



# THE TOWERS

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

JANUARY 2024

## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR



**And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. (Luke 2:21)**

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Happy New Year! As we cross the threshold from 2023 to 2024 on January 1, we are currently in the midst of the twelve day season of celebrating Christ's birth, which ends January 6. In addition to having its significance as a secular date, January 1 has spiritual significance in connection to the church calendar.

If we are counting from Christmas - the celebration of the birth of Christ - then January 1 is the eighth day. We read in Luke 2:21, "And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb." This day is referred to as "The Holy Name of Jesus" or "The Circumcision of Christ." Take a moment to consider the Son of God, the second Person of the Trinity humbling Himself in such a way.

We first encounter circumcision in the Bible in Genesis 17, as God commands Abraham that "every male among you shall be circumcised." Circumcision functions as the covenant marker for males in the Old Covenant, to be performed on the eighth day. Through Christ and his obedience to the Law, the sign of circumcision is fulfilled and given a whole new significance. The Apostle Paul connects the marker of circumcision with baptism, the New Covenant marker for those (male *and* female) in Christ. "In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through

faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead" (Colossians 2:11-12).

The physical act of removing a part of the body points us to the spiritual act of the removal of our sinful flesh, granted to us by the grace of God. Paul adds in Romans 2 that "circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter" (v. 29). This circumcision of the heart is signified in baptism - ritual participation in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. While baptism is a one-time event in which we are initiated into Christ's Body, the Church, and incorporated into God's acts of saving mercy, it takes a lifetime to walk in or live out our baptism.

Day by day, moment by moment, is how we live out the "circumcision of the heart." Through the grace bestowed on us in baptism and every day after that, we seek to cut away the parts of our lives that are incompatible with a life of discipleship. We avail ourselves of this grace by continually communing with God through the means He makes Himself available to us: worship, prayer, Scripture, accountable discipleship, fasting, acts of mercy.

**Almighty God, who made Your blessed Son to be circumcised and obedient to the law for man: Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit, that, our hearts and all our members being mortified from all worldly and carnal lusts, we may in all things obey Your blessed will, through the same Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.<sup>1</sup>**

**In Christ,  
Pastor Ty <><**

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<sup>1</sup> "Collect for the Circumcision of Christ" from *The 1662 Book of Common Prayer, International Edition*.

## Board Meeting Highlights

### Devotions

Devotions were offered by Wendy Heisey.  
Job 4:4, *"Your words have comforted those who fell and you have strengthened those who could not stand"*

Meeting was opened with a prayer by Wendy.

### Meeting Attendees

Pastor Ty, John Ankerman, Chris Long, Wendy Heisey, Kim Dohrman, Tina Mathews, Jim Mitchell

### Mission and Ministry

Joe Ellis presented an Action Plan for a College Ministry. We will be discussed in more detail at the December meeting.

### Pastor's Report

The Advent study will start Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> with a light supper then groups will have break-out sessions. Christmas Eve services will be at 9am & 11:15, evening service will be a 7pm & 10pm. New Year's Eve service will be a combined service at 10am.  
Annual Conference will be May 22-25 at Mt. Vernon Nazarene University.

### Finance Report

The October Finance is reported and available in Print. Weeks of operation are 13.10, still in a negative for our Year-to-Date budget. We have some of our funds in Money Markets and will continue to do this at Huntington Bank & Abby Credit Union.

### Nominations: N/A

### Trustees

The Trustees report was given by David Jay. Financial report was reviewed. Parsonage update – A new separate air condition unit needs to be installed for the second floor with new duct work done. Would like to have Bolyard do this and get them booked for 2024. We are still working on security upgrades for LifeWise.

### Non- Agenda items

New Hymnal cost is \$3,000.00  
Grandma's Kitchen – Needs a board or committee to oversee there process and financial reports. Currently there is no operation procedure in place.

**The mission of the Global Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.**

## Serving Schedule

### JAN 07

**9:00 Liturgist:** Mike C. **Greeters:** Wendy H. and Judy B.  
**Ushers:** Wayne & Susie S. and Phil & Karen M. **Hospitality Table:** Peggy N.

**Nursery: 10:15** Debby & Steve S. / **11:15** Julia C., Wendy H. & Loralie M.

**11:15 Greeters:** Ben G. and Janessa M. **Scripture Reader:** Norman H.

### JAN 14

**9:00 Liturgist:** Wendy H. **Greeters:** Elaine P. and Kathy K.  
**Ushers:** John & LaVerne H. **Hospitality Table:** Bob & Marcia C.  
**Nursery: 10:15** Elaine P. & Sarah P. / **11:15** Melodye W., Kim D. & Rose K.

**11:15 Greeters:** Dick & Mary Ann M. **Scripture Reader:** Julia C.

### JAN 21

**9:00 Liturgist:** Les T. **Greeters:** Elaine I. and Cathy B.  
**Ushers:** John & LaVerne H. **Hospitality Table:** \*In honor of Bob & Joyce Herron  
**Nursery: 10:15** Julia C. & Kathy K. / **11:15** Ben G. and Mallory & Maple D.

**11:15 Greeters:** Kathy W. and Ruth L. **Scripture Reader:** Ben G.

### JAN 28

**9:00 Liturgist:** Wendy H. **Greeters:** Carol S. and Carolyn B.  
**Ushers:** John & LaVerne H. **Hospitality Table:** Wendy H.  
**Nursery: 10:15** Jennifer K. & Patti W. / **11:15** Jennifer & Anna K. and Jill C..

**11:15 Greeters:** Amanda B. and Marijo S. **Scripture Reader:** Beth T.

## Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary January 2024

2<sup>nd</sup> Andrew Circle  
5<sup>th</sup> Bob & Nancy Mills (56 yrs)  
6<sup>th</sup> Joe Ellis  
Jim Watkins  
9<sup>th</sup> Debby Guthrie  
Peggy Nihizer  
12<sup>th</sup> Elaine Iddings  
13<sup>th</sup> David Mitchell  
Kay Wagner  
14<sup>th</sup> William Brock  
Nancy Curry  
Patti Wion  
Greg & Myra Lingle (35 yrs)



15<sup>th</sup> Ellie Knostman  
Tom & Nancy Wolf (59 yrs)  
18<sup>th</sup> Ben Garrett  
21<sup>st</sup> Paul Miller, Sr.  
Bob Mills  
22<sup>nd</sup> Courtney Sims  
23<sup>rd</sup> John Carter  
Theda Sliver  
Audrey Scammahorn  
24<sup>th</sup> Cheyenne Barnes  
27<sup>th</sup> Emma Knostman  
29<sup>th</sup> Denise Sanderson  
31<sup>st</sup> Lauren Everage

## Weekly Giving and Attendance Statistics

Date	11-19-23	11-28-23	12-3-23	12-10-23	12-17-23
General Offering	6467.00	6427.31	4664.50	4753.00	4833.00
Weekly Budget Need	4911.00	4911.00	4911.00	4911.00	4911.00
Mission Offering	180.00	70.00	165.00	380.00	85.00
Maintenance Fund	65.00	480.00	310.00	220.00	70.00
Building Fund & Memorials	123.00	265.00	195.00	95.00	280.00
Online & Physical Attendance					
9 a.m. Service at church	86	75	58	60	71
* Remote viewing	9	13	11	9	9
11:15 a.m. Service at church	86	62	57	81	39
* Remote viewing	4	5	5	5	3
Total Attendance	185	155	131	155	122

*Thank you*  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

### Stained Glass Window Restoration Project

Amount Received: \$ 101,340

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

### Cooking Ministry

Anyone willing to cook meals ahead of time to have in our church freezer for unexpected situations for anyone in need of a meal during a difficult time, please contact Elaine Pickering if you are available to help (937)698-5192. Freezer containers will be provided.

### Elaine's Trivia Question of Month

Who had 12 sons that made tribes of Israel?

**Winter Walking Group** on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursday from 10 to 11a.m. starting January 2. Everyone welcome, join in anytime! Questions contact Elaine P. (937) 698-5192.

**LIFEWISE**  
ACADEMY  
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### SUPPORT A LIFEWISE STUDENT

- ☐ \$20/mo (1 Student)      ☐ \$80/mo (4 Students)  
☐ \$40/mo (2 Students)      ☐ Other .....

Name .....

Phone ..... Email .....

Address .....

City ..... State ..... Zip .....

Home Church .....

#### How to Give (please select one)

- ☐ Enclose Check      ☐ Scan QR Code to give online  
☐ Visit [lifewise.org/milton-unionoh](https://lifewise.org/milton-unionoh)



## *People to remember in prayer:*



**At Home:** Phil Blue, 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  
Valaria Harshbarger, SpringMeade, 4375 S Co. Rd. 25A, Rm 4137, Tipp City OH 45371  
Sherynne King, Koester Pavilion, 3232 N Co. Rd 25A, Rm 29A, Troy OH 45373  
Freda Koeller, Grace Brethren Village, 1010 Taywood Rd., Rm 66, Englewood OH 45322  
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  
Monica Winemiller, Koester Pavilion, 3232 N Co Rd 25A, Rm 74, Troy OH 45373

## **THANK YOU**

What a fellowship. What a joy divine leaning on the everlasting arms. Thank you for your prayers, cards, and caring thoughts. I deeply appreciate each and every one of you.

Blessings, Les Trittshuh

Dear Church Family, Thanks for the many prayers, cards, phone calls of concern. I have been so blessed by all of you!

Paul Miller, Sr.

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

Thanks to our dedicated Trustees for all the work they do around the church. Phil McFadden, Wayne Spitler, David Jay, Tom Kinsey, Wendy Heisey, Andrew Circle, and special 'honorary trustee' Susie Spitler; we appreciate you!

Special thanks to our online worship producers:  
Darin Wion and Greg Lingle; we appreciate all you do.

Thanks to the members of the Praise Band:  
Joe Knostman, Darin Wion, Devin Mitchell, Mike Barnes and all the others musical guests who have shared their gifts

Thanks to Elaine Pickering for setting up the hospitality table each week and to the volunteers who generously donate snacks each week.

I want to thank the congregation for the generous Christmas gift that I received this year. It is a pleasure to serve this church and I look forward to a continuing service in the future. Norman Hiester

Thank you for the cards, prayers, and words of comfort after our brother passed away. We love our church family and appreciate your kindness.

LaVerne H. and Elaine I.

### THANK YOU CRAFT SHOW VOLUNTEERS

We want to thank ALL the volunteers that helped with the Craft Show this year. God has given so many of you special gifts and talents and we so appreciate you!

A special thank you to: Tina Mathews, Kay Wagner, Karen McFadden, and Susie Spitler.

Thank you to Christy Harris for her time in preparing the multi-media slides for our services. We appreciate your dedication to this project.

Thanks to Joy Paulus for tracking offering and Dawn Jay for counting and depositing the offering. Your dedication is appreciated.

Thanks to Ben Garrett for changing the message on the church sign. We appreciate you!

Thanks to Jill & Mike Circle and Wendy Heisey for tracking attendance each week. Thank you to those who operate the sound board and advance the slides each Sunday. Thanks to our liturgists, scripture readers, greeters, ushers, and nursery workers. Thank you to the members of the Chancel and Bell Choirs.

Hoffman church family, you never cease to amaze and bless me with your love and generosity; thank you for the Christmas bonus, gifts, and cards. I am blessed to serve you. May your 2024 be full of blessings! JoAnn Antonides

Luke 2:10 "And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people.'"



**A huge thank you to our church family for a wonderful Christmas party and our Christmas bonus; we truly appreciate each of you. I love being able to share God's Word with the children and all of you.**

**Event coming up:**

Game Night! Board games, walking tacos and of course a NERF GUN WAR!!

**Saturday, February 17, 2024 from 5:30 to 8 p.m.**  
A signup sheet will come around through email soon!

Traditional Service  
9AM

...

Sunday School Hour  
10:15-11:10AM

...

Open Door Service  
11:15AM

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



**Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study**  
**January 10-March 20**  
**10:00-11:30 am, Multi-Purpose Room**

**The Jordan River Rules**

Several years ago our class studied The Red Sea Rules by Robert J. Morgan. It is one of our favorite books and he remains one of our favorite authors. This book told the story of the Israelites at the Red Sea and used their story to illustrate ten 'rules' we can use for dealing with our own serious difficulties. The Lord parted the waters for the Israelites and kept them safe, and He can do the same for us as we face life's toughest challenges.

**But do you know God parted the waters for His people a second time?**

Forty years after the Red Sea experience, God divided the waters of the Jordan River and led His people into the Promised Land. You would think, after all those years in the desert, that they would have welcomed the change, but it was not an easy adjustment. Robert Morgan has written another book, The Jordan River Rules: 10 God-Given Rules for Moving Forward, to show us how to get past the drastic changes that sometimes occur in our lives. Some of these changes are ones we have chosen, but some of them are changes that life and its circumstances have chosen for us.

Whatever situation you find yourself in, God intends for you to go forward. All your difficulties, disruptions, and adversities are simply God's preparation for stronger days ahead. God wanted the Israelites to move toward the new life He had promised them by taking one step at a time, trusting that He would get them past their struggles in the desert and where He wanted them to be. God will do the same for us.

Please join us starting on January 10. Books are \$5. If you have questions, please contact Marilyn Mitchell, 937-947-1831 or mbmitchell50@gmail.com

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January  
2024

TOWERS  
THE

Place Label Here

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201 S Main Street  
West Milton OH 45383

Return Service Requested

X

**HOFFMAN GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH**  
Worship Time: 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.  
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.  
Phone: (937) 698-4401 Email: HoffmanGMC@gmail.com  
Website: HoffmanGMC.org  
Pastor Ty Williams