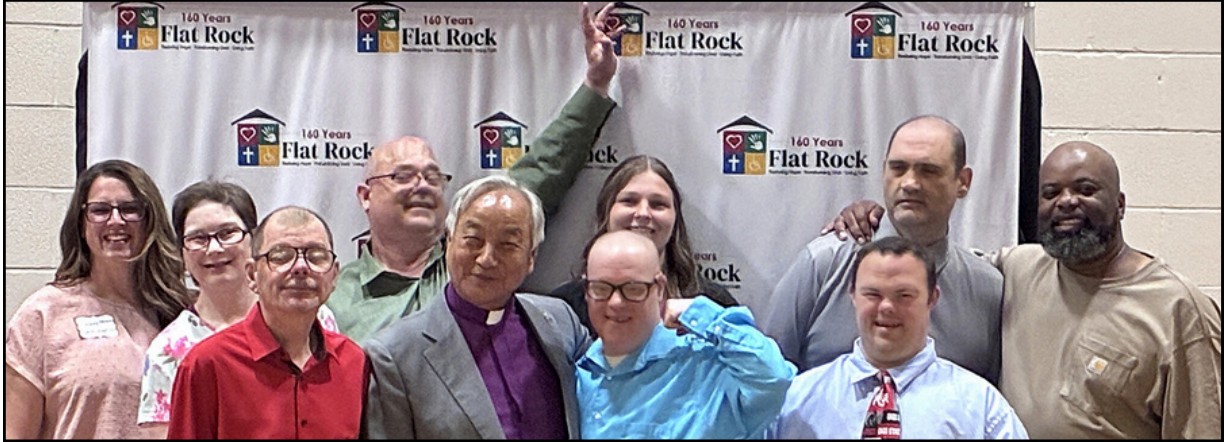


## FAITH CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

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.

### 160 Years Mission Strong



Bishop Hee-Soo Jung with the Flat Rock Choir.

### An Evening of Faith & Fellowship with honored guest Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

***“Flat Rock lives the gospel message,”*** declared Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, in his address to the crowd at the Flat Rock celebration dinner on July 31, 2026. As the special guest for the celebration, he further said, “For 160 years, Flat Rock has seen the “one.” You saw children who had no safe home. You saw families carrying responsibilities they could not carry alone. You saw persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities whose gifts were overlooked. You saw people whose bodies, minds, communication, or behavior were misunderstood. And you said: ‘You are not forgotten. You are not a burden. You are not a problem to be solved. You are a beloved child of God.’” (East Ohio Conference UMC)

Board members, public officials, donors, staff, and Flat Rock individuals came together to celebrate, sharing stories of Flat Rock’s history and ministries, enjoying delicious food including several Korean dishes, a silent auction, and a choral performance by Flat Rock individuals and staff, as shown above. The Silent Auction consisted of numerous items and experience opportunities donated by organizations, individuals, and companies. More than \$23,000 came in through this celebratory event.

We appreciate everyone who participated in any way in this grand occasion!

## Walk at the Rock: Blending Fun with Fundraising



The skies cleared on July 18, just in time for the **Walk at the Rock**, making it a great day for all. After the **Walk of Hope** and the **1K Walk**, participants, staff and individuals enjoyed games and 'dirty sodas' (drinks made with beverages like lemonade, mixed with a choice of flavored syrups and creamers).

The dunk tank was especially popular as volunteers took a chance to get dunked into the water. It was all in good fun, and more

than \$29,000 was raised in support of the mission and ministries of Flat Rock. In recognition of Flat Rock's 160th anniversary, this event took place in the birthday month of July, rather than the traditional May date.

Congratulations to the fundraising winners: Overall Fundraising Team: Team Dennis and Church Fundraising Team: Huron United Methodist Church. Many thanks to all who participated and volunteered!



## Birthday Appeal

In 1866, in the aftermath of the Civil War, Flat Rock began its ministry to meet the unique needs of children left homeless by the conflict. In 1978, the focus changed from that of an orphanage to a care center for individuals with behavioral, developmental, intellectual, and other needs. Your generous donations toward our **Birthday Appeal** keep our mission alive and ministering to the continuing needs of those we now serve.

To date, more than \$9,000 has come in. You may still donate to our 160th anniversary here: [Give | Flat Rock Homes](#). We deeply appreciate your prayerful support!





## Make a Will Month

August is National Make-A-Will Month, a campaign that started with several law firms in 2009 and has since grown into a national drive that encourages individuals to plan ahead.

"Making a will is an act of care. It can prevent legal complications for loved ones, designate guardians for kids (four-legged or otherwise), and ensure your wishes—big or small, are honored." ([www.maaa.org](http://www.maaa.org))

By remembering Flat Rock in your legacy plans, you invest in the future of our individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Director of Development and Sustainability, Jill Kinser, has resources to help you with your will and estate planning. [Jkinser@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:Jkinser@flatrockhomes.org).



## Resources

As your church considers ways to better serve individuals with disabilities, check out these resources:

[www.umdisability.org/event.html](http://www.umdisability.org/event.html): A list of important dates.

[www.umcdmc.org/ministry-worship-and-education](http://www.umcdmc.org/ministry-worship-and-education): Includes many resources for your church.

## Church & Community Engagement

Flat Rock is pleased to offer pulpit or music supply, disability awareness presentations, and other programs. Recent engagements include: Linworth UMC, Columbus; Mission U; Allegheny-West Global Conference; East Ohio Annual Conference, & West Ohio Annual Conference.

[engagement@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:engagement@flatrockhomes.org).

## Dates to Remember

- September is **SELF-CARE AWARENESS MONTH** - Set aside time each day to care for yourself, as you care for others.
- October's focus is on **National Disability Employment Month**: *"Celebrating Value and Talent."* This carries forward last year's theme through 2026 in honor of America's 250th birthday. Details coming in the next newsletter.

## Worship Our Way-W.O.W.

Thanks to Pastor Ted Buehl and Sherri Buehl who shared a message of joyful hope with the W.O.W. group in July.



(L): Residents at W.O.W. services, (R): Pastor Ted Buehl and Deaconess Sherri Buehl.

## 160<sup>th</sup> Celebration Dinner



Clockwise: Rev. Im-Hyon Jung and Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, Flat Rock Board members with Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, Pastor Pamela Sayre with the Kilgos, and members of Garfield Hts. UMC.