



# THE TOWERS

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

December 2021



## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

### *What We Will Be...*

**1 John 3:2** “Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”

I have again had the pleasure of serving as an extension of the District Office by presiding over the annual Charge/Church Conferences in part time congregations in our region (“part time” is strictly a salary designation, but certainly not a statement of their work and ministry). It brings back memories of the work I was a part of just before being appointed here. I get to hear the stories of ministry and the ways that congregations have celebrated and mourned over the last 12 months.

I am somewhat embarrassed to admit it has been nice to know that other congregations have been thrown off balance as ours has (We try to not highlight that when Sundays come, but yes, a very difficult season of ministry). Sometimes knowing we are not alone in our pain...that others share it; sometimes that knowledge can help us endure.

Bishop Palmer has invited presiding elders to contemplate and to share a short word about the passage above, from 1 John 3:2. Admittedly, I was not excited about the Scripture. It contains words that I share at every single funeral I officiate. The funerals the last couple years have been painful. I do realize nearly all funerals are painful, and in the Christian faith they carry joy at the same time...but yeah, pain. At the time of this writing I am attempting to weave a narrative of some stories of one whom I shared a lot of chuckles with, who also shared my enthusiasm for flannel shirts. The picture many may recognize as an online screenshot from our time of remembrance during worship on All Saints Sunday.

Often I would have liked to have had another conversation with, shared another joke with, or even fussed with, some of those who have gone ahead of us in the journey. “What we will be has not yet been made known....” This means not even we know yet what we will be. We are in the midst of a season in

which Hoffman has multiple high school seniors making plans after graduation, and I would hazard a guess that many of them have some idea of what they think they will be doing. When I was a senior, I was going to be an Electrical Engineer, but obviously I was incorrect. Even those who correctly look ahead will likely have twists and turns in their lives that they never saw coming.

**1 Corinthians 13:12** Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

I hope it is a comfort to you to know that the One we serve does not know us by our job title, or by the compliments (or insults) others may have aimed at us. The One we worship does not know us by our family lineage, but instead Fully

knows Us. We do not even fully know ourselves, and yet God does. A couple years ago we had a worship series based on a book “Life of the Beloved” by Rev. Henri Nouwen. It has been over 25 years since he died, but his books still impact many today. At the core of his teaching was that in a sense the truest identity of who we are can be summed up as, and lived out of recognizing ourselves as “Beloved

of God.” From how we think of ourselves, to how we are in ministry with and for others, this awareness could change our reality, and in turn change the world.

One thing that must be at least acknowledged is that congregations also have identity, and the last 18 months have challenged our flexibility and resilience to all that is going on around us. Our mission continues to be making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and we invite the Holy Spirit to empower that work today, and in the future.

While recognizing I only know myself in part, but I serve One Who fully knows me, and knows you, I am, In His service and yours,





## Board Meeting Highlights

### Devotions

Devotions were offered by Kim, sharing from a devotional regarding "Habits". H-Healthy Identity. A-Ask for help. B-Be kind to yourself. I-Investigate and Make Changes. T-Trust the God process. S-Small Wins. Kim opened the meeting with a prayer.

### Meeting Attendees

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

### Mission and Ministry

The board approved the Mission Fund Team recommendation to update the missionary from the Kesslers to Emily Benkert. This portion of our Mission Fund budget will be reviewed and chosen annually.

### Pastor's Report

September overall average 122 (no change from Aug). We now have 24 subscribers on YouTube. 2 live broadcasts failed to go online. JoAnn is working through Charge Conference paperwork and not recommending any names for removal from membership. Preparations for pumpkin carving family event Trunk-or-Treat are underway. Bulldog Bag packing has resumed. Youth event is at the corn maze on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>. The cost for Trunk-or-Treat candy bars was split between youth and ARP. Pastor Robbie is presenting over 6 Charge Conferences this fall. Jim Mitchell is attending the Legal Forum via Zoom. Volunteer Opportunities still in need Includes: hospitality/welcoming, ushers, service through tech support, virtual outreach. A new walking club has started. The 2021 Progress Report of Breakthrough Goals was shared.

Breakthrough goals were discussed and will be included in Charge Conference Minutes.

### Trustees

A summary of the Stained Glass restoration was given. A discussion was held regarding the rental policy costs and the need to review and update charges.

### Finance

The finance report for September was reviewed and accepted. Weeks of Operations available has increased to 7.14. There is improvement in Cash compared to balance, but still low compared to budget. The 2022 Proposed General Budget Comparison was available for review and prepared for Charge Conference.

### Nominations

Nominations to fill open positions beginning 2022 include: Vice Chair - Les Trittschuh, SPRC Co-Chair - Wendy Black, Patti Wion and Kim Dohrman will continue to a full 3 year term.

### Staff Parish Relations

Dan Studebaker needed to resign as SPRC Co-Chair due to schedule challenges. New copy of the Safe Sanctuary policy was provided and approved.

### Non-agenda items

Patterson's Florist has closed. The flower chart has been taken down for now. Katie Poling is searching for a replacement florist or alternative altar flowers.

### Upcoming Events

Nov 15 CPR Training  
Nov 18 Charge Conference 7:30pm  
Nov 20 Craft Show  
Dec 4 Christmas Party

## Serving Schedule



### Dec 05<sup>th</sup>

**9:00 Liturgist:** Les T.

**Greeters:** Wendy H. and Nancy L.

**Ushers:** Wayne & Susie S. and Phil & Karen M.

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

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

**Scripture Reader:** Beth T.

### Dec 12<sup>th</sup>

**9:00 Liturgist:** Wendy H.

**Greeters:** Jeryl-Ann K. and Elaine P.

**Ushers:**

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

**11:15 Greeters:** Dick & Mary Ann M.

**Scripture Reader:** Julia C.

### Dec 19<sup>th</sup>

**9:00 Liturgist:** Mike C.

**Greeters:** Elaine I. and Cathy B.

**Ushers:**

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

**11:15 Greeters:** Kathy W. and Ruth L.

**Scripture Reader:** Norman H.

### Dec 26<sup>th</sup> One combined service at 10:30a.m.

**10:30 Liturgist:** Tim B.

**Greeters:** Carol S. and Peggy N.

**Ushers:**

**Nursery: 10:15** Jennifer K. & Jill C.

## Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary December 2021

2<sup>nd</sup> - Robbie & Bridget Scott (21 yrs)  
5<sup>th</sup> - Marc & Robin Maeder (17 yrs)  
6<sup>th</sup> - Allyson Burns  
8<sup>th</sup> - John Hennemyre  
9<sup>th</sup> - Wendy Black  
10<sup>th</sup> - Carol Carter  
11<sup>th</sup> - Anita Ankerman  
Candy Curry  
13<sup>th</sup> - Lisa Wright  
15<sup>th</sup> - Andy Mitchell  
16<sup>th</sup> - Avery Bryson  
17<sup>th</sup> - Paul Crow  
18<sup>th</sup> - Matthew Garrett  
19<sup>th</sup> - Bob & Joyce Herron (67 yrs)



20<sup>th</sup> - John & Anita Ankerman (41 yrs)  
Valerie McKay  
Cheryl Owen  
21<sup>st</sup> - Dawn Jay  
24<sup>th</sup> - Dick & Dixie Porter (66 yrs)  
25<sup>th</sup> - Cody Dohrman  
26<sup>th</sup> - Beth Thoele  
Phil & Karen McFadden (51 yrs)  
27<sup>th</sup> - Fred Brown  
Aaron Mitchell  
30<sup>th</sup> - Bob Herron  
Tom Wolf  
Ed & Tina Mathews (16 yrs)  
31<sup>st</sup> - Gary Barga

## Weekly Giving and Attendance Statistics

Date	10-24-21	10-31-21	11-7-21	11-14-21
General Offering	3779.00	3965.00	4241.00	5381.00
Weekly Budget Need	4854.00	4854.00	4854.00	4854.00
Mission Offering	125.00	280.00	280.00	90.00
Maintenance Fund	125.00	795.00	425.00	90.00
Building Fund & Memorials	165.00	140.00	248.00	145.00
Stained Glass Windows	1025.00	120.00	100.00	1020.00
Online & Physical Attendance				
9 a.m. Service at church	52	47	44	54
* Remote viewing	18	29	16	15
11:15 a.m. Service at church	61	43	48	49
* Remote viewing	4	4	8	11
Total Attendance	135	123	116	129



\* '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.

### Stained Glass Window Restoration Project

Received: \$ 85,165    Project Goal: \$109,430    *Thank You!*



### SHARE A POINSETTIA

It is time to order poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary during the Christmas service. They will be displayed on Christmas Eve and can be picked up after the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve service. If you wish to share with us, please fill out the form and return it with your payment **by Sunday, Dec. 5th**. Our supplier is Stockslager's and the cost is \$8 each. Make checks payable to Hoffman U.M.C.

(Please Print Names Carefully)

How Many

Total Price

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

White \_\_\_\_\_ x \$8.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Red \_\_\_\_\_ x \$8.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Given By \_\_\_\_\_

Marble \_\_\_\_\_ x \$8.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

(We may have to substitute color choice.)

***People to remember in prayer:***



**Hoffman Sympathies:** to the family of Bill Brown, as he passed away on November 12, 2021  
to the family of Jill Henderson, Jenna Moran's cousin, as she passed away on November 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.***

## ***THANK YOU AND ANNOUNCEMENTS***

**Advent Women's Small Group** Tuesdays, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>  
thru Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 - 7:30p.m. in the basement.  
Based on the book "*The Women of Christmas*" by Liz  
Curtis Higgs; follow the stories of Elizabeth, Mary and  
Anna to prepare your heart for Christmas. Contact Julia  
Circle with any questions (719)648-0054

**Winter Walking Group** join us on Mondays, Tuesdays,  
and Thursdays thru April 28<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in  
the activity center. Contact Elaine P. at (937)698-5192

Special thanks to Jim and Belinda Wright for offering a  
CPR class at the church. We are thankful to you for  
sharing this lifesaving knowledge with our church.

### **Hoffman UMC Family Christmas Party Saturday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.**

Carry-in Meal (main dishes of lasagna and spaghetti  
provided), family activities and entertainment. Check  
your email for a sign-up link or sign the sheet on the  
information table outside church office.

Thank you for all the prayers and cards for myself and my  
son, Rich. We appreciated all of them!  
With Love and Prayers, Peggy Nihizer

Thank you Hoffman Church family for all of the prayers  
and cards while dealing with my health issues. Your  
kindness means so much to me.  
God Bless You, Janet Balsbaugh

**New winter gloves and stocking hats** of all sizes are  
being collected for the Family Abuse Shelter; place them  
on the Tree of Warmth in the main lobby. Thanks.

Thanks to Nancy Studebaker, Joy Paulus, Dawn Jay and  
Kathy Watkins for folding and labeling the newsletter  
each month for mailing.



**Holiday Service Times  
Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Services at 7 and 10 p.m.  
One Combined Service on Dec 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.**

### **Election Day Dinner Thank You**

A big thank you to all of the volunteers who donated items and worked tirelessly serving our Election Day  
Dinner; we served 258 meals and raised \$1,032.73. A special thank you to those who made the pot pie,  
shopped, prepared the meal, cleaned tables, washed dishes, provided pies, decorated the activity center, wrapped  
silverware, served the meals, Grandma's Kitchen, and all who attended the dinner.

God Bless You, Laverne Hennemyre and Kathy Koeller.

*(Thank you to Laverne & Kathy for all that you did, we appreciate you both very much!)*



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



**Thank you so much for all your shoeboxes! We had a great turnout again this year. We had 55 shoeboxes.**

All of you are invited to our Christmas Party on December 4. The party starts at 5:30; we will have dinner, caroling and Santa is scheduled to appear. Please let Becky know if you plan on coming. Thanks

**Special Giving: We will have a Christmas tree set up in the lobby- we are collecting gloves, scarfs, and hats for the homeless shelter. Contact Wendy Heisey if you have any questions.**

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



HOFFMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2021 FINANCE REPORT					
General Budget and Missions Budget					
October 31, 2021					
			MONTH	YEAR-TO-DATE	
1010	First Sunday		3,544.00	51,988.04	
1020	Second Sunday		6,446.00	49,981.09	
1030	Third Sunday		5,424.00	43,253.00	
1040	Fourth Sunday		3,779.00	35,816.01	
1050	Fifth Sunday		3,965.00	13,390.00	
	Total Regular Offering		23,158.00	194,428.14	
1060	Misc. Income		170.00	1,452.00	
<b>**Total Income</b>			23,328.00	195,880.14	
		BUDGET FOR YEAR	PAID OUT THIS MONTH	YEAR-TO-DATE PAID OUT	BALANCE OF BUDGET
1	Conference Apportionments	18,547.00	1,545.00	15,457.00	3,090.00
2	District Adm. Apportionments	2,693.00	224.00	2,245.00	448.00
	Total Local Apportionments	21,240.00	1,769.00	17,702.00	3,538.00
3	Hospitality	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
4	Outreach	250.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
5	Worship	1,000.00	252.00	735.55	264.45
6	Music	750.00	0.00	606.00	144.00
7	Media Subscriptions	2,000.00	94.97	2,070.84	(70.84)
8	Assimilation	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
9	Kids Hope	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
10	Youth Ministry	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
	Total Council of Ministries	5,250.00	346.97	3,412.39	1,837.61
<b>OFFICE SUPPLY &amp; FINANCE</b>					
11	Finance & Stewardship	900.00	53.94	410.15	489.85
12	Office Supplies & Postage	4,000.00	79.96	2,355.36	1,644.64
	Total Administrative & Other Minist	4,900.00	133.90	2,765.51	2,134.49
13	Pastor Parish	250.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
14	Staff Salary	122,740.51	8,995.44	97,300.98	25,439.53
15	Health Ins. & Pension	39,321.30	3,330.21	32,866.77	6,454.53
16	Acct. Reimbursement-Pastor	4,000.00	209.00	1,471.60	2,528.40
17	Hoffman Family Benevolence	300.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
18	Pulpit Supply	500.00	0.00	300.00	200.00
19	Employer Payroll Taxes	6,121.12	461.49	4,548.01	1,573.11
20	Moving Allowance	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
21	Lakeside Conf Deligate	550.00	0.00	0.00	550.00
	Total Staff & Parish Relations	174,782.93	12,996.14	137,487.36	37,295.57
22	Maintenance	1,500.00	87.73	1,084.63	415.37
23	Utilities	31,092.00	1,385.28	17,308.08	13,783.92
24	Building Insurance	4,868.00	1,229.00	4,923.00	(55.00)
25	Real Estate Taxes Parsonage	2,980.00	0.00	2,960.82	19.18
26	Snow Plowing & Yard Work	4,800.00	360.00	4,979.50	(179.50)
27	Supplies	1,000.00	0.00	345.59	654.41
	Total Trustees	46,240.00	3,062.01	31,601.62	14,638.38
<b>**Total General Budgeted Expenses</b>		252,412.93	18,308.02	192,968.88	59,444.05
<b>MISSIONS BUDGET</b>					
28	Conference - World Services	5,000.00	416.50	4,167.00	833.00
29	District Mission Apportionments	2,584.00	215.00	2,154.00	430.00
30	MU Council of Churches	250.00	0.00	250.00	0.00
31	Annual Mission Project	600.00	50.00	500.00	100.00
32	Advanced Specials	547.50	0.00	0.00	547.50
	Total Budgeted Missions Expense	8,981.50	681.50	7,071.00	1,910.50

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

December  
2021

**T O W E R S**  
**T H E**