



Hudson United Methodist Church

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

October 2026 G.I.F.T.

Great Inspiration for Thought

To view online and access links: <https://conta.cc/4y73SmG>



"Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." — Jeremiah 17:7–8 (NIV)

Rooted to Thrive

A Stewardship Reflection for the Hudson UMC

For sixty-two years, Hudson United Methodist Church has embodied the quiet, resilient strength of Jeremiah 17:7–8 — a passage that offers one of Scripture's most vivid images of faithful community. The prophet describes a tree planted by water, sending out its roots, unafraid of heat, steady in drought, green in every season, and fruitful without fail. It is a picture of a people whose stability does not come from circumstances but from trust in the living God.

When we look back across the generations of Hudson UMC, we see these traits woven through our story. This is a church that **trusts deeply**, leaning into God's faithfulness through cultural change, economic uncertainty, and denominational transitions. It is a church that **grows steadily**, nurturing disciples across every age and stage of life. It is a church that **thrives consistently**, not because every season has been easy, but because its roots have always reached toward God's sustaining grace. It is a church that **bears fruit predictably**, blessing neighbors, forming children, supporting mission partners, and offering worship that lifts hearts week after week. And it is a church that **remains hopeful**, even when the world feels unsettled.

There are other traits worth naming — qualities that echo both Jeremiah's vision and Hudson's lived witness. This is a community that is **resilient in drought**, steady when challenges arise. It is **unanxious in uncertainty**, keeping its leaves green even when the future is unclear. It is **rooted in something deeper than programs or budgets**, grounded instead in Scripture, prayer, Wesleyan grace, and relationships that hold people through life's hardest moments. It is **generous by nature**, giving not out of obligation but out of identity. And it is **courageous in trust**, willing to step forward in faith because it knows who holds the future.

This fall, we pause to give thanks for the grace that has sustained Hudson UMC across six decades. We remember the saints who planted seeds, the leaders who tended the soil, the families who grew in faith, and the ministries that bore fruit in our community. And we look ahead with open hearts to the ministry God is calling us to embrace together.

Our stewardship season is an **invitation — not a demand**. It is a chance to reflect on what we have received, to respond with gratitude, and to say with confidence: yes, we are ready to trust; yes, we are ready to bear fruit; yes, we will remain hopeful even in uncertain economic times. Because trust creates stability. The blessing is not in the circumstances; it is in where the roots are placed.

What Your Giving Makes Possible

◆ **Worship & Music** — Sunday worship that lifts every voice through live music, meaningful liturgy, and a sacred space where encounter with God becomes possible week after week.

◆ **Community Outreach** — Support for Open M, contributions to the Hudson Food Pantry, and compassion ministries that carry Christ's love into the streets and homes of our community.

◆ **Disciple-Making** — Faith formation for all ages: Small Groups, Sunday School, Confirmation/Faith Lab, youth small groups, and mission experiences that shape lifelong disciples.

◆ **Our Sacred Gathering Space** — A well-cared-for building that welcomes Scouts, grieving neighbors, families, and community groups — a place where belonging is nurtured and God is worshiped in beauty and grace.

As you pray and discern what faithful stewardship looks like for your household this year, remember Jeremiah's promise: *those who trust in the Lord are like trees planted by water — steady, fruitful, and alive in every season.*

Exploring a New Ohio Conference

The Ohio Episcopal Area is exploring the possibility of **bringing the East Ohio and West Ohio Conferences together to form one unified Ohio Conference.**

For the past 18 months, the Ohio Episcopal Area Task Team has been studying what this could look like. The Task Team has 19 work groups, which have gathered information and talked with clergy, laity, and staff from both conferences.

Here's what happens next:

- September 12: The 19 work groups will present their reports to the Task Team.
- September and October: The reports will be shared with the governing bodies of both conferences for further discussion and discernment.
- November: The Task Team will give its final report to Bishop Hee-Soo Jung. The report will then be shared with clergy and laity throughout the Ohio Episcopal Area.
- 2027 Annual Conferences: East Ohio and West Ohio will each vote on whether to become one unified conference.

No final decision has been made. The Task Team is responsible for studying the possibility and making a recommendation. The Church will then listen, discuss, and discern what comes next. Ultimately, the members of the 2027 Annual Conferences will make the decision.

As Bishop Jung explained, *“No final decision has been made; the Task Team prepares and recommends; the Church listens and discerns; and the 2027 Annual Conferences decide.”*

Decluttering for Habitat

Our decluttering efforts are making a difference!
Together, **we’ve raised \$1,865 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!





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, October 24. THANK YOU! Nancy Kralik nskralik@gmail.com 330-212-7581



North Hill Outreach

Gently Used Seasonal Clothing for Men & Women, Men's 3 in 1, Body Wash

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 October 16th 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: November 20.



Acme Community Cash Back

Hudson UMC is participating in the Acme Community Cash Back program once again. **Just bring your Acme receipts and put them in the green bin by the pastor's office**, or if you prefer send the cash back amount on the bottom to s1bernert@aol.com. The money we receive from this goes toward missions. Thank you for your help!

From Elizabeth Goodin, Director of Family Ministries

contact: familyministries@hudsonumc.com

The Time Is Now

Almost a year ago now, I shared the following excerpt from the book, [All Ages Becoming: Intergenerational Practice and the Formation of God's People](#) by Valerie M. Grissom. It defines intergenerational ministry and describes several practices that can help a congregation become a more vibrant, connected, and genuinely intergenerational community of faith.

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.

When I first shared this excerpt, I suggested that within these practices we might find the key to our church's future. Now, as we enter our 2026–27 program year, I believe more than ever that the time has come for Hudson UMC to fully embrace this identity for the sake of all the "generations" calling this church home. I'm speaking of kids, youth, parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents—people of all ages, genders, abilities, and life stories. All have gifts and perspectives to share. All have a place in the life of the church. And all would benefit from opportunities to learn, serve, worship, fellowship, and grow together as disciples of Jesus.

Two opportunities at Hudson UMC where this vision is already taking shape are **Messy Church** and **Faith Lab**. The potential richness within these ministries is realized only as multiple ages and abilities gather to play, discover, share meaningful exchange, and ultimately be formed in faith together. Another such opportunity exists on a smaller scale each Sunday with **Children's Sermon**. Imagine for a moment the role these non-traditional ministries might play in your own growth as a disciple.

Additionally, I invite each of you to consider the ministries you are currently involved in and ask how they might be opened more fully to include children and youth, homebound individuals, or those who may not yet see a place for themselves. What adjustments might make participation more accessible? What new possibilities might be explored? Who might be welcomed to participate who has not been part of this ministry before?

I believe that we are entering a time in the life of our church when we are being called toward a broader vision of what ministry can look like and toward a future where all "generations" may participate, contribute, and belong within our collective community. That vision is calling us not to recreate what once was, but to faithfully imagine and build ministries that meet the particular needs of the community God has entrusted to us today. The time is now to embrace this vision, make room for every generation, and faithfully discover what God is calling Hudson UMC to become.

God Bless,

Elizabeth



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!

Upcoming Adult Sunday School Series beginning September 20:

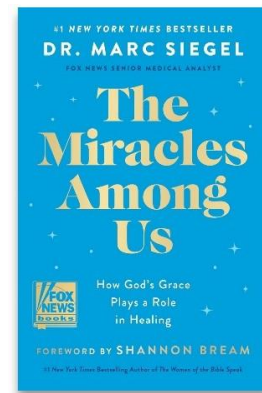
Ties That Bind RETURNS!

10:50 – 11:50am, Library

Study: *The Miracles Among Us* by Dr. Marc Siegel

What if miracles are not simply stories from long ago, but invitations to notice God at work among us today?

In *The Miracles Among Us: How God's Grace Plays a Role in Healing*, Dr. Marc Siegel invites us to look beyond the extraordinary and recognize the ways God's presence, grace, and power are revealed in ordinary people and everyday circumstances. As we journey through this study together, we'll explore stories of faith, unexpected encounters, answered prayers, and moments that remind us that God is still at work in our world.



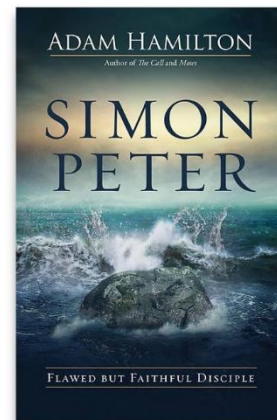
[The Miracles Among Us Audiobook Preview](#)

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.



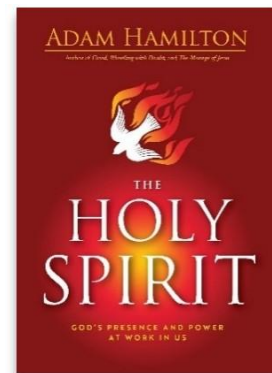
[Preview Simon Peter](#)

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

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 -

THERE'S STILL TIME TO JOIN!

An 8-week Bible Study

Led by Dave and Marcia Rais

Wednesday afternoons,

September 23 – November 11

1:00 – 2:30pm

Room 115

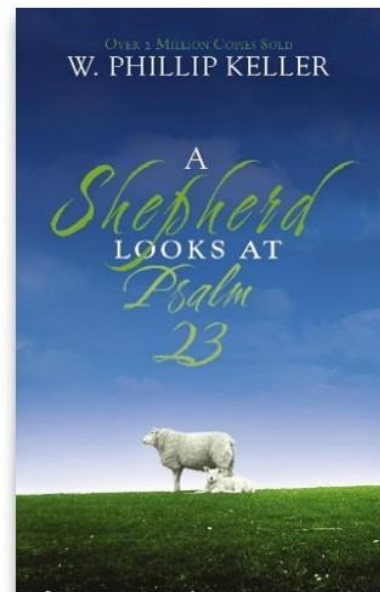
Psalm 23 is one of the most familiar and beloved passages in the Bible; however, we can sometimes miss the depth and richness of what the psalm is saying about God—and about what it means to live as one of God's sheep.

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

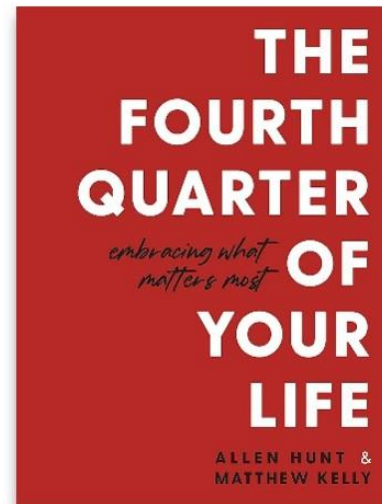
Led by Kathy Sandberg

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 \$15.00. 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

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

Hudson United Women in Faith board meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 6, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the church.**

Mary Martha Circle will meet on **Thursday, October 27, 2026 at 11:45 a.m. for lunch at Spennato's (9415 Olde 8 Rd., Northfield) and then go to the Emergency Assistance Center (9433 Olde Eight Rd., Suite 8, Northfield) to date and sort items from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Contact Diana C. for more information at dpchat@windstream.net.

Mary Martha usually meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Questions/Information contact Cheryl Maimona at ctm2949@roadrunner.com

Priscilla Circle will meet on **Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the church.** They will be decorating pumpkins and gourds. Bring your own brown bag dinner to enjoy.

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, October 22, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Marty Hannah.** The book for discussion is *The Mountains We Call Home* by Kim Michele Richardson.

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.

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 costs only \$10 and they can bring support, warmth, and encouragement for those impacted by emergencies around the world. Through this special offering you will provide a blessing of God's love throughout His world. Watch for more details in the coming weeks. Questions contact: Sandy Bernert - s1bernert@aol.com or Carol Spinelli - kspinelli55@yahoo.com.



Save the Date: 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.

Watch for more details in the coming weeks and a sign-up board to be posted in early November. Questions contact: Cheryl Gamble - cgamble1114@yahoo.com or Marcia Rais - mltorch@hotmail.com

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**](mailto:cgamble1114@yahoo.com)

Sunday Morning Childcare Volunteers

Still Needed!

Thank you to those that have responded to the call for volunteers to assist in the Sunday morning Childcare Ministry. **We are still in need of volunteers during the Sunday school hour (10:45 am - 11:50 am) to assist our staff childcare providers.** 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. We are asking for a commitment of one hour / one Sunday a month.

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**](mailto:cgamble1114@yahoo.com).

Join Us for Fall Clean-up at the Church!

Seeking volunteers to help Saturday, October 24 with outdoor and indoor chores to wrestle leaves, pick up branches and some shrub trimming. **Join us for Georges donuts and cider at 9:30 am and be done by 11:30.** Enjoy the camaraderie, make new friends, and let’s get the church grounds ready for winter. Let us know you’re coming [**HERE**](#).

A Note of Thanks

We are grateful for the prayers and support for Matt the last six years. We thank you for the support and kindness that you gave to us which is greatly appreciated. We thank the United Women in Faith for their work for the reception after Matt's Celebration of Life.

With appreciation,

Andy and Cheryl