

hoffman
united methodist church

THE TOWERS

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

September 2020

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

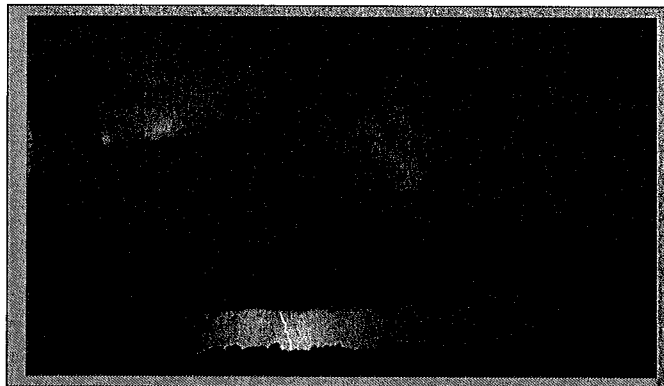
The Fear of the Lord

Exodus 9:23-24 When Moses stretched out his staff toward the sky, the LORD sent thunder and hail, and lightning flashed down to the ground. So the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt; hail fell and lightning flashed back and forth. It was the worst storm in all the land of Egypt since it had become a nation.

Exodus 9 records first mention of lightning in the Bible, and was visible as the plague of hail fell upon the land of Egypt. As the Israelites were sojourning in the wilderness, lightning was flashing on the mountain as Moses communed with the Lord. Those passages record the fear of the Israelites at the foot of the mountain. Lightning is a powerful image of the power of God, and the Old Testament has several testimonies of God's might described with the imagery of lightning.

A few weeks ago my family and I went to a quiet corner of Illinois, a spot so out-of-the-way that ferries were the closest transportation options to cross the Mississippi River. I had recently picked up a used DSLR camera, and the peace and quiet of that

space permitted moments for me to reacquaint myself with some of the photography techniques I enjoyed back when film was the preferred image medium. One evening I was pleased to discover a thunderstorm brewing. I'm not sure if it printed clear enough to see, but the picture to the right is one of the lightning pictures I captured in that night sky. I have shared before that my appreciation



of storms and lightning came in my adult life. My brother explained in recent years that when I was very young, a storm came up suddenly while I was in a high chair outside, and it was blown over. I was scared of storms for years after that experience.

After the Israelites saw the lightning that brought such damage and chaos to those who had been their masters...I'm curious if seeing the lightning at Mt Sinai made them wonder if God's destruction was coming for them as it had for the Egyptians. The books of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Isaiah, and Micah all state a variation of the fear of the Lord being the beginning of wisdom. However, like our English word love, the ancient languages have more nuances. Fear is not always about being afraid, but also

carries with it the concept of awe, wonder, and reverence. When it came to storms, and lightning, I had to grow into that understanding. These days when I see these sights in the sky I am reminded of how small we are in the bigger picture, and with that knowledge also comes the reminder of how small our giant worries are to the one who spoke the moon and stars into existence. Over the course of the vacation, I was also able to get pictures which included the moon and stars, even the "big dipper." The larger universe and all that is constant within it, including its beauty and power, hold me in awe just long enough to not think too highly of myself (this for me is a side effect of thinking so much depends on "me.")

Over the next few weeks we will be assaulted with varieties of words intended to cause us fear of particular political candidates or political parties.. Unfortunately, this is something that has been at play in our lives for quite some time, and is part of why there is such animosity between so many different groups and ideologies...we have in some ways permitted fear to control our

thoughts, our plans, or our votes. The challenge to the Church at Philippi is still appropriate for us today...

Philippians 2:12-15 **Therefore, my dear friends, ...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of**

God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky.

My prayer for all of us is that we have our own moments to be reminded of the awe and reverence of God, to allow our worries and fears to become subject to God's wonder and power, so that our light, Christ's light, can shine through each of us like stars in the sky; shine brighter than all our fear. While in awe and wonder at the scenes above and the sights below, I am,

In His Service and Yours,

Robbie

Board Meeting Highlights

Devotions

Devotions were led by Dick. Reflected on the scripture from service this past Sunday, Luke 2. "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy". He also shared a devotional and personal reflection on the "seasons" of our lives. What season are you in and what are you doing for God's kingdom? The meeting was opened with a prayer by Dick Martens

Meeting Attendees

Dick Martens, Katie Poling, Carol Storer, Julia Circle, Jill Circle, John Ankerman, Kim Dohrman, Patti Wion, Janet Benkert, Dan Studebaker (zoom) and Pastor Robbie Scott

Mission and Ministry

Visitation update: Kay Wagner is moving to a digital tracking system. The team is also going through the directory and keeping in touch with those that have not been seen lately by Sending calls and cards to those they are unable to visit. They are being creative and putting in effort to send love out.

Pastor's Report

The average attendance for 117 (online sign in plus attendance). Joann asked for guidance on Thursday night football meals and what our response will be? Kim Dohrman will reach out for a response from the Athletic Director regarding their safety plan. Becky is very busy with Lunch Bunch food distribution and VBS preparation. There will be no teacher luncheon this fall, but the prayer walk is still planned. Joseph held the first official event was bonfire on July 12 with 16 youth in attendance. Planning for more gatherings and lessons, possibly in small groups by age range.

Pastor Robbie worked with Darin, Becky and Norman to transition the tech responsibilities in preparation for his vacation. Robbie has been able to set up the activity center for live streaming, which will be used for VBS. Robbie proposed using his Accountable Reimbursement and the unused annual conference funds for the purchase of a new camera to continue to update and streamline our video capabilities. He will report back with further research. Pulpit fill confirmed for Aug 2, Tom Weeks.

Finance

The finance report for June was reviewed and accepted. Cash balance coverage of weekly need has decreased slightly to 7.6 weeks, but is still acceptable. Endowment fund has shown some market recovery. Bulldog Bags earned a Miami County Grant of \$5000.

Trustee Update

Priorities for future projects include sealing tower brick, painting garage, replacing windows in parsonage, tower ceiling repairs. The north sanctuary downspout was repaired. The new copier was ordered but delivery delayed due to COVID. New LED bulbs installed in the activity center. A crack in the activity center wall was discovered while installing the lights. It was sealed. The trustees would like to move forward with a capital fund drive for stained glass window restoration. - Young spirits risers were moved Sunday to the garage.

Staff Parish Relations

Planning for staff evaluations, budget and paperwork for Charge conference.

People to remember in prayer:



Hoffman Sympathies:

to the family of Jim Karch as he passed away on August 12, 2020
to the family of Shirley Richhart as she passed away on August 17, 2020

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

At Centers: Joetta Perry, Storypoint Troy, 1840 Towne Park Drive Rm 17, Troy, OH 45373

THANK YOU AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to Wendy Heisey for taking care of the beautiful flowers around the church. The flowers make the church look so warm and inviting. We appreciate you very much!

Women's "The Holy Spirit and You" class rescheduled for this fall has been postponed until spring 2021. Details will follow.
Questions? call Mary Ann Martens (937) 719-3043

A special Veterans Day program honoring all Union Township veterans and their families will take place on Sunday, November 8th 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



Now may the Lord of peace
Himself give you peace
at all times and in every way.
The Lord be with all of you.
2 Thessalonians 3:16

Pictorial Directory

The Photo Directory picture dates have been rescheduled for October 23rd and 24th. My hope is that we can have a large number of families be scheduled for pictures, as it has been 6 years since our last directory. Universal Church Directories has promised a safe environment for picture taking and for package discussions, and has also assured no high pressure sales tactics. We would really love to have all the faces of our church family represented, I hope you will be able to take part.

The church has a Sharp copier that is in good operating condition for sale. We are asking \$100 or best offer.

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.

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

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Galatians 5:22

If we yield ourselves to the Holy Spirit's influences and are filled with the Spirit of Jesus, we shall be delivered from the self-life and Jesus will be more and more formed in us.
(quoting F. B. Meyer Bible Commentary)

Date	8/2/20	8/9/20	8/16/20	8/23/20
General Offering	3139.00	6634.00	4018.00	4500.00
Weekly Budget Need	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00
Mission Offering	125.00	225.00	130.00	185.00
Maintenance Fund	240.00	435.00	85.00	790.00
Building Fund & Memorials	220.00	258.00	125.00	280.00
Online & Physical Attendance				
9 a.m. Service	53	71	65	65
11:15 a.m. Service	46	52	41	44
Total Attendance	99	123	106	109

**Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary
September 2020**

3rd - Bradley Brown
 Mary Ann Martens
 Jim & Marilyn Mitchell (48 yrs)
 4th - Katie Weeks
 7th - Paul & Sally Miller (57 yrs)
 10th - Monica Studebaker
 David & Dawn Jay (37 yrs)
 11th - Kathy Koeller
 Jaydan Lawhorn
 12th - Susie Spittler
 13th - Rev. Tim Benkert
 Norman & Joy Paulus (61 yrs)



14th - Megan Bryson
 15th - Stella Blackburn
 16th - Matthew & Amanda Burns (20 yrs)
 18th - Belinda Wright
 23rd - David Jay
 Monica Winemiller
 24th - Sally Blue
 Karen Randall
 Michael & Amy Barnes (15 yrs)
 Greg & Bev Brubaker (53 yrs)
 27th - Martin & Wendy Black (17 yrs)
 29th - Bethany Benkert

Grandma's Kitchen Update

We have tentative plans to re-open on September 16 and serve just one meal a month in September, October and November. These are tentative plans because we have no idea what will happen between when you receive your "Towers" and our opening date. We will not be able to offer dine-in, unfortunately, but will have carry-out available and continue our deliveries to families in need. The limited number of dates is due in part to the consideration of the safety of our volunteers and our diners. We will not be advertising in local newspapers as we hope to limit the area served.

As we start, and as we have no idea how many people will want meals, we are asking that you call Marilyn Mitchell, 937-947-1831, no later than Wednesday, Sept. 9 if you would like a carry-out meal on the 16th. If you are unable to reach Marilyn, please call the church office, 937-698-4401. Meals will be \$7 (Exact change would be appreciated.) and may be picked up between 5-6:00pm.

So . . . if you are tired of cooking for yourself, please order a meal from Grandma's Kitchen. If you would like to volunteer or have questions, please call Marilyn, 937-947-1831 or Val McKay, 937-371-4965.

Menu for September 16:

Spiral-sliced Ham
Baked Beans
Potato Salad
Fruit
Cream Puffs

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

SPARK!
children's ministry

The **Nursery** will be opening up again for **Second Service**- During second service Becky will be in the nursery along with one other adult. This will start on September 6th!! If you would like to help as the second adult, please let Becky

Nursery
Age: baby- beginning
of age 3
11:10-12:30

A **HUGE** thank you to everyone who was able to volunteer or help with donations for Lunch Bunch this summer. We feed 25 families each Friday. Good Shepherd had 9 families and we had 16 families. We supplied them with nonperishable food, milk, bread, fruits and vegetables each Friday. Looking forward to in house Lunch Bunch next year!!

Kids Hope mentors and prayer partners- this year will look different for our meetings with our kids. We will be giving phone calls each week instead of seeing them in person. Please look for an email to example this in more detail. Thanks!

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

X


hoffman
 united methodist church
 201 S Main Street
 West Milton OH 45383

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the **open door**
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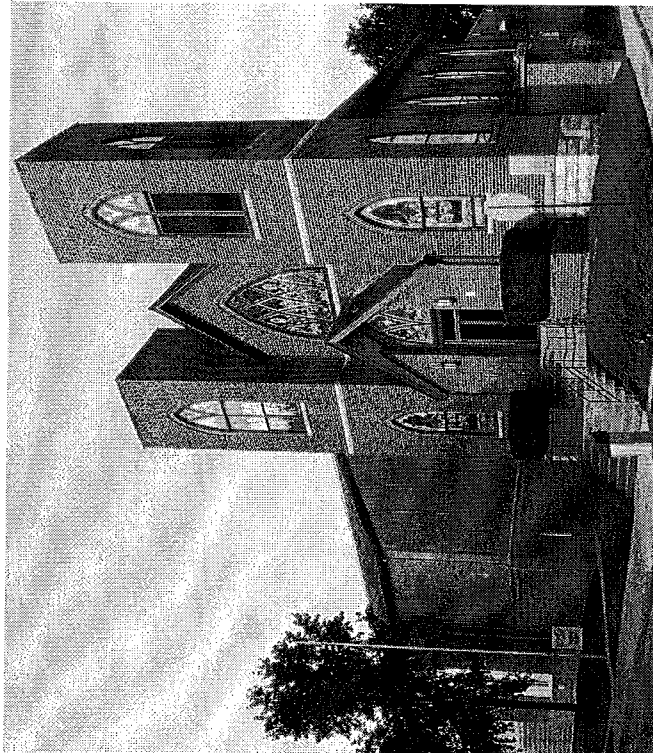
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T O W E R S
T H E R S

September
 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