



THE TOWERS

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

November 2022



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: 2 a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, 3 a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, 5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, 6 a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, 7 a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, 8 a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

I have used this passage for these reflections before...possibly multiple times. Today I was noticing how so many of these were actively part of my work and life...yesterday. We are, I think, fortunate to live in a part of the world that enjoys seasons. I know, I know, not everyone enjoys all the seasons, but still, I am thankful for them. Recently the cold air has been shouting to our faces, fingers, and toes that the season of Autumn is here, and Winter is just around the corner. Within each season are those things that are appropriate, or maybe more accurately, are only appropriate, in THAT season. There aren't many pumpkin spice products in the Spring, and I don't put a pinch of cayenne pepper in hot cocoa in the summer. Ok, I don't drink hot cocoa in the summer, but still, you understand, for everything there is a season.

In the Christian calendar, there are two seasons set aside for "preparation." One is Lent, and the other is Advent. Each one has as a priority the preparation to receive Christ, and while they are distinct from each other, neither is able to completely ignore the other. We cannot fully appreciate the gift of God in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ without the knowledge of the sacrifice, but without God being Emmanuel, "God with Us," there would be no worthy one to travel the road to Calvary's cross.

When pressed hard about worship preparation, we technically should not sing Christmas hymns until Christmas Day, but I admit my entire church history has not reflected that practice. Perhaps it is because the people in the churches watch Christmas decorations go up in October, and it feels wrong to hold back the celebration when Christmas is the Church's holiday, and the rest

of the world seems to clamor to celebrate it before "we" do. Or maybe I don't want to wait and not get my favorite songs sung.

Christmas is certainly a much bigger holiday in our culture, especially within the last Century. Consider for example the Methodists who gathered for the Christmas Conference of 1784. They gathered on December 24th and left on January 2nd. While in that "season" it worked well, I have a feeling that would not work in present times. Many of us pastors spend a bit of time wrestling with options of how to reach more people for the sake of Christ in a season that is different than any season we have served in. Part of the Good News is that the One we serve is unchanging and is not restricted by the methods we either do or do not like or use or approve. I recall at a recent meeting when one pastor mused, "you know, Jesus never called us to have church services, He called us to make disciples." It was a brainstorming session, which I normally enjoy, but I admit, that

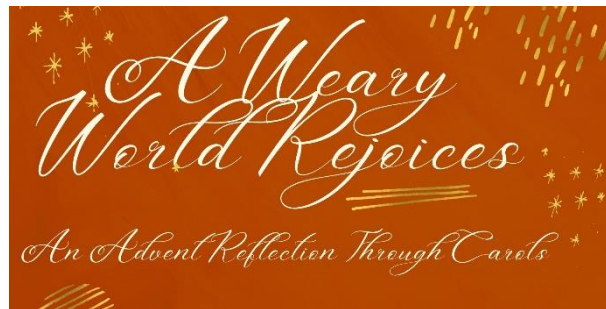
shook me a little. For the foreseeable future, we will continue worship services



Our normal in recent years has been to have a series as we worship through the 4 Sundays of Advent. We have approached it in a variety of ways, but this year we are going to try something new... at least new for me and the worship committee, anyway. You likely

already have noticed that this year Christmas Day is again on Sunday. It is extremely likely we will be reading the Christmas Story at the services of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, so I hope to approach Advent Sundays differently this year. We are going to attempt to take different Christmas carols and choose lines or verses that have particular depth, and then connect them to the Scriptures that are the source of the depth. We will of course sing the carol of the day, and hope to have some additional surprises, too. It is still a work in progress, but I am hopeful it will be a blessing for all of us. At the moment the title for the series is "A Weary World Rejoices."

In the midst of the noise of all the other things clamoring for our attention, I pray we are able to hear the still, small voice of our Lord in all the seasons of our lives. While contemplating the faith we sing, I am,
In His Service and yours,





Board Meeting Highlights

Devotions

Devotions were offered by Patti. She shared an excerpt from UCC Pastor Minnick's last sermon, "Heaven: It's Beautiful".

Meeting Attendees

Les Trittschuh, Wendy Black, Julia Circle, John Ankerman, Kim Dohrman, Patti Wion, Janet Benkert, Chris Long, Pastor Robbie Scott

Mission and Ministry

No report

Pastor's Report

The average attendance for July: 134.2 (+ 6.5 June) and August: 125 (-9 July). Becky is planning a Family Fun night evening for pumpkin carving planned for Oct 22. The Safe Sanctuary Training held this summer included 17 recertifications and 12 newly trained. We have formed a new Sunday School class for 5th grade through high school. This age range, although large, meets our current attendance needs. Both Choir and Bell Choir practices have both resumed. The Christmas Eve services are planned as: Open Door at 7pm and Traditional at 10 pm. On Christmas Day there will be one service at 10:30 am. The sanctuary computer was updated to allow it to run multiple programs simultaneously. Board Members with expiring terms in 2022 include: Secretary, Julia Circle; Janet Benkert, Lay Member of Annual Conference; Trustee Rep; Vice Chair, Vacant. The Annual Conference will be held June 1-4, 2023, Otterbein College.

Finance

The finance reports for July and August were accepted. Current giving Weeks of Operations is 9.41. The 2023 Proposed General Budget was reviewed and approved, including a 3% increase for Staff. The line items noted by an asterisk will be accepted when updated by the conference.

Trustees

Robbie provided and update as no representative was present due to illness.

Nominations

No report

Staff Parish Relations

No report

Non-agenda items

An informational meeting will be held at the church to provide information about the United Methodist Church changes. Everyone will be invited to attend

Les will contact Janet Weeks, UMW Chair, regarding the status of the Election Day Dinner

Oct 22	Pumpkin Carving
Oct 27	Trunk or Treat
Nov 8	Election Day Dinner
Nov 12	Veterans Program
Nov 19	Craft Show
Dec 3	Hoffman Christmas Party

Serving Schedule

Nov 6

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

Nov 13

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



Nov 20

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

Nov 27

9:00 Liturgist: Wendy H. **Greeters:** Carol S. and Peggy N.
Ushers: **Hospitality Table:** Ruth Leazer
Nursery: **10:15** Jennifer K. & Jill C. / **11:15** Jennifer K. & Kim D.
11:15 Greeters: Paul & Sally M. and Marijo S. **Scripture Reader:** Ben G.

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary November 2022

1st - Jeff & Denise Ellinger (8 yrs)
6th - Amy Karch
Linda Long
George & Lauren Everage (12 yrs)
7th - Joel Benkert
8th - John Ankerman
Wendy Heisey
10th - Jim Balsbaugh
Judy Brown

14th - Christy Harris
Lori Parsons
16th - Logan Burns
17th - Lee & Becky Baker (44 yrs)
23rd - Denise Ellinger
25th - Greg Lingle
Chris Long
27th - Ron Butt
30th - LaVerne Hennemyre



Weekly Giving and Attendance Statistics

Date	9-25-22	10-2-22	10-9-22	10-16-22
General Offering	4371.00	6655.00	4975.00	3630.00
Weekly Budget Need	4793.00	4793.00	4793.00	4793.00
Mission Offering	295.00	450.00	250.00	170.00
Maintenance Fund	446.00	340.00	95.00	115.00
Building Fund & Memorials	355.00	270.00	65.00	148.00
Stained Glass Windows	.00	.00	200.00	.00
Online & Physical Attendance				
9 a.m. Service at church	59	52	53	60
* Remote viewing	18	19	22	14
11:15 a.m. Service at church	41	52	51	60
* Remote viewing	4	1	3	2
Total Attendance	122	124	129	136

Thank you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Stained Glass Window Restoration Project

Amount Received: \$ 95,010

Original Total Project Goal: \$ 109,430 *Thank You!*



SHARE A POINSETTIA

It is time to order poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary during the Christmas Eve services. They will be displayed on Christmas Eve and can be picked up after the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve service. If you wish to share with us, please fill out the form and return it with your payment by **Sunday, December 4th**. Our supplier is Andy's Garden and the cost is \$8 each. Make checks payable to Hoffman UMC

(Please Print Names Carefully)

How Many

Total Price

In memory of _____

White _____ x \$8.00 = _____

In honor of _____

Red _____ x \$8.00 = _____

Given By _____

Marble _____ x \$8.00 = _____

Your Phone No. _____

(We may have to substitute color choice.)

People to remember in prayer:



At Home: Kim Adams, Phil Blue, Valaria Harshbarger, Wilma Hoover, Helen Keller, Winston Klepinger, Dick & Eugenie Markley, Mary Maess, Dixie Porter, Shelia Shade, Theda Sliver, Marilyn Stickney, 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 Residence of Tipp City, 6400 S Co. Rd. 25A, Rm 109, Tipp City OH 45371
Wendy Long, Trinity Center, 789 Stonybrook, Rm 208A, Fairborn OH 45324
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 Pavilion, 3232 N Co Rd 25A Rm 74, Troy OH 45373

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THANK YOU AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Remember to set your clocks back 1 hour
before going to bed on Saturday, Nov. 5**

**162nd Chicken Pot Pie Election Day Dinner
November 8 from 4:30 to 7 p.m.**

Homemade chicken pot pie, mashed potatoes, green beans, slaw, dinner roll, assorted desserts, plus a beverage \$8 donation Dine in or carry out

Charge Conference (Miami County Region) is at Ginghamburg UMC at 6:30 p.m. on November 10.

**Honoring all Veterans and their families
Saturday, November 12 @ 10 a.m.**

In the activity center; the public is invited!

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gifts deadline is November 20. See information on table in lobby

**Hoffman's Annual Craft Show
Saturday, November 19 from 9am – 3pm**

Handmade items are needed, if you are crafty and would like to make items for the Hoffman's booth, please get in touch with Susie Spitler. If you volunteered last year, we would love having you help out again this year! We are looking forward to another great Craft Show.

Community Thanksgiving Service

November 23 @ 7 pm
at Center Friends Church

Dear Church Family, Thank you so very much for all of the thoughts and prayers for Jim and myself. We are both grateful for all of you! Love, Janet & Jim Balsbaugh

Persecuted Christians worldwide nation prayer day is Nov. 6. Please pray and remember our persecuted brothers and sisters who struggle daily to live and spread the gospel.

Christmas Staff Gifts will be presented to the staff at the December 3 Christmas party in appreciation for all their hard work. Please be generous with your support and mark your donation "Staff Gifts" by Nov 27
Thank you for your contribution, Wendy B. & Chris L.

**Hoffman UMC Family Christmas Party
Saturday, Dec. 3 at 5:30 p.m.**

More information will be in the November bulletins

**F.I.S.H. - Union Township
Saturday, December 17 is "Double Match Day".** On this day only when a \$10 gift card is purchased at the Troy Meijer's they will double match it and add to the \$10 purchased and FISH get a total of \$30 worth of gift cards for their pantry. If you want to participate in this program and don't want to go to Troy Meijer's you can write a check to FISH- Union Township, 30 Marjorie Ct. West Milton, Ohio 45383 and in memo line put Meijer Simply Give. **They will invest the money donated on Saturday, December 17th.**

Thanks for your support!

Information Meeting for Hoffman: Issues Facing the United Methodist Denomination

There has been much discussion in the news of the issues facing the United Methodist Church and whether there will be a division of the denomination. An informal meeting will be held on Sunday, Nov. 13, 2:00 pm in the sanctuary—and repeated on Monday, Nov. 14, at 7:00 pm, also in the sanctuary—to provide information about the issues that are causing disagreements in the UMC. Both members and non-members are welcome to attend. These meetings are to provide information only on the issues; no one will be asked to make any decisions regarding these issues or the church.

Much of the information that will be presented is available via email if you are unable to attend either of the meetings but would still like to have the information that is presented. If you have questions, please call Marilyn Mitchell, 937-947-1831.

"For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of the Light." Psalm 27:1



Dates to Write Down

Nov. 8 Election Day Dinner 4:30-7:00 \$8 donation
Nov. 12 Veterans Day 10AM
Nov. 19 Holiday Craft Show 9-3PM
Nov. 20 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes Due
Nov. 23 MUCC Thanksgiving Service
Dec. 3 Church Christmas Party 5:30PM start time

****Children's Church- All children will be invited to come down for the months of November and December!! ****

Traditional Service 9AM

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Sunday School Hour
10:15-11:10AM

...

Open Door Service
11:15AM

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

VETERANS DAY



Jots From Jim . . . (Rev. Dr. Jim Wilson, Miami Valley District Superintendent)

Copied with permission from the October 14, 2022 District Newsletter

I feel sorry for the Holy Spirit.

Seriously, as I finish week 15 of being a Superintendent I have presided over 1,000 votes being cast in local churches. I have participated in various local, district, and conference events that almost always are wrapped in prayer. I have been prayed over, anointed, and encouraged. And yes, there have been a few “ouchy” moments along the way. However, I continually hear the invitation for the Holy Spirit to be present, to guide, and to direct.

When the church meetings are over I have heard and seen everything from weeping of tears to applause. It is truly a fascinating dynamic of witnessing diverse and divided people all call for the same Holy Spirit to be present, each expecting the Holy Spirit to guide their actions. If I was the Holy Spirit I would need a break. It's too much.

I wonder if sometimes we believe the Holy Spirit showed up if “we win.” I really can't find any good biblical examples of Jesus only blessing the winners and not the losers. If anything it seems like Jesus took extra effort and attention to walk alongside and be with those who thought they had lost or been forgotten.

Either way I am thankful for the Holy Spirit. I have seen many examples of the action and power of the Holy Spirit in the Valley. But as the miles and hours roll on I find myself inspired by President Abraham Lincoln. One day he was asked which side he felt God was on in the Civil War. He responded by saying he was less concerned about which side God was on in the war but more concerned whether he was on the side of God.

Perhaps there is wisdom here for the church. I am going to start walking into church meetings acknowledging the Holy Spirit is already present and pray that I do not do anything to chase the Holy Spirit away. I am going to stop hoping that the Holy Spirit allows me to win and focus more on who the Holy Spirit calls me to be.

I am going to give the Holy Spirit a break. I am going to stop using the Holy Spirit as a weapon against others and start using the Holy Spirit as my comfort, guide, and strength. Perhaps then I am able to be the person God called me to be.

Have a wonderful weekend of worship.

Jim

“I am going to give the Holy Spirit a break. I am going to stop using the Holy Spirit as a weapon against others and start using the Holy Spirit as my comfort, guide, and strength. Perhaps then I am able to be the person God called me to be. “ Jim Wilson

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

**November
2022**

**T O W E R S
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