

The G I F T

GREAT INSPIRATION FOR THOUGHT



HELLO DECEMBER!

It's the most wonderful time of the year.

Make a Wish come True

HUDSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2670 HUDSON AURORA RD



2024 ADVENT TO CHRISTMAS EVE SERMON SERIES

There will no doubt still be turkey in your refrigerator and the focus of the Christian calendar turns to Advent – preparing for the coming of Christ.

As the Advent season begins, you may be feeling the relentlessness of it all. The pressure to make Advent/Christmas feel special. The crunch of finishing up end-of-year paperwork and giving campaigns and cookie baking.

But as the world ramps up activity, the liturgical calendar slows us down.

“Wait”, “Don’t rush”, “Prepare” are words and actions the Church is called to sound as we prepare to greet Jesus in this time of our lives. May this be a time when we sing, light the Advent candles, and hear God’s promises of hope, love, joy, and peace together.

“Come, Let Us Adore Him”

December 1 First Sunday of Advent

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

“Don’t Take Shortcuts”

December 8 Second Sunday of Advent

Mark 1:1-8

“Jesus, Take the Wheel”

December 15 Third Sunday of Advent

John 1:6-8, 19-28

“A New Day Dawns”

December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Hebrews 10:5-10

“Why Bethlehem?”

December 24 Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7

5:30 Family Service with candlelight and carols just the right length to return home for an early bedtime.

8:00 pm Candlelight service with choir and carols

Isaiah 9:2-7 “Love’s Pure Light”

You are invited to be intentional about your family’s faith preparation during this season by attending worship, online or in person.

Great Inspiration for Thought

PAPER TOWELS

for the Hudson Food Pantry

Hudson UMC supports the Hudson Food Pantry by supplying one roll of paper towels every month for 60+ families. The rolls do not need to be individually wrapped.

Items requested at this month:



PAPER TOWELS!!!

**Canned chicken, Canned pasta
(e.g. Chef Boyardee)**

Donations may be dropped off at the church in the gathering area, Upcoming distribution: **Saturday, December 14**

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

CARE AND REPAIR

Ground hogs? Treasure hunt? Look out in the church courtyard and you'll see your Care and Repair donations at work. The trustees had been observing rain water gushing out of our downspouts along the Sunday School wing during rainstorms. Water was pooling under the portico and creating puddles along the foundation. The Trustees investigation found the underground lateral drain collecting four downspouts was collapsed and stormwater blocked. Esterle Construction found this blockage and was hired to replace the lateral to the catch basin in the courtyard lawn. So rumors of gophers and buried treasure did not create the dirt piles in the courtyard. Grass will be planted. Thanks to all who designate donations to Care and Repair to help maintain our 58 year young House of Worship!

Tom King, Trustees Chair

FEED MY SHEEP

December Outreach

**Gently Used Winter Clothing for Men
& Women Blankets, Lotion, Cream, TP
Body Wash for Men and Women**



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, 2 toiletry items 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 330 212-7581
nskralik@gmail.com



Poinsettia Orders

Celebrate the Christmas season by purchasing a Poinsettia to place in the Sanctuary in honor of the birth of Christ. Each 7 1/2 inch double-stemmed potted plant will cost \$18.00 and you may choose either red or white. To dedicate your Poinsettia in memory/honor of someone please fill out the bottom of this insert and place it along with your check in the offering plate or drop it off in the church office. Your name, as well as those honored and remembered, will be featured in the bulletin.

DEADLINE IS December 8 to ensure supply.

Your Name: _____

Your phone number: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Number of RED _____ @ \$18. ea. Total _____

Number of WHITE _____ @ \$18. ea. Total _____
 _____ TOTAL

Make checks payable to Hudson United Methodist Church; and put the word "Poinsettia" in the memo line.

☐ I wish to donate the poinsettias I purchased.

☐ I will pick up my plant after the Christmas Eve service or anytime up to January 5, 2025

PLEASE PLACE YOUR ORDERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY





The sanctuary will be filled with beautiful music this December. Chancel Choir, the Bell Choir, Youth Choir, and our Young Disciples have been learning Advent and Christmas music that is sure to illuminate this season as we honor and celebrate the arrival of our Savior. We will also have two special performances this month; Sounds of the Season and Key of Hope.

*Sounds of the Season
A Handbell Christmas*

*Dec. 7th
Hudson United Methodist
at 3:00*

*Concert is free
but a donation is appreciated.*

Harmony Ringers

KEY^{of} HOPE

LIVE PERFORMANCE by the Key of Hope Choir



All the way from South Africa! Don't miss out!



Saturday, December 21st, 2pm

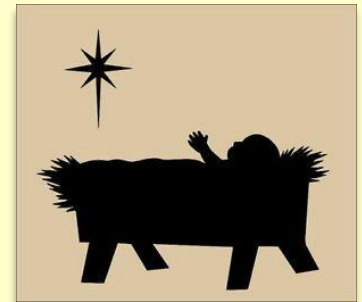
2670 Hudson Aurora Rd. Hudson OH 44236



Great Joy

Before the baby came, the divisions in my friend's family had already begun. The siblings lived separate lives and found they had less and less in common. They had stopped trying to understand each other and had settled for an obligatory family connection. They weren't friends. So, when it came time for decisions to be made regarding the family matriarch's care, of course, they disagreed. The experience was painful and only served to deepen the rifts.

Then into this family was born a child, a new generation...and tides began to turn. There was the excitement and the newness - that sweet face and those tiny hands. But it was more than that. This newborn was theirs to care for, protect, surround, and love. Suddenly, they were a family with a purpose and a call. And they relished their new role together.



The oldest sister told me, "He's like the baby Jesus. He came and changed us." There was a sense of this baby coming not only through them but for them. The transformation in my friend was amazing: from rigid and tough to exuberant and hopeful. I imagined a corresponding change in each of her siblings. The power of God had come down, through a baby, to heal this family.

I always think of them at this time of year and have pondered how God works in the midst of turmoil and unrest to shine a light. Though it may not be as obvious as a host of angels in the sky, the transformational power can be just as great, if we say yes to the invitation and take the necessary journey.

This month, listen to the carols, worship with friends, spend time with your [The Advent Journey](#) calendar, and especially, talk with friends, maybe in Sunday school, about your own "manger" stories. Make these practices contemplative. Then let's celebrate together on Christmas Eve what God can do and has done in our world and in our lives. *I bring you good news of great joy...* (Luke 2:10)

What is **your** great joy this year? Tell.

Christmas Blessings.

Elizabeth

Introducing...

The Advent Journey calendar

An Advent activity for families and friends of all ages, shapes, and sizes.

FIRST, reflect on who you'd like to share this experience with. **THEN**, over the next 24 days, read Scripture, reflect, and discover new ways to put your faith into practice.

Pick up your set of cards at church OR download a copy [HERE](#).



Spiritual Discernment Class scheduled for January.

Led by Guest Spiritual Director Jane Kenneweg-Welch and Elizabeth Goodin

Thursday afternoons

January 9, 16, 30, and February 6 (no class on January 23)

2:00 to 3:30pm

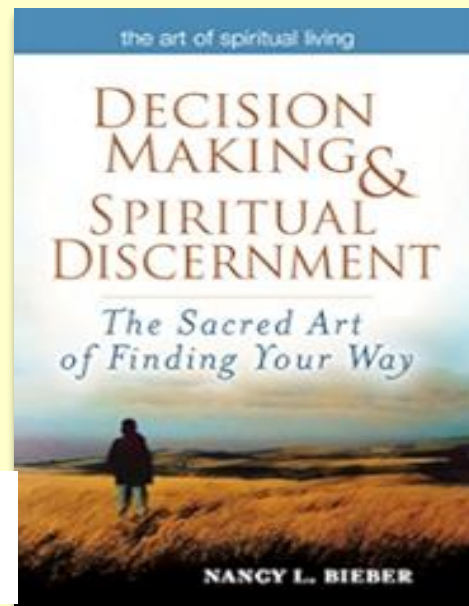
FROM JANE:

Discernment is foremost a gift for our everyday lives . . . God's nudging us to "see with new eyes" the situations around us . . . to see how the Spirit is leading . . . to choose the better ways. Can I grow this skill, develop more understanding and awareness of God's movement in my life? YES!

All are welcome to join us in developing this skill of *seeing God in all things*.

To register for the class, please click [HERE](#).

Click on the image to
view and purchase our
text.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
Gingerbread House
DECORATING PARTY!

Saturday, December 14
3:00-5:00p

Hudson United Methodist Church
CAC (Christian Activities Center)

**** ALL SUPPLIES PROVIDED****
HOT CHOCOLATE, TREATS, PHOTO BOOTH

Please RSVP
to the church office
at **330.650.2650**
OR use our QR code:



Questions? Or to volunteer,
contact Silvia Gudgel at
rabit_foot29@hotmail.com

NEW Adult Sunday school class begins DECEMBER 1.

Considering the Message

Led alternately by Rev. Bruce Hartley and Elizabeth Goodin

Sunday mornings
10:50 to 11:50am

TBD

Designed to process the morning's message, together with friends, through guided discussion.
A time for sharing insights, asking questions, and exploring deeper. DROP-INS WELCOME.





November was quite the month!

We spent time preparing our annual Thanksgiving feast. We talked about being thankful and all the joys of Thanksgiving. We also had our school pictures taken.

I am very excited to announce we did a PJ drive to support local shelters and we collected over 90 pairs of PJs'. A big thanks to all our awesome families for making this happen.

December will be another big month for us. We will be talking about the true meaning of Christmas and getting ready for our big Christmas program. We may also have a special visitor stop by if we are behaving! We are looking forward to sponsoring a few families for Christmas, as well. This is a great learning experience for our children to help those in need.

We do have a few openings in our programs for the 2024-2025 year. Be on the lookout for registration materials for the 2025-20256 school year. We wish everyone a joyous season!

Nursery School Director,
Lisa VanBuskirk



FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

Hudson United Women in Faith board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, December 2, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the church.**

Mary Martha Circle will be participating in the **Open M Christmas for the Love of Children. Please leave your gifts in the church office by Sunday, December 1.** Cheryl Gamble will deliver them to Open M on December 7.

Mary Martha meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Questions/Information contact Cheryl Maimona at

ctm2949@roadrunner.com



Priscilla Circle will meet on **Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Ann Ingling.** There will be a short program followed by fellowship fun. **Please bring a sweet or savory treat to share.**

Priscilla Circle meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Questions/Information contact Ann Ingling at anningling@gmail.com, or Marty Hannah at marty2uin@windstream.net

Books for Breakfast will meet on **Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Kim Wells.** The book for discussion is *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson.

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**Thanksgiving Dinner Thank You!**

The Hudson United Women in Faith would like to thank everyone who attended the Thanksgiving Dinner on Wednesday, November 20, 2024. We had a great attendance with over **75** attendees who enjoyed a delicious turkey and ham dinner with all the trimmings. Thank you to all who contributed a delicious dish to share. It was fantastic to see everyone enjoying the meal and sharing in fellowship with each other and feeling thankful for the many blessings in our lives. We also thank the Hudson Boy Scouts Troop **327** for their assistance with set-up and clean-up.

A very special thank you for your generous donations to the Free Will offering with a total of **\$847**. going toward UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Disaster Relief fund. This monetary donation will help to support UMCOR's U.S. disaster response efforts.

**CWS - Blanket Sunday – Update**

The Hudson United Women in Faith presented their mission outreach in support of Church World Service – Blanket Sunday on November 17, 2024. We can continue to make a difference by providing blankets to families here in the United States and around the World. Each \$10 donated can give a blanket that can provide warmth, shelter, comfort, and hope wherever God's people may need care.

We will be collecting donations for this mission **through Sunday, December 1, 2024**. Thank you for your continued support of Blanket Sunday and the missions of the United Women in Faith.

SAVE THE DATE**CUPS – Christian Unity Prayer Service**

The Hudson Christian Unity Prayer Service will be held on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at St. Mary's Parish. The theme is: "Do You Believe This"? (John 11:26). There will be a luncheon following the worship service. Boxed lunches will be provided by Nosh Catering. Tickets will be required for the luncheon. Tickets are \$20 and will be sold later in December and early January. Watch the bulletins for more details. No ticket is required for the Worship service.

Questions: contact Cheryl Gamble @ cgamble1114@yahoo.com, Marty Hannah @ marty2uin@windstream.net, and Cheryl Maimona @ ctm2949@roadrunner.com