



THE TOWERS

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

December 2025



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

We find ourselves in the sacred season of Advent, a time of waiting, anticipating, expecting, and preparing. It can be difficult to embrace this season before jumping into the exuberance of Christmas and celebrating the birth of Jesus. Yet, it is the anticipation and the period of expectancy that gives full weight to the celebration.

In a similar fashion, it can be tempting when we think about Jesus becoming human to jump right to his death. We rightly praise Jesus for his death on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. However, we also want to back up a little and recognize why it is that Jesus' death could accomplish all the things Christians say it accomplishes. This is to recognize who Jesus is - God in the flesh, described in the theological term "Incarnation." As we celebrate the birth of Christ at Christmas we are celebrating the Incarnation.

The Church had to iron out some of the details of who exactly Jesus was and is amid controversy. She sought to uphold the tradition she had been handed through the Scriptures and the witness of faithful followers of Jesus. To this end, certain questions and claims had to be dealt with. Was Jesus just a human being? Was Jesus God, and was just "pretending" to be human, but was not actually a human being? Was Jesus a "god" but not on the same level as the Father? The Church, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit and through deliberation in councils declared each of the above statements as heretical ("false"). Rather, the Church upheld that Jesus was fully human and fully divine (God). The two major creeds of the church, the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed were forged in response to questions and controversy about who Jesus is. Both creeds highlight Jesus' humanity, as he is born of a human mother, the Virgin Mary, and highlight His divinity, His "God-ness".

Maybe someone reading this is thinking, "All this theology is just complicating things. It doesn't really matter." Oh, but it does matter! If Jesus is not fully human, then our humanity is not restored and saved. If Jesus is not fully human, then Jesus cannot die. If Jesus did not actually die, then what about the cross? What about the resurrection? No death, no resurrection! And as Paul says, "For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins. . . If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied." (1 Corinthians 15:16-17, 19)

The Incarnation also has ramifications for the kinds of lives we human beings are to live. In a Methodist theological document titled, *The Faith Once Delivered: A Wesleyan Witness to Christian Orthodoxy*, the Incarnation is described in terms of Jesus being "the second Adam": "Jesus is the second Adam who, by his perfect obedience to the Father, restored Adam's descendants to right relationship with God by his death and life. As the second Adam in whom the Image of God is perfectly displayed, Christ reveals to us what God intended from humanity from the beginning." Jesus died to save us, AND He showed us how to live, how to be human in the ways God intended. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, grace is given to us to follow Jesus in obedience to the Father.

May we look forward, then, to the celebration of Christmas, allowing the anticipation and tension of Advent to build our excitement.

May we give thanks to the heritage of the Church, the Body of Christ, which teaches us the truths of our living faith.

And may we honor and celebrate the humanity of Jesus, the second Adam, who through His perfect obedience to the Father, reveals how we are to be truly human.

**In Christ's Love,
Pastor Ty <>>**

Board Meeting Highlights

Meeting Attendees:

Pastor Ty Williams, Wendy Heisey, Chris Long, Jim Mitchell, Tina Mathews, Joyce Hoffmaster, David Hayes, Myra Lingle, Denise Ellinger, Darin Wion, Matt Burns, David Jay

Devotion: No Devotion due to Annual Charge Conference meeting. Pastor Ty opened in prayer.

Pastor's Report:

- Community Thanksgiving Service at Potsdam Church of the Brethren, November 26 at 7PM
- Wednesdays in December – Advent Bible Study. Starts at 5:30 with a light meal.

Youth Ministry:

- October 5 – Bonfire at the Knostman's
- October 12 – Bible Study
- Nov. 9 – Youth Bible Study – Packed shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child

Children's Ministry

- October 25, 2025 – Family pumpkin carving night.

Finance Report:

- Weeks of operations is 19.49 ending the month of September 2025.
- 2026 Approved Budget passed out.
- Abbey Credit Union CD with term 10/31/25. Jim will be checking rates & renew.
- \$13,500 owed for disaffiliation will pay in December.

- Motion made by Jim to approve finance report, 2nd by Joyce. Voted & approved.

Trustees:

- Approved snow removal contract.
- Approved contract with Orkin for the parsonage.
- South parking lot sealed & coated.
- Sewer lines will be scheduled to flush out.

Staff Parish:

- In-person walk through of the Parsonage was completed prior to the Charge Conference.

New Business:

- New Secretary, Kathie Abke will start in January 2026.

List of Important Dates:

November 2 All Saints Sunday
November 4 Election Day Dinner
November 8 Veteran's Day Program
November 22 Craft Show
November 26 Community Thanksgiving Service at
Potsdam Church of the Brethren
November 30 First Sunday of Advent
December 3 Wednesdays Advent Study begins

Next Meeting is November 20, 2025.

Serving Schedule

Dec 07

9:00 Liturgist: Joyce Hoffmaster

Greeters: Wendy H. and Marcia S.

Ushers: Wayne & Susie S. and Phil & Karen M.

Hospitality Table: Wendy H.

Nursery: 10:15 Debby & Steve S. /11:15 Luana D., Wendy H. & Loralie M.

11:15 Greeters: 3rd - 5th Grade Class

Acolytes: Anna & Emma K.

Scripture Reader: Loralie M.

Dec 14

9:00 Liturgist: Pam H.

Greeters: Elaine P. and Kathy K.

Ushers: John & LaVerne H.

Hospitality Table: Ben K.

Nursery: 10:15 Elaine P. & Sophia B. /11:15 Kim & Cooper D. and Rose K.

11:15 Greeters: Dick & Mary Ann M.

Acolytes: Loralie M. & Rose K.

Scripture Reader: Beth T.

Dec 21

9:00 Liturgist: Jerry D.

Greeters: Elaine I.

Ushers: ?

Hospitality Table: Kathy K.

Nursery: 10:15 Carol C. & Pam H. /11:15 Ben G. and Kathy K.

11:15 Greeters: Kathy Watkins

Acolytes: Dalton M. & Lily M.

Scripture Reader: Norman H.

Dec 28

9:00 Liturgist: Monica S.

Greeters: Carol S. and Carolyn B.

Ushers: Dan & Erin S. and David & Dawn J.

Hospitality Table: Elaine P.

Nursery: 10:15 Jennifer K. & Patti W. /11:15 Jennifer & Anna K. and Jill C.

11:15 Greeters: Paul & Sally M.

Acolytes: Matthew G.

Scripture Reader: Tim B.

**Please contact the church office (937)698-4401 if you are unable to be a greeter or have switched Sundays. Thanks!

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary December 2025

5th - Marc & Robin Maeder (21 yrs)
6th - Allyson Burns
- Becky Wolf
8th - Ted Delehanty
- John Hennemyre
9th - Wendy Black
10th - Carol Carter
11th - Anita Ankerman
Candy Curry
13th - Lisa Wright
15th - Andy Mitchell
17th - Paul Crow
18th - Matthew Garrett

20th - John & Anita Ankerman (45 yrs)
Valerie McKay
Cheryl Owen
21st - Dawn Jay
25th - Cody Dohrman
26th - Beth Thoele
Phil & Karen McFadden (55 yrs)
27th - Fred Brown
Aaron Mitchell
Steve & Debby Schumann (24 yrs)
30th - Ed & Tina Mathews (21 yrs)
31st - Gary Barga



Weekly Giving and Attendance Statistics

Date	10-28-25	11-2-25	11-9-25
General Offering	5504.00	7205.00	4916.00
Weekly Budget Need	5269.06	5269.06	5269.06
Mission Offering	6501.00	533.00	186.00
Maintenance Fund	101.00	686.00	191.00
Building Fund & Memorials	25.00	286.00	103.00
Online & Physical Attendance			
9 a.m. Service at church	79	94	82
* Remote viewing	18	18	14
11:15 a.m. Service at church	41	46	57
* Remote viewing	5	6	3
Total Attendance	143	164	156



People to remember in prayer:

Hoffman Sympathies to: the family of Jim Beavers as he passed away on October 29, 2025

At Home: Helen Keller, Cheryl Owen, Mary Maess, Shelia Shade, Theda Sliver, and Jim & Kathy Watkins

At Centers: Johnnie Bouck, Brookhaven Assisted Living, 1 Country Ln, Rm 112, Brookville OH 45309
 Dorothy Ginn, Cypress Pointe, 600 W. National Rd., Rm 312, Englewood OH 45322
 Wendy Long, Trinity Center, 789 Stonybrook, Rm 208A, Fairborn OH 45324
 Jennie McNeal, Otterbein Senior Life, 4375 S Co. Rd. 25A, Rm 307, Tipp City OH 45371
 Marilyn Stickney, Randall Residence W. Milton, 217 Doris Drive, Rm 112, West Milton OH 45383
Monica Winemiller, Vancrest of Upper Valley, 3232 N Co Rd 25A, Rm 8, Troy OH 45373



Thank You to Grandma's Kitchen Volunteers and Diners

Grandma's Kitchen thanks the 59+ volunteers and all the diners (almost 220 per meal!) for your support of Grandma's Kitchen this year. We served 2615 meals which meant buying \$7500 worth of food, peeling 730 pounds of potatoes, washing dishes for 1200 guests, wrapping almost 4000 pieces of silverware and packing 1300 carry-outs. Almost 900 hours were donated by volunteers and approximately 750 meals were given to families in need. We not only enjoyed serving our guests but were also able to make a financial donation to CROP and help support the Family Abuse Shelter in Troy with food donations. This wouldn't be possible without both the volunteers and the guests who dine with us. Thank you all for making this past year a successful one.



THANK YOU AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to bring snacks for the Hospitality Table and for sharing the leftovers with other groups.

Elaine Pickering

We thank you Elaine for organizing the volunteers and decorating and setting up the Hospitality Table supplies every Sunday.

Hoffman Church Family, Thank you very much for all of your prayers, cards, concerns and kind words. You all are deeply appreciated! May you have a Blessed Advent season.

Les and Sharon Trittschuh

Community Thanksgiving Service, Nov. 26 @ 7p.m.
at Potsdam Church of the Brethren, 22 Cross Street

Hoffman GMC Family Christmas Party

Saturday, Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. in the activity center

Everyone is welcome; feel free to invite family, friends and neighbors! We will be serving lasagna as the main course; dinner rolls and beverages will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Our program will be provided by Amanda Alexander and Julie Wehrkamp from Troy who shared a music presentation with us last summer during the first worship service. Not only did they share their music talent, they also shared their faith through their music and their dialogue. We are pleased to invite them to share a Christmas program and message with us following the dinner. If you have questions, please ask Janet Benkert, Susie Spitler or Marilyn Mitchell.

Holiday Service Times Christmas Eve

Candlelight Services at 7 and 10 p.m.



We would like to thank these wonderful ladies that helped and donated supplies in making homemade pot pie for the November, 2025, Election Day dinner: Marilyn Mitchell, Valerie McKay, Dawn Jay, Elaine Pickering, Mary Ann Martens, LaVerne Hennemyre, Elaine Iddings, Susie Spitler, and Terry Cooley. What a blessing to have these ladies come and work to help on this project. Thanks again,

Nancy Studebaker & Joy Paulus

A special 'thank you' to everyone who helped in any way with the Election Day Dinner. Those who had assigned jobs, those who came to eat, those who donated money for pies; we appreciate everyone! Your faithful work and spirit of working together were such a blessing. God bless you all!

*Janet Weeks and the
Global Methodist Women*

Advent Study

Wednesdays, Dec. 3, 10, & 17

Light meal at 5:30 p.m.

Study from 6:00 -7:00 p.m.

All the adults in the activity center for the study;
the kids and youth in the basement.

YOUTH MINISTRY

November 9: Youth gathered at the parsonage for a Bible Study on Romans 8:12-17, focusing on the "Witness of the Spirit."

We also packed shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

January Towers Deadline is Dec. 11
The January Towers will be mailed Dec. 18.

Elaine's Trivia Question of Month

Name 3 of 5 gardens mentioned in the Bible.

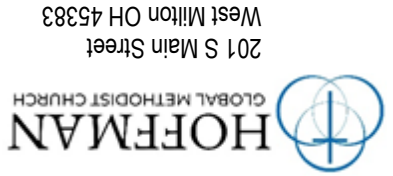
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201 S Main Street
West Milton OH 45383

December
2025

T O W E R S
T H E

Place Label Here

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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