



THE TOWERS

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

October 2021



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

New Wineskins

Luke 5:36-39 ... "No one tears a patch from a new garment and sews it on an old one. If he does, he will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for he says, 'The old is better.'"

I have had this passage on my mind a great deal the last couple years. I am completely aware the conversation above was a parable response to the question asking why Jesus' disciples were not fasting. The short answer was that while he was present with them there was no need for them to practice fasting.

Now that I've clarified that, I admit that the reason I have thought about it so much recently is because of the difficult decisions the trustees and church board have faced. These were decisions about our most visible and invisible features of our worship facility.

Chronic leaks from the towers roofs had led to several challenges in the bricks, plaster, and ceilings below, leading to steel roof installations. Our stained glass windows in the attic had visible gaps between the frames and the glass, pushing towards a difficult decision on restoration, and our 43 year old boiler, serving faithfully several years past its recommended life, was showing symptoms of future failure.

Difficult decisions were forced upon the leaders concerning how to best provide for the present and future needs of the congregation and this structure. There were multiple good

options, all with significant financial implications. There is no one who wanted to pursue these heavy expenditures during a very difficult season in our community and country.

I admit many of us, myself included, prefer to preserve the old, for in many ways it is so much better. This congregation has a history reaching back to 1835, and our story includes multiple changes in our buildings and systems. The age old question of "repair the old or replace with new" has challenged us generation after generation, and most times those questions do not come at convenient times.

Even as we humbly come once again to our annual pledge request this year, I pray you know the request comes from hearts that are grateful, for as difficult as these decisions have been, they would not have been possible without your generosity, and the generosity of those who have gone before. The Ullery family (pictured below from our 1971 directory) made possible an Endowment Fund allowing us to "borrow" from ourselves in order to start necessary work in a timely manner, resulting in a warm sanctuary "yesterday" as our "double boiler" was successfully activated over the weekend (I'm the only one who calls it that 😊).

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this year's pledge. October 17 we will pray God's blessings over the gathered cards during worship. While praying we can always discern when to "patch" and when to get "new." I am, In His service and yours,



Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ullery

2 Corinthians 9:7 *Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

Throughout the year we try to invite the Hoffman family to serve or invest into our missional work. Once a year, we invite those who consider Hoffman their home church to prayerfully consider their giving plans for the coming calendar year. All the work accomplished here is due to the generosity of your gifts of time or finance, for which we are so thankful. You make possible the fulfilling of our call To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the world.

Below is our "Estimate of Giving Card," and it has multiple giving options, regarding time (week/month/year), and regarding designated giving. To help clarify, here are some Basic Definitions, as well as the corresponding words on the "Register of Attendance and Offering Board" in the Sanctuary:

General Fund ("Budget Need"): Our operations budget. It includes apportionments, utilities, supplies, and staff salaries for the year. In recent years this has undergone many cuts. When no designation is marked, gifts are added to the General Fund.

Missions: Our finances designated to help others. Church World Service (in Apportionments), District Mission Grants, Missionary Support, as well as some Local needs as we become aware of them

The **Maintenance** and **Capital Improvements** ("Building Fund") are managed by the Trustees. They focus on the care and improvement of Hoffman facilities. While Maintenance represents moneys to be spent on the repair and upkeep, Capital Improvements are for larger projects. The last two years have included these projects:

2020

- Activity Center LED conversion, \$1,680
- Activity Center new HVAC units, \$24,755
- New office copy machine to replace million copy unit \$4,992
- Parsonage water line leak in floor repair \$2,000
- Sealed towers, west wall of 1960's annex \$1,800

2021 (to date)

- Stained Glass window restoration \$109,000
- Replacing 43-yr-old boiler with 2 high efficiency boilers \$32,839
- South tower ceiling replacement, plaster skim coat, insulation. Approx. \$10,000+

Thank you for all you already do to support the work and ministry of Hoffman UMC. This written pledge will allow you to contemplate what God is calling you to share and will also help our Finance Secretary prepare envelopes for your household's 2022 giving. While you will receive quarterly updates, the gift of time will not be recorded, it is here for your contemplation of service, and you need not specifically list time gifts. If we can have completed cards by October 17th for prayer during worship, that would be great. Thank you!

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An Invitation to support the work of Christ at Hoffman United Methodist

This card expresses the desire and plan for support in the coming year and can change at any time.

☐ **BEYOND TITHING**

My desire is to do more than God's minimum.

☐ **STEP UP TO TITHING**

I will give 1/10 of my income to God's work.

☐ **STEP UP TOWARD TITHING**

I am moving toward the goal of tithing.

MY COMMITMENT IS \$ _____ /week **OR** \$ _____ /month; **OR** a total of \$ _____ /year.

☐ This represents an increase over last year.

Please Use the following categories to Designate the distribution of your Commitment, if you desire.

General Fund \$ _____ **Missions** \$ _____ **Maintenance** \$ _____ **Capital Improvements** \$ _____

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

This may be revised or cancelled at my request at any time and is only viewed by the Finance Secretary.

THE GIFT OF TIME

I wish to invest my time, represented by my hands, feet and prayers for the ministries of Hoffman UMC.

I pledge approximately _____ hrs/wk

ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARD 2022



Board Meeting Highlights

Devotions

Devotions were offered by John Ankerman using Matthew 5:13-16. Let your light shine. Let us all be the light of evangelism. The meeting was opened with prayer by John.

Meeting Attendees

Katie Poling, Carol Storer, John Ankerman, Patti Wion, Janet Benkert, David Jay, Kim Dohrman and Pastor Robbie Scott

Mission and Ministry

No report

Pastor's Report

The average attendance for July was 139. Norman has scheduled for practices to begin in September for Chancel and Bell Choirs. He does have concerns for COVID increases and is watching the numbers closely. He is prepared to delay the start of these choirs if need be. JoAnn is preparing figures for next year's budget. The youth sexuality retreat was successful. There was a good turnout for the family camp weekend which included a Sunday morning worship with 35 people in attendance. VBS was very successful as was the school prayer walk and the luncheon for the teachers. Bulldog bags are scheduled to be packed at the school this year. Robbie is planning a membership class and is doing a re-recording of the safe sanctuary training video. He has also done a lot of work on the Photo Directory App which appears to be usable. This is available to the congregation. There is still a need for volunteers to run the soundboard.

Trustees

The window project has 6 windows sponsored with one more pledged. 67% of the total needed for restoration has been paid. Work is due to start in October. The drop ceilings in both towers will be removed and replaced and the Trustees have asked for approval to accept a bid of \$7,000.00 to do this work. The boiler is scheduled to be replaced around the end of August and \$32,000 is the project quote for that project. Money may be needed from the endowment fund to facilitate these bills and John is looking into the withdrawal of these funds. Reimbursement of the fund is the hope as other donations come in.

Finance

The finance report for July was presented. We have 6.35 weeks of operation available at this time. No cause for alarm yet but hope giving improves as we move into the fall months.

Nominations

Potential candidates for the year 2022 are still in discussion.

Staff Parish Relations

Staff evaluations are coming up. Staff parish is starting to work on salary budgets for next year. Pastor P/SPRC assessment forms were given out to be returned by the next meeting.

Upcoming Events

October 3 World Communion Sunday & Carry-In

November 2 Election Day Dinner

November 20 Craft Show

Serving Schedule

Oct 03rd – Altar flowers are in memory of Jean Brown from Lee & Fran

9:00 Liturgist: Mike Circle

Greeters: Wendy Heisey and Nancy Lightcap

Ushers: Wayne & Susie Spitler and Chris & Linda Long

Nursery: 10:15 Patti W. & Jenna M. /11:15 Julia C. & Wendy H.

11:15 Greeters: Ben G., Julia C., & Kathy K.

Scripture Reader: Norman Hiester

Oct 10th – Altar flowers are available

9:00 Liturgist: Libby Richards

Greeters: Jeryl-Ann Kassa and Elaine Pickering

Ushers:

Nursery: 10:15 Lesli R. & Kat G. /11:15 Lesli R. & Lauren E.

11:15 Greeters: Dick & Mary Ann M.

Scripture Reader: Julia Circle

Oct 17th – Altar flowers are available

9:00 Liturgist: Les Trittschuh

Greeters: Elaine Iddings and Cathy Brown

Ushers:

Nursery: 10:15 Julia C. & Kathy K. /11:15 Ben G. & Jenna M.

11:15 Greeters: Kathy W.

Scripture Reader: Andrew Circle

Oct 24th – Altar flowers are available

9:00 Liturgist: Wendy Heisey

Greeters: Carol Storer and Peggy Nihizer

Ushers:

Nursery: 10:15 Jennifer K. & Jill C. /11:15 Jennifer K. & Kim D.

11:15 Greeters: Paul & Sally M. and Marijo S.

Scripture Reader: Beth Thoele

Oct 31st – Altar flowers are in memory of Ted Lightcap from Nancy

9:00 Liturgist: Tim Benkert

Greeters: Sophia & Stella Blackburn

Ushers:

Nursery: 10:15 Kathy K. /11:15 Ben G. & Lauren E.

11:15 Greeters: Patti W. & Courtney S.

Scripture Reader: Valerie McKay

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary October 2021

1st - Greg & Lesli Raines (10 yrs)

3rd - Riko Waymire

4th - Dorothy Ginn

Tina Mathews

5th - Bill Brown

6th - Karen McFadden

7th - Ruthann King

Phil & Sally Blue (60yrs)

Paul & Gwenn Crow (54 yrs)

9th - Bob Guthrie

10th - Kim Dohrman

11th - Steve Kraus & Kay Wagner (24 yrs)

12th - Ruth Hayes

13th - Joseph Knostman

Nancy Wolf

14th - Kyler Jay

16th - JR Hagemeyer

David Hayes

17th - Wendy Long

20th - Richard & Marcia Smith (32 yrs)

23rd - Robin Maeder

27th - Darlene Duchene

28th - Tim & Janet Benkert (32 yrs)

29th - Jeff Ellinger

Dick Porter

31st - Marty Black

Chelsi Jay

Jim Wright



Weekly Giving and Attendance Statistics

Date	8-22-21	8-29-21	9-5-21	9-12-21	9-19-21
General Offering	2581.00	3729.00	5371.00	4837.00	5892.00
Weekly Budget Need	4854.00	4854.00	4854.00	4854.00	4854.00
Mission Offering	160.00	295.00	265.00	110.00	285.00
Maintenance Fund	195.00	175.00	760.00	75.00	405.00
Building Fund & Memorials	145.00	90.00	303.00	55.00	165.00
Stained Glass Windows	.00	505.00	300.00	5.00	300.00
Online & Physical Attendance					
9 a.m. Service at church	54	59	46	60	51
* Remote viewing	24	20	25	24	18
11:15 a.m. Service at church	48	47	46	45	46
* Remote viewing	4	5	5	6	8
Total Attendance	130	131	122	135	123

Thank you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

* '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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carry-In Luncheon Sunday, October 3rd 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). Main dishes provided: baked ham and meatballs. Table service also provided. Prepare your favorite vegetable, salad, or fruit side dish and share it with your Hoffman friends.

Men's Group Meeting on Tuesday, October 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the basement. All men are invited to join us. Contact Chris Long (937)719-3257

CROP Walk Sunday, October 17th at 2 p.m. at HUMC
Contact Beth Thoele at 937-947-1724

United Methodist Women's meeting
Monday, October 25th at 7 p.m. in Multi-Purpose Room

October is Pastor and Staff Appreciation Month

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 Robbie, JoAnn, Norman, Becky, and Joseph in your prayers throughout the year but particularly have them in mind in October. Thank you, Carol Storer and Dan Studebaker, Staff-Parish Relations Co-Chairs.

Trunk or Treat on October 28th from 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.



Stained Glass Window Restoration Project

A Received thru 9/19/21: \$ 75,715
Total Project Goal: \$ 109,430
Thank You!

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Many thanks to all of you who have been praying for me the last couple months; the many cards, telephone calls and prayers have been greatly appreciated. *Marcia Smith*

Hoffman's Annual Craft Show

Saturday, November 20th from 9am – 3pm

The Women's Ministry will be having our Craft Show this year! Our Women's booth will need lots of crafts and homemade goodies or canning items to sell. The Hoffman's Café will be looking for bakers, kitchen help & other volunteer opportunities, and as always, we need extra hands to help prepare for the craft show and tear down after 3pm on Saturday.

If you know of a crafter who would be interested in a booth, please have them call Tina Mathews at 937-719-3245. We had a few crafters that have retired or not able to attend this year. If you have any questions about the women's booth call Susie Spittler 937-698-6798, and the Hoffman Café call Kay Wagner at 937-332-0345. We look forward to having our craft show this year and seeing the community back in our church for this event.
SAVE THE DATE!!

161st Chicken Pot Pie Election Day Dinner Nov 2nd 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

All Saints Day Service Nov. 7th

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.

Honoring All Union Township Veterans Saturday, November 13, 2021 @ 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. 15th to the 'attention of Nancy Studebaker' and include branch of service and the dates served.

Hoffman UMC Christmas Party Sat., Dec., 4th.

Save the date; it is sure to be a good time!

Union Township FISH is in need of an additional Trustee. Trustee's basic responsibility: Attend quarterly Trustees mtg., remotely change FISH answering system for a month on a rotational schedule with other trustees, be willing to take calls from FISH phone volunteers to assist those in need of financial help for utilities, rent, furniture, prescriptions etc., and occasionally help stock food pantry when needed. Having a computer (desk top or lap) and some experience is necessary because we use an Excel spreadsheet to verify client's eligibility for assistance. You need to live in Union Township. Please contact Ralph or Janie Warner at 937-698-4547 if interested. Donations needed: paper products, deodorant, bar soap and shampoo. No food is needed due to the Meijer Simply Give Food Program.

People to remember in prayer:

Hoffman Sympathies: to the family of Dave Burns, Matt's dad, as he passed away on July 31, 2021
to the family of Bill Wolf, Becky's husband, as he passed away on September 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 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.



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



PUMPKIN FAMILY NIGHT

October 23, 2021: food, crafts, pumpkin carving and games!!

TRUNK OR TREAT

October 28, 2021: Come out and get some candy from us!!

Special Dates to Note:

We will start our Christmas caroling practice on October 17. We are all invited to the Church Christmas Party on Dec. 4 to hear the children carol.

Traditional Service
9AM

...

Sunday School Hour
10:15-11:10AM

...

Open Door Service
11:15AM

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

GRANDMA'S KITCHEN OCTOBER 2021 MENU

HOFFMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

201 S. MAIN STREET, WEST MILTON 698-4401 Website: HoffmanUMC.org

SERVING the 2nd and 4th WEDNESDAYS BEGINNING AT 5:00 to 6:15 P.M.

PUBLIC INVITED CARRY-OUTS AVAILABLE \$7 DONATION PER MEAL Kids Meal \$3

We are open for carryout and in-house dining

October 13th

Chicken and Noodles

Mashed Potatoes

California Blend

Pumpkin Roll

October 27th

Lasagna

Tossed Salad

Garlic Bread

Ice Cream Sundae

**** Grandma's Kitchen will be closed for the winter ****

It has been our pleasure to serve you and the Lord.

The Election Day Dinner will be held on Tuesday, November 2nd



201 S Main Street
West Milton OH 45383

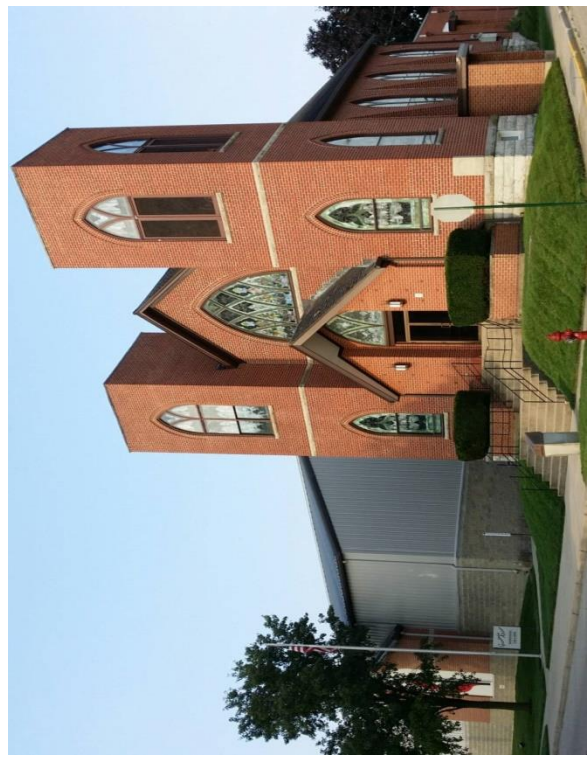


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October
2021