



**Faith Connections
Holiday Edition
December & January 2023/24**



With this holiday issue comes our heartfelt thanks for your prayers and partnership throughout 2023. We pray God's hope, peace, joy, and love will be yours this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

GivingTuesday

We are so grateful to all who contributed to GivingTuesday 2023! We were able to raise over \$16,000 when the matching gift donors stepped up! Flat Rock's Adult Day Support and Employment Services is the recipient of this year's funds. These programs help individuals with disabilities integrate into communities through fun outings to local venues or by supporting them in getting and keeping a job they love and at which they can be successful. There is much joy and progress made with our program participants. We look forward to sharing their success and journey along the path to employment in the coming months.

Remember Flat Rock in your estate plans. Email Jill at jkinser@flatrockhomes.org for information.

ThankSinging and Christmas Benefit Concerts



We give thanks to First United Methodist Church in Cuyahoga Falls for their support through their ThankSinging Hymn Festival held November 19 (left). A benefit concert was held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Bellevue on December 10 (right). Music and good cheer filled the air in these communities!



Special thanks to Pastor Jonathan Priebe;

Music Director, Dean Wagner; Sue Boltz, and the team at First UMC in Cuyahoga Falls. Thanks also to Sylvia Sackett and her team at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Your church is invited to develop its own benefit concert or other program for Flat Rock's ministries. Just email engagement@flatrockhomes.org, and we'll gladly work with you! Our Church and Community Engagement Coordinators Rose Darling and UWF Deaconess Sherri Buehl are currently scheduling Sunday and weekday speaking engagements. Email engagement@flatrockhomes.org to learn more!

Blue Christmas/Longest Night Resources

For many people, the holidays are a time of joyful celebration, but not for everyone. Some grieve the losses: a dear one, employment, or health. This website offers suggestions for a Blue Christmas/Longest Night gathering, usually held on December 21st, the Northern Hemisphere's longest night of the year: <https://bit.ly/47TciB8>

Flat Rock Homes. Care Center, and Community Services 7353 County Road 29, P.O. Box 1, Flat Rock, Ohio 44828
Phone: 419.483.7330 www.flatrockhomes.org





Round up and donate your change or registry items on Walmart.com

Flat Rock is now part of the Walmart Sparkgood Round Up program where customers can round up their Walmart.com purchases to the nearest dollar and donate change to Flat Rock. We would love for you to Round Up every time you shop on Walmart.com and choose Flat Rock to receive these donations.

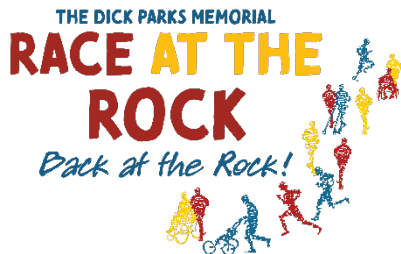
Getting started is simple!

1. Visit <https://www.walmart.com/sparkgood>.
2. Sign in or create your Walmart.com account.
3. Search for our charity: Flat Rock Childrens Home of the United Methodist Church (<https://www.walmart.com/nonprofits/f6f870ee-c345-4408-9bee-4749ee01b68a/profile>)
4. Once you select Flat Rock Childrens Home of the United Methodist Church, under Round-Up, click "Select this Charity."
5. If you would like your future orders to automatically round up and donate, opt in by sliding the button to the right.

You may also support Flat Rock by browsing through our Walmart Sparkgood list of much-needed items and see if there is something with which you can help. All purchased items can be shipped directly to us, which saves you time and money! Thank you for supporting Flat Rock! We appreciate you! Click here to view the list

<https://www.walmart.com/registry/RR/0b0fb09d-d7e9-44e3-8dd3-1bac247e1800>

Did you receive and respond to our end-of-year appeal? Thank you for prayerfully supporting Flat Rock. Your gifts truly help Transform Lives! Email cgeiger@flatrockhomes.org to learn more.



The Dick Parks Memorial Race at the Rock is Back at the Rock!

We're Back!! Start training now to win the 2024 Dick Parks Memorial Race at the Rock! This annual fundraising event promises to be even more special as we present the grand opening of the TRL Outdoor Therapeutic Center at Flat Rock Care Center's Main Campus. Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 18, 2024, and we will see you Back at the Rock!

Night to Shine

On Friday, February 9, 2024, Flat Rock's individuals will be puttin' on the ritz, wearing their finest party outfits, running through their best dance moves, and enjoying fun and festivities. Thanks to Norwalk First UMC for hosting this event again this year! Contact your local Night to Shine team (listed on www.timtebowfoundation.org) to learn how you can help at an event near you. Volunteer and donation opportunities are available in all areas. Email engagement@flatrockhomes.org to learn how you may help make this a memorable evening for Flat Rock's individuals!

Give Up: Give Forward Lenten Project

Many Christians give up something during Lent to remind themselves of Christ's sacrifice. It is often replaced by prayer and, for some, giving an equivalent amount to missions. This year, please prayerfully **Give Up** something for Lent and **Give Forward** a donation to Flat Rock financially equivalent to what you gave up.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024, and lasts until March 30, 2024. Please consider Flat Rock as a recipient of what you gave up during Lent. Prayerfully send your donation to Flat Rock, PO Box 1, Flat Rock, Ohio 44828, or make your donation at <https://www.flatrockhomes.org/make-a-gift/>

Have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Enjoy photos from Christmas Celebrations at and around Flat Rock Homes on the following pages

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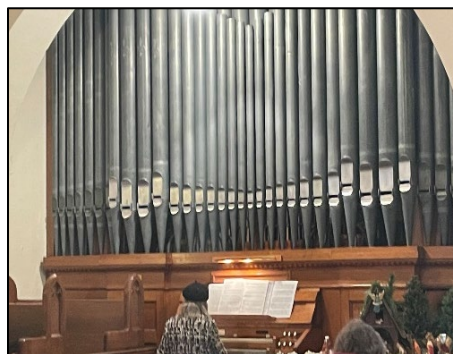




Individuals from Flat Rock Care Center celebrated the longest-standing Christmas tradition in Kiwanis International. They celebrated with gifts, snacks, and, most importantly, Santa.



Bellevue area vocalist/stage actor Marianne Webb leads the singing of hymns and carols, and Geoffrey Darling served as Emcee for the December 10, Christmas concert at St. Paul's, Bellevue. Pictured is Pastor Ed Kovacik accompanying the closing hymn of Joy to the World. Another photo shows Rose Darling, a Flat Rock Church & Community Engagement Coordinator playing the church's 120+ year old organ.



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Folks served by Flat Rock Community Services celebrated Christmas at two parties thrown by Vermilion Grace United Methodist Church and North Fairfield United Methodist Church! More photos are available at <https://www.flatrockhomes.org/photos/>



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