

THE TOWERS

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

January 2020

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

2020 (!!!)

Jeremiah 29:11

"...I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Remember when 2020 was a vision test score, or a television news show? I am stunned that the year 2020 is now upon us.

At one time 2020 seemed like a future location only visible in our imaginations. In fact, many movies and television shows that have been part of our culture were set in a future that is now past.

-Blade Runner was set in the "future" world of 2171.

-Dark Angel was set in 2119.

-Back to the Future part 2 was set in the future, in 2151! Where is MY hoverboard? And not that 2 wheeled ankle biter thing of the same name, haha!

The future is just as mystifying to us today as it was when these works of fiction were created. We do not know what will transpire in regards of our health, our businesses, or our investments. We don't know what will happen in our government's relationship in the world, what will happen within various denominations, including our own. We don't even know for certain what will happen in our local school, or in our own congregation. This is uncomfortable for us. It can even cause fear to rise up within us. Fear is an incredible paralyzer, and can prevent us from moving forward in life, in mission, and in ministry.

Recently I was blessed to be proud parent in two different venues. My daughter was in a non school music program, singing a solo before a room of over a hundred strangers. I could see the anxiousness she was hiding, and yet as the music played, her voice was clear and true, and she remembered every word. The next day, my son had a solo in Hoffman's Children's Program. He had said that each time he

went to sing, his heart would be pounding and it was hard to breath, but there he was in a packed Activity Center, and as the music played, his voice was clear and true, and he remembered every word.

Of course, as a proud dad, I love seeing my kids overcome anxiety. Bridget and I try to be honest with them about times when we are anxious, so we can hopefully model pushing through our fears, but I have always loved seeing young

persons come through in high pressure situations.

The prophet Jeremiah received this Word from the Lord while people were displaced by a foreign power. Even in the midst of that horrible situation, God was reminding the prophet and the people was that He was still present with them, no matter their present circumstances. Seems

like that message is still in the air around here... Emmanuel, God With Us. No matter what the coming year brings, God is already there, even without hoverboards.

I have to admit that this fall has been one of my most difficult, and in the midst of feeling like there was no way to get everything done, the grace and support shared through cards, conversations, and gifts have been precious, and each sharing has been cherished. From October's staff appreciation, to the generosity of the Christmas blessing, I have been overwhelmed. Thank you one and all for patience and grace during a tumultuous year with many changes and challenges. Additionally, Thank You for sharing your service and your gifts for God's kingdom work here at Hoffman. Without you, none of it would be possible.

While humbled at your witness and example, I am,

In His Service and Yours,

Merry Christmas!
May God richly bless
you and yours in 2020



Holiday Service Times

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 7 and 10 p.m.

Regular Services on Dec 22nd at 9 and 11:15 a.m.

One Combined Service on Dec 29th at 10 a.m.

Emmaus Woman's Share Group

January 7th at 11 a.m.
in Multi-Purpose Room

Ladies Save the Dates!
Womens Holy Spirit Teaching
Thursdays 6:30- 8 p.m.
March 5th thru April 9th

Grandma's Kitchen Closes Until Spring

Thanks to our Grandma's Kitchen volunteers for your help this past year. This "program" doesn't work without all the volunteers who give their time each week. We served a total of 7468 meals in 33 weeks with 31% of the meals going to those who are in need. We also had 66 different volunteers—and subs—serving in six different time slots doing jobs such as peeling potatoes, baking cakes, cutting fruit, making Jello, packing carryout containers, packing and delivering meals, cooking, seating guests, serving salads, desserts and beverages, bussing tables, doing dishes and taking care of leftovers. Your many hours of work (2702!) are much appreciated.

Thanks, also, to our loyal supporters who dined with us this year as you provide the financial basis for this program. We love seeing you week after week and hope that you will come back next year.

We will begin again in late March, 2020. If you would like to be involved as a volunteer, please call the church office and leave your name and phone number. Grandma's Kitchen offers a good opportunity to spend time with other volunteers and to serve in a food ministry to our community. If you would like to dine with us, please watch for announcements for our opening in March. We welcome newcomers so please invite family, friends and neighbors.

Grandma's Kitchen, Winter Version

If you have some extra time this winter and would like to get involved in Grandma's Kitchen you might be interested in volunteering to help with several winter meals. We hope to serve several meals this winter to just those families on our delivery routes, 46 families, which would mean about 60 meals. These would be prepared in time to be delivered during the daytime and may not be on a regular basis as we have winter weather to work around. If you are interested, please sign the list in the kitchen or call Val (371-4965), Marilyn (947-1831) or the church office (698-4401). You will be called when the first meal is being planned.

Serving Schedule

Jan 05th – Altar flowers are available

9:00 Liturgist: Valerie McKay **Greeters:** Wendy Heisey and Nancy Lightcap
Ushers: Lee & Becky Baker and Wayne & Susie Spitler **Hospitality:** Joe & Leah B.
Nursery: 10:15 Jill C. & Marijo S. /11:15 Kim D. & Wendy H.

11:15 Greeters: Ben G., Julia C., & Kathy Koeller **Scripture Reader:** Norman H. **Sound:** Eric M.
Ushers: Les T. & Ruth Leazer **Media:** Norman H.

Jan 12th – Altar flowers are available

9:00 Liturgist: Wendy Heisey **Greeters:** Bill & Judy Brown
Ushers: Les Trittschuh and Phil & Karen McFadden **Hospitality:** Phil & Karen M.
Nursery: 10:15 Marcia C. & Lesli R. /11:15 Kathy K. and Cliff & Katie P.

11:15 Greeters: Lisa W. and Dick & Mary Ann M. **Scripture Reader:** Julia C. **Sound:** Jill C.
Ushers: Julia C., Ben G., and Sally & Paul M. **Media:** Norman H.

Jan 19th – Altar flowers are available

9:00 Liturgist: Les Trittschuh **Greeters:** Elaine Iddings
Ushers: Jim Scammahorn & Dave Thompson **Hospitality:** John & Carol C.
Nursery: 10:15 Jill C. & Patti W. /11:15 Emily K. & Jennifer K.

11:15 Greeters: Kathy W. and Amanda B. **Scripture Reader:** Matt B. **Sound:** Norman H.
Ushers: Dejon D. **Media:**

Jan 26th – Altar flowers are in celebration of Matt & Melissa Ankerman from John & Anita

9:00 Liturgist: Tim Benkert **Greeters:** Carol Storer and Peggy Nihizer
Ushers: Cliff Poling & Joe Blackburn **Hospitality:** Nancy S. and Kathy K.
Nursery: 10:15 Eric & Johanna M. /11:15 Megan T. & Ben G.

11:15 Greeters: Sally & Paul M. and Marijo Schlecht **Scripture Reader:** Beth T. **Sound:** Norman H.
Usher: Lisa W. **Media:** Valerie M.

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary January 2020

2nd Andrew Circle
 5th Bob & Nancy Mills (52 yrs)
 6th Jim Watkins
 12th Elaine Iddings
 13th David Mitchell
 Kay Wagner
 14th Nancy Curry
 Patti Wion
 15th Tom & Nancy Wolf (55 yrs)
 18th Ben Garrett
 19th Greg Raines



21st Paul Miller, Sr.
 Bob Mills
 Shawn & Shari Williams (6 yrs)
 22nd Courtney Wion
 23rd John Carter
 Theda Klepinger
 Audrey Scammahorn
 Bridget Scott
 24th Cheyenne Barnes
 25th Matt Ankerman
 27th Emma Knostman
 28th Tom & Kathy Kinsey (36 yrs)
 29th Denise Sanderson
 31st Lauren Everage

The 2020 flower calendar is on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary.
 Remember to sign up for your special Sundays. The cost is \$20 per Sunday.

Hoffman United Methodist Church, Holidays in United States

Jan 2020 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>29</div> <div>10 am - Combined</div> <div>6:30pm - NO Ignite</div>	<div>30</div> <div>6pm - Girl Scouts - B</div>	<div>31</div> <div>New Year's Eve</div>	<div>1</div> <div>New Year's Day</div>	<div>2</div> <div>12:30pm - W Design</div> <div>7:30pm - Praise</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div> <div>12pm - Y. Spirits A.</div>
<div>5</div> <div>Communion</div> <div>9 am - Worship</div> <div>10:15am - S School</div> <div>11:15am - Worship</div> <div>6:30pm - Ignite</div>	<div>6</div> <div>6pm - Girl Scouts - B</div> <div>7pm - Visitation</div>	<div>7</div> <div>11am - Women's</div> <div>6:30pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>7pm - Trustee Mtg. -</div>	<div>8</div> <div>9am - Women's</div> <div>6:30pm - Women's</div> <div>7pm - Chancel Choir</div>	<div>9</div> <div>7:30pm - Praise</div>	<div>10</div>	<div>11</div> <div>12pm - Y. Spirits A.</div>
<div>12</div> <div>9 am - Worship</div> <div>10:15am - S School</div> <div>11:15am - Worship</div> <div>6:30pm - Ignite</div>	<div>13</div> <div>6pm - Girl Scouts - B</div>	<div>14</div> <div>6:30pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>6:30pm - Men's</div>	<div>15</div> <div>9am - Women's</div> <div>6:30pm - Women's</div> <div>7pm - Chancel Choir</div>	<div>16</div> <div>6:30pm - Board Mtg</div> <div>7:30pm - Praise</div>	<div>17</div>	<div>18</div> <div>12pm - Y. Spirits A.</div>
<div>19</div> <div>9 am - Worship</div> <div>10:15am - S School</div> <div>11:15am - Worship</div> <div>6:30pm - Ignite</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Martin Luther King</div> <div>6pm - Girl Scouts - B</div>	<div>21</div> <div>6:30pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>6:30pm - Men's</div>	<div>22</div> <div>9am - Women's</div> <div>6:30pm - Women's</div> <div>7pm - Chancel Choir</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Towers' Deadline</div> <div>6:30pm - 4-H - B</div> <div>7pm - U. M.t</div> <div>7:30pm - Praise</div>	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div> <div>12pm - Y. Spirits A.</div>
<div>26</div> <div>9 am - Worship</div> <div>10:15am - S School</div> <div>11:15am - Worship</div> <div>1pm - Private Party</div> <div>6:30pm - Ignite</div>	<div>27</div> <div>6pm - Girl Scouts - B</div>	<div>28</div> <div>6:30pm - Bell Choir</div>	<div>29</div> <div>9am - Women's</div> <div>6:30pm - Women's</div> <div>7pm - Chancel Choir</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Mail Towers</div> <div>7:30pm - Praise</div>	<div>31</div>	<div>1</div> <div>12pm - Y. Spirits A.</div>

People to remember in prayer:



Hoffman Sympathies to: the family of Emily Karch as she passed away on December 16, 2019

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

At Centers:

John Jackson, 46 Lavender Pl, Tipp City OH 45371

Katie Weeks, 1746 E Silver Star Road #525, Ocoee FL 34761

Please remember all of our shut-ins with cards and prayers.

THANK YOU

As the days fall away, I am so grateful to let my church family know what comfort you gave me through the struggles and passing away of our loved one, Jim. He loved this church and worked so very hard to keep it the best for everyone who was a part of it. The response our family has experienced since his death is overwhelming. We've received over 100 cards, food, letters, kind words and offers of wide shoulders to lean on. Thank you Pastor Robbie and Rev. Tim who led the service in his honor, to all who attended his visitation and funeral and to the ladies of the church who prepared a lovely meal. Our hearts are full of gratitude to each of you.

Nancy Kinnison, Lori Meyer, and Greg Kinnison.

I would like to wish a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all my church family and friends.

Sherynne King

Thanks to Nancy Studebaker, Joy Paulus. Dawn & David Jay, Kathy Watkins, and Karen McFadden who help fold and label the Towers for mailing.

Thanks to Erin Studebaker for entering the attendance each week. You are the best!

I want to thank the church for the generous Christmas gift that I received this year. It is a pleasure serving this church and this gift shows me that my efforts are appreciated. Thank you very much. Norman Heister.

Thanks to Ben Garrett for changing the message on the outside sign. We appreciate you!

Dear Church Family, I appreciate each of you so very much. Your prayers, cards, and gifts have meant so very much. God bless each of you. Wilma Fryman

Dear Church Family, we just want to thank you all for the help and support you have given Phil and I during the last five years. Richard Smith and all the men who have come and stayed with Phil so I could to choir practice and sing in the choir on Sundays. That has meant so much to me and refueled me for the next week. Thanks to Grandma's Kitchen for all the good meals. Thanks to the visitation teams and all the cards of encouragement. You are truly a church of love and caring and I thank God for each and every one of you. Your brother and sister in Christ
Happy 2020! Sally & Phil Blue

Thanks to those who rang the bell for the Salvation Army, to those who supported our annual Christmas party and to everyone involved with the children's Christmas program.

Thanks to our super awesome Trustees for all the work they do around the church!

Special thanks to Christy Harris for her time in preparing the multi-media display for the services. We appreciate you so very much.

Every year I reflect on how truly wonderful the members of this church family are and how blessed I am to serve you. Thank you for the Christmas gift; your generosity is amazing. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. JoAnn Antonides

"We will learn to trust God's power at work in us..."

"You surround me, you sustain me...
Safe inside your love..." ~VBS 2019



A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped with the Kids Hope Party, the Children's Christmas play- especially Tim and Janet Benkert for leading our children, and also those who helped make Christmas Eve special for our children.

Recap of 2019- Family Nights, Kids Hope Parties, Lunch Bunch, VBS To Mars and Beyond, Children's Christmas Play

Looking ahead to 2020- a few new Family Night experiences, Kids Hope relationships blossoming, lunch bunch, a new VBS- check it out (Knights of North Castle), and another fun end to the year with a new Christmas play.

I am so excited to see what 2020 will bring to the children in our congregation! They have been learning so much about God and His love for them and I look forward to seeing what they can learn this year!

Sunday School Hour

10:15-11:10

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Preschool Children's
Church Hour

11:15-12:20

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

Sunday Night Help Needed

6:30-8:30

Commitment would be for
1 month at a time.
Responsibilities: help oversee
youth. No planning involved.

Ignite

Grades 6-12

Sundays

6:30-8:30 pm

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

2020: A Year of Vision

*Look to the Lord and his strength;
seek his face always.*

1 Chronicles 16:11-12



Ignite has been blessed over these past few years with great volunteers and a wonderful support from you. The youth that are reached through Ignite could not be touched without the hands and feet of many members of the body of Christ. I am continually thankful for this.

2020 will be a year of vision for Ignite. We will continue to keep our eye set on the Lord for His strength and His wisdom. As I have expressed to the youth many times; activities, food, and special outings can be enjoyed with fellow believers, but the most important thing we do is when we dive into His word for instruction and wisdom.

~Joseph Knostman

Theda's Thoughts

Submitted by Theda Klepinger

Because we have the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ living in our hearts, we can brighten our long Winter days by letting our light shine.

God will give us opportunities to help those who may be having a difficult day by sharing God's love and light with them.

John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people he said "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

January Voice of the Martyrs

Submitted by Marijo Schlecht

Hello friends. Let me begin with praising our Lord and Savior for his continued love and hope as we try to persevere in an ever fallen world. Let us also find hope in this new year as I report the testimonies of brothers and sisters around the world who are standing tall for Jesus in ways we could not imagine. This month I want to focus on is Nigeria. Northern Nigeria has been brutalized since 2011 from the Boko Haram, an extreme terrorists and nomadic militant group. More than 35,000 people have been killed, and many Christians are their target. The fighting has left 10,000 Christian widows and thousands of orphaned children. Many women and children fled to the brush countryside as their homes were destroyed and their husbands killed.

I want to mention one such widow named Alice, who in 2001 fled for her life and was left to raise her children in a hallway of an elderly man's home. After weeks of depression, she asked God for wisdom. Slowly she began to work odd jobs and grow crops only to have the crops destroyed in 2015 by Fulani militants. VOM volunteers then found Alice and helped provide living expenses. VOM workers also helped restore Alice's wavering faith. Incredibly in 2018 Alice's new village was again destroyed. That night an 86 year old man sheltered about 200 Christians in a mosque saving their lives.

But there is an amazing ending. Alice can now see how God saved her from each catastrophe, she has quoted scripture, "God said this would happen and the Lord gives and takes." God has also removed any anger or revenge feelings for her persecutors. Alice states again "we should all watch and pray because the bible said this persecution would come." I think this is real faith, and may you be inspired as I am by our sister Alice.

Until he comes Marijo Schlecht

United Methodist Women

A Look Back at 2019 and A Look Ahead at 2020

Submitted by Kay Wagner, President

The last year has been an exciting and challenging year trying to carry out all of the plans that Nadine Thompson, our dedicated and committed president for so many years, had put into place, along side of talented and outstanding chair persons.

Thank you to all who made this year a success. First, thank you to the officers: 1. Karen McFadden who served as vice-president (and who chaired the October meeting, so that I could enjoy a few days of vacation in West Virginia, with my husband) 2. Tina Mathews (interim secretary of the April meeting) 3. Jill Circle secretary for the regular meetings, executive meeting and the Donations committee meeting 4. Dawn Jay who served as our treasurer All did a great job!

Next, thank you to the committee chair persons: 1. Katie Poling – International Food Tasting; 2. John Ankerman, chair and Nancy Kinnison, UMW representative, for the Art Show; 3. Joy Paulus and Nancy Studebaker for co-chairing the pot pie making; 4. Nancy Studebaker and Julia Circle for co-chairing the Fall Carry-in dinner; 5. Nancy Lightcap and her daughter, Debbie, for teaching classes on Swedish Weaving; 6. Laverne Hennemyre and Kathy Koeller for co-chairing the election day dinner; 7. Nancy Studebaker far chairing the Veteran's Day celebration; 8. Nancy Studebaker for chairing funeral dinners; 9. Jean Sanders, Susie Spittler and Kay Wagner for chairing the handling of the booth spaces, the Hoffman booth donations and sales and the Hoffman Café food donations and volunteers. Thank you to all for your commitment to these time consuming and detailed assignments. And a big thank you to everyone who supported these activities with your donations and your time and energy.

And now to look forward for 2020 - We are planning another busy and fun year. We request that you mark your calendars and **save the dates** for:

1. January 23 – quarterly meeting
2. February 13, 20, 27 (Thurs 7:00-9:00PM) – Swedish Weaving Classes.
3. March 5 – April 9 (Thursday evenings at 6:30) – a Lenten small group study to enrich our understanding of the Holy Spirit - open to all women. This will be the original writings of MaryAnn Martens, who will be our facilitator.
4. March 28 – International Food Tasting
5. April 23 – quarterly meeting
6. May 3 – Mother/Daughter/Granddaughter Luncheon
7. July 23 – quarterly meeting
- 8.. July 31, Aug 1, 2 – Art Show
- 9.. Sept (dates to be determined) – pot pie making
- 10 .Oct 4 – Carry-in Dinner
11. Oct 22 – quarterly meeting
12. Nov 3 – Election Day Dinner
13. Nov 21 – Craft Show

We are looking forward to another fun year of learning to know those from the “other” service and to grow in our spiritual development. As you study the above activities and anticipate how and when you want to be involved, please pray that one of you will hear God's voice, and say “yes” when the nominating committee calls you to be our next president.

32nd Annual
Hoffman's United Methodist Men's
Whole Hog Sausage Sale

The Methodist Men's 32nd Annual Whole Hog Sausage Sale for 2020 is about to begin. The sausage is \$3.50 per tube (approximately one pound packages). We are offering Mild Spice or Plain sausage. We are also offering the Mild Spice in two pound packages of breakfast links at \$7.00 per package. Remember! This is delicious whole hog sausage make room in your freezer and get ready to enjoy this good sausage while helping the United Methodist Men with this major fund raising project. The proceeds will benefit local mission projects to glorify God. Don't forget we will deliver to you. Please contact any Methodist Men or the Church Office to place your order. The LAST DAY to order will be Monday January 27th, so order yours TODAY. Delivery will begin on Wednesday February 5, 2020. If you have any questions or want to order please call John Ankerman at 478 2078 or Les Trittschuh at 698 5161.

United Methodist Men's Glazed Ham Loaf

4 Eggs, slightly beaten
1 T Grated Onion
1 can Tomato Soup
2 lbs Ground Lean Pork Sausage
(Methodist Men's Sausage)
2 C Cracker Crumbs
1 lbs Ground Cured Ham

GLAZE

½ C Brown Sugar
1 T Prepared Mustard

Combine eggs, onion, and soup, mix well.
Add meats and cracker crumbs, mold into
2 loaves. The last half hour glaze with
brown sugar and mustard mixture.
Bake at 275-300 degrees for 2 hours.
Makes 8 servings.

Egg Sausage Casserole (from Kathy Hayes):
This is the recipe that we use for
Easter Sunrise Breakfast.

2 lbs (makes 5 cups cooked browned)
sausage (could do 1 lb
each of sage or unseasoned) cooked and
crumbled.
9 eggs, beaten
9 white bread slices, torn into small pieces.
3 cups milk
3 cups shredded cheddar cheese
2 tablespoons yellow mustard
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon pepper

Mix well with spoon. Pour batter in the pan
(9x13 inch pan).
Refrigerate 8 hours (or overnight) for baking.
Uncover for the
baking. Bake 45-60 min. Oven 350
degrees.

X

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West Milton OH 45383

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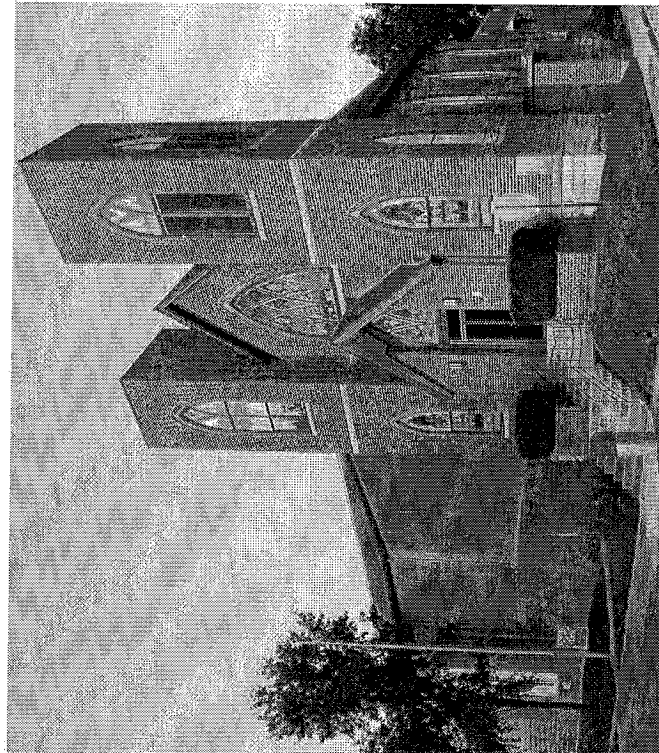
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TOWERS
THERS

January
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