



THE TOWERS

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

March 2023



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Taking Care the Lumps We Leaven

Matthew 16:5-8 5 When they went across the lake, the disciples forgot to take bread. 6 "Be careful," Jesus said to them. "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." 7 They discussed this among themselves and said, "It is because we didn't bring any bread." 8 Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, "You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread?"

These last few weeks have been a whirlwind. I had the privilege of being a part of the ordination steps for future clergy in our denomination, and the next week had the blessing of gathering with clergy peers for a spiritual renewing type of service, the first in-person gathering such as this since 2019. I did not realize I had missed them so much.

With conversations about membership recently, some may not know that clergy are not members of individual congregations. Instead, we are members of the Order of Elder or Order of Deacon. In local congregations, people can be members of the same church most of their lives. For clergy, we "miss out" on that possibility. While our relationships with congregations have limited timetables of maybe a few years, or maybe many years, we are part of another congregation, a fellowship of workers in different areas of the vineyard for our Lord. And, that relationship is one that is continuous for the length of our careers, usually.

The passage I have above is one I have reflected on often, and I even have a youtube video about it, from a time when my hair follicles were more difficult to count. The disciples and Jesus had embarked, and the disciples realized they had not brought bread along. Bread is and was much more of a staple in the Middle East, and serves both as something to eat on its own and as a utensil for eating something else. As one who enjoys dipping things, I appreciate that use.

In the midst of their absent mindedness, Jesus starts using bread language, "be on your guard against the yeast (leaven) of the Pharisees and Sadducees." They heard Jesus, but they didn't really hear Jesus. They heard his words and assumed he was talking about their forgetfulness, but he was talking about the teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees. It isn't stated

immediately in those contexts, but throughout the gospels Jesus identified the hypocrisy and pride that were under so many of the Pharisee motives, even as they were teaching the Law of God publicly. This did not happen all at once, but over a period of time the prestige of the position, titles, and public honor became very important to them. As far as the people who looked up to them, they followed the Law of God, but Jesus knew they were seeking the approval of people more than they than seeking the heart of God.

*Thank you to all who filled
out surveys.
There will be a Church
Conference vote in the future,
watch and listen for details of
future information meetings
and the eventual vote.*

The warning of Jesus to beware the yeast of the Pharisees ties into how an entire group can be impacted by a singular thought, whether positive or negative. I think about a "pile on" in which after the first couple persons have jumped on, it is easier for all the others to jump on, until there is only a pile of humans in which the first person is totally buried. While maybe

some of us have this kind of visual image, others may have an image of comments on a social media site, and how a couple comments become an avalanche of negativity. Or maybe you have watched in person as a group piled on to someone else with their words. The gospels record such an event in the 8th Chapter of John, as a woman caught in the act of adultery was dragged before Jesus. An easy target, since she was guilty, and a crew of people ready for the "pile on." It didn't take much, for a little yeast leavens the whole.

Jesus wanted something different for his followers. He warns them to beware the yeast of the Pharisees. It spreads quickly. Fortunately, it isn't just bad things that spread quickly. Pentecost is a good example of this, and from the looks of it, another good example is the awakening being experienced at Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky. Good can spread quickly through the whole, just like the bad. We just have to be careful what pile we jump on. Whether I'm with my oft-distanced clergy congregation, or we are in our local worshipping community, let us be careful what leaven we add to these various lumps...Let's leaven love.

In His Service and yours,



Board Meeting Highlights

Devotions

Devotions were offered by Kim, She shared Biblical guidance for making decisions. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Kim.

Meeting Attendees

Les Trittschuh, Wendy Black, Jill Circle, Kim Dohrman, Patti Wion, Janet Benkert, Chris Long, Wendy Heisey, Tina Mathews, Pastor Robbie Scott

Mission and Ministry

Joe Knostman reviewed the Congregation Survey. The board confirmed the questions on the survey and the roll out to the church. Paper copies will be available to pick up and take home beginning January 22 for review and prayer. Chromebook tablets will be available Jan. 29, Feb. 5 and Feb. 12 to take the survey after church service. January 29 the link and mailer will be sent out.

Pastor's Report

December Average notes: Overall average attendance was 106.5 Annual attendance averages for comparison 2022: 129 and 2021: 122. The Christmas Eve Offering of \$344.00 for Isaiah's Place was collected. Becky is exploring some children's curriculum on baptism. Pastor Robbie has the West Ohio Conference Board of Ordained Ministry work on Sunday the 29th through Feb.1, 2023 in Worthington. The Bishop has scheduled a clergy day apart on February 7, 2023 in Columbus.

Finance

The finance report for December was reviewed and accepted December - Weeks of Operation 10.82 weeks. The ending balance in general checking for 2022 is \$12,613 more than in 2021.

Trustees

The trustees report was given. The North Tower restoration is complete. Wayne built a storage loft in the Activity Center table closet. Andrew, Joseph, Becky and Julia have been working on remodeling the basement kitchen for LifeWise Academy. The pew cushions have been cleaned by Sunset Cleaners. Phil will get bids for striping and waxing the Activity Center floor. The last time it was done was in 2016. Phil did an annual review of our Insurance with Koverman Staley Dickerson Agency The board voted to change the deductible to \$2,500.00, and pay the premium quarterly.

Nominations

No new business.

Staff Parish Relations

No new business.

Non-agenda items

Valentines Family Fun Night February 18th

Serving Schedule

March 5

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

March 12

9:00 Liturgist: Les T. **Greeters:** Elaine P. and Kathy K.
Ushers **Hospitality Table:** *honoring Kim Adams
Nursery: 10:15 Lesli R. / **11:15** Lesli R. & Lauren E.
11:15 Greeters: Dick & Mary Ann M. **Scripture Reader:** Julia C.

March 19

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

March 26

9:00 Liturgist: Les T. **Greeters:** Carol S. and Carolyn B.
Ushers **Hospitality Table:** Paul & Sally M.
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.

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary March 2023

1st - Jerry Pinkerton
2nd - Pam Hitchcock
Hannah Scott
4th - Jim Mitchell
Cliff & Katie Poling (45yrs)
5th - Sophia Perkins
Linda Seman
6th - Jim Scammahorn
7th - Alex Morrow
10th - Lee Baker
Jerry Richards
11th - Zeke Moran
Mike & Denise Sanderson (34yrs)
12th - Ivie Markley
13th - Jim & Kathy Watkins (52 yrs)



15th - Wilma Fryman
17th - Jack Everage
18th - Evan Beard
Larry Thoele
19th - Rosie Bryson
Matthew Burns
20th - Phil McFadden
Jim & Janet Balsbaugh (24yrs)
23rd - Winston Klepinger
24th - Dan & Erin Studebaker (22yrs)
25th - Eric Morrow
26th - Eames Circle
28th - Marilyn Mitchell
29th - Robert Cox
Marilyn Stickney



Weekly Giving and Attendance Statistics

| Date | 01-22-23 | 01-29-23 | 02-05-23 | 02-12-23 |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| General Offering | 2686.00 | 5141.00 | 5838.00 | 6283.00 |
| | | | | |
| Weekly Budget Need | 4911.00 | 4911.00 | 4911.00 | 4911.00 |
| | | | | |
| Mission Offering | 175.00 | 235.00 | 422.00 | 1060.00 |
| | | | | |
| Maintenance Fund | 55.00 | 185.00 | 840.00 | 110.00 |
| | | | | |
| Building Fund & Memorials | 593.00 | 645.00 | 560.00 | 290.00 |
| | | | | |
| Online & Physical Attendance | | | | |
| 9 a.m. Service at church | 26 | 49 | 44 | 62 |
| * Remote viewing | 27 | 13 | 23 | 16 |
| 11:15 a.m. Service at church | 42 | 49 | 66 | 52 |
| * Remote viewing | 6 | 7 | 2 | 7 |
| Total Attendance | 101 | 118 | 135 | 137 |

Thank you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Stained Glass Window Restoration Project

Amount Received: \$ 96,825

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



Prayer Square Ministry

Inspired by: Nan Guthrie

1933 to 2022

- Nan and her family joined our Hoffman Church family in 1975.
- She began making prayer squares many years ago for the visitation teams to give to others when we were visiting.
- Nan's desire was for everyone in the church to have a prayer square for their own and two or three to give away to family and friends in need.
- Several people in our church have been working on making these prayer squares to continue Nan's mission.
- Everyone is welcome to help with this project.
- Baskets of complimentary prayer squares are available at the church for you and your family and friends to use as a tangible reminder to pray.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7 NIV



People to remember in prayer:



At Home: Kim Adams, Phil Blue, Valaria Harshbarger, Wilma Hoover, Helen Keller, Winston Klepinger, Cheryl Owen, Mary Maess, Dick Markley, 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
Eugenie Markley, Koester Pavilion, 3232 N Co. Rd 25A, Rm 87A, Troy OH 45373
Monica Winemiller, Koester Pavilion, 3232 N Co Rd 25A, Rm 74, Troy OH 45373

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Daylight Savings Time Begins March 12

Remember to spring your clocks
ahead one hour before going to bed
on Saturday, March 11.



Winter Walking Group - join us on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 10 to 11a.m. in the activity center.

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

F.I.S.H. - Union Township
Saturday, March 4 & 25 are "Double Match Days".
On these days 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 gets 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, March 25 purchase the double matched gift cards. *Thanks!*

Trivia Question of Month

What were the Bereans famous for?

Congratulations a Baby Girl!

Emma Jane Sims arrived on February 7, 2023 weighing 9 lbs. 7 ozs. Congrats to parents: Elijah & Courtney and grandparents: Darin & Patti Wion



Grandma's Kitchen to Re-Open April 12

Grandma's Kitchen is hoping to re-open for 2023 on April 12, serve meals on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, and end on October 25. We hope to again be serving dine-in and carry-out meals as well as delivering meals to families in need within our township. We would like to meet with all those wishing to volunteer on Mar. 8 in the Multi-Purpose Room at 11:30 am OR in Room 7 at 6:00 pm as we have several decisions to make before we begin. Please come to one of the meetings if you can and give us some much-needed advice and suggestions.

We are in need of volunteers. If you are interested in helping, please let the church office know or call Marilyn Mitchell. We are specifically looking for one or two more cooks on Wednesday afternoons, 'chiefs' for both the Tuesday morning and Wed. morning shifts and subs for all shifts. We will train for any and all positions! Working conditions are comfortable, the schedule is flexible (somewhat), the work is satisfying, and co-workers are hard-working, friendly and fun. Your help would be appreciated.

Contact Marilyn Mitchell, 937-947-1831 or mbmitchell50@gmail.com

1 Timothy 4:10-11 "This is why we work hard and continue to struggle, for our hope is in the living God, who is the Savior of all people and particularly of all believers. Teach these things and insist that everyone learns them."



Traditional Service
9AM

...

Sunday School Hour
10:15-11:10AM

...

Open Door Service
11:15AM

Thank you to everyone who came to our family game night!
We had a blast!!

Coming Up Events:
April 22: Dinner at the Park

May 6: Mother/Daughter Luncheon

July 16-20 VBS- To Mars and Beyond

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

While praying one day a woman asked,
"Who are you, God?" He answered, "I Am."
"But who is, 'I Am?'" She asked. He replied,
"I am Love, I am Peace, I am Grace, I am
Joy, I am Strength, I am safety, I am
Shelter, I am Power, I am the Creator, I am
the Comforter, I am the Beginning and the
End. I am the Way, Truth, and the Light."
With tears in her eyes she looked toward
heaven and said, "Now I understand.
But, who am I?"
God tenderly wiped the
tears from her eyes
and whispered,
"You are mine."



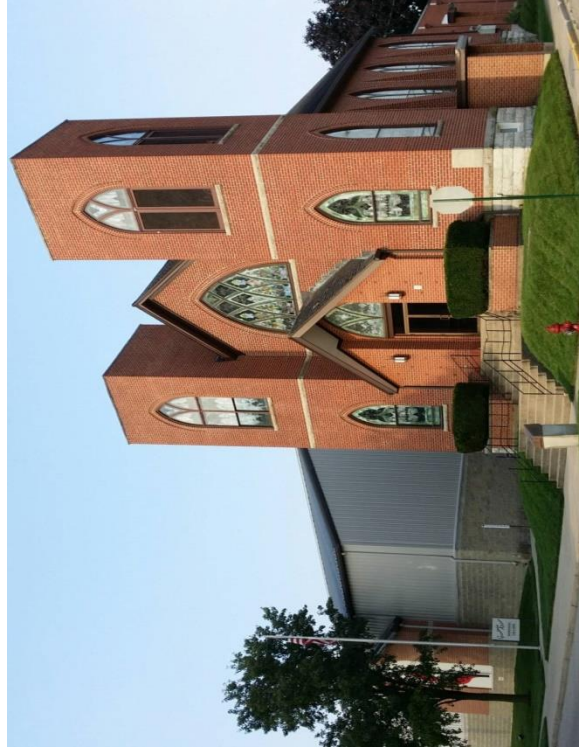
| HOFFMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2023 FINANCE REPORT | | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| General Budget and Missions Budget | | | | | |
| January 31, 2023 | | | | | |
| REGULAR OFFERING | | MONTH | | YEAR-TO-DATE | |
| 1010 | First Sunday | | 5,172.00 | 5,172.00 | |
| 1020 | Second Sunday | | 8,185.00 | 8,185.00 | |
| 1030 | Third Sunday | | 4,551.00 | 4,551.00 | |
| 1040 | Fourth Sunday | | 2,586.00 | 2,586.00 | |
| 1050 | Fifth Sunday | | 5,141.00 | 5,141.00 | |
| Total Regular Offering | | | 25,635.00 | 25,635.00 | |
| 1060 | Misc. Income | | 150.00 | 150.00 | |
| **Total Income | | | 25,785.00 | 25,785.00 | |
| | | BUDGET FOR YEAR | PAID OUT THIS MONTH | YEAR-TO-DATE PAID OUT | BALANCE OF BUDGET |
| APPORTIONMENTS | | | | | |
| 1 | Conference Apportionments | 18,287.00 | 1,523.87 | 1,523.87 | 16,763.13 |
| 2 | District Adm. Apportionments | 1,994.50 | 166.13 | 166.13 | 1,828.37 |
| Total Apportionments | | 20,281.50 | 1,690.00 | 1,690.00 | 18,591.50 |
| MINISTRIES | | | | | |
| 3 | Hospitality | 200.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 200.00 |
| 4 | Outreach | 250.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 250.00 |
| 5 | Worship | 750.00 | 138.32 | 138.32 | 611.68 |
| 6 | Music | 750.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 750.00 |
| 7 | Assimilation | 50.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 50.00 |
| 8 | Vacation Bible School | 500.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 |
| 9 | Children's Ministry & Holiday Parties | 500.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 |
| 10 | Youth Ministry | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 |
| Total Ministries | | 3,100.00 | 138.32 | 138.32 | 2,961.68 |
| OFFICE, MEDIA, & TECH | | | | | |
| 11 | Finance & Stewardship | 900.00 | 58.20 | 58.20 | 841.80 |
| 12 | Office Supplies & Postage & Copier | 4,000.00 | 432.00 | 432.00 | 3,568.00 |
| 13 | Media Subscriptions | 3,500.00 | 928.25 | 0.00 | 3,500.00 |
| 14 | Technology | 1,000.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Total Office, Media, & Tech | | 9,400.00 | 1,418.45 | 928.25 | 8,471.75 |
| STAFF & PARISH RELATIONS | | | | | |
| 15 | Pastor Parish | 250.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 250.00 |
| 16 | Staff Salary | 122,288.11 | 10,912.30 | 10,912.30 | 111,375.81 |
| 17 | Health Ins. & Pastor PIP Payment | 31,680.00 | 2,459.91 | 2,459.91 | 29,220.09 |
| 18 | Pension | 11,053.51 | 925.54 | | |
| 19 | Acct. Reimbursement-Pastor | 4,000.00 | 49.99 | 49.99 | 3,950.01 |
| 20 | Hoffman Family Benevolence | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 300.00 |
| 21 | Pulpit Supply | 500.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 |
| 22 | Employer Payroll Taxes | 5,724.34 | 457.88 | 457.88 | 5,266.46 |
| 23 | Moving Allowance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 24 | Lakeside Conf Deligate | 550.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 550.00 |
| Total Staff & Parish Relations | | 176,345.96 | 14,805.62 | 14,805.62 | 161,540.34 |
| TRUSTEES | | | | | |
| 25 | Maintenance | 2,400.00 | 22.99 | 22.99 | 2,377.01 |
| 26 | Utilities, Monitoring, and Service Contracts | 29,482.00 | 2,299.53 | 2,299.53 | 27,182.47 |
| 27 | Building Insurance | 4,868.00 | 1,417.50 | 1,417.50 | 3,450.50 |
| 28 | Real Estate Taxes Parsonage | 2,980.00 | 1,600.45 | 1,600.45 | 1,379.55 |
| 29 | Snow Plowing & Yard Work | 5,510.00 | 520.00 | 520.00 | 4,990.00 |
| 30 | Supplies | 1,000.00 | 246.05 | 246.05 | 753.95 |
| Total Trustees | | 46,240.00 | 6,106.52 | 6,106.52 | 40,133.48 |
| **Total General Budgeted Expenses | | 255,367.46 | 24,158.91 | 23,668.71 | 231,208.55 |
| MISSIONS BUDGET | | | | | |
| 31 | Conference Apportionments - World Service | 5,000.00 | 416.63 | 416.63 | 4583.37 |
| 32 | District Mission Apportionments | 1,994.50 | 166.13 | 166.13 | 1828.37 |
| 33 | MU Council of Churches | 250.00 | 250.00 | 250.00 | 0.00 |
| 34 | Annual Mission Project | 600.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 600.00 |
| 35 | Advanced Specials | 547.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 547.50 |
| Total Budgeted Missions Expenses | | 8,392.00 | 832.76 | 832.76 | 7559.24 |

Return Service Requested

X

Place Label Here

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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

March
2023

T O W E R S
T H E

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