

# THE GIFT

March 2025

GREAT INSPIRATION FOR THOUGHT



**HUDSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
2670 HUDSON AURORA RD  
HUDSON OH 44236**

FROM  
THE  
PASTOR



### Secure Our Future Through Your Generosity

In the journey of life, there comes a moment when we reflect on the legacy we wish to leave behind. At Hudson United Methodist Church, we believe that through planned giving, you can create a lasting impact that echoes through generations, nurturing faith, and fostering community.

Planned giving offers a unique opportunity to support Hudson UMC's mission in a meaningful and enduring way. By including the church in your will or estate plans, you ensure that future generations will benefit

from the spiritual guidance, community outreach, and unwavering support that Hudson UMC provides.

### Why Consider Planned Giving?

- **Legacy of Faith:** Your gift will help sustain the spiritual life of the church, allowing us to continue offering worship services, Bible studies, and pastoral care.
- **Community Impact:** Support our various outreach programs that provide assistance to those in need within our community.
- **Enduring Values:** Ensure that the values and teachings of Hudson UMC are preserved and passed on to future generations.

### Ways to Give

There are several ways to include Hudson UMC in your planned giving:

- **Bequests:** Include Hudson UMC in your will or living trust.
- **Charitable Remainder Trusts:** Provide income to your loved ones while supporting the church.
- **Life Insurance:** Name Hudson UMC as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy.
- **Retirement Plans:** Consider naming Hudson UMC as a beneficiary of your retirement plan.

### How to Get Started

We recommend consulting with your financial advisor or estate planner to determine the best way to include Hudson UMC in your planned giving. Additionally, our church office is available to assist you with any questions and provide further information on how your generosity can make a significant difference.

### Join Us in Our Mission

Your planned gift to Hudson UMC is more than a donation; it is a testament to your faith and commitment to our community. Together, we can ensure that Hudson UMC continues to teach others to love God and others for many years to come.

Thank you for considering Hudson United Methodist Church in your planned giving. Your legacy of faith and generosity will help us continue our mission of serving God and our community.

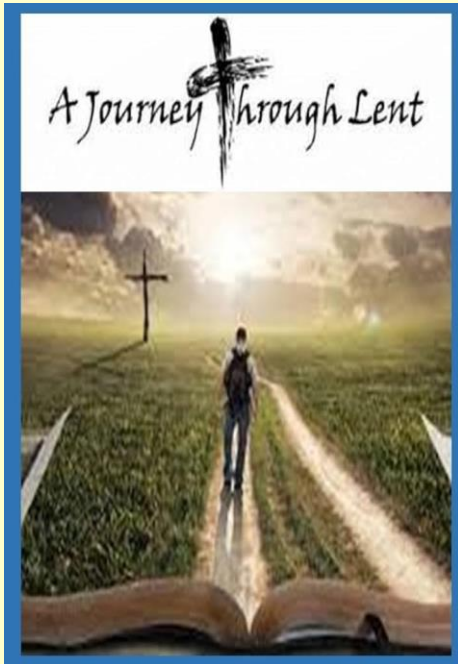
## **“A JOURNEY THROUGH LENT”**

Hudson UMC made a journey to Bethlehem a few months ago. As Disciples of Christ, we now embark on another journey – “A Journey Through Lent.” Throughout the 40 days of Lent, we reflect on our need to restore our relationship with God on Ash Wednesday. Each Sunday during Lent we will take steps toward Jerusalem and the Cross. This is not the end of the journey but a life-altering experience that is completed at the tomb...an empty tomb.

Together we encounter possibly the question of a lifetime, “Does Easter Really Matter?”

### **March 5 – Ash Wednesday - Joel 2:12-17 “Return to Your God” 7:00 pm**

The Ash Wednesday service is one of the most important occasions in the church year. It helps us prepare our hearts for the season of Lent. What unfolds during Lent is the restoration of our relationship with God.



### **March 9 – Genesis 9:8-17 “God’s Love Will Never Fail”**

When God created us, God did a most shocking thing. God gave us the freedom to decide our own destiny. There are implications for this condition. Can you imagine God taking such a risk? God surely knows we might give into our dark sides. Even so, God’s love will never fail.

### **March 16 – Mark 8:31-38 “Giving Our All”**

What does it mean to deny yourself and take up the cross? Denying ourselves and taking up a cross is a choice we make—not something that is forced upon us. It has to do with discipline and hard work. When Christ talked about his followers denying themselves and taking up the cross, he was talking about people who are willing to make more than a token sacrifice.

### **March 23 – John 2:13-22 “Is it Acceptable to Get Angry, it Depends”**

Is there some evil in the world that a voice within you keeps saying, “Somebody ought to do something about that?” Some things should make us angry – when the weak are trampled, when children are abused, when the poor are taken advantage of, and the homeless are neglected. Sometimes the greatest sin we can commit is not getting angry over the right things.

### **March 30 – Ephesians 2:1-10 “You Are God’s Handiwork...Say No More!”**

We are God’s handiwork because of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. New life begins when we understand that we are God’s handiwork – God’s work or art – and that God has a plan for our life. When that happens, we will be on the path to being all God intends for us to be.



**April 6 – Jeremiah 31:31-34 “If Nothing Changes, Nothing Changes”**

Jesus was constantly calling people to engage God through a relationship rather than through religious rituals. He said, essentially, to know me is to know God – to follow me is to follow a new path, and to be in God’s presence, to experience God’s grace is the way to real change.

**April 13 – Palm Sunday Mark 11:1-10 “Donkey Sunday”**

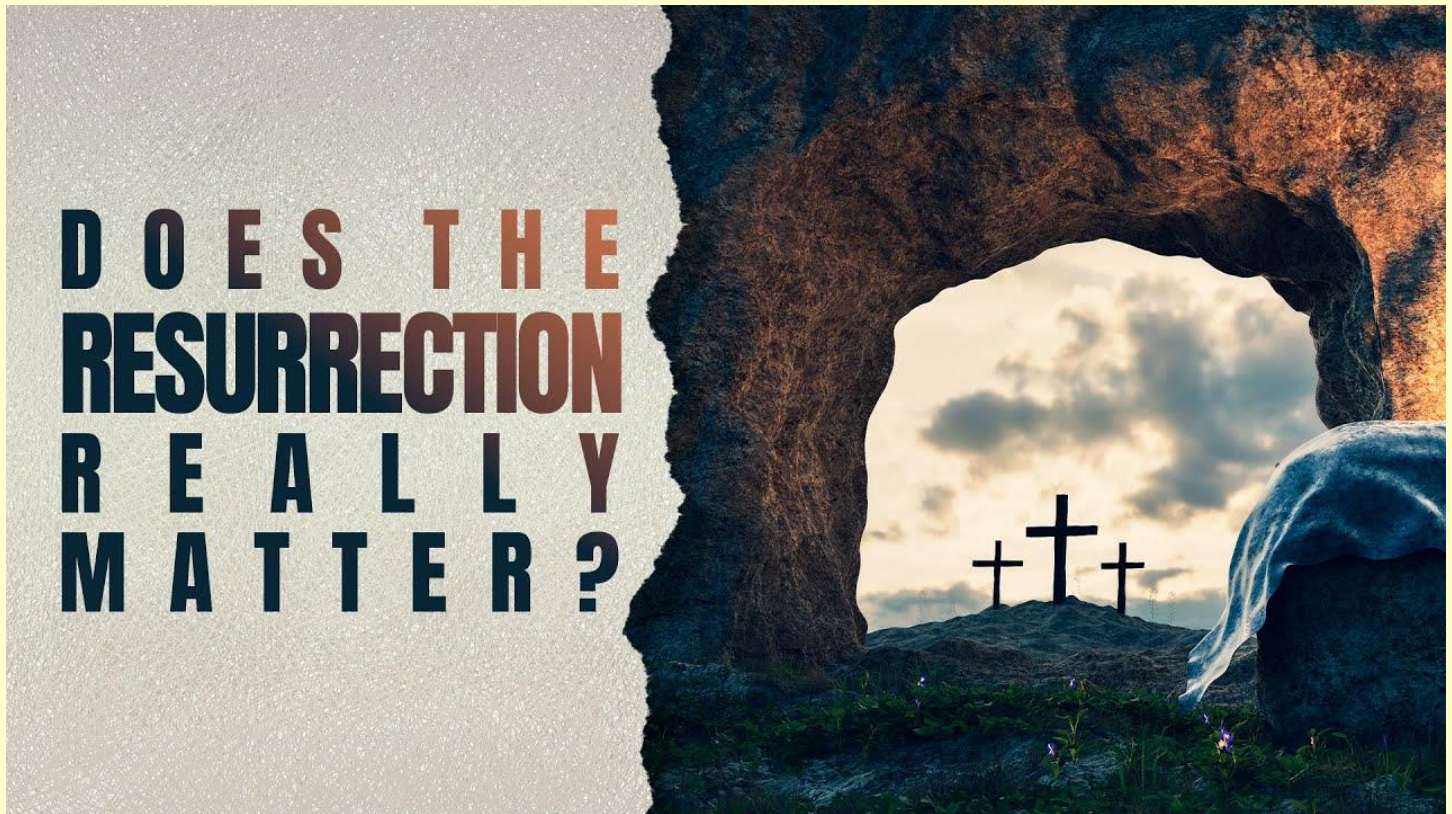
Intelligent, cooperative, noble. That’s the character of the heroic donkey. And also, the qualities of Christians who want to carry Jesus forward in what they think, do, and say.

**April 17 – Maundy Thursday John 13:1-15 “Do We Understand...Yet” 7 pm**

When we come to the table this night, let us come in the spirit of humility. Let us reflect our understanding of what Christ has done for us.

**April 20 – Easter “Does Easter Really Matter?”**

Reaffirming our faith in the resurrection is part of why many of us are here today. We need to be reminded of the power of life over death, of hope over despair, of love over hate, and there is only one place on earth that can be found. That is by peering into an empty tomb of the man from Galilee.



# Great Inspiration for Thought

## ACME PROGRAM ENDED

The Acme Cash Back program has ended for this year and we will no longer be collecting Acme receipts. Thank you all for your help with this mission project!

## 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 fruit**

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

Upcoming distribution: **Saturday, Feb 22** and **Saturday, March 22**

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



## FEED MY SHEEP

**FEBRUARY OUTREACH**  
**Women's Bodywash – Toothpaste,**  
**Shampoo, Lotion – Gently Used**  
**Winter Clothing**



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](mailto:nskralik@gmail.com)





# Family Ministry



## What's Your S.H.A.P.E.?

A couple of years ago, I shared the two images below with a group of Hudson UMC women as I was relating the attempts of a younger me to find a meaningful ministry to pursue.



I knew I liked to cook, so I first tried volunteering to prepare and package meals for other *Meals on Wheels* volunteers to deliver. I did the task, but there was no joy in it for me. It exhausted me, and I soon began to dread those meal prep sessions. As I watched the other dedicated volunteers doing this important work, I wondered if perhaps, unlike them, I was just not a caring enough person.

Fast forward to when my kids began to participate in my church's Vacation Bible School program. I decided to volunteer as a teacher, and in contrast to my previous experience, I found myself energized by this work. I discovered that I loved interacting with the kids. I loved the creative and effective ways I was given to teach them their lessons, and it excited me to think about new ways to make an impact in the classroom. A belief began to grow in me that *this* was how I could make a difference. More than that, this was how I was *made* to make a difference.



This is the way ministry ought to be - not a chore, but a privilege.

In his forward to Erik Rees's book *S.H.A.P.E.: Finding and Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose for Life*, Pastor Rick Warren writes, "God has given every creature he made a special area of expertise to fulfill its purpose...Each has a particular role to play based on the way they were shaped by God."

For those who would like to learn about their particular shape - how their gifts, passions, abilities, personality, and life experiences come together in a unique way to equip them for a special purpose in God's Kingdom, **Hudson UMC is offering two S.H.A.P.E. classes that will take place throughout the season of Lent.** Participation in this class will serve as a first step on the pathway to discipleship and on a journey of self-discovery. SEE BELOW FOR ALL THE DETAILS, AND CLICK ON THE LINK TO SIGN UP.

It's taken many years for me, but I now understand and can embrace what I do well and not feel guilty or diminished about what I am not made to do. There is something YOU can do that no one else can do in quite the same way. At Hudson UMC, we invite you to take the steps to discover what that is, and then in honor, praise, and glory to God, start doing it!

God Bless,

*Elizabeth*

## S.H.A.P.E. Classes

*A 6-session video-based study for small group*

This expedition promises to help each of you begin to understand who God made you to be, so you can discover what God made you to do for him with your life on earth.

*Erik Rees, author of S.H.A.P.E. Finding & Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose for Life and the S.H.A.P.E. Study Guide*



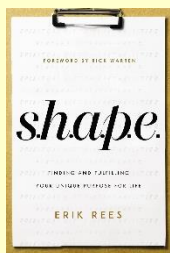
Click [HERE](#) to register for either option.

**Monday Evenings**  
**6:30 - 8:00pm**  
**March 10 - April 14**  
**Prayer Room (Rm 110)**

In-Person with Zoom option  
Led by Rev. Bruce Hartley

**Thursday Afternoons**  
**2:00 - 3:30pm**  
**March 13 - April 17**  
**Prayer Room (Rm 110)**

In-Person with Zoom option  
Led by Elizabeth Goodin



***S.H.A.P.E.: Finding and Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose for Life* by Erik Rees**

(Supplementary reading, recommended but not required)

**Available for borrowing from our lending library.**

***S.H.A.P.E. Study Guide* by Erik Rees**

**Required and available for purchase [HERE](#).**

**To Open Links: Right click and select, “Open Hyperlink”**



*LISTED BELOW are links to a variety of Lenten devotional and spiritual growth resources, both online and in print. Includes a book and a video story at the bottom especially for kids and families to read and experience together!*

**ONLINE: (email subscriptions available)**



[Our Daily Bread Devotionals](#)



[The Upper Room Devotionals](#)

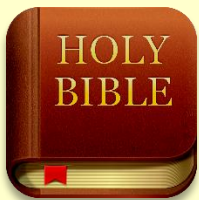
[The Upper Room eCourses](#)

[The Upper Room Sight Psalms](#)

**APPS:**



[d365 Daily Devotionals and App](#)



[YouVersion Bible App](#)

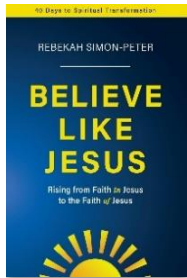


## PODCASTS:

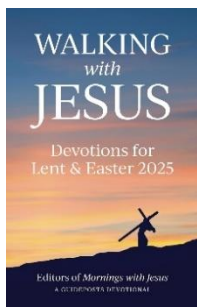


[Podcasts | UMC.org](#)

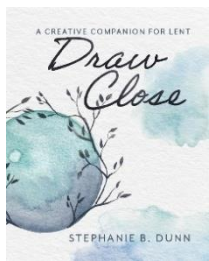
## BOOKS:



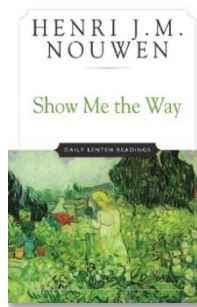
[Believe Like Jesus: Rising From Faith in Jesus to the Faith of Jesus](#)



[Walking with Jesus Devotions for Lent & Easter 2025](#)



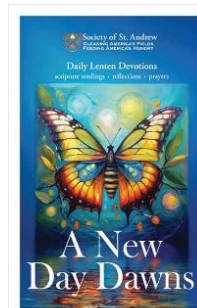
[Draw Close: A Creative Companion for Lent](#)



[Show Me the Way: Daily Lenten Readings](#)

[Show Me the Way: Daily Lenten](#)

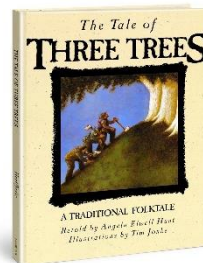
## BOOKLET:



[A New Day Dawns: Daily Lenten Devotions](#)

[A New Day Dawns: Daily Lenten](#)

## FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES:



[The Tale of Three Trees](#)  
[The Tale of Three Trees - Read Aloud](#)

[The Tale of Three Trees](#)



[Walter Wangerin, "Ragman"](#)



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Hudson UMC's Annual  
**EASTER EGG HUNT**  
for children through 5<sup>th</sup> grade

**April 12 at 2:30 pm**  
RAIN OR SHINE

Please register [HERE](#).  
(Right-click & open hyperlink)

by April 9

**Accepting donations** of individually packaged candies and/or small toys.  
Any donations may be placed in the container outside  
Elizabeth Goodin's office (Room 117)

QUESTIONS? Contact Silvia Gudgel ([rabit\\_foot29@hotmail.com](mailto:rabit_foot29@hotmail.com))

# Nursery School



What a *wild* February! We had a great time sharing our Valentine's and talking about the groundhog! We are looking forward to March for we will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day with a special snack and wearing of our **green**.

We had a great February and look forward to hopefully getting outside on our playground real soon. We will have a week off for spring break; March 24-28.

We do have openings for the 2025-2026 school year if you know of anyone who may be looking for preschool. They can either email the school or check out our website at [www.hudsonumns.com](http://www.hudsonumns.com) We hope everyone enjoys the month.

Nursery School Director,  
Lisa VanBuskirk





*Easter Flowers Orders*

We are offering the opportunity to purchase Easter Flowers for the Easter Sunday Altar in Memory or in Honor of loved ones. The Easter Sunday bulletin will list all of those who are being honored. Please make your selections from the list and turn in the form and check in the offering plate or mail them. Your check should be made out to, Hudson United Methodist Church. In the notes: Easter Flowers. **The final date for orders is Sunday, March 30.**

**\* Flowers may be picked up after the Easter Service or during the week. Please note that color choices for tulips and hyacinths cannot be guaranteed based on availability.**

<i>Flower Choice</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Choice</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>x Qty.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Easter Lilies	White Double Stem		\$25.00		
Hydrangeas	Blue, Pink		\$25.00		
*Hyacinths	Blue, Pink		\$12.00		
*Tulips	Red, Pink, Yellow		\$12.00		
Daffodils	Yellow		\$15.00		
Donation Only	No Flowers Requested	Your Dedication Will Be in Bulletin	\$10.00		
<b>Total Due</b>					<b>\$</b>

<i>Given By</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>	<i>In Memory Of/In Honor of</i>



### **FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:**

**Hudson United Women in Faith** board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, March 3, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the church.**

**Mary Martha Circle** will be **volunteering at MedWish in March. Watch your email for the date and time.**

Mary Martha usually meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month.

Questions/Information contact Cheryl Maimona at [ctm2949@roadrunner.com](mailto:ctm2949@roadrunner.com)

**Priscilla Circle** will meet on **Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the church. Sallie Wennerstrom will be the guest speaker with a program about Lakeside. Please bring your own brown bag dinner.**

Priscilla Circle 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, March 27, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Karen Kelly.** The book for discussion is *Brave the Wild River* by Melissa L. Sevigny.

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.

### **MISSIONS:**

#### **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).** We will be offering: delicious pancakes with all your favorite toppings, sausage, juice, and coffee. There will be a Freewill Offering which will support UMCOR in support of the California Wildfires. HUWF has donated to many mission projects in the past including but not limited to: 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.** Questions contact: Cheryl Gamble at [cgamble1114@yahoo.com](mailto:cgamble1114@yahoo.com) or Carol Spinelli at [kspinelli55@yahoo.com](mailto:kspinelli55@yahoo.com)



**“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 began in February. 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: at [s1bernert@aol.com](mailto:s1bernert@aol.com) or Cheryl Gamble: at [cgamble1114@yahoo.com](mailto:cgamble1114@yahoo.com)

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

**Northern Waters District UWF Spring Gathering**

The Northern Waters District Spring Gathering will be hosted by the Chagrin Falls United Women in Faith. **It will be held on Saturday, March 15, 2025. The time has not been confirmed yet.** If you are interested in attending the Spring Gathering, contact Cheryl Gamble at ([cgamble1114@yahoo.com](mailto:cgamble1114@yahoo.com)) or Carol Spinelli at ([kspinelli55@yahoo.com](mailto:kspinelli55@yahoo.com)) **by Monday, March 3.**

**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.** 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](mailto:cgamble1114@yahoo.com) or Carol Spinelli, [kspinelli55@yahoo.com](mailto:kspinelli55@yahoo.com).

