



# FAITH CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

Faith Connections shares inspiring stories and pertinent updates that reflect our values, celebrate our community, and strengthen the bonds between families, churches, volunteers, and supporters.

## THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS!



## MERRY CHRISTMAS!



## HAPPY NEW YEAR



*From the warmth of Thanksgiving gatherings, to the wonder and love that fills Christmas Day, to the promise of a brighter tomorrow—may your holiday season be filled with joy, peace, and unforgettable moments. From your friends at Flat Rock Home, Care Center & Community Services. Karen Kilgo, President & CEO.*



**Kiwanis Party 2024**

### A Gift That Keeps on Giving

In 1921, the newly formed Bellevue Kiwanis Club hosted its very first service project — a Christmas party for the children of Flat Rock Homes. Each young resident received a gift, along with delicious candy and fruit treats that made the season extra special.

Now, 104 years later, this cherished tradition continues. It stands as Kiwanis International's longest-running continuous service project — a testament to enduring compassion and community spirit.

On December 2, Bellevue Kiwanians will once again bring holiday cheer to the Care Center with festive caroling, thoughtful gifts, and sweet treats.



**Kiwanis Members 2024**

Their dedication to enhancing the lives of children and communities worldwide remains strong. We give thanks for the Bellevue Kiwanis Club — a beacon of kindness for over a century. Many churches and individuals also help make Christmas a joyful time of celebration. Thank you for all the ways you contribute to share Christian love with our residents and individuals.

### #GivingTuesday

As the New Year approaches, there's no better time to share your generosity. Join "Friends of Flat Rock" this #GivingTuesday, December 2, and help make a lasting impact throughout the year in the lives of individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Your support has already made a difference — from new, durable furnishings in our Care Center Houses to vital upgrades at the new Seybert Center. Mark your calendar for December 2, 2025. # GivingTuesday, and continue to support Flat Rock Homes into the future. [www.flatrockhomes.org/givingtuesday/](http://www.flatrockhomes.org/givingtuesday/)

### Flat Rock Fall Festival

The Fall Festival at the Care Center gathered residents and family members on a beautiful Autumn day for pumpkin decorating, a petting zoo, and cider and donuts! Below are photos from a variety of other fun fall activities.



### W.O.W. Service

On the second Tuesday of each month, Care Center residents gather for their own special time of worship called W.O.W. - Worship Our Way.



The Worship Our Way (W.O.W.) service for November welcomes Pastor Matt Ong of Harvest Baptist Temple, Clyde, Ohio. In December, Pastor Beth Westfall (pictured) of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bellevue, will tell the Christmas story and our favorite Christmas hymns and songs will be sung. Joy is in the air!

We give thanks for the guest ministers who share Christ's love with our individuals during these W.O.W. services.

### Spread Good Cheer!

Youth groups, Sunday school classes, women's groups, and others are invited to join our Good Cheer project. Help lift spirits after the holiday rush by sending cards or letters to be shared between Christmas Day and Epiphany (January 6). Keep the joy going a little longer!

Suggested card themes include: New Year's greetings, Snowmen, Three Kings, & Winter. For details, email [engagement@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:engagement@flatrockhomes.org).

### Holiday Shopping Round-up

Round-up your holiday shopping at Walmart.com and reap rewards for Flat Rock Homes through the Walmart SparkGood Program <https://www.walmart.com/sparkgood/>

***"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to all."***



Clockwise: The Flat Rock Fall Festival; Jason's Pumpkin Patch



### Church Engagement Now Scheduling for 2026

Church and Community Engagement Coordinators Deaconess Sherri Buehl, and Rose Darling are scheduling pulpit supplies, music supplies, retreats, and disability awareness programs throughout Ohio.

We will collaborate with you for Sunday worship, youth and children's ministries, and women's and men's groups as we share good news about God's work at Flat Rock Homes! Contact [engagement@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:engagement@flatrockhomes.org)

UMC Deaconess Sherri Buehl facilitates retreats designed for church leaders, congregants, and groups such as United Women in Faith. "Sherri weaves both personal and professional experiences into the program while honoring all participants' life journeys. Her presentations are grounded in prayer and are adaptable to meet your requirements of time and content." Contact Sherri at [sbuehl@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:sbuehl@flatrockhomes.org). (Adapted from a recommendation by Dr. Linda Morrow, Retired Local Pastor, East Ohio Conference, Professor Emeritus, Muskingum University).

More about Rose Darling's ministries will appear in the next issue of *Faith Connections*.



Clockwise: Fall Festival; Bellevue Society for the Arts' "Big Spooky Affair," & Community Services Halloween party.