



THE TOWERS

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

January 2022



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

What We Will Be . . .

2 Timothy 1:6 ...I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

I have memories as we were getting ready to transition out of 2020. The general sentiment of the culture at large was "good riddance" to 2020. I recall having a chuckle as I read the various jokes about 2020 going away, as if a new calendar year was going to make our problems go away.

For those who are in positions like mine, it has seemed as if the cultural transitions have been less about the calendar, and more about what people have been angry about: from a hotly contested presidential election; to the questioned results of that election; to the reminders that in the 21st Century the color of one's skin can mean different treatment in this country called a melting pot; to a virus that is not as predictable as any of us would like; to the various theories about whether it is real or not, whether the methods reported to limit the spread could be trusted or not; whether the vaccinations being developed were safe or not... effective or not.... whether congregations should meet in person, whether the proper "moral" response was to have restrictions aimed to keep all as safe as possible, or our "moral" response was to give as much free choice as possible. I have not enjoyed those transitions, as it has felt like different verses of the same song, sometimes even feeling like a variety of talking heads were telling us how to feel about things, which is about the time I stop listening to the talking heads, haha!

The last Scripture passage shared during our Christmas Eve services was from Luke 2:8-20. After the shepherds have left the "nativity," we read simple words that have been on my mind lately. "...but Mary pondered all these things in her heart." How I would love to know the various things Mary pondered that night. I believe that moment of pondering is really the inspiration of the popular song "Mary did you know." Of course we know that her song of praise in Scripture reveals she knew and understood a lot, but she only could know so much, and could not have known all that her son would do. To finally give

birth, to see this One that was Who the angel said would be called the Son of God.....lying in a feeding trough....that must have been a surreal moment, and then to have shepherds randomly show up with the story they told. Maybe she pondered why there was the glory of God and angels on a hillside out of town while the actual birth process was happening to the sounds and smells of livestock. ☺

In previous years, the week after the Christmas Eve services is quieter, allowing me to ponder all that transpired in (and recover from) what always feels like a sprint to Christmas.



I was cleaning a little in my office and ran across a simple survey from early in my time here, and one question at the end asked "what are you afraid/hopeful Pastor Robbie will do?" It was intended to help people either vocalize something they had always wanted to see but hadn't...or to express something precious to them

that they didn't want to see changed. I was pleasantly surprised by many of the anonymous answers. Jenniver Keller signed her card, and while she had written earlier that she had grown up at Hoffman, her answer to that one question was "that he not change his energy level or humor." I ran across it last week just before receiving news that loved ones of 2 more from our Hoffman family would be arranging funerals. Ironically, a year ago I also was making funeral plans for 2 of our Hoffman family. I admit after all that has transpired, I can recognize I've lost both energy and humor.

Jennifer was one who endured a lot, though we only know some of all the health details. It struck me in that moment to read that her hope was for "me" to keep my energy and humor. In a sense I heard it as a challenge to fan into flame the gift of God within me. Maybe there was someone else who needed to "hear" that as much as I did as we enter 2022. While remembering God's gift within me, and wishing you and yours a blessed and joyous New Year, I am,
In His service and yours,



Board Meeting Highlights

Devotions

Devotions were offered during the Charge Conference. Robbie opened the meeting with a prayer.

Meeting Attendees

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

Mission and Ministry

Deferred to the Charge Conference

Pastor's Report

Overall average attendance for 9 am: 51 (in person) and 23.2 (online); 11:15 am: 48 (in person) and 4 (online). Erin Studebaker is taking a few weeks off from attendance tracking. Joann has worked hard this month to help prepare paperwork for Charge Conference. She has several days of vacation time, so she has been taking Fridays off when schedule permits. Norman has ordered new foam pads for the Bell Choir using a donation from the United Methodist Women. Becky has organized Operation Christmas Child and is planning for the children to lead Christmas carols at the church Christmas party. Youth have met weekly, with the exception of holidays. Youth helped with labeling of the candy bars for Trunk of Treat where 900 full size candy bars were handed out. Seven vehicles (families) participated in Trunk of Treat. Pastor Robbie has presided over 5 Charge Conferences in Ansonia, Potsdam, Arcanum, Gordon, and Abbottsville.

Trustees

A progress payment was made on the Stained Glass Window project of \$79,532, with \$14,035 outstanding balance due on completion which is on target to finish in November. Currently, \$15,728 excess in the restoration fund will go back to the Endowment. Several updates to projects were reported- South Tower and Boiler Replacement. Discussion was held regarding the Activity Center rental fees.

Finance

The finance report for October was reviewed and accepted. Weeks of Operations available has increased to 8.20.

Nominations

Chris Long

was approved to finish out Dan Studebaker's term as SPRC Co-Chair.

Staff Parish Relations

Pastor

Robbie evaluation was completed

Upcoming Events

November 20 Craft Show

December 4 Christmas Party

December 24 Christmas Eve Services 7pm, 10pm

December 26 Single Worship Service 10:30

Serving Schedule

Jan 02nd

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

Jan 09th

9:00 Liturgist: Wendy H. **Greeters:** Elaine P. and Joy P.
Ushers: **Hospitality Table:** Elaine P. & Wendy H.
Nursery: 10:15 Lesli R. & Kat G. /11:15 Lesli R. & Lauren E.
11:15 Greeters: Dick & Mary Ann M. **Scripture Reader:** Julia C.

Jan 16th

9:00 Liturgist: Les T. **Greeters:** Elaine I. and Cathy B.
Ushers: **Hospitality Table:** Jim & Marilyn M.
Nursery: 10:15 Julia C. & Kathy K. /11:15 Ben G. & Jenna M.
11:15 Greeters: Kathy W. and Ruth L. **Scripture Reader:** Valerie M.

Jan 23rd

9:00 Liturgist: Wendy H. **Greeters:** Carol S. and Peggy N.
Ushers: **Hospitality Table:** Bob & Marsha C.
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 T.

Jan 30th

9:00 Liturgist: Les T. **Greeters:** Sophia & Stella B.
Ushers: **Hospitality Table:** Phil & Karen M.
Nursery: 10:15 Kathy K. /11:15 Ben G. & Lauren E.
11:15 Greeters: Patti W. & Courtney S. **Scripture Reader:** Ben G.

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary January 2022

2nd Andrew Circle
5th Bob & Nancy Mills (54 yrs)
6th Jim Watkins
9th Debby Guthrie
Peggy Nihizer
12th Elaine Iddings
13th David Mitchell
Kay Wagner
14th Nancy Curry
Patti Wion
15th Tom & Nancy Wolf (57 yrs)
18th Ben Garrett



19th Greg Raines
21st Paul Miller, Sr.
Bob Mills
22nd Courtney Sims
23rd John Carter
Theda Klepinger
Audrey Scammahorn
Bridget Scott
24th Cheyenne Barnes
27th Emma Knostman
29th Denise Sanderson
31st Lauren Everage



Weekly Giving and Attendance Statistics

Date	11-21-21	11-28-21	12-5-21	12-12-21	12-19-21
General Offering	3107.00	3000.00	6732.00	6412.00	6564.00
Weekly Budget Need	4854.00	4854.00	4854.00	4854.00	4854.00
Mission Offering	126.00	100.00	270.00	90.00	370.00
Maintenance Fund	50.00	1140.00	300.00	135.00	145.00
Building Fund & Memorials	775.00	190.00	510.00	460.00	158.00
Stained Glass Windows	310.00	140.00	145.00	0	300.00
Online & Physical Attendance					
9 a.m. Service at church	50	47	53	54	46
* Remote viewing	19	16	25	17	29
11:15 a.m. Service at church	50	54	58	46	46
* Remote viewing	12	7	3	4	3
Total Attendance	131	124	139	121	124

*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.

***2022 offering envelopes** are at the back of the sanctuary if you haven't picked yours up yet. Remember not to use these envelopes until 2022. If you do not have offering envelopes and would like some, please contact Joy P. (937) 698-4339.



Stained Glass Window Restoration Project

Amount Received: \$ 86,060

Total Project Goal: \$109,430

Thank You!

Thank You from Grandma's Kitchen

Thank you to all the Grandma's Kitchen volunteers and guests for your loyal support this year. We served 1890 meals, including almost 800 donated meals, to families in our community during the 12 weeks we were open. This would not have been possible without the 54 volunteers who gave more than 600 hours of their time and our guests who supported us financially. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.

But food is hardly the only 'gift' that Grandma's Kitchen gives. Hebrews 10:25 states, "Let us not give up meeting together . . . but let us encourage one another." Those who work preparing, cooking, packing and delivering meals, those who serve guests, and those who clean up afterwards are all part of a community of volunteers who have made people feel welcome in this church and by this church as we meet together.

Our Daily Bread for December 1, 2021, asked this question: "Why do we go to church?" The answer: "Because someone may need you there." The author then concludes with this line: "And the corresponding truth is that you may need them as well." Thank you all for being a blessing to your church and to each other.

People to remember in prayer:



Hoffman Sympathies:

to the family of Andrea Princehorn, Carol Bailey's sister-in-law, as she passed away on November 22, 2021
to the family of Luke Fraizer, as he passed away on December 16, 2021
to the family of Sandy Johannes, as she passed away on December 22, 2021

At Home: Phil Blue, Nan Guthrie, Valaria Harshbarger, Ruth & Jack Hayes, Wilma Hoover, Helen Keller, Winston Klepinger, Freda Koeller, Mary Maess, Dick & Eugenie Markley, Jennie McNeal, Miriam Miller, Dixie Porter, Janice Turner, Jim & Kathy Watkins, and Monica Winemiller, and Nancy Wolf

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

THANK YOU AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU CRAFT SHOW VOLUNTEERS

We want to Thank ALL the volunteers that helped with the Craft Show this Year. God has given so many of you special gifts and talents, and we so appreciate them coming together to see this event being held at our church and the community come into our doors. Many of you signed up for more than one service task and we are blessed. The Craft Show Committee

Dear Church Family, thank you for the get well and holiday cards; you have no idea how they brighten my day. I appreciate all the prayers and well wishes. I pray that you all have a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.
Sherynne King

Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers throughout my surgery and recovery. I also want to thank all of those who helped cover attendance duties over the last several weeks. It was greatly appreciated. Sincerely,
Erin Studebaker

Thanks to our dedicated Trustees for all the work they do around the church. Phil McFadden, Wayne Spitler, David Jay, Tom Kinsey, Wendy Heisey, Andrew Circle, and special 'honorary trustee' Susie Spitler; we appreciate you!

Hoffman church family, you continue to bless and amaze me with your love and generosity; thank you for the Christmas bonus, gifts, and cards. May your 2022 be full of blessings!
JoAnn Antonides

Thank you to Christy Harris for her time in preparing the multi-media display for our services. We appreciate your devotion to this weekly project.

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

Thanks to Erin Studebaker for entering attendance each week. Special thanks to Jill Circle for filling in the last month.

Special thanks to our online worship producers: Darin Wion and Kat Granato. We appreciate all you do.

Thanks to Joy Paulus for tracking offering and Dawn Jay for counting and depositing the offering. Your dedication is appreciated.

Dear Hoffman Church Family,
Thank you for all the cards, concerns and prayers during Bill's hospitalization and recent passing. I feel so blessed to be part of such an amazing church family. I felt your love and support every day and I know Bill did too. Thank you to all those who prepared food and served at the luncheon after the service; it was very much appreciated.

Love and blessings to all,
Judy Brown and Family

Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study beginning January 12, 2022

The Wednesday Morning study group will begin meeting on January 12, 9:00am in the Multi-Purpose room. Our 90-minute meetings include prayer, Bible study and time for support, encouragement and connection. All women of the community are welcome, whether from this church or not, so please come and invite family, friends and neighbors.

The study starting in January will be The Strength You Need: The Twelve Great Strength Passages of the Bible, a book by Robert J. Morgan. From the book description:

'Do you end each day feeling exhausted and hoping God will give you energy? He already has---in the Bible!' After reviewing every occurrence of the word "strength" in Scripture, Morgan identifies 12 passages that highlight the stamina God provides throughout our lives---sustenance that never wavers, always endures, and is continually renewed.'

Most of us would describe these past two years as difficult, draining and discouraging. Please join us to find ways to reclaim the strength God has promised us. Books will be provided.

To order a book or if you have questions, please contact Marilyn Mitchell, 937-947-1831 or email mbmitchell50@gmail.com

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



Thank you so much for helping us collect hats, mittens, scarfs and even socks for our Christmas tree in the lobby. We appreciate your help!!

January 25 VBS planning meeting at 7PM

February 12 Valentine's Family Fun Night 5:30-8PM

Please write this date down:
2022 VBS Rocky Railway
June 26- June 30, 2022

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

34rd Annual Hoffman's United Methodist Men's Whole Hog Sausage Sale

The Methodist Men's 34th Annual Whole Hog Sausage Sale for 2022 is about to begin. With the recent price increases we are needing to increase our sausage price for the first time in many years by a small amount. The sausage is \$4.00 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 \$8.00 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 24th, so order yours TODAY. Delivery will begin on Wednesday February 2, 2022. If you have any questions please call John Ankerman at 937 478 2078 or Les Trittschuh at 937 478 8093. You can also call one of the following with your orders before January 24th:

David Hayes	937 545 9507
Chris Long	937 603 8432
Cliff Poling	937 698 3519
Phil McFadden	937 573 7718
John Ankerman	937 478 2078
Les Trittschuh	937 478 8093

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

December 9, 2021

Dear Members of Hoffman United Methodist Church,

I am not a member of your congregation, but your church has touched my life throughout the years. My grandparents, Gordon (Harold) and Anita McCray lived not far from you, around the corner on Front Street, for the better part of 60 years. In the Summer of 1969, my parents were married at your church, where they used to sing duets together in the choir.

As a child, I remember my grandfather Gordon (Harold) McCray driving seniors to their doctor appointments and running errands here and there for elderly homebound church members. He would also deliver magazines and food through a program called FISH, that I believe might have been associated with the church at the time but is no longer. Like my parents, my grandfather also sang (quite loudly I am told) in the church choir, sometimes accompanied another of his sons, Jim.

As time went by, my grandfathers and fathers funerals were held at Hoffman United in 2003 and 2017 respectively. Pastor Robbie was wonderful with the planning of my father David's unexpected funeral and provided comfort to my grandmother Anita who was still living on Front Street, with my father, at the time of his death.

My most unexpected interaction with your congregation came by way of your Visitation Ministry. My grandmother was not a churchgoer; she left that to my grandfather. However, after his death, the church made sure to drop by with a cassette tape, and later DVDs of the week's service. I wish I could say she opened them, but at least please know, the kind gesture did not go by unnoticed.

What she did most greatly appreciate occurred toward the end of her life. Upon leaving Front Street behind, she took up residence at Brookdale Senior Living in Troy. Living in Connecticut, I had little opportunity to visit, so during my weekly phone calls I would always ask if she had any visitors. She would light up as she told me about a visit from various church members. She always mentioned some sort of treat or little baked goodie that they would bring and how nice it was to sit and chat. These visits brought her more joy than I think you know and were certainly a highlight of each month.

Lastly, Pastor Robbie was called once more. The funeral for my grandmother occurred in December of 2020, right in the middle of the pandemic. I was unable to travel so Robbie and I made all arrangements via phone and email. The funeral home was just starting to experiment with video streaming funerals, it sounds so weird, but it really was a blessing for family who could not attend. Robbie did an amazing job with her service and graveside ceremony during a strange and difficult time.

So, in the end, I want to say thank you from my family. Thank you for being there for 50+ years and letting our family drift in and out of your sphere. Thank you for being there at the beginning with a wedding and at the end for three funerals. Thank you for letting my grandfather sing his heart out and thank you for making a 95yearold woman's day with a muffin and kind conversation.

As a tangible thank you, I would like to make a donation on behalf of our family. Please use how you best see fit, but, if possible, we would like to see \$500 go toward the choir/music budget, \$500 toward Grandma's Kitchen, \$500 toward the Visitation Ministry and \$500 toward the general fund.

Thank you and happiest of holidays to you all,

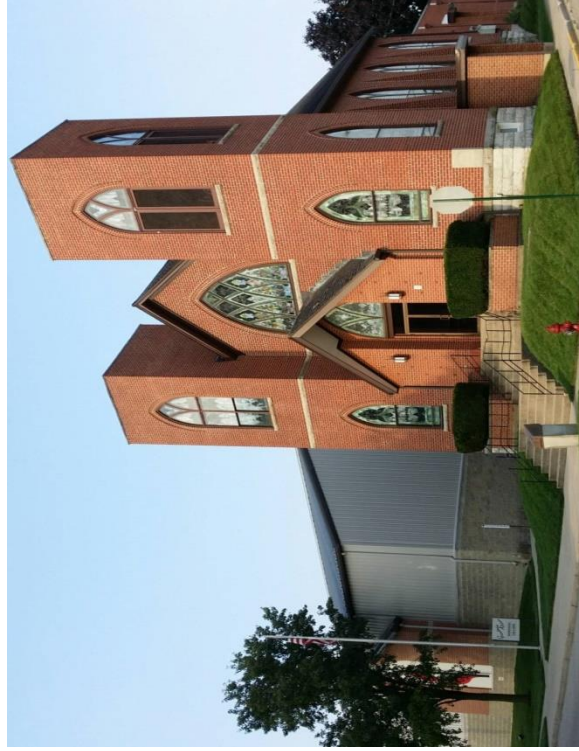
Michele (McCray) Meehan

HOFFMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2021 FINANCE REPORT					
General Budget and Missions Budget					
November 30, 2021					
			MONTH	YEAR-TO-DATE	
1010	First Sunday		4,241.00	56,229.04	
1020	Second Sunday		5,331.00	55,312.09	
1030	Third Sunday		3,107.00	46,360.00	
1040	Fourth Sunday		3,000.00	38,816.01	
1050	Fifth Sunday		0.00	13,390.00	
	Total Regular Offering		15,679.00	210,107.14	
1060	Misc. Income		50.00	1,502.00	
	**Total Income		15,729.00	211,609.14	
		BUDGET FOR YEAR	PAID OUT THIS MONTH	YEAR-TO-DATE PAID OUT	BALANCE OF BUDGET
1	Conference Apportionments	18,547.00	1,545.00	17,002.00	1,545.00
2	District Adm. Apportionments	2,693.00	224.00	2,469.00	224.00
	Total Local Apportionments	21,240.00	1,769.00	19,471.00	1,769.00
3	Hospitality	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
4	Outreach	250.00	78.29	78.29	171.71
5	Worship	1,000.00	-80.00	655.55	344.45
6	Music	750.00	72.77	678.77	71.23
7	Media Subscriptions	2,000.00	94.97	2,165.81	(165.81)
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	166.03	3,578.42	1,671.58
OFFICE SUPPLY & FINANCE					
11	Finance & Stewardship	900.00	0.00	410.15	489.85
12	Office Supplies & Postage	4,000.00	284.73	2,640.09	1,359.91
	Total Administrative & Other Minist	4,900.00	284.73	3,050.24	1,849.76
13	Pastor Parish	250.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
14	Staff Salary	122,740.51	11,349.30	108,650.28	14,090.23
15	Health Ins. & Pension	39,321.30	3,185.10	36,051.87	3,269.43
16	Acct. Reimbursement-Pastor	4,000.00	44.48	1,516.08	2,483.92
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	501.48	5,049.49	1,071.63
20	Moving Allowance	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
21	Lakeside Conf Delegate	550.00	0.00	0.00	550.00
	Total Staff & Parish Relations	174,782.93	15,080.36	152,567.72	22,215.21
22	Maintenance	1,500.00	0.00	1,084.63	415.37
23	Utilities	31,092.00	1,413.16	18,721.24	12,370.76
24	Building Insurance	4,868.00	0.00	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	240.00	5,219.50	(419.50)
27	Supplies	1,000.00	19.54	365.13	634.87
	Total Trustees	46,240.00	1,672.70	33,274.32	12,965.68
	**Total General Budgeted Expenses	252,412.93	18,972.82	211,941.70	40,471.23
MISSIONS BUDGET					
28	Conference - World Services	5,000.00	416.50	4,583.50	416.50
29	District Mission Apportionments	2,584.00	215.00	2,369.00	215.00
30	MU Council of Churches	250.00	0.00	250.00	0.00
31	Annual Mission Project	600.00	50.00	550.00	50.00
32	Advanced Specials	547.50	0.00	0.00	547.50
	Total Budgeted Missions Expense	8,981.50	681.50	7,752.50	1,229.00

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

January
2022

T O W E R S
T H E