



THE TOWERS

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

December 2022



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Fanning Flames

2 Timothy 1:5-6 5 I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. 6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands..

I grew up with a fascination of fire. Maybe too much of a fascination. I knew I was of a certain "age" when I was permitted to hold my own candle for the Christmas Eve Service. I'm sure the pastor said something wonderful and insightful while I stood there mesmerized by the flickering flame. When older, I would volunteer to take the trash down over the hill of the property to the old rusty trash burning shopping cart, and I would watch with fascination as the various scraps of junk mail, milk cartons, and food scraps were subjected to and eventually consumed by the flame. I will spare you most of the stories when I should have known better, and by the grace of God neither I or anyone else were harmed... I have stories of using fire to melt ice on church steps, or to burn away weeds, and at my parents home more recently, my brother and I were burning pile after pile of accumulated nonessential papers from our family home...and we ended up distracted by the marvelous consumption. That is what fire does, it consumes..usually. From childhood I have loved that story in Exodus as an old man had his attention captured by flame, shrubbery burning before him, but not consumed. In the center of the page I used a picture from another article in 2019. I love the shape of the flame consuming a dried palm branch.

Several years ago I sat with a friend in front of a wood fireplace as we contemplated life. We did not speak for large segments of time, but occasionally one of us would take a poker and move a log here or there so the flame could have fresh fuel. The stirring of the flame reminded me of burning trash at my homeplace, that though the fire had its own life, I stoked the fire, and thus had a part in guiding, directing, and exciting the flames.

In recent years I have found fascinating the fact that often it is the vapor of fuel that burns, and not the fuel itself. When I chose with too little reflection to pour gasoline on some weeds around the rocks of a fire pit. I lit the weeds and watched with growing alarm as the flame darted around the fire pit, and then leapt

through the air toward the gas can...still in my hand. I'm sure video footage would have been priceless as I was darting around in a "serpentine" manner, all while a flame was chasing me in the air (and I was picturing a scene from a diehard movie). Once I dropped the can in an upright position, I noted (from a distance) that the spout of the can had a flame lazily burning. It took a good while for me to decide to approach that plastic can and to, gulp, blow that flame out. The fuel was the gasoline, but it was the vapor that burned. I think of it as high speed evaporation of the liquid fuel. Our propane and natural gas furnaces and grills do similar things, they burn the vapor to produce heat. In processing that I recall the book of James refers to our lives as.....vapor...hmmm.

One of the greater privileges I have had through the years is to stoke the fire within other people. I get to fan the flames of God's



gift at work in someone's heart. And it is a privilege, but it is not mine alone. Every leader of a small group or class; every mentor or parent or grandparent; every friend or sibling or child has the opportunity to fan into flame the gift of God within someone else's heart (or to quench it). The gift is of God, not of humans. The spark, the beginning of the flame itself, just like Grace, Redemption, Communion and Baptism, comes from God. But in stoking

that flame, we can guide, direct, and even excite it in someone else. We can also pray, even pray to the Holy Spirit for that fire. We aren't used to doing that, but as a member of the Holy Trinity, this is within our grasp. Many of us in the Hoffman family have memories of a specific prayer to the Holy Spirit. As we journey through Advent together once more, and celebrate the Incarnation of the Christ, may we also invite the fire to be lit within us and within all those around by the Holy Spirit. Let us pray... *Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful and kindle in us the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit and we shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, Who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy Your consolations. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

In His Service and yours,



Board Meeting Highlights

Devotions

Devotions were offered by Wendy Black. She shared from a letter written by a pastor to “a young pastor” including words for us. To “Wait for the Lord, be strong”. “Be still for the Lord and be patient for Him”. ...In the meantime, work the works of Him who placed us where we are. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Wendy.

Meeting Attendees

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

Mission and Ministry

Charge Conference Approvals: Safe Sanctuary Policy, Pastor Compensation Package, Lay Leadership, Breakthrough Goals. Regional Charge Conference for Miami County to be held Nov 10 at Richards Chapel UMC Richards Chapel UMC

Pastor's Report

The average attendance during September: Overall average: 126 (+1 Aug). Our YouTube feed is being broadcast live on Channel 5 cable access channel. Becky has numerous activities planned for holidays including family pumpkin carving and an advent Sunday series. JoAnn has completed the prep work for the Charge Conference. Once approved, she will then upload to the West Ohio Conference. Pastor Robbie is planning an Advent Study, “A Weary World Rejoices” focusing on lines of Christmas Carols. The preaching series for January to revisit the “Great Nobodies of the Bible.” Two UMC informational meetings regarding the challenges to the UM denomination are planned, Nov 13 (2:00pm) and Nov 14 (7:00pm). The entire congregation is invited.

Finance

The finance report for September were reviewed and accepted. September-Weeks of Operations 9.35. The Endowment fund is down 20% this year. The 2023 Proposed General Budget was updated with information provided for conference apportionments and insurance costs

Trustees

Trustees' report was given. Financial report was reviewed.

Nominations

It was proposed and approved to extend Janet's term as Lay Member of Annual Conference for one year due to the current tumultuous climate of the conference.

Staff Parish Relations

No report

Non-agenda items

Nov 18-19	Craft Show
Nov 19	Special Session West OH Conf.
Dec 3	Hoffman Christmas Party
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Service 7 & 10 p.m.
Christmas	One Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
New Years	Normal Worship times

Serving Schedule



Dec 4

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

Dec 11

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

Dec 18

9:00 Liturgist: Les T. **Greeters:** Elaine I. and Cathy B.
Ushers **Hospitality Table:** Peggy N.
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.

Dec 25

10:30 One Combined Service **Hospitality Table:** Merry Christmas! Coffee Only

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary December 2022

2nd - Robbie & Bridget Scott (22 yrs)
5th - Marc & Robin Maeder (18 yrs)
6th - Allyson Burns
8th - John Hennemyre
9th - Wendy Black
10th - Carol Carter
11th - Anita Ankerman
Candy Curry
13th - Lisa Wright
15th - Andy Mitchell
16th - Avery Bryson
17th - Paul Crow
18th - Matthew Garrett
19th - Bob & Joyce Herron (68 yrs)



20th - John & Anita Ankerman (42 yrs)
Valerie McKay
Cheryl Owen
21st - Dawn Jay
24th - Dick & Dixie Porter (67 yrs)
25th - Cody Dohrman
26th - Beth Thoele
Phil & Karen McFadden (52 yrs)
27th - Fred Brown
Aaron Mitchell
30th - Bob Herron
Tom Wolf
Ed & Tina Mathews (17 yrs)
31st - Gary Barga

Weekly Giving and Attendance Statistics

Date	10-23-22	10-30-22	11-6-22	11-13-22
General Offering	4660.00	2730.00	7655.00	3236.00
Weekly Budget Need	4793.00	4793.00	4793.00	4793.00
Mission Offering	155.00	205.00	278.00	65.00
Maintenance Fund	135.00	545.00	465.00	70.00
Building Fund & Memorials	90.00	25.00	350.00	50.00
Stained Glass Windows	20.00	.00	210.00	.00
Online & Physical Attendance				
9 a.m. Service at church	53	55	81	47
* Remote viewing	16	18	14	20
11:15 a.m. Service at church	59	53	53	61
* Remote viewing	1	4	1	4
Total Attendance	129	130	149	132

Thank you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Stained Glass Window Restoration Project

Amount Received: \$ 95,240

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

Join Us for Dinner and Music!

The Rev. Barbara Cooper will be joining us for the Christmas Dinner, Dec. 3 and entertaining us with Christmas songs on the piano. She is an ordained Deacon in the UMC, has taught in public schools and has served the church in various capacities. She is currently focusing on music and worship. In addition to serving congregations in West Ohio, Barbara teaches private music lessons at her studio in Tipp City and serves as Executive Director of 'Connections,' an after-school hangout for middle school and high school teens.

Barbara received her music education degree from Wright State University, but enjoyed additional course work at Penn State University and Ohio University. Her master's work was completed at United Theological Seminary. Please join us as she shares her music talent with us. Gather for dinner at 5:30; entertainment to begin at 6:45.



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

Mary and I would like to thank you for the prayers you placed before God for our son, Berry. His October 4 surgery was successful removing a confirmed benign tumor. Praise God! The Martins

Thank you to all those who attended and those who worked at the Veterans Day Program. You are very much appreciated! God Bless All, Nancy Studebaker

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

Main course of ham or shredded chicken, drink, and table setting provided. Please bring a covered dish to share. See previous page for entertainment information.

Thanks to Nancy Studebaker, Joy Paulus, Dawn Jay and Kathy Watkins for folding and labeling the newsletter each month for mailing.



Holiday Service Times

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Services at 7 and 10 p.m.

One Combined Service on Dec 25th at 10:30 a.m.

New Year's Day Services at 9 and 11:15 a.m.

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. FISH will use the money donated and on Saturday, December 17 purchase the double matched gift cards. *Thanks!*

NEW 'Piece Makers Craft Club' to make prayer squares starting January 12 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month in Room 7, by the kitchen. All are welcome! Contact: Elaine P. (937)698-5192

Winter Walking Group join us on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 10 to 11a.m. in the activity center. Contact Elaine P. at (937)698-5192

Election Day Dinner Thank You

A big thank you to all of the volunteers who donated items and worked tirelessly serving our Election Day Dinner; we served 362 meals and raised \$2,357. A special thank you to those who made the pot pie, shopped, prepared the meal, cleaned tables, washed dishes, provided desserts, decorated the activity center, wrapped silverware, served the meals, and all who attended the dinner.

God Bless You, Nancy Studebaker and Janet Weeks

(Thank you to Nancy & Janet for all that you did, we appreciate you very much!)

Tax Advantages of Charitable Giving

I recently saw this end of year tax planning and charitable giving ideas in another churches bulletin and thought it might be of interest to some of you, so I slightly modified their article. If you have any general questions please feel free to contact me. As stated below contact your tax advisor should you have any tax questions.

John Ankerman – Hoffman UMC Finance Chairman

Transfer of Securities

If you contribute appreciated securities that have been held more than 12 months directly to the charitable organization, no capital gains tax is due and, generally, a charitable deduction for the full fair market value may be realized. Please consult with your tax advisor should you have any questions.

Contribution of IRA

If you have an IRA and are over 70 ½ you may make a tax-free charitable donation directly from your IRA to a qualified charity (Qualified Charitable Distribution or QCD). Please direct your IRA custodian to make a distribution directly to Hoffman United Methodist Church. Rules regarding IRA distributions and gifts are complicated. Please consult your tax advisor to determine if you qualify and for specific advice regarding your tax situation.

Methodist Men's Sausage Fundraiser Update

Hi Everyone,

I wanted to thank all of you for your sausage orders since 1989 (our first year of selling sausage). Some of you may remember Jack Dexter who was our highest salesman, but somewhere in 1992 Les Trittschuh picked up the torch and was either the highest or second highest salesman in 31 of our 34 years of selling sausage. In those 34 years we've sold 11.6 TONS of sausage and had a net profit of \$28,929, which we have given to support local missions. In case you're wondering I think Les, with the support of Sharon, sold about 5.5 TONS of sausage. Thanks Les and Sharon and the other men who sold sausage over the years.

This might sound like an end of the Methodist Men's 34 years of sausage sales and that is because it is; we won't be selling sausage at the beginning of the 2023. If any group would like to pick up this fundraiser, I would be happy to help you make connections and how we've done it over the years. Just let me know.

Thanks again for all of your support of this project over the years.

John Ankerman, Sausage Chairman

LIFEWISE ACADEMY



We have been in the classrooms with our K-5 students for a month now, and we have been having a great time! We have introduced the students to the Bible, and started teaching them about how it was written. We also have jumped right in and started with the Creation Story!

Students are asking questions and returning back to school and talking to their peers about what they have learned! We had FOUR new students join our 5 th grade class after the first day, just from their friends going back and talking to them about how much fun it was and what they learned!

Our Character Traits for this past month have been "GRATITUDE" and "RESPECT".

Our program is growing, and God is moving mountains for our school district and students. We ask you to continue to pray for us as we continue through this quarter and gear up for the future of this program!

Questions? Please reach out to Julia Circle at: juliacircle@lifewiseacademy.org
Interested in sponsoring a LifeWise student? \$20 a month is all it takes!

Start your reoccurring donation here! (Scan the code)



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

**Christmas Day
One Combined Service
at 10:30 a.m.**

**New Year's Day
Services at 9 and 11:15 a.m.**



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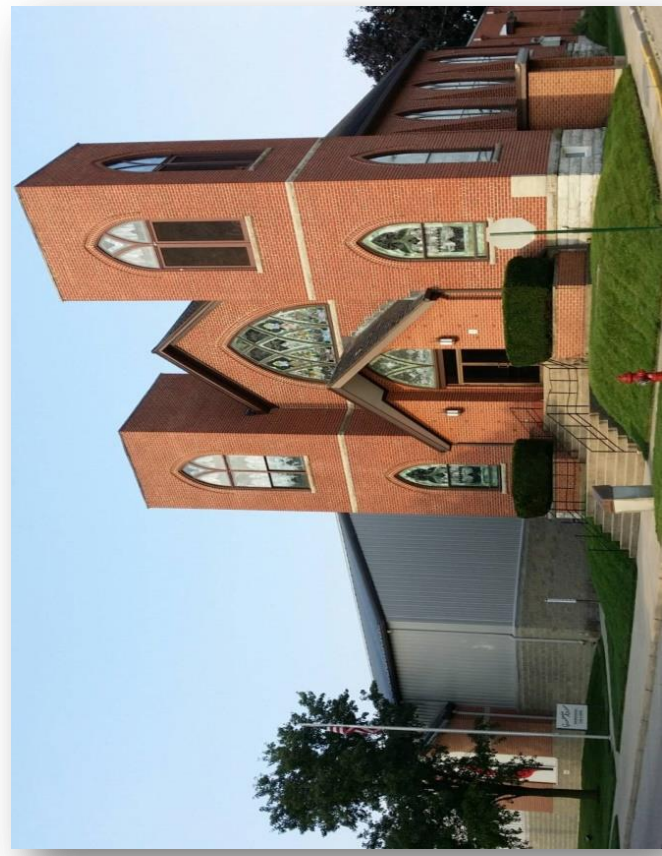
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December
2022

TOWERS
THE

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

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