

# THE TOWERS

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

May 2019



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

*Resurrection is for Doubters, too*

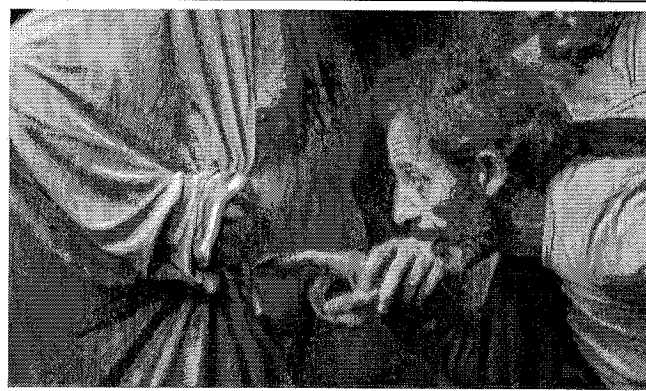
## John 20:24-25

**24 Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."**

It seems many times in these articles I am in a spirit of "confession." I want to confess today that I like Thomas. There, I said it. Off to 200 or so households it goes, that I like the disciple that has been paired throughout history with "doubt." Personally, I think Thomas has been the recipient of some bad press through the years, but then again, I just wrote that I liked him, so maybe I'm biased. Then again, name one disciple who didn't doubt? I can't. Even if we were to say Judas escaped this particular argument, I think doubt had a part in him deciding to hand Jesus over, possibly a doubt that Jesus was the one he hoped Jesus would be. I am aware that as we read Scripture we have to be careful to not insert too much of "our" tone into a particular passage, but some of the accounts Thomas is named in are, in my view, a little humorous, even, dare I say it, sarcastic.

When we think of Thomas, we many times have on our minds his declaration from the Scripture above, followed soon after by Jesus inviting him to do the very thing he had demanded as proof (as illustrated in the dramatic picture I ran across on [www.stmarksplumstead.org](http://www.stmarksplumstead.org)). However, he was in other Scriptures, too. John 14 is a beautiful passage in which Jesus is trying to calm the disciples' anxiety. He promises to prepare a place for them, so where he is, there they may be. I have read this passage often during funerals and other services of remembrance. The passage includes Jesus saying, "you know the way to the place I'm going." It is so lovely, and yet, it

is Thomas who is answering, "what way? I don't know, we don't know, how can we know?" I'm paraphrasing, but I could totally see that in a sit-com exchange. Again, you may not see or "hear" that tone in the exchange. But, let us look a little earlier, to John 11, as it is known Jesus has powerful enemies around Jerusalem and Bethany, but news comes that Lazarus is ill. Jesus speaks of awakening him, and the disciples are saying, "if he's asleep, he's going to be fine." Jesus then speaks more clearly, "He's dead, but let us go to him." This next line is a direct quote from the NIV of John



11:16, as Thomas said to the rest of the disciples, **"Let us also go, that we may die with him."** My daughter might say Thomas had a little "sass" about him. ☺ Tell me that sarcasm is in my imagination. I have through the years been somewhat insulted by society's caricatures of Christianity, that faith is for the gullible, the uneducated, or for those who check their brains at the door. I say however that

Thomas is one of "us," for he too is one who had difficulty believing in the miraculous. Directly following Thomas seeing, touching, and believing, the Gospel writer continues with these words. **John 20:30-31 30 Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.** I have many times over the years said (but I didn't coin it), when you see a "therefore," you should see what it is there for. Very few translations include what is clearly in the Ancient Greek early in verse 30, but was there to help faith be passed on to those who would not see, but still believe, because of the doubt of the disciples... because of doubt like Thomas. Belief is what his doubt is there for.

Thanks Thomas, for helping us believe.  
In His Service and Yours,

## **Administrative Board Meeting Summary March 21, 2019**

Present: Dick Martens, Robbie Scott, Katie Poling, Les Tritschuh, Cindy Johnston, Carol Storer, Richard Smith, Janet Benkert, Patti Wion, David Jay

Les Tritschuh opened the meeting with devotions on showing genuine love.

Ministry spotlight: Guest David Wion shared about the ministry of Young Spirits which is in it's 49<sup>th</sup> year of ministry to youth and the community. Special events are planned for the 50<sup>th</sup> year next year including a reunion and possible alumni choir. Challenges for the future are the busyness of our youth effecting rehearsals and participation as well as need for a new director in the future.

### Pastor's report:

Pam: Organized the preparations for the Priscilla Shirer simulcast with about 90 participants. Led successful greeter and usher training. Has trained Erin Studebaker for attendance tracking.

Joseph: Ongoing youth program with 12-20 participants. Recent event included ice skating and helping with brush clearing and removal. Dayton Dragons party deck happened on April 12.

Becky: Planning for expansion of Children's church during summer months with the possibility of using activity center for programming.

Robbie: Completed sermon series on Epic Fails and Epic Saves with new series on Prayers of Jesus. Upgraded projector for simulcast. Updated on General Conference held during February where a modified Traditional Plan was passed.

Book Study: Board members discussed "Clarifying the Win" the 1st practice listed in *The Seven Practices of Effective Ministry* which the board is studying. "Clarifying the Win" is in part allowing ourselves to both recognize and communicate successes big and small. Helps with recognizing hard work and improves overall morale.

Finance: Richard reported there have been some challenges with weather effecting worship attendance but average weekly giving in February was \$4949.00 with weekly budget of \$4773.00.

Nominations: Board openings for secretary and at large member need to be filled

Staff Parish: Carol reported the committee is looking at any needed revisions to the employee handbook.

Trustees: David reported the committee is getting estimates for tower roof replacement. Renovations including new lighting to garage completed.

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



***Hoffman Sympathies to:***

the family of Sandy Dohrman, Dejon's mother, as she passed away on April 10, 2019  
the family of Clarence Koeller, Tim's father, as he passed away on April 14, 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***

**Emmaus Woman's Share Group**

Tues., May 7th at 11 a.m. in Multi-Purpose Room

We have been so blessed by Pam Hitchcock for the past 18 years of service. Pam, we will miss you as a part of our Hoffman staff, but you will always be a part of our Hoffman family! You are such a precious light and give so freely of your talents, time and especially of yourself. You are a treasure and we cherish and love you!

**Happy Mother's Day**

to all our Moms on May 12<sup>th</sup>.  
May God bless you with an extra special day!

**Calling all Graduates!**

Please let the church office know if you have someone graduating from High School or College.

**Hoffman at the Dayton Dragons**

July 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7 p.m.  
(see Les Trittschuh for tickets.)

**Prayer Aid Flashcards**

are available for checkout to aid with focused prayer time. Cards are located in the North Tower prayer room/ church library.  
Check out a set !

Thank you to all of our women who made the Simulcast a BIG success! Tina Mathews and her decorating crew; Nancy Studebaker and her lunch crew; Kay Wagner, Carol Storer, Mary Ann Martens, Denise Ellinger, Kathy Watkins, Elaine Pickering and all of our ladies who supported it with their prayers and presence. The evaluations were overwhelmingly positive and many would like for Hoffman to do this again! Pam H.

**Mark Your Calendars! Church Garage Sale  
June 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

When doing your Spring cleaning, remember to save your unwanted sellable items for the sale. Items can be put on the stage behind the partitions after May 4<sup>th</sup>.

***Theda's Thoughts***

Submitted by Theda Klepinger

A CHURCH MOUSE? Recently I heard someone use the term "the enthusiasm of a church mouse". This piqued my curiosity about the idiom, "as poor as a church mouse". My search for information revealed that the term was originally "as hungry as a church mouse" because in the 1600's churches did not have kitchens, pantries, or carry-in dinners. No food was found there. As time passed the saying was changed from hungry to poor. My point is, if Hoffman church ever houses a church mouse, he would be very well fed and quite content with his cozy living quarters!

# GRANDMA'S KITCHEN May 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

May 1st Beef Hot Shots  
Mashed Potatoes  
Corn  
Peach Shortcake

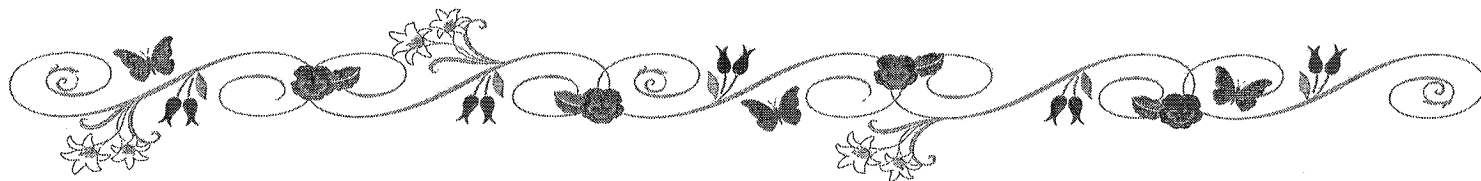
May 8th Barbecue Chicken  
Baked Potato Bar  
Broccoli  
Watergate Salad

May 15th Spiral-sliced Ham  
Loaded Mashed Potatoes  
California Blend  
Pie

May 22nd Swiss Chicken Bake  
Mashed Potatoes  
Peas  
Ice Cream Sundae

\*\*\* Closed May 29<sup>th</sup> for Memorial Day \*\*\*

Menu items are subject to change



## fun food fellowship

INTERNATIONAL FOOD TASTING May 4TH 2019

WHERE: HOFFMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Activity Center

When May 4th, Saturday, from 3 to 5 pm

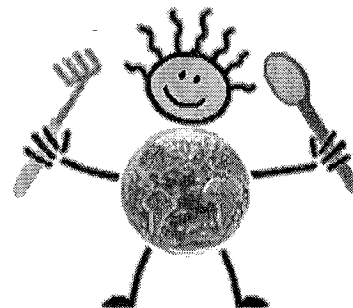
Come and join the fun, 7 countries will be represented

Bring in the community, all are invited

For more information contact Katie Poling 266-3519

Donations accepted

Sponsored by United Methodist Women, Proceeds will go to Missions



## Serving Schedule

**May 05<sup>th</sup>**

—Altar flowers are open

**9:00 Liturgist:** Valerie McKay

**Greeters:** Wendy Heisey & Nancy Lightcap

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

**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:** Andrew C.

**Sound:** Eric M.

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

**Media:** Norman H.

**May 12<sup>th</sup>**

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

**9:00 Liturgist:** Mike Circle

**Greeters:** Bill & Judy Brown

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

**Hospitality:** Phil & Karen M.

**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:** Norman H.

**Sound:** Jill C.

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

**Media:** Norman H.

**May 19<sup>th</sup>**

— Altar flowers are: in celebration of Chris & Linda Long's anniversary  
in memory of Alma Butt, from Ron

**9:00 Liturgist:** Wendy Heisey

**Greeters:** Richard Smith and Elaine Iddings

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

**Hospitality:** Nancy S. & Kathy Koeller

**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:**

**May 26<sup>th</sup>**

— Altar flowers are in celebration of Anna Knostman's birthday, from Grandpa & Grandma Thoele

**9:00 Liturgist:** Les Trittschuh

**Greeters:** Carol Storer and Peggy Nihizer

**Ushers:** Cliff Poling & Joe Blackburn

**Hospitality:** Kay W. & Steve K.

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

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

**Scripture Reader:** Matt B.

**Sound:** Norman H.

**Usher:** Lisa W.

**Media:** Valerie M.

**Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary  
May 2019**

1<sup>st</sup> - Teesha Beard

4<sup>th</sup> - Kim Adams

7<sup>th</sup> - Jim Kinnison

9<sup>th</sup> - Corinne McKay  
Mike Sanderson

11<sup>th</sup> - Terry Beetley  
Eugenie Markley

13<sup>th</sup> - Becky Garrett

15<sup>th</sup> - David & Linda Thompson (19 yrs)

16<sup>th</sup> - Joyce Herron

17<sup>th</sup> - Johanna Morrow

18<sup>th</sup> - Eldon Hoke

23<sup>rd</sup> - Chris & Linda Long (21 yrs)

24<sup>th</sup> - Owen Morrow

25<sup>th</sup> - Helen Keller  
Kathy Kinsey  
Dick Markley

29<sup>th</sup> - Bonnie Brown  
Jill Circle  
Julia Circle  
Levi Scott  
Linda Thompson

30<sup>th</sup> - Carol Bailey

31<sup>st</sup> - Anna Knostman  
Cliff Poling

Bradley & Bonnie Brown (50 yrs)



To view the church calendar please visit our website at: [www.hoffmanUMC.org](http://www.hoffmanUMC.org)

## MAY'S BODY" HEALTH—"BRIDGES"

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I have been reflecting on writing this letter for the past couple of months and yet, I don't know that my words will adequately express everything my mind has been considering as I prepare to retire. Even as I write these few words, salty droplets are trickling down my cheeks... First and foremost, a verse from Paul (slightly paraphrased) comes to mind from 1Thess 1:2: "(I) always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in (my) prayers."

Eighteen years ago when I started as your youth leader under Pastor Rikki Arthur, I told him that I believed that God had called me to Hoffman as a "bridge" for all of the generations, and God was using Youth Ministry as a means to do that.

The first "bridge" was when the youth became involved in many local, regional and international mission projects and several adults stepped up to be chaperones. Then when we developed the Jr. High and High School Discipleship Groups, a few adults stepped up to lead them.

Another "bridge" was being able to preach on those Sundays that Pastor Rikki had Emmaus Walks and I filled the pulpit.

The "bridge" became more defined as the youth graduated and the youth population dwindled, and under Rev. Tim Benkert, Hoffman SPRC allowed my job to evolve into being the Discipleship Director of all the ages—monitoring and starting Sunday school classes, writing curriculum and teaching Confirmation and adult membership classes. When Rev. Tim stepped down due to his failing eyesight, another "bridge" was formed as I assisted the interim pastor, Gail Stevens-Shourds, to connect with the congregation during her 10 months here. We also started doing Prayer Stations for all ages in the Sanctuary during Holy Week.

As Denise Sanderson took over the children's and youth classes and the Clubhouse ministry, the church identified a need for an evening women's Bible study—a "bridge" which was started in 2008 and I will continue to facilitate after my retirement from Hoffman since it is a mixed group from HUMC, Potsdam and other churches.

2008 also saw the beginning of the 5/2 Lunch Bunch when a counselor at the school identified a summer food need for the kids of the community. JoAnn and I spear-headed the first year and 10 adults stepped up to serve!

This "bridge" eventually brought together adults serving as cooks and shoppers; adults teaching Bible stories; and teens serving as mentors to the kids.

Then in 2010 my position changed again, as God's call to become a pastor was fulfilled after five years of praying for His direction. Rev. Kev White was being deployed as a Chaplain with the Army, and his wife, Pastor Stephanie asked if I would consider taking her place at Potsdam UMC. She proposed a shared ministry between our two churches, with me working part-time at Hoffman and Potsdam, and both sharing my salary and benefits. I can only say that without the willingness and generosity of all of you at Hoffman, I would not have been able to answer God's call. Pastor Justin Williams and I started our new pastoral appointments, on August 1, 2010.

Again, a "bridge" developed as I my job transitioned into Adult Ministries Director and I assisted Pastor Justin with membership classes, sermon inserts, assimilation and tracking attendance as the "Open Door" service started. This is when Usher-Greeter training became part of my job description.

Then, in 2015, Pastor Robbie was appointed to Hoffman and with his technical expertise, he has led us into the 21st Century of media. We have worked together to "bridge" our church family to learning opportunities with Right Now Media and recently we were able to build a "bridge" into the community with the Simulcast bringing together 89 people from 14 different churches!

The Bible encourages us to be disciples and make disciples and I can look back over these eighteen years and see how I have been discipled by the many pastors and our office manager, and my friend, JoAnn, who will now be the "senior staff member". ☺ I can also look around and see those for whom I have been honored to be part of their discipling process, one being Becky Circle Garrett who was an eighth grader when I arrived and who now as a staff member of the church has come "full circle" as she disciples the children, adults and community teaching them to love and serve Jesus. I want to thank so many who have reached out with your love, support, encouragement and gifts throughout the years. You will be missed, but held forever in my thoughts, prayers and heart. May God always richly bless you as you continue your journey over the "bridges" of life.

Blessings, Pastor Pam H.



# SPARK!

children's ministry

"And He took the children  
in his arms, placed his  
hands on them and blessed  
them." Mark  
10:16

**Saturday, May 4 FAMILY FUN DAY** at West Milton Park:  
carry-in luncheon, 11:00 am-whenver, rain or shine.  
Please feel free to invite your friends especially  
anyone looking for a new church family!!

**Sunday, May 26 KIDS HOPE DAY** at Church: we will have a  
luncheon for the Kids Hope mentors, prayer partners,  
children and families after the second service.

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH** Grades PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade will be  
invited during second service to attend starting  
**Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**LUNCH BUNCH** will start on **Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup>** from 11:15-  
1:00pm. \*\*I am currently looking for a game leader

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

New Series:  
"Why Jesus?"  
April 28<sup>th</sup>-May 26<sup>th</sup>

...

Mother's Day  
NO IGNITE  
May 12<sup>th</sup>

...

Movie Night  
May 26<sup>th</sup>  
6:30-10pm

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

## Why Jesus?

Jesus answered, "I am the way  
and the truth and the life. No  
one comes to the Father except  
through me. (John 14:6)

Hello Church! On April 12th, 29 youth attended the Dragon's  
game on the party deck! Other than finding it harder and harder  
to get rides for that many youth, the night was fantastic!

We are excited to start a new Right Now Media series for the  
month of May, *Why Jesus?* It is sometimes difficult for students  
to grasp how their faith in Jesus Christ is unique to other faiths.  
We will address tough questions that students have about Jesus  
and point them back to scriptural truths about our Savior. We  
will close the series with an "End-of-School-Year" Movie night on  
May 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-10pm.

Though school will be ending for the summer, Ignite keeps going  
all summer long!

Blessings,  
Joseph

ignite  
student ministry

X

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

X

the **open door**  
come as you are

Non-Profit  
Organization  
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Permit No. 26

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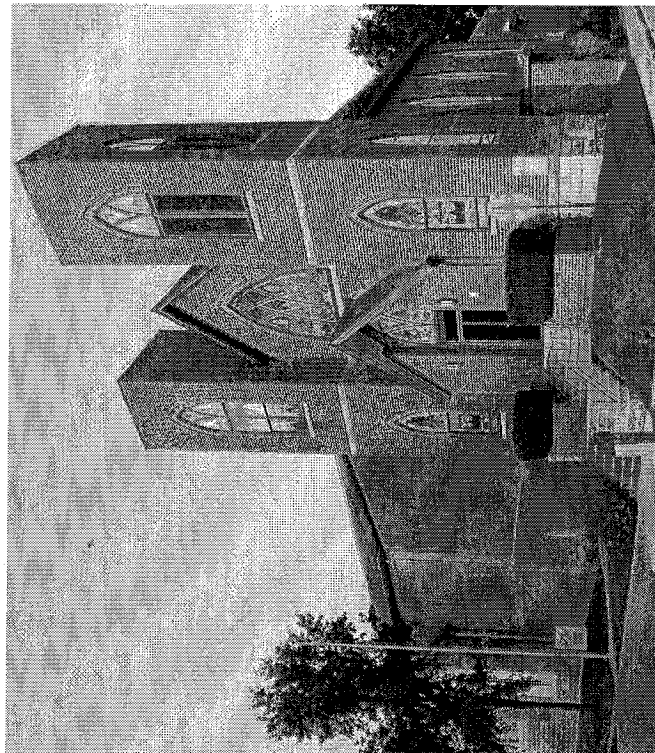
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TOWERS  
THERS

May  
2019



**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