



FAITH CONNECTIONS

February 2021

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God." (I John 4:7). As we journey through the season of Lent, our hearts are touched by your many acts and gifts of kindness, as you share God's love with those we serve. May your lives be enriched during these days of prayerful devotion.

On Your Mark...

The Dick Parks Memorial Race at the Rock is coming soon! This is the 16th year for this race benefitting those served by Flat Rock Homes, Care Center, and Community Services, and will run the whole month of May! We would love to add your name to the sponsor's list for 2021! Church sponsorships are \$250 and your church will be listed as a sponsor on:

- Flat Rock Homes' social media pages;
- Official Race T-shirt and mailing inserts;
- Flat Rock Homes' website with a link to your website.

Business/Corporate sponsorships are also available at varying levels. Email development@flatrockhomes.org for information on any sponsorship level!



Who is Dick Parks?

In 2019, The Race at the Rock was renamed The Dick Parks Memorial Race at the Rock. The late Rev. Dr. Richard "Dick" Parks was incredibly committed to Flat Rock and worked tirelessly to gather friends and congregants to participate in the Race. Parks served as pastor of Lakewood, Paradise Hill, Lisbon, and Ontario United Methodist churches, and as Superintendent of the Steubenville District. Flat Rock honors his memory and dedication to our mission by renaming the race after him.

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month!

This is "a time to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all areas of community life, as well as awareness to the barriers that people with disabilities still sometimes face in connecting to the communities in which they live." (ddc.ohio.gov). For more information and suggestions to increase awareness and inclusivity, please visit <https://ddc.ohio.gov/dd-awareness-month>. Our Church & Community Engagement Coordinators are available to share DisAbilities Awareness throughout the year with your congregation, or groups. **Flat Rock invites you to wear orange on Fridays in March to support Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Our residents, consumers, and staff will wear orange T-shirts on Fridays and ask that you join us! Send a picture to mlarkin@flatrockhomes.org or tag us on social media @FlatRockHomes.**

JustGiving: Celebrate with Flat Rock!

Flat Rock Homes has an online JustGiving page, giving donors a chance to support us in a whole new way. Hosting a birthday/anniversary/special event fundraiser for Flat Rock on social media? We have no idea you've done so and don't have the opportunity to thank our donor's properly. When you utilize JustGiving, we know right away and can thank all your sponsors. You can still donate through our website, but if your church is doing a fundraiser for us, this is a great way to do it so everyone can be recognized. If you have questions, you can email mlarkin@flatrockhomes.org.

To view our fundraising page: <https://www.justgiving.com/flatrockchildrenshomeoftheunitedmethodistchurch>

Getting to Know You...



Jill Kinser, Legacy Giving Specialist, has been involved in development and fundraising roles for nine years. She worked in higher education and health care before coming to Flat Rock. Jill has a degree in Social Work and has worked in a variety of social services settings. This experience, along with her interest in enhancing life at Flat Rock by connecting with generous supporters, makes her work with this ministry especially rewarding.

Jill has two grown children and one granddaughter, who is the most wonderful sunshine in her life. Jill is very grateful for the opportunity to work with the committed staff, family members, and supporters at Flat Rock.



Adopt-a-Home



Here is your chance to develop a closer relationship with the individuals served by Flat Rock Homes, Care Center, and Community Services! Through our new **Adopt-a-Home** project beginning in April, you may choose how your church will interact. All projects will be coordinated through staff, but here are several ideas:

- Send cards or gifts for birthdays, holidays, or "just because!"
- Sponsor a pizza party, BBQ, trip to the zoo, or other activity!
- Provide new sheets, blankets, or pillows from time to time!

Please pray about and consider how your church, women's group, men's group or youth group may participate. **More details coming in March!**

What will your legacy be? Contact Jill Kinser at jkinser@flatrockhomes.org to receive an informative packet about Flat Rock Homes Legacy Giving opportunities.



Watch this space for ways to support our TRL (Transforming Lives, Restoring Hope, Living Faith) Outdoor Therapeutic Center!

Speaking Opportunities

Our Church & Community Engagement Coordinators, Rose Darling and Sherri Buehl are available throughout the year for your chosen:

Disability Awareness Sundays
Women's and Men's ministries
Spiritual gifts retreat (Sherri)

Pulpit Supply
Youth and Children's ministries including VBS
Piano/organ supply (Rose)

While Flat Rock is in a historical covenant relationship with the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church, we also receive support from other United Methodist Conferences and churches, non-denominational churches, and other denominations. We're available throughout Ohio, and references are available. For more information or to schedule your speaking engagement contact:

- Karen Kilgo, President & CEO at kkilgo@flatrockhomes.org;
- Deaconess Sherri Buehl at sbuehl@flatrockhomes.org
- Rose M Darling at rdarling@flatrockhomes.org