

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.

Celebrating the Heart of Support: Honoring Our Direct Support Professionals



DSP Elek Larson (center) with residents Noah (L) and Cody (R)



DSP Stephanie Hammer with resident Anthony

DSPs Make a Difference

Direct Support Professional Recognition Week, observed nationally September 13–19, 2026, is an opportunity to celebrate the dedicated and innovative direct support workforce who provide essential care to people with disabilities.

Direct Support Professionals are at the core of services for Flat Rock's residents and individuals with developmental, intellectual and other disabilities. Their work is essential and significant.

We honor and appreciate their dedication to those we serve!

Fall Fest Fun

The second annual Fall Festival kicks-off October with games, a sensory table, food trucks, pumpkin decorating, a straw maze, petting zoo, bouncy houses and all the colorful trimmings of fall!

We invite families, friends and neighbors to **join us on October 3rd from 12:00 - 3:00 pm** at the Flat Rock main campus.



Fall Festival
2025



National Disability Employment Awareness Month Celebrating Value & Talent

This October, we celebrate **National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)** with the theme “**Celebrating Value & Talent**,” honoring the 250th birthday celebration of the United States of America.

NDEAM recognizes the valuable contributions and positive impact of people with disabilities in the American workforce. What began in 1945 as a week-long observance honoring workers with disabilities has grown to include people with mental health conditions and other nonobvious disabilities.

Encourage business leaders in your communities and churches to visit the [**U.S. Department of Labor’s NDEAM website**](#) to learn more about the importance of hiring people with disabilities.

Ohioans with disabilities: Visit [**Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities**](#) to search for employment opportunities.



Community Services individuals Charles J. Jr. & Allan



National Clergy Appreciation Month



Clergy members are valued members of most communities. They are often on-call 24/7 and available through good, bad, and the worst of times. They celebrate births, weddings and joyful moments, and comfort and mourn with the losses.

During October’s **National Clergy Appreciation Month**, we give thanks for clergy members and their spouses. May God meet your needs as you faithfully serve and care for others.

“Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.”

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

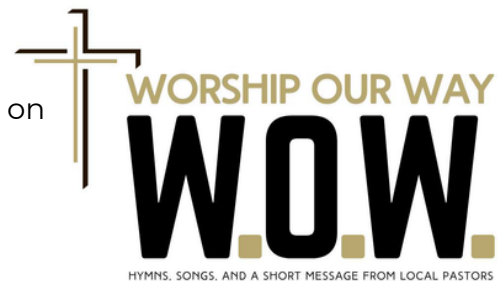
Appreciation Day: Honoring Adopt-A-Home and W.O.W. Participants

Adopt a Home sponsors reach out to Care Center residents and Community Services individuals by sending cards, seasonal and birthday gifts, prayers and more.

Our Worship Our Way (W.O.W.) leader volunteers represent several Bellevue area churches by sharing prayers, a brief, illustrative message, and sometimes special music!

We thank each person for sharing their gifts of time and talent, which bless the lives of our individuals and staff. **An Appreciation Day luncheon and program** will be held on **October 14**, to honor these sponsors and volunteers for their faithful and compassionate service to our individuals.

If you or your church would like more information on how to Adopt a Home, or become involved in the W.O.W. service, contact Church & Community Engagement Coordinator Rose Darling at rdarling@flatrockhomes.org.



Pastor Pamela celebrates Mardi Gras with Huron UMC's Adopt a Home group.



Pastor Beth Westphal shares a spiritual message at a W.O.W. service.

Church & Community Engagement

Flat Rock is pleased to offer pulpit or music supply, disability awareness presentations, and other programs. engagement@flatrockhomes.org

🎄 Christmas Wish Lists!

When your Christmas Wish List email arrives, please respond promptly so the program smoothly moves ahead. Our individuals share their Christmas gift wishes, and your group provides gifts from those lists, bringing joyful holiday cheer. Our individuals are so excited when their Christmas wishes come true! Thank you!

Worship Our Way-W.O.W.

Matthew Ong from Harvest Baptist Church in Clyde lead our August program.



Employee Picnic We celebrated 160 years of Flat Rock with an Employee Legacy Day that included a BBQ picnic on the original orphanage property. Several employees dressed in Civil War-era costumes and music was provided by the Judith Lynn Band Organ, an instrument sounding similar to a calliope.

