



THE TOWERS

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

February 2021



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Digital and Analog

Acts 2:17-18 "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

I was born in an Analog World. My adulthood has been filled with more and more moments of my body born analog working in a world with digital tools.. In my childhood I recall the picture on the television suddenly going wonky (technical term), and dad used a pencil eraser to move a tube connection slightly, and the picture would return to normal. In those days we had a black and white tv as a backup. I remember years later how upset he was when he felt "forced" to purchase an additional box for his antenna feed, as the signal was now going to be digital. It was similar to my anger at being forced by a professor to purchase my first computer in order to turn in papers that were printed instead of written or typed. That was when I returned to college in 1998, at my first pastoral appointment. Only 23 years ago, and now here I am working out the kinks of streaming our services to 2 different platforms as an alternative to "only" using Facebook Live. I think the "me" of those days would shake his head at what is possible today, or even what I've learned so far.

One of our core pieces of equipment allows Hoffman to be live online with camera changes, powerpoint, and audio coming from the soundboard, in synch with our lips, mind you (a challenge you likely didn't know had to be solved). It was a special purchase the Church Board approved, and a couple folks donated towards and prevented it from hitting funds too hard. This one piece of equipment takes the Analog audio and video, as well as the digital computer signals, and combines them together into a digital signal that now goes out into the "world," and onto your devices and televisions. One device, Analog and Digital. Without it, I would probably be back on a

cellphone again, haha!

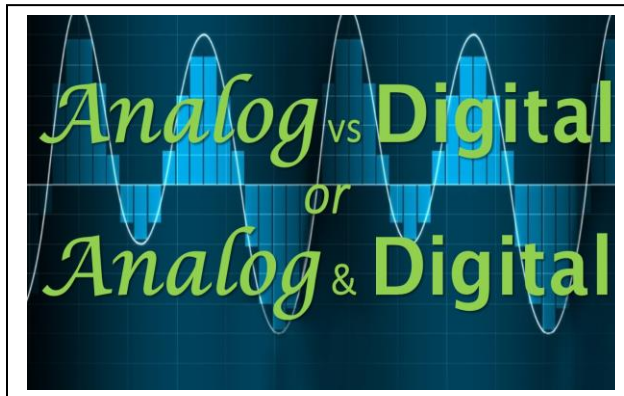
In this season that has felt like we are being pushed apart, analog and digital has had to work together for us to offer worship and to offer Christ, attempting to pull and hold us together. We had to have both Analog and Digital working together. It never was either/or for us, but both/and. I've said in other contexts that I am a bit of a both/and kind of guy, as I tend to or try to see the gifts of both rather than the exclusion. There are probably a few in our congregation who feel like they are stuck in Analog, with no usefulness in the digital world. I have a crew of vintage cameras in the sanctuary with a different story to tell. The Good News is for all persons, and all persons are gifted by the Holy Spirit in such a way to further its expansion and growth.

The verses at the beginning of this note are of course connected to the miracle of Pentecost, a miracle that many in Christianity believe is still impacting the work of the church.

Notice the prophecy quoted isn't either/or, but is both/and. Young men's visions and old men's dreams are all going to be utilized to accomplish the kingdom work of God.

I have smiled a couple times thinking about Analog and Digital working together, especially while also trying to figure out whether I am young or old...would I have visions or dream dreams? I think in the work of the kingdom of God, the answer is "yes." We get to tell the old old story in ALL the ways available to us. We still can tell it through personal contact, phone calls and notes, but we also get to learn a few ways to share the good news using digital tools. Worship in person should not replace watching it on a screen, as the "analog" relationships of smiles, conversations and hugs will be needed in our sanctuary again, someday. There's no real app for that. We need both/and as this new year continues, for the stories of Christ in our lives still need told. While proudly analog & digital, I am,

In His service and yours,





Board Meeting Highlights

Devotions

Devotions were offered by Julia. She shared a devotion highlighting the hymn by Charles Wesley "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing". The meeting was opened with a prayer by Julia Circle .

Meeting Attendees

Dick Martens, Katie Poling, Carol Storer, David Jay, Julia Circle, Jill Circle, John Ankerman, Janet Benkert (zoom), Dan Studebaker (zoom) and Pastor Robbie Scott.

Pastor's Report

November Average attendance for 9 am: 17 in person and 46 online; 11:15 am: 18 in person and 26 online. JoAnn has updated our process for posting the newsletter on our website at HoffmanUMC.org; previously we were scanning the paper pages for upload. The Towers is now a fully digital single document and the original is directly uploaded to the copier. November was the first issue to be fully digital and in color on the website. The last several years of the newsletter are available on the website. Becky took advent crafts and advent study to 30 families. On Christmas Eve services there will be a children's message in both services. Joseph continues to be outreach to the Milton Union youth, which is even more important now that students have transitioned to online school. The December 1 makeup day for Directory pictures was a success. Efforts for keeping the essence and the traditions of Christmas Eve services while keeping everyone safe are underway. Services may be viewed in the activity center. Solo specials have been selected and will be recorded for Christmas Eve service.

Robbie is scheduled to participate in the Board of Ordained Ministry Interviews Jan 31-Feb2. Possible pulpit fills are being checked on. Robbie is looking ahead to Lent which is early in February 2021.

Finance

The finance report for November was reviewed and accepted. The yearend projection summary is good and overall even for income to expenses.

Staff Parish Relations

Staff evaluations are finished. Staff gifts have been distributed.

Trustee Update

Two stained glass windows have been sponsored. There is a poster in the back entryway that monitors progress on the stained glass project. Offering for capital improvement averages. \$1250 per month Repair of drywall in parsonage. has been finished Hail guards were installed on all HVAC units. Four garbage bins not being used were returned which is a cost savings. A contract was signed for snow removal. We are waiting on 4 bids for boiler replacement.

Meeting adjourned to the sanctuary where board members (those attending in person) were recorded for Christ candle video for Christmas Eve services.

2021 Officer Note:

Due to the impact of the pandemic, all board officer terms were extended for one year, with the exception that Dick Martens will end his term as Chair on schedule and will step down to Board Vice Chair, with Katie Poling will begin her term as Church Board Chair.

While gathering during this COVID season, we implore that all who come be healthy and use best practices of distance and masks. We do have room for more at each service while still keeping social distance standards. The chart below records both those in physical and confirmed online attendance, but we are aware and thankful for those who also watch the services later. -rs

Date	12/20/20	12/27/20+ 12/31/20	1/3/21	1/10/21	1/17/21
General Offering	5301.80	5958.00	2592.00	4384.00	5114.00
Weekly Budget Need	4824.00	4824.00	4854.00	4854.00	4854.00
Mission Offering	140.00	120.00	80.00	140.00	125.00
Maintenance Fund	60.00	565.00	160.00	190.00	715.00
Building Fund & Memorials	80.00	455.00	325.00	750.00	650.00
Stained Glass Windows	6710.00	1050.00	400.00	.00	140.00
Online & Physical Attendance					
9 a.m. Service at church	17	14	13	19	17
* Remote viewing	39	48	46	40	36
11:15 a.m. Service at church	19	21	21	31	19
* Remote viewing	24	27	27	23	47
Total Attendance	99	110	107	113	100

* 'remote viewing' is only recorded for those signing in during the live broadcast, and does not include those who watch from the links after the live broadcast is over. This estimate does not include all who are watching.

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary February 2021

1st - Tim & Lisa Wright (38 yrs)
 2nd - Bret Beard
 4th - Ed & Sandy Johannes (60 yrs)
 5th - Leah Blackburn
 6th - Amy Todd
 9th - Danielle Sweitzer
 10th - Luke Frazier
 Darin Wion
 12th - Lincoln Moran
 14th - Bret & Teesha Beard (28 yrs)
 15th - Luke & Barb Frazier (64 yrs)
 16th - Steve Kraus
 Nancy Studebaker



17th - Janet Balsbaugh
 Rose Knostman
 19th - Marcia Smith
 Lester Trittschuh
 20th - Ansel Circle
 Sandy Johannes
 Terry & Wendy Long (39 yrs)
 21st - Silas Raines
 22nd - Wayne & Susie Spitler (57 yrs)
 23rd - Janet Benkert
 24th - Olivia Bryson
 25th - Nancy Lightcap
 26th - Lydia Garrett
 Jenna Moran
 28th - Terry Long

February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 9am - Worship 11:15am - Worship	1 6pm - Girl Scouts -B 7pm - Visitation	2 7pm - Trustee Mtg. -	3 1pm - Bulldog Bags -	4	5	6
7 Communion 9am - Worship 11:15am - Worship	8 6pm - Girl Scouts -B	9	10 1pm - Bulldog Bags -	11	12 4pm - Private Party	13 8am - Set Up A.C. 9am - Trustee Work 5:30pm - Family
14 9am - Worship 11:15am - Worship	15 Presidents' Day 6pm - Girl Scouts -B	16	17 Ash Wednesday 1pm - Bulldog Bags -	18 Towers' Deadline 6:30pm - Board Mtg	19	20
21 9am - Worship 11:15am - Worship	22 6pm - Girl Scouts -B 7:30pm - MUCC	23	24 1pm - Bulldog Bags -	25 Mail Towers 6:30pm - 4-H - B	26	27
28 9am - Worship 11:15am - Worship	1 6pm - Girl Scouts -B 7pm - Visitation	2 7pm - Trustee Mtg. -	3 11:30am - Private 1pm - Bulldog Bags -	4	5	6

People to remember in prayer:



Hoffman Sympathies to: the family of Nancy Allen as she passed away on December 24, 2020
the family of Kathy Kinsey as she passed away on January 1, 2021
the family of Irita Black, Marty's mother, as she passed away on January 20, 2021

At Home: Phil Blue, Nan Guthrie, Valaria Harshbarger, Wilma Hoover, Helen Keller,
Mary Maess, Dick & Eugenie Markley, Miriam Miller, and Monica Winemiller

At Centers: Dorothy Ginn, Cypress Pointe, 600 W National Rd. Rm 312, Englewood OH 45322
Sherynne King, Koester Pavilion, 3232 N Co. Rd 25A, Rm 67, Troy OH 45373
Wendy Long, Trinity Center, 789 Stonybrook, Rm 208A, Fairborn OH 45324
Joetta Perry, Storypoint Troy, 1840 Towne Park Drive, Rm 17, Troy, OH 45373

Please remember all of our shut-ins with cards and prayers.

THANK YOU AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers

Feb 7th available
Feb 14th available
Feb 21st in celebration of Ansel Circle's birthday
Feb 28th in celebration of Lydia Garrett's birthday



Dear friends and family of Hoffman UMC, thank you all for your prayers and sympathies for the loss of our daughter-in-law, Rhonda Nelson, who passed away from Covid 19. Thank you also for the cards of well wishes as Becky went through back surgery. Lee & Becky Baker

Thank you Hoffman Family for all the cards and prayers while I am at the Koester Pavilion. Your thoughtfulness has meant a lot to me. Sherynne King

To my church family, thank you for all your prayers, cards, and concerns at the death of my brother, Larry Pinkerton. God Bless you all, Jerry Pinkerton

The family of Nancy Farrar Allen would like to thank our church family at HUMC for praying, loving, and supporting her, and her family, during her illness and finally in her death on December 24, 2020. Many sent cards, messages, attended the visitation, and the funeral, gave memorial donations, sent flowers and planters, planted a tree, and went online to share a memory or light a candle in honor of her. We appreciate each contribution with love. She loved each of you! The family of Nancy Farrar Allen

Hoffman Family, we are so grateful for your concerns, prayers, and cards during our bout with Covid. We feel so fortunate and blessed to be part of such a wonderful, supportive church family. God is good! Thank you! Blessings to all, Bill & Judy Brown



Stained Glass Window Restoration Project

Amount Received: \$ 15,815
Total Project Goal: \$109,430
Thank You!



Welcome New Members!

Welcome Chris and Jenna Moran and their children Lilly, Lincoln and Zeke! Chris works at Miami Valley Steel and Jenna works at Miami Valley Hospital. Chris' hobbies include bowling, working and fishing. Jenna enjoys going to the gym, hiking, biking and reading. They live in Pleasant Hill. We are happy that you have officially joined the Hoffman UMC family and we welcome you!

“Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.” Acts 16:31



Thank you so much to everyone who has donated to Bulldog Bags this year! We have been able to raise a lot of money for our program... thank you especially for donating to the Christmas Missions fund for Bulldog Bags. It is all very appreciated!

Valentine's Party Family Night
Saturday, February 13th 5:30-8PM

We will be having dinner, making a craft and playing games. Please let Becky know if you are planning on coming!

A huge thank you to everyone who provided money or gift cards for the Milton-Union family who had a fire in their house. They truly appreciate the love and generosity of our congregation. They have found a new home and are doing well.

...
Sunday School Hour
10:15-11:10
...

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



A Birthday Surprise

On February 25, 2021, Betty Castle will be celebrating her 100th birthday. She has been a long time “customer” of Grandma’s Kitchen meals since Tim McCuiston used to deliver her meals. A couple of years ago, she fell and decided that it would be better if she went to a facility rather than live at home in her trailer. She has been at Koester since probably 2019. The Visitation Team has been visiting her since 2009. Of course now, we have been unable to visit her because of the virus. She has been unable to see anyone in her family – her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren or any of her many, many friends. So, for her 100th birthday, we are inviting all her know her (or even if you don’t) to send her a card. She has a great sense of humor and remains sharp as a tack, including a better memory than some half her age. She is a delightful person and would thoroughly enjoy hearing from you. Even if you think she doesn’t know you, and you wish to send her a card, tell her something about yourself, your family, your friends because she has this uncanny ability to make connections with people that you know in common. Don’t be surprised if she doesn’t call you (include your phone number, just in case) or receive a short note from you about how much she enjoyed your card. The team loves to visit and you will too.

Betty Castle, Koester Pavilion, 3232 N Co. Rd 25A, Rm 5, Troy OH 45373

Dove

By Chris Long

January 2021

While on vacation in Key Largo I was sitting on a balcony overlooking a dock. As I was looking for a manatee, a dove flew closely by me. For some reason, this reminded me of the dove that flew onto the ark bringing good news to Noah that the flood was subsiding and all would be much better in the near future. Think about it. God used a bird as his message carrier.

Genesis 8:8-9 Then (Noah) sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. But the dove could find no place to set its feet because there was water all over the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark.

I then began thinking about the current events in the United States and the world as a whole. What a dismal state of affairs in which we find ourselves. Will God send us a message that our future will be much better? Who or what will He use as His messenger? Certainly the Bible contains many applicable messages, and we should be more aware of what God has to say about calamity.

My pastor, Robbie Scott, states: "I admit I see the waters of hatred and division as threatening to flood our lives in this great country, and the dove of peace is still waiting for the waters to recede."

He also shared these words from Paul: Romans 12:17-19 *Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written, "It is mine to avenge, I will repay," says the Lord.*

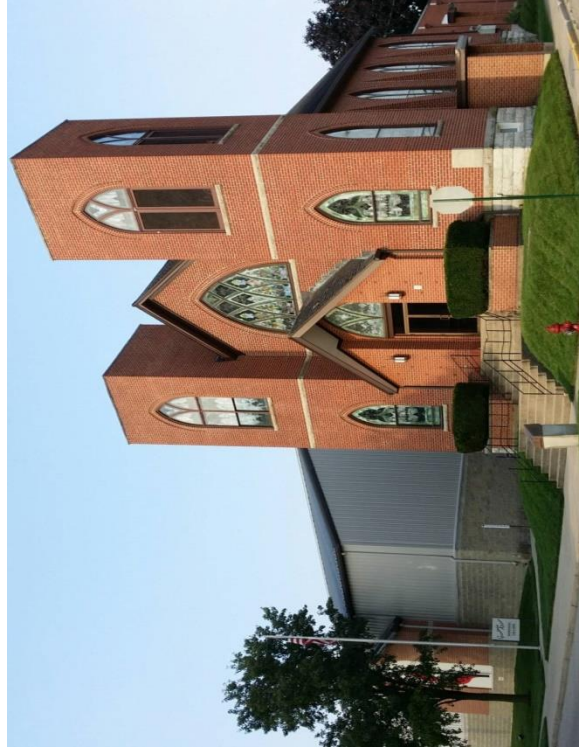
God probably won't send a dove to be His messenger, but then perhaps He will (perhaps He already has). Should we as Christians serve as ones to carry the message to the masses? I believe that each of us should be his doves in 2021 (and beyond). Let's take to our hearts this message: **Let there be peace on the earth, and let it begin with me.**



Return Service Requested

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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

February
2021

T O W E R S
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