

The GIFT

Great Inspiration for Thought

February 2025



Hudson United Methodist Church
2670 Hudson Aurora Rd
Hudson OH 44236



**“See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.” Isaiah 43:19 NIV**

God is still “doing a new thing – in the world, in and through UMC, in and through Hudson UMC. Some do not deny this “new thing” God is doing, but question, what is God doing and when will God reveal the “new thing?”

Throughout my ministry, I have experienced God’s “new thing.” God is doing a new thing in me, in individuals in congregations I served and in entire congregations. I can also look back and identify small steps that were taken before the “new thing” was made evident.

I have mentioned in recent messages that I sense God is about to make clear how God desires to call Hudson UMC to be the “new thing” Isaiah foretold. I have sensed this for some time, last summer in fact. It was then that as goals were formulated I sensed small steps needed to be in place. What follows are some of the small steps, your leadership developed as goals for 2025. It is healthy to share the following goals so as to lessen any resistance to what we at Hudson UMC are doing to prepare for Gods’ “new thing.”

Following the format, the leadership of East Ohio Conference provided to each local church, these short-term and long-term goals were approved by Church Council and then by Charge Conference on Saturday, November 2, 2024.

Short term Goal #1 (within 1 year)

Build the “Discipleship Team” Identifying areas of ministry enables creation of teams where members can engage their gifts and passions. Once areas are identified and defined, members will be invited to engage.

(Discipleship Pathway Team’s purpose is to create and communicate the discipleship pathway (steps/opportunities for growth) – implementing the culture shift.)

Short term Goal #2 (within 1 year)

Implementation of Simplified Accountable Structure (SAS)

Maturing disciples must be intentional. The SAS model lessens the hurdles to release members to be in ministry. (SAS – some may be more familiar with this structure than others. Members of Church Council have led presentations to offer definition and how the function of Church Council will fold into the SAS model. Our DSs have given Hudson UMC approval to transition into SAS. This is an important step to the “new thing. Progress will be shared in the coming months.)

Long term Goal #1 (achieved in 5 years)

Populating (identifying members to serve on teams) the ministry teams identified in Short Term Goal #1.

Staff/Leaders will collaborate with one another to identify members who have passion/gifts for ministries essential to living in to the mission. Engage in conversations to communicate with the specific ministry we are seeking to fill.

Identifying the areas of ministry enables creation of teams where members can engage their gifts and passions. It is understood we cannot do everything and run in many directions. Once areas are identified and defined, members will be invited to engage.

Long term Goal #2 (achieved in 5 years)

- A. **100% of membership to serve-** in Hudson UMC and/or beyond our walls...to the ends of the earth. (*note: Encourage service as an important means of maturing as a disciple of Christ.*)
- B. **Increase the % of members engaged in small groups** (*note: upon the conclusion of 2024 Elizabeth calculated the % in 2024. FYI – 30% of those who attended worship from September through May participated in a Church School class. 20% of those attending worship in June-August participated in a Church School class. With this data, leaders will set a % to achieve in 2025.*)

What is shared is not the “new thing.” I do believe the next steps noted above will open our hearts to perceive the “new thing” God is calling Hudson UMC to nurture.

Living in Hope,

Rev. Bruce

Update on Church leadership

As Hudson UMC transitions to a different administrative structure (SAS), some adjustments need to be made. These are the current people who will lead:

Church Council Chr. – Paul Brown

Trustees – Tom King

Finance – Steve Hannah

Staff Parish Relations – Len Stusek

Team members on the teams noted will remain in place until the persons who agree to serve on SAS (Simplified Accountable Structure). Church Council’s goal is to make this transition before July 1, 2025.

Your patience and understanding are most appreciated.

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 peaches

Donations may be dropped off at the church in the gathering area
 Upcoming distribution: **Saturday, Feb 22**

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

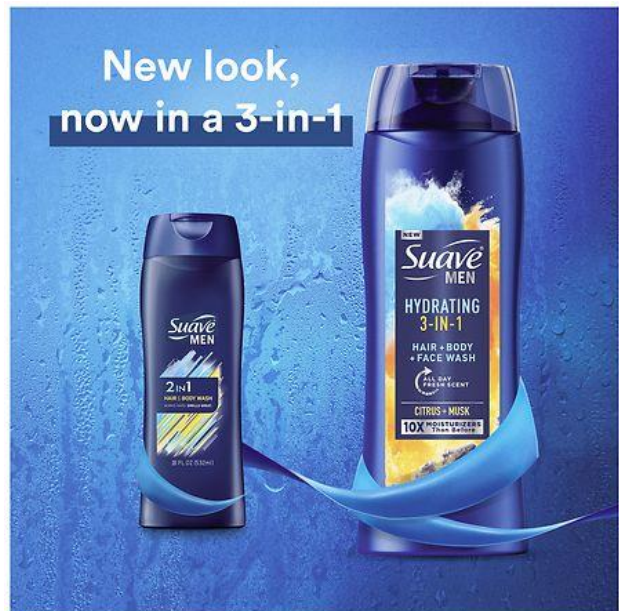


FEED MY SHEEP FEBRUARY OUTREACH **Men's Body Wash and/or '3 in 1', Toothpaste, Gently Used Winter Clothing for Men & Women, Blankets & Lotion**

Feed My Sheep is a church-based hot lunch program Fridays from 11:30p 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. Thank you for supporting Feed My Sheep! Contact: Nancy Kralik 330-212-7581, or nskralik@gmail.com



Family Ministry



What's New?

In this month's article, Rev. Bruce referenced this Scripture passage from Isaiah:

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” Isaiah 43:19 NIV

I love this passage because whenever we read it, it's always true. God is dynamic and *always* doing a new thing. Whatever it may be, we can surely know that it is in the direction away from wilderness and wasteland. A new way is always coming – in us, through us, and around us!

As we begin a new year at Hudson UMC, I encourage each of us to ask what new thing God may be doing in us as individuals along a faith journey and also as a church charged with creating an environment that nurtures faith. What “new” are we being called toward?

Over the past year, we have spoken about our mission to make disciples and our strategy for accomplishing this mission. We have called it the Pathway to Discipleship. I perceive that we're on the right track with this pathway first, because as we have engaged in this pursuit, the way has become more and more clear and second, precisely because it's new.

The change, however, is not so much in what we're doing as it is in the mindset that supports it.

How is it different?

Hudson UMC is moving away from using people to fill its programs and toward using the resources of the church to invest in the spiritual formation of its people. Rather than using people to build the church, we will use the church to build people. We are positioning ourselves as guides who provide opportunities for growth and who develop and deploy people in their own ministries for which they are gifted and feel called. The result of this small shift in thinking, will be a church active in unique ministries that particularly reflect the gifts and passions of its people.

This “way” requires an individual mindset shift as well. Our intent in this new way of doing church is for each member to move away from volunteering to fill a need to intentionally pursuing their own faith journey and actively asking themselves where and how they are being called. From the options available, they may choose their own next step in their journey, be it a class, a small group, or a service opportunity. If an opportunity is not available, then they will be enabled to create one. The Discipleship Pathway is one marked by intention, movement, and individual choice.

For everyone at all points, taking time for discernment will be necessary and important, lest we forget who is ultimately making our way.

If you feel inspired by this movement happening at Hudson UMC, know that your gifts are necessary to bring it to fruition. We are being called as a church to be the church that our people need. What will your role in this be? Please pray and then, in faith, take action.

God Bless,
Elizabeth



REGISTRATION IS OPEN for 2025
East Ohio Summer Camps: Grades 1 through 12
(Early Bird registration through MARCH 15TH)

Theme: *Super Power!*
Key Scripture: *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:4-6)*

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.

This summer, all three camp locations will focus on the theme 'Super Power!' At camp, we will experience the power of the Spirit working within and among us. We'll witness this power through the growth of the Spirit's fruit in our lives and the lives of our friends. Campers will learn to recognize the fruit of the spirit in themselves and others - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control.

Rev. Gary Jones, Director of Camp & Retreat Ministries

For more detailed information, click [HERE](#) (right click - *open hyperlink*) OR pick...

Carrollton, OH

Open House & Summer
Camp Preview
Sunday, May 4
2 to 5p

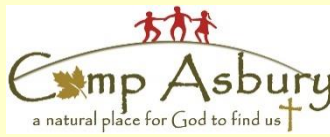
Hiram, OH

Open House & Summer
Camp Preview
Sunday, April 13
2 to 5p

Beach City, OH

Resurrection Egg Hunt
& Summer Camp
Preview
Saturday, April 26

...up a brochure in Elizabeth's office (Rm117).



Highlight & copy
link to watch,
"Why Camp?"

<https://vimeo.com/564127276>



COMING IN MARCH! Watch for details.

A follow-up to Rev. Bruce's January sermon series: *S.H.A.P.E.d for Discipleship*.



S.H.A.P.E.

Six-Week Small Group Study

Day & Evening sessions available

This small group study is designed specifically to take you to that next level of purpose - to reveal how God has designed you and to help you see how that fits the intention for which you were created.



*Attention anyone who has interest or curiosity about handbells. HUMC is having a handbell workshop in our sanctuary on **Saturday, February 1st from 9:30 - 11:30** presented by Christine Allison, director of Harmony Ringers. (The bell choir who performed at HUMC in December). Christine has put together a workshop full of information, exercises for technique and activities for the many facets of ringing handbells. This is the perfect place to start if you wish to learn some basics, and you get to spend the morning with our fabulous handbell choir at HUMC. You are welcome to observe and/or participate at your own level of comfort.*



HUMC Missions Committee Thanks You for Your Generous Giving

The HUMC church family is filled with generous givers which was made evident by the many donations made by our church to organizations throughout 2024. Here is a recap of 2024 donations from you and the important missions you supported through your generous giving:

Alternative Easter Giving
(Chicks & Sheep)

\$781 sent to Heifer International to help support small farms to sustainably address hunger and poverty in their communities. Heifer serves 19 counties around the world

Appalachian Service Project
(ASP)

\$5,500 to ASP to send a team of 7 adults and youth to Harlan, Kentucky, to build relationships and make a home in Appalachia warmer, safer, and dryer. 2024 was our church's 50th year of sending a team to Appalachia! A special thanks to Bill Centrello for leading the ASP charge for the past 2 decades!

OPEN-M in Akron

\$2,445 received in donations for the OPEN-M Mission facility in Akron. Our church provided a monthly lunch to the community where OPEN-M operates and several of you helped to make these monthly grab and go lunches. Church members donated cans of tuna fish every month to be distributed by the OPEN-M food bank. At Christmas you donated cans of Sloppy Joe for Christmas Baskets. Several of you volunteered to help once a month at the "Mountain of Food" distribution at OPEN-M. Thanks to Linda Brown for coordinating this vital mission in Akron.

Feed My Sheep

\$1,700 received in donations with \$775 used to meet the ongoing toilet paper needs of this organization. The balance will be used to continue supplying the weekly toilet paper needs for FMS throughout 2025. In addition to supplying TP, many of you donated items that were distributed by members of this church that volunteer for the monthly distribution. Thanks to Nancy Kralik for coordinating this important mission work.

Habitat for Humanity

\$2,667 received in donations for a Habitat House being built in Akron. HUMC also of Summit County provided labor crews to work on the Habitat house three weekends this past summer. Hat's off to

John Kralik for leading this vital mission that supports critically needed affordable housing.

Christmas Alt.
Giving

\$3,358 received in total Alternative Giving donations this year for 6 organizations that do vital mission and ministry work. Here is a breakdown:

\$1,040 to Grace House in Akron

\$865 to Hudson Food Pantry

\$500 to Akron Food Bank

\$500 to ASP

\$275 to UMCOR (for US Disaster Response)

\$228 to United Methodist Global Ministries for Missionary support

Adding it all together, our church family donated \$16,451 that was used to support vital missions locally and around the world in 2024. Beyond these donations many of you donated your time in service to others. The Mission Committee sincerely appreciates your generous hearts and actions! You've made God smile!

The HUMC Mission Committee



Nursery School



We welcomed everyone back in January from Christmas break. We were so excited to see our friends again after being off! We had a special visit from Summit County Metroparks and they talked to us about animals we see in the winter and how they adapt. It was a great lesson.

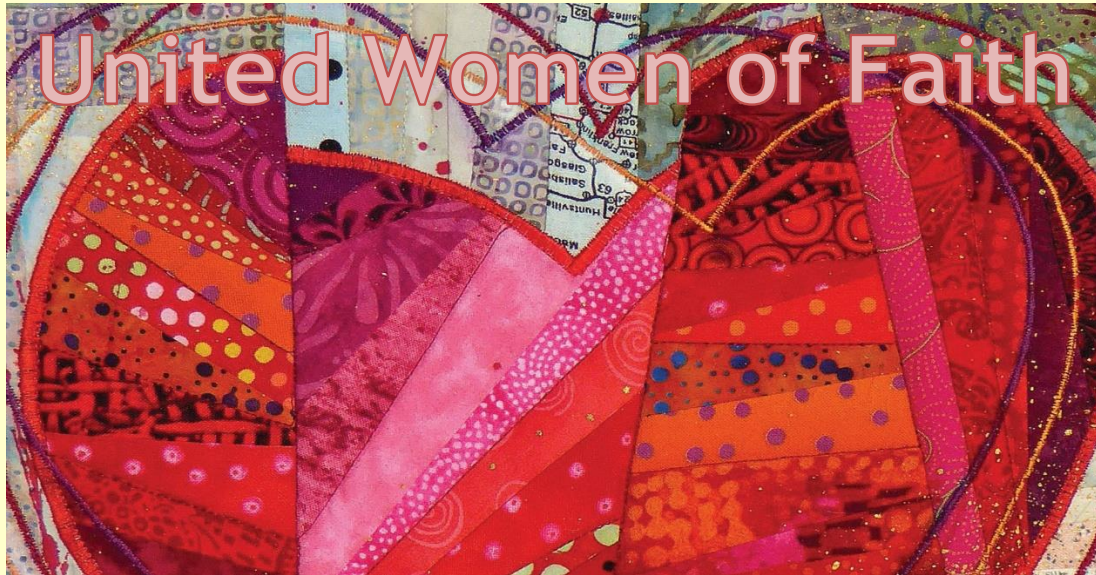
We also had a long, long weekend with the frigid temperatures and school being closed! We will welcome our dad's to school at the end of January, for Dad's Night. February promises to keep us super busy! We will be celebrating Valentine's Day and having a special snack and craft.

We do have The Baby and Me class that is new to the school this year. We had a session that started January 24th. If you know someone who would like to join there is still time to do so. The class is designed for 18 months to 2.5 years old. The class is taught by Mrs. Piel who is our wonderful Toddler Teacher. The class meets on Fridays from 10:00-11:00. Any questions feel free to reach out to Lisa at humns@windstream.net.

We are starting to register for the 2025-2026 school year. The school has openings in our programs for children 2.5-Pre-K. We have registration packets available on the Nursery School board in the lobby of the Church. Registration is open now until February 7th.

We will continue to stay warm while looking forward to warmer days so we can get back out on our wonderful playground.

Nursery School Director,
Lisa VanBuskirk



FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

Hudson United Women in Faith board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 3, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the church.**

Mary Martha Circle will meet on **Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the church.** Elizabeth Goodin, Director of Family Ministries, will present a program on Daily Devotionals. Lunch afterwards at Aladdin's in Hudson.

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

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 6:00 p.m.

Questions/Information contact Ann Ingling at anningling@gmail.com, Marty Hannah marty2uin@windstream.net

Books for Breakfast will meet on **Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Nancy Kralik.** The book for discussion is *In Their Path* by Joan E. Southgate.

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** (formerly Brown Bags) food program which will begin **Sunday, February 23, 2025.**

We will be supporting the **Center of Hope** (Ravenna), and **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, March 9, 2025**. For more information: please contact Sandy Bernert: s1bernert@aol.com or Cheryl Gamble: cgamble1114@yahoo.com

Thank you for supporting this important mission outreach program sponsored by the Hudson United Women in Faith!

Sunday, March 2, 2025 – UWF Pancake Breakfast

Please Join Us!!

The Hudson United Women in Faith will be hosting the Fat Sunday Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser! It will be held **on Sunday, March 2, 2025. Pancakes will be served from 10:30 -11:30 am in the CAC (Christian Activity Center)**. You are welcome to stay and fellowship as long as your time allows. We will be offering pancakes – with all your favorite toppings, sausage, juice, coffee. There will be a Freewill Offering to UMCOR in support of the California Wildfires. HUWF has donated to many mission projects in the past including but not limited to: UMCOR, Flat Rock Homes, HUMC Love Fund, Stewart's Caring Place and Summit County Battered Women's Shelter. 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 ~ available early February.**

Questions contact:

Cheryl Gamble, cgamble1114@yahoo.com or Carol Spinelli, kspinelli55@yahoo.com

2025 UWF Pledge Drive: Accolades to the Women of our Church

United Women in Faith...We seek to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

In 2024, **38** generous women pledged over **\$5800** to our Hudson UWF unit. Through these gifts and fundraising donations, we supported the following organizations: UMCOR Disaster Relief, Flat Rock Homes, Stewart's Caring Place, Open M, Church World Service, Great Trail Council of the Boy Scouts, Mission Barn, Akron Snow Angels, Heart 4 the City, Center of Hope, Hope and Healing Survivor Center and Centenary UMC Emergency Supply Pantry. **Thank you for your wonderful generosity!**

Our **2025 pledge drive is underway**, and checks may be made payable to **Hudson UMC** and mailed to Hudson UMC - Financial Secretary, 2670 Hudson Aurora Road Hudson, OH 44236. Please write **UWF Pledge** in the check memo line. Money raised goes to missions and outreach. Exciting activities are planned for 2025 through our service, circles, and book clubs. Look for dates and information in the G.I.F.T., in the Sunday bulletins and on the UWF bulletin board in the Gathering Area. All women of the church are welcome!!!

SAVE THE DATE:

Hudson 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 27, 2025. The special guest speaker will be Hannah Howell, the Communication and Engagement Coordinator with RAHAB Ministries. RAHAB Ministries provides Christ-centered transformational services to those directly affected by sex trafficking. All women are invited to participate in the worship service as a reader, greeter, usher, or as a member of the Hudson UWF Choir. Watch for more details in future issues of the GIFT and bulletins on how you can participate in the service. If you are interested in being a part of this special Sunday worship service, contact Cheryl Gamble, cgamble1114@yahoo.com or Carol Spinelli, kspinelli55@yahoo.com