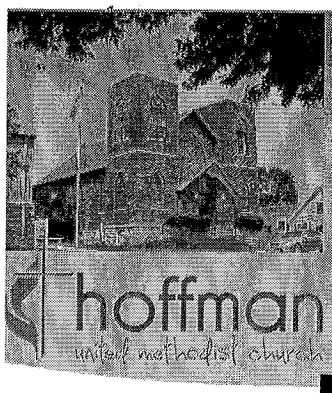


THE TOWERS

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

hoffman united methodist church

March 2017

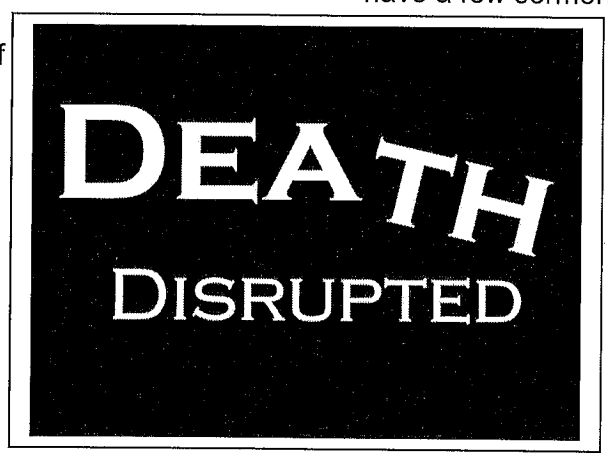
A Word from our Pastor

God Disrupting Death

1 Corinthians 15:55-57 [55] "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" [56] The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. [57] But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is rare that Lent begins with the first day of a month, but this year Lent indeed begins on March 1st. It is a somewhat mysterious season in the Christian calendar. Like Advent, it is a season of preparation for a grand occasion, in this case, Easter, but unlike Advent, it seems to purposely "mute" the joy just a bit. It is a period of 40 days (not counting Sundays), ending with Easter morning.

In many traditions, including many United Methodists, the beginning of Lent is marked by the imposition of ashes. Traditionally, the ashes are the remains of the previous year's Palm Sunday fern branches, burned to ash. Those ashes are then put on believers' foreheads with the historic words, "From dust you came, and to dust you shall return." Not exactly the most inspiring words to hear, but they are not for inspiration. They instead remind us of our mortality and our sin. Throughout the Bible, ashes have been used in times of mourning, as well as in times of repentance. Similarly, the season of Lent is a time for Christians to repent, to live simply, and to seek a closer relationship to God.



The season of Lent invites us to address our frailty in some way. For many, Lent is a time to draw near to God by denying ourselves of some pleasure. For some, it is a fast of a particular meal of the day, or elements within a meal (such as meat). For others, it is a fast from some pleasure that takes a portion of our time, in order to spend more time with God. One way to look at it is to see how in our beliefs Christ emptied Himself to come to humanity. Above I mentioned that Sundays are not included in the 40 days. This is because every single Sunday of worship carries with it the hope of Easter. Christ's Resurrection has happened once, for all time, and thus Sundays have historically been set aside for worship, and also set aside from the denial of Lent. Yes, I'm saying those who give up chocolate for Lent can technically have chocolate for Sundays. I have to admit that for me it has always been harder to be faithful to the abstinence of a pleasure when I have that one day each week, so I'll leave those decisions in your capable hands.

We in the worship design team thought it might be interesting to address Lent through Death, but not in the way we are used to experiencing it. Instead, we will have a few sermons from passages in which Death was the one disrupted. Of course, we will reserve Christ's Resurrection for Easter Sunday, but the Bible shares occasions in which one who was dead was brought back to life. Prophets, apostles, and yes, Jesus were instruments in this work, and my prayer is that these accounts will help us see Death from a different perspective.

In recent weeks (in my case, recent hours), we continue to be reminded that death disrupts. All who have experienced loss know the disruption at a deeper level. The kind of disruption that only the absence of a person greatly loved can cause. Death has caused life-altering disruptions for some through the years, and so it is good to remember times when Death was disrupted through God's power and might. Because, when it gets down to the rubber on the road, Easter isn't "just" about Christ's Resurrection, but is about ours, as well. We Are a people of hope, and death has lost its sting.

I am, in His service and yours,

Pastor Robbie

Robbie

Hoffman United Methodist Church

Edition: February 2017

Publication Number: 22

Board Meeting Highlights

Devotions

Jill Circle opened the meeting in devotions. She chose a scripture that asks us to choose joy and to rejoice in the Lord regardless of the circumstances we encounter.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Robbie shared that Kairos Prison Ministry is asking for cookie donations by March 2. A membership retreat is scheduled for March 25 from 9:00-12:00. A couple of people have already signed up.

Pam Hitchcock and Becky Garrett are submitting grant proposals to the Miami County Foundation for Lunch Bunch and Bulldog Backpacks, respectively.

The Mission Team is meeting on March 26 to discuss the mission to the Christian Appalachian Project and to plan fund raising events. The cost is $325 per person.

Becky Garrett is working on activities for children in church that are too old for Children's Church. Joe Knostman had 20 students for Super Bowl Sunday and is planning a youth mission trip for June.

There is a need to update the sound system in the sanctuary. The organ and sound board are excellent; however, the existing speakers are not appropriate for the praise band instruments. Also, the microphone wires need to be replaced. We are asking for donations for half of the fee for the speakers and will pay the other half with the Ullery Trust funds.

Board Study

Pastor Robbie led a discussion on the study 52 Churches in 52 Weeks by Christina Ryan Claypool. The author visited 52 churches in Miami County. In her study, she shares her experience visiting the different congregations. One important way to engage visitors is to genuinely greet the him/her.

Mission & Ministry

Valerie McKay shared updates about Grandma's Kitchen which will re-open on March 22. Valerie McKay and Marilyn Mitchell continue to work on keeping the costs of the meals down. Everyone enjoys the fellowship offered through Grandma's Kitchen.

Staff Parish

Phil McFadden and Cindy Johnston shared that are seeking feedback about the sound situation. Feel free to share questions and comments with them.

When Pastor Robbie is in Vietnam, Pam Hitchcock will preach April 30, and the speaker for May 7 is to be determined.

Trustee Updates

David Jay reported that it will cost over $12,000 to replace the parsonage roof. Hubbard Roofing will complete the job. Additionally, Rex Maggert will tuckpoint the tower masonry. The trustees are seeking estimates for replastering the tower room ceilings. Looking ahead, they will look at the barn roof, replacing classroom and hallway carpets, and eventually replace the sanctuary roof.

Upcoming Events

March 25: Membership Retreat
March 26: Mission Team Meeting
April 8 & 9: Young Spirits Performance
April 16: Easter & Easter Breakfast
August 3-6: Art Show

Meeting Attendees

Jill Circle, Cindy Johnston, Robbie Scott, Valerie McKay, David Jay, Les Trittschuh, Phil McFadden, John Ankerman, Tina Mathews, Richard Smith.

Images from: HUMC Website

People to remember in prayer:

Sympathies to: the family of JoAnn Benkert, Rev Tim's mother, as she passed away on January 14, 2017
the family of Burlin Paulus, Norman's brother, as he passed away on February 3, 2017

At Home or Hospital: Phil Blue, Joetta Perry, and Katie Weeks

At Centers: Jean Brown, Brookdale Place, 95 Wenger Rd., Rm 1107, Englewood, OH 45322
Glenna Hayes, Brethren Home, 750 Chestnut St., Rm 418 Greenville, OH 45331
Reba Hellard, 3151 Orders Road, Grove City OH 43132
John Jackson, 46 Lavender Pl, Tipp City OH 45371
Wilma Johnston, Koester Pavilion, 3232 N Co. Rd. 25A, Rm 39, Troy OH 45373
Christine and Jim Pruitt, Brookdale Place, 95 Wenger Rd., Apt 310 Englewood, OH 45322,
Lloyd Shaeffer, Brethren Home, 750 Chestnut St., OV 119 Greenville OH 45331

Please remember all of our shut-ins with cards and prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THANK YOU

Congratulations A Baby Girl!

Faris Ophelia Mitchell
Born on January 25, 2017 at 10:06 a.m.
9 lbs, 7 ozs.
Parents: David & Shannon Mitchell

Remember to:

Spring ahead 1 Hour
On March 12th

On behalf of my family, I want to express my deepest gratitude for all of the prayers, support and acts of kindness that you have lavished upon us as we live into the reality of my Mother's recent passing. We believe in the resurrection and we believe in the Body of Christ. You, my sisters and brothers shine as the Body of Christ! Thank You!

Rev Tim Benkert

The stair lift is ready for use. You may still contribute to the fund by identifying your gift for the stair lift. Thanks for supporting this purchase. Please see Pastor Robbie if you want to be trained on operating it. Les T.

Greater Dayton Emmaus 2017 Walks

Women's Walk 102 on Jul 20-23, 2017 Sulphur Grove UMC (Huber Heights)
Men's Walk 64 on Aug 17-120, 2017 Sulphur Grove UMC
Women's Walk 103 on Sept 21-24, 2017 at Normandy UMC **(Note date change)**
If you need an application, you can contact Shelia Shade or email Pam or call 698-6511 for more information.

Grandma's Kitchen Reopens

Grandma's Kitchen will be opening on March 22. Please join us for dinner in the Activity Center from 5:00 to 6:15 or, if it is more convenient for you, we can pack a carry-out meal for you to take home. Meals are $7; a child's meal with smaller portions is $3. Please check the menu provided in this month's Towers or on the church webpage.

Grandma's Kitchen has been providing a meal for the public for almost 20 years. Many of our guests are our own Hoffman members but anyone is welcome to join us. We have regular guests from West Milton, Potsdam, Laura, Ludlow Falls, Pleasant Hill, Englewood, Union, Troy, Tipp City and several from Darke County with ages ranging from infant to 95. We average almost 200 meals per week, 100 dine-in and 100 carry-out.

We operate as a non-profit mission project for Hoffman Church. Our "profits" are donated to local, national and international food missions such as FISH and the Heifer Project. We provide approximately 45 free meals per week to local families in need and also donate the leftover food from each meal to the Family Abuse Shelter in Troy. Your purchased meals make the mission aspect of Grandma's Kitchen possible. Some facts from last year:

Open 36 weeks
7025 meals served (an average of 195 per week)
63 different volunteers helped
1182 volunteer sign-ins (an average of 33 per week)
3070 volunteer hours worked (an average of 88 per week)

Please join us on March 22 as we begin another year of Grandma's Kitchen.

Grandma's Kitchen Volunteers Needed

We need approximately 35 volunteers each week for Grandma's Kitchen. Scheduled work times are Tuesday morning (food prep), Wednesday morning (packing for carry-outs), Wednesday afternoon (cooking and final set-up) or Wednesday evening (delivering meals, serving and clean-up) with time commitments ranging from 1 hour to 4 hours. Our volunteers have one "perk": a free meal from Grandma's Kitchen each week they work.

If you are able to work one of those times—as part-time help, full-time help or as a sub—please call the church (698-4401), Val McKay (371-4965) or Marilyn Mitchell (947-1831) or sign up on the volunteer list in the church kitchen.

Serving Schedule

Mar 5th – Altar flowers are open

9:00 **Liturgist:** Mike Circle **Greeters:** Nadine Thompson & Nancy Lightcap
Ushers: Lee & Becky Baker and Wayne & Susie Spitler **Hospitality:** Chris & Linda L.
Nursery: 10:00 Kim D. &Teesha B. /**11:15** Jill C. & Wendy H.

11:15 **Greeters:** Ben G., Julia C., & Kathy Koeller **Scripture Reader:** Mike Circle **Sound:** Cody D.
Ushers: Les & Sharon T. and John A. **Welcome Center:** Cheryl C. **Media:** Norman H.

Mar 12th – Altar flowers are open

9:00 **Liturgist:** Valerie McKay **Greeters:** Bill & Judy Brown
Ushers: Les & Sharon Trittschuh and Phil & Karen McFadden **Hospitality:** Joe & Leah B.
Nursery: 10:00 Marcia C. & Lesli R. /**11:15** Kathy Koeller and Cliff & Katie P.

11:15 **Greeters:** Cheryl C. & Lisa W. **Scripture Reader:** Julia C. **Sound:** Jill C.
Ushers: Julia C. & Ben G. **Welcome Center:** Patti & Courtney W. **Media:** Logan B.

Mar 19th – Altar flowers are open

9:00 **Liturgist:** Becky Garrett **Greeters:** Nancy Studebaker & Richard Smith
Ushers: Richard Smith, Jim Scammahorn, & Dave Thompson **Hospitality:** Nancy S. & Kathy Koeller
Nursery: 10:00 Jill C. & Linda T. /**11:15** Tina M. & Jennifer Knostman

11:15 **Greeters:** Jennifer Keller, Amanda B., and Tom & Kathy K. **Scripture Reader:** Ben G. **Sound:** Norman H.
Ushers: Dejon D. & Greg B. **Welcome Center:** Mike & Denise S. **Media:** Michael B.

Mar 26th – Altar flowers are in celebration of Eames Circle's birthday

9:00 **Liturgist:** Les Trittschuh **Greeters:** Carol Bailey & Carol Storer
Ushers: Cliff Poling & Joe Blackburn **Hospitality:** Tim & Janet B.
Nursery: 10:00 Eric & Johanna M. /**11:15** Scott & Cindy J.

11:15 **Greeters:** Sally M. **Scripture Reader:** Dean B. **Sound:** Norman H.
Ushers: Mike & Denise S., Tom K., & Lisa W. **Welcome Center:** Lisa W. **Media:** Valerie M.

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary March 2017

1st - Eric Carter
Jerry Pinkerton
2nd - Pam Hitchcock
Hannah Scott
4th - Jim Mitchell
Cliff & Katie Poling (39 yrs)
5th - Linda Seman
6th - Christine Pruitt
Jim Scammahorn
7th - Alex Morrow
10th - Lee Baker
Nicole Ressler
Heather Ressler
Jerry Richards
Jordan Sanderson
11th - Mike & Denise Sanderson (28 yrs)
12th - Ivie Markley
15th - Wilma Fryman

17th - Jack Everage
18th - Evan Beard
Nan Guthrie
19th - Matthew Burns
20th - Phil McFadden
Mark & Vicky House (30 yrs)
21st - Kennedy Guittar
24th - Kim Petty
Dan & Erin Studebaker (16 yrs)
25th - Eric Morrow
26th - Bill & Judy Brown (46 yrs)
Eames Circle
28th - Miriam Miller
Marilyn Mitchell
29th - Greg Brubaker
Robert Cox
Marilyn Stickney
30th - John Lawhorn

Hoffman United Methodist Church — **Mar 2017 (Eastern Time)**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9am - Worship 10:15am - S School 11:15am - Worship 6:30pm - Ignite	27 5:30pm - Girl Scouts	28 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Bible	1 Ash Wednesday 9am - Bible Study - 6:30pm - Bible 7pm - Chancel Choir	2 12:30pm - W Design 5:30pm - Backpack 7pm - Cub Scouts - B 8:30pm - Praise	3 12pm - Private Party	4 12pm - Young
5 Communion 9am - Worship 10:15am - S School 11:15am - Worship 6:30pm - Ignite	6 5:30pm - Girl Scouts 7pm - Visitation	7 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Bible 7pm - Trustee Mtg. -	8 9am - Bible Study - 6:30pm - Bible 7pm - Chancel Choir	9 5:30pm - Backpack 7pm - Cub Scouts - B 8:30pm - Praise	10	11 12pm - Young
12 Daylight Savings 9am - Worship 10:15am - S School 11:15am - Worship 6:30pm - Ignite	13 5:30pm - Girl Scouts	14 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Men's	15 9am - Bible Study - 6:30pm - Bible 7pm - Chancel Choir	16 5:30pm - Backpack 6:30pm - Board Mtg 7pm - Cub Scouts - B 8:30pm - Praise	17	18 12pm - Young
19 9am - Worship 10:15am - S School 11:15am - Worship 6:30pm - Ignite	20 5:30pm - Girl Scouts	21 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Men's	22 9am - Bible Study - 5pm - Grandma's 6:30pm - Bible 7pm - Chancel Choir	23 Towers' Deadline 5:30pm - Backpack 7pm - Cub Scouts - B 8:30pm - Praise	24	25 9am - Membership 12pm - Young 3pm - Private Party
26 9am - Worship 10:15am - S School 11:15am - Worship 6:30pm - Ignite	27 5:30pm - Girl Scouts	28 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Men's	29 9am - Bible Study - 5pm - Grandma's 6:30pm - Bible 7pm - Chancel Choir	30 Mail Towers 5:30pm - Backpack 7pm - 4-H - B 8:30pm - Praise	31	1 12pm - Private Party

GRANDMA'S KITCHEN March 2017 MENU

HOFFMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

201 S. MAIN STREET, WEST MILTON 698-4401 Website: HoffmanUMC.org

SERVING MOST WEDNESDAYS BEGINNING AT 5:00 to 6:15 P.M.

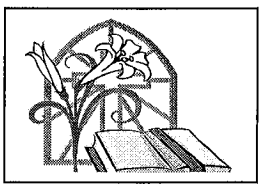
PUBLIC INVITED CARRY-OUTS AVAILABLE $7 DONATION PER MEAL Kids Meal $3

Welcome Back!

We look forward to seeing you again.

March 22nd Chicken & Noodles	March 29th Beef Stew
Mashed Potatoes	Biscuit
Green Beans	Slaw
Fruit Jello	Hot Apples
Brownies	Ice Cream Sundae

Menu items are subject to change



EASTER MEMORIALS

Easter Sunday is the day that many in our congregation want to remember special people who have touched their lives. Easter Lilies and Hydrangeas will be ordered from Stockslagers to share with the church in the form of sanctuary decorations. Please mark below your choices. The deadline for ordering flowers is Sunday, March 26th. Your flowers may be picked up after the second service on Easter Sunday. *(Substitutions may be necessary.)*

	Quantity	Total Price
HYDRANGEAS @ $11.00	_____	$_____
EASTER LILY @ $ 9.00	_____	$_____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Your Name: _____

Please make checks payable to:
Hoffman United Methodist Church
201 S Main Street, West Milton OH 45383

MARCH "BODY" HEALTH

2017 ADULT MINISTRY NEWS

"to prepare God's people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up..." Eph. 4:12

Staff Contact: Pam Hitchcock
P. 698-6511 or
E. pamhitchcock@Hoffmanumc.org

In the Spotlight

Grandma's Kitchen

This month we "spotlight" Grandma's Kitchen which will be re-opening on Weds., March 22nd after a long winter's nap! They will again be serving meals from 5-6:15PM.
Marilyn Mitchell and Val McKay are the co-leaders of this ministry and Marilyn writes: "Grandma's Kitchen has been providing a meal for the public for almost 20 years. Many of our guests are our own Hoffman members but anyone is welcome to join us. We have regular guests from West Milton, Potsdam, Laura, Ludlow Falls, Pleasant Hill, Englewood, Union, Troy, Tipp City and several from Darke County with ages ranging from infant to 95. We average almost 200 meals per week, 100 dine-in and 100 carry-out.

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If you are able to work one of those times—as part-time help, full-time help or as a sub—please call the church (698-4401), Val McKay (371-4965) or Marilyn Mitchell (947-1831) or sign up on the volunteer list in the church kitchen.

In the Spotlight

Let me know if you would like your ministry area spotlighted in the coming months—and let me know about your ministry needs.

hoffman united methodist church

Membership Retreat, Saturday, March 25th

Pastor Robbie will be conducting our membership study on Saturday, March 25th from 9A-12 Noon. If you would like to learn more about what it means to be a member of a United Methodist congregation; the vows we take to support the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness; and how to better follow Jesus as His disciple, this study is for you! After taking the class, you can then decide if you are ready to join the church. A continental breakfast is included. Please specify any dietary restrictions by calling Pam. ***If you haven't signed up, please do so at the Welcome Center by Sunday, March 19th. If you have questions, call Pam at 698-6511.***

MISSION TEAM

Meeting, March 26th

For those serious about embarking on the Christian Appalachian Project mission trip July 30-August 4th, we have a meeting scheduled for Sunday, March 26th at 12:30P after the second service in Rooms 2-3. We will discuss fundraising events and get our mission team firmed up. A deposit of $50 will be due from each person on or before April 15th so we can register the team and hold our dates. Participants must be 14 and older. We will be rehabbing homes and working with the people in the Paintsville, KY area. Total cost is $325.

KAIROS
God's Special Time

Join in the Kairos Cookie Ministry! Home-baked cookies are a tangible expression of Christian love and an indication of God's concern for those in prison. 10,000 dozen cookies will be needed for the *Kairos Weekend at Lebanon, March 9-12th.*

- Many types of cookies are generally acceptable, this can include *store-bought cookie dough* as long as they are home-baked. Avoid using icing, sugar or any other type of coating on the outside of the cookie.
- Pray individually or as a family over the ingredients before and during mixing, during baking and packing. Bag *thoroughly cooled* cookies in a Gallon-sized, Zip Lock bag two dozen cookies per bag, no foil, no plates, or twist ties.
- Please deliver the bagged cookies , NO LATER THAN MARCH 2nd, to the box marked "Kairos Cookies" across from the office.
- Also, please sign the PRAYER VIGIL outside of the office to pray for the Team, the staff and the residents of the prison, that hearts will be changed and God will do an amazing work there!

SPARK!
children's ministry

Greetings Church Family!

"Every child is a different kind of flower, and all together make this world a beautiful garden."

This past weekend we had our Family Fun Night! I am so grateful for all of those who stepped up and donated items to make this night a success! We had lots of fun and next year we will look on expanding it to include even more people. ☺

This month I will be focusing on Kids Hope. We will be having a training soon and I will be working with the school to decide which children will be mentored. This is an exciting time for those students, so please keep them in your prayers and our newest mentors in your prayers as well.

Coming Soon!! This month our elementary students will have the opportunity to participate in an experiment. During the services, you might see them with paper, crayons, pencils, bags, etc. We are hoping to see them more engaged with the services and with God's Words. We are looking forward to seeing how it goes. ☺

•••

Sunday School: 10:15-11:15

Preschool Children's Church: 11:15-12:20.

•••

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

Skate Night
March 20th
5:30-8:30
Piqua 36

•••

June Mission Trip
Gatlinburg, TN
June 11-17

•••

Dayton Dragon's
Save the date
April 28th

•••

Youth Director: Joseph Knostman
knostmanj@gmail.com
937-573-7212

Ignite is on the move!

ignite student ministry

Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal.
~David Crowder

In February, eight youth and two adults had an amazing time at Winter Jam, a huge concert down in Cincinnati.

Our next outing will be Monday, March 20th to the Piqua 36 skating rink. Cost will be $5. Transportation will be provided. Snacks will be available to purchase.

Ignite is traveling down to Gatlinburg, TN June 11-17, for a mission trip. The trip is organized through TEAM Effort, and more information can be found at www.teameffort.org. Youth will serve on work sites with our group, but will have the opportunity to worship and grow with youth from other churches in the evenings. Contact Joseph, if interested.

More to come in April about Dayton Dragons Party Deck!

hoffman
united methodist church
201 S Main Street
West Milton OH 45383

Return Service Requested

the open door
come as you are

Non-Profit
Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Tipp City, OH
Permit No. 26

Place Label Here

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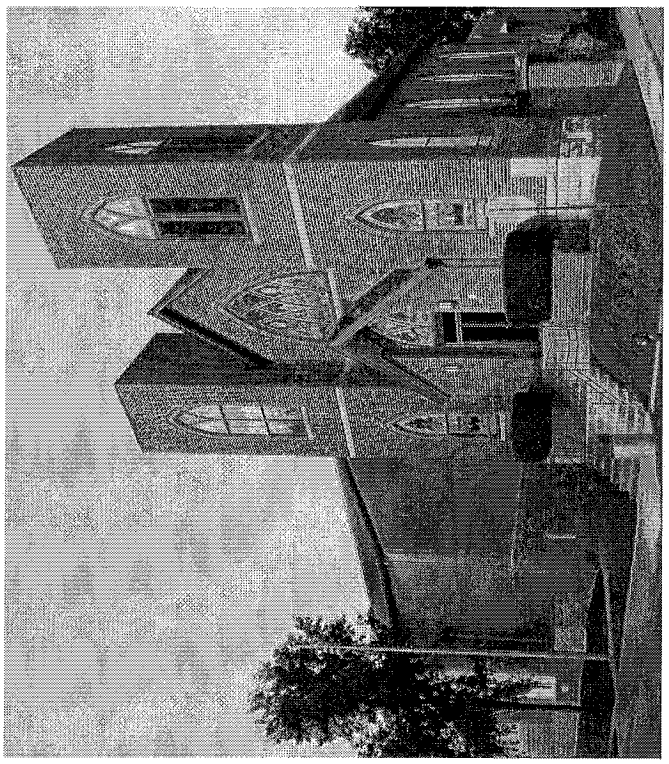
TOWERS

March
2017



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