

# THE TOWERS

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

December 2018

## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

### *Thankful Anticipation*

**John 4:25-26** 25 The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." 26 Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."

Sometimes as yet another Hallmark Christmas Movie is playing in front of me, I contemplate how many, or maybe all, are filmed in seasons other than the holidays. I feel a tiny bit like that today, as various schedule challenges require the Towers with Advent and Christmas schedules to be prepared well before the turkeys thaw for Thanksgiving. I therefore find myself still powerfully in the midst of of gratitude, as October was only a few days ago, and members of the staff and I have reflected about the outpouring we have experienced through your cards, notes, emails, and spoken words. I am in my 22nd year of pastoral service, and have been richly blessed through the years, but never has the so called "pastor and staff appreciation month" more lived into its name than in 2018. I wish I had responded to each and every word of encouragement, but alas, I did not. Thank you so much for the time you took to share words of affirmation and encouragement, and for your prayers.. While surely we don't do what we do for nice words, those words help on the days when we feel failures outnumber successes.

As I am certain you already know, even as there is a holiday (just past for you) set aside for thankfulness and gratitude, these are not mindsets limited to one season, but are to be part of our daily lives. *Colossians 2:6-7 ... just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*

The passage from John 4 at the beginning of this page is not typical for the season of Advent. However, in the context of Jesus talking with the Samaritan woman at the well, another

one of my favorite accounts, she shares with Jesus an expectation...an event that she and her people (a people shunned by the Jews) were anticipating...the arrival of the promised one, the Messiah, or Christ (same word, but Hebrew and Greek, respectively). She expressed something in that sentence that isn't often highlighted...Hope. "I know Messiah is coming..." Hope is powerful. Its presence can help one endure the unimaginable, and its absence can cause one to give up on life. A woman who is part of a despised population, herself having had 5 husbands, and was with a man not her husband (and thus may have been shunned by her own people)...SHE still had hope for when Christ would come. SHE is the ONE person outside of the disciples and the Sanhedrin that Jesus revealed his

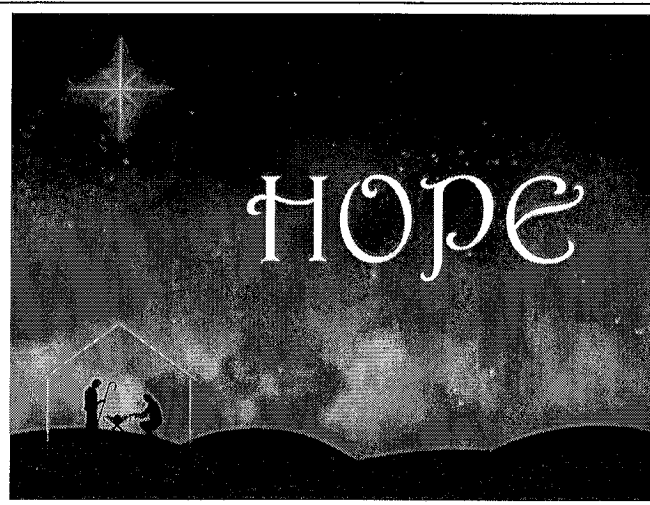
divine identity. We should let that sink into our being for a moment or two. (selah □) Hope looks ahead to what will be, and with it there is an air of gratitude for something to look forward to. One could say another way to define Hope is "Thankful Anticipation"...or some better combination of words than I can think of at the moment.

This is is part of the essence of Advent, the power of Hope. Many times we use Advent as preparation and anticipation of Christmas, and rightfully so, but that isn't the Only aspect of anticipation Advent celebrates. In the Christian liturgy for the sacraments, there is a phrasing in which we share the "mystery of faith," which is...

**Christ Has Died. Christ is Risen Christ Will Come Again.**

While praying my words and actions increase Hope for others to anticipate Christ's Advent, I am,

In His Service and Yours,



***People to remember in prayer:***



**Hoffman Sympathies to:** the family of Richard Furrow, Carol Storer's dad, as he passed away Nov. 7, 2018  
the family of Jean Truitt, as she passed away on November 9, 2018

**At Home:** Wendy Black, Phil Blue, Nan Guthrie, Valaria Harshbarger, Charlotte Hepfer, Eldon Hoke,  
Cindy Johnston, Helen Keller, Kathy Kinsey, Wendy Long, Mary Maess, Dick & Eugenie Markley,  
Miriam Miller, Joetta Perry, Shirley Richhart, and Monica Winemiller

**At Centers:**

Reba Hellard, 3151 Orders Road, Grove City OH 43132  
John Jackson, 46 Lavender Pl, Tipp City OH 45371  
Christine Moreland Pruitt P O Box 341, Mexico IN 46958  
Katie Weeks, 1746 E Silver Star Road #525, Ocoee FL 34761

***ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THANK YOU***

Ed and Sandy Johannes are proud to announce that their grandson will be graduating from the Marine Reserve School this month.

Thank you to everyone for your prayers, cards and visits in the passing of my father. You are a very loving and caring church family. Carol Storer & family

CROP Walk Report: Hoffman UMC total - \$1,576.00 Grand total - \$2,957.00. Thank you for supporting CWS/CROP.  
Les Trittschuch, CROP Walk Treasurer.

**Annual Christmas Party December 1<sup>st</sup>**

Hor d'oeuvres and conversation at 6 p.m. in the activity center. Dinner at 6:30 with entertainment by the Riverside Bell Choir following at 7:15 p.m. The Crossroads Sunday School Class will be providing chicken for dinner. Please plan to bring a dish to share. If your last name starts with is A-H, please bring a salad. Those with the last name that starts with I-Q should bring side dish to share. Finally, those with the last name R-Z should bring a dessert to share. We look forward to celebrating the Christmas season with you.

**Emmaus Woman's Share Group**

Tues., Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. in Multi-Purpose Room

**The 2019 Altar Flower Calendar** is on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary. Remember to sign up for your special Sundays.

Our church will supply the peanut butter for the MUCC Helping Hands Christmas food baskets. 150 16oz jars will be purchased and paid for by our mission fund. Thanks for supporting all our missions.

**Grandma's Kitchen December Menu**

Dec 5<sup>th</sup> Baked Spaghetti, garlic bread, tossed salad, and chocolate delight

Dec 12<sup>th</sup> Chicken & noodles, mashed potatoes  
Green beans, and cook's choice dessert

Grandma's Kitchen will be closing for the winter months. See you in the Spring.

**Children's Christmas Play**

December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:15 in the Sanctuary

**Holiday Service Times**

*Christmas Eve*

*Candlelight Services at 7 and 10 p.m.*

*Regular Services on Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9 and 11:15 a.m.*

***One Combined Service on Dec 30<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.***

***Theda's Thoughts***

Submitted by Theda Klepinger

GRANDFATHERS.....A number of years ago there was a grandfather whose grandchildren lovingly called him Dad-Dad. One of the expressions he used in conversations was, "Who'd a thought it". As we celebrate another Christmas we acknowledge the infinite wisdom and love of God when he sent his son, our Savior to earth, not as a king, but as a holy infant. I am sure Dad-Dad would express his wonder of it all by saying, "Who'd a thought it!"

## Serving Schedule

**Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>**

—Altar flowers are open

**9:00 Liturgist:** Valerie McKay

**Greeters:** Wendy Heisey, Taylor Beaschler, & Nancy Lightcap

**Ushers:** Lee & Becky Baker and Wayne & Susie Spitler

**Hospitality:** Tim & Janet B.

**Nursery:** 10:15 Jill C. & Teesha B. /11:15 Kim D. & Wendy H.

**11:15 Greeters:** Ben G., Julia C., & Kathy Koeller

**Scripture Reader:** Julia C.

**Sound:** Eric M.

**Ushers:** Les & Sharon T., Ruthann King, and Ruth Leazer

**Media:** Norman H.

**Dec 9<sup>th</sup>**

—Altar flowers are in celebration of Anita Ankerman's birthday, from John

**9:00 Liturgist:** Wendy Heisey

**Greeters:** Bill & Judy Brown

**Ushers:** Les & Sharon Trittschuh and Phil & Karen McFadden

**Hospitality:** Joe & Leah B.

**Nursery:** 10:15 Marcia C. & Lesli R. /11:15 Kathy Koeller and Cliff & Katie P.

**11:15 Greeters:** Lisa W. and Dick & Mary Ann M.

**Scripture Reader:** Valerie M.

**Sound:** Jill C.

**Ushers:** Julia C., Ben G., and Sally & Paul Miller

**Media:** Norman H.

**Dec 16<sup>th</sup>**

—Altar flowers are in celebration of Matthew Garrett's birthday

**9:00 Liturgist:** Les Trittschuh

**Greeters:** Nancy Studebaker & Richard Smith

**Ushers:** Richard Smith, Jim Scammahorn & Dave Thompson

**Hospitality:** Tom & Janet W.

**Nursery:** 10:15 Jill C. & Patti W. /11:15 Emily K. & Jennifer K.

**11:15 Greeters:** Kathy W. and Amanda B.

**Scripture Reader:** Norman H.

**Sound:** Norman H.

**Ushers:** Dejon D. & Greg B.

**Media:**

**Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>**

—Altar flowers are in celebration of Phil & Karen McFadden's 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary

**9:00 Liturgist:** Mike Circle

**Greeters:** Carol Bailey & Carol Storer

**Ushers:** Cliff Poling & Joe Blackburn

**Hospitality:** Chris & Linda L.

**Nursery:** 10:15 Eric & Johanna M. /11:15 Megan B. & Ben G.

**11:15 Greeters:** Sally & Paul M. and Marijo Schlecht

**Scripture Reader:** Ben G.

**Sound:** Norman H.

**Usher:** Lisa W.

**Media:** Valerie M.

**Dec 30<sup>th</sup>**

—Altar flowers are open

**9:00 Liturgist:** Wendy H.

**Greeters:** Stella & Sophia Blackburn

**Ushers:** Steve Kraus & Kay Wagner

**Hospitality:** John & Carol C.

**Nursery:** 10:15 Julia C. & Lesli R. /11:15 Courtney W. & Johanna M.

**11:15 Greeters:** Patti & Courtney W.

**Scripture Reader:** Matt B.

**Sound:** Norman H.

**Usher:** Nancy A. & Patti W.

**Media:**

### Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary December 2018

2<sup>nd</sup> - Robbie & Bridget Scott (17yrs)

5<sup>th</sup> - Marc & Robin Maeder (13yrs)

6<sup>th</sup> - Allyson Burns

8<sup>th</sup> - John Hennemyre

9<sup>th</sup> - Wendy Black

Steve Damon

10<sup>th</sup> - Carol Carter

11<sup>th</sup> - Anita Ankerman

Candy Curry

13<sup>th</sup> - Lisa Wright

15<sup>th</sup> - Andy Mitchell

16<sup>th</sup> - Avery Bryson

Nanci Herron

17<sup>th</sup> - Paul Crow

18<sup>th</sup> - Matthew Garrett

19<sup>th</sup> - Bob & Joyce Herron (64 yrs)

20<sup>th</sup> - John & Anita Ankerman (38 yrs)

Valerie McKay

Cheryl Owen

21<sup>st</sup> - Dawn Jay

24<sup>th</sup> - Dick & Dixie Porter (63 yrs)

25<sup>th</sup> - Cody Dohrman

26<sup>th</sup> - Phil & Karen McFadden (48yrs)

27<sup>th</sup> - Fred Brown

Aaron Mitchell

30<sup>th</sup> - Bob Herron

Tom Wolf

Ed & Tina Mathews (13 yrs)

31<sup>st</sup> - Gary Barga

The 2019 flower calendar is on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary.  
Remember to sign up for your special Sundays. The cost is \$20 per Sunday.

# Hoffman United Methodist Church

Dec 2018 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>25</div> <div>9 am - Worship</div> <div>10:15 am - S School</div> <div>11:15 am - Worship</div> <div>6:30 pm - Ignite</div>	<div>26</div> <div>6 pm - Girl Scouts - B</div>	<div>27</div> <div>6:30 pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>6:30 pm - Men's</div> <div>6:30 pm - Women's</div>	<div>28</div> <div>9 am - Women's</div> <div>5 pm - Grandma's</div> <div>6:30 pm - Women's</div> <div>7 pm - Chancel Choir</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Mail Towers</div> <div>Setup for Christmas</div> <div>7:30 pm - Praise</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Setup for Christmas</div>	<div>1</div> <div>6 pm - Christmas</div>
<div>2</div> <div>Communion</div> <div>9 am - Worship</div> <div>10:15 am - S School</div> <div>11:15 am - Worship</div> <div>6:30 pm - Ignite</div>	<div>3</div> <div>6 pm - Girl Scouts - B</div> <div>7 pm - Visitation</div>	<div>4</div> <div>11 am - Women's</div> <div>6:30 pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>6:30 pm - Men's</div> <div>6:30 pm - Women's</div> <div>7 pm - Trustee Mtg. -</div>	<div>5</div> <div>9 am - Women's</div> <div>5 pm - Grandma's</div> <div>6:30 pm - Women's</div> <div>7 pm - Chancel Choir</div>	<div>6</div> <div>12:30 pm - W Design</div> <div>4 pm - Kids Hope</div> <div>7 pm - Scouts B &amp; 5</div> <div>7:30 pm - Praise</div>	<div>7</div>	<div>8</div> <div>Setup for Luncheon</div>
<div>9</div> <div>9 am - Worship</div> <div>10:15 am - S School</div> <div>11:15 am - Worship</div> <div>12:30 pm - Spaghetti</div> <div>6:30 pm - Ignite</div>	<div>10</div> <div>6 pm - Girl Scouts - B</div>	<div>11</div> <div>6:30 pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>6:30 pm - Men's</div> <div>6:30 pm - Women's</div>	<div>12</div> <div>9 am - Women's</div> <div>5 pm - Grandma's</div> <div>6:30 pm - Women's</div> <div>7 pm - Chancel Choir</div>	<div>13</div> <div>7 pm - Scouts B &amp; 5</div> <div>7:30 pm - Praise</div>	<div>14</div>	<div>15</div> <div>1 pm - Private Party</div>
<div>16</div> <div>9 am - Worship</div> <div>10:15 am - S School</div> <div>11:15 am - Worship</div> <div>1 pm - Private Party</div> <div>6:30 pm - Ignite</div>	<div>17</div> <div>6 pm - Girl Scouts - B</div>	<div>18</div> <div>6:30 pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>6:30 pm - Women's</div>	<div>19</div> <div>7 pm - Chancel Choir</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Towers' Deadline</div> <div>6:30 pm - Board Mtg</div> <div>7 pm - Scouts B &amp; 5</div> <div>7:30 pm - Praise</div>	<div>21</div> <div>5 pm - Dress</div>	<div>22</div>
<div>23</div> <div>9 am - Worship</div> <div>10:15 am - Christmas</div> <div>10:15 am - S School</div> <div>11:15 am - Worship</div> <div>6:30 pm - Ignite</div>	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Christmas</div>	<div>26</div> <div>7 pm - Chancel Choir</div>	<div>27</div> <div>Mail Towers</div> <div>7:30 pm - Praise</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div>
<div>30</div> <div>10 am - Combined</div> <div>10:15 am - S School</div> <div>6:30 pm - Ignite</div>	<div>31</div> <div>6 pm - Girl Scouts - B</div>	<div>1</div> <div>New Year's Day</div> <div>11 am - Women's</div> <div>6:30 pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>7 pm - Trustee Mtg. -</div>	<div>2</div> <div>7 pm - Chancel Choir</div>	<div>3</div> <div>12:30 pm - W Design</div> <div>7 pm - Scouts B &amp; 5</div> <div>7:30 pm - Praise</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div>

## *Thank You and Announcements*

A "round of applause" to our Hoffman family and friends who worked together to make this year's Election Day Dinner a huge success! We raised \$1,721.70. Thank you to all volunteers who provided donations and worked tirelessly to feed the patriotic citizens of our community. It was truly an honor to work with people who provided time and resources to support this project. A special thank you to those who made pot pie, shopped, prepared the meal, cleaned tables, washed dishes, provided pies, decorated the Activity Center, served the meal and all who attended our dinner. God's Blessings,

*Laverne Hennemyre and Carol Carter*

**Graduation Celebration!** Cheyenne Barnes is graduating from Wright State University, and her parents Amy and Michael Barnes would like to invite her Hoffman family to help her celebrate. We will be having an Open House from 2pm - 4pm in the Activity Center on Sunday, December 16th.

Thank you to the Ignite Youth Ministry teens for helping paint over 600 wooden toys for Santa's toy ministry. We appreciated your willingness to help and please know that the toys will be enjoyed by many children this Christmas season.

*Merry Christmas, Mr. & Mrs. Claus*

### **Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed**

Our day to ring the bell for the Salvation Army is Sat., Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. Please see Les if you are available.

We have willing servants who are willing to assist you when you need help. Please call the church or Les at 478-8093 and we will attempt to get someone to help you. People are willing to help with transportation, run errands, child/adult care, paint, mechanic needs, shovel snow, outdoor work, house work, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, jobs that you need a ladder and etc. Please ask for assistance.

PASTA LUNCHEON , DESSERT AND GIFT AUCTION

ALL HOFFMAN AND POTSDAM UM CHURCH FAMILIES ARE INVITED.

SUNDAY DEC. 9TH , 12:30 IN THE ACTIVITY CENTER

FREEWILL DONATION- ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO "HELPING HANDS" CHRISTMAS FOOD AND TOYS BASKETS

Please attend by choosing one of the following:  
Just bring yourself and your family,  
You may bring a dessert to share at the luncheon  
You may bring a gift or dessert for the auction

Thanks to members of the Future Seekers Class for providing the main pasta dishes and drinks!  
If you have questions please ask any member of the class. Les (478-8093)

# DECEMBER "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

Contact: Pam Hitchcock  
937-698-6511  
pamhitchcock@hoffmanumc.org

### Small Groups Take a Christmas Break

- Women's Weds. 9 AM group with Nancy Kinnison starts their Christmas break on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> (last meeting Dec. 12)
- Women's Weds. 6:30 PM group with Pam Hitchcock will also take a break starting Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> and start again on January 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Young Women's 6:30PM Tuesday Group with Leslie Raines will meet through Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> and then be off until January 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Men's Group at 6:30PM on Tuesdays will meet through Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> and take a break over the holidays. Stay tuned for a start-up date in 2019.

### Adult Sunday School Continues to Meet

Even though weekly small groups are on a break, your weekly Sunday school classes continue to meet. Here are their locations and leaders:

- En Avant: Senior Citizens in Rooms 2&3. Norman Hiester leads.
- Future Seekers meet in the Lower Level-3 (smaller classroom) with Marilyn Mitchell and others.
- Crossroads meets in the Lower Level-2 (large room) with Rev. Tim Benkert.
- The Journey—younger adults (many with kids) meet in Room 7 with Becky Garrett and others leading.
- Christian Currents meets in the Activity Center studying current events from a Christian standpoint. Susie Spitler leads.

### Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Church Christmas Party, Saturday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> 6PM
- Children's Christmas Play 10:15, Sunday Dec. 23
- Christmas Eve Services: 7PM and 10PM
- Combined Worship Service: Sun. 10 AM, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>
- Usher /Greeter Training being planned for March.
- April 6, 2019 HUGE Women's Event! Priscilla Shirer Simulcast here at Hoffman! Spread the word!

### Greater Dayton Emmaus

- Gain a new understanding of God's love and grace through a community of believers
- Strengthen or jump-start your spiritual life
- A place to sing, reflect, pray, and worship
- A place to seek answers to questions about your faith

### *Scheduled 2019 Weekends*

**Men's Walk #66**      **Women's Walk #105**  
January 17 - 20, 2019      February 21-24, 2019

*Both at Normandy UMC in Centerville*

**Men's Walk #67**      **Women's Walk #106**  
June 20-23, 2019      July 18-21, 2019

*Both at Sulphur Grove UMC in Huber Heights*

There are flyers on the info table outside of the church office or contact me for more information or registration forms.

### Our Staff Thanks You

The staff would like to thank everyone for their cards and gifts during October's Pastor and Staff Appreciation month. We all agreed that we were overwhelmed by the out-pouring of love and support!



### Christmas for Rosebud

An effort to aid the Lakota tribe on Rosebud Indian Reservation



### Potsdam UMC Assisting in 20<sup>th</sup> Annual

### Rosebud Reservation Collection

As you clean out your closets this season, consider giving your good used clothing to Rosebud Reservation (no used underwear please). You can bring them in trash bags sorted and labeled as to men's, women's, children's to my office at Hoffman OR drop them off on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at the Union Township Building on Markley Rd from 10a-4p. You can also donate new hats, gloves, etc., non-perishable food, bedding and toys. Check them out at:  
<http://www.christmasforrosebud.com/>



"And He took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed



A HUGE thank you to everyone who donated items for the family fun day and for those that came! The families all had a blast. Make sure to visit the blessings tree downstairs on the bulletin board to see what we are all thankful for.

December is coming quick and with that Christmas!! Please feel free to come to all these church events with your children coming up...

Dec. 1: Church Christmas Party- we will have childcare

Dec. 9: Spaghetti Luncheon with Auction

Dec. 23: Children's Christmas Play during Sunday School

### Sunday School Hour

10:15-11:15

...

### Preschool Children's Church Hour

11:15-12:20

...

### Nursery open

10:15-12:20

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

Christmas Feast  
Dec 16th

...

NO IGNITE:  
Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>

Dec 30th

...

Youth Director: Joseph Knostman  
josephknostman@hoffmanumc.org  
937-573-7212

### Thank YOU Church!

*I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all you, I always pray with joy because of your **partnership** in the gospel... Philipians 1:3-5*

In this season of thankfulness and joy, I want to take the time to express my deepest gratefulness to our church family for their prayers, support, and encouragement to my family and I as we guide the youth program at Hoffman. The expression of love from the congregation towards Ignite is inspiring and encourages us to keep seeking the Lord's will for youth in the community. We love our church family and thank you for your continued support. Ignite would not be possible without YOU!

November was a busy month of service. The youth shopped for, and packed 37 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Youth also participated in the community work day raking leaves and cleaning up yards for multiple neighbors. We will wrap the year up with a Christmas Feast.



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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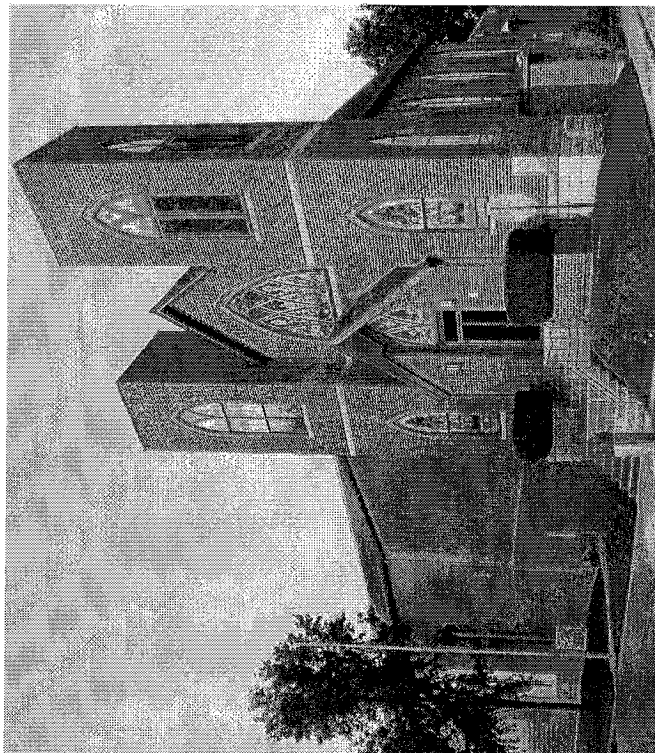
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TOWERS  
THERS

December  
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](http://HoffmanUMC.org)

Pastor Robbie Scott