

# THE TOWERS

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

October 2019

## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

### *Life set on "full"*

**John 10:9-10 [Jesus speaking] <sup>9</sup> I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.**

I recall years ago a television show called "This is Your Life." There would be a special guest, and then person after person would be heard by voice only, and after a moment of recognition by the guest, a person known by the guest would emerge from backstage, and share stories and insights from the guest's life.

There is always the tension of life vs death in the work of the church, we are currently in a quiet enough season of funerals that I feel I can mention that sometimes funeral gatherings have reminded me of that television show. As I have said before, I am an introvert, and at least for my first couple years, waiting in line at a viewing was mainly time standing with strangers, and overhearing the comments from the front of the line. Someone precious from the past was seen for the first time in many years, and hearing the somewhat hurried catch-up as stories and condolences were exchanged, and then the line moved forward, with another unweaving, and more stories. I am starting my 5<sup>th</sup> year here at Hoffman (I know, right?!), and at this point if I am in line at a funeral viewing, there are enough familiar faces that I am chatting and do not overhear as many of these moments, but I wonder if these moments help reveal what go into a "full" life. Of course a tiny article isn't going to cover it, but it seems the extra effort that goes into making contact with the family of one whom we've shared history communicates that the person who died was a part of our lives in such a way that our lives are somehow "less full" without that person in it.

While holding onto that thought, we presently have various babies and infants cooing and smiling (and yes, sometimes

crying) throughout our sanctuary lately. These babies are surrounded by lives that already had so much to be thankful for, and maybe even could have felt "full" without this new baby, and yet are somehow more complete with that child having arrived. These wonderful young mothers cradling their new additions look down at this child with such an adoration,



an adoration that comes despite sleepless nights and interrupted conversations, mystery stains to remove. I also think about the mothers who endured much before that particular life arrived, who had earlier endured not being able to welcome a life being knit together in the womb, whether due to stillbirth, or due to miscarriage. These stories are not as public, but those losses were carried in the eyes of those mothers for some time, and as those mothers now hold new life in their arms, the preciousness of that new life is so much more "real" to them.

What does it look like for Jesus words, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" to be true for us? Is the "full" life only the heavenly one that is to come, or is the "full" life for here, too? Of course you already know our fullness isn't about possessions or bank accounts but what does it look like to have Jesus' words ring true? I won't pretend I will fully be able to explain it, but I think of the mothers who are looking upon their beautiful children, and yet still remember the ones they never really got to meet... They know how precious THIS child is, in part because of the one not here. I think of all those who never get to be parents...

For all of those, and also for the rest of us, my prayer is that hopefully without tragedy we can see the gift of each day, that each and every person we come in contact with is precious, and is one who Christ was born and died for. Who can we add to our lives, that our lives and theirs are more "full" because of each other? Who can we introduce to the gate that is Christ? While thankful for those who included me in their lives, I am,

In Christ's Service and Yours,



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# Board Meeting Highlights

## Devotions

Led by Pastor Robbie. Matthew 5:14-18. Through the illustration of a lighthouse, a reminder that the church does not exist to sit in safety and minister only to its own, but to reach out to the lost.

## Finance Report for July

Approved and Accepted. Note that some large occasional bills along with 4 Sunday vs 5 Monday (paydays) caused shortfall in income vs expenses.

## Pastor's Report

Average attendance for July was 144. Pastor Robbie shared that some attendance numbers run the risk of not being quite as accurate with recent changes. Physical count from ushers is more important than ever.

Staff updates include a successful summer for Becky's Children's Ministries, particularly our first VBS in over 10 years.

Joseph has done a good job of inviting new faces to IGNITE, and time will tell if those connections grow.

Pastor Robbie completed required "one on one" meeting with Rev Lybarger, and was in the quarterly Superintendency Meeting at the District Office. He is attending the West Ohio Conference's first REF retreat, which will be required of all clergy in the conference over the next 8 years.

"THEREFORE, What's it There For" is the next worship series.

## Board Study

"7 Practices of Effective Ministry," by Andy Stanley. Focus this time was on "Insider" vs "Outsider" thinking. One important reflection from the board was that as welcoming as Hoffman is to new faces, once those new faces get involved beyond the surface, there is a barrier of "always done this way." New voices offer new ideas.

## Meeting Attendees

Pastor Robbie, Dick Martens, Carol Storer, Richard Smith, Cindy Johnston, and Patti Wion.

## Mission and Ministry

Highlighted was the ministry of serving at the computer during worship, advancing slides. There is a pressing need to add more volunteers, as there are regulars scheduling time out of town. This is not incredibly complex, and does not require great computer knowledge, but is extremely helpful on Sunday mornings. As it is of course difficult to ask a member to give up full participation in worship in order to fulfill this need (as is happening now), initial brainstorm was to see if any 2<sup>nd</sup> service persons might be able to serve. With the high number of young children, this could be challenging.

## Trustee Report

\$36,770 is in the capital fund. The school bricks have been used on a variety of projects, including as decoration around contemplation bench, and as foundation for the waste receptacles outside the Activity Center. Tuck pointing on the west side of the church is being performed by Bruns in hopes of eventually sealing the brick and eventually stopping the leaks around windows in two offices. After Towers roofing is completed, bell tower floor will be sealed, and work can commence on the ceilings of the tower rooms

Non agenda discussion included general conversation of security. Pastor Robbie mentioned the trustees have had the most conversations around it, and some subtle changes have been made on Sundays to try to help us feel more secure. A warning that a church whose strength is in being welcoming can quickly lose that "feel" while trying to be "secure." General thoughts were to find ways to communicate to congregation (but not in worship) what steps have been taken, or explored.

The devotions will be led by Dick Martens at next meeting, which is scheduled for September 19.

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



**Hoffman Sympathies:** to the family of Melvin Benkert, Rev. Tim's dad, as he passed away Sept. 14, 2019

**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

## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THANK YOU***

**Emmaus Woman's Share Group**  
Tues., October 1<sup>st</sup> at 11 a.m. in Multi-Purpose Room

**If your address or phone number has changed in the last year**, please email the church office at [humchurch@gmail.com](mailto:humchurch@gmail.com) or call JoAnn at 698-4401 and make sure we have your correct information. New church phone directories will be printed in mid-October.

**Remember to set your clocks back 1 hour**  
before going to bed on Saturday, November 2nd.

Church Family, Thank you so much for celebrating the birth of Ty with us. We really appreciated the cards, gifts, and delicious meals generously provided. Thank you,  
Greg, Lesli, Silas, Jerid, and Ty Raines.

**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](mailto:info:daytonemmaus.org).  
**2020 Walks:** Men's #68 Jan 16 – 19th Normandy UMC  
Women's #107 Feb 20 – 23<sup>rd</sup> Normandy UMC

**October is Pastor and Staff Appreciation Month**, so we invite you to lift up Pastor Robbie and his family, as well as our Hoffman Staff and their families with your prayers and any signs of appreciation you deem appropriate. Their love of Christ, service to Hoffman, and spirit of cooperation and teamwork are wonderful gifts to the church and community. Please keep Norman, JoAnn, Becky, Joseph, and of course Robbie in your prayers throughout the year but particularly have them in mind in October. Thank You, Cindy J. and Carol S., Staff-Parish Relations Co-Chairs.

### **What Is Happening With the United Methodist Women?**

The recently reorganized United Methodist Women are meeting quarterly on the fourth Thursday in Jan, Apr, July and Oct. at 7PM. So far this year we have sponsored the International Food Tasting and the Art Show. Upcoming events include a carry-in dinner on Oct. 6, the Election Day dinner on Nov. 5, a celebration of Veterans on Nov. 9 and the Craft Show on Nov. 23.

Also in the planning stages are: a small group study for spiritual enrichment to be presented by Mary Ann Martens and a Mother/ Daughter Luncheon. We are exploring additional activities such as learning a skill: knitting, crocheting or Swedish embroidery? Are you interested? All ideas are welcome.

**Please join us at our next meeting on Thursday, October 24 at 7PM** in the multipurpose room. All ladies 18 and older are welcome. We are planning a fun evening. See you then.

### **Theda's Thoughts**

Submitted by Theda Klepinger

**COLORS:** During Autumn the leaves of hardwood trees change to a variety of many colors.

In Genesis 37 Joseph's coat of many colors is mentioned. Also in Genesis God said He has set His rainbow of many colors in the clouds. And God created the human race: "Red and Yellow, Black and White, They are precious in His sight Jesus loves the little children of the world".

## ***UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS***

**Carry-In Luncheon Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 12:30** in the activity center. The United Methodist Women invite all women, men, youth, children and babies to a delicious meal prepared by the best cooks in the world (or at least the county). Come and enjoy getting to know other Hoffman people that you greet, but don't have time to converse with. Fun things are planned. Prepare your favorite recipe and share it with your newly acquainted friends. Table service will be provided.

### **World Communion Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Methodist Men** will meet on the second and third Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. beginning October 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Contact Chris Long if you have any questions.

**CROP Walk** Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. at HUMC

### **Trunk or Treat**

October 31<sup>st</sup> 6 to 8 p.m. in South Parking Lot  
Decorate your trunk, bring lawn chairs, candy and join us as we greet and treat the kids of our town.

### **All Saints Day Service Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Please call the church office 698-4401 with the name and date of death of your loved ones who have passed away this past year and we will include their names during our services.

### **160<sup>th</sup> Chicken Pot Pie Election Day Dinner Nov 5<sup>h</sup> from 4:30 to 7 p.m.**

Homemade chicken pot pie, mashed potatoes, green beans, slaw, dinner roll, assorted desserts, plus a beverage. \$7.50 donation. Dine in or carry out

### **Honoring All Union Township Veterans**

**Saturday, November 9, 2019 @ 2 p.m.**

In the Activity Center

The public is invited!

To have yours or your loved one's picture included in the PowerPoint, mail the picture to the church by Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> to the 'attention of Nancy Studebaker' and include branch of service and the dates served.

### **Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Gifts Drive**

will begin soon. Start thinking about what toys and goodies you are going to fill your shoe box with for a special boy or girl who needs to hear about Jesus through your box! You will soon see the table in the lobby with the pamphlets and information. Deadline to drop off your boxes is Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Hoffman's Annual Craft Show**

November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9a.m. to 3p.m.  
Our booth needs lots of crafts and homemade goodies. Start thinking about what you will make to help fill our tables.

### **Hoffman UMC Christmas Party**

will be held on Sat., Dec., 7<sup>th</sup>. Updates soon. It is sure to be a good time!

### **Theda's Thoughts**

Think positive thoughts to start your day. They can make all the difference. Keep looking to the Lord and find encouragement in the possibilities this day holds. Keep in touch with people...find joy in everyone that comes your way. As the day winds down "cozy in" to contemplate the wonders God provided today. Give thanks and plan for a happy tomorrow. You can do it! Proverbs 17:22 "A cheerful heart is good medicine" HAVE A HAPPY DAY...

## Serving Schedule

- Oct 06<sup>th</sup>** – Altar flowers are in memory of Jean Brown  
**9:00 Liturgist:** Valerie McKay **Greeters:** Wendy Heisey and Nancy Lightcap  
**Ushers:** Lee & Becky Baker and Wayne & Susie Spitler **Hospitality:** Jim & Marilyn M. and Valerie M.  
**Nursery: 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.
- Oct 13<sup>th</sup>** – Altar flowers are celebration of Joseph Knostman's birthday from Larry & Beth Thoele  
**9:00 Liturgist:** Tim Benkert **Greeters:** Bill & Judy Brown  
**Ushers:** Les & Sharon Trittschuh and Phil & Karen McFadden **Hospitality:** Chris and Linda L.  
**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:** Amy T. **Sound:** Jill C.  
**Ushers:** Julia C., Ben G., and Sally & Paul M. **Media:** Norman H.
- Oct 20<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:** 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:** Beth T. **Sound:** Norman H.  
**Ushers:** Dejon D. **Media:**
- Oct 27<sup>th</sup>** – Altar flowers are in memory of Ted Lightcap from Nancy  
**9:00 Liturgist:** Mike Circle **Greeters:** Carol Storer and Peggy Nihizer  
**Ushers:** Cliff Poling & Joe Blackburn **Hospitality:** Tim & Janet B.  
**Nursery: 10:15** Eric & Johanna M. **/11:15** Megan T. & Ben G.
- 11:15 Greeters:** Sally & Paul M. and Marijo Schlecht **Scripture Reader:** Andrew C. **Sound:** Norman H.  
**Usher:** Lisa W. **Media:** Valerie M.

### Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary October 2019



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| <p>1<sup>st</sup> - Greg &amp; Lesli Raines (8 yrs)</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> - Riko Waymire</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> - Dorothy Ginn<br/>Tina Mathews</p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> - Bill Brown</p> <p>6<sup>th</sup> - Karen McFadden</p> <p>7<sup>th</sup> - Ruthann King<br/>Phil &amp; Sally Blue (58yrs)<br/>Paul &amp; Gwenn Crow (52 yrs)</p> <p>9<sup>th</sup> - Mike &amp; Candy Curry (43 yrs)</p> <p>10<sup>th</sup> - Kim Dohrman</p> <p>11<sup>th</sup> - Steve Kraus &amp; Kay Wagner (22 yrs)</p> <p>12<sup>th</sup> - Ruth Hayes</p> | <p>13<sup>th</sup> - Joe Knostman<br/>Nancy Wolf</p> <p>14<sup>th</sup> - Kyler Jay</p> <p>16<sup>th</sup> - David Hayes</p> <p>17<sup>th</sup> - Wendy Long</p> <p>19<sup>th</sup> - Ben &amp; Nancy Herron (24 yrs)</p> <p>20<sup>th</sup> - Richard &amp; Marcia Smith (30 yrs)</p> <p>23<sup>rd</sup> - Robin Maeder</p> <p>27<sup>th</sup> - Darlene Duchene</p> <p>28<sup>th</sup> - Tim &amp; Janet Benkert (30 yrs)</p> <p>29<sup>th</sup> - Dick Porter</p> <p>31<sup>st</sup> - Marty Black<br/>Chelsi Jay<br/>Jim Wright</p> |
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# Hoffman United Methodist Church, Holidays in United States

Oct 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 9am - Worship 10:15am - S School 11:15am - Worship 6:30pm - Ignite	30	1 11am - Women's 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7pm - Trustee Mtg. -	2 9am - Women's 5pm - Grandma's 6:30pm - Ladies 7pm - Chancel Choir	3 9am - Pot Pie Making K & A.C. 12:30pm - W Design 4pm - Football Team 7:30pm - Praise	4	5
6 Communion 9am - Worship 10:15am - S School 11:15am - Worship 12:30pm - Carry-In 6:30pm - Ignite	7 6pm - Girl Scouts - B 7pm - Visitation	8 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Men's	9 9am - Women's 5pm - Grandma's 6:30pm - Ladies 7pm - Chancel Choir	10 4pm - Football Team 7:30pm - Praise	11	12
13 9am - Worship 10:15am - S School 11:15am - Worship 2pm - CROP Walk 6:30pm - Ignite	14 Columbus Day 6pm - Girl Scouts - B	15 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Men's	16 9am - Women's 5pm - Grandma's 6:30pm - Ladies 7pm - Chancel Choir	17 4pm - Football Team 6:30pm - Board Mtg 7:30pm - Praise	18 Private Party - A.C.	19
20 9am - Worship 10:15am - S School 11:15am - Worship 6:30pm - No Ignite	21 6pm - Girl Scouts - B	22 6:30pm - Bell Choir	23 9am - Women's 5pm - Grandma's 6:30pm - Ladies 7pm - Chancel Choir	24 Towers' Deadline 4pm - Football Team 7pm - United 7:30pm - Praise	25	26 11am - Private Party 12pm - Private Party
27 9am - Worship 10:15am - S School 11:15am - Worship 4pm - Family Fun 6:30pm - No Ignite	28 6pm - Girl Scouts - B	29 6:30pm - Bell Choir	30 9am - Women's 5pm - Grandma's 6:30pm - Ladies 7pm - Chancel Choir	31 Halloween Mail Towers 4pm - Football Team 6:30pm - 4-H - B 7:30pm - Praise	1	2

## GRANDMA'S KITCHEN OCTOBER 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

### October 2nd

Swiss steak  
Mashed potatoes  
Stewed tomatoes  
Watergate Salad

### October 9th

Barbecue Polish sausage  
Macaroni and cheese  
California blend  
Brownies

### October 16th

Swiss chicken bake  
Mashed potatoes  
Peas  
Cherry trifle

### October 23rd

Turkey hot shots  
Mashed potatoes  
Green beans  
Pumpkin roll

### October 30th

Spiral sliced ham  
Baked potato bar  
Broccoli  
Ice cream sundae

Menu items are subject to change

Hello to all. My name is Marijo Schlecht. I have been attending the second service at Huffman for several months. I wanted to offer to share some stories that are close to my heart of the persecution of our brothers and sisters in other countries. The gospel is spreading although many times there is a cost, as our Lord told us there would be. May these stories strength our walk as we keep others in our prayer life. The ministry is called: *The Voice of the Martyrs*.

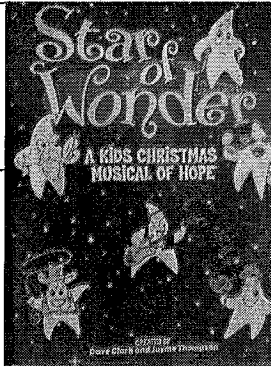
If you are not familiar with this ministry, it was started by Pastor Richard Wurmbrand. Richard had made a historic speech in front of the Communist Party that invaded Hungary, France and surrounding countries. Wurmbrand and his wife Sabina had already been risking their lives feeding those starving and spreading the Gospel of Jesus to many. The night of his speech he declared the Communist Party would never allow the Gospel to be heard as in countries before, they had killed thousands of Christians. This infuriated the Russians. Four years later, Richard was arrested by the secret police. His torture for the Gospel had begun. It lasted fourteen years in the horrendous underground prison, with to many beatings to keep count of. Many believers were there, many died, many others came to know the Lord. Their story is beyond incredible. Today, Voice of the Martyrs ministers to thousands around the world who suffer persecution to spread the Gospel. I have personal been so touched by stories of our brothers and sisters who give up everything for the glory of God. Each month I will report a country or family that needs prayer. This month please remember Pastor Pierre Oult's family and congregation. This pastor had served for forty years. On April 28 of this year Pastor Pierre, his son and other members were killed one at a time for refusing to follow Islam. Earlier in the year the Pastor was asked to leave. He quoted "I would rather die for my faith than leave the community I have been serving for forty years." This town is in the province of Burkina, West Africa. Until he returns, Marijo Schlecht

# SPARK!

children's ministry

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

**Christmas Play Practice**  
During Second service- 11:15-12:30



**Fall Family Fun Night**  
Pumpkin Carving and more  
October 27, 2019

Sunday School Hour  
10:15-11:10

...

Preschool Children's  
Church Hour

11:15-12:20

...

Christmas Play  
Practice

11:15-12:30

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

**Sunday Night Help  
Needed**

6:30-8:30

Commitment would be for  
1 month at a time.  
Responsibilities: help oversee  
youth. No planning involved.

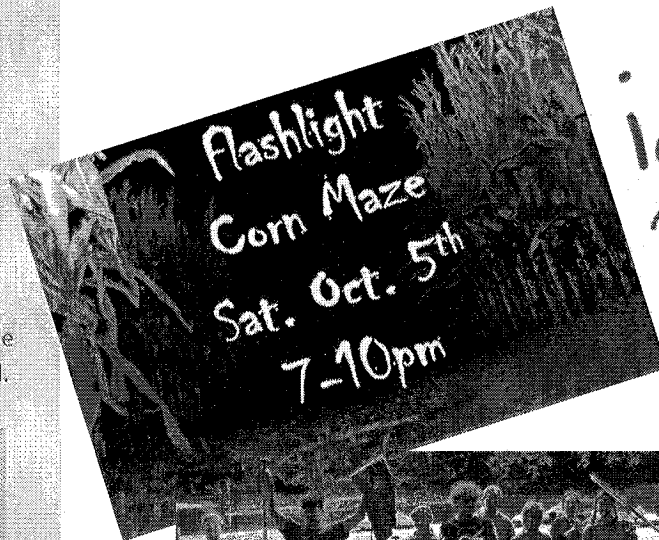
**Ignite**

Grades 6-12

Sundays

6:30-8:30 pm

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



**ignite**  
student ministry



# Honoring All Union Township Veterans

Saturday, November 9, 2019 @ 2 p.m.

The public is invited!

Hoffman United Methodist Church  
201 S Main St., West Milton

To have yours or your loved one's picture included in  
the PowerPoint, mail the picture to the church by  
October 15<sup>th</sup>  
to the 'attention of Nancy Studebaker'  
and include branch of service  
and the dates served.

For Questions:  
Call Nancy 698-9967 or 825-2282

X

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

X

the **open door**  
come as you are

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Organization  
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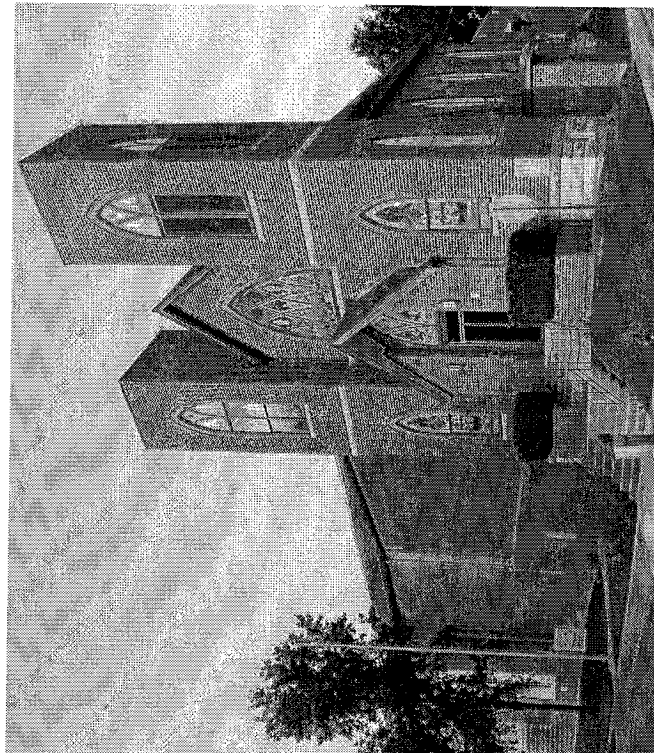
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Return Service Requested

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T O W E R S  
T H E R S



October  
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