

THE TOWERS

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

January 2019

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Thankful Pondering.

Luke 2:17-19 ¹⁷ When [the shepherds] had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

As is common many times this time of year, I am composing an article you will read "next year" even as details remain to be determined for a few more worship services in 2018. My mind

prefers to work fully "in the moment," as I have found that looking too far ahead can cause one or many to miss what is happening right now. As a parent of children in school, these last few years have been continual reminders of moments we share that will not return. And for all the emphasis in recent years for a 5-year-plan, 10-year-plan, and so on, one can only put a certain amount of focus on the future, as the present is where we are living now.



I am fully aware we are a congregation of differing views on things such as this. However, most decisions I make in the present are as much about future consequences or blessings as they are about present need.

I have to admit that the last 3 years especially I have felt like I come "careening" into and through Christmas. In the years I have been at Hoffman, Christmas has been on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, respectively, so it has felt more like a sprint than has been ideal. I have a feeling I'm not the only one. It may be for that reason that as I was reading again through the Christmas story, the words in Luke of Mary's pondering are echoing louder and louder. We don't ponder Christmas much, do we? We puff out our candles at the Christmas Eve service, and attempt to get as many of the required gatherings completed while students are on break. By the time those festivities done, we are joking about New Year's resolutions and looking through Valentine's Day displays at the

stores. Mary didn't have to worry about the same distractions we do. Even so, Luke's Gospel records "But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."

I will share a word here for Hoffman's many young families. Your kids will not be this age again. As one who missed first words and first steps, I can tell you some things don't happen again. Yes you can be purposefully present later on, but regrets are often present. Spending some time "treasuring"

and "pondering" is an investment more valuable than overtime. I have had many conversations with grown children reflecting on the lives of their parents for memorial services. Is our work ethic more important than our presence? Both are valuable, and many events and seasons with those we love, including God, deserve pondering and require treasuring. Recently I spoke of the Prevenient Grace of God, the grace that pursues us before we

accept Christ as Savior. Without pondering and reflection, we risk not recognizing it in our lives.

If you will pardon the irony, you may notice from the picture on the page a new series is upcoming. While of course I was wanting to have a "catchy" phrasing for it, the main point is that this series, starting in mid-January, is focussing on Scripture's stories of failure that end in redemption. In other words, we don't always get what we deserve, thanks be to God. For all who have felt their failure was the last straw on the Camel of Grace (I smiled as I typed that, yes I did), I hope this will be an encouraging series while our long dark nights gradually give way to the light of day.

While seeking moments to treasure and ponder, long after the wicks' wisps disappear, I am,

In His Service and Yours,

Hoffman United Methodist Church



Edition: November 2018

Board Meeting Highlights

Special Note

November's meeting was shortened in preparation for the Church (Charge) Conference which followed.

Trustees Report

Carpet has been replaced in the classrooms and hallway. In 2018 4 air conditioning units were replaced, including the parsonage. Endowment Funds assisted with these expenses.

Pastor's Report

October average attendance was 155. About 33 attended the Family Fun Day. Children will again be assisting with Advent Candle Lighting. Youth helped shop for and filled 37 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. The Praise Band filled in for worship on October 25 because of a death in Norman's family. 111 attended the special Veteran's Day presentation in the activity center. The special General Conference Session was discussed. While 3 main petitions are talked about the most, there are nearly 100 petitions about human sexuality being considered, making it impossible for the Conference, District, or individual congregations to "prepare" for what will be decided there. In preparations for hosting April's simulcast of Priscilla Shirer, Robbie hopes to find a reasonable presentation option brighter than the activity center projector. New banners for the activity center have been ordered.

The Board then discussed and set Breakthrough Goals for 2019. 2018 has been a good year, with multiple baptisms and members joining the congregation. The congregation's support of various missions again surpassed expectations. Please note the December 30 combined worship service at 10am.

Finance

Finance report was reviewed and slight revisions were made to the 2019 Budget, which stands at \$248,199.84.

Meeting Attendees

Pastor Robbie, John Ankerman, Dick Martens, Tina Mathews, Carol Storer, David Jay, Les Trittschuh, Cindy Johnston, Patti Wion, Val McKay

Church Conference

Rev. Kim Armentrout presided over the Church Conference. The Board Meeting attendees were present, as well as Tim Benkert and Janet Benkert. Devotions for the meeting were offered via video by Bishop Palmer, who reflected upon Matthew 5:13-16 and Colossians 1:17, with the challenge to "Be Not Afraid." His request of the church is to maintain hope for the world and hope for the Church. The Highlighted Ministry shared during the meeting was Grandma's Kitchen, and Valerie McKay shared there were over 7,000 meals served in 2018, with over 2000 gratis. About 38 volunteers a week make this ministry happen. In addition to meals, around \$6,000 worth of donations to food ministries has also been contributed by Grandma's Kitchen. Additional reflections about the past year, including the successful Confirmation Class, were shared. The church officially supports Tina Mathews in her continued training in Lay Servant Ministry. Our 2019 Breakthrough Goals include:

Average Worship Attendance, 170 Professions of faith, 8

Baptisms, 5

Average number of small groups per week, 15 Average number of people in small groups, 115. Average amount of giving weekly to budget, \$4800 Apportionment Giving, 100%

As always, we are not limited to the goals set. Included in the official work of the Conference were submissions of the Trustee Legal and Property Report, the Safe Sanctuary Policy, and Budget, as well as the approval of the Pastoral Compensation, including Housing Exclusion and Accountable Reimbursement Policy.

Prayers were lifted for the saints who had passed away since the last Conference, and the meeting closed with words from Rev. Armentrout, including Ephesians 4:1-6, and Romans 15:13



Hoffman United Methodist Church

December 2018

Board Meeting Highlights

Devotions

Patti Wion led devotion tonight. Jesus was willing to live amongst us, Jesus was willing to give up his life for us, Jesus was willing to help the unwilling. Knowing this, in Hebrews 12:1-3 "let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith"... "consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Remember Jesus loves you and is willing to forgive you, even on your worst day.

Mission/Ministry Update

Jim Mitchell spoke of 4 main takeaways from the Legal Forum:

- -Estate Planning: new tax laws and their impact on charitable giving. With these sometimes obstacles, estate planning is one way to conserve resources for heirs. Seeing a financial advisor can help in getting recommendations on ways to do this.
- -Real Estate Planning: Who owns the church buildings and land? The United Methodist Church owns the real property. There are a lot of empty buildings and the Church will determine who gets the building on a case by case basis.
- -MeToo and the Church: United Methodists have been very proactive in this movement, dating back to 2006. It's not enough to just post the safe sanctuary policies, it is also necessary to enforce those rules. Richard said the organizations insurance should identify Hoffman if there were ever a need to do so.
- -Copyright basics: There are Religious exceptions to allow us to use copyrighted material in a service, but can't broadcast copyrighted material live on social media. We pay an annual fee to be able to use copyrighted material in our services. If we were to move towards live streaming, additional licensing would be necessary, and some limitations would remain as far as copyrighted song performances.

Meeting Attendees

John Ankerman, Pastor Robbie Scott, Leah Blackburn, Tina Mathews, Les Trittschuh, Cindy Johnston, Carol Storer, Richard Smith, Patti Wion, Dick Martens, David Jay, Val McKay

Trustees Report

There are several members of the trustee committee stepping down in 2019. Thank you to those who have served. The trustees are an important part to the operation of Hoffman United Methodist Church. The trustees will be meeting in January to work on a list of projects for the upcoming year.

Pastors Report

Average attendance for November was 166. Pam is working on a booklet with training for Greeters and Ushers. She is also lead on the April simulcast. She is also researching the possibility of an urban mission. This is just an idea at this point, lots of details to be worked out before moving forward.

Joseph's Ignite Youth had their annual feast, and it went well. Attendance was down, but still a good time. There will be a new member singing with the Praise Band, Kyleigh Ryan. She is part of the Show Choir and plans to be in Young Spirits as well. Baby Knostman is due mid January, keep the Knostman family in your prayers. Becky has a busy week coming up with the Children's program, Sunday Services and Christmas Eve. Pastor Robbie has been speaking with Terry Beetley, he has been the Boy Scout leader for a long time. He is 75 years old and is looking to slow down a bit. Boys Scouts is in need of adult leaders to help with our chartered troop. If you would like more information or if there is any interest, please reach out to Pastor Robbie.

Thank you to John Ankerman, Tina Matthews and Val McKay for your service on the board and to Hoffman Church. Your presence will be missed.

Upcoming Events

January 1-22 Methodists Men's Sausage Sale January 27-30 Board of Ordained Ministries

February 23-26 General Conference

March 6 Ash Wednesday

March 20 Grandma's Kitchen Returns

Images from: HUMC Website

People to remember in prayer:

Hoffman Sympathies to: the family of Reba Hellard, as she passed away on November 21, 2018

At Home: Wendy Black, Phil Blue, Nan Guthrie, Valaria Harshbarger, Charlotte Hepfer, Cindy Johnston,

Helen Keller, Kathy Kinsey, Wendy Long, Mary Maess, Dick & Eugenie Markley,

Miriam Miller, Joetta Perry, Shirley Richhart, and Monica Winemiller

At Centers: Eldon Hoke, Piqua Manor, 1840 W Hight St Rm 63, Piqua OH 45356

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

Please remember all of our shut-ins with cards and prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THANK YOU

Dear Congregation, Thank you for your prayers and the wonderful Veterans Day Program. Sincerely, Kent & Charlotte Genslinger

You are all such giving, loving, and wonderful people. Thank you so much for your Christmas gifts, cards, and bonus. My job serving you at Hoffman church continues to bless me and I feel very fortunate to have all of you in my life. Blessings in 2019, JoAnn Antonides

Dear Hoffman UMC, Thank you all so much for all you did on your summer mission trip and also for all the items you donated and the monetary donation. I praise God for his provision through your congregation. Sincerely, Garrett Smith, House Supervisor, Timothy House. Good Works, Inc.

Emmaus Woman's Share Group

Tues., January 8th at 11 a.m. in Multi-Purpose Room

Thanks to everyone who supported the Future Seekers Class Pasta Luncheon and Gift Auction! It was a delicious and fun event. The total amount given to the MUCC Helping Hands Christmas food baskets was \$ 1092.00! Praise God! We deeply appreciate the support of this local mission. Blessings! Les Trittschuh, Class Treasurer

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

Special thanks to Christy Harris for her time in preparing the multimedia for the services. We appreciate you so very much.

Thanks to those who helped fold and label the *Towers* for mailing. Recently it has been Nancy Studebaker, Joy Paulus, and Dawn Jay.

Thanks to David Hayes for changing the message on the outside sign. We appreciate you!

We would like to thank everyone that was able to stop by during Cheyenne's graduation party & thank those who had her in their thoughts and prayers. She is overjoyed to announce that she has accepted a position in a nurse residency program as a Labor and

Thanks to those who rang the bell for the Salvation Army. All funds collected support families in Union Township.

Thanks to all who supported our church family Christmas dinner Thanks to everyone involved with the children's Christmas program.

Grandma's Kitchen, Winter Version If you have some extra time this winter and would like to get involved in Grandma's Kitchen you might be interested in volunteering to help with several winter meals. We hope to serve several meals this winter to just those families on our delivery routes, 46 families, which would mean about 60 meals. These would be prepared in time to be delivered during the daytime and may not be on a regular basis as we have winter weather to work around. If you are interested, please sign the list in the kitchen or call Val (371-4965), Marilyn (947-1831) or the church office (698-4401). You will be called when the first meal is being planned.

Theda's Thoughts

Submitted by Theda Klepinger

NEW BEGINNINGS...The new year brings us opportunities to experience God's blessings. These may be found by following a path of stepping stones. First, step lightly on JOY...it will warm your heart and bring a smile to your face. Then touch KINDNESS...you will want to hug everyone in sight! The stone of PATIENCE is next...you will overlook a forgotten greeting and be at peace...Next put your foot firmly on FAITHFULNESS...you will experience pleasant surprises....The greatest stone you will touch is LOVE...celebrate there with your loved ones...Share these with everyone and I believe you will have a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Serving Schedule

Jan 06

-Altar flowers are open

9:00 Liturgist: Mike Circle

Greeters: Wendy Heisey & Nancy Lightcap

Ushers: Lee & Becky Baker and Wayne & Susie Spitler

Hospitality: Phil & Karen McFadden

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

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

Scripture Reader: Norman H.

Sound: Eric M.

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

Media: Norman H.

Jan 13th

- Altar flowers are open

9:00 Liturgist: Wendy Heisey

Greeters: Bill & Judy Brown

Ushers: Les & Sharon Trittschuh and Phil & Karen McFadden Hospitality: Nancy S. & Kathy K.

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: Patti W.

Sound: Jil C.

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

Media: Norman H.

Jan 20th

Altar flowers are open

9:00 Liturgist: Les Trittschuh

Greeters: Richard Smith and Elaine Iddings

Ushers: Richard Smith, Jim Scammahorn & Dave Thompson Hospitality: Kay W. & Steve K.

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

11:15 Greeters: Kathy W. and Amanda B. Ushers: Dejon D. & Greg B.

Scripture Reader: Beth Thoele

Sound: Norman H.

Media:

Jan 27th

2nd

- Altar flowers are in celebration of Matt & Melissa Ankerman's birthdays from John & Anita

9:00 Liturgist: Tim Benkert

Greeters: Carol Bailey & Carol Storer

Ushers: Cliff Poling & Joe Blackburn

Hospitality: Jim & Marilyn M. and Valerie M.

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

11:15 Greeters: Sally & Paul M. and Marijo Schlecht Scripture Reader: Dean B.

Sound: Norman H.

Usher: Lisa W.

Andrew Circle

Media: Valerie M.

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary January 2019

Bob & Nancy Mills (51 yrs) 5th 6th Jim Watkins 12th Elaine Iddings David Mitchell 13th Kay Wagner Nancy Curry 14th Patti Wion Tom & Nancy Wolf (54 yrs) 15th Ben Garrett 18th 19th **Greg Raines**

21st Paul Miller, Sr.

Bob Mills

Shawn & Shari Williams (5 yrs)

22nd Courtney Wion

John Carter 23rd

Theda Klepinger

Audrey Scammahorn

Bridget Scott

Chevenne Barnes 24th

Matt Ankerman 25th

27th Emma Knostman

 28^{th} Tom & Kathy Kinsey (35 yrs)

29th Denise Sanderson

31st Lauren Everage

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.

Jan 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)

JANUARY "BODY" HEALTH

2019 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 pamhitchcock@hoffmanumc.org 937-698-6511



Women's Conference with Bible Teacher Priscilla Shirer! Here at Hoffman! April 6, 2019

9:50AM - 5:30PM

Early Bird Registration: Before February 1st \$25 with Lunch, \$20 Lunch on own.

After February 1st \$30 with Lunch, \$25 Lunch on own.

Tickets will be available at both services.

Call Pam 698-6511 for info.

Thank you for the Christmas Gift!

Wow, just wow! The kindness and generosity of this congregation is always amazing and very humbling. Your gift and sentiments are very much appreciated. I use part of it to travel to see my Texan family each Spring, so I am very thankful! With Love, Blessings, and Much Gratitude, Pam H.



Now you are
the body of Christ, and each
one of you is a part of it.
1 Corinthians 12:27

Small Groups Begin Again After Christmas

- Women's Weds. 9 AM group with Nancy Kinnison will be studying "The Book of Job" when they resume Jan. 9th.
- Women's Weds. 6:30 PM group with Pam Hitchcock will start again on January 16th doing a study titled, "Trusting God—A Life Without Worry"
- Young Women's 6:30PM Tuesday Group with Lesli Raines will be starting January 8th.
- Men's Group at 6:30PM –with Chris Long will start up Jan.15th.

These groups are always open to new members!

Call me for connection information!

Lost and Waiting to be Found

Missing a nice Bible? Clothing? Travel Mugs? In case you didn't know, we have a lost and found bin outside of my office, next to the FISH donation bin. Check it out!!

Mark Your Calendars

Usher-Greeter Training Monday, March 11, 2019 6:30-7:30pm

Emmaus Reminder: The next two Emmaus Walks are:

Men's Walk #66 January 17 - 20, 2019

Women's Walk #105 February 21-24, 2019

Both at Normandy UMC in Centerville.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU!

Erin and Dan Studebaker

Erin and Dan joined the HUMC family when they took their membership vows on Nov. 25, 2018. They previously attended Pleasant View Missionary Church in Greenville, but have been attending Hoffman for several years after being invited by Dan's mom, Nancy. They have two children, Dane and Monica and live in West Milton.

Erin was born in Columbus, OH and when she is not working as a CPA at Nolan, Giere & Co. in Troy, she plays cards, works on puzzles and enjoys organizing and cleaning! When she has nothing else to do, she loves taking walks outside and listening to music.

Dan was born in San Diego, CA and is a computer teacher at National Trail Middle School. Starting in January, Dan will be serving as the secretary of the Ad Council. He enjoys listening to music, woodworking and Auto-Cad.

Welcome, Erin and Dan (officially) to Hoffman UMC!

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



Welcome to 2019!! I am so excited to see what this year has in store for SPARK!!

As we look over December, we can say that we had an awesome month with lots of chances for fun and fellowship. We had a wonderful Christmas play: a huge thank you to Janet and Tim Benkert and Wendy Heisey for their leadership and dedication to the children.

Starting now- the only children who will be going downstairs during second service are the preschool children. The rest of the K-5th graders will have bags of activities to do during the service. If someone would like to lead a class, please let Becky know... curriculum is already bought.

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

Youth Sunday School 10:15-11:15

Snack Volunteers needed Fmail Joseph

Want to host the youth at your home?

Email Joseph

Want to sponsor a
Bowl or Skate night?

Email Joseph

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

II Corinthians 5:17



Ignite had a great 2018 thanks to the support and volunteers from this great congregation! Thank you to everyone who made the Christmas Feast a success. Youth were very appreciative of the yummy dinner.

We are looking forward to another amazing year full of fun, service, and memory making.

The month of January is going to be more up in the air than usual. Jennifer and I are due with baby girl number four any time in January. Youth and parents will want to stay tuned to Facebook and their Remind messages about event details. We plan to have Ignite every Sunday throughout January, but will keep youth and parents posted if we are in the hospital.

31st Annual Hoffman's United Methodist Men's Whole Hog Sausage Sale

The Methodist Men's 31st Annual Whole Hog Sausage Sale for 2019 is about to begin. The sausage is \$3.50 per tube (approximately one pound packages). We are offering Mild Spice or Plain sausage. We are also offering the Mild Spice in two pound packages of breakfast links at \$7.00 per package. Remember! This is delicious whole hog sausage make room in your freezer and get ready to enjoy this good sausage while helping the United Methodist Men with this major fund raising project. The proceeds will benefit local mission projects to glorify God. Don't forget we will deliver to you. Please contact any Methodist Men or the Church Office to place your order. The LAST DAY to order will be Monday January 21st, so order yours TODAY. Delivery will begin on Wednesday January 30th. If you have any questions or want to order please call John Ankerman at 478 2078 or Les Trittschuh at 698 5161.

United Methodist Men's Glazed Ham Loaf

4 Eggs, slightly beaten

1 T Grated Onion

1 can Tomato Soup

2 lbs Ground Lean Pork Sausage (Methodist Men's Sausage)

2 C Cracker Crumbs

1 lbs Ground Cured Ham

GLAZE
½ C Brown Sugar
1 T Prepared Mustard

Combine eggs, onion, and soup, mix well. Add meats and cracker crumbs, mold into 2 loaves. The last half hour glaze with brown sugar and mustard mixture. Bake at 275-300 degrees for 2 hours. Makes 8 servings.

Here is the recipe that we use for Easter Sunrise Breakfast.

Egg Sausage Casserole (from Kathy Hayes):

2 lbs (makes 5 cups cooked browned) sausage (could do 1 lb

each of sage or unseasoned) cooked and crumbled.

9 eggs, beaten

9 white bread slices, torn into small pieces.

3 cups milk

3 cups shredded cheddar cheese

2 tablespoons yellow mustard

1 teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon pepper

Mix well with spoon. Pour batter in the pan (9x13 inch pan).
Refrigerate 8 hours (or overnight) for baking.
Uncover for the baking. Bake 45-60 min. Oven 350

degrees.

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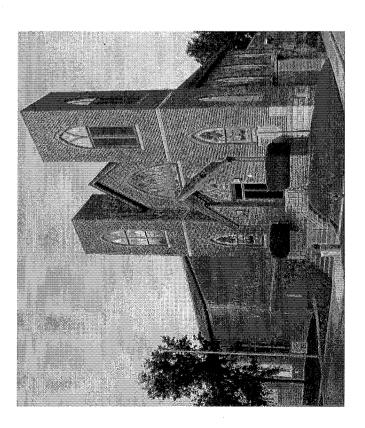
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HOBERS



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

