



Hudson United Methodist Church

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 2026 G.I.F.T.

Great Inspiration for Thought

To read online & access links: <https://conta.cc/4c3Yjwn>



A message from the Pastor

If you imagine Hudson UMC five years from now, **what kind of new or renewed practices** would make people feel more ***connected, known, and engaged?***

In an alone moment, just me and God and quiet, the question above stirred my heart. The stirring has led me to reexplore a book that was launched in 2000, Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community by Robert Putnam. I am amazed that Putnam's research and analysis remain one of the most cited works in modern social science. Why?

Could it be that the **possibility of revival** is actually one of the most hopeful and practical parts of *Bowling Alone*. Putnam argues that America has rebuilt its social capital before—and can do it again. The revival isn't automatic; it requires intentional, community-building choices. I believe Putnam points to a real path forward.

I am not satisfied with what is and am hitting the dwindling “social capital” in our country head on. I concur with Putnam's core message: **revival won't come from nostalgia; it will come from innovation.**

“Bowling Together: Rebuilding Community in a Lonely Age” Goal: To help Hudson UMC understand the cultural forces that have weakened community, recognize the spiritual cost of isolation, and embrace a renewed call to build deep, Christ-centered connection — becoming a living antidote to the loneliness of modern life.

August 30 **“The Great Unraveling: Why Community Is Falling Apart”**

Genesis 2:18, Acts 2:42–47

September 6 **“Loneliness Is a Spiritual Crisis”** (communion)

Psalms 68:6, Mark 2:1–12

September 13** **“Bonding & Bridging: The Two Kinds of Community We Need”**

Ephesians 2:14, John 13:34–35

September 20 **“Fewer Meetings, More Ministry: Reimagining Church Life”**

Luke 10:1–9 Acts 6:1–7

September 27 **“The Power of Small: How Real Change Begins”**

Matthew 18:20, 1 Thessalonians 2:8

October 4 **“Bowling Together: Becoming a Community of Hope”** (communion)

Hebrews 10:24–25, Revelation 21:3

God is challenging Hudson UMC to proclaim, “We will not bowl alone. We will build community in Christ.”

Join Hudson UMC, in person 9:30 am and on-line anytime and build community in Christ.

****September 13 is First Serve's Day of Service!** Hudson UMC's in-person worship service will incorporate elements of the Sending Service from Akron. The Sept. 13th sermon from the above series, *Bonding & Bridging*, will be available to watch on YouTube.

Our Social Principles

Taking an active stance in society is nothing new for followers of John Wesley. He set the example for us not to separate love of God from love of neighbor, worship and personal holiness from working for holiness in society. Methodists have always been known as a denomination involved with people's lives, including their political and social struggles. Such involvement is an expression of the personal change we experience in our baptism and conversion.

Decluttering for Habitat

Our decluttering efforts are making a difference!
Together, **we've raised \$915 toward our \$2,000 goal** to support Hudson UMC's commitment to Habitat for Humanity.

As you continue clearing out closets, garages, attics, and storage spaces, consider turning those gently used items into a gift that helps build a home. Sell what you no longer need and prayerfully consider donating all or part of the proceeds to our Declutter campaign through Realm or an offering envelope marked "Declutter."



We're already well on our way—help us reach our goal and make room, make a difference, and build hope together!

A Special Visit from Bishop Jung

Hudson UMC was honored to welcome Bishop Jung for a special time of fellowship, conversation, prayer, and connection. His visit gave us an opportunity to share the life and ministry of our church while being reminded that we are part of a larger United Methodist family.

We are grateful for Bishop Jung's presence, encouragement, and prayers, and for the opportunity to spend time together as we continue seeking where God is leading Hudson UMC.



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, September 26. THANK YOU!** Nancy Kralik nskralik@gmail.com 330-212-7581



North Hill Outreach

Gently Used Seasonal Clothing for Men & Women, Blankets, Small Household Items

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 August 21st 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: September 18, October 16.



Acme Community Cash Back

The Acme Community Cash Back program is starting again. It will run from **8/1/26 until 2/15/27**. Save your Acme receipts from between those dates and put them in the green bin by the pastor's office. We will get back 5% of the cash back total to use toward missions! It's simple and it's free! For any questions please contact s1bernert@aol.com.

From Elizabeth Goodin, Director of Family Ministries

contact: familyministries@hudsonumc.com

Take a Step

Several years ago, during a sermon, our preacher challenged us with a simple question: If you had only seven words to summarize your faith, what would you say? I gave it some thought, and this is what I came up with: Step first, God leads, We follow, Surprise!

I've always felt that it is our own reluctance and hesitation that often gets in the way of what God is trying to do in our lives. But if we commit to stepping out in faith and trust, God will take us to unexpected places. It is in the surprises where we find God.

My prayer is that our upcoming 2026-27 program year be full of surprises, for each of you.

Hudson United Methodist Church has grown into a community of faith that values growing spiritually, serving others, and nurturing relationships. We work to accomplish our mission to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by collectively providing growing, serving and nurturing opportunities for all to step into.

When it comes to growing as a follower of Jesus, small steps count. A first step might begin with any one of the following. My invitation to you is to try one, and see what happens:

- Commit to being present in worship more regularly.
- Join a small group—or invite someone to start one with you.
- Set aside 10 minutes a day to read and reflect on Scripture.



- Begin each morning or evening with a simple prayer.
- Take a step toward making generosity a regular spiritual practice.
- Try one ministry or service opportunity you've never experienced before.

Invitations for further steps are listed throughout this newsletter, each leading into a community that will encourage you, challenge you, pray with you, serve alongside you, and remind you that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. Will you...?

- Take a fresh look at Psalm 23
- Discover how to live your next season with greater purpose and intention
- Worship through play at Messy Church
- Ask the questions you always wanted to ask in Faith Lab
- Help build a house for a grateful family
- Respond to the needs of those experiencing hunger and homelessness
- Invest in meaningful friendships with a nature hike or by hosting 7 others for dinner

Look around. What haven't **you** tried yet? Where might God be inviting **you** to take your next step? This year, take that step. Trust the One who leads. And leave room for the surprise of what God can do with that opportunity.

God Bless,

Elizabeth



2026-27 Ministry Opportunities for Children and Youth



Click the links to indicate your interest. Training available

WHO: Children and youth **Grades 2 and older**

WHAT: Light the Christ candles at the opening of the worship service and carry the light out at the close of worship.

WHEN: Assignment on a rotation basis. One acolyte per Sunday.

[Acolyte Sign Up](#)



WHO: Youth **Grades 6 and older**

WHAT: Lead the Call to Worship and the Invocation

WHEN: Assignment on a rotation basis.

Contact Sheila Hammar at sdhammar@windstream.net

Children's Sermon will continue through the Fall, and Elizabeth is recruiting *Children's Sermon* Adult Assistants.



During the sermon portion of the worship service, Elizabeth, along with an adult volunteer, will take the kids to the CAC for a brief lesson and activity related to the sermon topic. If anyone has ever been curious about what happens during this time with the kids, or would value making some **meaningful connections with our “young disciples,”** then serving as our adult helper might be the perfect volunteer opportunity. No preparation is required, but the kids would certainly benefit from any additional wisdom offered to the conversation.

If you think this ministry is something you would like to be involved in, please take a look at the schedule linked below and add your name to one or more upcoming Sunday’s slots.

[Children's Sermon Helper Sign Up](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDERS:

Hudson UMC is getting Messy again!

Sunday evening, October 4

4:00-6:00pm, C.A.C. (Christian Activities Center)

Our back-to-school theme is *Brave Like Joshua*, based on Joshua 1:1-9.



New school years bring new adventures—new classrooms, new teachers, new friends, and sometimes new worries. It’s normal to feel a little nervous when we don’t know what’s ahead.

Joshua knew that feeling too. After Moses, the leader the Israelites had always known, was gone, Joshua was asked to lead God’s people into a brand-new chapter. That was a big job!

But God reminded Joshua of something important: *“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”* (Joshua 1:9)

God didn’t expect Joshua to have every answer or a perfect plan. God simply promised to go with him. And that promise is true for us, too. **We can be brave because we never face new challenges alone—God is always with us!**

OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY. INVITE A FRIEND!

Parents, look for *Bedside Prayer Cards* coming home with your children.

Prayer is one of the most important ways children begin to grow in their faith. These cards are designed to give them a starting point—helping them learn how to thank God, ask for help, and share what’s on their hearts in a natural and comforting way. We invite you to use these cards and prayers as part of your family’s daily rhythm.



Upcoming Adult Sunday School Series beginning September 20:

Ties That Bind RETURNS!

10:50 – 11:50am, Library

Led by Dave Lehman

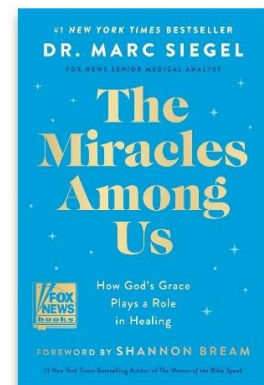
Study: The Miracles Among Us: How God’s Grace Plays a Role in Healing

by Dr. Marc Siegel

Timely and engaging discussions about current real stories that present modern miracles and God’s grace. We will work through two chapters per week. Chapters are relatively short and easy to read to obtain the most out of the discussions.

Recurring themes:

- What is a miracle?
- God's healing through physicians.
- The role of prayer.



- Hope during illness.
- When healing doesn't happen.
- Faith versus certainty.
- Gratitude and recognizing God's work in ordinary life.

Some questions we will wrestle with:

- Why are some people healed and others aren't?
- Does God still perform miracles today?
- Can modern medicine itself be one of God's gifts?
- How should Christians pray for healing?

Click below to preview the book and to watch a brief interview with Dr. Siegel discussing his book.

[The Miracles Among Us BOOK](#)

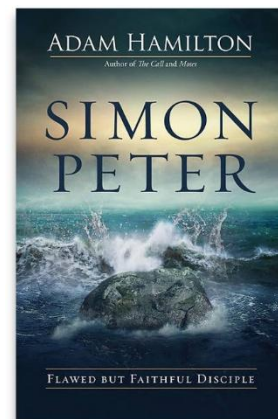
[Dr. Siegel INTERVIEW](#)

Family Ties

10:50 – 11:50am, Room 116/118

Study: *Simon Peter*

A closer look at the disciple, Simon Peter - an ordinary fisherman who heard an extraordinary call. He left everything to follow his teacher and possessed a passion that would change the world. Peter was just an ordinary guy who heard and followed God's extraordinary call.

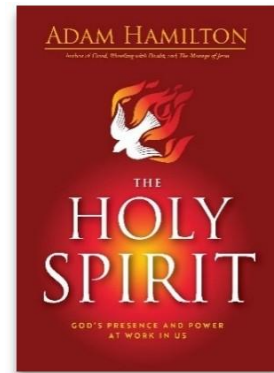


[Preview Simon Peter](#)

Men's Sunday School Class and Amazing Graces

10:50 – 11:50am, Room 109

Study: *The Holy Spirit*



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 The Holy Spirit](#)

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

Faith Lab Intergenerational Class Begins September 20!

11:05-11:50am, Room 112/114



A **Faith Lab** is a space where people explore questions of belief, doubt, and meaning together and where ideas are tested through Scripture, experience, and conversation.

Faith Lab is the name for our new confirmation class, but it is also an ideal environment for *anyone* searching for clarity and understanding around core questions of our faith: **Who is God? Who is Jesus? What does the Bible say? What is the church? What does faith look like as a way of life?**

All Adults are invited to join our 2026-27 confirmation students in this innovative class experience that welcomes curiosity and thrives on shared exploration.

Two NEW Adult Small Group Opportunities Coming This Fall!

A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23

An 8-week Bible Study

Led by Dave and Marcia Rais

Wednesday afternoons, September 23 – November 11

1:00 – 2:30pm

Room 115

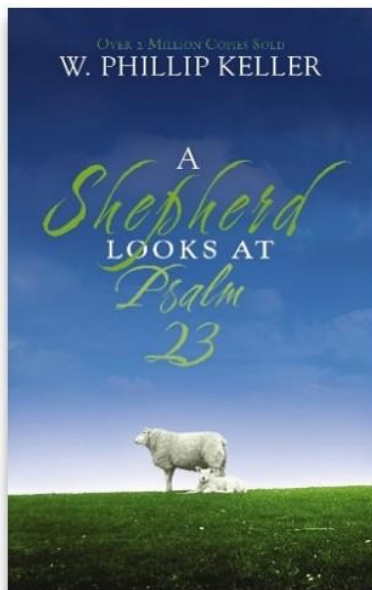
Psalm 23 is one of the most familiar and beloved passages in the Bible; however, we can sometimes miss the depth and richness of what the psalm is saying about God—and about what it means to live as one of God's sheep.

Drawing on his own experience as a shepherd, author Phillip Keller explores each phrase of the psalm, inviting us to consider the character of our Shepherd: the One who provides for us, leads us, restores us, protects us, and remains with us even in the darkest valleys.

Over eight weeks, we will read Psalm 23 slowly and thoughtfully, explore Keller's insights, and connect the words of the psalm with our own lives and faith journeys.

This study will utilize the book, *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23: Discovering God's Love for You* by Christian author, naturalist, and Bible teacher, W. Phillip Keller. Books are available to order through Hudson UMC for \$5.00. Click below to sample the audiobook.

To register for the class and to place an order for the book, look for the sign-up sheet in HUMC's main hallway, OR click on the link to the sign-up form below.



[Register for the Class](#)

[Sample the Audiobook](#)

The Fourth Quarter of Your Life

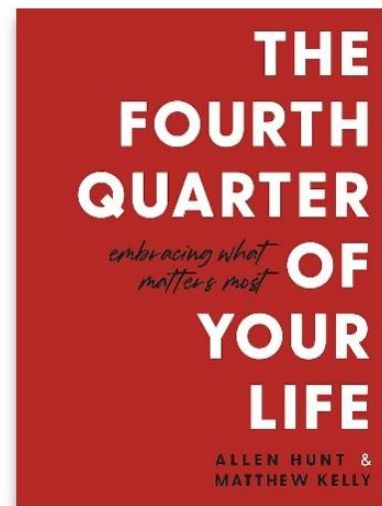
A 6-Week Study on Living with Purpose, Faith, and Legacy

Led by Kathy Sandberg

Sunday evenings, October 11 – November 15

7:00 – 8:30pm

Room 109



What does it mean to live the rest of your life well?

Whether you're approaching retirement, already there, or simply looking to thoughtfully and faithfully embrace the next season of life —this group is for you. Together, we'll explore how to live with greater intention, deepen our faith, strengthen relationships, and leave a meaningful legacy.

Based on the book, *The Fourth Quarter of Your Life: Embracing What Matters Most* by Allen Hunt and Matthew Kelly

In this study, you will:

- Clarify what matters most
- Grow in your relationship with God
- Strengthen important relationships
- Discover purpose for your next season
- Reflect on the legacy you want to leave

Books are available to order through Hudson UMC for \$25.00. Kindle copies are also available for \$9.99. To preview the book and register for the class, [CLICK BELOW](#).

Come be part of a meaningful conversation about faith, purpose, and legacy.

[Register for the Class](#)

[PREVIEW The 4th Quarter of Your Life](#)



United Women in Faith

Hudson United Women in Faith board meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Bring your own brown bag dinner to enjoy.**

Mary Martha Circle will meet for lunch on **Thursday, September 10, 2026 at 11:45 a.m. at Lager & Vine** to plan its activities for the 2026-2027 year.

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, September 16, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the church.** We will start with a brief devotion and business meeting as we enjoy our brown bag supper. The guest speaker will be Kim Travers, Assistant Director of the Hudson Community Living Center. All are welcome!



Please RSVP to Ann Ingling and we will have a place set for you!

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, September 24, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.**

Edie Taylor will be the facilitator for Theo of Golden by Allen Levi. We will meet at the Hudson Library and Historical Society in the Living Room (Laurel Lake Room), at the end of the first hall on the left. We will gather in the cafe for a cup of tea or coffee at 9:30.

Books for Breakfast meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m.

Questions/Information contact Marty Hannah at marty2uin@windstream.net, Linda Brown at flashknit@gmail.com.

We are on Facebook - check us out at Hudson United Methodist Church Women- be sure to "Like" us to get current updates.

Northern Waters UWF Fall Gathering

Attention All Ladies

The Hudson unit of the United Women in Faith (UWF) will be hosting the Northern Waters District Fall Gathering on Saturday, September 12, 2026 at HUMC. We will offer a Continental Breakfast in the Christian Activity Center (CAC) at 8:30 am and the program will begin at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary and will end by Noon. **Registration is \$10 and the deadline to register is September 5, 2026.** (registration forms are available on the table in the Gathering Area).

All women of Hudson UMC are invited and encouraged to attend.

Special guest speaker will be Brian Stefan-Szittai, Program Coordinator, InterReligious Task Force on Central America (IRTF), based in Cleveland, Ohio.

We are all women united in our desire to make a difference. Through the United Women in Faith, you will find many ways to get involved and make a positive impact. If you are curious about what is involved at the Gatherings of UWF, this would be a great opportunity to join us at the Fall Gathering. Following the Continental Breakfast, we will gather in the Sanctuary for devotions, a short business meeting, music and a program led by the UWF officers of the Northern Waters District. Communion will also be served by Rev. Bruce Hartley.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Cheryl
Gamble: cgamble1114@yahoo.com or Marcia Rais: mltorch@hotmail.com

Save the Date:

UWF – Church World Service Blanket Sunday



Hudson United Women in Faith will be offering a Mission Moment for **Church World Service Blanket Sunday on Sunday, October 11, 2026**. Each year our church shows its caring and compassion by giving generously to the Church World Service Blanket Sunday Mission project. Each blanket cost only \$10 and they can bring support, warmth, and encouragement for those who receive them. Through this special offering you will provide a blessing of God's love throughout His world. Watch for more details in the coming weeks

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

The United Women in Faith will be hosting their annual **Thanksgiving Dinner on Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the CAC (Christian Activity Center)**. We extend an invitation to all church families and friends to share our blessings with one another as we enjoy a delicious Thanksgiving meal. This will be a special time to be thankful and enjoy fellowship with one another.

Christian Unity Prayer Service

The Christian Unity Prayer Service (CUPS) will be held on Thursday, January 21, 2027 at Hudson United Methodist Church. This year the service is written by clergy and laypeople in Ireland. The theme is "Do not be afraid, little flock for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom". Luke 12:32. Watch for more details in the coming months. If you would like to be a part of the CUPS planning committee, please contact Cheryl Gamble: cgamble1114@yahoo.com

Habitat for Humanity



Thanks to Bob Johnson, Gordon Mann, Dave Heater, Mark Goodin, for their help priming drywall August 15th. HUMC's remaining two volunteer days are approaching, and looking for additional volunteers to help finish the house the last house in the Silver Maple Ridge Development of North Akron.

Our build dates and current volunteers are:

- **Thursday September 3rd - need 3 more volunteers** to join Linda and Paul Brown, Libby and Chris Bolinger.
- **Saturday September 12th - need 3 more volunteers** to join Linda and Paul Brown, Libby and Chris Bolinger.

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.

Sunday Morning Childcare Volunteers Needed!

HUMC has been blessed to have such a dedicated group of volunteers that have assisted with the Sunday Morning Childcare Ministry. Most of them have been part of this ministry for many years.

I am hoping to recruit 3-4 new volunteers that would be willing to join our current group of volunteers to assist the childcare staff in the Nursery on Sunday mornings.

So...if you enjoy young children, playing with blocks, helping with puzzles, reading books – then we need YOU! We would love to have you join us in this ministry.

Our Safe Sanctuary policy requires 2 adult workers (that have completed our Safe Sanctuary training) be present when working with children in our Childcare Ministry. You would only need to commit to one Sunday a month (or fill-in as a sub) during the 9:30 am worship service and/or during the 10:45 am Sunday school hour. The worship service is available on live stream in the Nursery.

The schedule will be from September 20, 2026 through May 23, 2027.

If you are interested in volunteering in this vital ministry, please contact Cheryl Gamble at: cgamble1114@yahoo.com.

First Serve Day of Service is September 13th!

First Serve's Annual Day of Service will be on Sunday, **September 13, 2026**. Over 500 volunteers will gather to work on projects located at partner organizations and residential sites in the North Hill community of Akron. Projects are designed to support the work these organizations are doing in the community while at the same time providing opportunities for volunteers to be immersed in the neighborhood.



Learn more and sign up at joinfirstserve.org

For those congregation members who aren't able to travel to Akron for First Serve projects on Sept. 13th, you have the opportunity to contribute after the service in the CAC.

Ann Ingling and Barbara Woodworth will lead a Sleeping Mat Ministry session, preparing bags for cutting and looping. No experience is needed! Just bring a pair of scissors or borrow some from the church and join them in the CAC after the replay of the First Serve Sending Service at 9 AM in the Sanctuary. We expect this session to last about an hour.

Please sign up for this project at church - there will be a sign-up board near the kitchen. (This project is not listed through the First Serve site.)