

THE TOWERS

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

December 2019

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ADVENT: Season of Hope

Romans 5:1-5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

This time of year we do some of our writings earlier than usual so we can meet deadlines and mailings. I write this as we lit candles just 2 weeks ago in remembrance of the saints who have entered the church victorious...not knowing at that time there would be 2 more added so soon, Eldon Hoke and Jim Kinnison. Today was Jim's services, and while I know these are services of celebration, I admit the vacuum left by such a presence is still all too palpable to me right now.

We could scarcely stand such pain were it not for something very important...Hope. The scripture above, as well as having a great "therefore" (feel free to look back at what it is there for), also has within it an uncomfortable challenge, to Rejoice in sufferings, as sufferings lead to perseverance, which leads to character, and then leads to Hope. Eldon and Jim both dealt with their fair share of suffering, maybe even more than their share of suffering, and yet, both had hope. Those who knew them best also knew about their perseverance and character, too.

It sometimes has frustrated me that the timetable of district paperwork and Charge Conferences has come at a time so near to Advent. And yet, all that transpires fits so appropriately within the season. This year I have served the District by presiding over a few Charge Conferences in rural

settings, and while on this "outside" looking in, I could see that while the story of their congregations were not going as they would desire, they one and all are persevering through their present challenges, and as they look ahead to the future, they see opportunities to be in ministry together; they see fields that are still white unto harvest, they see....Hope for what is to come for their families of faith.

Advent is when we remember God coming near to humanity through Christ Jesus, culminating at Christmas. The quieter but concurrent theme is also remembering that Christ who came as a baby will come again as the Lord, the victor over death, and will call the Church home. This dual remembrance carries with it traditional themes of PEACE, JOY, LOVE, and.....HOPE.

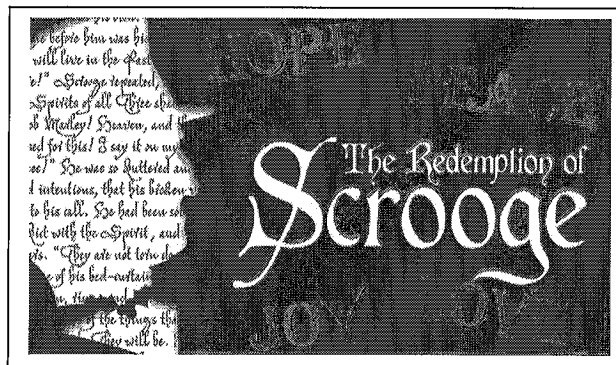
We endure our present pain because of hope. We allow ourselves to bear sorrow for a season because of hope. We celebrate and sing of a faith and a home that is not necessarily right here in view because of hope. And the stories we share in preparation for celebrating when God Came Near at Christmas, those remind us of the

author of hope.

I ran across a book in which the author invites us to look at Advent and learn through the lens of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," particularly through the character of Ebenezer Scrooge. My prayer is that by studying this character from one of the best known Christmas stories of all time, we may find Scrooge's redemption mirrors our own.

I pray this Advent is one in which God's Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love are made fully known to you and yours. Dec 7 is our Annual Christmas Party, and Dec 15, between services, is the Children's Program between services. Both are in the Activity Center. I hope to see you there. While clinging to God's Hope for the world and for me, I am,

In Christ's Service and Yours,





Board Meeting Highlights

Devotions

Les Trittschuh, Eph 1:16-19. Pursue the Holy Spirit.

Meeting Attendees

Dick Martens, Katie Poling, Janet Benkert, Les Trittschuh, David Jay, Cindy Johnston, Carol Storer, Richard Smith, Patti Wion, Julia Circle and Pastor Robbie Scott

Mission and Ministry

Joseph reviewed recent updates in youth ministry. As is normally expected, there is lower participation by the older youth, who now have drivers licenses. Overall numbers are only down a few, as there are younger (6-8th grade) members starting to get involved. School is a great place to recruit new members.

Pastor's Report

September average attendance was 156. Charge Conference preparation continues, Organist substitution arranged for Nov 10, Jacob Motz. The Children's Christmas Program is made up of a Very young batch of kids, adaptations made. Family Fun Night of Pumpkin Carving scheduled. Trunk or treat prepared with 1,000 candy bars. Pledge Card updated and reviewed by Finance Secretary. Hopefully easier to read and understand, with added emphasis on confidentiality that is already in place. Still trying to find a schedule time for membership class (5 individuals interested). Advent series "Redemption of Scrooge" starting December 1.

Finance

The finance report for September was reviewed and accepted. Finances in the general fund have continued to improve, and have reached a goal of Finance Chair for true operating budget. We are up to 5.9 weeks of operations in our general fund (Hoffman bylaws recommends 8-12 weeks of operations).

Nominations

Continued discussions inviting members to serve as: Finance Chair, SPRC Co-chair, Lay Leader, At Large member

Staff Parish Relations

Proposed Budget for SPRC shared, which includes a Worship Coordinator, with hopes of hiring a true worship leader for 2nd service. It has been very hard on lead singer volunteers for last few years.

Board Study

The board finished the study of "7 practices of Effective Ministry". This session covered a difficult topic of "build a margin in the calendar to allow for review and celebration." Robbie warned that the Hoffman calendar continues to add more events without taking away anything, and both his and members' time, energies cannot sustain this practice.

Trustee Update

Trustee work day included sealing the garage, and the west brick wall of education wing was sealed in hopes of finishing efforts to stop occasional rain leak during certain storms.

Non-Agenda Items

Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts have turned in finances and keys. There had been a hope of those leaders to recruit new leaders, but none desired to step forward. Though a difficult decision, the board begrudgingly agreed to end the charter at this time. Research with Boy Scouts revealed there is no penalty, and a new charter can be started or renewed easily if interest rises and new leadership is in place.

Next meeting on November 21 is also the annual Charge Conference, with the Conference scheduled at 7:30.

People to remember in prayer:



Hoffman Sympathies:

to the family of Eldon Hoke as he passed away on November 5, 2019

to the family of Jim Kinnison as he passed away on November 8, 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, and Monica Winemiller

At Centers:

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., Dec 3rd at 11 a.m. in Multi-Purpose Room

December Grandma's Kitchen Menu

Dec 4th Baked spaghetti, garlic bread, tossed salad, chocolate delight

Dec 11th Chicken & noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, choice's choice dessert

Grandma's Kitchen will be closed for the winter.

Hoffman UMC Christmas Party Sat., Dec., 7th.

Hor d'oeuvres at 6:00 . Dinner at 6:30 with entertainment following at 7:15. Danny Schneibe will entertain us with songs from the 60's , 70's and today along with some American and Irish folk music Swiss chicken bake will be provided as the main course. Please plan to bring a dish to share. We look forward to celebrating the Christmas season with you.

Early January Towers' deadline of December 12th
mailing date December 19th

Thank you seems like such a small thing to say to our Hoffman family and friends, who worked together to make this year's Election Day Dinner a huge success! We served a total of 350 meals and raised \$1,926. Thanks to all of the volunteers who donated items and worked tirelessly serving the people of our community. We are truly blessed to have people who give their time and resources to this project.

A special thank you to those who made pot pie, shopped, prepared the meal, cleaned tables, washed dishes, provided pies, decorated the activity center, served the meals and all who attended the dinner.

God Bless You! LaVerne Hennemyre & Kathy Koeller

Dear Friends at Hoffman UMC, As we seek the road of life without our dear Tonya, we will carry with us your kind words and prayers. Thank You! God bless and keep you always in all ways. The Caldwell Family

Theda's Thoughts

Submitted by Theda Klepinger

Once again as we celebrate the birth of Jesus these hymns help us tell the Christmas story in song....In doing so our hearts are filled with the wonder of it all: Joy to the World.....Love Came Down at Christmas....The Birthday of a King.....Come Thou Long Expected Jesus.....O Holy Night..... Go Tell It On The Mountain.

Serving Schedule

- Dec 01st** – Altar flowers are available
9:00 Liturgist: Valerie McKay **Greeters:** Wendy Heisey and Nancy Lightcap
Ushers: Lee & Becky Baker and Wayne & Susie Spittler **Hospitality:** Kay W. & Steve K.
Nursery: 10:15 Jill C. & Marijo S. /11:15 Kim D. & Wendy H.
- 11:15 Greeters:** Ben G., Julia C., & Kathy Koeller **Scripture Reader:** Julia C. **Sound:** Eric M.
Ushers: Les T. & Ruth Leazer **Media:** Norman H.
- Dec 08th** – Altar flowers are in celebration of Anita Ankerman's birthday, from John
9:00 Liturgist: Wendy Heisey **Greeters:** Bill & Judy Brown
Ushers: Les Trittschuh and Phil & Karen McFadden **Hospitality:** Jim & Marilyn M. & Valerie M.
Nursery: 10:15 Marcia C. & Leslie R. /11:15 Kathy K. and Cliff & Katie P.
- 11:15 Greeters:** Lisa W. and Dick & Mary Ann M. **Scripture Reader:** Beth T. **Sound:** Jill C.
Ushers: Julia C., Ben G., and Sally & Paul M. **Media:** Norman H.
- Dec 15th** – Altar flowers are in celebration of Matthew Garrett's birthday
9:00 Liturgist: Les Trittschuh **Greeters:** Elaine Iddings
Ushers: Jim Scammahorn & Dave Thompson **Hospitality:** Chris & Linda L.
Nursery: 10:15 Jill C. & Patti W. /11:15 Emily K. & Jennifer K.
- 11:15 Greeters:** Kathy W. and Amanda B. **Scripture Reader:** Norman H. **Sound:** Norman H.
Ushers: Dejon D. **Media:**
- Dec 22nd** – Altar flowers are in celebration of John & Anita Ankerman's 39th anniversary
9:00 Liturgist: Mike Circle **Greeters:** Carol Storer and Peggy Nihizer
Ushers: Cliff Poling & Joe Blackburn **Hospitality:** Tom & Janet W.
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.
- Dec 29th** – Altar flowers are in celebration of Phil & Karen McFadden's 49th anniversary
9:00 Liturgist: Tim Benkert **Greeters:** Sophia & Stella Blackburn
Ushers: Steve Kraus and Kay Wagner **Hospitality:** Tim & Janet B.
Nursery: 10:15 Julia C. & Leslie R. /11:15 Courtney W. & Johanna M.
- 11:15 Greeters:** Patti & Courtney W. **Scripture Reader:** Ben G.. **Sound:** Norman H.
Usher: Patti W. **Media:** Valerie M.

**Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary
December 2019**

2nd - Robbie & Bridget Scott (18yrs)
 5th - Marc & Robin Maeder (14yrs)
 6th - Allyson Burns
 8th - John Hennemyre
 9th - Wendy Black
 10th - Carol Carter
 11th - Anita Ankerman
 Candy Curry
 13th - Lisa Wright
 15th - Andy Mitchell
 16th - Avery Bryson
 17th - Paul Crow
 18th - Matthew Garrett
 19th - Bob & Joyce Herron (65 yrs)



20th - John & Anita Ankerman (39 yrs)
 Valerie McKay
 Cheryl Owen
 21st - Dawn Jay
 24th - Dick & Dixie Porter (64 yrs)
 25th - Cody Dohrman
 26th - Larry Thoele
 Phil & Karen McFadden (49yrs)
 27th - Fred Brown
 Aaron Mitchell
 30th - Bob Herron
 Tom Wolf
 Ed & Tina Mathews (14 yrs)
 31st - Gary Barga

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Communion 9am - Worship 10:15am - S School 11:15am - Worship 6:30pm - NO Ignite	6pm - Girl Scouts - B 7pm - Visitation	11am - Women's 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7pm - Trustee Mtg. -	5pm - Grandma's 6:30pm - Ladies 7pm - Chancel Choir	12:30pm - W Design 7:30pm - Praise		Christmas Party A.C. 10:30am - Kids Hope 1pm - Y. Spirits
9am - Worship 10:15am - S School 11:15am - Worship 6:30pm - Ignite	6pm - Girl Scouts - B	6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Men's	5pm - Grandma's 6:30pm - Ladies 7pm - Chancel Choir	Towers' Deadline 7:30pm - Praise		10am - Musical
9am - Worship 10:15am - Children's 10:15am - S School 11:15am - Worship 6:30pm - Ignite	6pm - Girl Scouts - B	6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Men's	7pm - Chancel Choir	Mail Towers 6:30pm - Board Mtg 7:30pm - Praise		
9am - Worship 10:15am - S School 11:15am - Worship 6:30pm - NO Ignite	6pm - Girl Scouts - B	Christmas Eve 6:30pm - Bell Choir	Christmas Day	6:30pm - 4-H - B 7:30pm - Praise		
9am - Worship 10:15am - S School 11:15am - Worship 6:30pm - NO Ignite	6pm - Girl Scouts - B	New Year's Eve 6:30pm - Bell Choir	New Year's Day 7pm - Chancel Choir	12:30pm - W Design 7:30pm - Praise		12pm - Y. Spirits A.

Wednesday morning Women's Bible Study will begin again on January 8, 2020.

We will start with a 5 or 6-week study of *The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith* by Timothy Keller, a study of Luke 15: 1-3 and 11-32 which is the familiar parable known as The Prodigal Son.

The introduction in the book states that "It is not right to single out only one of the sons as the sole focus of the story . . . Jesus begins the story by saying, 'a man had two sons.' The narrative is as much about the elder brother as the younger, and as much about the father as the sons. And what Jesus says about the older brother is one of the most important messages given to us in the Bible." Others have described these verses in Luke as "the Gospel within the Gospel," "the most divinely tender and most humanly touching story ever told on earth," and "the finest short story ever written."

This study is open to anyone who is interested. Please consider joining us in the Multi-Purpose room at 9:00am on January 8. Books will be \$2 or copies are available at local libraries.

SPARK!

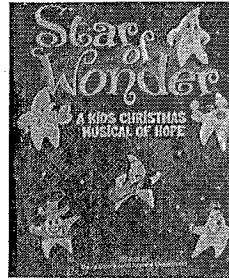
children's ministry

Christmas Play Practice

During Second service- 11:15-12:30
December 15- Christmas program
during Sunday School!!



Kids Hope Christmas Party:
December 7 11:00am-1:00pm



Sunday School Hour

10:15-11:10

...

Preschool Children's Church Hour

11:15-12:20

...

Christmas Play Practice

11:15-12:30

Christmas Eve Service: 7pm
Family Friendly Service



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

Christmas Feast December 15th

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
937-573-7212

Falling Towards the End of Another Year!

Ignite has had a great fall season and the end of the year is wrapping up rather quickly. Thanks to all that helped with making the Trunk or Treat another success this year. We had over 600 kids go through the activity center that cold, windy night. It went over so well inside, that we may consider planning it inside next year.

Ignite got into the Christmas season by packing 51 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes!! We shopped at Dollar General and Dollar Tree this year! It was neat to watch the kids enjoy themselves shopping and thinking of others. Jennifer and I even heard several of them mention that it was their favorite event of the year.

Only four more meetings left this year. We will go out with a bang with our 4th Annual Christmas Feast. Please be on the lookout for the sign-ups to help feed these kiddos a home-made Christmas dinner. Thanks!



“Holiday Helping Hands”
Milton-Union Council of Churches

2019 Christmas Food Boxes Nomination Form
for residents of West Milton and Union Township

Church/Person making nomination (may be self): _____

All information on this form is **confidential**. **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

Gift Boxes are not intended to be a surprise.

In order to meet any specific needs, all nominees will be contacted by a representative of the Milton-Union Council of Churches.

A phone number or way to contact the family or individual must be provided.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Members of Household

Adults (Name)	Approx. age	Male/Female
1. _____		
2. _____		

Children (Name)	age	Male/Female
1. _____		
2. _____		
3. _____		
4. _____		
5. _____		

(add others on back if necessary)

Return/Mail To: Attention: Holiday Helping Hands
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
 1209 South Miami Street,
 West Milton, Ohio, 45383

**NEW LOCATION
FOR SUBMISSIONS
AND PICKUP**

YOU WILL BE CALLED TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR
DEC. 20th FROM 9:00AM – 6:00 PM TO PICK UP FOOD BOXES
AT GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH,
1209 SOUTH MIAMI STREET, WEST MILTON, OHIO, 698-5826

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS Dec. 14th , 2019

X

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

X

the **open door**
come as you are

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

X

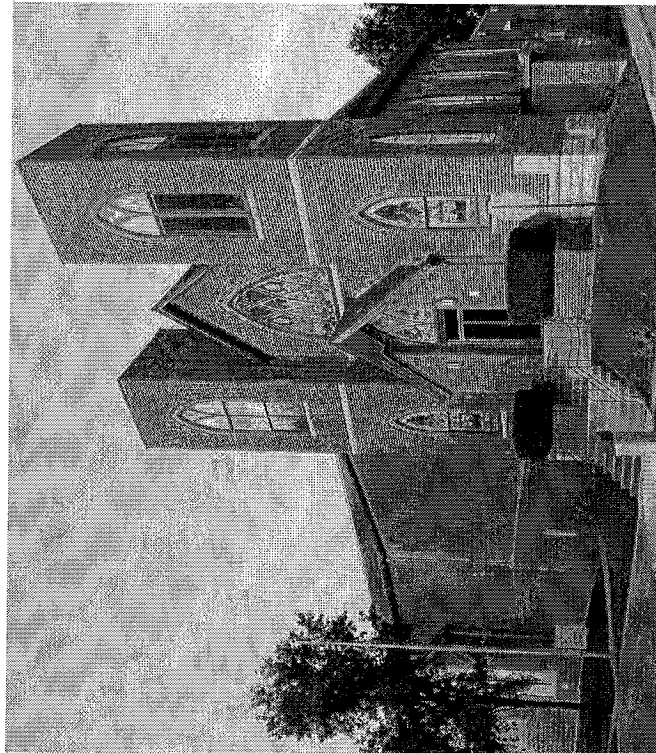
Return Service Requested

Place Label Here

L

TOWERS
THERS

December
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