



Hudson United Methodist Church

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April G.I.F.T.

Great Inspiration for Thought

View online and access links: <https://conta.cc/4lDHvjh>



A message from the Pastor

March 29 – Palm Sunday begins the Holy Week journey to Jerusalem. Now technically, the liturgical calendar says Holy Week begins on Monday, not Palm/Passion Sunday. This is a day for joy but not joy in the resurrection. Palm Sunday is a day for joy in the promise of salvation. As we journey with Jesus to the cross—the journey then and the journey now—we find our joy in the promise of salvation, a promise that will not fail.

Psalm 118:1-2,19-29 “Gates of Righteousness”

April 2 – Maundy Thursday “worship” will include participatory prayer experiences where those who gather will live into the story of Jesus’ final hours. One element of is a “washing station” no feet, just hands. The gathering will serve each other the meal of

deliverance, Holy Communion. In our hearts the “Garden of Gethsemane,” a weighty moment in Jesus’ life will be our moment too. The worship experience concludes with the “Trial of Jesus.” This is a time to reflect on Jesus’ suffering while confessing sins.

The purpose of each experience is to make the story of Jesus personal.

The Maundy Thursday experience is April 2 from 7:00-8:00pm

April 3 – Good Friday services available in Hudson

First Congregational Church – 7:00pm

47 Aurora Street, Hudson

Christ Church Episcopal – 5:00 family & 7:00pm

21 Aurora Street, Hudson

St. Mary Catholic Church – 3:00 Passion Liturgy 8:00pm Living Stations of the Cross

340 N. Main St., Hudson

Christ Community Chapel - 6:00pm & 7:30pm

750 W. Streetsboro St., Hudson

April 5 – Easter - a new start for Christ-followers who journey together in grace. Our worship throughout Lent is a prelude to in the life of the disciples to the cross and to the empty tomb which is the turning point in our journey that defines our trajectory, redirects our priorities and realigns our love for God and neighbor.

Let the Body of Christ celebrate the resurrection with the scent of Easter flowers, the sounds of brass and choirs and the Good News binds us together as we embrace not so such an event, but a lifestyle that reflects resurrection hope.

Worship is at 9:30am



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: PAPER TOWELS !!!**

Canned Salmon, Canned Refried Beans. Donations may be dropped off at the church in the gathering area. Upcoming distributions: **Saturday, April 25. THANK YOU!** Nancy Kralik nskralik@gmail.com 330-212-7581



Feed My Sheep

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

open on Fridays.

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

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



Mountain of Food

OPEN M's monthly "Mountain of Food" takes place on **Friday April 17th 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: April 17, May 15, June 19.

From Elizabeth Goodin, Director of Family Ministries

contact: familyministries@hudsonumc.com



What Are You Becoming? Part 2

At Hudson UMC, our intention, and our mission, is *to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*. Our strategy is to create environments where members and friends will grow spiritually through attendance at worship, reading and reflecting on Scripture, participating in small groups, praying daily, giving to support the church's ministry, and serving the church and community.

The Discipleship Pathway Ministry Team has identified the intentional practices above as the *6 Keys to Discipleship*. Together, they form the basis for how we at Hudson UMC encourage, equip, and walk alongside one another in a lifelong journey of growing to become more like Jesus. On March 1 and 8, Rev. Bruce completed his sermon series on the *6 Keys* with messages on prayer, giving, and serving. Each was paired with related post-worship presentations.

At the **March 1** presentation, I described prayer as a simple conversation that deepens our relationship with God—one that grows through honesty, consistency, and a spirit of openness and surrender. An essential part of prayer is listening for ways that God might be nudging us toward a new perspective, attitude, or behavior that aligns more closely with God's will. Expectant prayer sends us into action, calling us to participate more fully in God's work in the world.

On **March 8**, we learned that **giving and serving** were central expressions of who Jesus was. If discipleship means following Jesus, then giving and serving are not optional but central pathways of formation. When we give, we release the grip of fear and scarcity and learn to trust in God as our true source—above our possessions, our schedules, or

our status. In the same way, serving challenges our natural instinct to put ourselves first, as we shift our attention to the needs around us. Choosing to be generous with our money, time, and energy creates an opportunity for heart transformation. As we give and serve, we discover that we are the ones being shaped – from self-centered to Christ-centered.

Though all disciples share the call to follow Christ, God molds each of us differently, empowering us to fulfill God's purposes in our own unique way. When our gifts, passions, personality, and life experiences align, service becomes sustainable and fulfilling, and giving becomes an act of joy rather than obligation

Ultimately, discipleship grows through regular, faithful steps. The *6 Keys to Discipleship* serve as pathways that shape who and what we are becoming. As we gather in worship, listen to God through Scripture, walk alongside others in community, pray with honesty, give with generosity, and serve with humility, we make space for God to transform us from the inside out. This is how faith moves from something we believe to something we live.

God Bless,

Elizabeth

Announcing... a NEW study on the Holy Spirit,

Led by Dave and Marcia Rais

Thursdays, beginning on April 9

1:30pm, Room 115

Zoom option available

This study is based on the book, *Help Is Here: Finding Fresh Strength and Purpose in the Power of the Holy Spirit* by Max Lucado.

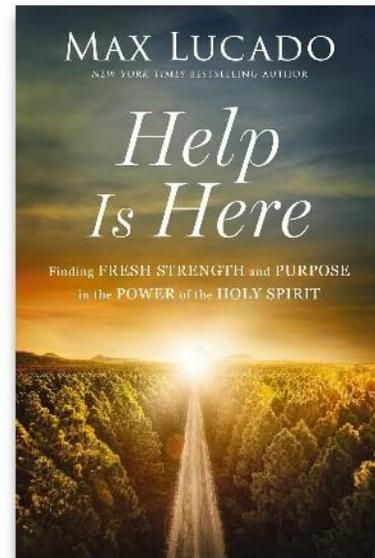
In a world full of challenges and unanswered questions, Pastor and bestselling author Max Lucado shows how the Holy Spirit can bring fresh strength, joy, and purpose.

In *Help Is Here*, you'll learn to:

- Know who the Spirit is and how He helps.
- Draw closer to God with joy and confidence.
- Face life's difficulties with Spirit-led power.
- Discover your unique gifts and purpose for God's kingdom.

God doesn't just feed or correct us—He guides. Through the Holy Spirit, we can navigate life's twists and turns without carrying weight we weren't meant to bear.

CLICK BELOW to both view an introduction to *Help is Here* and to register for the class.



[Register for Study](#)



S.H.A.P.E. Classes Return

A 6-session video-based study for small groups

This expedition invites you to explore who God created you to be and uncover the unique ways God calls you to make a difference in the world. *Erik Rees, author of S.H.A.P.E. Finding & Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose for Life*

Monday Evenings

6:30 – 8:00pm

April 13 – May 18

Prayer Room (Rm 110)

In-Person with **Zoom** option

Led by Rev. Bruce Hartley

Tuesday Mornings

10:00 – 11:30am

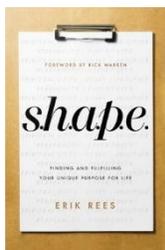
April 14 – May 19

Prayer Room (Rm 110)

In-Person with **Zoom** option

Led by Elizabeth Goodin

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



***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 Hudson UMC's lending library.

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

Required and available for purchase for \$10.00.

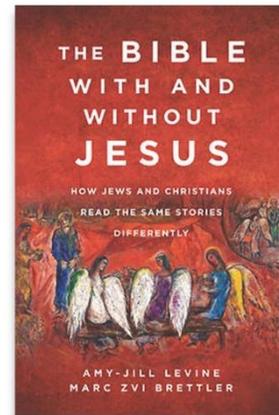
Adult Sunday School Studies Continue Through April

Classes will NOT meet on **April 5 (Easter Sunday)** or on **April 19 (Messy Church soft launch)**.

Family Ties (Room 116/118):

Study: *The Bible With and Without Jesus*

In this Bible study based on their book, *The Bible With and Without Jesus*, esteemed Bible scholars and teachers Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler take readers on a guided tour of the most popular Hebrew Bible passages quoted in the New Testament to show what the texts meant in their original contexts and then how Jews and Christians, over time, understood those same texts.

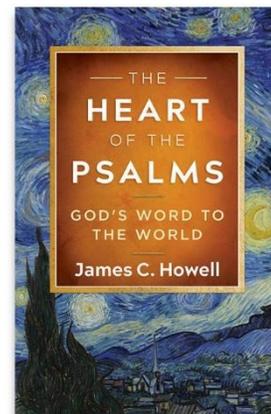


[Preview The Bible With and Without Jesus](#)

Men's Sunday School Class and Amazing Graces (Room 109):

Study: *The Heart of the Psalms*

The Book of Psalms has been called a school of prayer, as these eloquent words to God become the Word of God for us and a road map to navigate life with God in this world. This study focuses on six psalms, each offering a unique glimpse into God's heart.



[Preview Heart of the Psalms](#)

To preview *AMPLIFY MEDIA* studies, use access code **KGCLFW**

Bible Project Sunday School (Room 115):

Viewing and discussing videos produced by *The Bible Project*. Through creative videos and accompanying study guides, *The Bible Project* introduces books and key themes of the Bible in ways that are clear, approachable, and transformative.



Continuing with our weekly exploration of individual books of the Bible through overview videos and discussion:

April 12: Judges

April 26: Ruth

[Preview Judges Overview](#)

Upcoming Children & Youth Sunday School Series

Classes will NOT meet on **April 5 (Easter Sunday)** or on **April 19 (Messy Church soft launch)**.

Preschool through Grade 5:

Series: *Created New*

Through April 12



A rugged cross: the old is gone. An empty grave: the new has come. Because of Jesus, we are made new! During this series, we will lead kids through the story of redemption—a story that began at creation and the fall, climaxed at the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, and continues through all who walk in new identities as God’s children! The story of Easter reaches into our lives and changes the very core of who we are!

Looking Ahead:

Beginning on April 26: *Power of the Spirit*



In this series, we'll discover the coming of the Holy Spirit into the lives of Jesus' followers. The Holy Spirit gives power and strength when we need it. We can trust that He will be there to guide us and help us each day.

Grades 6 through 12:

One Session: *Cross Check*

April 12



Doubt is everywhere—especially when it comes to the resurrection of Jesus. *Cross Check* invites students to explore this central claim of Christianity with clarity, confidence, and courage. Rooted in Scripture and supported by historical evidence, this session helps students see that faith is not wishful thinking but a response to real events in real history. More than answering questions, it aims to build a resilient faith—equipping students to engage skepticism without fear and to trust that the risen Jesus is worthy of their lives, worship, and witness.

Looking Ahead:

Beginning on April 26: *Now*



“Now” helps middle schoolers discover that following Jesus is a today practice. Each week shows how God is at work and links purpose to simple, faithful choices—at school, home, and online. Students learn they don't have to wait to matter; they can live their faith—now.

HUMC is getting Messy!



Join us for a special all-church “Messy” Worship
and Fellowship experience on
Sunday, April 19, 2026
9:30 to 11:30a

Messy Church: Yes, It’s Play. Yes, It’s Church.

Messy Church isn’t just for kids—it’s church for all ages, together. Part of a global movement, it’s a creative, hands-on, grace-filled way to experience worship in the middle of real life.

Each gathering centers on a Biblical theme explored through interactive activities, followed by celebration/worship, storytelling, prayer, and a shared meal around the table. It’s joyful, welcoming, and meaningful—for everyone.

Invite a friend. Spread the word.





Serving
Others

Join Our Prayer Ministry Team!

Do you feel called to lift others up in prayer? Hudson UMC is looking for compassionate, faith-filled volunteers to join our **Prayer Ministry Team!**

As a team member, you will:

- Call church members weekly to **ask for their prayer requests.**
- **Pray throughout the week** over their needs and concerns.
- Be a source of hope, support, and spiritual connection.
- Strengthen our church community through the power of prayer.



No experience needed—just a willing heart and a desire to serve! Training and guidance will be provided.

Interested? Reach out to Elizabeth or **CLICK BELOW** to sign up.

[Register for Prayer Ministry Team](#)

Spring Clean Up at Hudson UMC

Spring has sprung, and we're getting ready to freshen up our church grounds! Mark your calendars for our **Spring Cleanup on Saturday, April 11, from 9–11 AM.**

It'll be a fun, hands-on morning where we'll spruce up the gardens, sweep walkways, and get HUMC shining for the season. Bring your rakes, weed pullers, and a smile—refreshments will be waiting!

[Sign Up Here](#)

United Women in Faith

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

Hudson United Women in Faith board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, April 6, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at the church. Bring your own brown bag dinner to enjoy.** (Please note the time).

Mary Martha Circle will be meeting on **Thursday, April 9, 2026.** They will be hiking at Oak Hill and then having lunch at FlipSide. **Meet at the church at 9:30 a.m. to carpool.**

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, April 15, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the church.** They will be working on a project for First Serve that involves cutting strips from plastic grocery bags to make mats. **Please bring your own scissors, brown bag dinner and drink.**

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, April 23, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. at the Hudson Library.** The book for discussion is *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt.

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" -- Update

The United Women in Faith would like to thank this generous loving congregation for its monetary donations to the "Gifts from the Heart" endeavor we sponsored recently. Because of your compassionate hearts, a total of \$1633.00 was collected. The money will be equally divided between the Center of Hope in Ravenna and Heart 4 the City in Akron. The blessing you provided means many people will be able to obtain food for themselves and their families. There can be no better gift than doing as we were taught. "Whatever you did for the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it to me." May each of you be blessed because of the love you gave.

Pancake Breakfast -- Thank You

It seems like the United Women in Faith just thanked our congregation for its support of the "Gifts from the Heart" mission project. Now here we are a few weeks later to say thank you once again. Sunday, March 15, was a special Sunday. It started with a beautiful service in the sanctuary with the concentration being on "trust". In addition, the pews were full with so many who came to worship "in person". Our hearts were joyful as we moved to the CAC. There we viewed ASP items set up for the auction, and we witnessed so many people interacting and just enjoying fellowship with one another. We offered and served a pancake breakfast to raise funds for missions we support. Once again, you overwhelmingly supported our efforts with a total donation of \$800. We sincerely thank you. We felt so blessed as we enjoyed serving you and observing the love that sparked the air! "God can take the ordinary and create the extraordinary!"

UWF

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

Attention Ladies: YOU ARE INVITED

All Ladies and young Ladies of Hudson United Methodist Church are invited to participate in the **United Women in Faith Worship Service on Sunday, April 12, 2026**. All women are encouraged to participate in the worship service as a reader, greeter, usher, or as a member of the Hudson UWF Choir

The special guest speaker will be Rev. Joy Fenton Jones. Her message "I Doubt It" will be from the Gospel of John 20:19-31.

If you would like to participate in the Worship Service, please sign-up on the UWF Bulletin Board in the Gathering Area or contact: Cheryl

Gamble: cgamble1114@yahoo.com or Marcia Rais: mltorch@hotmail.com

Please consider joining the United Women in Faith ~ All Daughters Chorus for the UWF Worship Service on Sunday, April 12, 2026. If you would like to be a part of the Choir, be sure to sign up on the UWF Bulletin Board in the Gathering area or contact Sandy Simpson.

Choir Practice Schedule:

Wednesday, April 8 @ 5:30 pm

Questions: Contact: Sandy Simpson: ssimpson923@yahoo.com

Habitat for Humanity

For the last two years the Hudson Coalition of Churches working with Habitat for Humanity of Summit County have been building houses at the Silver Maple Ridge project in North Akron. This year the coalition will be building the 16th and final house in that development.

The build schedule is from April through August and our HUMC assigned volunteer dates are:

- Saturdays; May 16th, June 13th, and August 15th
- Thursday August 6th

If you are 18 and older and would like to volunteer from 9:00am to 3:30pm on any of the dates, please contact John Kralik at jpkralik@gmail.com.

No construction skills are required, only a willingness to learn and help!



Card of Thanks

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for all whom within the congregation shared their concern and sent their messages of support during my recent recuperation from surgery. All of our cards and care packages were uplifting during my recovery, and i would like to thank you one and all.

It is good to be back on deck, and I look forward to once again caring for the church building and grounds.

Gary Beckley - Caretaker

ASP Silent Auction - Thank You!

The Mission Ministry Team would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our church family for the incredible love and generosity shown through our ASP Silent Auction. So many of you donated items, gift cards, food, and services—and then came back to purchase auction items and give additional monetary gifts. Because of your kindness and support, we raised a little over \$4,500 this year, which more than covers the cost of sending a team since our volunteers also contribute.

This ministry has been part of Hudson United Methodist Church for 54 years, and we're deeply grateful to belong to a congregation that continues to believe in serving others in such a meaningful way. Thank you for making it possible for our teams to go, for families to be helped, and for God's love to be shared through the work we do.

Leadership Board News

The Board met March 21 and agreed to move future meetings to the second Saturday of each month beginning in May to facilitate getting news into the G.I.F.T. We discussed the goal of increasing participation in faith development small groups and will next work to better specify that goal. We were briefed on the purpose of Messy Church as an all age, interactive worship focused on relationships rather than subject content. It will first be experienced April 19 and subsequently scheduled on Sunday afternoons. The Board discussed the need for financial transparency and making a plan for financial sustainability. We held off the decision to contract for parking lot repair and repaving to first receive engineering recommendations to reduce subsurface water drainage. Members of the Leadership Board are Dave Aebi, Dave Heater, Wally Helmer, Tom King, Cheryl Maimona, Kevin Mohr, Pat Rego, Linda Schmeichel. Our next meeting is April 18 at 9:30 am. For any questions, please contact a Leadership Board member.

From our Nursery School

We have been patiently waiting for some nice weather so we can go out on our playground and enjoy some sun and warmth. We have been busy most of March getting ready for our annual Art show. We are so excited for everyone to see all the great art work. **The Nursery School art show is April 15th from 6:00-7:00.** I hope everyone gets a chance to see all the beautiful artwork.

We also enjoyed spring break at the end of March. It was a nice little break for everyone. The children had plenty of stories to share from their many adventures. It is hard to believe we are almost completing another school year. We do have openings for 2 1/2 yrs through Pre-K for the 2026-2027 school year. If you know anyone looking for preschool. Lisa VanBuskirk is also helping out the school while we transition and will help with finding a new director. We hope everyone enjoys the nice weather after the long winter we have had.

Beware of Pastor Impersonation & Phishing Scams

It has come to our attention that scammers are attempting to impersonate pastors (current and past) and church staff via email, text, or social media. These fraudulent messages often request money, gift cards, or personal information, and can appear legitimate. **Please be advised that our pastors and church staff will never request financial assistance or sensitive information through these channels.**

To protect yourself and our church community:

- Do not respond to suspicious messages.
- Do not click on any links or download attachments.
- Do not provide personal or financial information.
- Verify any unusual request by contacting the church office directly.

Remaining vigilant helps ensure the safety of both your personal information and the integrity of our congregation. Thank you for your attention to this serious matter.