



THE TOWERS

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

May 2022



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Equipping the Called

Exodus 4:10-13 10 Moses said to the LORD, "O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue." 11 The LORD said to him, "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the LORD? 12 Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say." 13 But Moses said, "O Lord, please send someone else to do it."

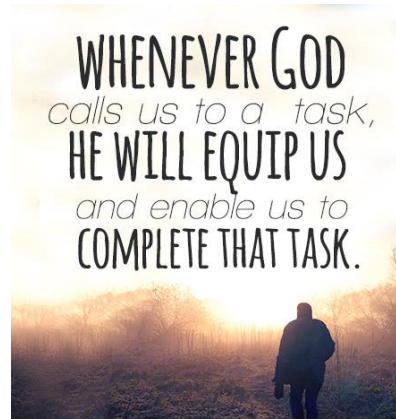
You are reading this May edition of the Towers, but I am composing this article in April. It was April of 1997, 25 years ago, at a Spring District meeting, that my life took a change in direction. My District Superintendent had a side conversation with me about wanting to introduce me to a church charge. I had written a letter to him saying that I was experiencing a call to ministry, and that I would appreciate guidance for my next steps. I realize on the outside that may sound like I knew what was going to happen, but I truly had no idea the timetable would go so quickly. Less than 2 months later I was "introduced" to a charge, and that July started serving in Morgan County at Pisgah UMC and Chesterhill UMC. (the word "Introduce" did not mean the same thing to me then as it does now! 😊)

In the moment that I finally wrote the letter, I finally "gave in" to a call I had fought for over a decade. Throughout the process, some of the challenges that had been expressed throughout my childhood came up in various steps of licensing, etc. I have been reminded in a variety of ways how my personality and tendencies are not what are typically looked for...let me just say we normally equate the word "professional" with "calm." (Scripture never asks pastors to be "professional," it turns out) Living into the reality that God called me in particular, despite my challenges and tendencies, has been difficult at times, and I am ever so grateful to those who have been sources of encouragement and support from those earliest days in 1997 and on through a global pandemic that had all of us pastors uncertain what the best course of action was next.

I occasionally speak of serving on West Ohio's Board of

Ordained Ministry, but I don't think I have shared here my first response to the invitation. The request was a letter printed on fancy paper, with the crest of then West Ohio Bishop Bruce Ough, inviting me to serve on the team that determined the ordained elders, deacons, and associate ministers that would continue the call after each generation is gone.

I think my first response was that I stomped through the house for 10 minutes grumbling about all the reasons why there was no way I had time or temperament for such important work, identifying all the reasons why "someone else" should do it. But then I remembered how I felt frustrated for the



difficulties that new pastors faced, and would occasionally reach out and try to encourage them in any way I could. I remembered how I expressed in my prayers that I wanted to be able to do that more...and then I looked again at the letter, an invitation to be a part of the journey of our next pastors to serve the United Methodist Church, an opportunity to possibly catch someone else coming to grips with the fact that despite all the ways we think we are ill qualified for a nearly impossible task, God still calls and empowers whomever God chooses to call and

empower, no matter our personalities and tendencies. Over the years I have watched God call various persons into local ministries, as well as to international and ordained ministries, and I have seen how all we human beings resist entering into "kingdom doing" based on our perceived weaknesses. Allow me to encourage you, no matter your age or perceived strengths or weaknesses, answer God's call, for if God calls us, God will equip us.

Hebrews 13:20-21 20 May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, 21 equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

While reminded Who calls and equips, I am,
In His service and yours,



Board Meeting Highlights

Devotions were offered by Jill. She shared two daily devotionals from “Jesus Calling” by Sarah Young. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Jill.

Meeting Attendees Katie Poling, Les Trittschuh, Wendy Black, Wendy Heisy, Julia Circle, Jill Circle, John Ankerman, Kim Dohrman, Janet Benkert, Chris Long and Pastor Robbie Scott

Mission and Ministry
No report

Pastor’s Report

February attendance had an overall average 126.25 which is +17 compared to January. The 2019 average attendance was 153. We are edging closer to pre-pandemic. JoAnn has finished Conference Year End Reports. She has been going through the “welcome bag”, which was not current through the pandemic. Norman has been helping to investigate the replacement of the broken sanctuary projector, which projects for the choir. Temporarily the “retired” activity center projector is being used. Our current District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Jocelyn Roper, retires at the end of June. She has served a long term of 8 years. Rev. Dr. Jim Wilson II will be starting July 1. The West Ohio conference will be reducing the number of Districts from 8 districts to 6 districts. Years ago it was reduced from 14 to 8. Districts are being combined with no change in the mapping. Pastor Robbie has been attending various trainings offered by the Conference. He has 4-5 people interested in membership.

Pastor Robbie’s vacation, July 28-August 9; Rev Tim Benkert confirmed for July 31 pulpit fill. Dick Martens is confirmed for Sunrise Service Easter Morning. Pastor Robbie shared some resources from a “Trauma Stewardship Clinic”.

Trustees Information regarding our liability insurance was shared and discussed. Our liability insurance covers only events that are “church sponsored.” For any other events, patrons would need their own coverage. The board asked for clarification on the definition of “church sponsored” events.

Finance The finance report for February was reviewed and accepted. Weeks of Operations equal to 7.98 weeks. The Endowment Fund has lost \$8,500 due to market fluctuations.

Nominations
No report

Staff Parish Relations

The updated Children’s Ministry Director Job Description was approved. A draft of the Director of Youth Ministry Job Description was also updated and available for review. Approval was tabled to give more time for review. A discussion was held regarding “Document Filing” and standard time for keeping records. Chris will seek guidance from the District or Conference level.

Serving Schedule

May 1st

9:00 Liturgist: Mike C. **Greeters:** Wendy H. & Nancy L.
Ushers: Wayne & Susie S. and Phil & Karen M. **Hospitality Table:** Sharon T.
Nursery: 10:15 Patti W. & Kathy K. / **11:15** Julia C. & Wendy H.
11:15 Greeters: Ben G., Julia C., & Kathy K. **Scripture Reader:** Andrew C.

May 8th

9:00 Liturgist: Les T. **Greeters:** Elaine P. & Joy P.
Ushers: **Hospitality Table:** Peggy N.
Nursery: 10:15 Lesli R. & Kat G. / **11:15** Lesli R. & Lauren E.
11:15 Greeters: Dick & Mary Ann M. **Scripture Reader:** Beth T.

May 15th

9:00 Liturgist: Wendy H. **Greeters:** Elaine I. & Cathy B.
Ushers: **Hospitality Table:** Richard & Marcia S.
Nursery: 10:15 Julia C. & Kathy K. / **11:15** Ben G. & Mallory D.
11:15 Greeters: Kathy W. and Ruth L. **Scripture Reader:** Norman H.

May 22nd

9:00 Liturgist: Les T. **Greeters:** Carol S. & Peggy N.
Ushers: **Hospitality Table:** John A.
Nursery: 10:15 Jennifer K. & Jill C. / **11:15** Jennifer K. & Kim D.
11:15 Greeters: Paul & Sally M. and Marijo S. **Scripture Reader:** Valerie M.

May 29th

9:00 Liturgist: Mike C. **Greeters:** Sophia & Stella B.
Ushers: **Hospitality Table:** Ruth L.
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
May 2022**

1st - Teesha Beard
4th - Kim Adams
9th - Corinne McKay
Mike Sanderson
11th - Eugenie Markley
13th - Becky Garrett
15th - David & Linda Thompson (22 yrs)
16th - Joyce Herron
17th - Johanna Morrow
23rd - Chris & Linda Long (24 yrs)
24th - Owen Morrow



25th - Helen Keller
Dick Markley
29th - Bonnie Brown
Jill Circle
Julia Circle
Levi Scott
Linda Thompson
30th - Carol Bailey
31st - Anna Knostman
Cliff Poling
Bradley & Bonnie Brown (53 yrs)

Weekly Giving and Attendance Statistics

Date	03-27-22	04-03-22	04-10-22	04-17-22
General Offering	3380.00	4984.00	5169.00	4521.00
Weekly Budget Need	4793.00	4793.00	4793.00	4793.00
Mission Offering	497.00	855.00	170.00	195.00
Maintenance Fund	175.00	880.00	150.00	150.00
Building Fund & Memorials	530.00	175.00	35.00	218.00
Stained Glass Windows	550.00	200.00	140.00	250.00
Online & Physical Attendance			Sunrise:	27
9 a.m. Service at church	52	52	64	95
* Remote viewing	25	27	25	18
11:15 a.m. Service at church	50	47	53	79
* Remote viewing	5	5	3	13
Total Attendance	132	131	145	232

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.

FISH Union Township is still in need of a trustee. They also need 1- 2 people to answer the phone and take calls of request for needs the first and third Wednesdays of the month. If you would like to volunteer, contact Ralph Warner at (937) 672-7303. Pantry needs: paper products and personal care items.



Stained Glass Window Restoration Project

Amount Received: \$ 91,905

Total Project Goal : \$ 109,430

Thank You!

People to remember in prayer:

Hoffman Sympathies to: the family of Dennis Johnston, Scott's brother, as he passed away on April 15, 2022

At Home: Phil Blue, Nan Guthrie, Valaria Harshbarger, Wilma Hoover, Helen Keller, Theda Klepinger, Winston Klepinger, Dick & Eugenie Markley, Mary Maess, Dixie Porter, Jim & Kathy Watkins, 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 29A, Troy OH 45373
Freda Koeller, Randall House, 6400 S Co. Rd. 25A, Rm 109, Tipp City OH 45371
Wendy Long, Trinity Center, 789 Stonybrook, Rm 208A, Fairborn OH 45324
Joetta Perry, Storypoint Troy, 1840 Towne Park Drive, Rm 17, Troy OH 45373
Jennie McNeal, SpringMeade, 4375 S CO RD 25A, Rm 307, Tipp City OH 45371
Janice Turner, Randall Residence of Troy, 2900 Corporate Dr., Rm 105, Troy OH 45373
Monica Winemiller, Koester Pavillion, 3232 N Co Rd 25A Rm 74, Troy OH 45373



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Rummage Sale June 16th from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Remember to save your unwanted sellable items for the sale.

Items can be put in the activity center on the stage behind the partitions anytime or drop off your items on Wednesday, June 15th between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. We will be gradually setting up throughout the week; if interested in helping set donated items out on tables June 13th thru 16th, please contact Mike Circle 937.623.5731 if you have an hour or two to spare. We will still need lots of helpers to complete the Wednesday evening setup.



Congratulations Graduates!

Hannah Scott, Milton Union High School
Kat Granato, M-U High School & MVCTC
Joel Benkert, Milton Union High School
Allyson Burns, Troy High School
Evan Beard, Milton Union High School
Cayden Moran, Milton Union High School
Bryce Herron, Tipp City H.S. & MVCTC
Lindsay Todd, Milton Union High School



May 8, 2022

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

If you can volunteer, please call Becky (937) 524-7220

Men's Group meeting on Tuesday, May 10th at 7 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose - Room 2&3. Join us! Contact Chris Long (937)719-3257



**With Honor & Gratitude
We Remember**

**Memorial Day
May 30, 2022**

Emmaus 2022

Interested in going on or volunteering at an Emmaus Walk?

2022 Walks at Sulphur Grove UMC:

Men's Walk #68 June 23- 26th

Women's Walk #108 July 14-17th

For more information contact Pastor Robbie or visit daytonemmaus.org

Grandma's Kitchen May 2022 Menu

2nd & 4th Wednesdays * Dine In or Carry Out * \$7 Donation * Kid's Meal \$3

May 11th Meat Loaf
Mashed Potatoes
Peas
Angelic Pineapple Cake

May 25th Chicken & Noodles
Mashed Potatoes
Baked Beans
Black Forest Cake

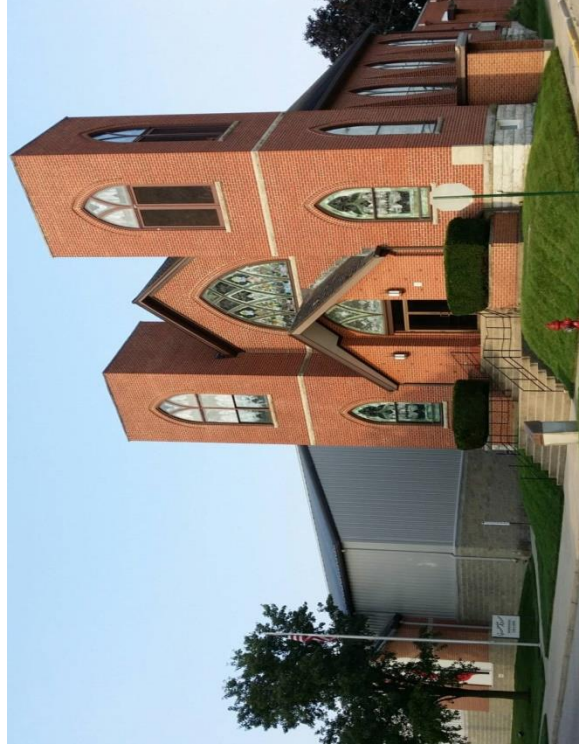
Menu items are subject to change

Return Service Requested

X

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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

May
2022

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