



## Faith Connections

### We Wish You a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Christmas is a special time at Flat Rock. To see the joy on each face as they open their gifts, hug Santa, lead the prayer at the pageant or take their first bite of Christmas cookies—it's a blessing. As we approach the New Year, we reflect and give thanks for all of our supporting churches, UMW circles, men's groups, mission teams, youth volunteers, Sunday School classes and Christmas Wish grantors. Without your support, none of the work we've done throughout the year or the Christmas joy we've seen on each face would've been possible. You have given because He first gave His Son for us. May God richly bless you in 2020!

Karen Kilgo, Flat Rock President & CEO

## Quilt Auction & Fundraiser

The Flat Rock Homes Quilt Auction & Fundraiser was held November 16 at the Strongsville United Methodist Church. More than 90 beautiful quilts of all sizes and designs were available, as well as many items in the silent auction, and crafts sale.

Through this event and our generous supporters we were able to raise over \$14,000 to support our mission here at Flat Rock.

We give thanks for:

- The talented quilters and crafters who donated their handiwork: We couldn't do this without you!

- Strongsville UMC for the use of their beautiful church building.
- The concessions donated by the Brunswick UMC and others
- Wellington First UMC youth for helping that day
- Flat Rock Homes, Care Center, and Community Services staff members
- Numerous volunteers who helped set up, tear down, and clean up
- In other words...Thanks to ALL who lent a hand, donated food, crafts, and quilts—we truly are most grateful to you.

## Meet Life-Changer, Elaine Hopkins, Flat Rock Board Member



You wouldn't drive more than four hours to attend a board meeting unless it was important! That's just what Flat Rock Board member Elaine Hopkins does, though. "Flat Rock is unique and rare. It gives 24 hour a day care – nurturing, loving care. That keeps me coming back!" Although it is a long drive from her home in Indiana, Elaine looks forward to spending time at Flat Rock with other Board members, staff, and residents she has come to care for over the years.

Elaine's relationship with Flat Rock began in 2005 as a human resources consultant, training supervisors for the wide scope of necessary supervisory skills they needed to do their work. As time went on, she became more involved, and is now in her second term as a Board member. Wife of Bishop, John Hopkins, former Resident Bishop of the East Ohio Conference, Elaine says "It is marvelous to be able to volunteer within my area of expertise."

Flat Rock is thrilled to have Elaine on Board! Thank you for your dedication!

## Access/Disability Awareness

East Ohio Conference churches are addressing access and disabilities in various, creative ways. Pleasant Hills UMC in Middleburg Heights, North Coast District, offers two sensory areas in their sanctuary. Rocking chairs, Braille UMC hymnals and "The Faith We Sing" hymnal are available, as are word puzzles, and a felt story board with objects that emphasize the topic of the day. Pastor Mikayla Kovacik explained that many of the sensory activities were already established when she was appointed. In the "Prayground" area, children or adults may gather around several tables set up with crayons and markers, word games, and other activities, all designed to accent the theme of the day. All areas of the worship area are accessible.

Canal Fulton UMC held an Access/Disability Awareness Sunday in October.. Volunteers were invited to "experience" a disability during the worship hour, then share feelings and experience at the end of the service. Wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, specially adapted glasses to simulate vision impairment, headphones and muffling ear plugs were on hand for use.

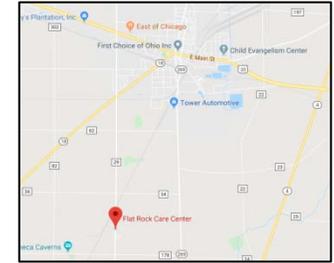


Pastor Shaun Green's sermon from II Samuel 9 and Mark 2, highlighted how King David and, years later, Jesus related to individuals with disabilities. Flat Rock Home's Church Engagement Coordinator Rose Darling worked with the pastor to present this special service.

Marlene was moved to tears as she shared her experience in a wheelchair while wearing dark glasses. She had no place to sit but in an aisle and felt embarrassed by that. She could not stand for the hymns, nor see the lyrics on the screen or in the hymnal. Eleven year old Dallas wore adaptive glasses and said he had to constantly move his eyes around, making it more challenging. He noted he had to remove the glasses when he began to feel dizzy. Patti wore ear plugs and discovered she was talking far too loudly and felt a little.. Patti wore ear plugs and discovered she was talking far too loudly, and felt a

little like her 'head was in a bucket." Each person was touched through this experiment.

*In the coming issues of Faith Connections, other churches will be highlighted. If your church has ideas to share, please send them to [rdarling@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:rdarling@flatrockhomes.org).*



## Just Where IS Flat Rock?

The Flat Rock Homes immediate care facility sits in a rural area, just south of Bellevue, which is about a 20 minute drive south of Sandusky, Ohio, home of the roller coaster capitol of the world, Cedar Point Theme Park. Towns within 20 miles of Flat Rock include Tiffin, Fremont, Willard and Norwalk. It is an hour west of Cleveland and 45 minutes from Toledo. Services and programs are also provided in Seneca, Sandusky, Lorain, Huron, Erie, Crawford, Richland, Wyandot, and Morrow Counties. Contact us to schedule a tour! We would love to see you!

## Christmas at Flat Rock

Christmas at Flat Rock Homes, Care Center, and Community Services is made joyful through the generosity of individuals, churches, and other organizations. Each year, Christmas is kicked off with a program telling the story of the reason for the season, the birth of Jesus. This is followed by many parties and activities to make the season fun and special for the individuals served through our programs.

If your church or organization would like to participate in Christmas 2020, please email [mlarkin@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:mlarkin@flatrockhomes.org) for more information and to be added to the mailing list.

## #GivingTuesday

We are so pleased to be part of the international #GivingTuesday movement, which is promoted primarily through social media. Since its launch in 2012 as an answer to the heavy shopping emphases of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday has touched the hearts of millions of people worldwide to give to nonprofit organizations. In 2018, in 150 countries, more

than 400M was raised! We thank all who supported Flat Rock Homes through #GivingTuesday.

**With the help of donors, like you, we were able to max out our \$10,000 matching gift and raise \$20,000 to support our vehicle fleet!**

### How May We Be Of Service?

We are here to help with your mission focus programs, Sunday pulpit-supply, Access/Disability Awareness programs and more. Karen Kilgo, President/CEO with Deaconess Sherri Buehl and Rose Darling, Church and Community Engagement Coordinators are available to meet your special programming needs. No church is too far!



For more information, contact  
kkilgo@flatrockhomes.org  
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rdarling@flatrockhomes.org

### You Can Help Transform Lives Through:

- **Monetary Gifts:**

- Give to an appeal
- Set up a monthly donation
- Participate in **#GivingTuesday**

- **In-Kind Gifts:**

- Drop off or send items from NEEDS or WISH LISTS
- **Shop Amazon Smile**
- Volunteer
- Give the gift of Christmas joy

- **Wish List:**

- Some top needs include new adult bicycle helmets, laundry detergent, toilet paper, paper towels, and toothpaste. Visit our website [www.flatrockhomes.org](http://www.flatrockhomes.org) for the full needs list.

- **Large Item Needs:**

- New Washers & Dryers, Good Cars or Mini Vans, and Wheelchair Accessible Vans.

### IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

- From Arson's Ashes to Total Accessibility: How Salem Alliance UMC turned around a disaster.
- **Spotlight on Flat Rock Care Center Resident Cori**
- Celebrating Christmas at the Rock!
- **And more!**

### Read the Mission Statements of Flat Rock Homes:

<https://www.flatrockhomes.org/about/our-mission/>