

# THE TOWERS

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

September 2019

## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

### *Self-Inflicted Thorns*

**2 Corinthians 12:7-9** "... in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. <sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. <sup>9</sup> But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

By the time you read this, I will have voluntarily gone under the knife for my left knee's ACL to be reconstructed. My first surgery on this knee was in 1991, and I was very disappointed when the doctor told me the repair had not been made because of my young age. He wanted me to wait until I was 30 and "done" with basketball. That wasn't the case, and so I find myself this year, at the age of 48, and with the Scott family's medical deductible being hit for the first time that I can remember, I consulted with a doctor for surgery.

The back story on this injury is not one that I'm proud of. You may not know it from your interactions with me, but I am more competitive than is healthy. I was "that" guy who would dive into bleachers, over railings, even over a shopping cart once, to try to put a basketball back into play. Passion has served me well through the years, but in my case, passion usually means my temper is close by. Normally I would cut everyone else around me a break...but I was very good at self-directing my wrath.

It was a late night at the University of Houston, and we had reset the lights multiple times on the courts. One particular fast break, I split the defenders, laid the ball just over the front of the rim....where it hit the back rim and came out. The childlike tantrum against myself that followed hyperextended my left knee, and I fell to the ground. After a few moments I realized my teammates were without a player, so I slowly stood back up, finished the games, and later crawled up the

stairs to my dorm room, naively surprised at the swelling in my knee. I learned later I had damaged my Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL), but as it happened, I ruptured an ankle tendon within a few days after this injury (because I had of course continued playing basketball despite the pain and swelling). I tend to joke that I was nearly indestructible for 18 years, and then my warrantee expired, haha!

That night in 1990 was the last time I lost my temper for the sake of a sport. I guess it is nice to be able to learn something important with only one lesson, but my body has bore this self inflicted "thorn" for 29 years. I will have a new scar, and a ligament from an organ donor. It has been a thorn in my flesh for so long that sometimes I limp whether pain is present or not. I have wondered many times what it would have been like to have not lost my temper that night. I can't live in the past, of course, but my hope is that over the years I've helped others not take these great games too seriously.

Scholars cannot identify Paul's "thorn" in the flesh, though I'm fairly certain it wasn't caused by his own temper. God has richly blessed me in that I have been very active for a long time despite the damage, and the doctor is impressed

how little arthritis is present.

Given that this surgery is "elective" in a sense, and with all the really serious procedures the congregations members face, I've only communicated this to those I felt needed to know sooner rather than later. My time recovering will not be convenient either for me or for you, but while my time in the office will be more limited, I am as accessible as ever, given the ability to be called, emailed, texted, or facebook messaged. I appreciate and covet your prayers always, and I am hopeful to have a relatively swift recovery, as far as mobility. Athletic activity will have to wait a while.

While following doctor's orders, I am,

In Christ's Service and Yours,



*People to remember in prayer:*



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

**At Centers:** Eldon Hoke, Grace Brethren, 1010 Taywood Rd., Rm 30, Englewood OH 45322  
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., September 2nd at 11 a.m. in Multi-Purpose Room

### **Pizza With The Pastor**

If you are new to Hoffman and you would like to meet Pastor Robbie, and find out more about our small group, mission and ministry opportunities, Pizza With The Pastor is for you! A complimentary lunch of pizza will be served at 12:30PM (or after the second service) in the basement. Sign up at the Welcome Center or table outside church office and we will contact you when the next one is scheduled.

### **Interested in Church Membership?**

If so, please sign up at the welcome table or the table outside the church office and we will contact you when we set a date. For more information on church membership, please contact Pastor Robbie or the church office.

What a nice surprise to receive so many lovely and funny birthday cards. THANK YOU all for your thoughtfulness. Nadine

Thank you for your prayers; my test results were good! I appreciate your prayers so very much. Peggy Nihizer

Church family, thank you for your prayers, good thoughts, cards and phone calls during my recent surgery and recovery; I am blessed to have such loving and kind friends. David Hayes

### **Pot Pie Making**

Thursdays: September 19th, 26th, & October 3rd  
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

### **Bulldog Bags**

Bulldog Bags will be starting September 5th, if anyone would like to volunteer to help on Thursdays from 10:30-12:00 contact Becky Garrett. Donations are always needed; make your check payable to Hoffman UMC with 'Bulldog Bags' on memo line.

### **Interested in going on or volunteering at an Emmaus**

**Walk?** Get your application submitted soon and give to Shelia Shade. Contact the church office or for more [info:daytonemmaus.org](http://info.daytonemmaus.org).

2020 Walks: Men's #68 Jan 16 – 19th Normandy UMC  
Women's #107 Feb 20 – 23rd Normandy UMC

### **Congratulations a Baby Boy!**

Griffin Ray King arrived on July 29, 2019

Weighing 7 lbs., 9 ozs.

Parents are Paul & Emily

Big Sister: Gracey and Big brother: Paul Jr.

### **Congratulations a Baby Boy!**

Ty Christopher Raines arrived on August 5, 2019

Weighing 8 lbs., 7 ozs.

Parents are Greg & Lesli

Big brothers: Silas & Jerid and Heavenly Sister: Nora

### **Theda's Thoughts**

Submitted by Theda Klepinger

Psalms 84:11...For the Lord God is a sun and shield.

May the sun shine in your windows...

May the sun shine in your heart...

May the sun shine in your daily hours...brightening your day in every way with God's love.

# GRANDMA'S KITCHEN SEPTEMBER 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

## September 4th

Closed for Labor Day

## September 11th

Chicken Casserole

California Blend

Ambrosia

Angel Food Cake

## September 18th

Barbecue Pork Steak

Pasta Salad

Baked Beans

Jello Cake

## September 25th

Lasagna

Tossed Salad

Garlic Bread

Ice Cream Sundae

Menu items are subject to change

**\*\* Grandma's Kitchen will be closed on September 4th \*\***



### Chancel Choir

It is that time of year again. The kids head back to school and the choir heads back to rehearsal. We will have our first choir rehearsal on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM, SHARP. Everyone is invited to come join this celebration of praises to God. We will be in the choir loft on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Come join the fun as we lift our voices to praise God. If you have any questions, please see or call Norman Hiester

### Bell Choir

It is also time for bell choir so I am looking for people willing to ring a couple bells every week. There is a lot of fun and good fellowship at these rehearsals so come join us. Our first rehearsal will be Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. Anyone interested please give Norman Hiester a call at 698-3280.

**Attention all Women!** The Wednesday evening bible study will resume on Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Please call Pam (937) 657-9977 or [pam.hitchcock@gmail.com](mailto:pam.hitchcock@gmail.com) if interested.

**Women's Morning Bible Study Group** on Wednesdays will begin on Wed., Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. in Multi-purpose Room 2&3. We will be studying "Psalm 23, The Shepherd with Me" using a video teaching by Jennifer Rothchild. It centers on the concept of our Shepherd who protects and cares for each of us. No matter what season a woman finds herself in, she is safe with the Shepherd. Any women in the community are invited. Contact Nancy K. 698-3797.

## Serving Schedule

**Sep 01<sup>st</sup>** — Altar flowers are in celebration of Paul and Sally Miller's 56<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>

**9:00 Liturgist:** Valerie McKay

**Greeters:** Wendy Heisey and Nancy Lightcap

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

**Hospitality:** Joe & Leah Blackburn

**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.

**Sep 08<sup>th</sup>** — Altar flowers are in memory of Art Curry from Tina Mathews

**9:00 Liturgist:** Tim Benkert

**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. and Dick & Mary Ann M.

**Scripture Reader:** Valerie M.

**Sound:** Jill C.

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

**Media:** Norman H.

**Sep 15<sup>th</sup>** — Altar flowers are available

**9:00 Liturgist:** Les Trittschuh

**Greeters:** Richard Smith and Elaine Iddings

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

**Hospitality:** Phil & Karen McFadden

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

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

**Scripture Reader:** Tim B.

**Sound:** Norman H.

**Ushers:** Dejon D.

**Media:**

**Sep 22<sup>nd</sup>** — Altar flowers are available

**9:00 Liturgist:** Mike Circle

**Greeters:** Carol Storer and Peggy Nihizer

**Ushers:** Cliff Poling & Joe Blackburn

**Hospitality:** Nancy Studebaker & Kathy Koeller

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

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

**Scripture Reader:** Amy T.

**Sound:** Norman H.

**Usher:** Lisa W.

**Media:** Valerie M.

**Sep 29<sup>th</sup>** — Altar flowers are available

**9:00 Liturgist:** Wendy Heisey

**Greeters:** Sophia & Stella Blackburn

**Ushers:** Steve Kraus and Kay Wagner

**Hospitality:** Kay Wagner & Steve Kraus

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

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

**Scripture Reader:** Ben G.

**Sound:** Norman H.

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

**Media:**

**Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary  
September 2019**



3<sup>rd</sup> - Bradley Brown  
Mary Ann Martens  
Jim & Marilyn Mitchell (47 yrs)  
4<sup>th</sup> - Katie Weeks  
7<sup>th</sup> - Paul & Sally Miller (56 yrs)  
10<sup>th</sup> - Monica Studebaker  
David & Dawn Jay (36 yrs)  
11<sup>th</sup> - Kathy Koeller  
Jaydan Lawhorn  
Levi Todd

12<sup>th</sup> - Susie Spittler  
13<sup>th</sup> - Rev. Tim Benkert  
Norman & Joy Paulus (60 yrs)  
14<sup>th</sup> - Megan Bryson  
15<sup>th</sup> - Stella Blackburn  
16<sup>th</sup> - Matthew & Amanda Burns (19 yrs)  
18<sup>th</sup> - Belinda Wright  
23<sup>rd</sup> - David Jay  
Monica Winemiller

24<sup>th</sup> - Sally Blue  
Karen Randall  
Michael & Amy Barnes (14 yrs)  
Greg & Bev Brubaker (52 yrs)  
25<sup>th</sup> - Lindsay Todd  
27<sup>th</sup> - Martin & Wendy Black (16 yrs)  
28<sup>th</sup> - Charlotte Hepfer  
29<sup>th</sup> - Bethany Benkert

# SPARK!

children's ministry

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

VBS was a big hit!! We had an average of 55 kids come for the 5 nights. We raised \$372.00 for Bulldog Bags with our mission money!! A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL THE AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!!!

Kids Hope will be starting up soon! If you haven't been trained but would like to spend 1 hour each week mentoring a child at Milton-Union, please let Becky know.

Dates to know:

September 1- 2<sup>nd</sup> service end of the summer party

September 8- all K-5 kids are back in the service during second service.

September 29- Christmas Play practice (2<sup>nd</sup> service)

October 27- Family Pumpkin Fun Night

Sunday School Hour

10:15-11:10

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Preschool Children's

Church Hour

11:15-12:15

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

## Sunday School

Grades 6-12  
Sundays  
10:15-11:15am

## Ignite

Grades 6-12  
Sundays  
6:30-8:30 pm

Youth Director: Joseph Knostman  
[JosephKnostman@hoffmanumc.org](mailto:JosephKnostman@hoffmanumc.org)  
937-573-7212

## BACK TO SCHOOL

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. I Thessalonians 5:16-18



The youth headed back to school these past few weeks. I am blessed to have the opportunity to see many of them on a regular basis throughout the week. Even though many of them are in high school and I am in the middle school, my room is always open and nearby to drop in and say hello.

The season of sports and extracurricular activities has started back up so I am gathering as many schedules as possible. If you have one, please get it to me so that I can come watch.

We are still in the midst of a study on Joy in the book of Philippians. The week we headed back to school we completed a study on the Bible App together throughout the week.

Looking forward to a great year and hope to get some new younger youth involved in Ignite. Thank you for your prayers and support.

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

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the **open door**  
come as you are

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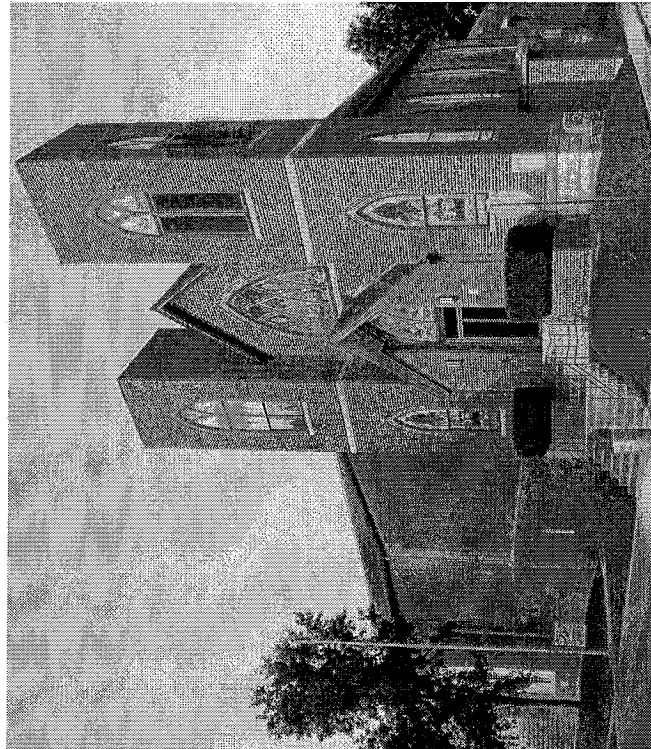
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T O W E R S  
T H E R S



September  
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](http://HoffmanUMC.org)

Pastor Robbie Scott