



Hudson United Methodist Church

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December G.I.F.T.

Great Inspiration for Thought

To read online & access links: <https://conta.cc/3XcIVWL>



A message from the Pastor

Advent Sermon Series 2025

“Seeking Jesus, The Advent of Justice and Peace”

The Advent Christmas season conjures up images, sounds, tastes and smells that take us back to simpler, maybe happier times...for some. Others may have different experiences that overshadow the bright lights and fresh baked cookies and candy.

This one God sends, Jesus, knows our struggles, disappointments and isolation. And through him, God presents us with a new beginning - to recommit ourselves to selfless loving, truth-telling, justice-making, repentance, and restoration.

Jesus, the Light of the world, is here with us still, waiting for us to follow him, to love one another as he loves us, to pursue a higher path, and to be fellow lights with him in the work of transforming the world towards God's purposes. Advent 2025 is God's invitation for us to move, with the leading of the Holy Spirit, from the dimness of individual and social sin and disobedience to the Light that can and will save us all.

Worship with Hudson UMC during Advent and Christmas as we “Seek Jesus.”

November 30 – Mark 13:24-37 CEB

Hope Candle “Don’t Fret About When”

We worship a God whose cry for justice confounds our ideas of meritocracy and privilege, a God who is personally invested in the well-being and flourishing of every human being on earth.

December 7 – Mark 1:1-8 NRSV

Peace Candle “Crying Out in The Dark of Wilderness”

What does it look like for you to repent, confess, and be blessed as you wait and prepare for the coming of Christ? What one specific action are you willing to take so you are ready to usher in the world Christ came to bring?

December 14 – John 1:6-8, 19-28 CEB

Joy Candle “Waiting for Something Greater”

John was well known for using his voice to testify and cry out with passion and intensity. His commitment to showing people the way to the Light was boundless.

December 21 – Luke 1:26-38 CEB

Love Candle “Impossible Possibilities”

The Advent season reminds us that—even with all of our planning and forecasting, assessment and analysis, and even all of our praying—God is still in the “impossible possibility” business. How can the season of Advent help us see what is possible and overcome our resistance to them?

Christmas Eve Worship Services at Hudson UMC

5:30 pm “All is calm, all is bright,” well maybe not in your family, but we hope you will share the sights and sounds of Mary, Joseph welcoming the Son of God into the world. Hudson UMC invites your family to this family-oriented service with a brief story, candlelight and carols just the right length to return home for an early bedtime.

8:00 pm “A Wonder-Filled Life” was made possible in Bethlehem when God became flesh. Life was renewed for George Bailey with a bit of help from Clarence Odbody, the wingless angel. God still announces for all to hear that it is still possible to discover a wonder-filled life today.

Music Ministries

“Prepare the Way of the Lord.”

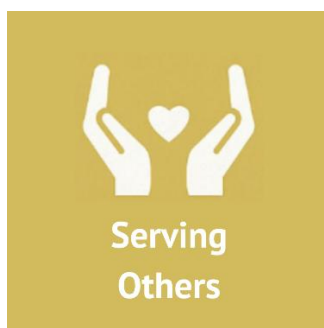
Our music ministries at HUMC are busy preparing for the Advent and Christmas season. The first Sunday in Advent, **November 30th** will begin with a thought-provoking anthem by the Chancel Choir titled, “Will We Know Him?” You will hear a beautiful selection of music throughout December offered by the Bell Choir, Chancel Choir, Youth Choir, Children’s Choir, as well as instrumentalists and vocal soloists.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, **December 14th at 3:00 PM for the Harmony Ringers concert** in the HUMC sanctuary. Harmony Ringers is a semi-professional handbell choir who plays in various locations in Northeast Ohio. This will be their third Christmas Concert at HUMC. This year will be extra special, as our own Shawn Mohr is one of the ringers! You are sure to be filled with the holiday spirit.

God loves and gives, we love God and we give.

On Commitment Sunday, Hudson UMC members brought their pledges to the altar in gratitude to God. We received 48 total pledges cards. Of those: 47 have pledged to the general church ministry fund for a total of \$245,380; 31 have pledged to care & repair for a total of \$32,200.

Hudson UMC is accomplishing much, but there is more of God's work yet to be accomplished in the upcoming year. Your prayerful and financial support given in response to God's love in our lives, will transform the world. If you wish to offer your pledge to the mission and ministry God, fill out the pledge card [LINKED HERE](#) and return it to the church office or place it in the offering plate on Sunday.



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: **Paper towels!!! Canned Great Northern Beans, Canned Kidney Beans, Tea, Vegetable Oil.** Donations may be dropped off at the church in the gathering area. Contact Nancy Kralik, nskralik@gmail.com



Feed My Sheep

Feed My Sheep is a church-based hot lunch program on Fridays from 11:30am to 12:30pm 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 sized toiletries. HUMC also supplies toilet paper, and a roll is offered every week with 130+ carry-out lunches.

Blue collection bins are located in the narthex closet, near the hand bell cabinet. Thank you for supporting Feed My Sheep!

Contact Nancy Kralik, nskralik@gmail.com



Acme Community Cash Back

Hudson UMC is participating in the Acme Community Cash Back Program. Just save your receipts and either place them in the green bin by the pastor's office or email the cash back amount on the bottom to s1berner@aol.com. The money we get back will go toward missions. Thank you!



Mountain of Food

Heart 4 the City's monthly "Mountain of Food" distribution is Thursday, December 4th. Set-up 7:30am; the distribution at 8am. Park on the grass, east of the church: Heart 4 the City, 954 Eastland Ave, Akron, OH 44305. Questions? Contact Tammy Heffernan at 330-322-6952

OPEN M's monthly "Mountain of Food" takes place on Friday December 19th beginning at 7:45am. A Direct Distribution program of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank hosted by OPEN M open to Summit County and beyond. It is a one-day, bulk distribution of foods such as produce, meat, breads and more. For more information or to rsvp for carpool, contact Linda Brown at flashknit@gmail.com.

Future distribution dates: December 19th, January 16th.

Our church will be supplying **200 cans of sloppy joe for OPEN M** families in need. Either purchase the sloppy joe and bring it to church, or you can donate money. Please mark your check "OPEN M Sloppy Joe." Donations are due by December 1.

From Elizabeth Goodin, Director of Family Ministries

contact: familyministries@hudsonumc.com



“What exactly is intergenerational ministry?”

I posted on Facebook that Steve and Marty Hannah, along with myself, recently attended a conference on Intergenerational Ministry. In response to a comment, I defined Intergenerational Ministry as a return to God’s design for the church, where generations are learning from each other and growing *together*.

A book I’m currently reading, [All Ages Becoming: Intergenerational Practice and the Formation of God’s People by Valerie M. Grissom](#) provides a

more extensive and compelling explanation, excerpted below. I wonder if, in this description, some recognize their own faith formation histories. In a funny way, within the past (both ancient, as well as not so long ago!) we might just find the key to the church’s future. What do you think?

Intergenerational Ministry is purposeful, interactive, and inclusive. Intergenerational Ministry values the needs, gifts, and perspectives of each generation.

When people of every age care for one another, share highs and lows, worship, learn, and serve together inside and outside the walls of the church, relationships and ministries across the age span are strengthened, and the presence of the Holy Spirit is undeniably felt.

Living into a vision for becoming a vibrant intergenerational community of faith and the body of Christ includes these practices:

- *Weaving together the views, skills, perspectives, and unique gifts of children, youth, young adults, adults, and elders into the practical everyday life and witness of a Christian faith community and its households.*
- *Nurturing lifelong discipleship where generations equip one another and their households as centers for practicing the Christian faith.*
- *Naming and encouraging the gifts seen in one another in order to grow, shape, mentor, and develop leaders.*
- *Bringing together youth and caring adults in service learning that transforms the relationship, creates shared stories, and fosters a common identity as Christ’s disciples.*
- *Providing opportunities to truly see “the other” by creating an essential web of care across generational divides and distance.*

More to come on our learnings from the 4EG Intergenerational Ministry conference!

Reactions to Praying the Scriptures

We're grateful that a total of 22 people were touched at different times throughout Kathy and Hugo Sandberg's recent 9-week class offering on Jodie Berndt's book, *Praying the Scriptures for your Adult Children*. Below are some of the favorite prayers and comments shared during our last session together:

Lead them by ways they have not known; guide them along unfamiliar paths. Turn their darkness into light, and make the rough places smooth. Do not forsake them. (*Praying Isaiah 42:16*)

When I speak to (my child) about things like money and careers, give me wisdom and faithful instruction. (*Praying Proverbs 31:26*)

Bless all of (my child's) skills; be pleased with the work of her hands. (*Praying Deuteronomy 33:11*)

"I have a whole additional set of questions and prayers with our other child!"

"We all worry about everything, and it is so wonderful to know that many other parents are in the club with us and praying for our most precious lives...our children."

"I am really grateful for learning through our study together that God's plan for our kids is for them to have good and purposeful lives. And that God loves them even more than we do, if that's possible."

Thank you to Kathy and Hugo for sharing the practice of praying the Scriptures with Hudson UMC!

Praying the Scriptures – More to Consider:

The deep interest and success of this class leads us to consider other future possibilities. Jodie Berndt has authored several impactful books in her *Praying the Scriptures* series, helping readers pray scripturally for different stages and areas of life.



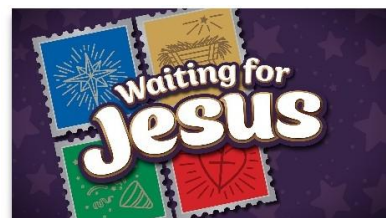
Anyone who feels led to form a group around praying together for children, teens, marriage, or life, is encouraged to talk to Elizabeth for help in getting started.

[See Jodie Berndt's other Praying the Scripture books](#)

Children and Youth Sunday School Advent Series:

Preschool through Grade 5:

Series: *Waiting for Jesus*



November 30 – December 21

In this series, we'll look at Old Testament prophecies about the coming Messiah and how the New Testament passages fulfilled the promises of the long-awaited King. Together, we'll wait for Jesus and invite the kids into the anticipation of Jesus' coming as well!

Grades 6 through 12

Series: *Not Just on Christmas*

December 7 – December 21

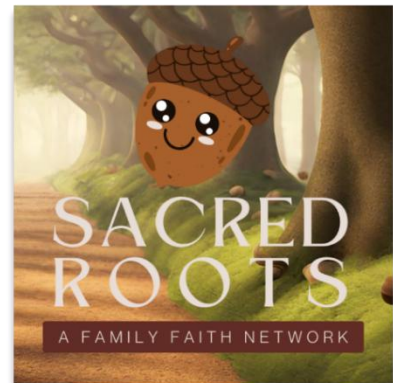
This series introduces students to the Advent season and the things that the people watching and waiting for Jesus found when He came to Earth. While so many think the Christmas story ends with the birth of Jesus, we want students to see that in reality, that is just the beginning of the hope, peace, and joy He brought to the world. These are things we can experience through Jesus not just on Christmas, but throughout the year.



Introducing...*Sacred Roots: A Family Faith Network*

Sacred Roots is a grant-funded, Christian-faith initiative designed to equip parents of young children in their efforts to embed faith and spiritual practices into everyday family life. *Sacred Roots* provides free resources and works to build a community among parents, offering support and networking opportunities.

Parents and Grandparents, look for free *Sacred Roots* resources available on our Sunday school hallway cart.





Nurturing Relationships



All-Church Movie Night at Hudson UMC

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever movie

showing in Hudson UMC's CAC

(Christian Activities Center)

Sunday, December 7, 4:00pm

Pizza dinner, popcorn, and drinks provided.

Click [HERE](#) to RSVP!



Click on the image above to watch the official movie trailer.



Dinners for Eight Continue!

Dinner for Eight is a great way to meet new people at church and to get to know your church family better.

A group of eight people (couples will be kept together) will meet for dinner and fellowship. You do not need to be a couple to join a

Dinner for Eight. A group will be available for everyone to join.

If you're interested in **hosting** a Dinner for Eight in your home in **January/February**, please email Amy Pendergrass at amy.j.pendergrass@gmail.com.

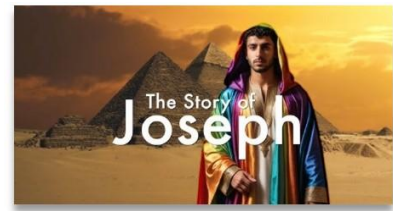
Coming in 2026! Watch for details.

NEW Bible Study

The Story of Joseph

Led by Dave and Marcia Rais

Day/Time to be determined



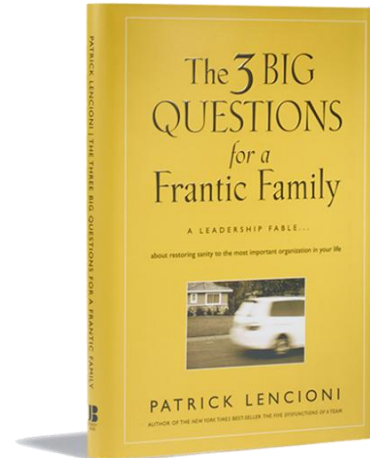
Frantic Family Workshop

Led by Elizabeth Goodin

Based on the book, [The 3 Big Questions for a Frantic Family by Patrick Lencioni](#)

Would you like help in aligning the everyday busyness of your life with what's most important to you? This workshop is for families of all ages and sizes: singles, empty nesters, retired couples, as well as parents with children at home.

Elizabeth will guide participants through a process for gaining clarity on God's unique call for their family and arranging their life to reflect their highest priorities. The workshop will be free and open to the public.



Poinsettia Orders



Celebrate the Christmas season by purchasing a Poinsettia to place in the Sanctuary in honor of the birth of Christ. Each 7 ½ 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 [this form](#) 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 7 to ensure supply.**

United Women in Faith

News from our Hudson Chapter of United Women in Faith

Wanting to be of service, to lighten a load, and to ease suffering are all natural impulses. It is a joy to uplift others through kindness and service. Helpfulness is an expression of love in action. *Taken from Daily Word, Nov/Dec 2025*



United
Women
in Faith

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

It has been an awesome year for our Hudson UWF! Through generous pledges early in 2025, and efforts such as Gifts from the Heart/Brown Bags Project, Blanket Sunday and United Women in Faith Sunday, our coffer is abounding. At our November UWF Board Meeting, mission giving was voted on and approved in the amount of over \$5000. Earlier this year, funds were distributed to UMCOR, Heart 4 the City, Center of Hope and RAHAB totaling over \$3000. Other recipients are listed here. Thank you to our generous congregation for supporting our efforts.

Open M

Stewart's Caring Place

Mission Barn

UMCOR

Flat Rock Homes

Church World Service

Hope and Healing Survivor Resource Center

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

Hudson United Women in Faith board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, December 1, 2025 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 Wednesday, December 3.**

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

Questions/Information contact Cheryl Maimona at ctm2949@roadrunner.com

Priscilla Circle will meet for some Christmas fellowship at the home of Marty Hannah, 34 Hickory Lane, Hudson on **Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**

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, December 18, 2025 at the home of Karen Kelly.**

The book for discussion is *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See.

Books for Breakfast usually 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

CWS - Blanket Sunday – Thank you!

The Hudson United Women in Faith would like to thank everyone who supported Church World Service- Blanket Sunday! Thanks to your generosity, we have raised over \$1100, which will help in providing 110 blankets for those in need. It is more than providing warmth – it's about sharing God's love and letting our neighbors know they are cared for and never alone. Church World Service Blanket Sunday is an annual mission project supported by the Hudson UWF. When difficult times or disasters happen, the kind and loving response of a warm blanket can make all the difference and remind them that they are not alone and that someone cares. Thank you for your continued support of Blanket Sunday and the missions of Hudson United Women in Faith.

Thanksgiving Dinner Thank You

The Hudson United Women in Faith would like to thank everyone who attended the Thanksgiving Dinner on Wednesday, November 19, 2025. We had great attendance with over 88 attendees who enjoyed a delicious turkey and ham dinner with all the trimmings and wonderful fellowship. Thank you to all the volunteers, scouts and all the scrumptious food donations that made this annual Thanksgiving dinner possible. We also thank you for your generous donations to the Free Will offering with a total of \$1,089.00 collected. UWF designated \$839.00 to MedWish and \$250.00 to the church general fund. Happy Thanksgiving to our HUMC Family!

SAVE THE DATE - CHRISTIAN UNITY PRAYER SERVICE (CUPS)

The Christian Unity Prayer Service will be held on Thursday, January 22, 2026 @ 10:00 am at Laurel Lake Retirement Center. The Christian Unity Prayer Service is an ecumenical celebration of the Word of God scheduled in conjunction with the international Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Hudson clergy will lead the congregation in prayer and praise in accordance with this year's theme, "There is one today and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling" Ephesians 4:4. There will be a buffet luncheon provided by Laurel Lake following the Worship service. Tickets will be required for the luncheon. Tickets are \$20 and will be available to purchase on December 14 and 21 and then again on January 4 and 11th, 2026. Watch the bulletins for more details. No ticket is required for the worship service. The prayer service is free and open to all; it does not require a ticket to attend. Questions: contact: Cheryl Gamble – cgamble1114@yahoo.com or Cheryl Maimona – ctm2949@roadrunner.com

From our Nursery School

Dear Church Family,

As we enter December, I'm excited to share some of the wonderful things happening in our preschool. This time of year is full of warmth, connection, and reflection, and our classrooms have been buzzing with creativity and joy. This month, our children are exploring winter themes, seasonal traditions, and the spirit of kindness and giving. We are collecting gifts for a family in need. Our activities encourage curiosity, creativity, and compassion—values that help our little learners grow both socially and emotionally. Their enthusiasm brings so much energy to our building, and it's a joy to see them learn and discover together.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Amy Piel

Simplified Accountable Structure: Update

What's Next?

On November 8, 2025 members of Hudson United Methodist Church gathered for our annual Charge Conference. While several items were handled and approved, the most advertised item was the approval of the "Simplified Accountable Structure" (SAS). Now what? Good question!

The members of HUMC who were approved can be found below along with email contact information. The team (an official name has yet to be identified) is identifying a chair and a meeting day to begin their work of leading the congregation forward. The work of visioning is just beginning.

Meanwhile, if you have any concerns or questions, consider how they might be effectively addressed.

- Informational type questions – initial contact with Rev. Bruce or Elizabeth is suggested. They will explain how ministry programs are functioning in the new structure.
- How can I serve Hudson UMC type inquiries – feel free to check with Rev. Bruce or Elizabeth, review this list of ministries and respective team leaders:
- Missions – Paul Brown hrassetspb@gmail.com

Missions includes Habitat for Humanity, Open M, Feed My Sheep, Helping Hands, Hudson food pantry, periodic mission trips along with ASP (Appalachia Service Project), First Serve Day of Service. Have an idea for another mission effort? Contact Paul.

- Hospitality – is tasked with making intentional efforts to welcome guests and improving first experiences at Hudson UMC. At present, contact Elizabeth Goodin familyministries@hudsonumc.com
- Fellowship – "Building relationships in small groups" outdoor activities (biking, hiking) "Dinners for 8" "Empty Nest" gatherings, etc. contact Bob Kinsey Rakinsey7723@gmail.com or Amy Pendergrass amy.j.pendergrass@gmail.com

Have other ideas for ministry and mission? Share it and we can help it happen.

God is doing a “new thing” at Hudson UMC and may be calling you to help the “new thing” and reality. Watch for further communication about not only the new structure, but also the ministry opportunities.

Hudson UMC leaders include:

Three Year Class:

David Heater daveheater@gmail.com

Cheryl Maimona ctm2949@roadrunner.com

Kevin Mohr kmohr4665@gmail.com

Two Year Class:

Wally Helmer wallyhelmer@gmail.com

David Aebi aebida@gmail.com

Pat Rego theregos621@gmail.com

One Year Class:

Linda Schmeichel lvs329@aol.com

Tom King kings7565@gmail.com