



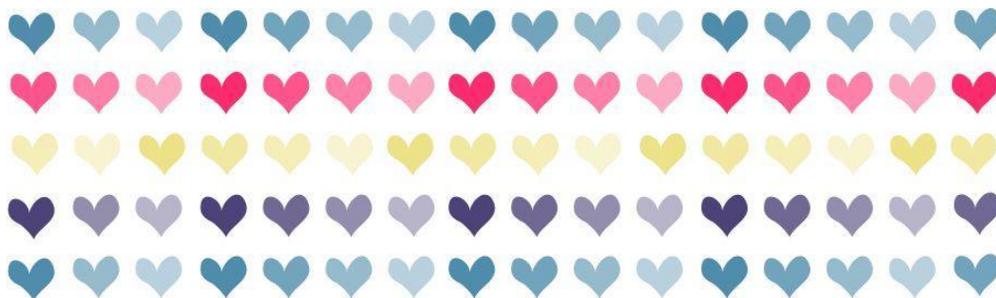
Hudson United Methodist Church

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February G.I.F.T.

Great Inspiration for Thought

To view online and access links: <https://conta.cc/3NxpK21>



A message from the Pastor

Thoughts Along the Way...

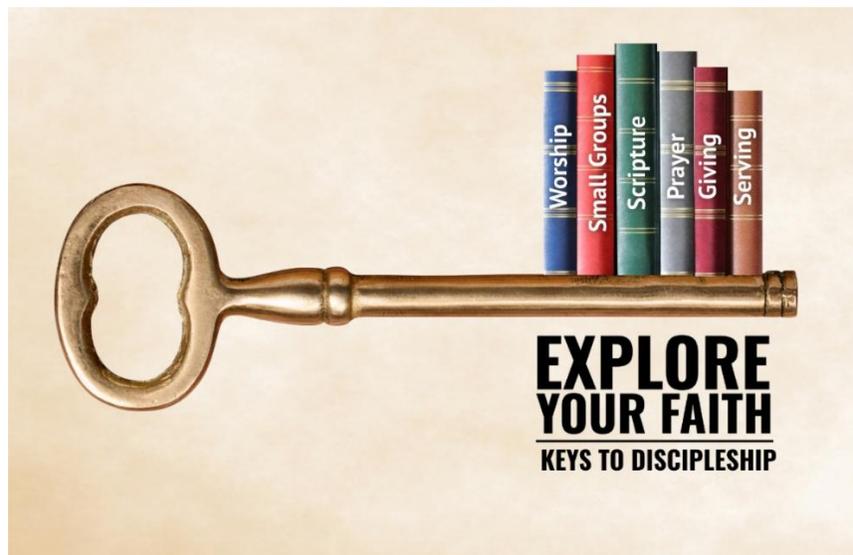
One of my favorite ways to pass time is reading to our grandchildren. Recently, I was doing just that when I turned the page so that the story would continue. When I continued to read the story, my audience grumbled, “Grandpa, you skipped a page!” Indeed, I had in my exuberance to discover how the story ends. So, I flipped one page back and admit the story made more sense. “Now we are on the right page!” came an exasperated listener.

Our daily living is full of moments when it is beneficial to “be on the same page,” in a relationship, at work with co-workers or the boss, with staff at church. I find it a healthy use of time to touch base with Sandy Simpson, our Music Director, especially at Easter and Christmas Eve to make doubly sure we are “singing from the same hymnal” in other words, “being on the same page.” I suspect many reading this article can relate with great frustration when you and another person are not on the same page.

Elizabeth Goodin, Director of Family Ministries, and I have been intentionally working to study from the same book and seek direction from the same page, in other words to seek a common understanding. We know the benefit of synthesizing what we hear into a clear picture of goals and challenges. In turn we have further conversations with others in the congregation to share a picture and to clarify challenges and goals.

The thoughts expressed above reveal what is unfolding in the coming weeks at our church; “being on the same page.” Together we will define our “why” and our common understanding of maturing as a Disciple of Christ. One part of this effort is a sermon series clarifying the keys to discipleship, obviously this is during worship. Because this understanding is so important, all will be invited to gather in the CAC to hear an expanded presentation and ask questions. Adult classes have graciously deferred their class time for the benefit of the mission of Hudson UMC.

This is a pivotal moment at Hudson UMC to “be on the same page.” Together we will have an opportunity to hear a common understanding of how to mature as a follower of Jesus Christ. This understanding will be reinforced within this Body of Christ each week, month, and year. When visitors and new members come into our midst, they will hear the same message, so we are reading from the same book and the same page. We are part of the unfolding story of God’s redemptive activity. Let’s seek to understand better who God calls us to be.



Join Hudson UMC for:

“The Keys to Discipleship”

February 1 – prelude to discipleship Matthew 28:16-20 (communion)

February 8 – prelude continued Joshua 6:1-8

February 15 - Keys to Discipleship: Worship & Scripture - Hebrews 10:19-25 with gathering in CAC to follow worship.

February 22 - Keys to Discipleship: Small Group – Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 with gathering in CAC to follow worship.

March 1 - Keys to Discipleship: Prayer – 1 Timothy 2:1-8 (communion) with gathering in CAC to follow worship.

March 8 - Keys to Discipleship: Giving & Serving – Luke 22:7-38 with gathering in CAC to follow worship.



Serving
Others



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

Gently Used Winter Clothing for Men & Women, Coats, Boots, Hats, Gloves & Blankets, Small Household Items

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.

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



Acme Community Cash Back

The Acme Cash Back program will be ending this month. You still have until Feb 22 to turn your receipts in! You can either put them in the green bin by the pastor's office or email the cash back amount to s1bernert@aol.com. Thank you for supporting missions!



Mountain of Food

OPEN M's monthly "Mountain of Food" takes place on **Friday February 20th 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: February 20, March 20, April 17.

From Elizabeth Goodin, Director of Family Ministries

contact: familyministries@hudsonumc.com



Hudson UMC is getting Messy!

***Messy Church* soft launch on Sunday, April 19, 2026 (Note date change)**



What is Messy Church?

When looking at the Messy Church logo, grown-up individuals might understandably presume that it is a children's program and therefore has nothing to do with them. That would be inaccurate.

Messy Church is an alternative way of being church that includes all ages together. It is part of an international movement that incorporates all the elements of church into a format that is non-traditional, inclusive, relational, grace-filled, Spirit-led, joyful, creative, and imperfect. It is designed to imitate life. We come together in the messiness of our lives, and we make a mess. The unexpected part is that in all that "mess" we discover and connect with a God who is right there with us and has been all along. Yes, it's play, and yes, it's church.

What does a Messy Church session look like? We come together around a Biblical theme. We take part in a series of activities designed to engage us with the theme at various levels. Some activities are active and fun; some are creative and hands-on; some are quiet and contemplative; some may be service-oriented. All are interactive. We then celebrate the message we've encountered through song, storytelling, and prayer. Finally, we gather for a meal, conversation, and fellowship. After what has been a one-and-a-half to two-hour all-inclusive experience, we leave newly inspired. To see and learn more about Messy Church, [CLICK BELOW](#).

We offer Messy Church as an alternative way to experience church. For some in our surrounding community, it may be their only experience of church. So, we take it seriously.

How can you help? Come and experience it firsthand when we worship exclusively in a "messy" way on the morning of Sunday, April 19, 2026. Join the Messy Church Ministry

Team to help plan this and more upcoming Messy Church sessions (contact Elizabeth). Volunteer to help with any aspect of a Messy Church session: at the Welcome Table, with craft preparation, as an activity leader, a song leader, a storyteller, in the kitchen, or with set-up/clean-up. Tell others about it. Invite friends.

God speaks to us through many avenues. In our mission to make disciples, Hudson UMC is creating a safe, “messy” space for those who are being called to meet God there. Maybe it’s someone you know. Maybe it’s you.



God Bless,

Elizabeth

We're starting again!



Join a dedicated group of Hudson UMC friends challenged with **reading the Bible together in two years** using the chronological [*Bible Study Together*](#) reading plan.

From the *Bible Study Together* website: This plan interweaves the New Testament and Old Testament together in a single tapestry so that Old Testament stories, psalms, and prophecies connect as much as possible to New Testament teaching without losing their original context. So, when you are reading in James about Abraham offering Isaac on the altar, you are also reading this account in Genesis. Likewise, when you are reading about the Day of Atonement in Leviticus, you are also reading in Hebrews about Jesus being the fulfillment of this sacrifice.



The *Bible Study Together* plan also has an app associated with it that contains daily study questions and resources, and that allows a group to interact together online as they read. A favorite aspect of the plan is its connection to *The Bible Project*, which offers its short, animated educational videos directly through the app, designed to help people understand the Bible clearly and thoughtfully.

A new *Bible Study Together* reading group will begin on February 1, 2026. Sign up [HERE](#) to indicate your interest in taking part in this two-year Bible reading challenge. Elizabeth will contact those who sign up with details on getting started. **CLICK BELOW** to watch a video that describes more about how this plan works.



Upcoming Children and Youth Sunday School Series:

Preschool through Grade 5:

February 1: Final lesson in Hanging Out With Jesus series

Series: *Now That's a Miracle!*



February 8 – March 1

Everywhere Jesus walked, people were changed. In this series, kids will encounter a Jesus who is fully loving yet unfathomably powerful, a Jesus whose words command nature to obey and whose compassion for the hungry crowds compels Him to do the impossible. Kids will hear about Jesus healing a man who was blind, and strolling across storm tossed waters. In this series, kids will encounter a miracle-working Jesus who sees them, loves them, and will stop at nothing to be with them.

Grades 6 through 12:

February 1: Final lesson in First Things First series: Loving Others

February 8: A special lesson talking about Anxiety



This message in our Let's Talk About collection is about how Jesus addresses our anxiety and worry. As middle schoolers, anxiety is a very real part of their lives. Whether they're facing small anxiety that comes and goes or waves of anxiety on a constant basis, this conversation will show them that not only does God provide us tools to help us manage anxiety, but more than that, God promises to be present with us as we walk through it.

February 15 – March 8:

Students will participate in the *6 Keys to Discipleship* all-church groups.

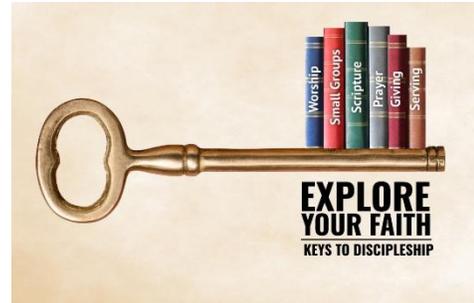
ANNOUNCING:

The Keys to Discipleship: All-Church Sunday School Hour Gatherings

February 15 through March 8

10:50 – 11:50a

Four all-church gatherings are planned for the Sunday school hour to accompany Rev. Bruce Hartley's sermon series on the Six Keys to Discipleship. These gatherings will serve to provide further guidance on opportunities and pathways within Hudson UMC that support individual growth as a disciple in each of the six key areas. Learn which keys are most important for you in your own spiritual journey and how you may take part in this discipleship movement that is becoming a way of life among the growing disciples at Hudson UMC.



We hope ALL members and friends of Hudson UMC will join in these gatherings that, as Rev. Bruce has expressed, are aimed to bring everyone “on the same page” in their understanding of discipleship and a shared pathway of spiritual formation.

As we move forward beyond this season, we will encourage all newcomers to attend a newly developed and regularly offered class that will offer comparable information and serve as a starting point as they enter alongside others on their own faith journeys with Hudson UMC.

Topics:

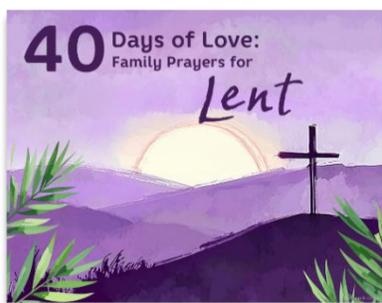
February 15 Worship & Scripture

February 22 Small Groups

March 1 Prayer

March 8 Giving & Serving

Family Prayers for Lent



During Lent we remember Jesus and God's great love. We take special time to think about why we need Jesus, and we remember the sacrifice Jesus lovingly made when he died on a cross.

Here are **40 simple prayers** to help your family think about God's love during this season of Lent. Pray a prayer together each day leading up to Easter. Each prayer is based on a verse from the Bible. Sometimes you'll simply pray the words in the verse. Other times, your prayer will help you understand and apply the words of the verse to your everyday lives. May this daily practice help your family grow in faith, love, and gratitude as you walk together through Lent toward Easter morning.

CLICK BELOW to download this resource.

[Download Lent Prayer Calendar](#)

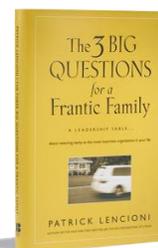
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Frantic Family Workshop is coming on Saturday, February 28th, 2026

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 life and family and arranging their stage of life to reflect their highest priorities. The workshop is free and open to the public.





Nurturing Relationships



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 **February/March**, please email Amy Pendergrass at amy.j.pendergrass@gmail.com.



United Women in Faith

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

Hudson United Women in Faith board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 2, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at the church. Bring your own brown bag dinner to enjoy.** (Please note the time change).

Mary Martha Circle will meet on **Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the church.**

Candace Gage, Managing Attorney for Immigration Legal Services at the International Institute of Akron, will be the speaker. *The congregation is invited to attend.*

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, February 11, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Laurel Lake in the Hub meeting room. (Enter through the main entrance and someone will be there to direct you).** Program TBD.

Please bring your own brown bag dinner and drink. Edie Taylor will provide a sweet treat.

Priscilla Circle usually 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 26, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. at the Hudson Library.** The book for discussion is *The Art Thief* by Michael Finkel.

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** (formally Brown Bags) food program which will begin **Sunday, February 15, 2026**.

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**. To make a donation by check, please make your check payable to Hudson UMC with “Gifts from the Heart” noted in the memo. **The deadline is Sunday, March 1, 2026**. For more information: please contact Sandy Bernert: s1bernert@aol.com or Carol Spinelli: kspinelli55@yahoo.com.

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

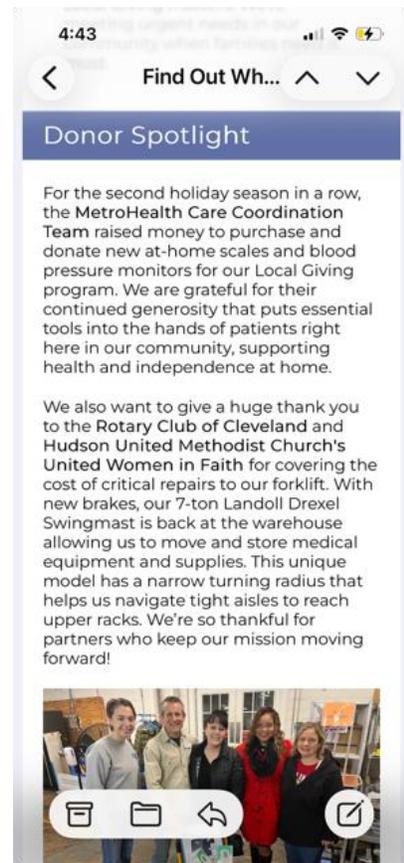
UWF THANKSGIVING DINNER - FREE-WILL OFFERING - UPDATE

The United Women in Faith would like to again thank everyone who attended and contributed to the Thanksgiving Dinner Free-Will Offering. UWF had publicized that the offering would be sent to MedWish and that has taken place. The money has assisted with helping to defray costs to repair their tow motor/forklift, which is critical to storing and pulling items from their warehouse for shipment. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by the UWF and especially the staff of MedWish MedWorks.

Please see the article below that was in their latest newsletter.

“For the second holiday season in a row, the MetroHealth Care Coordination Team raised money to purchase and donate new at-home scales and blood pressure monitors for our Local Giving program. We are grateful for their continued generosity that puts essential tools into the hands of patients right here in our community, supporting health and independence at home.

We also want to give a huge thank you to the Rotary Club of Cleveland and Hudson United Methodist Church’s United Women in Faith for covering the cost of critical repairs to our forklift. With new breaks, our 7-ton Landoll Drexes Swingmast is back at the warehouse allowing us to move and store medical equipment and supplies. This unique model has a narrow turning radius that helps us navigate tight aisles to reach upper racks. We’re so thankful for partners who keep our mission moving forward!”



FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

2026 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 2025, **36** generous women pledged over **\$5000** to our Hudson UWF unit. Through these gifts, we supported the following organizations: UMCOR Disaster Relief, Med Wish, Hope and Healing Survivor Resource Center, Flat Rock Homes, Stewart's Caring Place, Open M, Church World Service, Mission Barn, the Great Trails Council of the Scouts, and Kids Capes for Courage. With additional fundraising throughout 2025, our mission giving totaled over \$10,000. **Thank you for your wonderful generosity!**

Our **2026 pledge drive is underway**, and checks can be made payable to **Hudson UMC** and mailed to our Hudson UMC Financial Secretary, 2670 Hudson-Aurora Road, Hudson, OH 44236. Please write UWF Pledge in the check memo line. If you prefer to give online, visit the church website (hudsonumc.com) and pull down the GIVE tab to proceed. Money raised goes to missions and outreach. Exciting activities are planned for 2026 through our service, circles, and book clubs. Look for dates and information in the G.I.F.T. newsletter, in Sunday bulletins and on the UWF bulletin board in the Gathering Area. Join us. **All women of the church are welcome!!!**

SAVE THE DATE:

PANCAKE BREAKFAST MARCH 15, 2026

The United Women of Faith will be hosting the annual Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on Sunday, March 15, 2026, from 10:30 am -12:30 pm in the CAC (Christian Activity Center). Treat yourself to a delicious breakfast of pancakes, lots of yummy toppings, sausage, juice, coffee, and tea. (Gluten free pancakes available on request.). We will do the dishes!

Freewill Offering will be available to support one of the UWF's Mission Projects.

Questions? Please contact Marcia Rais (MLTORCH@HOTMAIL.COM) or Debbie King (KINGS7565@GMAIL.COM).

The ASP Silent Auction will be set up in the CAC as well that day. This year, the auction is a one-day event. So, plan to bid on whatever items you are interested in purchasing on March 15th.

UWF Sunday – Sunday, April 12, 2026

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 12, 2026. The special guest speaker will be Rev. Joy Fenton Jones. 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 Marcia Rais, mltorch@hotmail.com.

Appalachia Service Project (ASP)

Appalachia Service Project (ASP) – Volunteers Needed

Make homes warmer, safer, and drier while building life-changing relationships for our volunteers and the families we serve. Join our ASP mission trip June 7–13.

- Who can volunteer: Youth ages 14+ who have completed 8th grade, and all adults
- Interested or have questions? Contact:
- Colleen Padgett: crpadgett@msn.com
- Paul Brown: hassetspb@gmail.com



ASP Silent Auction – Back by Popular Demand, Mark Your Calendars for 3/15.

Help us offset trip costs (about \$670 per participant for fees, vans, gas, and incidentals) through donations and fundraising.

- Auction date: Sunday, March 15 (during the UWF Pancake Breakfast)
- Preview items: Sunday, March 8
- Bid while you enjoy breakfast; final bidding/auction will close on March 15
- Partnering with UWF to support their many mission efforts and the ASP trip

We're seeking donations from individuals and church groups. Ideas include:

- Theme baskets (no alcohol)
- Restaurant gift cards
- Theater, concert or sports tickets
- Homemade meals, desserts, or handcrafted items
- Service hours (yard work, mowing, weeding, airport shuttle)
- Weekend/week-long getaway
- Family photo shoot
- Get creative—have fun!

Key Dates:

- Pledge your item by: February 15, 2026
- Pickup/drop-off at church before/by: March 1

To donate or learn more:

- Contact Colleen Padgett: crpadgett@msn.com or 330-701-8569
- Contact Paul Brown: hassetspb@gmail.com 330-687-2090

Thank you for supporting a vital mission HUMC has served for over 50 years.

— HUMC Missions Committee (Linda Arnold, Sandy Bernert, Linda Brown, Paul Brown, Marty Hannah, Nancy Kralik, Colleen Padgett)