

**hoffman**  
united methodist church

# THE TOWERS

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

August 2020

## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

*GRIT*

**Nehemiah 4:17** 17 Those who were rebuilding the wall and those who carried burdens took their load with one hand doing the work and the other holding a weapon.

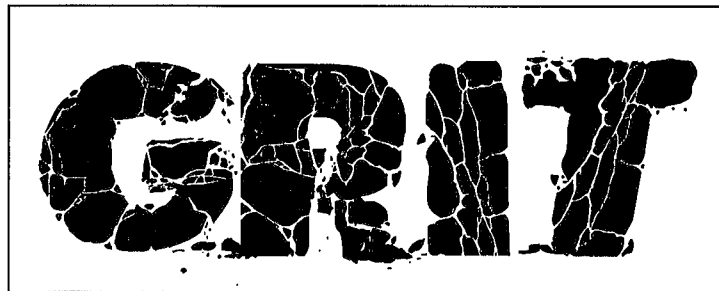
I have been hearing a word in some conversations and even on television programs that I had not noticed in a long time. GRIT. I recall there being a publication that would arrive at my parents' home with that same title. I can't claim to have read it, but my assumption was that it carried within it stories about various ways in which people had overcome adversity of various kinds by way of determination... a sense of "never give up." Grit to me is about being tough enough to take a few hits and still press on. For those who enjoy Rocky movies, it is about getting back up when life knocks you down.

I recall while serving on an Advisory Board for M-U School District, an open discussion about what things we want students to learn (besides facts and knowledge) occurred, and I remember one of the recurring words was "grit," accompanied by the question of how does one "teach" that. Certainly it is learned, but is it taught? There is almost no discussion about it that can avoid dealing with adversity, with setbacks, with challenges, even failure. I recall the discussion turning to how to set up students in such a way that they learn that things don't come easy, that failures lead to successes, that being able to have "grit" or resilience is necessary to overcome challenges is a necessity of life. Grit... functions at its best when situations are at their worst.

You are likely getting a feel for where I'm going here, but I still will refer to the Nehemiah passage. The book of Nehemiah records the events that led to a cupbearer to a king to be granted permission to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, and the challenges that were faced and overcome in order to complete that work in an amazing amount of time. There were rumors and threats of attack that at one point forced Nehemiah to instruct the workers to have their weapons their with their tools, so they would be ready to fight at a moment's notice. If they only focused on their work, they would not be ready for an

attack, but if they only focused on the defenses, the wall rebuild would never be completed. They somehow had to do both.

I write this near the end of Vacation Bible School, even as mandatory mask orders for Ohio go into effect "tonight." This season of COVID-19 has disrupted life in ways that can't fully be fleshed out now, but even as we engage in a "battle" to keep everyone as safe as possible; there is still work to be done to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. It has been one of my most difficult times in ministry, for though I have a reputation for technology knowledge, I knew NOTHING about streaming worship through a computer 4 months ago. I am thankful it is working as well as it is, though I



am aware not everyone has that option (we are still making DVD's, but we need to know who wants them 😊). We are doing the best we can in a difficult situation to adapt with all the tools available to us. My appreciation goes out to all who

are engaging in work for the Kingdom of God in so many ways, including those who worked very hard to make certain there is some sort of Vacation Bible School for our youngest to still receive discipleship instruction. The "training" this year is on the armor of God, but I love the reminder in midst of the passage....

**Ephesians 6:12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Our struggle, our battle, is not against flesh and blood, not against people, for the people are why we exist. In this season, we not only struggle against the spiritual forces of evil, we also struggle against the dangers of COVID-19...but the building work still must continue...with all the tools we have at our disposal. While fighting and building with the Word of God...and some new computer knowledge, I am,  
In His Service and Yours,

*Robbie*

# Board Meeting Highlights

## **Devotions**

Devotions were led by Patti. She shared personal reflections about current events and the pandemic. Patti stressed compassion, prayer, and continuation of our spiritual path and relationship with God. She emphasized compassion and grace to heal others and make them whole.

## **Meeting Attendees:**

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

## **Mission and Ministry:**

We discussed 3 church events and ministries.

VBS July 19-23, Becky proposed a hybrid format: families will come together in the activity center, parents will stay; Openings, Songs, Bible Story and the Science experiment will be presented to families from the stage; crafts/snacks will be packaged for families to take home; church discussed and agreed with this format; options for offering combo streaming- private facebook group or zoom webinar. Annual Picnic 8/9, to be held with changes including: no access to inside of the Black's home.and food change. A port-a-let and changing tent will be set up. Meat and dressings for sandwiches will be offered and served. Attendees bring table service, sides, drinks and desserts for their own family.

## **Pastor's Report**

Average attendance for May was 133. Streaming numbers have slightly decreased, but.it is still difficult to have an accurate report. Robbie has printed instructions for "streaming service setup" Pulpit fill planned for Aug 2, Tom Weeks. Robbie will still be planning for possibly another day of rest with another streaming video option.

## **Finance**

The church had a good month in May. Currently we have 8 x the weekly need in reserve. The budgeted moving allowance fund has reached \$5000. The board approved to continue the \$1000 per year to increase the fund to \$7000 for managing increased costs.. The "Revitalization Project" grant has been utilized and we will need to find other sources for the items that were paid for from this grant.

## **Trustee Update**

The board approved a new copier purchase for \$5000 with the same service agreement.LED lights were purchased for the activity center for \$1680, about half of previously quoted cost, Towers rooms are still leaking. The roofing company states the brick needs to be sealed. The last 2 of 3 AC units in activity center, from 2003 (typical lifespan 15 years), need replacement- \$16000 was approved. Plan to paint old garage later this year.

**People to remember in prayer:**



**Hoffman Sympathies:**

**At Home:** Phil Blue, Nan Guthrie, Valaria Harshbarger, Cindy Johnston, Helen Keller, Kathy Kinsey, Terry & Wendy Long, Mary Maess, Dick & Eugenie Markley, Miriam Miller, Shirley Richhart, and Monica Winemiller

**At Centers:** Jim Karch, Storypoint Troy Assisted Living, 1840 Towne Park Drive Apt 1, Troy, OH 45373  
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**

**Hoffman UMC Annual Picnic  
Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>**

at the home of Marty and Wendy Black at 5839 S Jay Road, W. Milton. Swimming begins at 2:30, Dinner at 5:30 p.m. See next page for additional information.

Dear Hoffman Church Family, I am doing much better; many thanks for your thoughts, prayers, cards and phone calls. I appreciate every one of you! Paul Miller, Sr.

**Grandma's Kitchen** will remain closed in August. We will determine at a later date, if we will open back up in September.

**Pictorial Directory**

If you don't already have it on the calendar, the picture directory household photographs have been rescheduled for October 23rd and 24th. The company has updated its procedures to make it as safe of an experience as possible. It doesn't look like "normal" is coming anytime soon, but I hope everyone can take part in our first picture directory in 6 years.

**Women's "The Holy Spirit and You" class**

will resume Thursdays, Sept 10<sup>th</sup> thru Oct 1<sup>st</sup> 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.  
Questions? call Mary Ann Martens (937)719-3043

Do you have a friend or family member who would like to receive our monthly newsletter? Once you get their permission, let us know their name and address and we will add them to our mailing list.  
Call (937) 698-4401 or email: humchurch@gmail.com.

**A special Veterans Day program** honoring all Union Township veterans and their families will take place on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. in the Activity Center. Everyone is invited. A video will be created to go along with stories submitted about each veteran featured. Organizers are asking anyone wanting to include family members to send pictures and stories, branch of service, and years served as quickly as possible. Your pictures will be returned. Information is sought now as it will take a while to coordinate all the information. Send your information to: Attention Nancy Studebaker, Hoffman United Methodist Church, 201 S. Main St., West Milton

If you are watching Sunday services online, please comment how many in your family are watching.  
Special thanks to Erin Studebaker for tracking attendance during our online services. We appreciate you!

**Electronic donations** can be made directly to the church by contacting your bank. Your bank then sends a check to the church for no charge. Please contact John Ankerman, Finance Chair at (937)478-2078 with any questions.

**Theda's Thoughts**

Submitted by Theda Klepinger

In The Good Old Summer Time...

Life is full of many blessings....family picnics, church camps, Summer jobs, vacations, also sweet corn and watermelon to name a few.

We thank God for His love and grace always supplying all our needs He is faithful.

The challenge of masks: To be clear, masks are not for filtration to protect the individual. Masks are all about slowing water vapor. In cold weather we can see water vapor leaving our mouths, but it is there all the time. The COVID-19 virus is carried on the water vapor, and the shorter the distance the vapor can travel, the lower the risk of the individual accidentally passing it on to others.

At the time of this publication, Ohio has come under a mandatory masking order for gatherings indoors. I have tried desperately to avoid mandating masks, as I know some health challenges our congregation members' face. We do have a small supply of paper masks that are not as restrictive. I'm sorry for all the extra challenges this has been for many of you in your daily lives.

**Galatians 6:9-10 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.**

For all of us who are able, let us not pass up these opportunities to do good for one another. RS

### 'Stay At Home' Statistics

Date	6/28/20	7/5/20	7/12/20	7/19/20	7/26/20
General Offering	2634.00	5188.00	5440.00	2700.00	3688.00
Weekly Budget Need	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00
Mission Offering	10.00	220.00	175.00	290.00	155.00
Maintenance Fund	460.00	190.00	280.00	485.00	.00
Building Fund & Memorials	380.00	503.00	270.00	215.00	260.00
Online & Physical Attendance					
9 a.m. Service	67	59	60	56	66
11:15 a.m. Service	47	50	58	61	58
Total Attendance	114	109	118	117	124

### Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary August 2020

- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Jim & Belinda Wright (29 yrs)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Karra Beard  
Mary Maess
- 5<sup>th</sup> - David Bryson  
Ty Raines
- 7<sup>th</sup> - Sarah Harris  
Fred & Cathy Brown (54 yrs)
- 9<sup>th</sup> - Phil Blue
- 11<sup>th</sup> - Bev Brubaker
- 12<sup>th</sup> - Jerid Raines
- 13<sup>th</sup> - Jayce Lawhorn
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Tammy Lugabihl  
Dustin & Chelsi Jay (5 yrs)



- 17<sup>th</sup> - Wayne Spitler
- 20<sup>th</sup> - Shirley Garreth  
Scott Johnston  
Richard Smith
- 21<sup>st</sup> - Pastor Robbie Scott
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - Lilly Pritchard
- 24<sup>th</sup> - Dean Bryson  
Chris Harris
- 27<sup>th</sup> - Janet Willis
- 28<sup>th</sup> - Dick & Mary Ann Martens (60 yrs)
- 30<sup>th</sup> - John & Pam Hitchcock (17 yrs)  
Emily Benkert
- 31<sup>st</sup> - Katie Poling

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



Upcoming Event: Church Picnic!! We hope to see you all at the church picnic this month! August 9<sup>th</sup>- we will start swimming at 2:30PM. Please see the bottom of this page for more information!! We hope to see you there!

A HUGE thank you to everyone who was able to participate and help volunteer with this summer's VBS. Our theme was "Armor of God" and we transformed the activity center into a castle. We learned about putting on the full armor of God and going out into the world to share about Jesus. We had 20 kids participate, 8 of them on Facebook Live and the other 12 were with us in the activity center.

For Lunch Bunch this summer we are continuing to serve around 25 families, 16 of those families come to Hoffman to receive their food each Friday. Our last day will be August 14 for the summer. A HUGE thank you to those who have donated money to help us this summer.

Sunday School Hour

TBA

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Preschool Children's Church Hour

TBA

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

### Annual Church Picnic Sunday, August 9th

The annual Hoffman UMC Swim Party / Family Picnic will take place on Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at the home of Marty and Wendy Black. Swimming will begin at 2:30 P.M. and dinner will be served at 5:00 P.M.

#### Safety Precautions:

- \*Use of a portable toilet
- \*Use of a changing tent
- \*The only food provided will be BBQ hamburgers, hot dogs, and turkey burgers...hamburger/hot dog buns...and condiments (ketchup, mustard, cheese slices, relish, tomatoes, pickles, onions, and lettuce).
- \*Servers will be masked and gloved and they will use tongs.
- \*Hand sanitizer will be readily available
- \*Masks are optional especially while eating!!! Social Distancing is not optional!!!
- \*Any other food you want to eat should be brought by you and/or your family to share only with same. You will also need to bring your own table service (plates, etc.) and your own drinks. **Plan carefully...Wendy's refrigerator and home will not be available for our use.**

Also, don't forget to bring a folding chair.  
Any questions...please call Mike Circle @ 937-623-5731.

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 united methodist church  
 201 S Main Street  
 West Milton OH 45383

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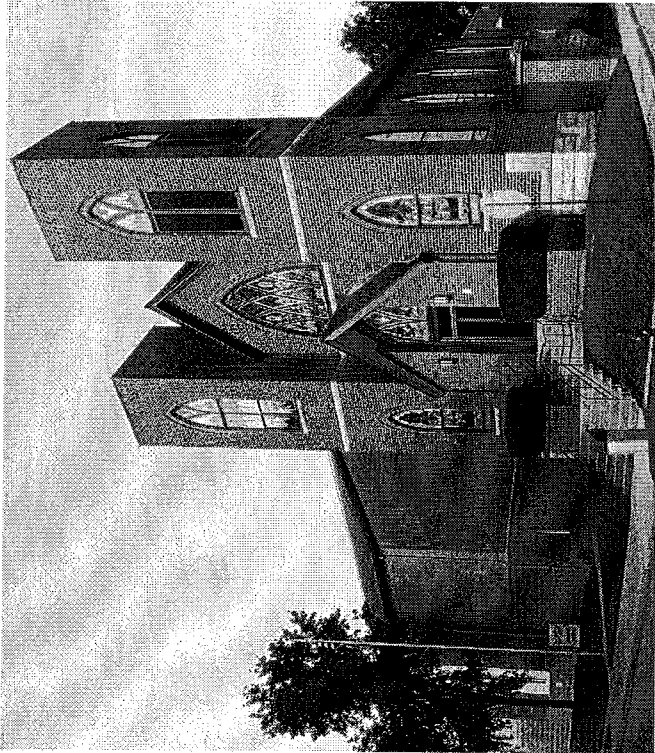
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**TOWERS  
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August  
 2020



**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