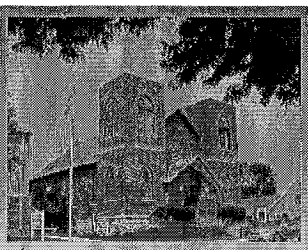


# THE TOWERS

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

April 2017

hoffman
united methodist church

## A Word from our Pastor

### Sharing God's Love with Vietnamese Brothers and Sisters

**1 Timothy 2:1-4** I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone-- [2] for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. [3] This is good, and pleases God our Savior, [4] who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Xin Chao!

As you read this, I will have completed over 24 hours in an airplane and am likely in Hanoi, Vietnam, the capital of the country, with over 1,000 years of history. Hopefully I have avoided an evening at the water puppet show (a favorite of our tour guides in the past), and am preparing to put many miles on a motorbike not designed for my size. :-) (water puppet theater seats are also not designed for my size).

I have heard the phrase, "when in Rome do as the Romans do..." Interacting with different cultures, whether in another country, or even in our own neighborhoods, is challenging. It takes time to learn the taboo customs so we will "do no harm," and "do all the good [we] can." For example, we cannot touch anyone on the head. Our gesture of intimacy is a demeaning one in that culture. Others easier to remember include not taking pictures of police/military/government officials unless expressly given permission.

One of the things we have to get used to is being watched. Our guide is the lead communicator with the local police, always assuring where we are, and that we are safe. The word "Safe" has a different context there than you may have in mind. When I have shared we have visited a village where nearly no westerners have ever been, chances are we also visited a local government official to share greetings and gifts so that official can feel assured we are not going to do anything to endanger the "safety" of the region. (meaning, support for the government)

I ask for your prayers, not only for safety, but that we also do no harm to our Vietnamese brothers and sisters in Christ through our words or actions. We pray our visits accomplish the encouragement to their work we are striving to share. We also pray that the congregations we visit, and their leaders, will have favor with those who are in authority over them, that they may live peaceful lives in godliness and holiness.

In our lives, we too are living in a different culture. Our neighborhood's values and customs are likely different than those in our homes. And, we are also being watched by those neighbors. I am convinced that more fruit for the kingdom is harvested when we are actively seeking to communicate to our community in its language of love, instead of our own. As a congregation striving to share the Good News with our neighbors and friends, we have to keep our eyes and ears open as to how we can best share that news. May our lives (the only Bible some people get to read) be the praise offering our Lord deserves.

In His Service and yours, Tam Biet!

Robbie

Hoffman United Methodist Church

Edition: April 2017 Publication Number: 24

# Board Meeting Highlights

## Devotions

Pastor Robbie opened the meeting with devotions using Acts Ch. 10 as our guide. He shared that God uses those who we don't expect are used to help us grow.

## Pastor's Report

Pastor Robbie reported that the average March attendance was 173. He shared that Pam has been organizing a forum about heroin, its impact here, and the options available with help. The West Milton Police will be the ones presenting on May 16 at 6:30. Prior to the forum, there is a prayer walk and some testimonies that will be shared sponsored by some community members at 5:00.

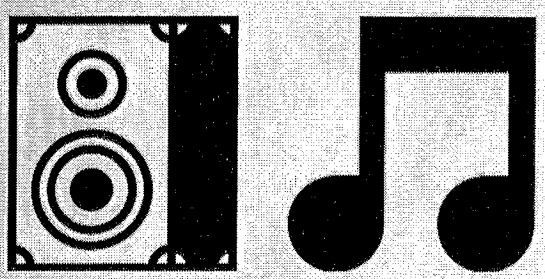
Lunch Bunch volunteer sign-ups has increased and donations are coming up soon.

In March, 7 people signed-up for a membership class. River Baptisms are coming this summer. Additionally, Becky Garrett expects to have at least 8 Kids' Hope mentors next fall.

## Chair Lift & Sound System

The church is still accepting donations for the chair lift fund; ve need about $1000 more to have it completely funded.

We have raised the necessary money for the sound system.



## Meeting Attendees

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

## Mission & Ministry

Les Trittschuh provided an update on the Council of Churches. The council is organized to represent the unity of Christ's Body, the church, in Union Township. There are currently 15 churches in the council. Two major projects sponsored by the council are Young Spirits and Junior Teen Institute (JTI). Both projects serve teenagers in the community.

Young Spirits is a program opened to 7-12 grade students in the community. The students produce a faith-based musical. The students work from January to Palm Sunday to prepare the musical with the guidance of several adult leaders.

JTI is a church-based camp for 6th graders in the community. The camp provides positive role models and has a focus on good life choices.

In August, the council helps provide school supplies for children in the community. In October, they sponsor the CROP walk. In December, the churches are asked to participate in the Salvation Army Bell Ringers. Additionally, the council also helps families at Christmas with a food basket and toys for children. There are also community church services throughout the year.

## Trustee Updates

We continue to average about $1500 a month in donations for capital improvements.

The parsonage roof has been replaced. The trustees are looking at gutter guards. Tuckpointing is being performed on the towers to prevent further weathering. This task is very important.

The next large expense is the sanctuary roof which we will replace next year.

The trustees continue to work hard to keep the building running.

## Upcoming Events

April 25-May8: Vietnam Mission Trip
April 30: Pancake Breakfast
June 1: Church Garage Sale
June 4-7: Annual Conference
June 8: Dragon's Game
June 25-July 1: Youth Mission Trip, Copperhill, TN
July 8: Dayton Dragons Game
July 30-Aug. 4: Appalachia Mission Trip
August 3-6: Art Show
August 6: Church Picnic
November 7: Election Day Dinner

## Serving Schedule

**May 7th** – Altar flowers are open

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

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

**May 14th** – Altar flowers are in celebration of Becky Garrett's birthday

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

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

**May 21st** – 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:** Patti W. **Sound:** Norman H.
**Ushers:** Dejon D. & Greg B. **Welcome Center:** Mike & Denise S. **Media:** Michael B.

**May 28th** – Altar flowers are in celebration of Julia & Jill Circle's birthdays

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

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

## Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary
## May 2017

1st – Teesha Beard
4th - Kim Adams
5th - James & Adrienne Beaty (16 yrs)
David & Stephanie Bryson (14 yrs)
7th - Jim Kinnison
9th - Corinne McKay
Mike Sanderson
10th - Austin Guittar
11th - Terry Beetley
Eugenie Markley
13th - Becky Garrett
15th - David & Linda Thompson (17 yrs)
16th - JR & Kathy Hagemeyer (36 yrs)
Joyce Herron
17th –Brad Hayes
Johanna Morrow

18th - Eldon Hoke
21st - Wilma Johnston
23rd - Steve & Cheryl Chasteen (30 yrs)
Chris & Linda Long (18 yrs)
25th - Helen Keller
Kathy Kinsey
Dick Markley
29th - Bonnie Brown
Jill Circle
Julia Circle
Levi Scott
Linda Thompson
30th - Carol Bailey
31st - Anna Knostman
Cliff Poling
Bradley & Bonnie Brown (48 yrs)

## Hoffman United Methodist Church

## May 2017 (Eastern Time)

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 30<br>9am - Worship<br>10:15am - S School<br>11:15am - Worship<br>6:30pm - Ignite | 1<br>5:30pm - Girl Scouts<br>7pm - Visitation | 2<br>6pm - Grandmother'<br>6:30pm - Bell Choir<br>6:30pm - Men's<br>7pm - Trustee Mtg. -<br>7:30pm - JTI - Mtg. | 3<br>9am - Bible Study -<br>5pm - Grandma's<br>6:30pm - Bible<br>7pm - Chancel Choir<br>7:30pm - JTI Mtg. A. | 4<br>12:30pm - W Design<br>5:30pm - Backpack<br>7pm - Art Show Mtg.<br>7pm - Cub Scouts - B<br>7:30pm - Praise | 5 | 6<br>12pm - Private Party |
| 7<br>Communion<br>9am - Worship<br>10:15am - S School<br>11:15am - Worship<br>6:30pm - Ignite | 8<br>5:30pm - Girl Scouts | 9<br>6:30pm - Bell Choir<br>6:30pm - Men's | 10<br>9am - Bible Study -<br>5pm - Grandma's<br>6:30pm - Bible<br>7pm - Chancel Choir<br>7:30pm - JTI Meeting | 11<br>2pm - Lunch Bunch<br>5:30pm - Backpack<br>7pm - Cub Scouts - B<br>7:30pm - Praise | 12 | 13 |
| 14<br>Mother's Day<br>9am - Worship<br>10:15am - S School<br>11:15am - Worship<br>6:30pm - Ignite | 15<br>5:30pm - Girl Scouts | 16<br>5pm - Rain Back up<br>6:30pm - Bell Choir<br>6:30pm - Communit<br>6:30pm - Men's | 17<br>9am - Bible Study -<br>5pm - Grandma's<br>6:30pm - Bible<br>7pm - Chancel Choir<br>8pm - JTI Mtg. A.C. | 18<br>Towers' Deadline<br>5:30pm - Backpack<br>6:30pm - Board Mtg<br>7pm - Cub Scouts - B<br>8:30pm - Praise | 19<br>11am - Private Party | 20 |
| 21<br>9am - Worship<br>10:15am - S School<br>11:15am - Worship<br>6:30pm - Ignite | 22<br>5:30pm - Girl Scouts | 23<br>6:30pm - Bell Choir<br>6:30pm - Men's | 24<br>9am - Bible Study -<br>5pm - Grandma's<br>7pm - Chancel Choir | 25<br>Mail Towers<br>5:30pm - Backpack<br>6:30pm - 4-H - B<br>7:30pm - Praise | 26<br>12pm - Private Party | 27 |
| 28<br>9am - Worship<br>10:15am - S School<br>11:15am - Worship<br>6:30pm - Ignite | 29<br>Memorial Day | 30<br>6:30pm - Men's | 31<br>5pm - NO Grandma's<br>7pm - Setup Sale A. | 1<br>8:30am - Garage<br>12:30pm - W Design<br>7:30pm - Praise | 2 | 3<br>12pm - Private Party |

# GRANDMA'S KITCHEN May 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

**May 3rd** Jolene's Baked Chicken
Mashed Potatoes
Corn
Peach Shortcake

**May 10th** Meat Loaf
Mashed Potatoes
California Salad
Chocolate Delight

**May 17th** Barbecue Pork Steaks
Baked Potato Bar
Broccoli
Lemon Bars

**May 24th** Chicken and noodles
Mashed Potatoes
Peas
Ice Cream Sundae

*** Closed May 31st for Memorial Day ***

Menu items are subject to change

# fun food fellowship

SAVE THE DATE!

## INTERNATIONAL FOOD TASTING JUNE 24TH 2017

WHERE: HOFFMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Activity Center

When: June 24th, Saturday, from 3 to 5 pm

Come and join the fun, 7 countries are represented so far, we have room for more

Choose a country, research the food, set up a display, and offer small bite size tastings.

If you don't want to cook just come and taste.

Bring in the community, all are invited

For more information contact Katie Poling 266-3519

Sponsored by United Methodist Women

Tickets sold in advance are 5 for a $1.00, tickets sold at the door are 4 for a $1.00

Proceeds will go to missions

## *People to remember in prayer:*

***Sympathies to the family of:***

Cheryl Horn, Wilma Fryman's daughter, as she passed away on April 10, 2017
Gerald Fourman, Angie Studebaker's father, as he passed away on April 20, 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
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

To my church family, Thank you for the prayers, cards, and the food. Without the gift of my family from church, I would be very lost at this time. May we all continue to be the hands and feet of Christ our Lord. Love & Prayers, Wilma Fryman

The family of Glenna Hayes wishes to extend heartfelt thanks to Pastor Robbie and our church family for the many kind expressions of sympathy during our difficult time of loss.

A great big thank you to Wayne & Susie Spitler for pruning and spraying our fruit trees, Sally & Phil Blue

Thank you everyone for lifting me up in your prayers for my surgery and speedy recovery. Several times at the hospital and at home when I faced new challenges or decisions I could feel you lifting me up in prayer. You are a special church family to me. I was really encouraged and felt supported by all the wonderful cards & visits both at home and at the hospital. You are SPECIAL to me.
Thank you. John Ankerman

Phil and I want to thank Joseph Knostman and his family, Becky & Ben Garrett, Pastor Robbie and his family and the 15 or so youth that came out and cleaned up our yard. They worked hard and played hard. They were a real blessing and we are very appreciative. Love to you all, Sally & Phil Blue

**Church Garage Sale**
**June 1st 8:30 to 1 p.m.**
We need your unwanted items for the sale. Items can be put on the Activity Center stage behind the partitions.

**Calling all Graduates!**
Please let the church office know if you have someone graduating from High School or College.

Union Township FISH is in desperate need of a volunteer to deliver food. Contact Jim K. 698-3797

**Hoffman at the Dayton Dragons on July 8th**
(see Les Trittschuh for tickets.)

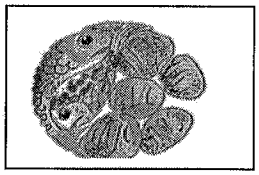
**Spring Community Day- May 13th.** We will meet at Hoffman at 9am. If anyone has projects for us to do, please let Becky Garrett know. We can mulch, weed, plant flowers, rake leaves, etc.

# MAY "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



## The 5/2 Lunch Bunch

**We Are Celebrating Our Tenth Anniversary this Year!**
Believe it or not, the 5/2 Lunch Bunch is gearing up for our TENTH summer of feeding the kids of the community (and sometimes their parents and grandparents too). We have been blessed over the years with many loving, helpful servants of God and donations to help meet the food deficit of the children of the community.
Lunch Bunch started serving summer lunches with a non-denominational faith component, in 2008, when a school counselor expressed a concern that many children would not be fed in the summer time, away from school. We have been serving lunches since then at Hoffman UMC and Good Shepherd Lutheran and in partnership with Potsdam UMC since 2011 to serve the needs of that community. We have partnered with the Miami County Dental Clinic to provide free dental care for the Lunch Bunch kids and with the Milton-Union Library as Wendy Heisey, provides the summer reading program for the children who live away from the library. We are looking forward to another great summer!

**What We Need:** Many helping hands and donations of specific non-perishable foods—the clipboards will be coming soon! ☺

**5/2 Lunch Bunch Organizational Meeting**
**Thursday, May 11th at 2PM!**
All who are interested in cooking, serving, clean up, being child check-in monitors one day per week, M, T or W 11:30-about 1 PM are welcome to attend this informational meeting. Call Pam for more details. Lunch Bunch starts Monday, June 19th and ends July 26th.

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

***Remember to keep Pastor Robbie (and the Vietnam UMC) in your prayers. Maps of his route and days for special prayers are available at the Information Table.***
*He will return from Vietnam on May 9th. Pray daily, following his route* and whenever the Holy Spirit leads you to lift him up! You can keep up with him on Facebook, whenever he has WiFi.

## Tuesday, May 16th

"According to Miami County Public Health, those living in the West Milton zip code of 45383 have the highest drug overdose rates per 1,000 people in Miami County, followed by zip codes in Ludlow Falls, Piqua, Troy, Covington and Tipp City." http://www.mymiamicounty.com/epicenter

There are two upcoming community events, on Tuesday, May 16th, related to these exploding statistics and Hoffman is providing a gathering space for these groups.

*A Community Prayer Walk* has been organized from 5-6:30PM. They will be gathering outside of Hoffman's Activity Center to listen to testimonies of recovering addicts and then dispersing to pray around the community. The testimony session will be brought inside if it rains. Cheryl Chasteen is organizing this event.

*The Community Heroin/Drug Forum* is from 6:30-8:30 in the Activity Center. It is important to get information out into the community, so we are providing a venue for the West Milton Police Dept. and the Union Township Life Squad as they lead this forum. This event is for those whose lives have been impacted by this epidemic and for any concerned community members. Get the word out to anyone you know who might be interested.

## Women's Groups Taking Summer Breaks:

9AM Weds. Bible Study—last day to meet—May 24th.
6:30 PM Weds. Bible Study—last day to meet—May 17th.
6:30PM Tuesday Young Women's Group—last day—April 25th.

# SPARK! children's ministry

## Greetings Church Family!

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

A huge thank you to everyone who gave clothing on Palm Sunday. We packed a van with all the clothing and the Miami County Family Abuse Shelter really appreciated our help!

This past month we had six mentors start Kids Hope USA. Please pray for these mentors and their children as they get to know each other.

Make sure you check out the nursery, we recently cleaned all the toys and rearranged everything! A huge thank you to all who helped with that!

Kids Club will be starting up at the end of June. If you know of any middle or high school students who would like to help, please have them talk to Becky Garrett or Courtney Wion!

Kids Club: June 19-July 26 (M, T, W)

• • •

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

*Pancake Breakfast*
*April 30th 10am*
*Activity Center*
*Mission trip*
*Fundraiser*

• • •

*Extra yard work?*
*Want to help support a youth on mission trip?*
*Contact Joseph.*

• • •

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

## SPRING HAS SPRUNG, AND SO HAS IGNITE!

Ignite student ministry

Wow! When Hoffman has a bake sale, they DO NOT mess around! I was blown away by the number of "bakers" and "takers" who participated in the April bake sale, that supported the youth mission trip to Copperhill, TN. Ignite raised almost 20% of the total funds needed! The souls of Hoffman, never cease to amaze me with their support.

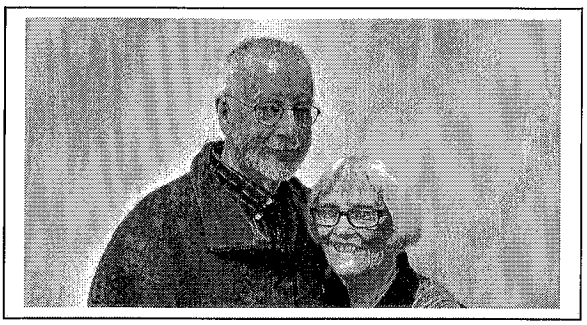
A quick look back at April: Ignite held two fundraisers for mission trip (bake sale and pancake breakfast). We went skating at Piqua 36 and partied on a party deck at Dayton Dragons game!

Now that spring has sprung, you may find yourself with some additional yard work on your hands. Youth attending the June mission trip are always looking for ways to fundraise. If you would like their help around the yard, contact Joseph.

# Getting to Know You

Featuring our newer members so that we can become better acquainted.

**Lauren and George Everage** Lauren and George were both born "Southerners", she in Jackson, MS and he in Hazard, KY, but they are now West Miltonians! They are the parents of eight-year old, Jack, two older children and they have two grandchildren. Lauren is a graphic designer and has used some of her gifts to produce some outreach materials for Hoffman. George is a Respiratory Therapist at Miami Valley Hospital. They have not recently attended any other church before coming to Hoffman in July 2015. George's hobby is kayaking, while Lauren's is design and being outdoors. Her favorite thing to do when she has nothing else to do is NOTHING! Other busy moms can relate! Even though they have been here for a while, we welcome them officially as members of Hoffman UMC!



**Mary Ann and Dick Martens** Mary Ann and Dick come to us from Ginghamsburg Church and have been attending since 2013. They both state that they were looking for a family oriented, small church that was close to home (they live within blocks from the church) and where they could get to really know the people they were worshipping with. Both were born in Iowa, where they still visit family. Dick and Mary Ann were co-pastors at a Friends Church in Indiana before retiring. At one time they were missionaries in Mexico and oh, the faith stories Mary Ann tells about their time in Mexico! Mary Ann's hobbies are decorating, flowers, grandchildren, going to the Y, Bible studies, small group and lunch with friends! Dick says that his hobbies are reading, cycling and working out at the Y. With nothing else to do, Mary Ann states that she loves dates with her "sweetheart" and they both like to share what God has been teaching them in their individual Bible studies. Let's welcome these wonderful servants of God!

**Janet (and Tom) Weeks** For many years, Janet was a pastor's wife at Vandalia UMC, where husband Tom was the pastor. Janet is a retired teacher from the Kettering Middle School where she taught 8th grade English. They live in Union, and have three sons and six grandchildren. She and Tom first visited in 2014 when they were looking for a church to settle into after Tom's retirement and they decided to become a part of Hoffman because everyone was so friendly. You will see Tom behind the camera on Sundays and Janet has been a Kid's Hope USA Mentor, which feeds her passion of teaching and helping children and youth! She also loves to read, to listen to music, to travel, to play board games, and enjoys watching football, basketball and tennis. She loves spending time with her sons and their families. Since Tom is a retired Elder in the United Methodist Church, and a member of the West Ohio Conference, he cannot be a member of a local church, but we welcome both Janet and Tom to the Hoffman family!

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

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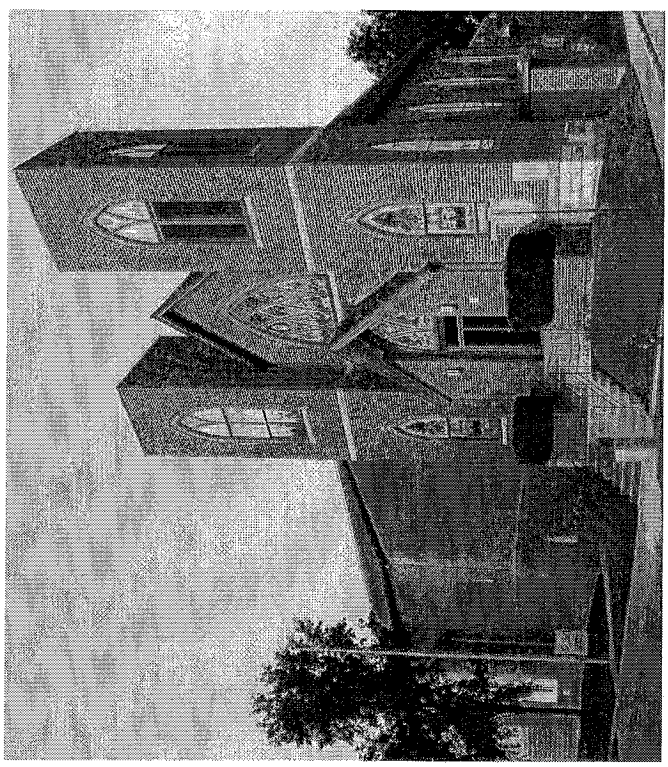
# TOWERS

May
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