



**Faith Connections  
May 2025**

*Flat Rock Homes, Care Center, & Community Services is a faith-based, mission-minded ministry supported by churches of many denominations, individuals, families, businesses, and foundations.*

**The Dick Parks Memorial Race at the Rock**

It's nearly here! Get your walking and running shoes ready for the Dick Parks Memorial Race at the Rock, Saturday, May 17, 2025! Join us for the 20th annual fundraising event supporting Flat Rock Homes, Care Center, and Community Services. Register at <https://www.flatrockhomes.org/events/race-at-the-rock/>



- Check-in: 8 AM – 8:45 AM.
- Walk of Hope at 9 AM, followed by the 5K race, and 1-mile walk!
- The Dick Parks Fundraising Awards to be presented.  
Note: Funds must be submitted during registration or before May 17 to be counted toward the award.
- Flat Rock merchandise!
- STR8 JUICE smoothies, and MacaRonnie’s food trucks on site!

If you cannot come to Flat Rock, hold your race at a location of your choice, and send the funds to Flat Rock Homes, PO Box 1, Flat Rock, OH 44828. Contact [mlarkin@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:mlarkin@flatrockhomes.org)

**We couldn't do it without our wonderful sponsors!**

Your partnerships help make our mission possible, and we are so grateful for your generosity!

**Thank You Sponsors**

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**Additional & In-Kind Sponsors**

Norwalk Lions Club  
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Trinity UMC, Mt. Gilead

## The Legacy of Dick and Liz Parks

*"It became Dick's mission to raise as much money as he could...promoting Flat Rock so others would see the great love and ministry that happens there."*



The Rev. Dr. Richard (Dick) Parks and wife Elizabeth (Liz) were deeply committed to Flat Rock Homes and worked tirelessly to gather friends and congregants to participate in the Race at the Rock. According to Van Dyke Parks, Dick's brother, Dick was "Built for the ministry and always revealed great empathy." Between Liz and Dick, he said, "they would often quietly do good things." However, they were not quiet in their support of the race.

According to Rev. Bill Liming, pastor of Montrose Zion UMC, "It became Dick's mission to raise as much money as he could and help in any way promoting Flat Rock so others would see the great love and ministry that happens there." Liming warmly reminisced how Dick would walk with Liming's sons Ethan and Noah when they were little and "race them to the finish line in the 1-mile walk, laughing all the way. Although he and Liz never had children, I know he loved the young men and women of Flat Rock like he would have loved his own children, wanting the very best for their lives." In 2019, the Race at the Rock was renamed The Dick Parks Memorial Race at the Rock, thus honoring his legacy of dedicated service and support of Flat Rock and its ministries and mission.

## Annual Conferences Coming Soon

- West Ohio Annual Conference UMC Connection Fair at Capital University, Columbus, May 29-30.
- East Ohio Annual Conference UMC at The College of Wooster, June 12-14.
- Allegheny West Global Methodist Conference, Mt. Vernon Nazarene University (OH), June 18-21.

## Summer Supply Speakers

Pastors! Flat Rock is pleased to offer several highly experienced and qualified speakers ready to share the good news of restored hope and transformed lives through the living faith at work at Flat Rock Homes. Our representatives recently shared Flat Rock at Canal Fulton UMC, Monroeville UCC, Milton, and Christ Presbyterian churches, Wooster UMC, Mayfield Heights UMC, Sandusky Church of God, North Olmsted UMC, and others.

Services offered include:

- Pulpit supply;
- Music (piano/organ) supply;
- Spiritual gifts retreats;
- Disability Awareness presentations;
- "Mark's Gospel" is available as a fundraiser for Flat Rock Homes as a dramatic presentation by professional actor, Geoffrey Darling.

To request a speaker, email [engagement@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:engagement@flatrockhomes.org).

## Geranium Appeal

As the annual Geranium Appeal continues, we are pleased to announce that your generous gifts have taken us more than halfway to our goal of \$8500. Thank you, and please help us reach that goal designated for the beautification of Flat Rock's main campus with colorful plants dedicated to honor and remember loved ones.

## Join Our Team

<https://www.flatrockhomes.org/careers/>

## The NOMADS are Coming!

This volunteer group, consisting of volunteers from around the country, will soon be lending their hands and expertise to Flat Rock's projects. We welcome them and other volunteers who give of their time and talent! Your volunteers are welcome, too. [Sbuehl@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:Sbuehl@flatrockhomes.org)

## Photo Gallery

Community Services individuals open colorful Easter baskets, while others enjoy their new Easter "bonnets," from their Adopt-a-Home sponsors, Christ Presbyterian Church, Canton and Huron UMC (Pastor Pamela Sayre lower rt.).



## Easter Egg Hunt and Fun at the Care Center



**Happy Easter to all!  
From our  
Care Center  
Administrator,  
Jessica Rush, staff,  
and residents!**