:50a    Adult Sunday School
  
- 10:50 - 11:05a    **Youth Music Combo (Gr. 6-12) NEW!!**
- 11:05 - 11:50a    Youth Sunday School (Grades 6-12)
- 10:50 - 11:35a    Young Disciples Sunday School (Pre-Gr. 5)
- 11:35 - 11:50a    Young Disciples Choir (Pre-Gr.5)

<b>Adult Sunday School Class Locations:</b>	
Family Ties	Room 116
Amazing Graces	Room 110
Men's Sunday School	
Room 109	
Ties That Bind	
Room 126	
(Library)	

<b>Kids &amp; Youth Sunday School Class Locations:</b>	
Preschool-Grade 5	Room 112/114
Grades 6-12	Youth Room
	(Downstairs through nursery school hallway)

### **Adult Sunday School Classes**

All are welcome to join anytime!

#### **Family Ties**

*For individuals and couples at all stages of life.*

#### **Amazing Graces**

*Prayer, devotional, Bible study group for women.*

#### **Men's Sunday School**

*Discussion using Christian videos and books, for men young and old.*

#### **Ties That Bind**

*Discussion format using multiple faith-based sources.*



**CAN YOU BELIEVE** Hudson United Methodist Church has been gathering in faith, worshipping God, and serving our community for six decades?

We hope you will join us in celebrating our 60th anniversary on **Saturday, September 14th and Sunday, September 15th**. We have some special events planned that you will not want to miss!

Consider **volunteering and/or donating items** to help that weekend by clicking [HERE](#). We ask that you commit by September 1<sup>st</sup> for the sake of our committee members who are planning and preparing for the event. All of us on the committee thank you in advance.

#### EVENT DETAILS:

HUMC invites the community and congregation to its **60th Anniversary celebration on Saturday, September 14th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm** in our parking lot for a fun evening featuring The Jazz Society Big Band\*.

**Bring a chair** and enjoy live music, food (grilled hot dogs & chips), activities for kids, and time with friends and family. This event will go on as planned, **RAIN or SHINE**. The concert will move indoors to our CAC if it rains.

To accommodate the band and the audience, we ask that attendees park in the portion of **Hudson High School's parking lot** that is closest to our building. There will be parking in our church lot available for those with mobility issues. Please be sure to interact with (like, share, and RSVP) posts on our Facebook and Instagram pages, and don't forget to invite friends and neighbors!

The next morning, **Sunday, September 15th**, there will be a special service for our congregation, directly followed by a 60s-themed Rally Day with plenty of treats and memories to share.



*\*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!*

#### 2024-25 Ministry Opportunities for Children and Youth

Click the links to indicate your interest. Training available



**WHO:** Children and youth **Grades 2 and older**

**WHAT:** Light the Christ candles at the opening of the worship service and carry the light out at the close of worship.

**WHEN:** Assignment on a rotation basis. One acolyte per Sunday.

[ACOLYTE SIGN-UP](#)



**WHO:** Children and youth **Grades 3 and older**

**WHAT:** Leading the Call to Worship and/or the Invocation

(may optionally include Offering Invitation and Prayer for youth who remain for the entire service)

**WHEN:** Assignment on a rotation basis.

[LITURGIST SIGN-UP](#)



There are many opportunities to serve God and share music together beginning this Fall for all ages. All are welcome to join, or just stop by and observe to see if you may be interested!

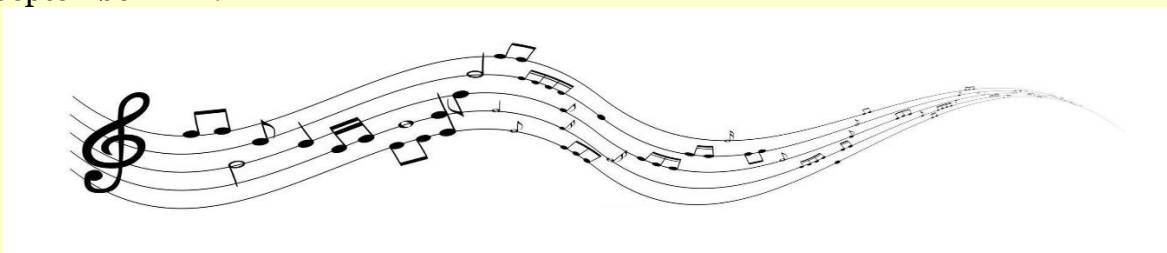
**\*Chancel Choir** – Rehearses Thursday evenings 7:30 – 9:00p and sings for worship on most Sundays.

**\*Bell Choir** – Rehearses Thursday evenings 6:15-7:15p and plays one Sunday per month.

**\*Youth Music Combo – NEW!!** – GRADES 6-12 – Meets Sunday mornings 10:50-11:05 to learn beginning handbell skills, mixed part singing, and incorporate musical instruments students are learning in school or in private lessons. We will sing and/or play in worship one Sunday per month, sometimes in multi-generational capacities.

**\*Young Disciples Choir** – Grades PreK-5 – Meets Sunday mornings 11:35-11:50a. Integrates church school curriculum with singing skills and music fundamentals. Sings one Sunday per month.

Adult rehearsals begin Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. Youth and Young Disciples groups will begin Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>.





# NURSERY SCHOOL



I cannot believe we are talking, "Back to school!" I am not sure how the summer flies by. Each year it seems to go faster and faster. The Nursery School will be getting ready to welcome old friends and new friends. This is always an exciting time for all. The teachers are getting their much-needed rest and getting rejuvenated for another successful year. We have the best playground around, is what the kiddos are saying!

The entire Nursery School was painted over the summer. What a difference that makes! It was a big undertaking but looks great! We also got a new floor put in the back workroom! Thanks to Gary, the Church Caretaker, the area even got painted after about 25 years!! We are ready to start a fresh new school year!

The teachers will return the last week of August and the children will return right after Labor Day. We do have some openings in each of our classrooms. If you know of someone looking for a preschool, please let them know we have openings! Our website is [www.hudsonumns.com](http://www.hudsonumns.com) and the school email is [humns@windstream.net](mailto:humns@windstream.net). The school phone is 330-650-4091 ext. 106. We are looking forward to another great school year;)

Nursery School Director,  
Lisa VanBuskirk



### FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

**Hudson United Women in Faith** board meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the church. (Please note the date change due to the holiday)** **Mary Martha Circle** will have a planning meeting on **Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. at Lager & Vine.**

Mary Martha meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Questions/Information contact Cheryl Maimona at [ctm2949@roadrunner.com](mailto:ctm2949@roadrunner.com)

**Priscilla Circle** will meet on **Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the church. *Please note the date change.*** A church leader will be available to discuss the letter the church counsel sent out recently regarding the Simplified Accountable Structure (SAS) governance model. **A simple salad meal will be provided.**

Priscilla Circle usually meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Questions/Information contact Ann Ingling at [anningling@gmail.com](mailto:anningling@gmail.com), Marty Hannah at [marty2uin@windstream.net](mailto:marty2uin@windstream.net)

**Books for Breakfast** will meet on **Thursday, September 26, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. at the Hudson Library.** The book for discussion is *The Reading List* by Sara Nisha Adams. Books for Breakfast meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. Questions/Information contact Michelle Novosel at [novandkoz@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

### SAVE THE DATE:

**HUWF – Church World Service Blanket Sunday**  
Hudson United Women in Faith will be offering a Mission Moment for **Church World Service Blanket Sunday on Sunday, November 17, 2024.** Each year our church shows caring and compassion by giving generously to the Church World Service Blanket Sunday Mission project. Watch for more details in the coming months to see how you can participate in this special offering and provide a blessing of God's love



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throughout His world. Questions: contact Cheryl Gamble at [cgamble1114@yahoo.com](mailto:cgamble1114@yahoo.com) or Sandy Bernert at [s1bernert@aol.com](mailto:s1bernert@aol.com)

**Hudson UWF will be hosting its annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 6:00 pm in the Christian Activity Center (CAC).** Be sure to mark this date on your calendar; you do not want to miss a delicious Thanksgiving dinner and wonderful fellowship with one another. Watch for more details coming soon. Questions: contact Cheryl Gamble at [cgamble1114@yahoo.com](mailto:cgamble1114@yahoo.com)



**Hudson Christian Unity Prayer Service: Thursday, January 23, 2025, at St. Mary's Parish.** The theme chosen is "Do You Believe This"? (John 11:26). Watch for more details in the coming months. Questions: contact Cheryl Gamble at [cgamble1114@yahoo.com](mailto:cgamble1114@yahoo.com).

