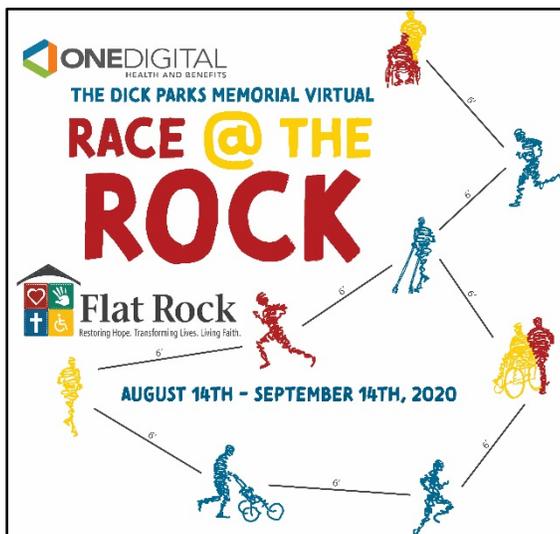




## Faith Connections August 2020

In this issue:

- The Dick Parks Memorial Race at the Rock goes Virtual!
- A really *cool* Birthday appeal
- Disability Awareness Resources
- "Hey, Meg!" A Life-transforming moment



### The 2020 Dick Parks Memorial Race at the Rock kicks off August 14<sup>th</sup>!

With the unprecedented environment we are living in, we decided to go virtual for The Dick Parks Memorial Race at the Rock this year—you can participate from wherever you are.

Registration runs from now through September 14<sup>th</sup> so you have all that time to collect sponsorships so you, your team, or church can win The Dick Parks Fundraising Award! [Sign up here!](#)

Your \$25 registration includes the 2020 special edition race shirt (pictured) with the updated logo. Submit pictures to [mlarkin@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:mlarkin@flatrockhomes.org) or tag us @flatrockhomes across social media.

### Annual Birthday Appeal THANK YOU!

This year's annual birthday appeal is really cool—literally! On August 6<sup>th</sup>, a crane pulled up and hoisted a huge, very necessary air conditioning unit to the Care Center. This summer has been especially hot with many 90° days, and this gift will bless staff and residents this year and for many years to come! You may still support this project with a donation to the birthday appeal.

(Continued on the next page)



## “Hey, Meg!”

Flat Rock’s Marketing and Volunteer Manager, Meg Larkin-Downing, shares this story about a special moment with a Care Center resident:

I met Austin the first time I toured Flat Rock when I interviewed. He was so excited to meet me and continues to be thrilled to meet nearly everyone I bring by while giving tours. Every time I saw him he would ask “what’s your name?” as he did everyone, and I’d tell him “I’m Meg!” This continued for about two and a half years.

One day, I was wrapping up a meeting with a volunteer who would be bringing a crew to do some work at one of our day program sites and as I was leaving, Austin shouted “Hey Meg! Come here!” I excitedly responded “Hey! You remembered my name!” to which he responded something along the lines of “duh” and carried on showing me a magazine and asking some other questions (like when Race at the Rock was) while we sat outside in the sunshine for a little bit before I had to head back to the office.

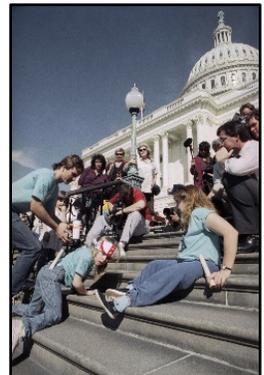
He still remembers my name, as do a few other residents, though many residents still call me “Picture Lady” since that was a big part of my job when I started.

Sometimes, it can be easy to ignore the small things that happen thinking they’re insignificant, but to so many of those served by Flat Rock, small things like a smile, touch, eye-contact, or remembering a name are so big.

## DisAbility Awareness Resources:

In each issue for the rest of 2020, we will share a link with information about disabilities: both the visible and the invisible.

One of the most important laws for the disabled, the American Disabilities Act (ADA), was passed in 1990. According to History.com, in March of that year, 1,000 people marched in Washington DC, and 70 of them, including a six-year-old, left wheelchairs and walkers at the bottom of the steps into the US Capitol building and crawled up those many steps. In July, the American Disabilities Act was signed by President George H. W. Bush. The ADA continues to be updated to meet the needs of Americans with disabilities. The website, <https://www.dol.gov/general/topic/disability/ada> features a vast supply of resources.



Our team is here to help you with your **DisAbility Awareness Sunday**.

Contact:

- Karen Kilgo, President & CEO at [kkilgo@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:kkilgo@flatrockhomes.org)
- Deaconess Sherri Buehl, [sbuehl@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:sbuehl@flatrockhomes.org) (EOCUMC districts Firelands, North Coast, Mid-Ohio, Western Reserve, and Southern Hills).
- Rose Darling at [rdarling@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:rdarling@flatrockhomes.org) (EOCUMC districts Canal, Mahoning Valley, Ohio Valley, Three Rivers, and Tuscarawas districts).
- We are also available for other church affiliations and locations.