

THE TOWERS

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

March 2019

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Clearing Paths for the Lord, revisited

7 Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come! (Matt 18:7 NIV)

Hello Friends,

When the 2018 Mission Team returned from Good Works last year, I wrote an article called Clearing Paths for the Lord through the "lens" of the constant nurturing of our spiritual paths, lest the weeds and overgrowth slowly tangle the way. This winter has reminded me of other obstacles. I always keep an eye on weather forecasts for Sundays, but this winter's weather has certainly kept my attention as each Sunday has had new challenges.

This passage of Scripture comes on the heels of Jesus teaching about welcoming children, and many times we put the stumbling blocks in the context of discipling kids, but we are ALL God's children...we ALL need connected...and ALL experience stumbling blocks...and storms...and paths are blocked.

Recently the physical obstacles have been snow and ice, and the tools clearing the paths have been shovels, just to try to make our entrances accessible. On one of those terribly snowy Sundays, I decided to do what we are not ready to do quite yet...I stuck my phone on a tripod and with the church Facebook account went "live." I want you to know that the responses and feedback from those blocked by various obstacles have been noticed. We still are not ready for such a step on a weekly basis, especially tying our sound into our content in a way that can be heard on computer speakers....still working on that. The solution is both simple and difficult all at once.

I would like to invite someone with basic tech awareness to help me find what would be the best option for connecting our Sunday Worship to those who cannot be with us in person. I have initial thoughts on the subject, but while I can juggle, I

am limited in the quantity of items I can keep in the air. I mean it when I say "basic," because of the need for a volunteer to "run" it, and that step is what is causing me hesitation. Please let me know if you would be willing to help.

I have a reputation through the years, whether I like it or not, of being a guy who brings tech into the life of the churches I serve. While I guess that is somewhat true, what I really am about is attempting to use all the tools available to us to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Sometimes the tools are 21st Century, such as our RightNowMedia subscriptions (are you

connected?) and sometimes the tools are more timeless, such as our stained glass windows, and our facility in general is a giant tool box for God to use.

As I have shared before, part of the work of the church is to clear the paths to allow as many as possible to be connected to their Creator. The work of the Special General Conference I am monitoring even as

I am writing is the wrestling of our denomination through Christian Conferencing to discern how best to deal with some known obstacles. We have obstacles preventing members from being able to physically spend Sunday Morning with us, but are able to connect virtually, and I would like to try to make that happen if it is feasible.

As of this week, Zanesville, Ohio will be the place from which our hands and feet of mission will next work to remove temporary obstacles of physical needs and help connect people to the Lord who loves them. (the week of June 16-22)

As the Scripture reads, in this world obstacles are going to come to all God's kids. My hope is that we can stay on the lookout for the obstacles we are able to remove for the sake of the "kids" we know, as well as for those we don't yet know.

I am,

In His Service and Yours,

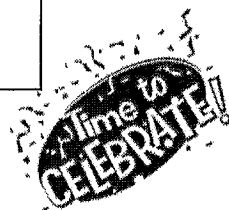


Serving Schedule

- Mar 03** — Altar flowers are in celebration of Cliff & Katie Poling's 41st anniversary
9:00 Liturgist: Valerie McKay **Greeters:** Wendy Heisey & Nancy Lightcap
Ushers: Lee & Becky Baker and Wayne & Susie Spittler **Hospitality:** John & Carol C.
Nursery: 10:15 Jill C. & Teesha B. / 11:15 Kim D. & Wendy H.
11:15 Greeters: Ben G., Julia C., & Kathy Koeller **Scripture Reader:** Valerie M. **Sound:** Eric M.
Ushers: Les & Sharon T., Ruthann King, and Ruth Leazer **Media:** Norman H.
- Mar 10th** — Altar flowers are in honor of Nora's 2nd heavenly birthday from the Raines family
9:00 Liturgist: Tim Benkert **Greeters:** Bill & Judy Brown
Ushers: Les & Sharon Trittschuh and Phil & Karen McFadden **Hospitality:** Phil & Karen M.
Nursery: 10:15 Marcia C. & Leslie R. / 11:15 Kathy Koeller and Cliff & Katie P.
11:15 Greeters: Lisa W. and Dick & Mary Ann M. **Scripture Reader:** Julia C. **Sound:** Jill C.
Ushers: Julia C., Ben G., and Sally & Paul M. **Media:** Norman H.
- Mar 17th** — Altar flowers are in celebration of Larry Thoele's birthday from his wife, Beth
9:00 Liturgist: Wendy Heisey **Greeters:** Richard Smith and Elaine Iddings
Ushers: Richard Smith, Jim Scammahorn & Dave Thompson **Hospitality:** Nancy S. and Kathy K.
Nursery: 10:15 Jill C. & Patti W. / 11:15 Emily K. & Jennifer K.
11:15 Greeters: Kathy W. and Amanda B. **Scripture Reader:** Ben G. **Sound:** Norman H.
Ushers: Dejon D. & Greg B. **Media:**
- Mar 24th** — Altar flowers are in celebration of Eames Circle's birthday
9:00 Liturgist: Les Trittschuh **Greeters:** Carol Storer
Ushers: Cliff Poling & Joe Blackburn **Hospitality:** Steve K. & Kay W.
Nursery: 10:15 Eric & Johanna M. / 11:15 Megan B. & Ben G.
11:15 Greeters: Sally & Paul M. and Marijo Schlecht **Scripture Reader:** Tim B. **Sound:** Norman H.
Usher: Lisa W. **Media:** Valerie M.
- Mar 31st** — Altar flowers are in celebration of Marilyn Mitchell's birthday
9:00 Liturgist: Mike Circle **Greeters:** Sophia & Stella Blackburn
Ushers: Steve Kraus & Kay Wagner **Hospitality:** Jim & Marilyn M. and Valerie M.
Nursery: 10:15 Julia C. & Leslie R. / 11:15 Courtney W. & Johanna M.
11:15 Greeters: Patti & Courtney W. **Scripture Reader:** Amy T. **Sound:** Norman H.
Usher: Nancy A. & Patti W. **Media:**

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary March 2019

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1st - Jerry Pinkerton
2nd - Pam Hitchcock
Hannah Scott
4th - Jim Mitchell
Cliff & Katie Poling 41yrs
5th - Linda Seman
6th - Jim Scammahorn
7th - Alex Morrow
10th - Lee Baker
Nicole Ressler
Heather Ressler
Jerry Richards
Jordan Sanderson | 11th - Mike & Denise Sanderson 30yrs
12th - Ivie Markley
13th - Jim & Kathy Watkins 48 yrs
15th - Wilma Fryman
17th - Jack Everage
18th - Evan Beard
Nan Guthrie
19th - Matthew Burns
20th - Phil McFadden
Jim & Janet Balsbaugh 20yrs
Mark & Vicky House 32yrs | 23rd - Winston Klepinger
24th - Dan & Erin Studebaker 18yrs
25th - Eric Morrow
26th - Bill & Judy Brown 48yrs
Eames Circle
28th - Miriam Miller
Marilyn Mitchell
29th - Greg Brubaker
Robert Cox
Marilyn Stickney |
|---|---|--|



March calendar can be found on church website: HoffmanUMC.org

People to remember in prayer:



Hoffman Sympathies to:

the family of Bob Patterson, Carol Bailey's brother, as he passed away on February 28, 2019

At Home: 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, StoreyPoint Troy, 1840 Towne Park Dr. Apt 19, Troy OH 45373
John Jackson, 46 Lavender Pl, Tipp City OH 45371
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

Congratulations a Baby Girl!

Tate Katherine Everage arrived on January 25, 2019
Weighing 9 lbs., 8 ozs.
Parents are Jack & Lauren
Big brother: Jack

Congratulations a Baby Boy!

Ansel Joshua Circle arrived on February 20, 2019
Weighing 8 lbs., 13 ozs.
Parents are Andrew & Julia
Big brother: Eames

Emmaus Woman's Share Group

Tues., March 5th at 11 a.m. in Multi-Purpose Room

Time Changes March 10th

Remember to spring your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on March 9th

Grandma's Kitchen Meeting

Wednesday, March 13th choose either
10:30 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose room or
6:30 p.m. in Room 7. (more info on Grandma's Kitchen update page)

Thank you to my church family for the many calls, cards, attending Joyce's Memorial Service and to those that helped prepare the meal that followed. A particular thank you to Pastor Robbie for the hours spent with me in friendship, comfort and prayer. I will never forget my best friend, soul mate, and wife that created 37 years of wonderful memories and I'll always remember the friends, family, neighbors, community and church family that helped me through this, the overwhelming grief, that followed Joyce's passing. Kevin King

Theda's Thoughts

Submitted by Theda Klepinger

SMILES...There are various kinds of smiles...

There are smiles of infants, smiles of children, smiles of youth, smiles of adults and there are smiles of the elderly. Each smile has its own beauty and enchantment. Smiles elicit smiles. Have you ever pondered how you respond to another's smile? Can smiles be a secret of the Almighty to bless others?

In this world where the attainment of wealth seems to have priority over nurturing love in our lives, a smile costs one nothing except to benefit one's facial structure!

Smiles silently say, "You are a nice person and God loves you." And then a heart begins to glow with warmth and wonder.

Grandma's Kitchen Reopens

Grandma's Kitchen will be opening on Wednesday, March 20. Please join us for dinner in the Activity Center from 5:00 to 6:15 or, if it is more convenient for you, we can pack a carry-out meal for you to take home. Meals are \$7; a child's meal with smaller portions is \$3. Please check the menu provided in this month's Towers or on the church webpage.

Grandma's Kitchen has been providing meals for the public for almost 20 years. Anyone is welcome to join us. We have regular guests from West Milton, Potsdam, Laura, Ludlow Falls, Pleasant Hill, Englewood, Union, Troy, Tipp City and several from Darke County with ages ranging from infant to 96. We average 210 meals per week; usually 100 guests dine-in and the remainder are carry-out or delivery to home-bound families in the area.

We operate as a non-profit mission project for Hoffman Church. Our "profits" are donated to local, national and international food missions such as FISH and the Heifer Project. We provide approximately 60 free meals per week to local families in need and also donate the leftover food from each meal to the Franklin House (family abuse shelter) in Troy. Your purchased meals make the mission aspect of Grandma's Kitchen possible. Some facts from last year:

Open 34 weeks

7270 meals served

77 different volunteers

2778 volunteer hours

\$2400 donated to various food ministries

Approximately \$4000 worth of food donations to the Franklin House

Please join us on March 20 as we begin another year of Grandma's Kitchen.

Grandma's Kitchen Volunteers Needed

We need approximately 35 volunteers each week for Grandma's Kitchen. Scheduled work times are Tuesday morning (food prep), Wednesday morning (packing for carry-outs), Wednesday afternoon (cooking and final set-up) and Wednesday evening (delivering meals, serving meals and clean-up) with time commitments ranging from 1 hour to 4 hours. Our cooks, who usually work for 4 hours on Wednesday afternoons, usually work just one Wednesday each month. Our volunteers have several "perks": a free meal from Grandma's Kitchen each week they work and the fun, fellowship and satisfaction that result from working together in service to others.

If you are able to work one of those times—as part-time help, full-time help or as a sub—please call the church (698-4401), Val McKay (371-4965) or Marilyn Mitchell (947-1831) or sign up on one of the volunteer clipboards. Clipboards will be passed around the congregation at both services in late February and early March and one will also be left in the kitchen. If you have questions about what each job involves, please call Marilyn or Val.

Grandma's Kitchen Meeting

Grandma's Kitchen will have a volunteers' meeting on March 13 at either 10:30am in the Multi-Purpose Room or 6:30pm in Room 7. Please attend one of the meetings and get to know the other volunteers, find out about any changes, get the yearly schedule and volunteer notes, ask questions and make suggestions. If you haven't signed up to volunteer but want to know more about Grandma's Kitchen then this would be a good opportunity.

MARCH "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

Going BEYOND SIMULCAST with PRISCILLA SHIRER

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

9:50AM - 5:30PM

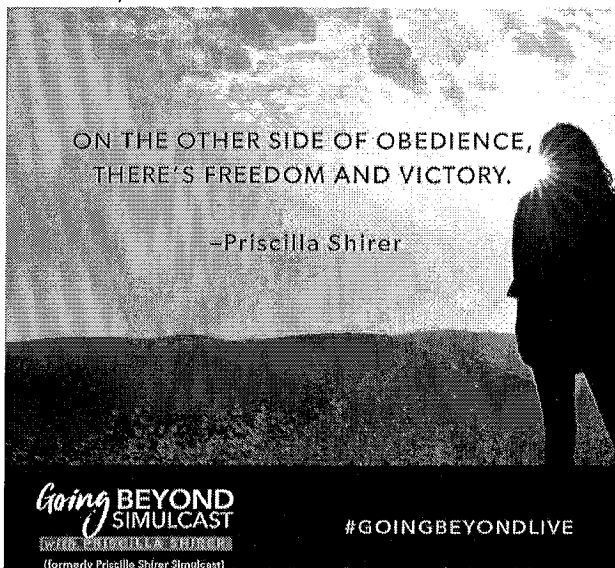
Cost \$30 (after March 1st)

Tickets will be available this month at both services and can also be purchased in the church office throughout the week. If you have already reserved a \$25 ticket (before March 1st) but need to pay, you can put your money in an envelope and place it in Pam's mailbox with your name on it.

Call Pam 698-6511 for info.

Priscilla, who is Tony Evan's daughter, has every bit of the "fire of the Spirit in her belly", as her dad does. Our women's groups have done several of her Bible studies and we agree, she is an amazing Bible teacher! You will not be disappointed if you come to experience Worship, prayer and study under her tutelage during this live broadcast.

Can't Make It? We will have a repeat showing on a Saturday after Easter in a smaller context (and bring your own lunch) we will lock down a date in the next month.



Mark Your Calendars:

Usher-Greeter Training March 11th!

Usher-Greeter Training will take place in the sanctuary on Monday, March 11, 2019 from 6:30-7:30pm. This is for all ushers and greeters, new or seasoned.

We will have a little fun with some role plays, work through the new Usher-Greeter Training Guide and we will also have a lesson on the chair lift for those who are still not sure how that works.

Greeter Needed for First Service

Due to one of our greeters stepping down, we have a need for a greeter on the fourth Sundays of the month at first service. This is an important job, being on the front-lines and the first person to welcome not only our regulars, but especially our visitors. Call me at 698-6511 if you are interested.

Affinity Groups Interest "Feelers"

Affinity groups are small groups that gather together with a common interest or experience.

1. **Looking for people who are interested in forming a group for shared interests, Spiritual encouragement and support and if so...**
2. **We need "point-people" to organize them.**

Some possibilities:

Grief group; Couples under 40; Quilting; Caregivers; Single Men; Single Women; Widows; Widowers; Book Club; Gardening Club—or other interests you might want to form a group around. Call Pam 698-6511 with ideas!

Emmaus Reminders

The next two Emmaus Walks are:

Men's Walk #67, June 20-23, 2019 @ Sulphur Grove UMC

Women's Walk #106, July 18-21, 2019 @ Sulphur Grove UMC

Contact an Emmaus "grad" or Pam for more information if you are interested in this Spirit-lifting weekend!

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The Emmaus Women's Share Group meets at Hoffman on the first Tuesdays of the month at 11AM.



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

A HUGE welcome to our newest babies:

Ellie Knostman- Jennifer and Joseph Knostman

Tate Everage- Lauren and George Everage

Ansel Circle- Julia and Andrew Circle

Coming Soon:

Kids Hope Party for mentors/prayer partners and students- March 14 from after school (3:45) until 5pm in the basement.

Family Fun Night- April TBA

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

Bowling Night

TBA

Miami Lanes

Ignite

Grades 6-12

Sunday nights

6:30-8:30 pm

Dayton Dragons

Party Deck

April 12th

\$10/ticket

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

Wow, are we really already approaching March?! It seems as if time is just flying by! Hopefully you have taken some time to enjoy the warm indoors this past month.

Looking back at February: Guest speaker, and middle school teacher, Bret Barnes finished up a mini, 3-week series with the youth. Mr. Barnes is passionate about sharing the word of God and has been asked to come back in March and April to go through his full 5 week seminar with the youth. I am looking forward to the truths in God's word that will be shared with us. Also in February, youth enjoyed the Super Bowl game on a 110" projected screen as they played games and fellowshiped. Youth also enjoyed a trip to the Piqua 36 Skate Club.

Looking into March: We are looking forward to Tim Benkert sharing the Word several weeks. Be on the lookout for a bowling night in March. Dayton Dragons Party Deck has been booked for April 12th! See me for tickets.



GRANDMA'S KITCHEN March 2019 MENU

HOFFMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

201 S. MAIN STREET, WEST MILTON 698-4401 Website: HoffmanUMC.org

SERVING MOST WEDNESDAYS BEGINNING AT 5:00 to 6:15 P.M.

PUBLIC INVITED CARRY-OUTS AVAILABLE \$7 DONATION PER MEAL Kids Meal \$3

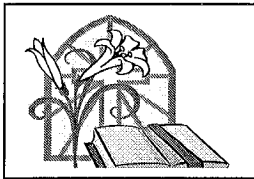
Welcome Back!

We look forward to serving you again.

March 20th Chicken & noodles
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Fruit Jello
Brownies

March 27th Meat Loaf
Mashed Potatoes
California Blend
Applesauce
Ice Cream Sundae

Menu items are subject to change



EASTER MEMORIALS

Easter Sunday is the day that many in our congregation want to remember special people who have touched their lives. Easter Lilies and Hydrangeas will be ordered from Stockslagers to share with the church in the form of sanctuary decorations. Please mark below your choices. The deadline for ordering flowers is Sunday, March 31st. Your flowers may be picked up after the second service on Easter Sunday. (*Substitutions may be necessary.*)

	Quantity	Total Price
HYDRANGEAS @ \$12.00	_____	\$ _____
EASTER LILY @ \$ 9.00	_____	\$ _____

In memory of: _____

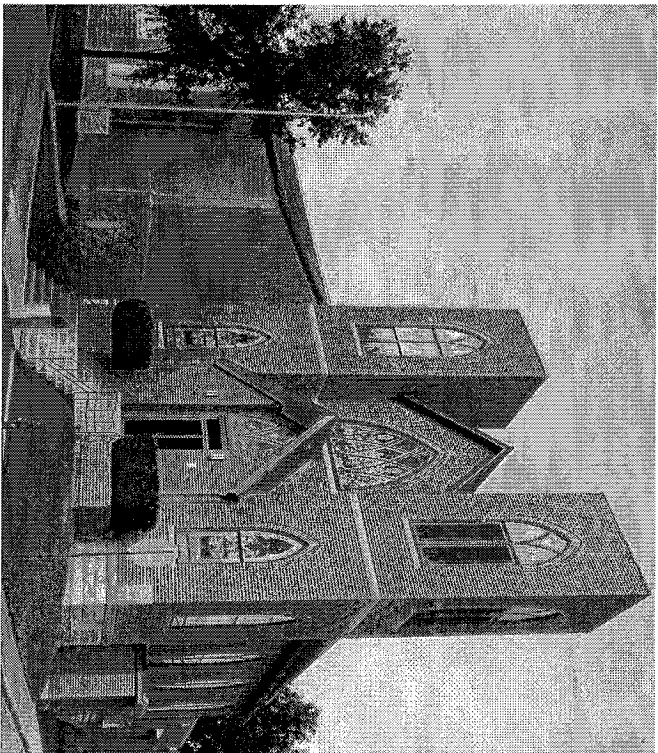
In honor of: _____

Your Name: _____

Please make checks payable to:
Hoffman United Methodist Church
201 S Main Street, West Milton OH 45383

March
2019

TOWERS
THERS



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

L
Place Label Here

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

Return Service Requested

the open door
come as you are

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

X

X

X