

THE TOWERS

201 S. Main St., West Milton, Ohio 45383

February 2018

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Love and Dust

Psalm 103:11-14 ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; ¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; ¹⁴ for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

Hello Friends

One of the traditions of the Christian Church is to collect the Palm Branches from Palm Sunday, dry them, and then burn them into ashes. Those ashes are then saved until the next year. The palm branches used near the end of Lent of one year are used to usher in Lent the next year. The word "Hosanna!" is used with them one year, and "from dust you came, to dust you shall return" is used the next. While we are accustomed to widely different "moods" with these two uses, they are very much communicating the same thing...complete reliance on God.

You may recall me sharing in worship before that the meaning of the word "Hosanna," no matter how festive the music accompanying it, is "Save us." It is a somewhat desperate cry of God's creation, acknowledging our inability to "save" ourselves, and our complete dependence upon God's grace and love.

The message of Ash Wednesday is one of humility. It is the words of the created acknowledging the Creator, the one who formed us from dust, who breathed life into humanity, and breathes life into our work today.

How interesting it is that Lent begins on February 14th this year. I admit I first was a little put off that our culture's slightly twisted way of remembering St Valentine was in "competition"

with the entrance into Lent, but there is another way to view it. The Season of Lent revolves around the purposeful journey of Christ towards the cross, a journey that could only be accomplished out of love. What if in some way our remembrance of God's love could somehow "redeem" a holiday that sometimes seems to exist so certain companies can profit? What if on Valentine's Day we could remember the love that is the root of all love?

John 15:13 ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

Christ lived the example for us, an example of love. In fact, though Jesus knew. Paul challenges us with these words:

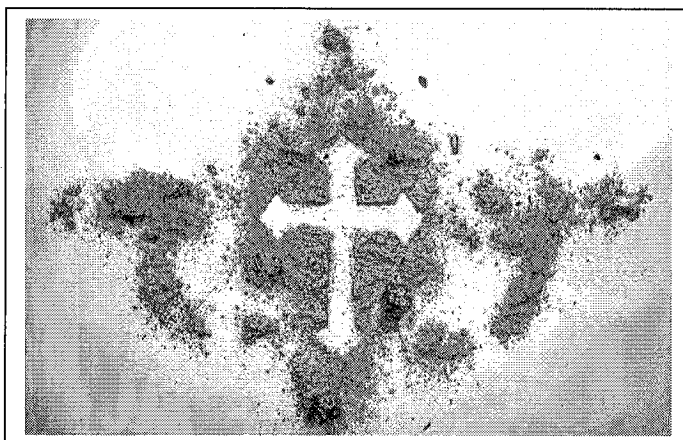
Philippians 2:5-8 ⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

This winter has been a somewhat bitter reminder of our mortality, as we have had to say goodbye, or maybe, "see you later" to several of our members who have stepped into eternity ahead of us.

From dust we are, and to dust we shall return.

May this season's reminder of our mortality cause us to respond with love instead of hate or fear, and may that love be empowered by God's strength rather than our human frailty.

While embracing the dust, I am,
In His Service and Yours,





Hoffman United Methodist Church

Edition: January 2018

Board Meeting Highlights

Devotions

Pastor Robbie's devotion came from James 4:13-17. We need to remember that we are only here for a little while and life is frail.

Guiding Principles

The Guiding Principles for budget management were discussed at length. Board members will be amending ways to handle budget abundance(s) and deficit(s).

Ministry Teams

Pastor Robbie presented Pam Hitchcock's update on the Goodworks Mission Trip to Athens, OH. At present there around 20 people going on the trip in June. This is for both families and youth, and is not only a team building experience but will allow relationship building within the community of Athens.

Staff/Parish Relations

All evaluations have been received.

Endowment Team

The board discussed in depth how to handle the interest earned. Further discussion will take place in February.

Meeting Attendees

Pastor Robbie, Carol Storer, Val McKay, John Ankerman, Cindy Johnson, Mike Sanderson, Richard Smith, Les Trittschuh, Leah Blackburn

Trustees

John presented David's report on the Trustees.

2017 saw the completion of several major projects

- installation of the chairlift
- new speakers for the sanctuary
- repair of the lintel in the pastor's study
- tuck pointing the North tower
- new roof on the parsonage
- repairing storm damage

Potential projects

- new carpeting in several classrooms and the hall
- repairing both ceilings in the tower rooms

The Trustees work extremely hard to maintain our facilities. Thank you!

Pastor's Report

Pastor Robbie reported that average worship attendance for December was 152 people. The average attendance for 2017 was 163. Grants are being submitted for Lunch Bunch and Bulldog Bags. Bulldog Bags are expanding to 230 students. Joseph is recruiting additional adults to help with the growing youth group. New live feed wiring has been added to allow those to view the service when they can't be in the sanctuary. A "unity" service is being planned for April 29th to combine both worship services.

Serving Schedule

- Feb 4th** – Altar flowers are in memory of Martha Farmer, from Tina Mathews
- 9:00 Liturgist:** Valerie McKay **Greeters:** Nadine Thompson & Nancy Lightcap
Ushers: Lee & Becky Baker and Wayne & Susie Spitler **Hospitality:** Tim & Janet Benkert
Nursery: 10:15 Kim D. & Teesha B. / 11:15 Jill C. & Becky Garrett
- 11:15 Greeters:** Ben G., Julia C., & Kathy Koeller **Scripture Reader:** Norman H. **Sound:** Eric M.
Ushers: Les & Sharon T. and John A. **Welcome Center:** ??? **Media:** Norman H.
- Feb 11th** – Altar flowers are in honor of Sandy Johannes' birthday and Ed & Sandy's 57th anniversary
- 9:00 Liturgist:** Wendy Heisey **Greeters:** Bill & Judy Brown
Ushers: Les & Sharon Trittschuh and Phil & Karen McFadden **Hospitality:** John & Carol Carter
Nursery: 10:15 Marcia C. & Lesli R. / 11:15 Kathy Koeller and Cliff & Katie P.
- 11:15 Greeters:** Lisa W., Dick & Mary Ann Martens **Scripture Reader:** Patti W. **Sound:** Jill C.
Ushers: Julia C., Ben G., Sally & Paul Miller **Welcome Center:** Patti & Courtney W. **Media:** Norman H.
- Feb 18th** – Altar flowers are in celebration of Lester Trittschuh's birthday
- 9:00 Liturgist:** Mike Circle **Greeters:** Nancy Studebaker & Richard Smith
Ushers: Richard Smith, Jim Scammahorn & Dave Thompson **Hospitality:** Tom & Janet Weeks
Nursery: 10:15 Jill C. & Patti W. / 11:15 Emily K. & Jennifer Knostman
- 11:15 Greeters:** Kathy Watkins **Scripture Reader:** Matt B. **Sound:** Norman H.
Ushers: Dejon D. & Greg B. **Welcome Center:** Mike & Denise S. **Media:** Michael B.
- Feb 25th** – Altar flowers are in open
- 9:00 Liturgist:** Les Trittschuh **Greeters:** Carol Bailey & Carol Storer
Ushers: Cliff Poling & Joe Blackburn **Hospitality:** Phil & Karen McFadden
Nursery: 10:15 Eric & Johanna M. / 11:15 Megan B. & Ben G.
- 11:15 Greeters:** Sally & Paul M. **Scripture Reader:** Dean B. **Sound:** Norman H.
Ushers: Mike & Denise S. and Lisa W. **Welcome Center:** Kathy Koeller **Media:** Valerie M.



Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary February 2018

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1st - Tim & Lisa Wright (35 yrs)</p> <p>2nd - Bret Beard</p> <p>4th - Ed & Sandy Johannes (57 yrs)</p> <p>5th - Leah Blackburn</p> <p>6th - Amy Todd</p> <p>8th - Liam Miller</p> <p>9th - Danielle Lawhorn</p> <p>10th - Luke Frazier
Darin Wion</p> <p>14th - Bret & Teesha Beard (25 yrs)</p> <p>15th - Luke & Barb Frazier (61 yrs)</p> <p>16th - Steve Kraus
Nancy Studebaker</p> | <p>17th - Rose Knostman</p> <p>19th - Marcia Smith
Lester Trittschuh</p> <p>20th - Sandy Johannes
Terry & Wendy Long (36 yrs)</p> <p>21st - James Beaty
Silas Raines</p> <p>22nd - Roy Nickels, Jr.
Wayne & Susie Spitler (54 yrs)</p> <p>23rd - Janet Benkert</p> <p>24th - Olivia Bryson</p> <p>25th - Nancy Lightcap</p> <p>28th - Terry Long</p> |
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Hoffman United Methodist Church

Feb 2018 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>28</div> <div>9am - Worship</div> <div>10:15am - S School</div> <div>11:15am - Worship</div> <div>6:30pm - Ignite</div>	<div>29</div> <div>6pm - Girl Scouts - B</div>	<div>30</div> <div>6:30pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>6:30pm - Women's</div>	<div>31</div> <div>9am - Women's</div> <div>6:30pm - Ladies</div> <div>7pm - Chancel Choir</div> <div>7pm - Private Mtg. -</div>	<div>1</div> <div>12:30pm - W Design</div> <div>6pm - Basketball</div> <div>7pm - Cub Scouts -</div> <div>7:30pm - Praise</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div> <div>10am - Sub and</div> <div>12pm - Y. Spirits - A.</div>
<div>4</div> <div>Communion</div> <div>9am - Worship</div> <div>10:15am - S School</div> <div>11:15am - Worship</div> <div>6:30pm - Ignite</div>	<div>5</div> <div>6pm - Girl Scouts - B</div> <div>7pm - Visitation</div> <div>7pm - Y. Spirits Mtg.</div>	<div>6</div> <div>6:30pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>6:30pm - Women's</div> <div>7pm - Trustee Mtg. -</div>	<div>7</div> <div>9am - Women's</div> <div>11am - Private Party</div> <div>6:30pm - Ladies</div> <div>7pm - Chancel Choir</div> <div>7pm - Private Mtg. -</div>	<div>8</div> <div>6pm - Basketball</div> <div>7pm - Cub Scouts -</div> <div>7:30pm - Praise</div>	<div>9</div>	<div>10</div> <div>12pm - Y. Spirits - A.</div>
<div>11</div> <div>9am - Worship</div> <div>10:15am - S School</div> <div>11:15am - Worship</div> <div>6:30pm - Ignite</div>	<div>12</div> <div>6pm - Girl Scouts - B</div>	<div>13</div> <div>6:30pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>6:30pm - Women's</div>	<div>14</div> <div>9am - Women's</div> <div>6:30pm - Ladies</div> <div>7pm - Chancel Choir</div> <div>7pm - Private Mtg. -</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Towers' Deadline</div> <div>6pm - Basketball</div> <div>6:30pm - Board Mtg</div> <div>7pm - Cub Scouts -</div> <div>7:30pm - Praise</div>	<div>16</div>	<div>17</div> <div>12pm - Y. Spirits - A.</div>
<div>18</div> <div>9am - Worship</div> <div>10:15am - S School</div> <div>11:15am - Worship</div> <div>6:30pm - Ignite</div>	<div>19</div> <div>6pm - Girl Scouts - B</div>	<div>20</div> <div>6:30pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>6:30pm - Women's</div>	<div>21</div> <div>9am - Women's</div> <div>6:30pm - Ladies</div> <div>7pm - Chancel Choir</div> <div>7pm - Private Mtg. -</div>	<div>22</div> <div>Mail Towers</div> <div>6:30pm - 4-H - B</div> <div>7:30pm - Praise</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div> <div>12pm - Y. Spirits - A.</div> <div>6pm - Girl Scouts A.</div>
<div>25</div> <div>9am - Worship</div> <div>10:15am - S School</div> <div>11:15am - Worship</div> <div>6:30pm - Ignite</div>	<div>26</div> <div>6pm - Girl Scouts - B</div>	<div>27</div> <div>6:30pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>6:30pm - Women's</div>	<div>28</div> <div>9am - Women's</div> <div>6:30pm - Ladies</div> <div>7pm - Chancel Choir</div> <div>7pm - Private Mtg. -</div>	<div>1</div> <div>12:30pm - W Design</div> <div>7pm - Cub Scouts -</div> <div>7:30pm - Praise</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div> <div>12pm - Y. Spirits - A.</div>

People to remember in prayer:



Hoffman Sympathies to: the family of Alma Butt, as she passed away on December 25, 2017
the family of Jean Brown, as she passed away on January 6, 2018
the family of Jim Pruitt, as he passed away on January 20, 2018

At Home: Phil Blue, Nan Guthrie, Valaria Harshbarger, Dick & Eugenie Markley,
Joetta Perry, and Shirley Richhart

At Centers:

Reba Hellard, 3151 Orders Road, Grove City OH 43132
Eldon Hoke, Piqua Manor, 1840 W High St., Rm 64, Piqua OH 45356
John Jackson, 46 Lavender Pl, Tipp City OH 45371
Wilma Johnston, Koester Pavilion, 3232 N Co. Rd. 25A, Rm 39, Troy OH 45373
Christine Moreland Pruitt, Brookdale Place, 95 Wenger Rd., Apt 310 Englewood, OH 45322,
Jean Truitt, Wedgewood Estates of Mansfield, 6005 Trimble Rd, Rm 101, Mansfield OH 44906
Katie Weeks, 1746 E Silver Star Road #525, Ocoee, FL 34761

THANKS

Dear Hoffman Church Family, Thank you all so much for all your prayers and cards.
Paul E. Miller, Sr.

**BE STRONG *and*
COURAGEOUS!**

DO NOT *be* AFRAID
OR DISCOURAGED.

FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD
IS WITH YOU
WHEREVER YOU GO.

»»»»» *Joshua 1:9*

trust
with all
your
heart &
lean not
on
your own
UNDERSTANDING;
in ALL your ways acknowledge
HIM ^{for} will make your
straight. ^{Psalm} 111:8

FEBRUARY "BODY" HEALTH

2018 ADULT MINISTRY NEWS

"to prepare God's people for works of service so
that the body of Christ may be built up..." Eph. 4:12



Spotlight on Marriage Week Feb. 7-14

In honor of National Marriage Week, Feb 7-14 I have set aside a recommended marriage study, on our RightNowMedia.com account "Essentials of Marriage: Higher Love" --the Spiritual side of marriage. It has a total of 120 minutes split into 16-23 minute segments with lessons from many Christian counselors and authors, including Stormie Omartian, Gary Thomas, Les and Leslie Parrot, Greg Smalley, Del Tackett and others. Episodes include: Holiness and Happiness, It's Not About You, Truth or Consequences, Spiritual Intimacy, Myths and Expectations, Walking in Their Shoes. You can access this study at:
<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/507>
And you will be directed to Login to your RightNow account or you can go to RightNowMedia.com, log in and click on the left sidebar menu for "Hoffman United Methodist Church", and the first saved study is "Higher Love". I will also be sending it as an invitation to the church that week. If you do not have an account, or have never activated it, let me know so I can re-send an invitation.

"Did you know that married adults live longer lives, have better health, and greater personal happiness? Children who are raised by a married mother and father perform better in school, have fewer addictions, fewer teen pregnancies, and less trouble with the law. Research clearly shows that marriage boosts measures of human wellbeing for children, women, and men."

Information from Nationalmarriageweek.com

Take time during this week to focus on your marriages, maybe even have a dinner, and invite other couples to join you in watching and then discussing this video study.



Summer Family Mission Trip UPDATES

NEXT Meeting Sunday, Mar.4th @12:30

There is still time to join the team—non-refundable commitment deposits of \$30 are due March 1st. Total cost of the trip will be approx. \$260, with fundraising efforts to help with costs. Remember children of all ages are welcome, however under the age of 12 they must be accompanied by a parent. Our youth group is also planning to be a part of the team. See Youth Director, Joseph Knostman for the Youth details.

Thank You for Your Sub and Pizza Orders!

Pick up Feb. 3rd/4th

If you ordered subs and pizzas during our Super Bowl sale, preferred pick up date/time is at the Activity Center on Saturday, Feb. 3rd from 10a-noon. There will also be a mission team member available after each service on Sunday, in case you are unable to pick them up Feb. 3rd. After Sunday they will be frozen and you will have to make special arrangements to pick them up. The order form will be left outside of the office so you can remember what you ordered and how much you owe.

Mission Team Bake Sale Palm Sunday, March 25th

There will be a bake sale after both worship services to support the mission team. You can help them in TWO ways: You can donate baked goods for them to sell and/or you can buy your Easter goodies for a donation of any amount. If you can donate baked goods, bring your goodies to either worship service or to Sunday school. Thanks!

Men's Bible Study to Resume

6:30P Tuesday Men's Group: Is on break and will start again March 13th.

SPARK!

children's ministry

*"Don't worry about anything,
instead pray about everything!"*
Philippians 4:6

A HUGE thank you to Wendy Heisey for volunteering to run the preschool children's church during second service. Also, a HUGE thank you to our middle school girls who help during this hour! All of you are much appreciated!!

We are still looking for 1-2 more nursery volunteers. These nursery volunteers will be in the nursery for one hour, once a month. They will never be alone, without another volunteer. If this is something that you can do, please see Becky Garrett.

If there is anyone who would like to put on a winter family fun night, similar to last year's family fun night, please see Becky Garrett. Due to having a baby soon, Becky cannot be in charge, but is willing to give guidance and help to anyone who has interest in leading a family fun night.

Sunday School Hour
10:15-11:10

...

Preschool Children's
Church Hour
11:15-12:15

Children's Director: Becky Garrett
ragarrett15@gmail.com
937-524-7220

Ignite

Every Sunday

6:30-8:30

Bowling

February 11

6:00-8:00

\$5

Volunteers Needed!

Please contact Joseph
if interested in working
with the youth

Youth Director: Joseph Knostman
knostmanj@gmail.com
937-573-7212

Ignite Volunteers Needed

*"Each one should use whatever gift
he has received to serve others,
faithfully administering God's
grace in its various forms."*

1 Peter 4:10



On February 11, Ignite will be going bowling! Notice the time change, and feel free to invite your friends! There is also still time to join the summer mission trip team. June 17-23 we will be going to Athens, OH. Please contact Joseph for all the details.

Ignite is growing!!! We currently have around 20 youth that attend Sunday nights. While this is definitely a blessing, we are in need of some more volunteers. If you have the desire and calling to work with youth, please contact Joseph. There are multiple ways that you could help, from running the game/activity to leading small group discussion. This is not a full-time commitment! We are hoping to come up with a monthly rotation. We are also looking for mentors for a Confirmation Class, so there are lots of options and ways to get involved.

X

hoffman
united methodist church
201 S Main Street
West Milton OH 45383

X

the **open door**
come as you are

Non-Profit
Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Tipp City, OH
Permit No. 26

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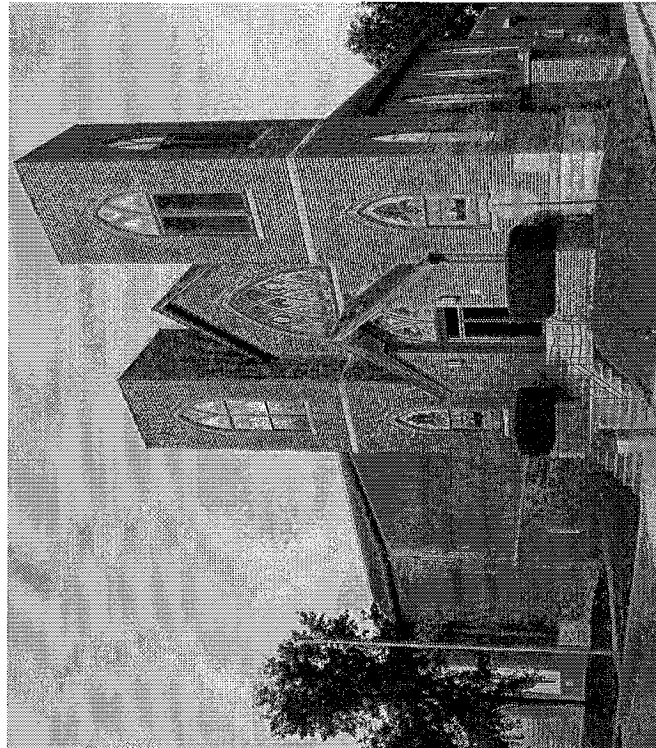
Return Service Requested

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TOWERS
THERS

February
2018



HOFFMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Time: 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

(937) 698-4401 Website: HoffmanUMC.org

Pastor Robbie Scott