



THE TOWERS

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

July 2021

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Ordinary Time

2 Corinthians 5:6-9 6 Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. 7 We live by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

There are likely few in our congregation who pay attention to the church calendar. Due to sermon and worship settings, as well as occasional consults on the altar table colors, it is something that I do notice from time to time. Here in the newsletter I will mention the seasons and meanings of Advent and Lent, which of course hit their crescendos with Christmas and Easter, respectively. In addition we celebrate Epiphany and Pentecost, but the season we have been in for a few weeks is one that has a very uninspiring name. "Ordinary Time." It is what is signified by the color green on the altar and pulpit, and is the season that the most Sundays of the calendar reside. Ordinary is not a word we tend to use as a compliment, is it? Why, even being "regular" has become more complimentary than being "ordinary."

In truth the use of "ordinary" in the Church calendar isn't about that at all, but about the use of "ordinal" numbers to keep track of this season that isn't as short and easy to track (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc). However, as we struggle and strain to regain the normal that used to be, or some version of a new normal, the Scripture above reminds me of how we, in this life, are in Ordinary time. It is a seemingly long season in which we are aware of a home prepared for us, and that we can anticipate it with joy, but while in that time of waiting, God is with us, equipping and empowering us so we can finish our earthly journey. We live in that delicate balance between looking forward to what is to come, actively seeking to complete the kingdom work before us, and avoiding deeds which hasten the last breath on this side of the veil. The vast majority of that time, and that season, we might classify as

"ordinary," whether in counting the years, or in what we may feel is the quality of life and work. I have shared some stories over my time here that were moments that could have been ordinary, and ended up being something more than that for me. I think as we peruse the Gospels and the rest of the New Testament, we will find many occasions in which the extraordinary acts of God occurred in otherwise ordinary days.

Pictured on this page is the enemy of many lovers of green lawns, the dandelion. How ordinary. My mom used to



send my brother and I out in the yard to collect the bright yellow blooms so they could be soaked, cleaned, floured, and fried for dinner....delicious! If some of you could put away your loathing of this plant for a moment, can I share how astounding and inspiring it is? It has its time of radiant yellow beauty, and then transforms into something that cannot help but

spread itself on any breeze that blows by. When we are recipients of God's love and forgiveness, we, too are made new creations, ones who radiate God's beauty....and we cannot help but spread that Good News in our lives on the winds of the Holy Spirit. Long before there was the internet, television broadcasts, or radio broadcasts, there were ordinary people who were called to extraordinary work in the kingdom work through Christ, sometimes their message was as simple as "come and see," as the early disciple Philip told his friend. As a dear pastor friend of mine used to quote, the Good News is simply one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread, and in our case, it is the bread of life.

I do not have as lofty a goal as to convince any of our gardeners to lovers of dandelions today, but I do hope that each every one of us are able to see the beauty of God's work within us, a beauty that does not stay for reflection, but grows until we cannot help but share it to as many places as we can. With fond memories of blowing dandelion seeds,

I am,
In His service and yours,



Board Meeting Highlights

Devotions

Devotions were offered by Dick who shared from "100 Bible Verses that Made America". Dick opened the meeting with prayer.

Meeting Attendees

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

Mission and Ministry

Emily and Tim Benkert shared a request to host a prayer service against racism. Discussion among the board members was held. Emily and Tim will be permitted to use the church for the prayer service, with the stipulation of no social media promotion.

Pastor's Report

The average attendance for April; total 131, 9:00 in person- 47, online- 32; 11:15 in person- 41, online- 11
Easter did boost the number of in person attendees. There are large fluctuations in numbers week-to-week. The Chancel and Bell Choirs are planned to start back in September. The Bulldog Bags is coming to an end for the school year. Junior Teen Institute Saturday May 22, which is headed up by Becky. VBS is scheduled for July 18-22 and will rely on volunteers to determine format. The Youth Group meetings have been held at Joseph's home over the last couple months with good response and adult volunteers. The Church Pictorial Directory has been edited to a final version. The Fourth of July parade will occur on Saturday July 3rd. Dick Martens will pulpit fill on July 4th. Robbie attended the Bishop's

leadership training and Clergy session of the Annual Conference.

Bishop Palmer will be temporarily serving the Illinois region, to cover until the Jurisdictional Conference can be held. The Annual West Ohio Conference will be held virtually on June 6-7

Vacation scheduled for July 26-August 8, near Toronto Canada, if the border opens. 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

A discussion was held regarding the stained glass window repair project. The board charged the trustees to enter into a contract with Bouvard Studio for the window repair. Payment will begin with the raised funds to cover the 33% down payment and as many monthly payments as the budget supports. The trustees are to continue with best efforts to fundraise the remaining balance. Once the raised funds are depleted, the trustees may access the Endowment Fund with the intent on reimbursing the fund.

Finance

The finance report for April was reviewed and accepted. Finances continue to hold even overall.

Upcoming Events

June 10 Garage Sale
July 3 West Milton Parade
July 18-22 VBS
July 30-Aug 1 Art Show



Weekly Giving and Attendance Statistics

Date	5/23/21	5/30/21	6/6/21	6/13/21
General Offering	2952.00	4089.00	4796.01	5067.00
Weekly Budget Need	4854.00	4854.00	4854.00	4854.00
Mission Offering	95.00	55.00	250.00	105.00
Maintenance Fund	95.00	40.00	920.00	120.00
Building Fund & Memorials	65.00	230.00	525.00	165.00
Stained Glass Windows	1000.00	540.00	400.00	300.00
Online & Physical Attendance				
9 a.m. Service at church	45	53	44	53
* Remote viewing	25	23	21	28
11:15 a.m. Service at church	33	47	52	47
* Remote viewing	7	11	11	10
Total Attendance	110	134	128	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. Please note on May 23rd there was no internet service so the total for remote viewing was averaged.

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary July 2021

1st - Joe & Leah Blackburn (15 yrs)
 2nd - John Hayes
 3rd - Joe Blackburn
 4th - Dane Studebaker
 7th - Erin Studebaker
 10th - Cathy Brown
 Chris Moran
 Dan Studebaker
 Tim Wright
 11th - Mike & Jill Circle (40 yrs)
 14th - Kathy Watkins
 16th - Dustin Jay



17th - Chris & Val McKay (47 yrs)
 21st - John & Carol Carter (48 yrs)
 22nd - Winston & Theda Klepinger (14 yrs)
 23rd - Elaine Pickering
 24th - Joetta Perry
 25th - Ed Johannes
 Jean Sanders
 Beth & Larry Thoele (39 yrs)
 26th - Amanda Burns
 27th - Janet Weeks
 29th - George Everage
 Griffin King
 30th - Tim Koeller
 Eric & Johanna Morrow (15 yrs)

People to remember in prayer:



Hoffman Sympathies:

to the family of Helen Ondre, Marijo Schlecht's mother, as she passed away on June 11, 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 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

Pictorial Directory

Pictorial directories are ready for pick up; stop by the church for your copy while supplies last.

Save the Date! Hoffman UMC Annual Picnic will be Sunday, August 1st at the home of Marty and Wendy Black. Swimming begins at 2:30, Dinner at 5:30 pm. More details to follow.



Altar Flowers

July 4th are available
July 11th are in celebration of Megan & Will Kishman's birthdays, from John & Anita A.
July 18th are available
July 25th are available



Art Show

Opening Reception: July 30th - 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Show Hours: July 31st 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
August 1st 11:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Applications @ HoffmanUMC.org. or on information table outside the church office.
Deadline is July 12th

Vacation Bible School

July 18th – 22nd 6 to 8:30 pm.
Adventure Island for ages 4 yrs thru 6th grade
Special treat on Thursday!
Contact: Becky Garrett

Women's Holy Spirit Class
to resume in September
details in the August Towers

Stained Glass Window Restoration Project

Amount Received: \$ 59,320
Total Project Goal : \$ 109,430

Thank You!



GRANDMA'S KITCHEN July 2021 MENU (Carryout Only - No Dine In)

Website: HoffmanUMC.org Carryout pickup 5:00 to 6:00 \$7 Donation

July 14 (2nd Wednesday)

Chicken and Noodles
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans with Ham
Fruit Jello
Brownies

July 28 (4th Wednesday)

Polish Sausage
Cheesy Potatoes
California Salad
Black Forest Cake

(Menu items are subject to change)



West Ohio Annual Conference Report

The 52nd session of the West Ohio Annual Conference was held virtually June 6-7. The theme for the conference was Perseverance based on the scripture, Hebrews 12:1-2. *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.*

Bishop Palmer spoke to the weariness of congregations and reminded us of stories throughout the Bible of people who persevere. He said, "...we are not the first to walk this journey, to toil, and to struggle to be who God called us to be."

The conference passed legislation to adopt the conference budget for 2022 which calls for 3.3% decrease in apportionments over the 2021 budget. The recommendation for equitable salary which sets minimum pastoral salaries at a 2 % increase was approved; as was recommended changes to retiree healthcare. A recommendation on aligning the West Ohio Conference with a witness of loving others that is inclusive and diverse was adopted. A recommendation regarding a plan to establish regions across the denomination including the United States was referred back for further study. The recommendation that asked for the Board of Ordained Ministry to consider candidates without prejudice to a candidate's sexual orientation or gender identity was tabled. In other business, the Conference commissioned 2 provisional deacons and 7 provisional elders; ordained 1 deacon and 9 elders; honored 40 retirees; and commissioned 3 Deaconesses. The conference trustees reported on the closing of 3 churches in the Miami Valley District (Clayton, Bradford and Brighton) and 4 churches in the Ohio River Valley District.

The Bishop challenged conference attendees with 3 missional questions: "Who do you see around you on this journey? What are you willing to get rid of in order to really be the Church and, to what lengths are you willing to go for the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world?" That is a challenge for all of us to consider in the church today.

Janet Benkert,
Hoffman UMC Annual Conference Delegate

Hoffman Visitation Team Ministry

Our Mission Statement

**“God does not comfort us to be comfortable,
but to comfort others.” – Billy Graham**

The Bible is our guiding document and it teaches us in 2 Corinthians 1:3-5 NIV:

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we receive from God. 5 For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.

The Hoffman Visitation Team ministry was formed in 2006. We visit homebound persons or those who are in retirement or assisted living communities, rehab centers or those who need nursing assistance for short-term illnesses to long-term placements.

We serve mostly in teams of two visitors and each team usually visits three or four persons per month. We currently have five teams and we are making fifteen visits per month (some still by phone and others have gone back to face-to-face). We call many others and send cards to 40-50 people each month to people who prefer a card over a visit, or who have moved a distance away. We are in need of more visitors. Visits are from half an hour to an hour and are arranged at the convenience of the person being visited and the visitor.

The most important mission of the team is to keep our people connected to their faith, the church, its members and our activities. We also offer them communion and pray with them. The only credential required of the visitor is to have a heart that you want to share with a person who enjoys having a visitor; and the visitor should be a good listener for those who want to share their stories with someone who cares.

Anyone who would be interested in becoming a visitor should contact Kay Wagner, chair (937) 332-0345. Anyone who would like to be visited, or knows of a person who would benefit from a visit, please contact the church office (937) 698-4401.



"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



Special Treat on Thursday!!

*If you can give financially, we would appreciate it! We are hoping to purchase shirts for all of the workers and participants this year.

Special Dates to Note:

August 1- Church picnic

August 22- Blessings of the Backpacks and Prayer Walk at Milton-Union Schools

August 23- Teacher Luncheon

Traditional Service
9AM

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Sunday School Hour
10:15-11:10AM

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Open Door Service
11:15AM

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

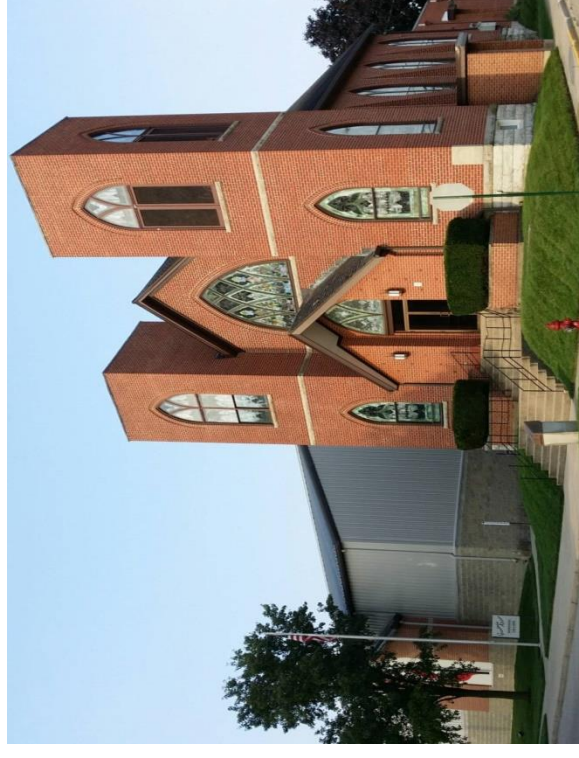


Return Service Requested

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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

July
2021

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