



THE TOWERS

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

June 2021



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

God, the Original Artist

Exodus 35:30-35 30 Then Moses said to the Israelites, "See, the LORD has chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, 31 and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts-- 32 to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, 33 to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of artistic craftsmanship.

While I cannot say for certain this passage is never quoted, I feel it certainly is not going to be one that is used on bookmarks and bumper stickers. This is a part of the conversation between the Lord and Moses and the Israelites as plans for the Tent of Meeting or Tabernacle were being established. If you read through the breadth of the passage, you will notice throughout the reading how much the Lord cares about the skill being put into this work. In this passage, there were specific persons singled because of their particular expertise. Notice how the skills were about being able to make artistic designs, and artistic craftsmanship.

I have been distressed over the last decade or so in the communities I have served when I have noticed school budget cuts almost always start with the arts. It is the art class, the woodworking, the choir, or the band that takes the hit before the more "academic" areas. Now to be fair, I was far more skilled in science, grammar, and mathematics than in anything artistic, but I also had a fascination for those who had such gifts. Most congregations I have served included artistic folks who were able to express their gifts. Nancy Kinnison was one of those who first came to mind when I thought of "artistic." She would be in the hallway with fabric pieces and letters and lacy stuff and "voila," a hall banner for the season was there on the bulletin board. My mind does not work in that way.

I am quite thankful this West Milton region has such appreciation for the arts, even when it surprised me at times. I remember sitting wide eyed at a choir concert seeing the students suddenly break out into dance...all while still singing! That was new for me. Kellie Mahaney is yet another artistically gifted soul our community has lost. And yet, the investment of

artistic people in our community still is carried forward. Even now I think about 3 Hoffman graduating seniors, Cody, Kyleigh, and Dane, how each one has a love for art in various forms, impacting their future goals. The Annual Art Show returns to the church calendar at the end of July, and I am reminded yet again of how this congregation gets to nurture this love of art in multiple ways.

I think deep down, especially here, we are aware that art and artistic beauty does not originate with us, but with God. Even as a flower recently bloomed by our side door (pictured), I thought about multiple times in the last few weeks I have referred to the beauty of Spring, of nature, of life, ALL God's



artistic handiwork on display. The Old Testament writers wrote songs about God's artistic gifts in the world around them, and the New Testament writers painted pictures with words to help us imagine a life to come. Should it be any surprise then how many of history's most treasured pieces of art have been inspired by God, either directly or indirectly? From statues to paintings to architecture; from poetry

to classical music, hymns, and praise songs, humanity has offered praise to God through the gift of art, a gift to be treasured and nurtured, at least in my estimation.

How marvelous it is that we can enjoy the beauty of nature, as well as the beauty captured by the abilities of our fellow human beings, and still give thanks to the Original Artist. I am aware of all the ugly things going on in the world, but today I invite you pause an extra moment or so when "art" catches one of our senses. It may not be essential to life, but I believe it may be a part of what makes life worth living. It may also help us realize how the people around us, and we ourselves, are part of God's magnificent handiwork. While finding beauty in the art of rock n roll, 😊

I am,
In His service and yours,



Board Meeting Highlights

Devotions

Devotions were offered by Carol. She shared from Psalm 46:2. There have been many changes throughout the past year. God is our shepherd through change.

Meeting Attendees

Dick Martens, Carol Storer, Katie Poling, David Jay, Julia Circle, Jill Circle, John Ankerman, Patti Wion, Kim Dohrman, Janet Benkert and Pastor Robbie Scott

Pastor's Report

The Pastor's report was given with March average attendance; total 116. 9:00 averaged 34 in person and 33 online. 11:15 averaged 24 in person and 23 online. Miami Valley district and conference grant money has arrived. PTZ Optics 30x camera with HuddleCam controller have been purchased, connected for testing, but will be implemented after wiring issues are solved. Additional money was awarded for replacement microphone; more research will be required to make the best purchase. Becky is planning for VBS this summer, July 18-22 to insure safety. She has enjoyed the recent children's attendance during the children's message. Becky is brainstorming an alternative for Lunch Bunch this summer, eg "mobile pantry".

She is in leadership for JTI, May 22, single day event for 6 th - 7 th graders. Bulldog Bags are being packed at Hoffman which is problematic for student volunteer schedules. Ignite has started backup, 12 youth and an adult volunteer, all ages middle school and high school together. The first draft of the picture directory should be available soon. Teen volunteer for worship service operations has been excellent in giving another person able to operate online services.

In planning for the 2022 budget the CCLi subscription needs to move from the Music budget to Media Subscriptions budget line. Robbie's vacation scheduled for July 26-August 8, with Tim Benkert pulpit fill confirmed Aug 1 and Tom Weeks confirmed for Aug 8. Tim Benkert has also confirmed he will assist with emergency funeral coverage for August.

Trustee Update

The handrail and landing in the basement has been completed. Secure offering mailbox has been installed. The stained glass restoration project is 51% funded. The board approved for the trustees to move forward with obtaining updated quotes for the total project. The wood supports of the rooftop HVAC units need to be replaced.

Additional boiler replacement quotes have been obtained. An alternative is to replace the rooftop HVAC unit for the sanctuary with a dual heat and AC unit.

Finance

The finance report for March was reviewed. The weeks of operations or "budget need in cash", is now 6.89 weeks. The endowment fund has had a good return gain.

Nominations

No report

Additional Business

June 10th garage sale in the Activity Center

July 30-August 1 Art Show



Weekly Giving and Attendance Statistics

Date	4/25/21	5/2/21	5/9/21	5/16/21
General Offering	2412.00	5437.01	5622.00	4956.00
Weekly Budget Need	4854.00	4854.00	4854.00	4854.00
Mission Offering	95.00	405.00	130.00	145.00
Maintenance Fund	90.00	305.00	90.00	295.00
Building Fund & Memorials	60.00	335.00	160.00	70.00
Stained Glass Windows	5.00	150.00	220.00	350.00
Online & Physical Attendance				
9 a.m. Service at church	42	49	41	50
* Remote viewing	38	30	21	31
11:15 a.m. Service at church	29	53	30	49
* Remote viewing	11	9	13	8
Total Attendance	120	141	105	138



* '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 June 2021

4th - Amy Barnes
Landon Bryson
Dick Martens
Tiana McKay
Chris & Jenna Moran 10 yrs
5th - Lynn & Marilyn Yount 61 yrs
6th - Carolyn Barga
Gary & Carolyn Barga 29 yrs
Tim & Kathy Koeller 51 yrs
7th - Wilma Hoover
8th - Dejon Dohrman
11th - Carol Storer

12th - Sally Miller
Andrew & Julia Circle 10 yrs
13th - Kathryn (Keller) Boggs
Dave Thompson
Dick & Eugenie Markley 68 yrs
14th - Joy Paulus
Dejon & Kim Dohrman 24 yrs
15th - Marcia Cox
17th - Mike Circle
Norman Hiester

20th - Nancy Mills
Shelia Shade
Ben & Becky Garrett 12 yrs
Tom & Janet Weeks 51 yrs
21st - Shane & Amy Todd 24 yrs
22nd - Dean & Megan Bryson 8 yrs
23rd - Sydney Dohrman
Joseph & Jennifer Knostman 14 yrs
25th - Lynn Yount
27th - David & Rosie Bryson 1 yr
John & LaVerne Hennemyre 57 yrs
28th - Robert & Marcia Cox 46 yrs
29th - Devin Mitchell
Norman Paulus

People to remember in prayer:



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 29, 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

Thank you for letting us use your Activity Center to prepare our newsletter for mailing. We sure appreciate it !

The M-U Alumni Committee

**HAPPY
FATHER'S
Day!**

June 20, 2021

Grandma's Kitchen June 2021 Menu

Carry Out Only – No Dine In
Pick up 5 to 6 p.m. \$7 Donation
2nd & 4th Wednesdays

June 9th Meat Loaf
Mashed Potatoes
Peas
Applesauce
Jello Cake

June 23rd Sliced Ham
Potato Salad
Baked Beans
Angelic Pineapple Cake

Union Township FISH

Needs: toilet paper, paper towels, & shampoo
Donation bin is in hallway underneath mailboxes.

Position open for a Trustee, if interested call Ralph Warner at (937) 672-7303.

Double Match Day is June 19th. Send donations to: Ralph Warner at 30 Marjorie Ct., W. Milton. Make checks payable to Union Township FISH. *Thanks*

Church Garage Sale

June 10th from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Items can be put in the activity center on the stage behind the partitions anytime or drop off your items on Wednesday, June 9th between 7 and 8 p.m. after Grandma's Kitchen pick up.

Altar Flowers

June 6th are available

June 13th are available

June 20th are in celebration of

Tom & Jan Weeks' 51st anniversary

June 27th are available



Chancel & Bell Choir Update

Now that we are starting to open up from the pandemic, I wanted to let you know my plans for the music program. We will start both the Adult choir and the bell choir in September. This will give us time to make sure that we are back to some semblance of normalcy. All are welcome to join us and if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Norman Hiester (937-698-3280). I really look forward having the choirs back in action this fall.

Stained Glass Window Restoration Project

Amount Received: \$ 57,080

Total Project Goal : \$ 109,430

Thank You!



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



VBS Summer 2021

- July 18-22
- Sunday thru Thursday
- 6:00-8:30 PM



Traditional Service
9AM

...

Sunday School Hour
10:15-11:10AM

...

Open Door Service
11:15AM

Special Treat on Thursday!!

Planning Meeting: **June 2, 7PM** HUMC
Basement... let Becky know if you can
help but cannot come to the meeting.

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

Ignite
Sundays
6-8

...

Campout
June 25th-26th

...

Snacks needed

...

Volunteers needed

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

School is Out! Summer is In!

Summer weather has arrived and school has let out for the kiddos. At the end of May, we enjoyed an outside movie night on the big screen to celebrate the end of a crazy year.



We continue to put an importance to growing in our faith by "hearing the word of God" (Romans 10:17). The Room for Doubt series has sparked so much conversation and questions that the 6 week series has turned into so much more. We still have two topics to wrap up: *Why does God allow pain and suffering?* and *Is it intolerant to say that Jesus is the only way?*...these should also spark a lot of conversation. Looking forward to it.

June 25th we will have a campout at the Knostman Homestead.

Ignite needs:

-Sunday night volunteers to spend time with the youth. No prep is needed. Just come hang out with and get to know the youth.

-Quick-prep snacks: like bags of chips, Nachos, mozzarella sticks, soft pretzels, cookies, fruit cups, etc. that Knostman's can prepare.

Return Service Requested

Place Label Here

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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

June
2021

T O W E R S
T H E